

Supplementary material

Focus Group Questions

1. How did you get your pet?
2. What did you consider when deciding on where to get your pet? For example, did you consider factors such as cost, distance you would travel, breed preference, age preference, trust in a specific individual or organization, etc.?
3. Who do you trust for getting pets? This could include individuals or organizations.
4. What do you know about the process to adopt a pet from a local shelter or rescue in your community?
5. Have you ever tried to adopt a pet or considered adopting from a shelter or rescue? Please describe your experience.
 - a. What influenced your decision to go to the shelter/rescue to get your pet?
 - b. Were you treated with courtesy and respect during the adoption process?
 - i. How were you received when you reached out/walked in? Were you able to see pets right away?
 - ii. Did you complete a questionnaire? Application? Did the questions make sense to you?
 - iii. Did the questions feel fair with your experience with pets?
 - c. When you applied to the shelter/rescue, what response did you receive after submitting your application? How long did it take you to receive a response?
 - d. Have you ever applied and been denied from adopting from a shelter/rescue? Did the shelter/rescue provide you with a reason you were denied?
6. Have you ever gotten a pet from another source such as a family member, friend, breeder, pet store, or found a stray or unowned pet? Please describe your experience.
 - a. What influenced your decision to choose this specific method for obtaining your pet?
 - b. Were you treated with courtesy and respect while getting your pet?
 - i. How long did it take you to receive a response?
 - ii. From your experience, how might getting a pet from a family member, friend, breeder, pet store, or finding a stray/unowned pet differ from adopting from a shelter or rescue?
 - iii. Have you ever been denied from purchasing a pet from a family member, friend, neighbor, breeder, or pet store?
7. Have you ever felt you were discriminated against, stereotyped, or judged while showing interest in adopting, purchasing, or rescuing a pet?
 - a. What reason(s) do you feel led to the discrimination, stereotyping, or judgment?
8. How were you and your family impacted by your experience with getting a pet?
9. What support or resources did you use to assist you during the process of getting your pet?
 - a. Who did you turn to for help/advice?
 - b. Was there any support or resources you wish you had? How would they have improved your experience?
10. What are your beliefs regarding whether pet ownership is a fundamental right for all individuals, regardless of race/ethnicity, income, or education level?
11. What would you suggest to make the process of getting a new pet a joyful and equitable experience for people in your community/neighborhood?
12. Anything else you would like to add?