

AN ABSTRACT OF THE THESIS OF

Zelda L. Zimmerman for the degree of Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies
in Animal Sciences, Psychology, and Sociology presented on May 31, 2013.

Title: Comparison of the Characteristics and Attitudes of Dog Adopters from Three Dog
Rescue Groups.

Abstract approved:

Linda L. Blythe

A web-based survey was conducted to investigate the relationships between adopters and the dogs they adopted from three types of rescue groups/organizations: humane societies, greyhound rescues, and pit bull rescues. The dog selected to adopt can vary for many reasons, one of which is breed preference. This study found dog adopters from the three rescues differ according to different owner demographic characteristics, reasons for adoption, attitudes toward the adopted dog, feelings of attachment to the adopted dog, and experiences with the dog and rescue organizations. Two thirds of the pit pull adopters took their dog to obedience training while on one-third of the adopters from the other rescue groups did. The majority of all adopters responding felt they had helped save a life by adopting from a rescue organization but the pit bull adopters indicated felt most strongly (82%) compared to humane society adopters (67%) and greyhound adopters (60%). This study also found commonalities in the emotional experience of having a close and caring relationship with a pet, irrespective of where an adopter finds the companion dog. The majority of all adopters (93%) considered their adopted dog as member of the family rather than a pet. Stereotypes associated with the types of rescue dogs adopted were confirmed and/or dispelled. Overall, the adopters were satisfied with

their adopted rescue dog as well as feeling their adopted dog exceeded their expectations. Nearly 95% of adopters in each rescue indicated they would adopt future dogs from the same rescue organization. Future studies are needed to address underrepresentation of males and minority racial/ethnic groups as well as access responses from adopters not volunteering to participate in an online survey.

Key Words: dog rescue adoption, companion animal, human-animal bond, internet survey

© Copyright by Zelda L. Zimmerman
May 31, 2013
All Rights Reserved

Comparison of the Characteristics and Attitudes of Dog Adopters
from Three Dog Rescue Groups

by

Zelda L. Zimmerman

A THESIS

Submitted to

Oregon State University

in partial fulfillment of
the requirements for the
degree of

Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies

Presented May 31, 2013
Commencement June 2013

Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies thesis of Zelda L. Zimmerman

Presented on May 31, 2013

APPROVED:

Major Professor, Representing Animal Sciences

Director of the Interdisciplinary Studies Program

Dean of the Graduate School

I understand that my thesis will become part of the permanent collection of Oregon State University libraries. My signature below authorizes release of my thesis to any reader upon request.

Zelda L. Zimmerman, Author

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to acknowledge our furry friends (companion animals/pets) whose gentle, nurturing ways have added enjoyment to our lives. This research on the relationship between people and animals was conducted in order to further the knowledge of the human-animal bond.

I would like to thank the humane societies (Lila Miller, DVM, Vice-President of Veterinary Outreach at the American Society of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in New York; Cary Liberman, Executive Director at the Greenhill Human Society in Eugene, Oregon; Kris Ottoman, DVM, Director of Shelter Medicine, Oregon Humane Society, Portland, Oregon; Jamie Fitzpatrick, Shelter Operations Director, Willamette Humane Society, Salem, Oregon), greyhound rescues (Gary Guccione, Director, National Greyhound Association; and Brett and Donna Weeks, Greyhound Pets of America, Maryland Chapter), and pit bull rescues (Dr. Jennifer Mitchell, Oregon State University) for letting me assess their adopter databases. I would especially like to thank the adopters (guardians/owners) who have contributed their ideas and experiences to this study.

Further, I would like to acknowledge the time and attention to this research by my major professor and adjunct Animal Science Department committee representative, Dr. Linda L. Blythe; my Sociology Department committee representative, Dr. Jeffrey A. Hale; my Psychology Department committee representative, Dr. Frank J. Bernieri; and my Graduate School representative, Dr. Deborah J. Rubel. I would also thank Dr. A. Morrie Craig for financially supporting my time at OSU and his contributions to the completion of this thesis.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Chapter 1: Introduction	1
Terminology	4
Pets verses companion animals	4
Owners verses animal guardians	6
Companion Animal (Pet) Adoption	7
Chapter 2: Histories of Rescue Organizations and Adoption Programs	8
History of Animal Shelters and Humane Societies	8
History of the Greyhound and Its Rescue Organizations	11
History of the Pit Bull and Its Rescue Organizations	16
Chapter : 3 :Research Aims and Study Objectives	21
Research Aims	21
Study Objectives	23
Chapter 4: Literature Review	26
Dogs as Companions	26
Internet Surveys	30
Chapter 5: Justification	33
Chapter 6: Method	35
Survey Instrument	35
Participants	36
Study Implementation	37
Data Analysis	37
Chapter 7: Results	40
Demographic Information (Q1-11, & Q13)	41
Resources Used for Adoption Information (Q12 and Q14)	59
Influences on the Adoption Decision (Q15 - 22)	61
Comfort from Companion Animal Scale (CCAS) (Q18, & Q23 – 34	74
Adopter’s Feeling of Satisfaction with the Adopted Rescue Dog (Q35)	91

TABLE OF CONTENTS (Continued)

	<u>Page</u>
Chapter 7: Results (Continued)	
Number of Dogs and the Length of Time Lived with Rescue Dog (Q36 - 39)	92
Activities Rescue Adopters do with Their Adopted Dogs (Q40 - 41, & Q44)	96
Responsibilities for the Care and Health of the Adopted Dog (Q42 - 43) ..	99
Influence on Decision to Proceed with Expensive Medical Procedure (Q45)	102
Behavior Problems Exhibited by the Adopted Rescue Dogs (Q46)	103
Possible Reasons for Relinquishment of the Adopted Rescue Dog (Q47) ..	105
Other Household Pets (Other Dogs and Cats) (Q48 - 49)	106
Feelings About Future Rescue Adoptions (Q50)	108
Feelings Toward the Adopted Rescue Dog (Q51 - 52)	109
Adopter's Volunteer Characteristics (Q53 - 55)	112
Chapter 8: Discussion	116
Demographic Information (Q1-11, & Q13)	116
Resources Used for Adoption Information (Q12 and Q14)	125
Influences on the Adoption Decision (Q15 - 22)	130
Comfort from Companion Animal Scale (CCAS) (Q18, & Q23 - 34)	151
Adopter's Feeling of Satisfaction with the Adopted Rescue Dog (Q35)	166
Number of Dogs and the Length of Time Lived with Rescue Dog Q36 - 39)	168
Activities Rescue Adopters Do with Their Adopted Dogs (Q40 - 41, & Q44)	173
Responsibilities for the Care and Health of the Adopted Dog (Q42 - 43) ...	177
Influence on Decision to Proceed with Expensive Medical Procedure (Q45)	179
Behavior Problems Exhibited by the Adopted Rescue Dogs (Q46)	180
Possible Reasons for Relinquishment of the Adopted Rescue Dog (Q47) ..	183
Other Household Pets (Other Dogs and Cats) (Q48 - 49)	188
Feelings About Future Rescue Adoptions (Q50)	190
Feelings Toward the Adopted Rescue Dog (Q51 - 52)	191
Adopter's Volunteer Characteristics (Q53 - 55)	199
Chapter 9: Conclusion	204
References	211
Appendix	237
Rescue dog adopter survey instrument	238

LIST OF FIGURES

<u>Figure</u>	<u>Page</u>
1. Comparison of rescue groups on Q1, gender of the respondent.	42
2. Comparison of rescue groups on Q2, age of the respondent.	43
3. Comparison of rescue groups on Q3, marital status of the respondent.	44
4. Comparison of rescue groups on Q4, race/ethnicity of the respondent.	45
5. Regions of the US. The State in which the rescue dog adopters lived was associated with one of the five regions of the United States.	46
6. Comparison of rescue groups on Q5, respondent’s region of residence.	47
7. Comparison of rescue groups on Q6, youngest age of adopter’s child.	48
8. Comparison of rescue groups on Q7, the adopter’s highest level of education. ..	49
9. Comparison of rescue groups on Q8, adopter’s income level.	50
10. Comparison of rescue groups on Q9, adopter’s employment.	52
11. Comparison of rescue groups on Q9, adopters’ spouse/partners’ employment.	53
12. Comparison of rescue groups on Q11, adopter’s place of residence.	54
13. Comparison of rescue groups on Q13, whether the rescue dog adopter grew-up with a dog in their household.	58
14. Comparison of rescue groups on Q12, resources rescue adopters used for information about rescue dog adoption.	60
15. Comparison of rescue groups on Q14, the person most instrumental in influencing the rescue dog adoption.	61
16. Comparison of rescue groups on Q15, how adopters felt their dog’s adoption was influenced by the desire to adopt a purebred dog.	63
17. Comparison of rescue groups on Q16, how adopters felt their dog’s adoption was influenced by helping to save a life.	64
18. Comparison of rescue groups on Q17, how adopters felt their dog’s adoption was influenced by the opportunity to meet and interact with new people.	66
19. Comparison of rescue groups on Q18, how adopters felt their dog’s adoption was influenced by their desire for companionship.	68

LIST OF FIGURES (Continued)

<u>Figure</u>	<u>Page</u>
20. Comparison of rescue groups on Q19, how adopters felt their dog’s adoption was influenced by the ability to adopt a dog from a variety of ages.	70
21. Comparison of rescue groups on Q20, how adopters felt their dog’s adoption was influenced by the importance of the dog’s personality and temperament. .	71
22. Comparison of rescue groups on Q21, how adopters felt their dog’s adoption was influenced by the physical appearance of the adopted dog.	72
23. Comparison of rescue groups on Q22, how adopters rated the most important reasons for adopting a rescue dog.	94
24. Comparison of rescue groups on Q18 of the CCAS, “My adopted dog provides me with companionship.”	77
25. Comparison of rescue groups on Q23 of the CCAS, “My adopted dog provides me something to care for.”	78
26. Comparison of rescue groups on Q24 of the CCAS, “My adopted dog provides me with pleasurable activity.”	79
27. Comparison of rescue groups on Q25 of the CCAS, “My adopted dog is a source of constancy in my life.”	80
28. Comparison of rescue groups on Q26 of the CCAS, “My adopted dog makes me feel needed.”	81
29. Comparison of rescue groups on Q27 of the CCAS, “My adopted dog makes me feel safe.”	82
30. Comparison of rescue groups on Q28 of the CCAS, “I get more exercise because of my adopted dog.”	83
31. Comparison of rescue groups on Q29 of the CCAS, “My adopted dog makes me play and laugh,”	84
32. Comparison of rescue groups on Q30 of the CCAS, “I enjoy watching my adopted dog;”	85
33. Comparison of rescue groups on Q31 of the CCAS, “I get comfort from touching my adopted dog.”	186
34. Comparison of rescue groups on Q32 of the CCAS, “My adopted dog makes me feel loved.”	87
35. Comparison of rescue groups on Q33 of the CCAS, “My adopted dog makes me feel trusted.”	88

LIST OF FIGURES (Continued)

<u>Figure</u>	<u>Page</u>
36. Comparison of rescue groups on Q34 of the CCAS, “My adopted dog gives me something to love.”	89
37. Comparison of rescue groups on Q35, how adopters responded to how their expectations have been met with their adopted dog.	92
38. Comparison of rescue groups on Q36, the number of adopted dogs currently living in their households.	93
39. Comparison of rescue groups on Q37, the number of adopted dogs the adopters have had in the past.	94
40. Comparison of rescue groups on Q38, the number of senior adopted dogs currently in the adopter’s household.	95
41. Comparison of rescue groups on Q39, the number of years the adopters have had a rescued dog in the household.	96
42. Comparison of rescue groups on Q40, the number of adopters that have taken their adopted dog to an organized training class.	97
43. Comparison of rescue groups on Q41, whether the adopted rescue dog sleeps in the adopter’s bedroom.	98
44. Comparison of rescue groups on Q44, whether the adopted dog is frequently taken along on errands.	99
45. Comparison of rescue groups on Q42, who in the household has the primary responsibility for the general care and feeding of the adopted dog.	100
46. Comparison of rescue groups on Q43, who in the household typically has the primary responsibility for taking the adopted dog to the veterinarian.	101
47. Comparison of rescue groups on Q45, what will be (or was) the major influence on your decision to proceed with an expensive medical procedure. ..	103
48. Comparison of rescue groups on Q45, what will be (or was) the major influence on your decision to proceed with an expensive medical procedure. ..	106
49. Comparison of rescue groups on Q48, if another dog in the household, where was it obtained.	107
50. Comparison of rescue groups on Q49, whether there was a pet cat in the household.	108
51. Comparison of rescue groups on Q50, whether the adopter would adopt another dog for a rescue in the future.	109

LIST OF FIGURES (Continued)

<u>Figure</u>	<u>Page</u>
52. Comparison of rescue groups on Q51, whether the rescue adopters consider their adopted dog “a member of the family” or “a pet.”	110
53. Comparison of rescue groups on Q52, how the adopter feels about their adopted rescue dog in comparison to other dogs they have had.	111
54. Comparison of rescue groups on Q53, whether the rescue adopter had attended a rescue organization event.	113
55. Comparison of rescue groups on Q54, how the rescue adopters volunteer with their rescue organization.	114
56. Comparison of rescue groups on Q55, whether the rescue adopters volunteer with other charity, community service, religious, <i>etc.</i> , organizations.	115

LIST OF TABLES

<u>Table</u>	<u>Page</u>
1. Demographic Characteristics of Rescue Dog Adopters	55
2. Comparison of CCAS Likert Scale rankings of humane society, greyhound, and pit bull rescue adopters	90
3. Behavior Problems of Rescue Dogs	104

Comparison of the Characteristics and Attitudes of Dog Adopters from Three Dog Rescue Groups

Chapter 1: Introduction

Domesticated animals and their mutually useful relationships with people have been an important facet of human life for thousands of years. This association has been documented in archeological findings such as cave paintings, sculptures, and mosaics depicting the agriculture, religion, and family life of long ago civilizations (Kidd, 1983). Dogs are believed to be the oldest of the domesticated animals (Zeuner, 1963; Clutton-Brock, 1995; Wayne, Leonard, & Vilà, 2006). Most scientists agree that dogs descended from wolves with *canis familiaris* domestication (Koler-Matznick, 2002) taking place about 15,000 years ago (Savolainen, Zhang, Luo, Lundeberg, & Leitner, 2002). There is considerable genetic homogeneity of the domestic dog across the world. The exact location of its domestication, however, remains unknown; archaeological evidence has implicated Southwest Asia (Dayan, 1994) with remains dating from 11,500 years ago and Europe (Chaix, 2000) from remains dating from 10,000 years ago. Multiple regions or origins have been also been suggested (Clutton-Brock, 1995). Southeast Asia has recently been favored for a single domestication event based on studies indicating that only Southeast Asia harbors the full range of variety in the universal gene pool (Ding, Oskarsson, Ardalan, Angleby, Dahlgren, Tepeli, Kirkness, Savolainen, & Zang, 2011).

Animals have had a ubiquitous presence in human life from antiquity (Serpell, 2009). They have served as food, co-hunters, herders, and protectors; changes in culture are linked to the change in the roles they have played over time. There are no records

evidencing when dogs first began to be viewed as companions. However, it has been reported that the dog and cat are among the first animals to achieve the status of domestic pets (Messent & Serpell, 1981). The transition into companion animal may have occurred gradually due to the dogs' behavioral pack attributes as well as their ingratiating ability to bond with humans as both companions and child-like dependents (Stewart, 2003). The impact of canine companion animals on human society has given them the nickname "Man's Best Friend" in the Western world (Friedman, 1988).

The domestic dog and cat are the most commonly owned companion animals (U.S. Pet Ownership and Demographics Sourcebook. (2012). In surveys from 1947 to 1985, fewer than half of Americans reported that they owned a pet. In 2012, an online survey of 2,184 adults conducted by Harris Interactive between May 9 and May 16, 2011 found 62% of U.S. households owned a pet, which put a pet in 72.9 million homes. Another survey conducted in 2011 by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) of 50,000 households found that 56% of all households owned a pet; six-in-ten of all adults in this country have a pet or pets of one kind or another. In pet owning households, 62.2% had more than one pet. However by the end of 2012, Americans had two million fewer dogs and 7.6 million fewer cats than at the end of 2006. This figure is the first to show a decline in dog or cat households since 1991, down 2.4% between 2006 - 2011. This translates to 2.8 million households that became petless. The reasons are speculated to be both economic and demographic. When older pets die, people are less likely to replace them, possibly because they can't afford to. Also fewer Americans live in families, which are more likely to own pets. Pet ownership tends to be more common

in families that include two parents and children. Single people, couples without children, and older people are less likely to have pets. As America moves away from the mom-dad-two-kids household, pet numbers also decline (*U.S. pet ownership and demographics sourcebook*, 2012).

In 2001, there were estimated to be 400 million dogs in the world (Coppinger, 2001, p. 352). According to the American Pet Products Association (APPA) 2011-2012 National Pet Owners Survey, there are 78.2 million dogs in the United States and 39% of households own at least one dog. Most own one dog (60%) while 28% have two dogs and 12% have three or more dogs. Twenty-one percent of these dogs were adopted from an animal shelter (HSUS U.S. Pet Ownership Statistics, 2011). A 2011 AVMA survey report also indicated there were 70 million dogs owned in the U.S in 2011 and 36.5% of U.S. households had a pet dog. No matter which figures are looked at, close to 60% of U.S. households have a pet. By comparison, the U.S. Census Bureau projected the percentage of families with their own child living at home to decrease to 41% in 2010 from 48% in 1995, (*Current Population Reports Projections of the Number of Households and Families in the U.S: 1995 to 2010*, 1996). In 2013, pets outnumber children four to one in American households. (Halper, 2013).

Companion dogs may be obtained from many sources. Whether these adoptions are successful depends on factors associated with both the adopter as well as on factors linked with the animal (Posage, Bartlett, & Thomas, 1998). Research suggests that social, cultural, and environmental conditions affect people's attitudes about animals (Lawrence, 1995). No research exists examining the links between the characteristics of dog adopters

or a description of the interaction they have with their adopted dog and their rescue adoption affiliation. The characteristics of the adopter may separate those who adopt their companion animal from specialty breed rescue programs in comparison to the adopter that selects their companion animal from a humane society shelter. In addition, the benefits derived from the interaction with canine companion may also vary among different populations of rescue dog adopters. Surveys following pet adoption can assist in achieving greater satisfaction in matching the companion animal to the adopter.

Terminology

Terminology has changed to reflect the symbolic and cultural capital surrounding adopting a dog. People no longer go to the “pound” to look for a pet; they no longer call the pouch a “mutt” either. The term “rescue” has taken on an element of nobility and has emerged as the morally-superior way to acquire a pet. Other changes in terminology are seen in the words used to describe the animal as well as the human components of the relationship.

Pet equates to companion animal. In the last few decades, there has been a change in attitudes toward animals considered to act as companions to humans. The term ‘pet’ was first applied to the indulged, spoiled child. By the sixteenth century, the word migrated to other small childlike creatures such as cats, dogs, and young farm animals (Palmatier, 1995). Some speculate that industrialization and the resulting increase in urbanization had an effect on pet-keeping. Decreased family size as well as reduced contact with extended family members became the norm. The pet dog helped fill the void and ease the isolation and loneliness of city-life. With the rise of the middle class,

generalized affluence and high levels of consumption in the twentieth century came more free time. Animals were no longer instrumental in the functioning of people's lives; the horse was the last vestige of their reliance on animals. Pets were transferred from the domain of the wealthy to the working class. Social class identity was mirrored in their pets; still the wealthy kept ponies and the larger and pedigree breeds of dogs while the crossbreeds remained the preserve of the others. Sentiments were turned to closer relation with animals and nature – a concern for animals and their well-being. Further changes in pet-keeping occurred following WWII. Advances in health permitted people to interact with animals with less threat to their health. This allowed increased contact with animals (Brown, 1985; Gunter, 2005; Olson & Hulser, 2003). From the 1960s pet-keeping grew to be more common (Frankin, 1999).

With increased contact, some argue that the term “pet” is no longer a proper designation for dogs who reside with humans. The term “companion animal” became a popular alternative to the word “pet” in the 1990s. “Companion animal” reflects the difference between the relationship humans have with animals that have been domesticated for economic purposes and the relationship humans have with animals that are kept for social or emotional reasons and that are brought into their homes and their hearts (Belk, 1996; Linzey & Cohn, 2011; Franklin, 1999; Serpell & Paul, 1994). Rather than “pet,” professionals and scholars in veterinary medicine, animal welfare, and human-animal interaction have come to prefer the term “companion animal” to describe the psychological bond and mutual relationship between human and animal (Linzey & Cohen, 2011). Because this research study reports on the special relationship of a dog

obtained from a rescue organization to the household, the term used to describe the dog will be termed “adopted dog” or “adopted rescue dog.”

Owner verses animal guardian. Likewise, owners, long regarded as masters over their animals, are referred to as human companions and sometimes as animal guardians or custodians. This later terminology describes a concern and obligation to provide for their proper treatment and well-being as well as to indicate that these animals are more than property. The word “guardian” is controversial as it has legal implications regarding a companion animal as different than “property” (AVMA in Preis, n.d.). Supporters of the word change suggest it will engender better treatment of animals by reshaping how owners see themselves in relation to their pets. The term “guardian” as a replacement for “owner” has been incorporated in the legal language in several cities. So far, dog owners residing in one city where owners were legally designated as an owner/guardian were found to be no more attached to their dog than those living in a city without such a designation (Helms & Bain, 2009; Irvine, 2004). There is nothing to suggest that changing the definition from “owner” to “guardian” would lead to better treatment of animals.

For many, the words “pet” and “owner” are simply ingrained in our vocabulary (Kennedy, 2005). In this literature review the term used by the author(s) of the study cited will be used. The word “adopter” will be used to denote the relationship between human and companion animal in reporting results from this study.

