

Assessing Innovations for Child Victims in the Courtroom

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Dogs ready to help scared victims in court

Illinois could be one of a few states allowing comfort dogs to help during testimony in sex cases

Dogs give comfort - and controversy - in court

By: Sue Manning The Associated Press
Published: June 10, 2013

Comments: 1 Gallery 2

U.S. courtroom dogs spark legal debate

HUDSON, NEW YORK | BY DAN WIESSNER

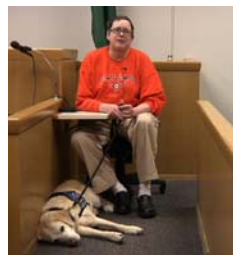


The Debate

- Argument against: Defense
 - Juror bias
- Argument in support: Prosecution
 - Maintains integrity of the courtroom

Washington v. Dye (2013)

- Burglary case
- Bases of appeal
 - Use of facility dog
- Court rejected appeal



Burd and McQuiston (2014)

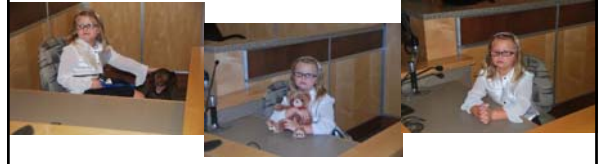
- Mock trial involving child molestation
- Facility dog v. teddy bear v. nothing
- No evidence of dogs creating bias

Current Study

- Looking more closely at the impact of facility dogs

Method

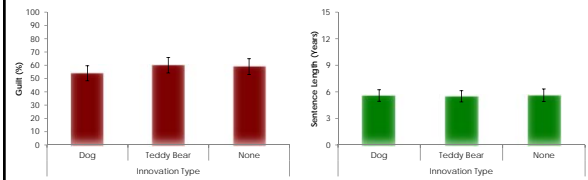
- N=240
- Partial trial transcript
- Participants read and responded to their assigned transcript



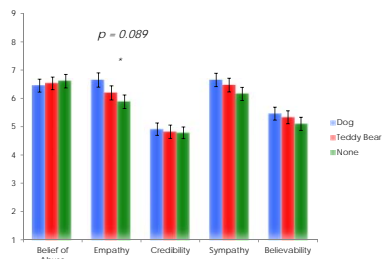
Hypothesis

- Crime Seriousness x Innovation Type interaction

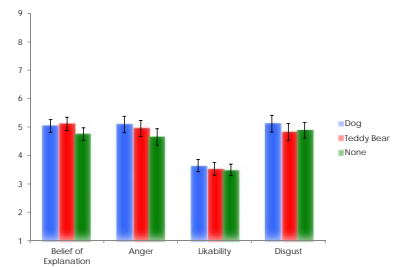
Results: Guilt and Sentencing



Results: Evaluations of Victim



Results: Evaluations of Defendant



Discussion

- Findings support the use of facility dogs
- Limitations
 - Lack of visual stimuli
- Future directions
 - Video recording/live mock trial
 - Defendant use of facility dog
 - Level of interaction with dog