

# "It's becoming a privilege to own a pet" - Pet acquisition experiences for Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) families in four U.S. cities

## Methods

- In-person and virtual focus groups with 26 participants
- Transcripts analyzed inductively using Rapid Qualitative Analysis (RQA)

## Sample

- BIPOC pet owners who have experienced discrimination in pet acquisition
- Locations: Atlanta, Philadelphia, Miami, and Minneapolis



## Findings

### Theme 1: Factors for Selecting a Source

Location and accessibility, cost, pet characteristics, care and welfare of the pet, rescue mentality

### Theme 2: Experiences with Animal Shelters

Positive experiences  
Barriers and experiences of judgment

### Theme 3: Experiences with Alternate Sources

Family members, friends, or neighbors  
Professional or licensed breeders  
Lower barriers to pet acquisition

### Theme 4: Suggestions to Improve Pet Acquisition & Support

Inclusive adoption processes, information-sharing and pet retention support, address judgement and bias, low-cost pet care options

## Recommendations

### Recommendation 1:

Reduce barriers to pet adoption for BIPOC individuals

### Recommendation 2:

Eliminate discrimination in the adoption process

### Recommendation 3:

Provide accessible post-adoption pet support services and information

### Recommendation 4:

Diversify the animal welfare workforce