Companion Animal (Pet) Adoption

Ensuring animal welfare means ensuring that all animals used by humans have their basic needs fulfilled in terms of food, shelter, health, and that they experience no unnecessary suffering in providing for human needs. Unlike animal rights groups, animal welfare groups, like humane society shelters and purebred rescue organizations, do not argue that animals should never be used or kept as property by human beings. The welfare of animals is prime directive of these groups (Animal welfare, n.d.).

Companion animal or pet adoption usually refers to the process of taking guardianship of and responsibility for an animal that a previous owner has abandoned or released to an animal shelter. Common sources for adoptable animals are humane society shelters and for dogs in particular there are purebred rescue groups (Pet adoption, n.d.). According to an Associated Press Petside.com Poll (2011), over half of Americans have adopted a rescue animal at some point, and three in 10 say their current companion animal came from a shelter. Adopting an animal from a rescue is the new hot thing to do. More and more celebrities are setting the example (McKenna, 08/16/2010).

Chapter 2: Histories of Rescue Organizations and Rescue Adoption Programs

History of Animal Shelters and Humane Societies

An animal shelter is a facility that houses homeless, lost, or abandoned animals and is synonymous with humane society. Each organization is defined by its own mission or charter and how it is funded. The goal of these facilities is to provide a safe and caring environment until the animal is either reclaimed by its owner, placed in a new home, or placed with another organization. Some public animal shelters euthanize animals that are not adopted within a set period of time (usually seven to 14 days); others have a policy of only putting down animals that are in distress due to age or illness. To help lower the number of animals euthanized, some shelters have developed a no-kill policy. These shelters keep their animals as long as it takes to find them new homes. Most private shelters are typically run as no-kill shelters (Animal shelter, n.d.).

The world's first animal welfare organization, the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, or SPCA, was organized in Great Britain in 1824. Systematic concern for animal welfare is based on awareness that non-human animals are sentient and that consideration should be given to their well-being, especially when they are used by humans (Phillips, 2009). These concerns can include how animals are killed for food, how they are used for scientific research, how they are kept as pets, and how human activities affect the survival of endangered species (Animal welfare, n.d.).

In 1866 the first animal welfare organization in the United States was chartered in New York City by a wealthy shipbuilding heir named Henry Bergh. Bergh was inspired to take action against man's inhumanity toward animals after seeing the city's horses

overworked, underfed, and beaten. He used the SPCA in Great Britain as a pattern and drew up the charter for the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA). The early ASPCA efforts were focused on horses and livestock, however, the society now works for cats and dogs too. Its mission, as stated 142 years ago remains the same: “to provide effective means for the prevention of cruelty to animals throughout the United States.” The ASPCA (n.d.) works to rescue animals from abuse, pass humane laws, and share resources with shelters nationwide.

In the years that followed, other organizations sprang up in the United States that modeled themselves after the ASPCA. In 1877, several of these organizations banded together to form the American Humane Association (AHA). Its priority focus was to help farm animals and improve the conditions of their lives. In 1869, one of the first animal shelters was formed – the Women’s SPA of Pennsylvania. The ASPCA in New York followed suit and began sheltering dogs and cats in 1894. In 1954 a rift arose among AHA members regarding the abandoned animals at animal shelters that had no hope of being adopted. Some members wanted these animals turned over for research. Others felt that was cruel and went against what they were fighting for and broke away to form the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS). HSUS is now the nation’s largest animal protection organization with seven million members (HSUS, n.d.; History of the Humane Society, n.d.).

The HSUS estimates that there are approximately 3,500 animal shelters in the U.S. Every year, between six and eight million dogs and cats enter these shelters. There are an estimated three to four million of these dogs and cats adopted. Many of the dogs

are mixed breeds but it is estimated that 25% of the dogs in shelters are purebred (May 3, 2013). In the 1970s, American shelters euthanized 12-20 million dogs and cats, at a time when there were 67 million pets in homes. Today, shelters euthanize around 2.7 million healthy animals (around .75 million dogs and cats classified as "unadoptable" are euthanized annually for reasons such as illness, aggression, and owner request), while there are more than 135 million dogs and cats in homes. This enormous decline in euthanasia numbers – from around 25 percent of American dogs and cats euthanized every year to about 3 percent – is mainly due to adoption programs (HSUS, May 3, 2013).

Caring for animals creates a financial burden to society. Huge numbers of abandoned or ownerless animals are fed, housed, and cared for in animal shelters. Approximately five to seven million companion animals enter animal shelters nationwide every year, and approximately half find new homes. Special programs have called attention to shelter adoption programs; October is adopt a shelter dog month. There are about 5,000 community animal shelters nationwide (Shelter dogs hold a special place in the hearts of all animal lovers, n.d.). According to U.S. pet ownership statistics, 21% of owned dogs were adopted from animal shelters or rescue groups (APPA, 2011-2012). The cost of adopting a shelter dog varies, usually already spayed/neutered animals are less expensive (Pets 101: Adopting a Shelter Dog, n.d.).

Animal shelters have been studied relative to the various characteristics that contribute to positive adoption experiences to help insure a good fit between adopters and the animals they adopt. The study of the dynamics of relinquishment of animals to

shelters has been undertaken by several (Kass, 2001; New, Salman, Scarlett, Kass, Vaughn, Scherr, & Kelch, 1999; Salman, Hutchison, Ruch-Gallie, Kogan, New, Kass, & Scarlett, 2000; Salman, New, Scarlet, Kass, Ruch-Gallic, & Hetts, 1998; Scarlett, Salman, New, & Kass, 1999).

DeLeeuw (2010) studied factors predicting adoption versus euthanasia. The variable contributing the most variance to whether a dog was adopted or euthanized was the owner's reason for relinquishment. Having too many animals was the most frequently cited reason, followed by moving. Purebred status had the largest influence relative to six other variables used to predict whether dogs were adopted or euthanized. A small percentage of the adoptable dogs were transferred to a breed specific rescue group. Other predictors of adoption, in descending order of importance, were smallness, being a stray, youth, not having a primarily black coat, medium hair, and being female.

History of the Greyhound and Its Rescue Organizations

According to greyhound histories (Branigan, 2003, 2004; Livingood, 2000) the greyhound is one of the most ancient dog breeds known. Its slender build, deep chest, and thin skin suggest a warm climate origin for the breed, probably in the semi-arid lands of North Africa and the Middle East. The unique and highly prized abilities of these sighthounds help explain why they have changed very little.

The first evidence of the breed was discovered in Egypt, with carvings in old tombs dating back to 2900 and 2751 B.C. depicting dogs of unmistakable greyhound type attacking deer and mountain goats. While these Egyptian scenes established greyhounds

at a very early date, the first complete description of the breed comes from a Roman source, written by Ovid, who lived from 43 B.C. to A.D.17.

Aristocracy and culture have always surrounded the greyhound. Greyhounds nearly became extinct during times of famine in the Middle Ages. They were saved by clergymen who protected them and bred them for the nobility. From this point on, they came to be considered the dogs of the aristocracy. In the tenth century, King Howell of Wales made killing a greyhound punishable by death. King Canute of England established the Forest Laws in 1014, reserving large areas of the country for hunting by the nobility. Only nobility could own greyhounds; any "meane person" (commoner) caught owning a greyhound would be severely punished. In 1066 William the Conqueror introduced even more stringent forest laws. Commoners who hunted with greyhounds in defiance of these laws favored dogs whose coloring made them harder to spot: black, red, fawn, and brindle. Nobles by contrast favored white and spotted dogs who could be spotted and recovered more easily if lost in the forest.

The greyhound is mentioned in the Bible.

There be three things which do well, yea,
 Four are comely in going;
 A lion, which is strongest among beasts and
 Turneth not away from any;
 A greyhound;
 A he-goat also.
 and a king, against whom *there is* no rising up.

(King James version of the Bible, Proverbs 30: 29-31).

In Greek literature, *The Odyssey* tells a story of a man named Odysseus who left home for 20 years. When he returned, the only one who recognized him was his greyhound, Argus. The greyhound is the first breed of dog mentioned in English

literature. The monk in Geoffrey Chaucer's 14th century *The Canterbury Tales* reportedly spent great sums on his greyhounds. Shakespeare also refers to greyhounds in his plays.

Coursing races, with dogs chasing live rabbits, became popular during the sixteenth century. Queen Elizabeth I of England (1533-1603) had Thomas, Duke of Norfolk, draw up rules judging competitive coursing. The first coursing club open to the public was established in 1776.

The Spaniards brought greyhounds with them to the new world in the 1500s. The Spanish explorers used their greyhounds to guard, hunt, intimidate, and punish their enemies – in this case, the Indians. In 1513 Balboa was accompanied by a greyhound, Leoncillo, when he first saw the Pacific Ocean. Cortez also bought his greyhounds when he entered Mexico. One greyhound accompanied the conquistador Coronado all the way to present-day New Mexico.

A few greyhounds existed in North America in colonial times. During the American Revolution, a greyhound named Azor often accompanied George Washington. German-born colonial military leader, Baron von Steuben, kept his greyhound through the long winter at Valley Forge.

Greyhounds were imported to North America in large numbers from Ireland and England in the mid-1800s; they were brought not to course or race but to rid Midwest farms of a virtual epidemic of jackrabbits that was ruining their farms. Greyhounds also were used to hunt down coyotes who were killing livestock. Greyhounds became familiar sights on farms and ranches in Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Texas. Americans soon

began entering their greyhounds in sporting events. One of the first national coursing meets was held in Kansas in 1886.

The greyhound has been associated with aristocracy and the wealthy in whatever country it has resided; the greyhound is still considered a status symbol. Greyhounds have been owned by many prominent figures in history, including U.S. Presidents George Washington and Rutherford B. Hayes. General George Custer reportedly always took his 22 coursing greyhounds with him when he travelled. He is reported to have coursed his hounds the day before the Battle of Little Big Horn (Breed history of greyhounds, n.d.).

In the early 1900s, an American, Owen Patrick Smith, developed a lure that could be run in a circle on a track and greyhound racing began. Smith opened the first greyhound track (circular in shape) in Emeryville, California. Greyhound racing became one of the most popular spectator sports in America. Greyhound racing flourished in the 1980s and at its peak in 1992 there were over 50 tracks in America that ran a total of 16,827 performances. Greyhound racing lost popularity in the late 1990s due in part to the rising popularity of other forms of gambling. A number of tracks closed in the 1990s. It still is the sixth largest spectator sport in the nation (Greyhound racing in the twentieth century, n.d.).

Greyhounds were among the first dogs recorded at American dog shows, with an entry of 18 exhibited at the Westminster Kennel Club show in 1877. The greyhound was recognized by the American Kennel Club (AKC) in 1885 (AKC, n.d.). Today there are two types of greyhounds being bred; there are show lines which conform to the written standard and racing lines which are bred for speed (Dog Breed Info Center, n.d.).

The greyhound adoption movement grew out of a concern by a diverse community about the welfare of dogs in the commercial racing industry. Greyhound adoption was started by the greyhound industry in the late 1970s. Greyhound Pets of America (GPA) was established in 1987 for the purpose of finding homes for ex-racing greyhounds and at the same time educating the public on the suitability and availability of greyhounds as pets. GPA is now the largest non-profit greyhound adoption group worldwide. Only a small percentage of the retired racers will go to stud, race overseas, or retire with their owner. According to the Greyhound Review (May 2010) as dog tracks close, the number of dogs bred for racing will continue to shrink; 15,584 individual dogs were bred for racing in 2009 as compared to 26,797 in 2001. According to 2012 data from the NGA, the number of greyhounds registered to race declined again in 2012. During the year, a total of 10,157 dogs entered the racing system for the first time. This is the tenth year in a row that the number of greyhounds bred for racing has declined (reported by Theil, February 12, 2013).

Concern for the animal athletes involved in greyhound racing is evidenced by the increasing number of people who have selected retired racing greyhounds for their pets (American Greyhound Council (AGC), n.d.). In the United States, prior to the formation of adoption groups, over 20,000 retired greyhounds a year were killed; recent estimates still number in the thousands, with the industry claiming that about 90% of National Greyhound Association-(NGA) registered animals either being adopted, or returned for breeding purposes. GPA Chapters along with private greyhound adoption organizations have placed over 120,000 greyhounds in homes as pets (Guccione, NGA, personal

communication cited in Lord, Yaissle, Marin, & Couto, 2007). It is the goal of the NGA to find homes for 100% of the canine athletes at the end of their racing careers. Published costs for greyhound adoption are about \$250, which includes spaying/neutering, vaccinations, microchipping, a heart worm test, a thyroid test, blood work, and dental cleaning (Make Peace with Animals, Inc., n.d.; Why adopt a greyhound, n.d.).

Because of the reduction in greyhound tracks, the number of greyhounds bred for racing has decreased. Therefore, the number of retired racing greyhounds has also decreased. For the past several years, the number of retired racers adopted has leveled off (Livingood, 2000). Requests for greyhound adoption are becoming harder to fill (personal communication, Carolyn Reeves, Greyhound Walking Club, October 14, 2012).

History of the Pit Bull and Its Rescue Organization

Histories written about the American pit bull terrier (Coile, 2001; Jessup, 1995; History of the Pit Bull, n.d.; Stratton, 1981) state that this dog is known for its intelligence, strength, and loyalty. In recent years, the breed has been villainized as overly aggressive and dangerous. While the pit bull is feisty and spirited, the history of the breed shows a more complex composite of temperament and personality.

Like many breeds, it is impossible to be completely sure of the details of the American pit bull terrier's long history. Many pit bull enthusiasts believe the origins of the breed can be traced back to antiquity and the Molossian family of dogs named for the Molessi tribe that lived in ancient Greece. They used their robust, muscular dogs in warfare to intimidate their enemies. Over the years, they mixed with other indigenous

breeds throughout Europe, creating a melting pot for the bulldogs that are thought to be the immediate ancestors of the American pit bull terrier.

When the Normans invaded England in 1066, they introduced the sport called baiting. Baiting originated with butchers who kept dogs (called Bullenbeissers) to handle unruly bulls as they were herded to the market for slaughter. When a bull stepped out of line or exhibited uncontrollable behavior, the dogs would clamp down on its nose and simply hang on until the handler could regain control of the wayward animal. The butchers were proud of their canine companions and their stubborn tenacity in dealing with the much larger and potentially dangerous bulls. Subsequently, public displays were arranged to showcase the dogs' abilities and to appease the multitudes that attended baiting events for their entertainment value. By the 16th century, nearly every town in England had its own baiting ring. The popularity of baiting events was unparalleled at the time, as was their ability to draw spectators from every level of society. Baiting events lasted for prolonged periods, sometimes as long as three or four hours. Eventually, the public grew bored with bulls and introduced baiting dogs with bears, boars, horses, and even monkeys. Baiting was made illegal by the British parliament in 1835. However, this legislation did little to satiate the public's desire to watch the spectacle of dogs in fighting sports. As a result, their attention turned to a variety of other pursuits such as ratting - a practice in which a dog was thrown in a pit with a varying number of rats. The dogs raced against the clock and each other to determine which one could kill the most rats in the shortest period of time. In the past, dogs were named for the jobs they did. The "pit" in pit bulls comes from the fact that ratting occurred in a pit that kept the rats from escaping.

Since dog fighting required smaller and more agile animals than the ones that were used in baiting, fighting bulldogs were bred with terriers that were known for their feistiness and indefatigable focus. The result was the bull-and-terrier, more commonly known as the first pit bull terrier – a muscular, canine gladiator specifically bred for combat with other dogs.

When English immigrants came to America, their dogs came with them and introduced dog fighting in America in the 19th century. On the American frontier, pit bulls assumed the role of an all-purpose dog. In addition to herding cattle and sheep, they served as faithful guardians, protecting families and livestock from the ever-present threat of thieves and wild animals.

Despite their gallant history, pit bulls faced an uphill battle in gaining official breed recognition. The American Kennel Club (AKC) (n.d.) was formed in 1884 for the sole purpose of promoting the interests of purebred dogs and their owners. The performance the pit bulls' were bred for created a problem since the function for which they were bred – fighting – was illegal. The AKC understandably refused to remotely endorse anything related to dog fighting. In response to the AKC's unwillingness to include pit bulls as a bonafide breed, in 1898 an alternative group was formed - the UKC (United Kennel Club). The purpose of the UKC was to certify breeds that were not eligible for certification by the AKC. The UKC's charter member was the American pit bull terrier. Ultimately the AKC did recognize the pit bull in 1936, albeit under the designation of the Staffordshire terrier, named after the region of England where the crossbreeding of bulldogs and terriers is thought to have begun. Today, the American

Staffordshire terrier has developed into a breed that is distinct from its American pit bull terrier cousin. The term "pit bull" does not designate a breed. It's a generic term often used to describe several breeds of dogs with similar traits and characteristics.

Over the years, the American pit bull terrier has been a beloved symbol of Americana. In World War I, a pit bull named Stubby, the unofficial mascot of the 102nd Infantry Division, was credited with saving the lives of several of his human comrades. Petey was the canine movie star of the Little Rascals. Many famous Americans have owned pit bulls. Mark Twain, Theodore Roosevelt, Laura Ingalls Wilder, Thomas Edison, Woodrow Wilson, John Steinbeck, Helen Keller, and Fred Astaire have all been proud to own dogs of this breed. RCA recording company looked to a pit bull as its corporate logo. Similarly, Buster Brown Shoes used a pit bull as the cornerstone of their marketing campaign. The pit bull-like Bull Terrier is Target's mascot sporting Target Corporation's bull's-eye logo painted around her left eye (Bullseye mascot, n.d.). The U.S. Marine Corps' uses an English bulldog for its mascot, Sargent Chesty XIII, to embody the Marine saying "No better friend, no worse enemy" – "Loyal, hardworking, and full of fun – while looking mean as all get-out" (Barnes, 2012).

A large number of jurisdictions have enacted breed-specific legislation (BSL) in response to a number of well-publicized incidents involving specific breeds of dogs considered "dangerous" breeds, such as pit bull breeds, Rottweilers, and German shepherds. Many jurisdictions specifically apply the restriction to pit bulls which include the American pit bull terrier, American Staffordshire terrier, Staffordshire bull terrier, or any other dog that has the substantial physical characteristics and appearance of those

breeds (American Humane Association, n.d.). There are many reasons for this label: irresponsible ownership; back yard breeding (the breeding of dogs by unlicensed, inexperienced, or irresponsible people); media misrepresentation and stereotyping; and more (Pit Bull Rescue Central, n.d.). Studies have shown, however, that it is not the breeds themselves that are dangerous, but unfavorable situations that are creating dangerous dogs (Sacks, Sinclair, Gilchrist, Golab, & Lockwood, 2005).

Pit bull rescue does not have a shelter facility, but instead, provides web exposure for dogs in need of homes. Pit bull rescue offers guidance to anyone looking to adopt or place American pit bull terriers, American Staffordshire terriers, Staffordshire bull terriers, and pit bull mixes. Pitt bull rescue organizations were started in about 2003. In 2009, 3,813 adoption applications were processed through the Pit Bull Rescue Central internet site (www.pbrc.com). Typical adoption fees start at \$150 and increase depending on services provided (vaccinations, worming, spay/neuter) (HuffPost DC, 2011).

Chapter 3: Research Aims and Study Objectives

Research Aims

Studies have found personality differences between dog and cat owners (Bauer & Woodward, 2007; Gosling, Sandy, & Potter, 2010), dog owners and non-dog owners (Hunter & Workman, 2009), and male and female differences in how they interact with their pets (Edelson & Lester, 1983; Herzog, 2007). Results of the research by Gosling *et al.* indicated clear personality differences between individuals that favor dogs and those that favor cats (dog owners tended to be more agreeable). Bauer and Woodward found people who shared personality traits with their pets were more attached to the pets and that cat owners were more hostile in their orientation than dog owners. Hunter and Workman studied the suggestion that certain breeds of dogs are associated with particular kinds of people. They found that people are able to match purebred dogs with their owners, suggesting that certain breeds are associated with certain types of people. Edelson and Lester compared self-reported introversion/extraversion scores on the Eysenck Personality Inventory with their pet choice. They found that women were more likely than men to own a cat. Extraversion in males was linked to preferring dogs as pets. Herzog found mixed reviews of how gender affects relations with animal. He also reported that women typically display more positive relationships with animals than men. These findings suggest that pet owners differ and select animals as pets that fit their personality and lifestyle. If people's personality type can be matched to certain purebred dogs and people interact differently to different pets, might certain characteristics in the dog adopter's lifestyle be associated with a particular rescue program from which they

obtained their dog? Also, might adopters from different rescue groups interact with their adopted dog differently?

Greyhound adopters have an organized adoption program that offers many opportunities for adopters and their canine companions to meet with each other and promote greyhound adoption to others. There are small events such as “Meet and Greets” held in local stores and malls and large scale get-to-gathers such as the Dewy Beach “Reach the Beach” where people travel long distances with their dogs for educational talks and informal exchange of personal experiences with their greyhounds. These people bring 1, 2, 3, and more greyhounds with them for this event. Are these greyhound breed adopters different from humane society adopters who select their companion animal from a variety of shapes and sizes? And, are greyhound adopters different from adopters from another breed specific group, *e.g.*, pit bull? These are the questions that prompted this descriptive study of dog adopters from three different rescue groups.

The humane society represents an organized group that provides adoption services for any dog needing rehoming. The greyhound rescue organization represents a well-liked dog that is in an adoption program as a result of its participation in a controversial career in dog racing. The pit bull adopters represent a group of people finding homes for a type of dog that is both the “All American Dog” and yet subject to specific breed legislation (BSL) aimed at limiting breed ownership simply based on the publicized stereotyped aggressiveness of a breed or type of dog.

Study Objectives

Relationships with companion animals are complex (Netting, Wilson, & New, 1987). Because the contributions of companion animals to their respective adopters vary, this raises questions about whether differences in adopters may also influence their choice of companion animals and where they look to obtain them.

