SOME MORPHOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF ANCIENT BAKERWAL DOG

D. CHAKRABORTY[1], D. KUMAR[1], SIMRAN SINGH[1], B. BRAHMA[2], N. KUMAR[1] AND R.K. TAGGAR[1]
[1]*Division of Animal Genetics & Breeding*
[2]*Division of Livestock Production and Management*
FVSc & AH, SKUAST- Jammu, R.S. Pura, Jammu – 181102, India
Corresponding author: dibyendu_vet40@yahoo.co.in

ABSTRACT: The Bakerwal dog is mainly found in hilly regions of Jammu & Kashmir of India. This is an ancient dog breed and mainly reared by Bakerwal and Gujjar communities. No systematic study on Bakerwal dog is available. Therefore, the present study was conducted to know physical characteristics of Bakerwal dog in their natural habitat. Information was collected by questioning the dog owners. A total of adult 36 observations of physical traits were measured. Data were analyzed by suitable statistical methods. The black body colour was predominant in the present population. Total life span of Bakerwal Dog is about 6-10 years. There are 1-2 puppies in every whelping. The averages and standard errors were 64.56 ± 0.74 cm, 52.33 ± 0.60 cm, 55.89 ± 0.55 cm, 11.50 ± 0.27 cm and 27.11 ± 0.59 cm for chest girth, body length, height at withers, ear length and tail length, respectively. The results indicate that Bakerwal dog is of medium sized dog breed. There were no significant differences between both sexes for different physical traits in Bakerwal dog. Phenotypic correlations were positive barring exceptions for body length & ear length; and ear length & tail length. Organic breeding is practiced for this dog breed. The number of breed is reducing day by day. Therefore, there is need to conserve the breed.

Citation: Chakraborty D, Kumar D, Singh Simran, Brahma B, Kumar N, Taggar RK *(2017)* Some morphological characteristics of ancient Bakerwal dog. Indian J Trop Biodiv 25(1) : 103-106

Bakerwal dog (*Canis lupus familiaris*) is an ancient dog breed of hilly region of Jammu & Kashmir, India. Very scanty information is available regarding the breed. The dog name was derived from the name of the tribal community "Bakerwal" who along with Gujjars used to rear the breed. The dog is also known as Kashmiri Sheepdog, Himalayan Sheepdog and Kashmiri Mastiff. In general tribal and pahari community rears the Bakerwal dog for protecting their small ruminants from wild animals and other predators during migrations and movement in highland pastures. This dog breed is highly protective, ferocious and courageous in nature. But the number Bakerwal dog is reducing drastically day by day due to various reasons. Very scanty information is available on this breed. Therefore, the present investigation was conducted to know the physical characteristics and other information regarding this breed.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present study was conducted on Bakerwal dog to know their physical characteristics, feeding habbits and behaviour. No systematic study on Bakerwal dog is available. The survey was carried out in intensive breeding tracts of Bakerwal dog i.e. Poonch district of Jammu & Kashmir. A total of 36 adult dogs' information was recorded. Age of the dog was recorded based on personal interaction with the breeders. So regarding feeding, reproductive efficiency and life span dog owners were approached and data were collected. The coat colour of Bakerwal dog was obtained by visualization in day light. Physical traits were measured by measuring tape and measured in centimeter (cm). Data were collected on dogs aged more than one year. Data were subjected to appropriate statistical tools for analysis. The mean, standard deviation (SD), standard errors (SE) and coefficient of variation (CV) were calculated by using standard formulae (Snedecor and Cochran, 1994). Student's t-Test was applied to determine the effect of sex on different morphometric traits. The standard error of correlation was computed by the formula given below:

$$\text{S.E. } (r) = \sqrt{[(1 - r^2) / (N-2)]}$$

Where, r = product moment correlation,
N = number of observations