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*You Can Teach an Old Dog New Tricks*

The goal of this project was to find out how gender affects the problem-solving abilities of a dog. I tested dogs by timing them to reach the treat. I performed four tests. The first test the dog had to complete was to make mouth contact with the treat from behind two chairs on their side. Then the dog obtained the treat from under a rag, and under a cup. In the last test, the dog saw the treat go under the farthest cup of three cups, and then I would switch that cup with the middle cup. Once I graphed my data, I saw a trend that male dogs completed three of the four tasks faster than females. Then I plotted standard deviation bars and found that this was not significant. Next I graphed the dog age and the time it took the dog to complete the task. The trend line in each graph had a negative slope, concluding this finding to be significant. The trend line showed that the older the dog, the faster they completed the task. Now that society can know that the older dogs completed the task faster, it can affect their decisions. For example: the police use dogs for tracking, the blind use seeing-eye dogs. Knowing this relationship can help everyday families choosing a dog for a pet.