The general public often refers to the attributes that they think characterize a group. These stereotypes are a form of categorization which helps to simplify and systematize information so the information is easier to be identified, recalled, predicted, and reacted to (Operario & Fiske, 2003). Are any of these stereotypes valid? One of the main reasons this study was undertaken was in order to confirm and/or dispel stereotypes of dogs and their adopters.

Human society dogs are often thought of as: unhealthy, mixed-breed, unruly, unwanted, and older (Lock, n.d.). Different breeds of dogs elicit different perceptions about their personalities. The racing greyhound has been stereotyped as exploited and abused by the greyhound racing professionals (McKeon, August 2, 2012). The greyhound is often considered to be an aggressive dog due to muzzles worn during racing. They have a strong prey drive and they should not be homed with small pets. Historically Greyhounds have also had a reputation for being gentle, people-centered dogs (Greyhound adoption, n.d.). The pit bull and bully breeds are negatively stereotyped as vicious, violent, and likely to attack people and animals (Advocates battle stereotypes of bully breeds, October 17, 2011). Ironically, for most of our history America's nickname for pit bulls type dogs was "The Nanny Dog." For generations if you had children and

wanted to keep them safe you wanted a pit bull; it was the dog that was the most reliable of any breed with children or adults (Grossman, May 4, 2011).

Stereotypes of the dog adopter are harder to find. Personal stereotypes were that the humane society adopter spends less on their adopted dogs. Greyhound adopters adopt many dogs. Pit bull adopters are young (under 30), tend to rent (rather than own), and were adopting the first dog of their own (aside from family dogs) (MacNeil, March 15, 2012). When attending the sporting event of dog weight-pulling (pulling increasing weight on wheels or on snow), it could be concluded that the owners of the pit bull-type contestants were truck drivers by profession. Even more, is the stereotype that pit bull-type dog owners are people who are involved in the “sport” of fighting dogs.

Animal advocates in rescue organizations have a need to know if they are succeeding to dispel negative stereotypes and able to increase the rates of rescue dog adoption (Lockwood, 2005). This research study was conducted to describe the adopters from three rescue options (humane society, greyhound, and pit bull rescue groups) and their relationships with their adopted dogs.

The objectives of the study were:

- 1) To identify and compare the demographics associated with the dog adopters from humane society shelters and two specialty breed rescue organizations (greyhound and pit bull rescue groups).
- 2) To assess and compare the motives for the adoption of a rescued dog between adopters from humane society shelters and two specialty breed adoption organizations (greyhound and pit bull rescue groups).

- 3) To assess and compare the adopters' interactions with and their attitudes toward their adopted dog obtained from humane society shelter or two specialty breed dog rescue organizations (greyhound and pit bull rescue groups).
- 4) To determine if the stereotypes of the rescue dog adopters and their dogs are valid.
- 5) To provide information to enhance adoption of rescued animals by sharing results with adoption/rescue groups.
- 6) To add information to the literature on the human/animal bond.

Chapter 4: Literature Review

Dogs as Companions

Dogs as companions are a common cultural phenomenon (Brown, 2002) and are an integral part of many family systems (Toray, 2004). This relationship transcends class barriers and animals are companions to people from all socioeconomic levels of society (Kennedy, 2005). Since the 1980s, the belief that "pets are good for you" has gained scientific support. An ever-increasing body of literature suggests that relationships with companion animals – not just ownership but just being in the presence of a companion animal - have a number of positive associations with human mental, physical, and social well-being (Case, 2008; Crawford, Worsham, & Swinehart, 2006; Friedmann & Son, 2009; Gunter, 2005).

During the 1980s, health research popularized the view that pet ownership could have positive human health benefits. Studies since then have shown a higher survival rate from myocardial infarction (Friedmann, Katcher, Lynch, & Thomas, 1980); a significantly lower use of general practitioner services (Heady, 1998); a reduced risk of asthma and allergic rhinitis in children exposed to pet allergens during the first year of life (Nafsted, Magnus, Gaader, & Jaakola, 2001; Ownby, Johnson, & Peterson, 2002); a reduced risk of cardiovascular disease (Anderson, Reid, & Jennings, 1992); and better physical and psychological well-being in community dwelling older people (Raina, Waltner-Toews, Bonnett, Woodward, & Abernathy, 1999).

Although these early research studies raised awareness of the importance people attach to their pets, more recent studies have failed to replicate the same health benefits.

Research has not supported findings that pet ownership is associated with a reduced risk of cardiovascular disease (Parslow & Jorm, 2003a), a reduced use of general practitioner services (Parslow & Jorm, 2003b), or any psychological or physical benefits on health for community dwelling older people (Parslow, Jorm, Christensen, Rodgers, & Jacomb, 2005). Mixed results have been found on the association between pets and allergic sensitization (Simpson & Gustovic, 2005). Some research reports suggest that exposure to pets may be beneficial provided that exposure is sufficient, as lower levels may enhance sensitization and higher levels may protect against sensitization (Frew, 2005). Other research suggests that any health effects related to pets may depend heavily on age at exposure and type of pet (Behrens, Maziak, Welland, Rzehak, Siebert, & Keil, 2005). In their study of health effects of ownership and attachment to animals in an elderly population, Winefield, Black, and Chur-Hansen (2008) state the health of elderly people is associated with their health habits and social support and not with their ownership of or attachment to a companion animal.

A review by McNicholas, Gilbey, Rennie, Ahmedzai, Dono, and Ormerod (2005) proposes three potential mechanisms to explain the association between pet ownership and benefits to human health. The first dismisses any real association between the two and proposes cofactors such as personality traits, age, and economic or health status impact the decision to own a pet and this produces the link between pets and health. Evidence is lacking that any of these cofactors account for both health promoting attributes and the propensity to own pets. The second factor is that pets enhance social interactions and thus provide an indirect effect on well-being. Pets have been called

“social catalysts” leading to greater social contact between people (McNicholas & Collis, 2000). This may be important for those at risk for social isolation, such as elderly or people with physical disabilities, who may lack opportunities for social interactions (Lane, McNicholas, & Collis, 1988). The third proposal focuses on the direct effect the nature of the human-pet relationship has on human health and well-being. The influence of close relations with other people on well-being may be of particular value in buffering threats to mental health and well-being from real or perceived stressors. The companionship offered by pets may mirror some of the elements of human relationships known to contribute to health and, therefore, may be important in fostering positive mental health on a day to day basis. People do not own pets to enhance their health or for social benefits, but rather they value the relationship and the contribution their pet makes to their quality of life (Podberscek, Paul & Serpell, 2000).

The types of relationships people have with their companion animals has been increasingly referred to as elements of the “human-animal bond.” The human-animal bond is defined as “a mutually beneficial and dynamic relationship between people and other animals that is influenced by behaviors that are essential to the health and well-being of both” (Wollrab, 1998). It has been reported that there is at least one companion animal in more than 50% of the households in the U.S. (Lagoni, Butler, & Hetts, 2004).

Human-animal bonding is psychosocial. Psychosocial dimensions include: 1) a responsible pet ownership involving certain role performances and expectations that can be characterized as a relationship, 2) a required special knowledge and understanding, 3) a contribution to or a disruption of order and control in one’s environment, and 4) the

companion animal requires some care by the owner (Netting, Wilson, & New, 1987). Hochschild (1983) would call this relationship the 'emotional gift exchange.' Being part of an exchange relationship assumes that both parties contribute to the exchange; thus implying that both the human and the dog are active participants in the relationship. It is only in the recent attention to companion animals in the human-animal bond that it has been felt like the animals are attributed to have feelings and the ability to understand (Kennedy, 2005).

Irvine (2004) calls the nonexploitive companionship with animals 'animal capital.' Animal capital includes being knowledgeable of the companion animal and understanding what is needed to sustain a happy and healthy physical and emotional life. Proper nutrition, emotional satisfaction, and appropriate veterinary care are a few of the examples listed by Irvine. However, simply providing essential food and health care does not mean a meaningful relationship with an animal has been established. Providing both physical and emotional support without strings attached takes the relationship to a different level. Kennedy (2005) adds, that in this relationship her interviewees felt like the dog also understood them. This mutual understanding between the caretaker and the dog comes from the human ability to teach and the dog's ability to learn a set of symbols, such as a language or hand signals. Part of this mutual understanding is in large part due to attributing freewill and many human feelings and emotions to the dog – anthropomorphizing. This helps make a stronger connection with the dog since these terms put the relationship into one that is understood. While a bark may not be really understood, people understand what they interpret it to mean.

Although many report the positive psychological and physiological effects of companion animals on human health, the reasons for them are not clear (Friedman, 1988). Crawford, Worsham, and Swinehart (2006) summarize by suggesting that it is not owning but rather the attachment to companion animals that contributes to the reported human health effects.

Internet Surveys

The use of internet based surveys has become increasingly popular because of the internet's growing accessibility. As of June 2012, 239, 893,000 people in the U.S., 77.3% of the population, had access to the internet (Internet World Stats, 2010). For the researcher, internet survey software has made the question design process easy, as well as simplified data collection and processing. Internet surveys can be less expensive and provide results much faster than traditional survey methods. For respondents, internet surveys are simple to use and can be more convenient because the respondents can take as much time as needed to answer questions. With the access to opt-in databases, online surveys can easily reach specialized groups and can access large samples (Alessi & Martin, 2010; Evans & Mathur, 2005).

Internet surveys using opt-in databases do have built-in biases as do other surveys in which people self-select into the survey. Further, those that respond to surveys tend to have stronger opinions than those that do not (Sampling bias, n.d.). Other biases in on-line survey use are due to possible demographic differences among respondents with access to internet technology. Therefore, questions have been raised about the applicability of such data to the general rescue dog adopter as not all dog adopters have

access to a computer. The internet is, however, accessible to more and more people as well as being accepted as a primary means of communication for many. In 2009, 61.7% of all U.S. households had access to the internet inside the home and 71.5% had access outside the home. As the internet gets more accessible, the difference between those who use the internet and those who do not will shrink (Evans & Mathur, 2005; Lockwood, 2005).

When results of an internet survey assessing various attitudes and activities regarding animals and animal protection were compared to a traditional telephone poll of a representative sample of the U.S. population, the results showed nearly identical support of many issues from both methodologies. Survey respondents are often thought of as a motivated, self-selected population. One goal of that survey was to determine the characteristics of highly committed supporters of animal protection efforts (Lockwood, 2005).

Virtual communities have formed around specific identities and interests, making the internet a practical option for recruiting from many populations. This is especially true for specialty populations (Rosser, Oakes, Bockting, & Miner, 2007). The comparison of an online survey and a random sample on sexual behavior by Cooper, Scherer, and Mathy (2001) did not produce significantly different results.

As with all nonprobability samples, there is limited ability to generalize the findings to the population from which they are drawn. Self-selection occurs in nearly all surveys of people in one form or another, *i.e.*, those selected at random may choose not to respond (Kraut, Olson, Banaji, Bruckman, Cohen, & Cooper, 2004; Lockwood, 2005).

Self-selection causes problems when evaluating programs or research but is useful in exploratory studies such as the study of the characteristics of companion animal adopters. The use of publications supported by the adoption and shelter organizations reach many adopters; however, these too self-select by opt-in subscription. Since many of the adoption groups use the internet to communicate to adopters, this creates a bias of responses from internet users but that will itself provide useful data.

Online surveys offer protection of responder anonymity and prevent multiple survey submissions from the same individual. Response rates of online surveys are difficult to calculate. Because of the ability to track the number of hits is not always possible, the overall response rate cannot be determined (Alessi & Martin, 2010).

Web administration of surveys clearly has advantages in terms of administration time and cost. Miller, Daley, Wood, Brooks, and Roper (1996) suggest that the efficiency of electronic data collection justifies its use, particularly for exploratory research. Evans and Mathur (2005) also endorse the usefulness of electronic surveys for exploratory research, and notes other advantages of the medium.

Questions about sampling, recruitment, data collection, and response rates are still issues when determining the best way to conduct surveys. Several survey instruments have been developed to assess attitudes toward animals.

Chapter 5: Justification

The purpose of this survey was to identify the similarities and differences of the dog adopters from three rescue groups responding to this survey. The focus of this study was to examine if factors related to having a dog in the household differed between adopters from three different rescue organizations. The specific aims of the study were to describe how these adopters may or may not vary in their attitudes toward and their interactions with their adopted dog. The information gathered here will fill in some of the current gaps in knowledge of the human animal bond with reference to adopters of rescue dogs and apply the results to rescue dog adoption. The results of this study on dog adopters from three types of rescue groups can be used to:

(a) provide the best information to rescue groups on the resources used by current adopters to find information on rescue dog adoption with the aim of increasing and directing appropriate resources to reach more potential dog adopters for each rescue group;

(b) to define the demographics of those who adopt a rescue dog in order to identify underrepresented populations as targets for future research studies on humans and their canine companions;

(c) to learn more about the interaction between humans and their companion animals;

(d) to determine whether any area of interaction with the adopted dog may need informed intervention, *i.e.*, to improve adopters' behaviors by increasing attendance in

obedience training classes and informing adopters of concerns regarding taking their adopted dog along on errands;

(e) to provide information on rescue dogs that will facilitate their adoption:-

- for the humane society rescues: to find ways to promote their accessibility to a variety of dogs,
- for the greyhound rescue groups: to share their success in finding homes for retired racing greyhounds, and
- for the pit bull rescue groups: to gather data in order to provide information that will help dispel their negative publicity as a dangerous breed and successfully promote them for the role of companion dog;

(f) to expand the information on the human-animal bond by showing the similarities and differences between the adopters of canine companions from different rescue organizations; and

(f) to provide a scientific data base on which to evaluate change.

Chapter 6: Method

Survey Instrument

Items on the survey were determined by brainstorming with members of rescue organizations and shelters. Questions were developed that would provide information on demographics and attitudes toward the companion animal adopted and provide information about adopters that could benefit increased adoption. To determine the relevant questions, other measures of the human-animal bond were reviewed. Items from the Comfort from Companion Animals Scale (CCAS) developed by Zasloff (1996) were included to evaluate differences among the rescue groups on attitudes toward animals and feelings of attachment. The survey instrument was pilot tested among a group of adopters. The resulting questions (see Appendix) were submitted to the Oregon State University Institutional Review Board (IRB) for use of human subjects for their review. Following IRB approval, the survey questions (IRB study number 4144 for the greyhound survey; IRB study number 4392 for the humane society survey; and IRB study number 4253 for the pit bull survey) were entered into a standardized internet survey program (SurveyMonkey).

The survey instrument consisted of 56 questions on the adopters' demographics, attitudes, and the interaction experiences they have with the adopted dog. Several questions allowed comments to provide the participant an opportunity to explain their answers or to make personal comments. Questions 18, 23 to 34 were 13-statements from the CCAS. The final question on the survey was a request for the respondents to

comment on their adopted pet and/or their adoption experience. This provided additional insight into the dog adopters' relationships with their companion animals.

Participants

The first step in recruiting participants for this study was to acquire permission to advertise the survey. Greyhound and pit bull adopters were recruited via their rescue organizations' opt-in databases. The email lists of three Pacific Northwest humane societies were used along with the nationwide ASCPC database to provide national coverage of humane societies. Following the organization's agreement to participate, an announcement of the survey was posted on the rescue organizations online website or through their e-mail lists. It was felt that the use of a convenience sampling method was the best way to achieve a reasonable representation of the target population of dog adopters from the three types of rescue groups. The internet survey provided the potential to reach national coverage on a limited budget and make it possible to research members of a specialized population. However, it must be considered that, as with all nonprobability samples, there is limited ability to generalize the findings to the populations from which they are drawn.

Adopters were asked to complete the online survey with only one response per household. The participants provided consent by self-selection into the study and completing and submitting the online survey. The survey involved a one time commitment of less than one hour. No response used in the analysis had more than four missing answers. A total of 2080 rescue dog adopters responded to the surveys; there were 908 responses from humane society adopters (one started the survey but failed to

answer further questions), 1035 responses from greyhound adopters (two started the survey but failed to answer any further questions), and 137 responses from pit bull adopters.

Study Implementation

A standardized survey software program (SurveyMonkey) was used to design and host the survey. Rescue adopters accessed the online survey by a hyperlink included on the rescue organizations' internet distributed announcement of the study and enabled an individual to link directly to the survey. A letter explaining the purpose of the survey was included as an introduction to the survey questions and outlined the risks and benefits of participating (Appendix A). Proceeding to answer survey questions served as informal consent. Survey responses were accepted on the website for 90 days following the posting of the announcement.

The survey was limited to individuals over 18 years of age. One of the first questions on the questionnaire asked participants their age along with the statement "those less than 18 years of age are not eligible to participate." All respondents remained anonymous to the investigator. Survey responses were collected by the internet survey program.

Data Analysis

Collected data from the online survey were downloaded in Excel spreadsheet format and imported into a Statistical Program for the Social Sciences (SPSS) (IBM, Armonk, New York) for analysis.

Percentages of responses from the three groups of rescue dog adopters were available from SurveyMonkey's analysis function. Frequencies of demographic information and other categorical responses to individual questions on the survey were obtained for the overall sample, rescue groups, and response categories.

The robust Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) procedure was used to determine if there were significant differences among the groups on Likert Scale ratings. An alpha level of $< .05$ was selected as the level to denote a result as statistically significantly different and indicate the result provided enough evidence to reject the hypothesis of "no effect." Because of unequal sample sizes and the violation of the equal variance assumption, a Welch's Test and a Brown-Forsythe Test were used to confirm the result of the ANOVA significance. A Levene's Test also was used to assess the homogeneity of variances in the sample populations analyzed. Partial eta-squared (η_p^2) was used to measure the effect size and judge the strength of the relationship by indicating how much of variance in the dependent variable (DV) that is associated with the membership of different groups defined by an independent variable (IV). The effect size was considered small at η_p^2 around 0.009, medium at around 0.05, and large at around 0.13.

A post hoc multiple comparison test was used to identify which IV conditions were statistically significantly different when the overall ANOVA F statistic was significant. Because sample sizes were not equal and equal sample variances were not assumed, the post hoc Dunnett's C multiple comparison test was used. The Dunnett's C test controls for Type I error across the pairwise comparisons (Green & Salkind, 2011, p.

182). For all analyses, values of $p < .05$ were considered to indicate result differences that were statistically significant.

Respondents to the survey were given the opportunity to make comments related to their answers on several questions. In addition, the respondents were provided the option to comment about their rescue adoption experience, share an experience they have had with their adopted dog, or describe their feelings for their adopted dog in Q56. These qualitative responses were used to support themes in the discussion.

Formatting followed APA Publication Manual guidelines. Data were also reported according to the APA guidelines (APA Publication Manual, Sixth Edition, 2010).

Chapter 7: Results

The Rescue Dog Adopter Survey was conducted to investigate the relationships between adopters and the dogs they adopted from one of three types of canine rescue groups/organizations. There were responses from 2080 rescue dog adopters used in the analysis of the online survey (908 humane society adopters, 1035 greyhound adopters, and 137 pit bull adopters). All the participants were members of online databases linked to three statewide humane societies and the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), a national greyhound rescue, and a national pit bull rescue. These groups represented a general rescue group and two specialty breed rescue groups. Of the later, both of these groups are associated with dogs that are or might be used for entertainment. The greyhound has a 'nice' dog reputation but is often linked to controversial publicity for the racing industry's treatment of its canine athletes following their racing career. The pit bull has been call the all-American breed but is often linked to a 'bad' dog reputation and has received negative breed specific publicity as aggressive and ill-tempered. In addition to the adopters' demographics, their interaction with and attitudes toward their rescued dogs were compared.

An internet administered survey was used to collect data on the rescue dog adopters from three rescue organizations, humane society, greyhound rescue, and pit bull rescue. The results of these surveys reflect the views of the respondents and, therefore, cannot be generalized to the whole population of dog adopters from any of the three rescue groups.

Demographic Information (Q1 – 11, and Q13)

To investigate whether “the demographic data from the dog adopters from the humane societies, greyhound rescues, and the pit bull rescues were the same, answers to questions(Q) 1 to 11, and Q13 on the survey instrument were analyzed. The number and percentage of responses to the survey questions on demographics within each rescue group are presented in Table 1.

Q1: Respondent’s gender. More females than males completed the Rescue Dog Adopter Survey from all rescue groups. Of the 2071 responses to survey Q1, the respondent’s gender, a total of 387 (19%) were male and 1,684 (81%) were female. In the individual rescue groups, the survey responses were 21%, 17%, and 18% by male respondents and 79%, 83%, and 82% by female respondents from the humane societies ($n = 902$), greyhound rescue groups ($n = 1036$), and pit bull rescue groups ($n = 133$), respectively. The percentage of gender within each rescue group is shown on Figure 1 as well as in Table 1.

