The response of the editor

The topic is very interesting and I hope you will complete the revisions suggested below and resubmit. The paper needs to be formatted and organized more appropriately for a journal submission. I would recommend reviewing and following the APA Style Guide. The organization is unclear. For example, on p.3 it seems we have jumped into the main body of the paper with a quick introduction and aims of the study. However, those aims also include reference to the results and then the following sections return us to a more proper introduction to the research field. Please follow the APA guidelines for organization. Finally, I would also suggest you enlist a native English speaker to edit your paper before resubmitting to ensure that your paper and results are readily accessible to the reader.

LIST OF COMMON ERRORS  
  
1. Provide the first names for all authors if they publish using their first names. NA  
2. Provide 3 to 5 keywords.  √  
3. Remove references from the abstract. √  
4. Remove the figure captions from the figures and place them at the end of the text. √  
5. Provide parenthetical citations for all figures and tables in the text.  
6. Place the tables at the end of the text. √   
7. Indicate where all figures and tables should be placed in the text directly after the paragraph where each is cited.  √  
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Table 1 here  
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8. Spell out "Table" and "Figure." √  
9. Provide short titles for the tables (With the Title Capitalized); place notes at the bottom of the Table. √  
10. Create tables in an editable format (e.g., using the Word table function). √  
11. Use standard abbreviations for units of measurement (kl, hr, s, min). NA  
12. Place a comma after "e.g." NA  
13. Reserve single quotation marks for quotations within quotations. NA  
14. Use double quotation marks at first mention of a special term in the abstract and text, and then do not use quotation marks when the term is mentioned again in the text. √  
15. Split large paragraphs into smaller paragraphs. √  
16. Reserve italics for scientific names, statistical symbols, book titles, and journals. √  
17. Follow the Instructions for Authors regarding formatting headings.   
18. Italicize all statistical symbols and place spaces after all symbols (p = .05). (Note, p should be lowercase and italicized.) √  
19. Convert endnotes to footnotes. √  
20. Replace "pet" with "companion animal." √  
21. Replace "owner" with "guardian" √  
22. Replace "animal" with "nonhuman animal" (where appropriate) at first mention in the abstract √, text √, tables, and figures captions.  
23. Place punctuation within quotation marks. √  
24. Remove extra spaces after periods and between words. √  
25. Do not italicize "et al." √  
26. When there are 3 to 5 authors, use "et al." only after all authors have been cited parenthetically once. √  
27. When there are more than 7 authors in a reference, use the following format in the reference list: Author1, A. B., Author2, C. D., Author3, E. F., … Author10, J. K. (Year). Title of manuscript. Journal [in italics], 1 [in italics], 10-20.  √  
28. Use the ampersand (&) when citing authors in parenthetical citations and reference lists; use "and" when referring to authors within the text. √  
29. Use only the authors' last names when citing them. √  
30. Place a comma before "and" in reference citations and "&" in text citations with 2 or more authors, and in the references.  √  
31. In text citations, only use "a" and "b" designators when author lists shorten to the same name and they contain the same authors in the same order; otherwise, list as many authors as necessary to distinguish them, then add "et al." NA  
32. Cite all unique terms and direct quotations using author names, publication years, and page numbers; include the references in the reference list.  
33. Provide page numbers in the following format:   
- Author Last Name(s) (Year) said, "quote" (p. X). NA  
- Researchers often use the term "term" (Author Last Name(s), year, pp. X-XII) to refer to the animal.  
34. When using indented quotes, cite the year of publication after the author's last name and place the page number in parentheses after the period in the last sentence. NA  
35. Place a comma after the author's last name in parenthetical citations. √  
36. In the references, capitalize only the first word of each title or Web site. √  
37. Place a space between each author initial in the reference list. √  
38. Provide URLs or publishers for all references.  
39. Provide the URLs and retrieval dates for online references in the following format: Author. (year of publication). Title of page. Retrieved Month day, year, from URL.  
40. Spell out publisher names. NA  
41. Spell out journal names and italicize them. √  
42. Italicize the volume number and place a comma after it. √  
43. Remove the space between volume and issue numbers. √  
44. Do not italicize issue numbers. √  
45. Put the issue number in parentheses directly after the volume number. √  
46. Place a comma after the journal name. √  
47. Place a comma before the page number. √  
48. Provide the city and state abbreviation for publishers within the US (Cambridge, MA: Publisher); provide the city and country for publishers outside the US (Cambridge, United Kingdom: Publisher). NA  
49. Provide publishers and locations for all references that are not published online. NA  
50. Include the following sections (except in book reviews and other special papers): Title Page, Abstract, Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, Discussion, Conclusion, and References. √

Please submit this questionnaire electronically with the manuscript.  
- Did you create a separate title page with all author names and affiliations? THE AUTHOR NEEDS TO DO THIS  
- Did you ensure that other than your separate title page, all other pages in your manuscript lack your name and institution?  
- Is your manuscript written in American English, including punctuation? YES  
- Is all of the language respectful to animals (i.e., companion animal [not pet], his/her, who, whose, caretaker [not pet owner], etc.)? Is nonhuman animal used to refer to animal in the first mention? YES  
- Is the length no more than 7,000 words, including references? YES  
- Is the manuscript double spaced and left justified? YES  
- Does the manuscript have all of the elements, in the following order: Title, Authors and authors' affiliations, Abstract (150 words), Keywords (5-6), Body of text, Footnotes, References, Tables, and Figures?  
- Does the manuscript use the proper heading styles (left justified, bold heads, italicized subheads)? Yes, according to APA style  
- Are all figures and tables cited in the text and submitted as separate source files? Does a placeholder appear at the end of each paragraph where each is cited? YES  
- Is the manuscript written using APA 6th Edition style in text (author-date) citations, footnotes (only used for supplemental information), and reference lists? If it is not, the manuscript will be returned to you. YES  
- Are all other issues within the text (i.e., use of italics, lists, numbers, quotations, etc.) consistent with the author instructions? If not, the manuscript will be returned to you.  
PLEASE NOTE: If all of the above items have not been checked off, and taken care of correctly in the manuscript, the review and publication of your manuscript will be significantly delayed.