

## Appendix A

### Dog Acquisition Interview Guide

Hello, is this (NAME)? This is NAME, one of the researchers on the Dog Adoption study. We arranged for an interview today at this time. Is it still a good time for us to talk? IF NO, “is there another day that we can arrange to talk”? (then schedule and end).

Before we get started, there are a few things I need to mention:

1. Depending upon how much we talk, this will take about an hour, although some people really enjoy talking and it can go to an hour and a half. If you need to end it sooner just let me know.
2. Your participation is voluntary, and you can refuse to answer any questions or end the interview at any time. You are free to withdraw from the interview or the study at any time
3. Your information is private, and we do not collect identifying information with this interview, other than a first name. If you choose to withdraw, all data collected up to the point of withdraw will continue to be used. At the end of the interview, I will ask some questions about you so that we can describe all the people interviewed, and your address and zip code. This information also is used to mail the gift card. However, you don't have to provide that information if you do not want to. This information is stored separately and securely away from the interview information so that no one's name is connected with the interview.
4. “Do I have your permission to record this interview?” (yes–start recording or zoom recording). If no then take notes.
5. You acquired/got a dog in the last year, right? When exactly was that? (month, year). During this interview, I'm going to ask you to talk about this dog. I'm interested in what you were thinking or doing **AT THE TIME** you got it, rather than now, XX months later. So, I will remind you of that off and on during our conversation. May I call the dog by their name? NAME

I'd like to hear how you came to a decision to get a dog.

#### **When:**

1. When did the idea of getting a dog first occur? Why then?
2. Was there anything in particular going on in your life at the time when you generally decided to look for and adopt/purchase a dog that gave you the idea to get one? (e.g., retirement, working from home, covid, death etc)

3. After deciding generally to get one, were there any triggers that pushed you to start looking for one in particular?

**How:**

4. Was it a spur of the moment decision or a long process of deciding that was well thought out? If long, how long did it take and why? Would you say it was an easy or complicated decision?
5. Did you seize on an opportunity to get a dog when the situation presented itself rather than deliberate for months or even days to get a dog? What made it such a good opportunity? Free or cheap dog? No paperwork or hassle? Etc).
6. Did you get the dog because you've always had a dog and just wanted to replace it, so there wasn't much to think over? But were there still some things to decide (like where to get it, what kind, when, etc.)
7. Did you or any family members have any of the following reservations about getting a dog? How serious were any of these reservations and how did you think you were going to deal with them? (not how they ended up dealing with them)
  - a. Cost of: was cost an issue for getting your dog? did you give any thought or have any concerns about future costs?
  - b. Responsibility for
  - c. Time and space for
  - d. Future health or behavior issues with

**Why:**

8. Why did you want to get a dog? [What were you hoping it would do for you?]
9. Was getting a dog to be a "companion" a major reason? (if companionship mentioned, then ask: what does it mean when you say your dog was to be a companion?)
10. Was security or protection a major reason to get a dog?
11. Was rescuing a particular dog a major reason why you got this dog? did you feel like you rescued your dog? if so, how was it a rescue?

**Who:**

12. Was the decision to get a dog made entirely by you? If not, did you pretty much take the lead and did others happily go along or drag their feet?? If not, who else was part of it or influenced the decision? How did these other people influence the decision?

13. Did different family members or friends have the same or different opinions about the value/need for/role of/responsibility for getting a new dog? Was everyone onboard with the idea equally or not? Explain
14. If there were children in the household, did they ask for a dog? Would you have gotten a dog if your child/children had not requested a pet? Was it really their idea and the adults complied or was the decision mostly driven by the adults.

**What:**

15. Did you know from the start what kind of dog you wanted or did you not care, and just want any dog? why that kind? Was breed, sex, size, personality, or age important, or anything else? Why? How did it or they factor into your household decision?
16. Did you research the type of dog you wanted or ask people about it? What did you want to know? What information did you collect about it?
17. How did you hope that the future dog would fit in or add to your family? (Do not ask how the dog is now fitting in, but what they had in mind before getting it)
18. Was the process at all like buying anything else in your life? Was it similar to buying a large appliance or a car or anything else? How so? If not, how different?
19. Did it feel like you had a new baby in the house? At one point did you feel this? (When you first saw its pic online, when you first met the dog? When you first brought the dog home?)
20. Did it feel at all strange to have never seen your future dog in person, spent a lot of money for it, dealt with a breeder or other source you never met in person, and driven hours to get it: (when this applies to respondents)
21. Did you feel in any way that you bonded to your dog *before* you brought it home? How so? (e.g., by looking at photos of it online over and over again, or imagining how you would interact with it after it came home, or by naming it before you brought it home?)

**Where:**

22. Where did you get your dog (e.g., gift, stray, breeder, shelter, rescue group, other?) and why there?
23. Why NOT from a shelter or rescue group?
24. How did you figure out which particular source to use? (online searches, word of mouth, etc.? What did you know or learn about it? Did you investigate more than

one source at the same time and how did this develop? H0: Most respondents did little or no research about the source of their future dog and learned little or nothing about the dog's background. This was because.... And what they did learn was....

25. Were you told anything about your dog from the source? (it's history, behavior, appearance, etc)

**Post-adoption experience:**

26. Have different members of your family experienced the dog differently?
27. What is the dog's place in the family?
28. How has the dog settled in and is there a person or persons who may experience the dog differently or interact differently?  
In what ways has the dog become part of your family?
29. Did you try to integrate your new dog into family routines and rituals once you came home with it? Elaborate. Have you included your dog in certain family activities like going for walks, taking trips, watching tv, making selfies or family pics, going to bed at night, eating meals, etc.? Have you allowed your dog full access to anywhere it wants to go inside your house? Have you excluded your dog from any family activities or locations in the house?
30. What has it been like for you in the months since getting DOG NAME?
31. Has the dog been everything you hoped for? things that are nice but you didn't expect?
32. Overtime, has the experience evolved or changed? Specify
33. Whose dog is it in your household? how do you know that? any jealousy, competition, or preference for that distribution of attention?
34. Has anything been challenging? if so, what and how did you manage it? SEE QUESTIONS BELOW...
35. Is walking, feeding, vet care, etc. ever a problem? Did the members of your household ever talk about who would be responsible for feeding, walking, training, taking to vets? Are these responsibilities evenly shared? Is that ok with everyone? Who walks it, feeds it, trains it, plays with it, exercises it, takes it to the vet?
36. Have you experienced any financial challenges so far in caring for the dog e.g. veterinary care expenses, food expenses? If yes---how have you managed the challenges?

37. How are you finding the dog's behavior and physical health?
38. Have you gotten it professional training or are you considering this?
39. Do you think people treat you differently or think of you differently because you have a dog and the kind of dog that you have? (probe for examples)
40. Do who you are (male/female, old/young, black/white) play a role in your decision making to get a dog or the type of dog?
41. Did where you live play a role in the dog that you adopted?
42. Did your income play a role in how you decide?
43. Did your stage of life/work, play a role in your decisions about adopting a dog?