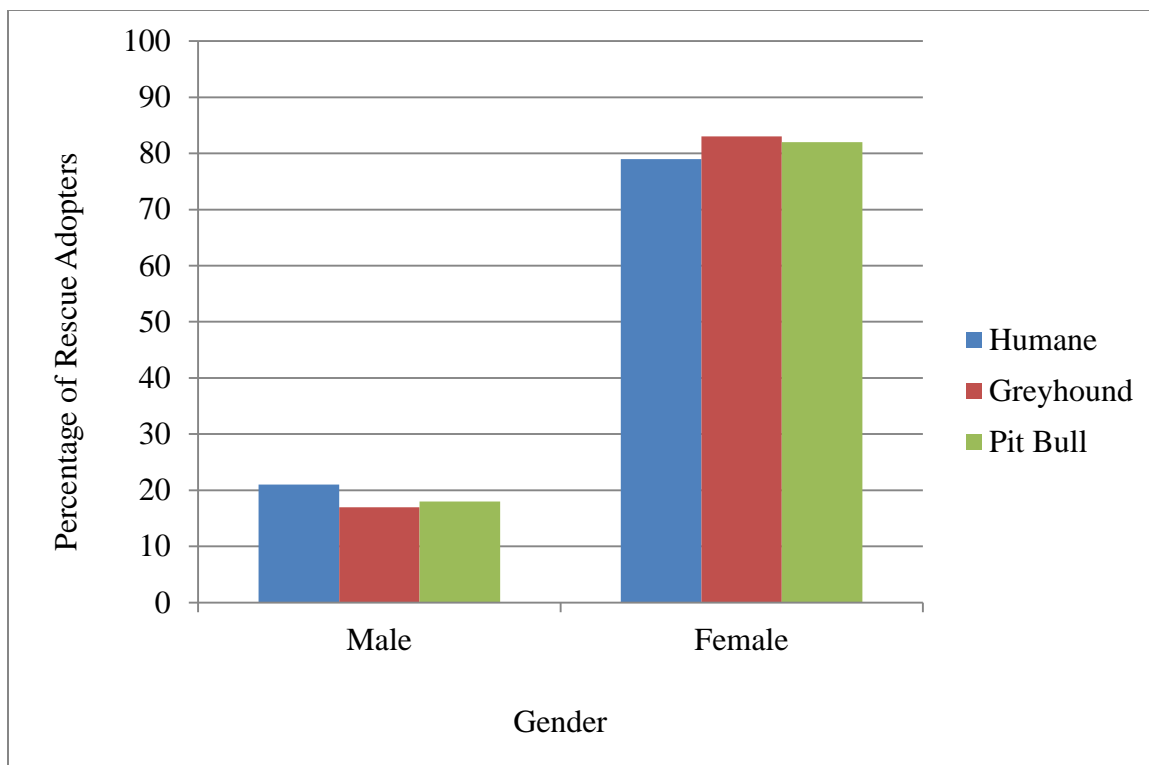


Figure 1. Comparison of rescue groups on Q1, gender of the respondent.

Q2: Respondent's age. The three groups of rescue dog adopters were compared on six levels of the respondent's age: "18 – 30," "31 – 40," "41 – 50," "51 – 60," "61 – 70," and "over 70." The majority of all rescue dog adopters were in the three age groups between ages 31 – 60 years of age (71% of $N = 2078$). The greyhound adopters ($n = 1035$) were the oldest, with 48% indicating they were in the three groups covering 51 to over 70 years of age compared to 35% of the humane society adopters ($n = 905$) and 13% of the pit bull adopters ($n = 136$). The pit bull adopters were the youngest, with 36% of the respondents indicating they were between 18 – 30 years of age compared to 20% of the humane society adopters and 7% of the greyhound adopters (Figure 2 and Table 1).

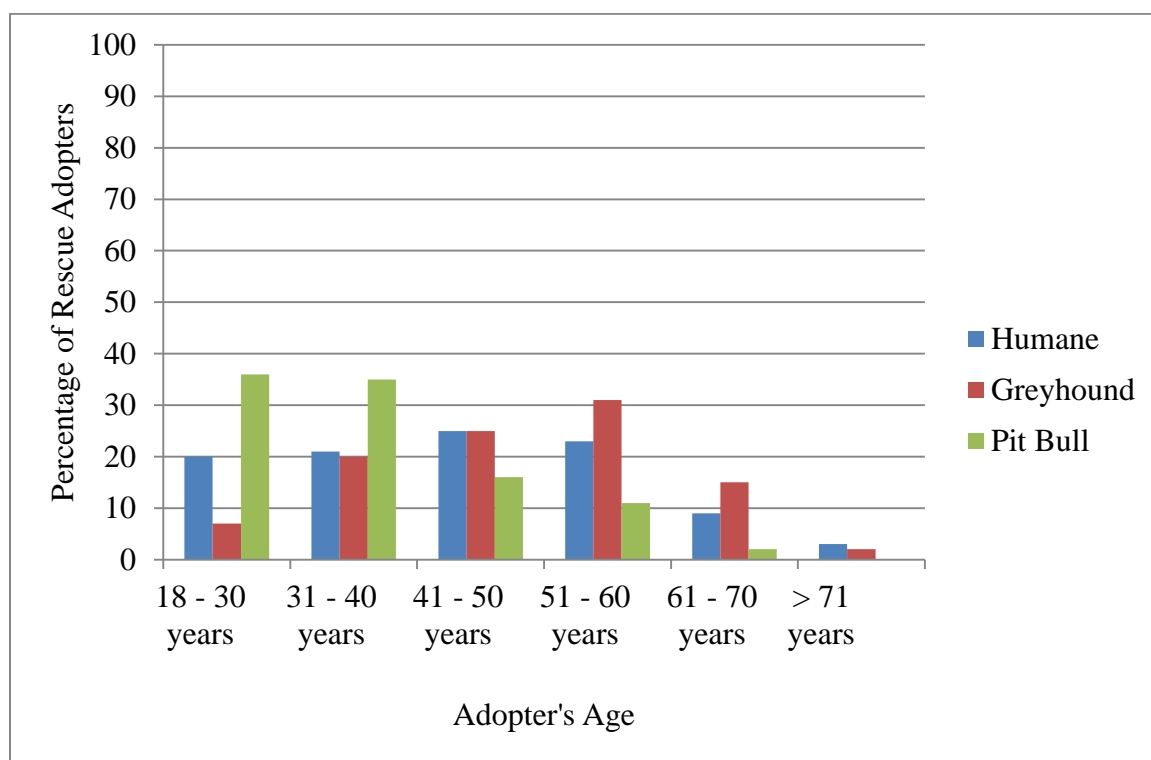


Figure 2. Comparison of rescue groups on Q2, age of the respondent.

Q3: Respondent's marital status. Three categories identifying the marital status of the rescue dog adopter were: “single,” “married/partnered,” and “other.” The dog adopters from the humane societies, greyhound rescue groups, and the pit bull rescue groups were similar in their reported marital status. The majority of all adopters (71% of $N = 2062$) reported being “married/partnered;” there were 69%, 72%, and 73% of the humane society ($n = 905$), greyhound ($n = 1020$), and pit bull ($n = 1347$) adopters reporting they were “married/partnered,” respectively. Being a “single head of household” was reported most among the humane society adopters (27%) and least among the pit pull adopters (23%), with the greyhound adopters in-between (25%). The

unspecified “other” accounted for 5% or less of the responses from each rescue group.

See Figure 3 and Table 1 for the percentage of adopters in each category of marital status in the individual rescue groups.

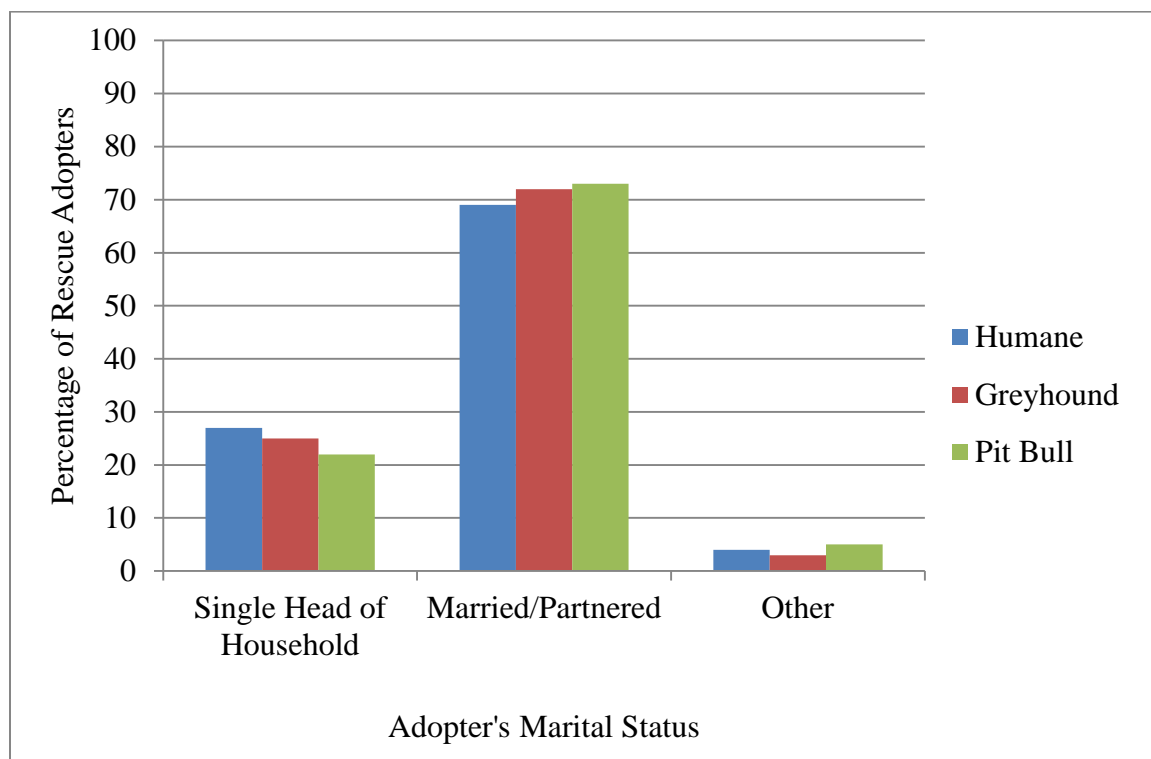


Figure 3. Comparison of rescue groups on Q3, marital status of the respondent.

Q4: Respondent’s race/ethnicity. The race/ethnicity of the respondent to the Rescue Dog Adopter Survey could be reported as one of eight categories: “Caucasian,” “Black/Africa American,” “Latino/Hispanic,” “Asian,” “Hawaiian/Pacific Islander,” “Native American/Alaskan,” “Mixed,” “and “Other.” Being Caucasian predominated the race/ethnicity condition of the respondents from all the rescue groups (94% of $N = 2064$). Among the humane society, greyhound, and pit bull rescue adopters there were 90%,

96%, and 93% Caucasian, respectively. The percentage of respondents reporting their race/ethnicity as Black/African American was less than 1% in each rescue group. Those that reported themselves as Latino/Hispanic accounted for 3%, less than 1%, and less than 1% of the humane society, greyhound rescue, and pit bull rescue adopters, respectively. Adopters reporting “mixed” were the next largest of the race/ethnicity categories for the humane society (4%) and pit bull adopters (5%). Because of the low number of respondents in the Asian, Hawaiian/Pacific/Islander, and Native American/Alaskan categories, they were added to the “other” category. With the additions, less than 3% of the responses from adopters in each rescue group were to the “other” category (Figure 4 and Table 1).

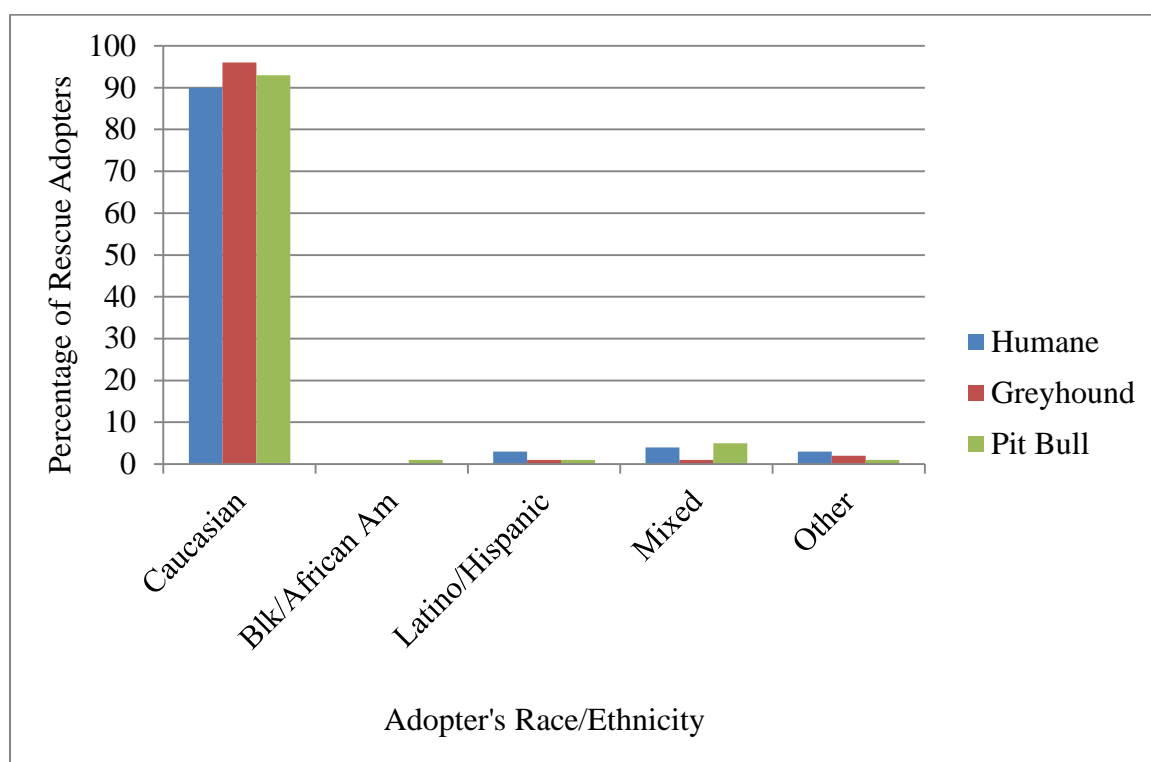


Figure 4. Comparison of rescue groups on Q4, race/ethnicity of the respondent.

Q5: U.S. region of respondent's residence. Each of the five regions of the United States (Northeast, Southeast, Midwest, West, and Southwest, (<http://teach.fcps.net/trt14/US%20Regions/usregions.htm>) (Figure 5) had responses from

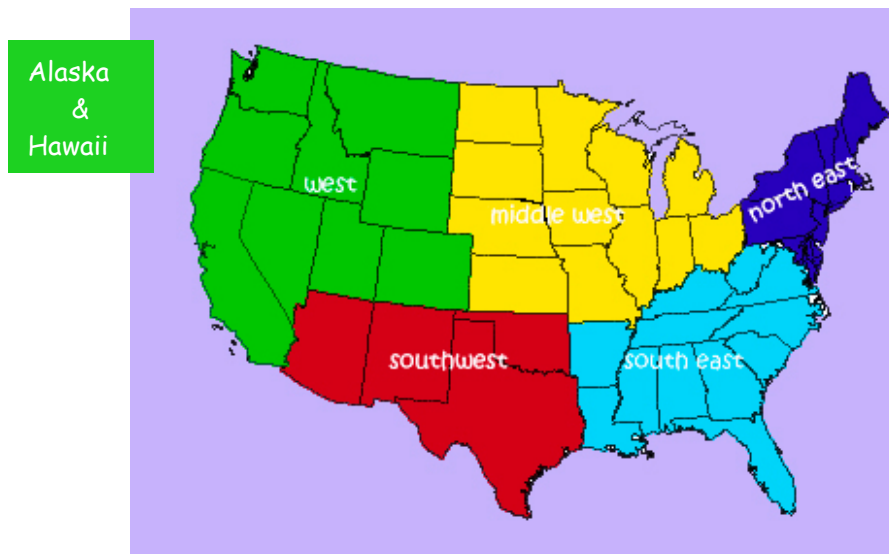


Figure 5. Regions of the U.S. The State in which the rescue dog adopters lived was associated with one of the five regions of the United States (Regions of the United States, <http://teach.fcps.net/trt14/US%20Regions/usregions.htm> .

adopters in each rescue group. The humane society group had responses to the survey predominately from the West region (92% of $n = 887$) while the pit bull adopters had responses that were most frequently from the Northeast (63%) and the West (23%) ($n = 137$). The greyhound rescue group had responses to the survey from all regions (15% from the Northeast, 28% from the Southeast, 16% from the Middle West, 5% from the Southwest, and 27% from the West) ($n = 1023$). There were also greyhound adopters from Canada, South America, and Europe that responded to the survey (10%). The

percentage of rescue adopters responding to the survey from each U.S. region is presented in Figure 6 and in Table 1.

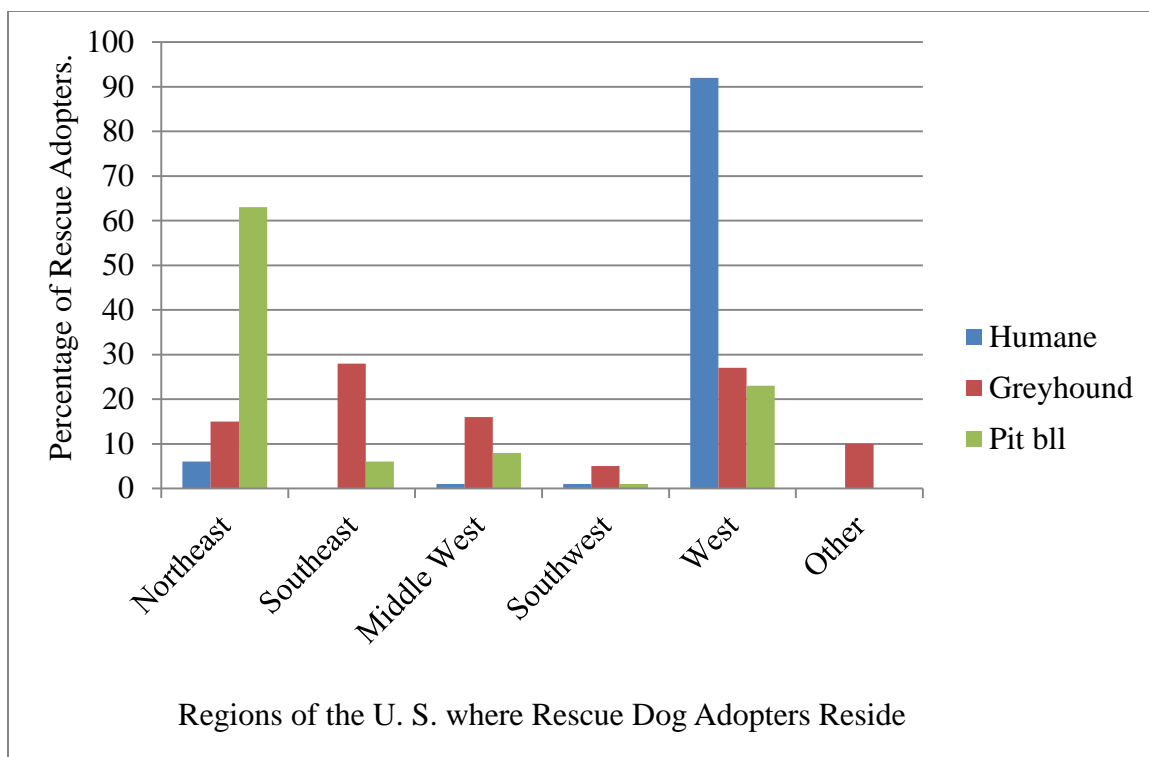


Figure 6. Comparison of rescue groups on Q5, respondent's region of residence.

Q6: The age of children in respondent's household. For Q6 regarding the age of children in the rescue dog adopter's household, it was possible to provide more than one answer. Therefore, the age of children was recoded to indicate the category representing the age of the youngest child in the household; the four age categories were: "no children," "younger than 5 years," "5 – 12 years," and "13 years and over." The majority of adopters (67%) among all rescue groups ($N = 2064$) indicated there were "no children" in the household. More greyhound adopters responded to the "no children"

category (72% of $n = 1022$) than the humane society adopters (63% of $n = 905$) and pit bull adopters (64% of $n = 137$). The pit bull adopters had more children (15%) below 5 years of age than the humane society (6%) and greyhound adopters (5%). Figure 7 and Table 1 show the comparison of the percentage of the age categories for the youngest age child in the household by rescue group.

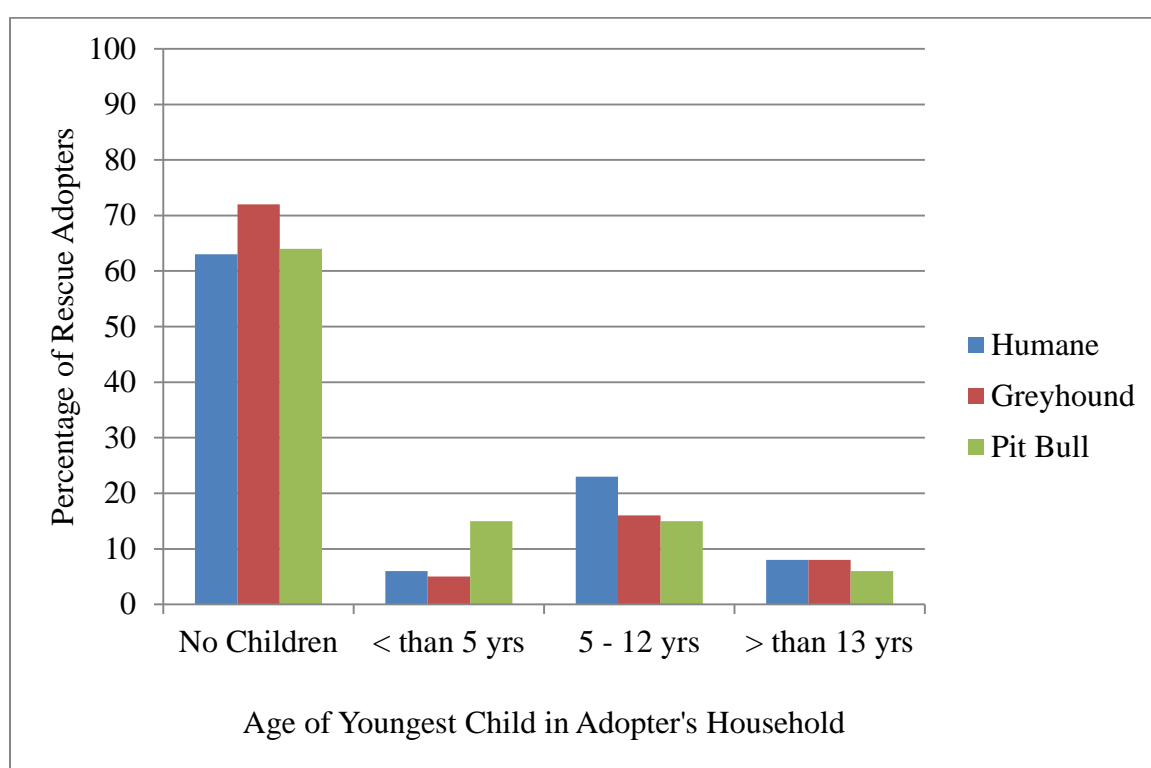


Figure 7. Comparison of rescue groups on Q6, youngest age of adopter's child.

Q7: Respondent's education. The three groups of rescue dog adopters were compared on nine categories to determine the highest completed education of the adopter. The categories were: "less than high school," "high school,/GED," "some college," "2-year college degree," "4-year college degree," "Master's degree," "Ph.D.," "professional

degree,” and “other.” The majority of all rescue adopters had a 4-year college degree (34% of $N = 2077$). The respondents from each rescue group were similarly distributed throughout the education categories, with “Master’s degree,” “some college,” 2 year collage, “professional,” “high school,” and “other” following in descending order. The percentage of adopters in each rescue group in each category of highest level of education is shown in Figure 8 and in Table 1.

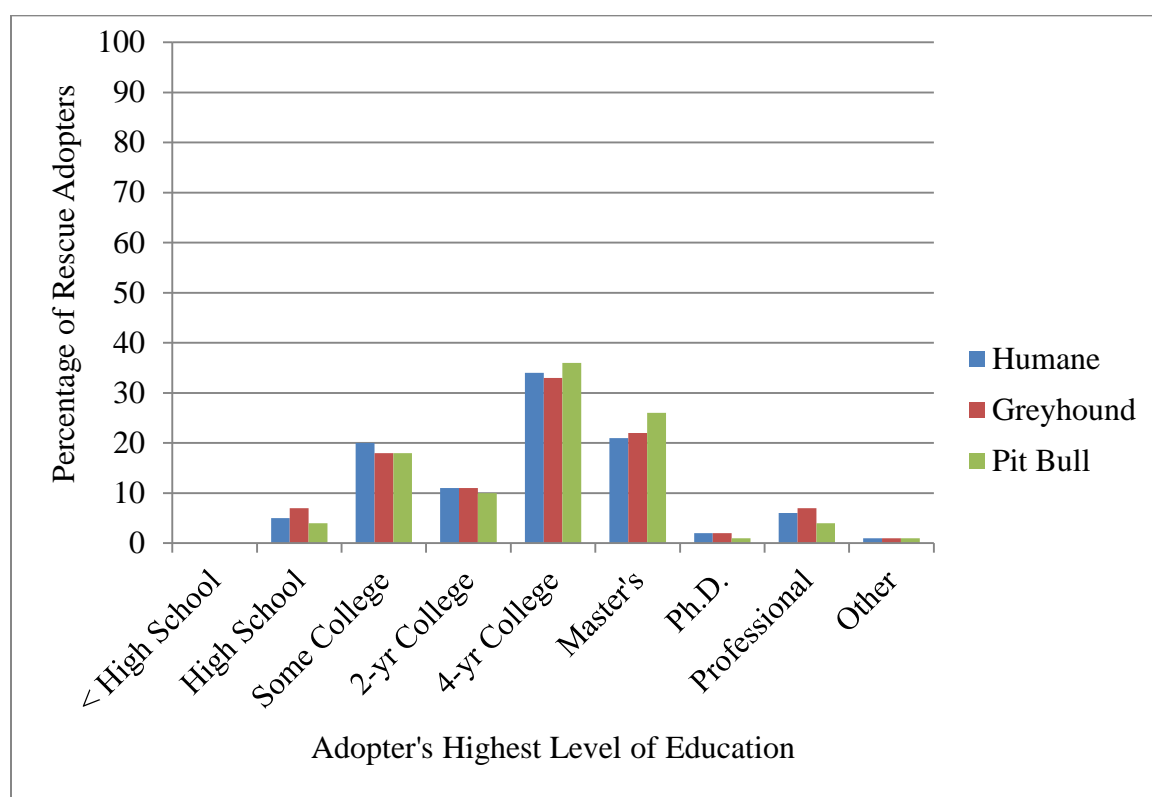


Figure 8. Comparison of rescue groups on Q7, the adopter’s highest level of education.

Q8: Respondent’s household income. When the household income of the dog adopters in the three rescue groups was compared, the majority of adopters in all rescue groups had household incomes in the category of earnings between \$50,000 and \$99,999

(43% overall, with 42% of $n = 846$ humane society adopters, 44% of $n = 975$ greyhound adopters, and 42% of $n = 135$ pit bull adopters). There were more humane society adopters in the category of earnings less than \$30,000 (12%) than greyhound adopters (8%) or pit bull adopters (7%). There were more greyhound adopters in the two categories of earnings more than \$100,000 (33%) than humane society adopters (23%) or pit bull adopter (29%). However, a greater percentage of pit bull adopters reported their income above \$150,000 (13%) compared to the humane society adopters (7%) or the greyhound adopters (11%). See Figure 9 and Table 1 for the percentage of adopters in each rescue group in each income category.

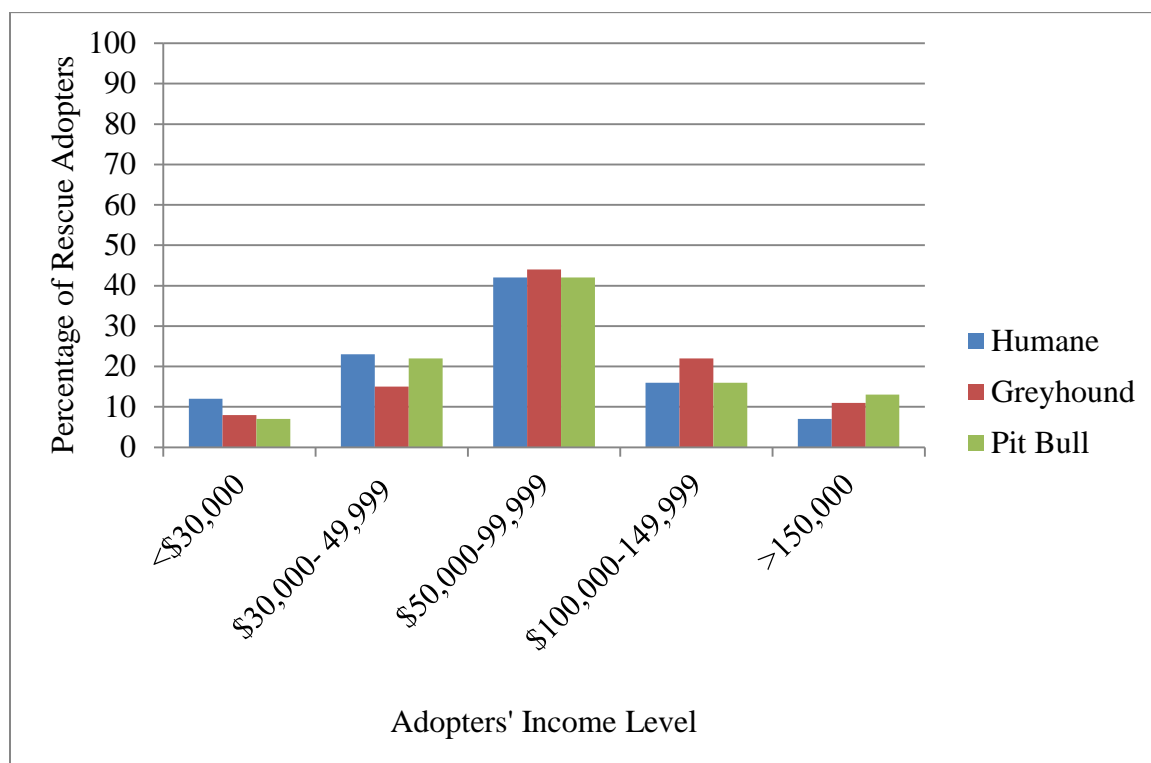


Figure 9. Comparison of rescue groups on Q8, adopter's income level.

Q9 & Q10: Respondent's and spouse/partner's employment. Eight categories of the Rescue Dog Adopter Survey respondent's employment were compared between the humane society, greyhound, and pit bull adopters. The categories were "full-time employment," "part-time employment," "homemaker," "student," "retired," "out of work," "unable to work," and "other." The majority of dog adopters from all three rescue groups (62% of $N = 2062$) were employed full-time. However, more pit bull adopters reported "full-time employment" (74% of $n = 137$) compared to humane society adopters (61% of $n = 895$) and greyhound adopters (62% of $n = 1030$). The majority of the spouses/partners were also employed full-time (65% of $N = 1635$); again, more of the spouses/partners of the pit bull adopters (75% of $n = 114$) were employed full-time compared to the spouses/partners of the humane society adopters (61% of $n = 694$) and the greyhound adopters (67% of $n = 827$). More adopters from the humane societies as well as their spouses/partners reported being employed part-time. More adopters from the greyhound rescue groups reported being retired. The percentage of adopters in each rescue group associated with the respondent's and spouse/partner's employment are shown in Figures 10 and 11, and in Table 1.

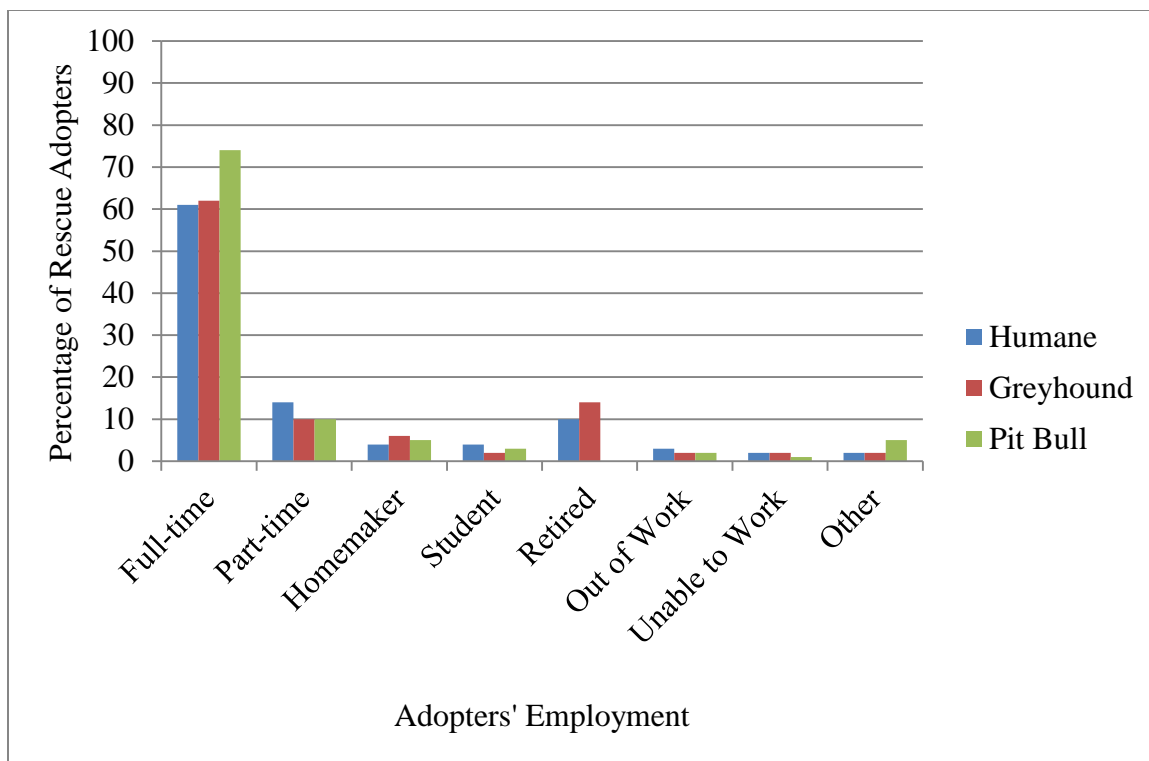


Figure 10. Comparison of rescue groups on Q9, adopter's employment.

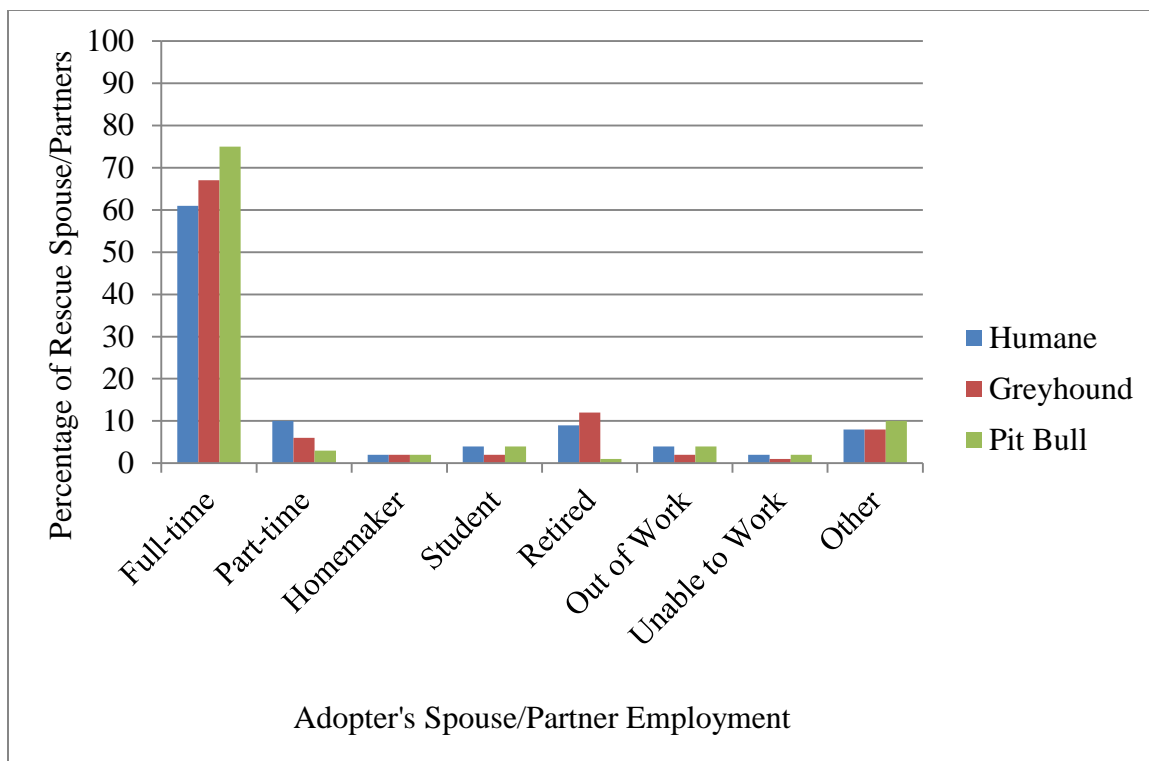


Figure 11. Comparison of rescue groups on Q10, adopters' spouse/partners' employment.

Q11: Respondent's place of residence. Three categories describing the dog adopter's place of residence were compared between the three rescue groups. The categories were: "rural," "suburban," or "urban." More humane society rescue adopters reported their residence in "urban" areas (35% of $n = 896$) compared to greyhound adopters (20% of $n = 1027$) and pit bull adopters (14% of $n = 135$). More pit bull adopters reported their residence in "rural" areas (27%) compared to the other two rescue groups (17% in each). Although the majority of adopters in each rescue group lived in "suburban" areas (57% of $N = 2058$), the greyhound adopters were most likely to live in "suburban" areas (63%) compared to humane society adopters (49%) and pit bull

adopters (60%). Figure 12 and Table 1 show the percentage in the residence location for the dog adopters in each of the three rescue groups.

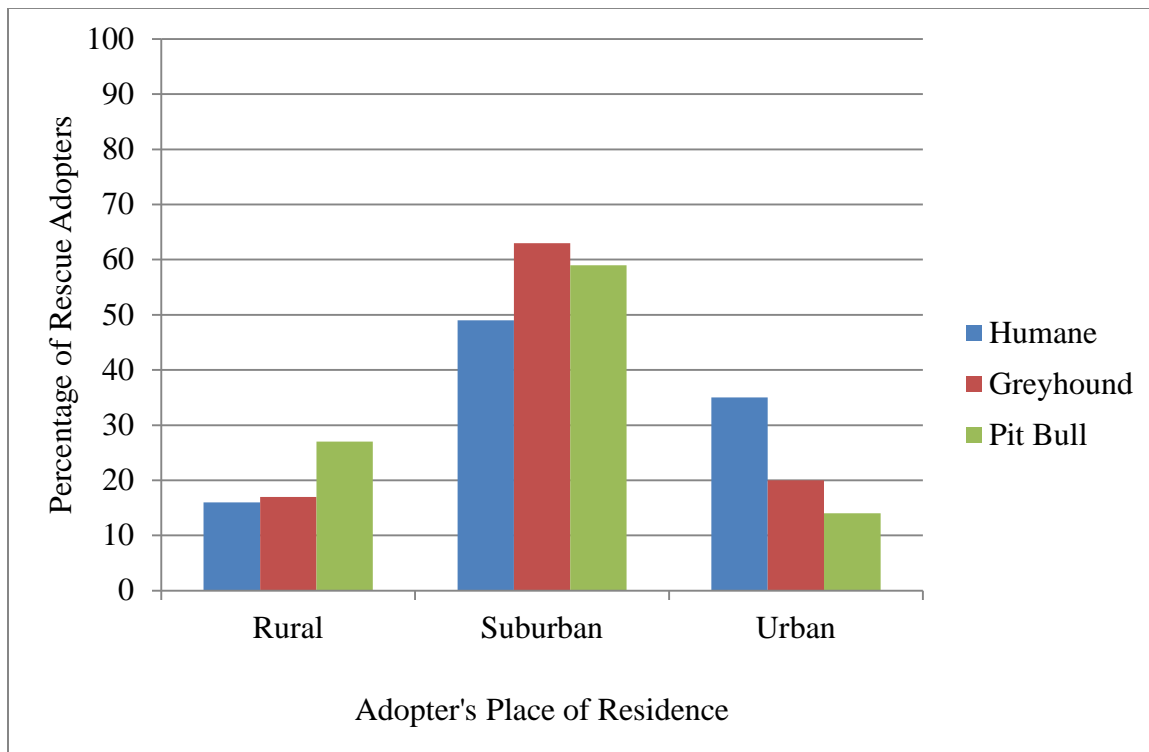


Figure 12. Comparison of rescue groups on Q11, adopter's place of residence.

Table 1.

Demographic Characteristics of Rescue Dog Adopters

Variable	Rescue			
	Humane Society <i>n</i> (%)	Greyhound <i>n</i> (%)	Pit bull <i>n</i> (%)	Row total <i>N</i> (%)
Q1. Gender				
Male	187 (21)	176 (17)	24 (18)	387 (19)
Female	715 (79)	860 (83)	109 (82)	1684 (81)
Total	902	1036	133	2071
Q2. Age				
18 – 30	179 (20)	75 (7)	49 (36)	303 (15)
31 – 40	186 (21)	211 (20)	48 (35)	445 (21)
41 – 50	223 (25)	261 (25)	22 (16)	508 (24)
51 – 60	212 (23)	316 (31)	15 (11)	543 (26)
61 - 70	80 (9)	152 (15)	2 (2)	234 (11)
Over 71	25 (3)	20 (2)	0	45 (2)
Total	905	1035	136	2078
Q3. Household				
Single	243 (27)	256 (25)	30 (22)	529 (26)
Married/Partnered	621 (69)	737 (72)	99 (72)	1457 (71)
Other	41 (4)	27 (3)	8 (6)	76 (4)
Total	905	1020	137	2062
Q4. Race/Ethnicity				
Caucasian	806 (90)	994 (96)	127 (93)	1927 (93)
Blk/African Am	5 (0)	2 (0)	1 (1)	8 (0)
Latino/Hispanic	24 (3)	6 (1)	1 (1)	31 (2)
Asian	10 (1)	11 (1)	0	21 (1)
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	2 (0)	3 (0)	0	5 (0)
Native Am/Alaskan	6 (1)	3 (0)	0	9 (0)
Mixed	33 (4)	12 (1)	7 (5)	52 (3)
Other	7 (1)	3 (0)	1 (1)	11 (0)
Total	893	1034	137	2064

Table 1 (Continued).

	Rescue							
	Humane Society		Greyhound		Pit bull		Row total	
Q5. Region of residence								
North east	59	(6)	153	(15)	86	63	298	(16)
South east	1	(0)	283	(28)	8	(6)	292	(14)
Middle west	5	(1)	159	(16)	11	(8)	175	(8)
Southwest	8	(1)	54	(5)	1	(1)	63	(3)
West	814	(92)	275	(27)	31	(23)	1120	(55)
Other	0		99	(10)	0		99	(5)
Total	887		1023		137		2047	
Q6. Children's age[†]								
No children	569	(63)	734	(72)	88	(64)	1391	(67)
Younger than 5 yrs	55	(6)	48	(5)	21	(15)	124	(6)
5 – 12 yrs	211	(23)	158	(16)	20	(15)	389	(19)
13 yrs and over	70	(8)	83	(8)	8	(6)	161	(8)
Total	905		1022		137		2064	
Q7. Education								
Less High School	1	(0)	0		0		1	(0)
High School/GED	42	(5)	68	(7)	5	(4)	115	(6)
Some College	178	(20)	188	(18)	25	(18)	391	(19)
2-yr College Degree	103	(11)	113	(11)	14	(10)	230	(11)
4-yr College Degree	308	(34)	342	(33)	49	(36)	699	(34)
Master's Degree	187	(21)	224	(22)	36	(26)	447	(22)
Doctoral Degree	17	(2)	20	(2)	1	(1)	38	(2)
Professional Degree	58	(6)	72	(7)	6	(4)	136	(6)
Other	10	(1)	9	(1)	1	(1)	20	(1)
Total	904		1036		137		2077	
Q8. Household Income								
< \$30,000	104	(12)	76	(8)	9	(7)	189	(10)
\$30,000-\$49,999	191	(23)	150	(15)	30	(22)	371	(19)
\$50,000-\$99,000	353	(42)	429	(44)	57	(42)	839	(43)
\$100,000-\$149,999	136	(16)	210	(22)	21	(16)	367	(19)
> \$150,000	62	(7)	110	(11)	18	(13)	190	(10)
Total	846		975		135		1956	

Table 1 (Continued).

	Rescue							
	Humane Society		Greyhound		Pit bull		Row total	
Q9. Employment-respondent								
Full-time	545	(61)	642	(62)	102	(74)	1289	(62)
Part-time	125	(14)	107	(10)	13	(10)	245	(12)
Homemaker	39	(4)	62	(6)	7	(5)	108	(5)
Student	34	(4)	15	(2)	4	(3)	53	(3)
Retired	94	(10)	140	(14)	0		234	(11)
Out of work	27	(3)	21	(2)	3	(2)	51	(2)
Unable to work	13	(2)	17	(2)	1	(1)	31	(2)
Other	18	(2)	26	(2)	7	(5)	51	(2)
Total	895		1030		137		2062	
Q10. Employment-Other								
Full-time	426	(61)	556	(67)	86	(75)	1068	(65)
Part-time	66	(10)	49	(6)	3	(3)	118	(7)
Homemaker	12	(2)	14	(2)	2	(2)	28	(2)
Student	31	(4)	13	(2)	5	(4)	49	(3)
Retired	65	(9)	102	(12)	1	(1)	168	(10)
Out of work	25	(4)	15	(2)	4	(4)	44	(3)
Unable to work	12	(2)	9	(1)	2	(2)	23	(1)
Other	57	(8)	69	(8)	11	(10)	137	(8)
Total	694		827		114		1635	
Q11. Residence								
Rural	146	(16)	178	(17)	36	(27)	360	(18)
Suburban	437	(49)	647	(63)	80	(59)	1164	(57)
Urban	313	(35)	202	(20)	19	(14)	534	(26)
Total	896		1027		135		2058	

Notes. The percentage totals may not always total exactly 100% due to rounding.
n indicates the number of respondents to the survey question from each rescue group.
[†] indicates age group with the youngest child.

Q12: See next section for Q12 on resources used for adoption information.

Q13: “Did you grow up with a pet dog in the household?” Although growing up with a dog in the household may not be considered a demographic variable, it does describe a stable characteristic of the respondent regarding their past relationship with a companion dog. The survey respondent answered “yes” or “no” to whether they had a dog in their household while growing up. The majority of all rescue adopters in the humane society (85% of $n = 900$), greyhound rescue (81% of $n = 1033$), and pit bull rescue (79% of $n = 137$) grew-up with a dog in their household (see Figure 13 and Table 1).

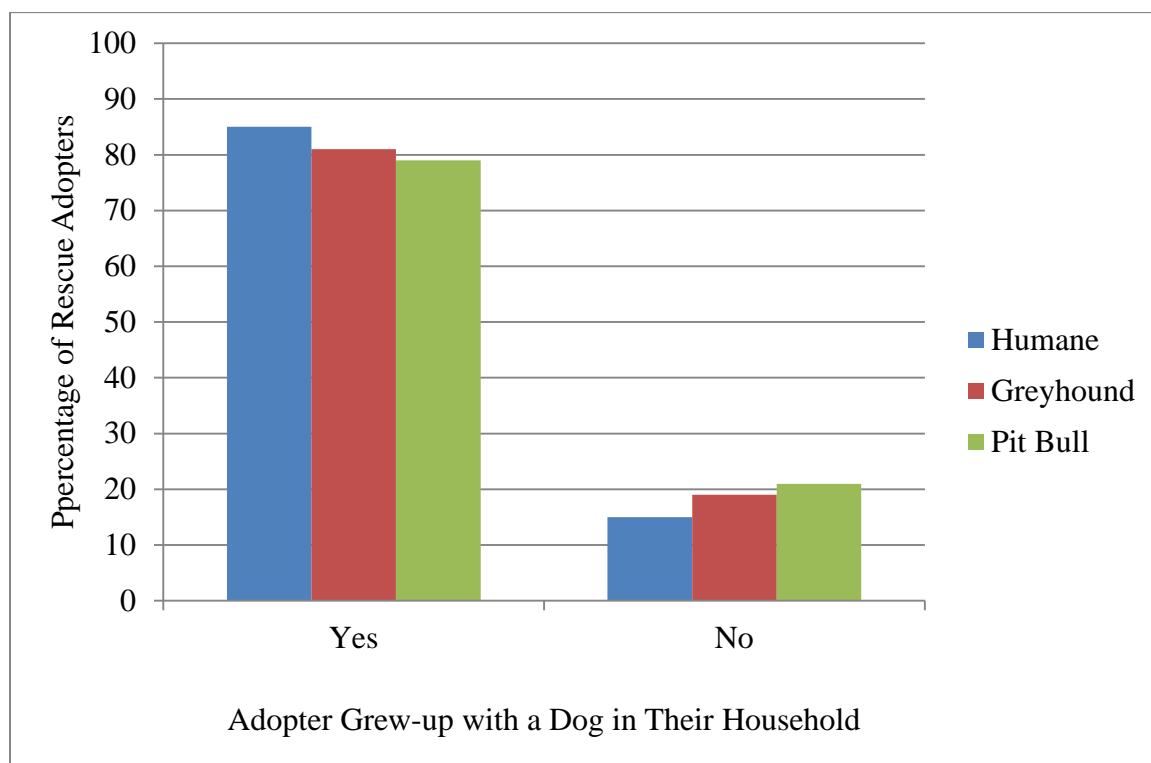


Figure 13. Comparison of rescue groups on Q13, whether the rescue dog adopter grew-up with a dog in their household.

Resources Used for Adoption Information (Q12 – Q14)

To determine whether dog adopters from the humane societies, greyhound rescue groups, and pit bull rescue groups relied on similar sources for their information about adoption, responses to Q12 and Q14 on the Rescue Dog Adopter Survey instrument were analyzed. These questions evaluated the sources of information about rescue adoption and who had the most influence on selecting their adopted dog from a rescue group.

Q12: “Where did you learn about adopting your pet dog from the (XXX) rescue organization?” The three groups of rescue dog adopters were compared on six categories describing the resources they used to get information about rescue adoption: “friend/relative,” “internet,” “written advertisement/poster,” “rescue group event,” “radio/TV,” and “personal research.” The humane society adopters used the “internet” and “personal research” equally to find information about adopting their dog, 35% and 35% ($n = 736$), respectively. The Greyhound adopters reported that greyhound “adoption events” provided them with the most information, 38% ($n = 1032$). The majority of pit bull adopters relied on the “internet” for their information about adoption, 64% ($n = 123$). Media resources, *i.e.*, “written advertisements/posters” and “radio/TV,” were the least used resource for adoption information by all rescue groups (Figure 14).

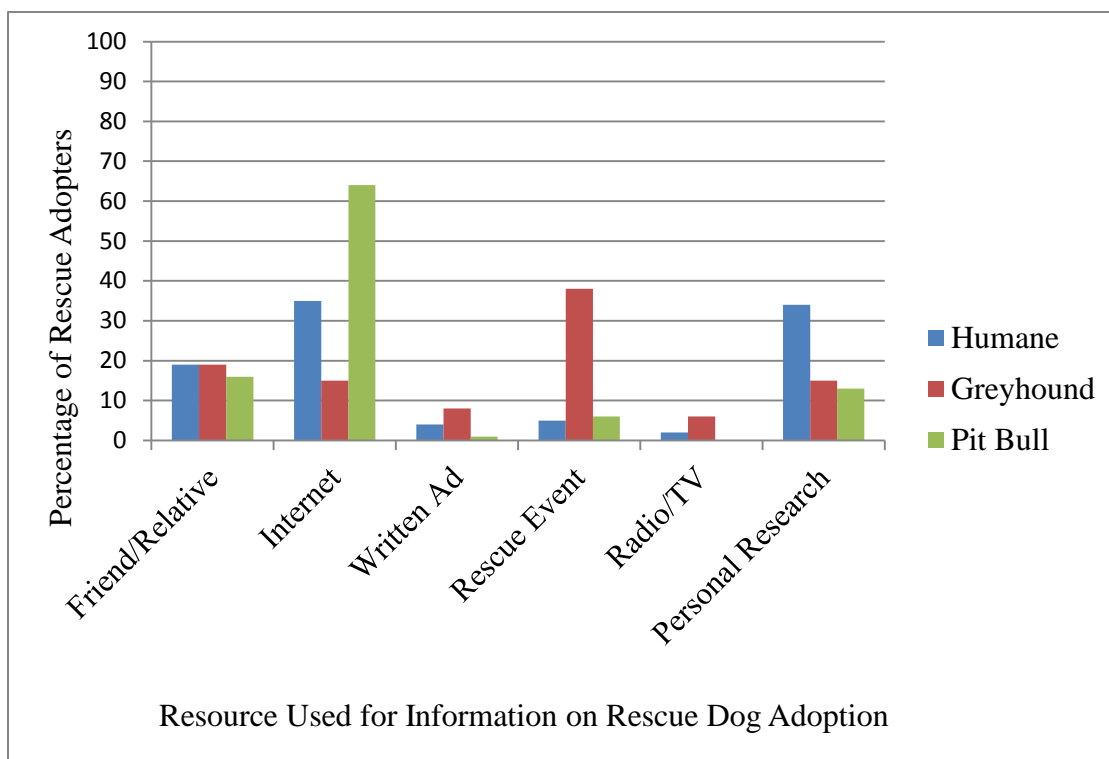


Figure 14. Comparison of rescue groups on Q12, resources rescue adopters used for information about rescue dog adoption.

Q14: “Who was the most instrumental in electing to adopt a dog from the (XXX) rescue organization?” Adopters from the three rescue groups were asked who was the most instrumental person in the family in selecting to adopt their dog from a rescue. The adopters responding to the survey could select from four conditions indicating who was the most instrumental in selecting to adopt their dog from a rescue: “self,” “spouse/partner,” “children,” or “other.” All respondents indicated that they relied on “self” most for making the decision to adopt their dog from the rescue, with adopters from the humane society, greyhound, and pit bull rescue groups responding at 75%, 81%, and 82%, respectively. Of the three groups of rescue dog adopters, the humane society

adopters were influenced most by family members, “spouse/partner” (14%) and “children” (7%), compared to the greyhound adopters (14% and 2%, respectively) and pit bull adopters (9% and 2%, respectively). The pit bull adopters credited the “other” condition more than the humane society adopters or greyhound rescue adopters (see Figure 15).

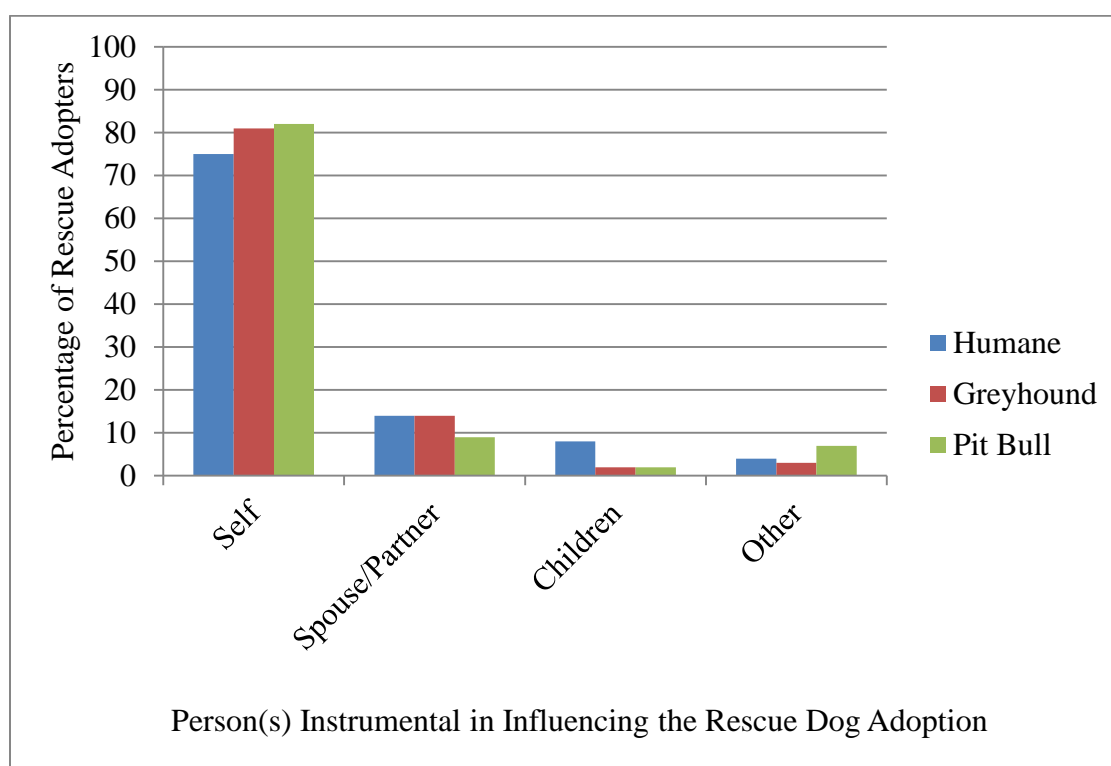


Figure 15. Comparison of rescue groups on Q14, the person most instrumental in influencing the rescue dog adoption.

Influences on the Adoption Decision (Q15 – 22)

Questions 15 – 22 involved statements on what influenced the decision to adopt a companion dog from a rescue organization. Statements required a response on a five-

point Likert Scale: “1” “strongly agree,” “2” “agree,” “3” “neutral,” “4” “disagree,” “5” “strongly disagree.”

Q15: “How would you rate the following statement: ‘The desire for a purebred dog influenced my decision to adopt from the (XXX) rescue organization.’” The humane society adopters ($M = 2.77$, $SD = 1.06$, 95% CI [2.70, 2.84], $n = 899$) were most apt to agree (lowest mean value) with the statement that the desire to adopt a purebred influenced their decision to adopt a dog from a rescue organization. Those adopting from a breed specialty rescue group, greyhound and pit bull, were the least likely to agree (highest mean values) with the statement (for the greyhound rescue group $M = 3.66$, $SD = 1.11$, 95% CI [3.59, 3.72], $n = 1026$ and for the pit bull rescue group $M = 4.09$, $SD = 0.92$, 95% CI [3.88, 4.24], $n = 136$). See Figure 16 for the percentage of Likert Scale results for each rescue group. A one-way ANOVA was conducted to compare the three groups of rescue adopters. The ANOVA results revealed a statistically significant difference among the means, $F(2, 2060) = 198.99$, $MSE = 1.16$, $p < .001$, $\eta_p^2 = .162$. A Dunnett's C post hoc test indicated all means were statistically significantly different.

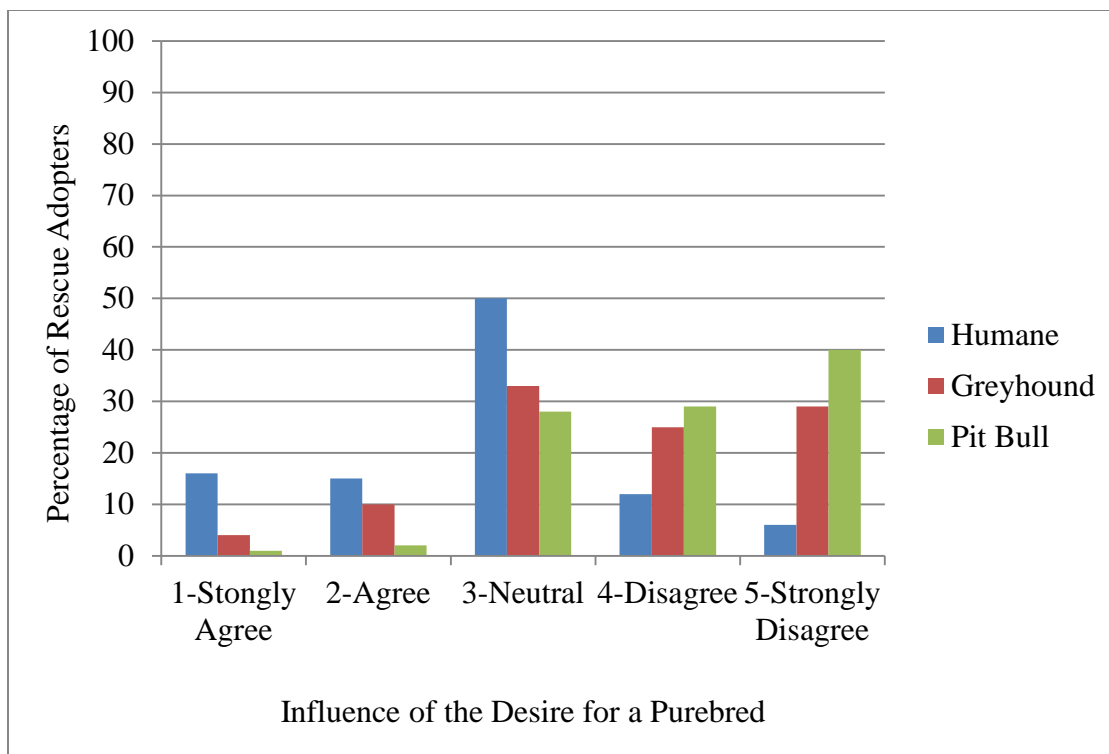


Figure 16. Comparison of rescue groups on Q15, how adopters felt their dog’s adoption was influenced by the desire to adopt a purebred dog.

Q16: “How would you rate the following statement: ‘Adopting a (XXX) rescue dog helped save a life.’” All rescue dog adopters agreed with the statement that their dog adoption “helped save a life.” See Figure 17 for the percentage of Likert Scale results for each rescue group. A one-way ANOVA found a statically significant difference among the means of the rescue adopters, $F(2, 2072) = 17.01$, $MSE = 0.63$, $p < .001$, $\eta_p^2 = .016$. The post hoc comparison test indicated the adopters from the humane societies ($M = 1.46$, $SD = 0.74$, 95% CI [1.40, 1.51], $n = 903$), greyhound rescue groups ($M = 1.59$, $SD = 0.87$, 95% CI [1.55, 1.64], $n = 1033$), and pit bull rescue groups ($M = 1.22$, $SD = 0.52$, 95% CI [1.09, 1.35], $n = 137$) were all statistically significantly

different. The mean level of agreement was highest among the pit bull adopters (lowest mean value) and lowest among the greyhound adopters (highest mean value). The humane society adopters were in-between and but their level of agreement was also significantly different from the other two rescue group adopters.

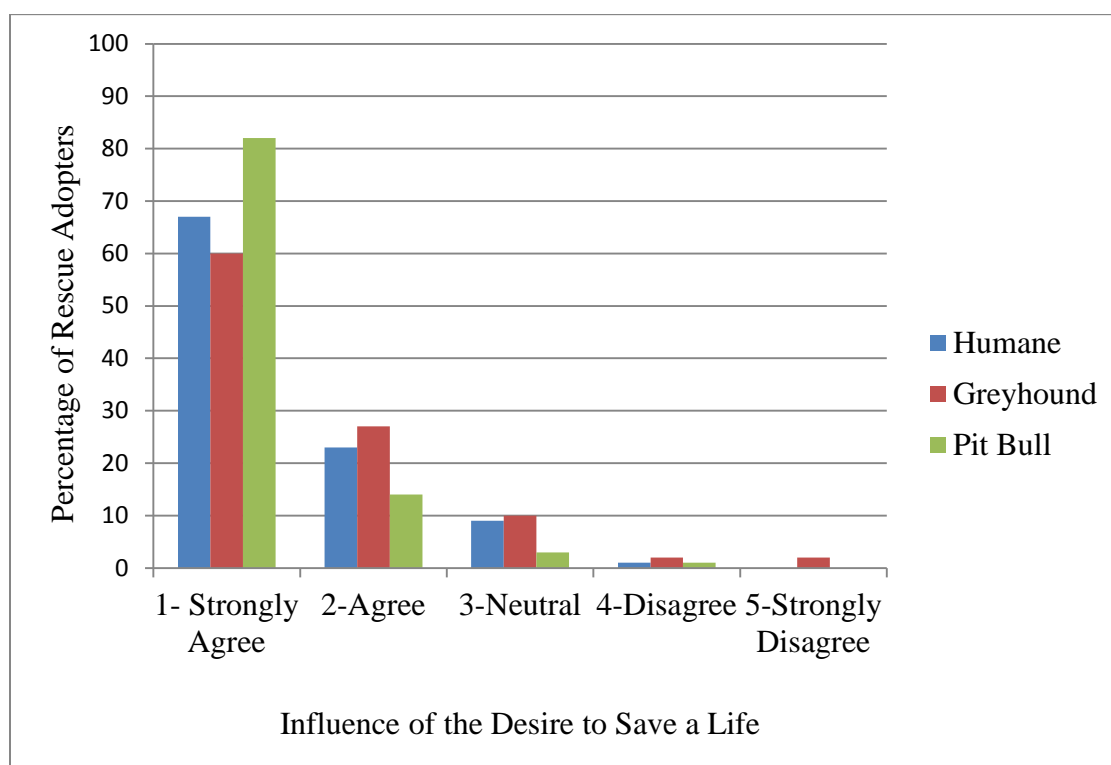


Figure 17. Comparison of rescue groups on Q16, how adopters felt their dog's adoption was influenced by helping to save a life.

In addition, Q16 was analyzed by two-way ANOVA to evaluate the effect of rescue group and gender on the responses to the question. The results indicated a significant main effect for both the rescue group, $F(2, 2061) = 5.86$, $MSE = 3.69$, $p = .003$, $\eta_p^2 = .006$ and gender, $F(1, 2061) = 9.44$, $MSE = 5.95$, $p = .002$, $\eta_p^2 = .005$. The

interaction of rescue group and gender was not significant, $F(2, 2061) = 2.64$, $MSE = 1.66$, $p = .071$, $\eta_p^2 = .003$.

Q16 was further analyzed to evaluate the effect of rescue group and age. A significant effect for age was found, $F(5, 2067) = 2.41$, $MSE = 1.53$, $p = .034$, $\eta_p^2 = .006$. The addition of age, however, reduced the effect of rescue group to nonsignificance, $F(2, 2067) = 2.58$, $MSE = 1.64$, $p = .076$, $\eta_p^2 = .003$. The interaction effect between rescue and age was also nonsignificant, $F(10, 2067) = 0.69$, $MSE = 0.44$, $p = .711$, $\eta_p^2 = .003$.

Q17: “How would you rate the following statement: ‘My adopted dog provides me with good opportunities to meet and interact with new people.’” More adopters in the greyhound rescue group ($M = 1.65$, $SD = 0.75$, 95% CI [1.60, 1.71], $n = 1033$) and the pit bull rescue group ($M = 1.74$, $SD = 0.89$, 95% CI [1.60, 1.88], $n = 136$) agreed with the statement that they adopted their dog to increase social interaction than did the humane society rescue group ($M = 2.20$, $SD = 0.93$, 95% CI [2.15, 2.26], $n = 901$). See Figure 18 for the percentage of Likert Scale results for each rescue group. A one-way ANOVA found a statistically significant difference among the means of the rescue groups, $F(2, 2069) = 105.12$, $MSE = 0.71$, $p < .001$, $\eta_p^2 = .092$. The post hoc test results indicated the humane society adopters’ mean level of agreement was significantly lower than that of both the greyhound adopters and the pit bull adopters.

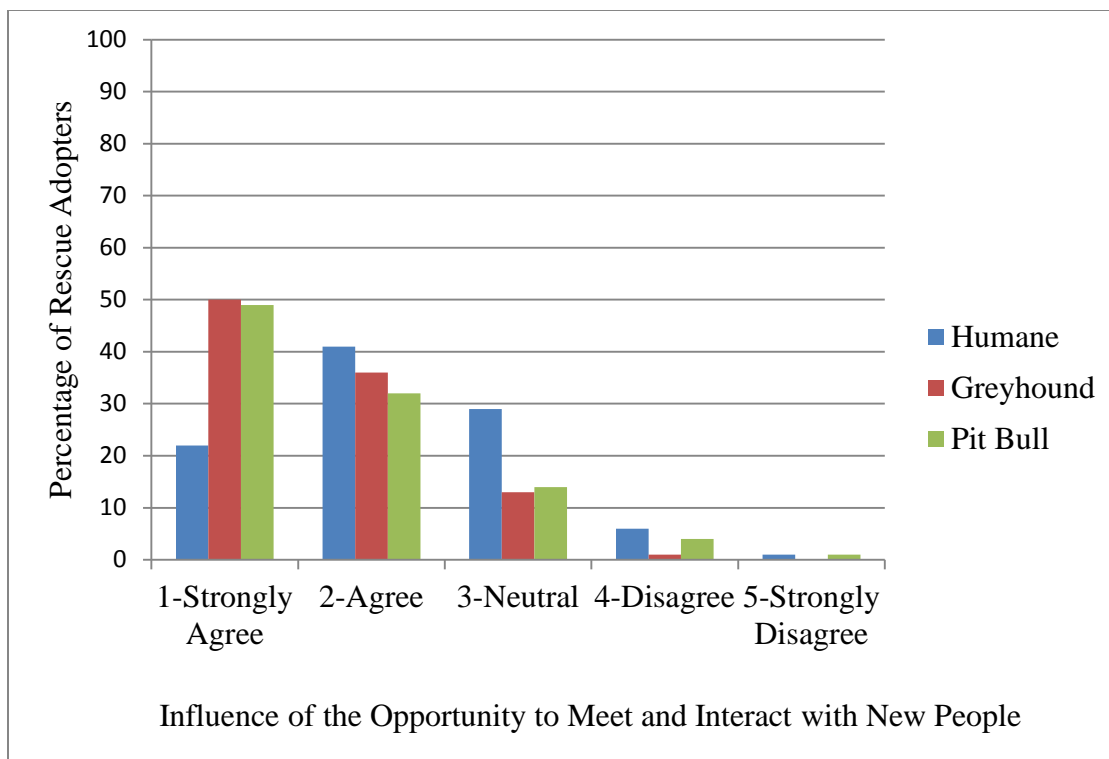


Figure 18. Comparison of rescue groups on Q17, how adopters felt their dog's adoption was influenced by the opportunity to meet and interact with new people.

The effect of rescue group and gender on the responses to Q17 was evaluated by two-way ANOVA. The results indicated a significant main effect for the rescue group variable, $F(2, 2060) = 60.97$, $MSE = 42.91$, $p < .000$, $\eta_p^2 = .056$. The addition of gender, however, reduced the effect of rescue group to nonsignificance, $F(1, 2062) = 2.54$, $MSE = 1.79$, $p = .111$, $\eta_p^2 = .001$. The interaction between rescue group and gender was also nonsignificant, $F(2, 2060) = 0.12$, $MSE = 0.08$, $p = .887$, $\eta_p^2 = .000$.

A two-way ANOVA was also conducted to evaluate the effect of rescue group and age on Q17. The results indicated a significant main effect for the rescue group

variable, $F(2, 2065) = 57.85$, $MSE = 40.72$, $p < .001$, $\eta_p^2 = .053$. The addition of age, however, reduced the effect of rescue group to nonsignificance, $F(5, 2065) = 1.10$, $MSE = 0.77$, $p = .360$, $\eta_p^2 = .003$. The interaction between rescue group and age was nonsignificant, $F(10, 2065) = 1.40$, $MSE = 0.98$, $p = .184$, $\eta_p^2 = .006$.

Q18: “How would you rate the following statement: ‘I adopted my (XXX) rescue dog for companionship.’” The majority of all rescue dog adopters felt that they adopted their dog for companionship. See Figure 19 for the percentage of Likert Scale results for each rescue group. A one-way ANOVA revealed a statistically significant difference among the three rescue adoption groups, $F(2, 2058) = 6.76$, $MSE = 0.48$, $p = .001$, $\eta_p^2 = .007$. The pit bull adopters ($M = 1.34$, $SD = 0.60$, 95% CI [1.22, 1.46], $n = 136$) were the most likely to agree that they adopted their rescue dog for companionship compared to the humane society adopters ($M = 1.48$, $SD = 0.63$, 95% CI [1.44, 1.53], $n = 896$) and greyhound rescue adopters ($M = 1.55$, $SD = 0.75$, 95% CI [1.51, 1.59], $n = 1027$).

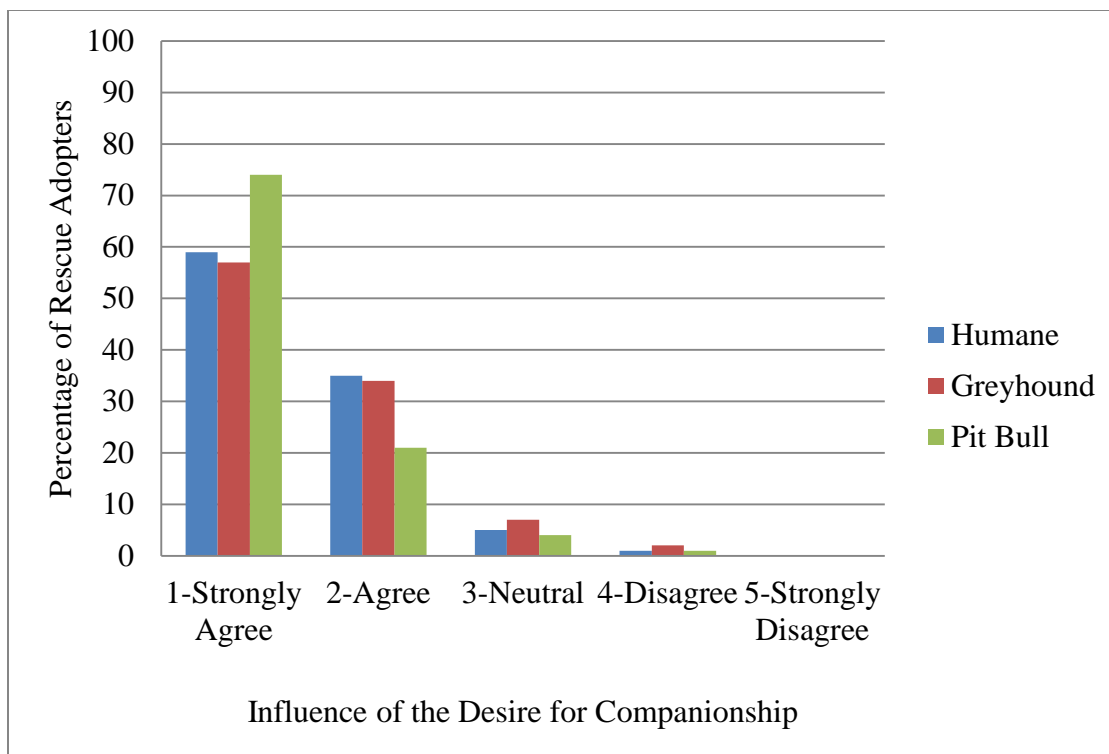


Figure 19. Comparison of rescue groups on Q18, how adopters felt their dog's adoption was influenced by their desire for companionship.

The response to Q18 was further investigated by two-way ANOVA on the effect of rescue group and gender. A significant difference was found for the both rescue group, $F(2, 2051) = 6.74$, $MSE = 3.19$, $p = .001$, $\eta_p^2 = .007$ and gender, $F(1, 2051) = 14.35$, $MSE = 6.79$, $p < .001$, $\eta_p^2 = .007$. However, the interaction between rescue group and gender was nonsignificant, $F(2, 2051) = 1.43$, $MSE = 0.68$, $p = .240$, $\eta_p^2 = .001$.

A two-way ANOVA was also used to evaluate the effect of rescue group and age on the response to the statement their dog's adoption was influenced by their desire for companionship (Q18). Significant differences were found between the main effects, rescue group, $F(2, 2056) = 6.42$, $MSE = 3.04$, $p = .002$, $\eta_p^2 = .006$ and age,

$F(5, 2056) = 2.35, MSE = 1.11, p = .039, \eta_p^2 = .006$. The interaction between rescue group and age was also significant, $F(10, 2056) = 2.93, MSE = 1.39, p = .002, \eta_p^2 = .013$. The pit bull adopters were the youngest and the greyhound adopters were the oldest of the adopters responding to the Rescue Dog Adoption Survey.

Q19: “How would you rate the following statement: ‘The ability to select a dog from a variety of ages (puppy to mature dog) influenced the adoption of my dog from the (XXX) rescue organization.’” The majority of the humane society adopters ($M = 2.06, SD = 0.89, 95\% \text{ CI } [2.00, 2.12], n = 901$), the greyhound adopters ($M = 2.17, SD = 0.98, 95\% \text{ CI } [2.12, 2.23], n = 1030$), and the pit bull adopters ($M = 2.36, SD = 0.93, 95\% \text{ CI } [2.21, 2.52], n = 137$) agreed that their adoption decision was influenced by the ability to adopt a dog from a variety of age dogs. The groups of rescue adopters, however, varied on the level of agreement. See Figure 20 for the percentage of Likert Scale responses for each rescue group. A one-way ANOVA found a statistically significant difference between the means of the three rescue groups on the response to the statement, $F(2, 2067) = 8.22, MSE = 0.88, p = < .001, \eta_p^2 = .008$. The level of agreement in the responses from the humane society adopters was significantly higher than the level of agreement indicated in the responses from both the greyhound and pit bull adopters.

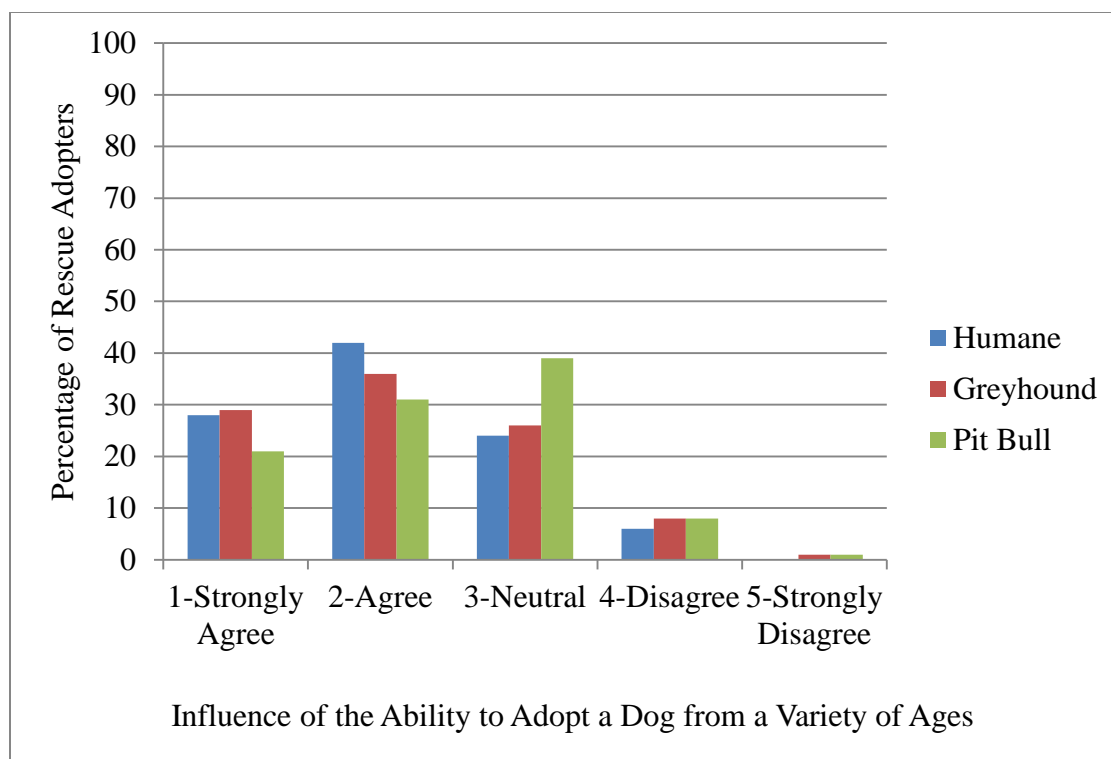


Figure 20. Comparison of rescue groups on Q19, how adopters felt their dog’s adoption was influenced by the ability to adopt a dog from a variety of ages.

Q20: “How would you rate the following statement: ‘The personality/temperament of the dog influenced my decision to adopt a dog from the (XXX) rescue organization.’” Although the adopted rescue dog’s personality/temperament were important to all adopters, it was most important to the greyhound adopters ($M = 1.39$, $SD = 0.63$, 95% CI [1.35, 1.44], $n = 1029$) compared to the humane society adopters ($M = 1.62$, $SD = 0.77$, 95% CI [1.57, 1.66], $n = 901$) and the pit bull adopters ($M = 1.69$, $SD = 0.81$, 95% CI [1.57, 1.81], $n = 136$). See Figure 21 for the percentage of Likert Scale results for each rescue group. A one-way ANOVA revealed a statistically significant difference between the means of the three rescue

groups, $F(2, 2065) = 28.50$, $MSE = 0.50$, $p = < .001$, $\eta_p^2 = .027$. The Dunnett's C multiple comparison test confirmed the level of agreement to Q20 was significantly higher among the greyhound adopters than among both the humane society adopters and the pit bull adopters.

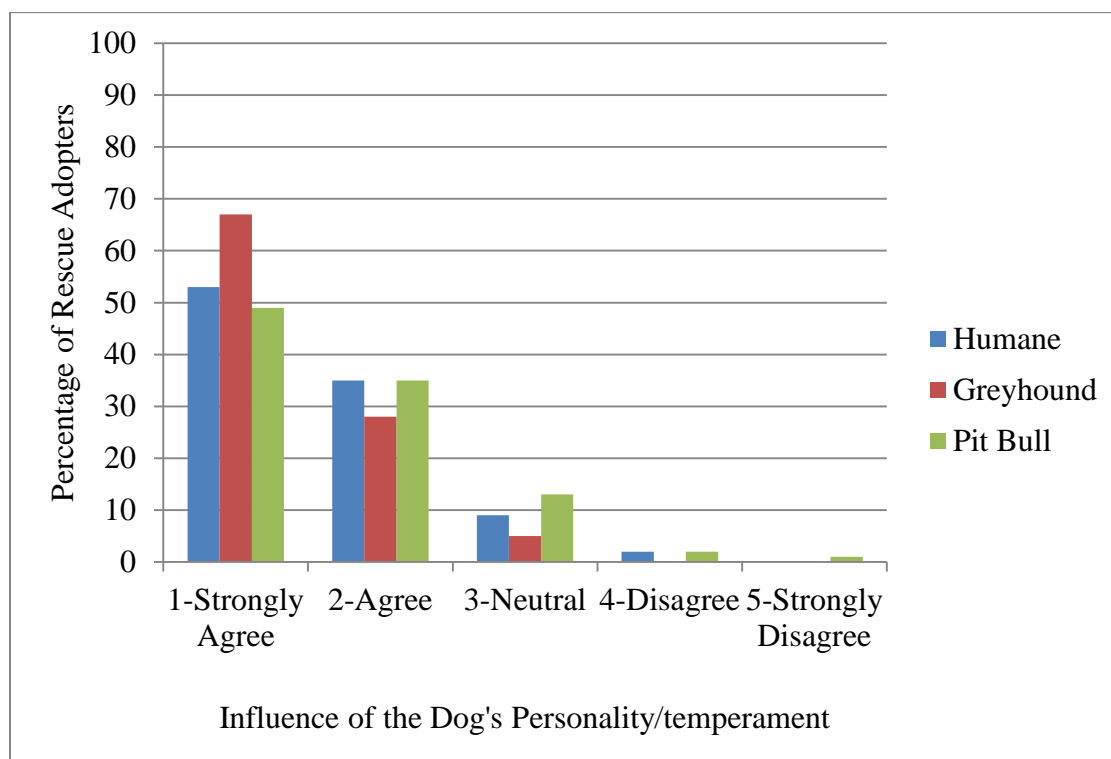


Figure 21. Comparison of rescue groups on Q20, how adopters felt their dog's adoption was influenced by the importance of the dog's personality/temperament.

Q21: “How would you rate the following statement: ‘The physical characteristics (build and appearance) of the adopted dog influenced my decision to adopt a dog from the (XXX) rescue organization.’” More humane society adopters ($M = 2.04$, $SD = 0.89$, 95% CI [1.97, 2.10], $n = 904$) agreed that the physical appearance of their adopted dog influenced their adoption decision than the greyhound ($M = 2.42$,

$SD = 1.01$, 95% CI [2.32, 2.49], $n = 1032$) and pit bull adopters ($M = 2.63$, $SD = 1.11$, 95% CI[2.46, 2.79], $n = 134$). See Figure 22 for the percentage of Likert Scale results for each rescue group. A one-way ANOVA found a significant difference among the means of the rescue groups, $F(2, 2069) = 50.15$, $MSE = 0.93$, $p < .001$, $\eta_p^2 = .046$. The Dunnett's C multiple comparison test indicated the humane society adopters' mean level of agreement with Q21 (lowest mean value) was significantly higher than the mean levels of both the greyhound and pit bull adopters.

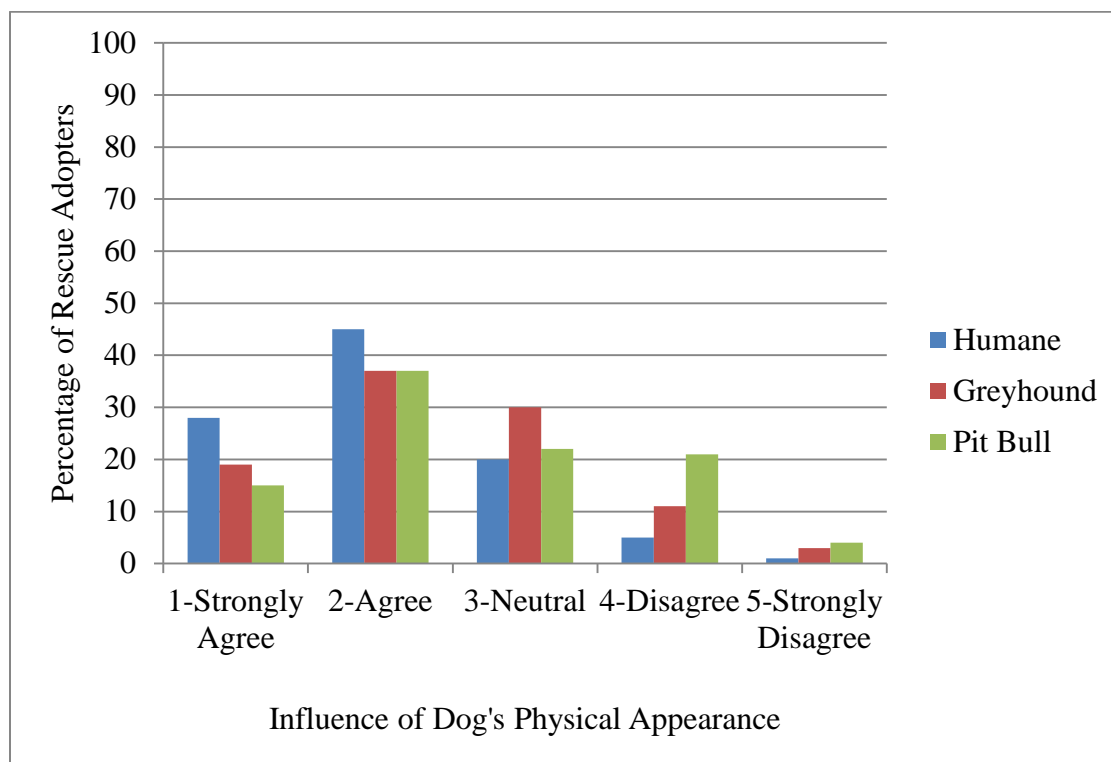


Figure 22. Comparison of rescue groups on Q21, how adopters felt their dog's adoption was influenced by the physical appearance of the adopted dog.

Q22: “Which three reasons were the most important to you when selecting the dog to adopt?” Each respondent was asked to select the three most important reasons that influenced their rescue dog adoption decision among: “purebred,” “help to save a life,” “social facilitation,” “companionship,” “variety of ages,” “personality/temperament,” and “physical characteristics.” Overall the adopters agreed that the three most important reasons for their rescue dog adoption were “help to save a life,” “companionship,” and “personality/temperament.” The adopters from the rescue groups, however, did not agree on their ratings. “Companionship” and “personality/temperament” were selected about equally (74% and 75%, respectively) by the humane society adopters. The greyhound rescue dog adopters responded with “personality/temperament” most often (90%), with “help to save a life” and “companionship” tied for second (68% each). The pit bull adopters rated “help to save a life” highest among their three choices (86%); however, it was closely followed by “companionship” (81%) and followed with “personality/temperament” (75%) the lowest. Among the other choices, the “physical appearance” of the adopted dog was rated most important to the humane society adopters (60%) and least important to the pit bull adopters (22%). The ability to adopt a dog from a variety of ages was most important to greyhound adopters (31%) and humane society adopters (28%). Adopting a dog for “social facilitation” rated low for all groups. The ability to adopt a purebred was the lowest rating influence on the adoption decision by all rescue adopters. See Figure 23 for a comparison of the rescue adopters on the reasons considered important in influencing the selection of their adopted dog.

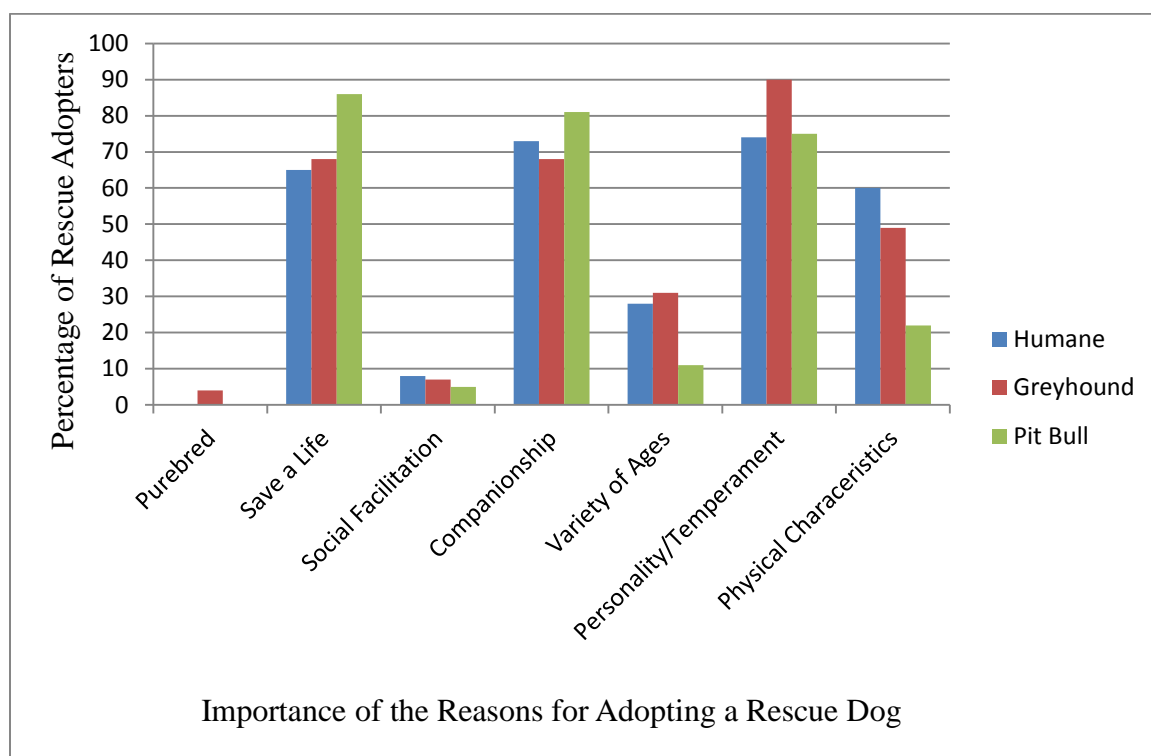


Figure 23. Comparison of rescue groups on Q22, how adopters rated the most important reasons for adopting a rescue dog.

Comfort from Companion Animal Scale (CCAS) (Q18, and Q23 – 34)

The CCAS was constructed with 13 statements, with each statement rated on a five-point Likert Scale (“1 = strongly agree,” “2 = agree,” “3 = neither disagree or agree,” (neutral), “4 = disagree,” “5 = strongly disagree”). Only when all the CCAS statements were rated were the response scores used in constructing the respondent’s composite CCAS score. The pit bull adopters had the lowest CCAS scores indicating they felt the most comfort from their adopted rescue dog. The greyhound adopters had the highest CCAS scores indicating they felt the least comfort from their adopted rescue dog. The CCAS scores from the humane society adopters were in-between. A one-way ANOVA

conducted on the means of the CCAS scores found a significant statistical difference between all the three rescue groups, $F(2, 1913) = 10.72$, $MSE = 29.81$, $p = < .001$, $\eta_p^2 = .011$. See Table 2 for the M , SD , and 95% CL for the composite CCAS score for the adopters from each rescue group

A two-way ANOVA was conducted to investigate the effect of rescue group and gender on the CCAS score. Results indicated that, although each of the main effects were significant (rescue group, $F(2, 1900) = 6.59$, $MSE = 193.06$, $p = .001$, $\eta_p^2 = .007$ and gender, $F(1, 1900) = 16.99$, $MSE = 497.58$, $p = < .001$, $\eta_p^2 = .009$), the interaction of rescue group and gender resulted in nonsignificance, $F(1, 1900) = 0.09$, $MSE = 2.62$, $p = .914$, $\eta_p^2 = .000$.

A two-way ANOVA was also conducted to investigate the effect of rescue group and age on the CCAS score. Results indicated that the main effects of rescue group ($F(2, 1900) = 2.43$, $MSE = 71.95$, $p = .089$, $\eta_p^2 = .003$ and age ($F(5, 1900) = 1.52$, $MSE = 45.17$, $p = .179$, $\eta_p^2 = .004$) were not significant. The interaction effect of rescue group and age on the CCAS score was also not significant, $F(2, 1900) = 1.51$, $MSE = 44.66$, $p = .140$, $\eta_p^2 = .007$.

Individual CCAS Statements

Each statement on the CAAS was also individually analyzed by a one-way ANOVA. The M s, SD s, and 95% CIs for each of the statements are shown in Table 2. When the ANOVA results indicated a statistically significant difference in the means of the rescue groups on a scale statement, a Dunnett's C post hoc multiple comparison test

was also conducted to determine which of the means were significantly different from each other.

Q 18, “My adopted dog provides me with companionship.” Most adopters “strongly agreed” or “agreed” with the statement “My adopted dog provides me with companionship.” See Figure 24 for the percentage of Likert Scale responses for each rescue group. A one-way ANOVA, however, found a significant difference among the adopters of the three rescue groups on Q18, $F(2, 1913) = 5.59$, $MSE = 0.48$, $p = 0.004$, $\eta_p^2 = .006$. The greyhound adopters were found to significantly differ from the pit bull adopters in their level of agreement. The pit bull adopters were found to have a higher level of agreement with Q18 than the greyhound adopters. The humane society adopters did not significantly differ from either of the other rescue group adopters. The *Ms*, *SDs*, and 95% CIs are listed in Table 2.

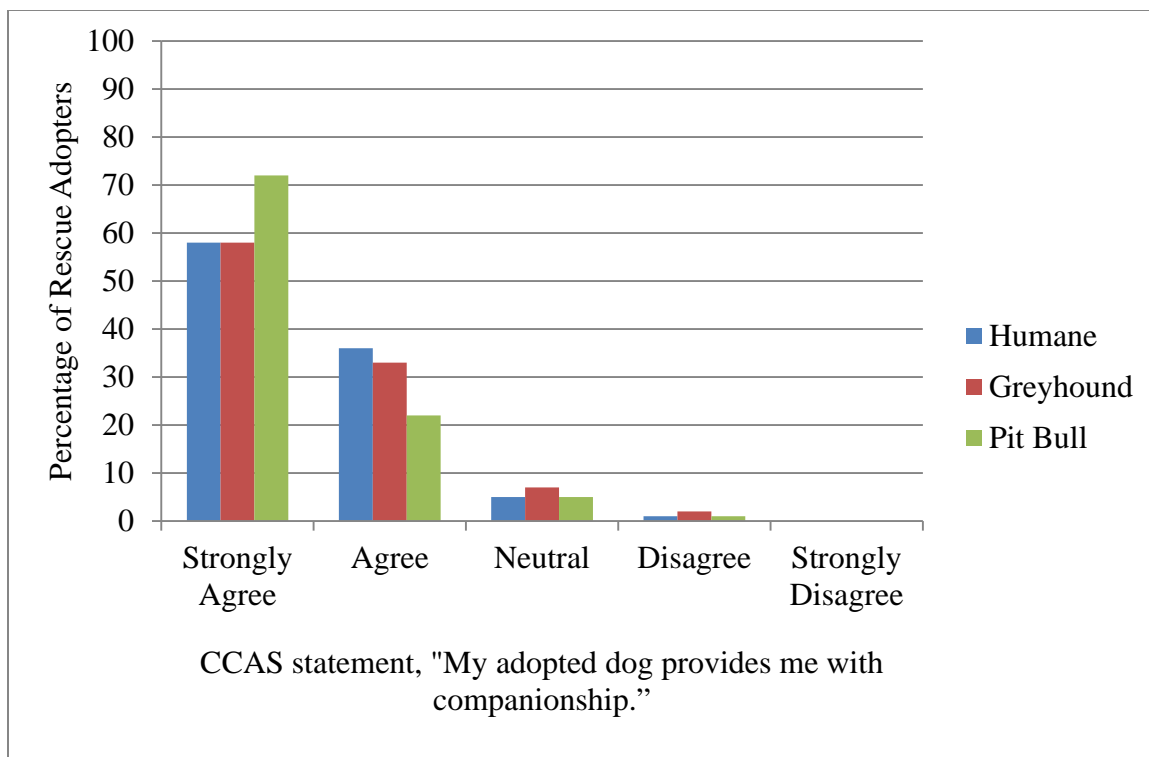


Figure 24. Comparison of rescue groups on Q18 of the CCAS, "My adopted dog provides me with companionship."

Q 23, "My adopted dog provides me something to care for." The majority of responses from all adopters were in the two levels of agreement with the statement "My adopted dog provides me something to care for." See Figure 25 for the percentage of Likert Scale responses for each rescue group. A one-way ANOVA on Q23 indicated a significant difference between the rescue groups, $F(2, 1913) = 7.77$, $MSE = 0.63$, $p < .001$, $\eta_p^2 = .008$. There was a significant difference between the humane society adopters and the greyhound rescue adopters. The humane society adopters were most apt to feel their adopted dog provided them something to care for. See Table 2 for descriptive statistics and 95% CIs.

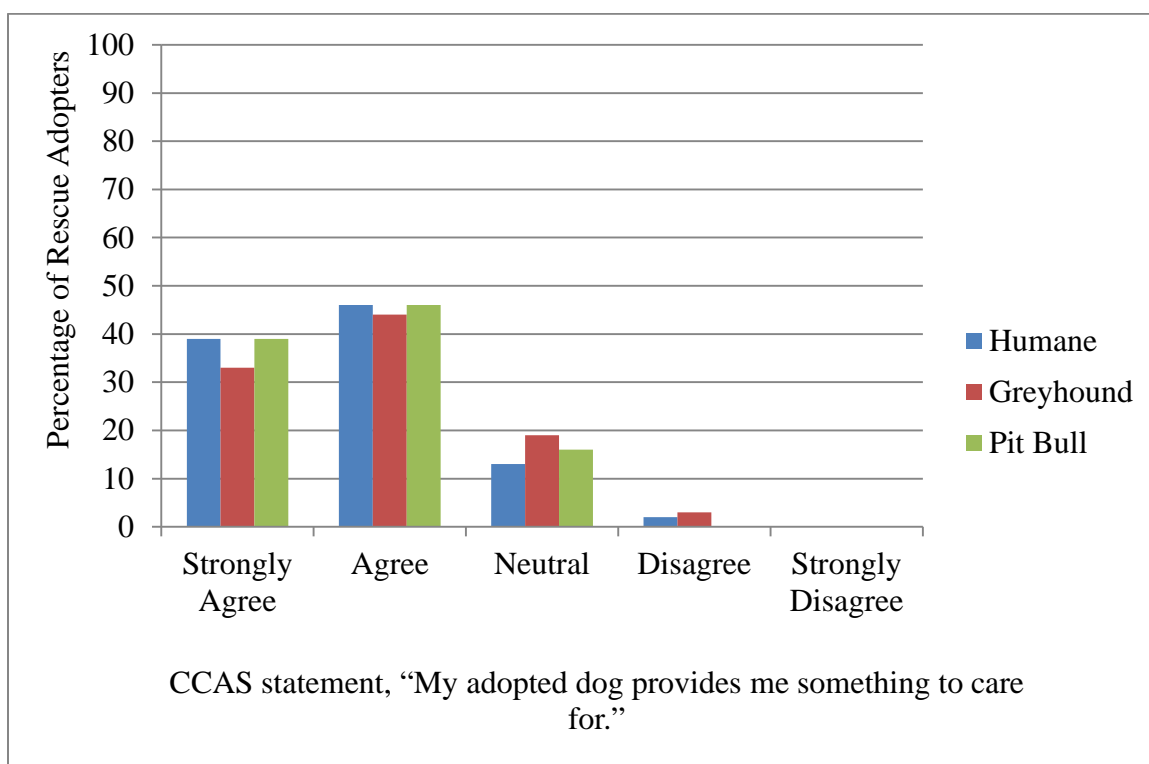


Figure 25. Comparison of rescue groups on Q23 of the CCAS, "My adopted dog provides me something to care for."

Q24, "My adopted dog provides me with pleasurable activity." For Q24, "My adopted dog provides me with pleasurable activity," the majority of adopters from the humane society, greyhound, and pit bull rescue groups agreed with the statement. See Figure 26 for the percentage of Likert Scale responses for each rescue group. A nonsignificant difference between the means of the three rescue groups was revealed by a one-way ANOVA, ($F(2, 1913) = 2.70, MSE = 0.33, p = .068, \eta_p^2 = .003$). See Table 2 for comparison of descriptive statistics and 95% CIs.

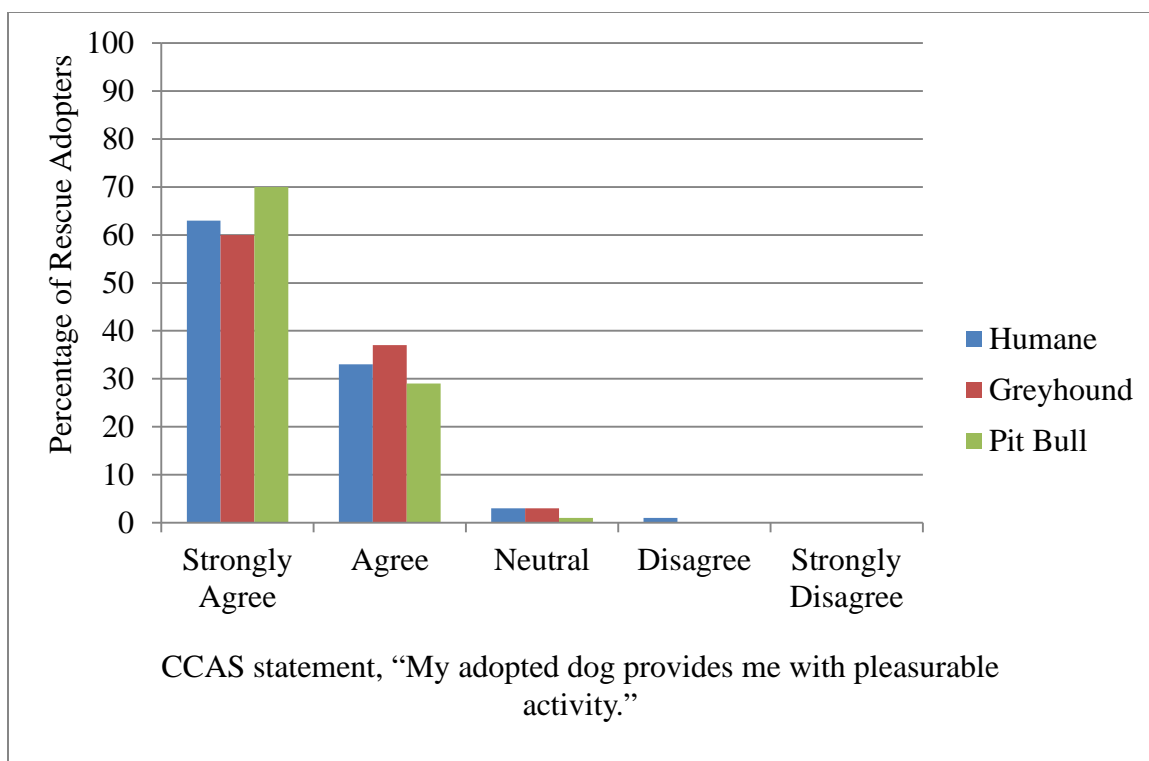


Figure 26. Comparison of rescue groups on Q24 of the CCAS, "My adopted dog provides me with pleasurable activity."

Q25, "My adopted dog is a source of constancy in my life." The majority of adopters in the humane society, greyhound, and pit bull adoption rescue groups agreed with the statement, "My adopted dog is a source of constancy in my life." See Figure 27 for the percentage of Likert Scale responses for each rescue group. ANOVA results revealed the means of the rescue groups were not statistically significantly different, ($F(2, 1913) = 1.93, MSE = 0.59, p = .145, \eta_p^2 = .002$). See Table 2 for comparison of descriptive statistics and 95% CIs.

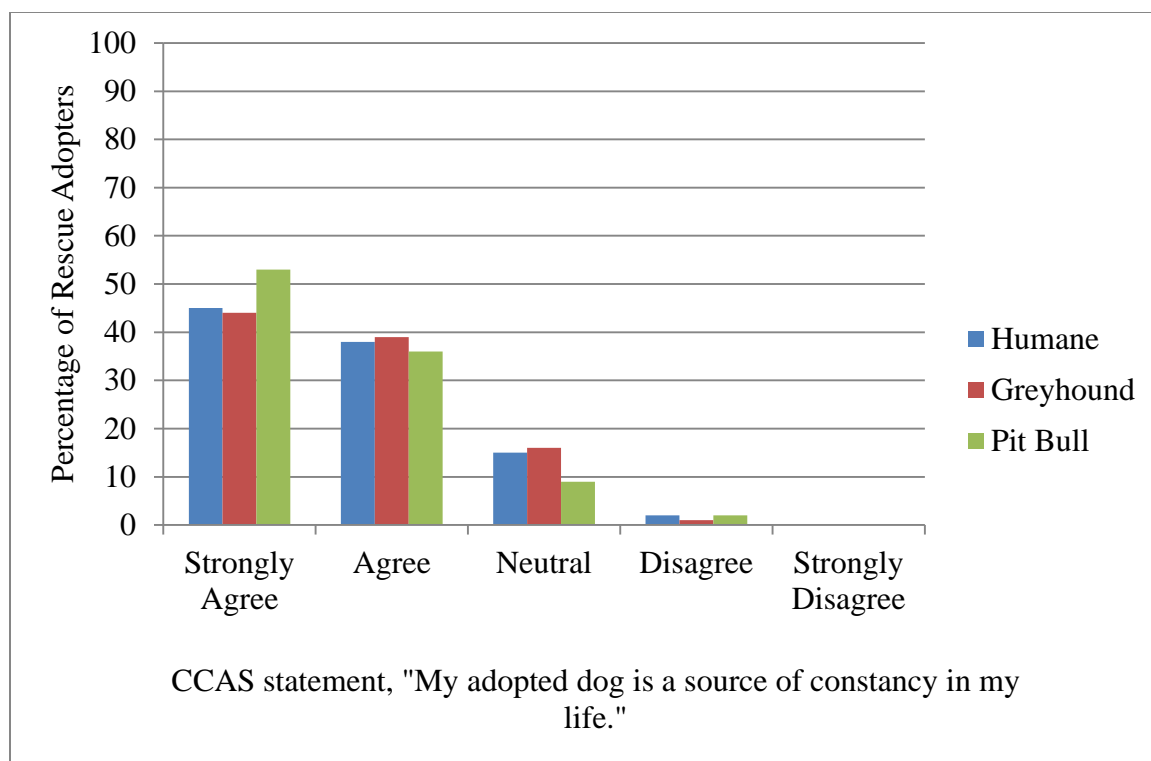


Figure 27. Comparison of rescue groups on Q25 of the CCAS, “My adopted dog is a source of constancy in my life.”

Q26, “My adopted dog makes me feel needed.” Approximately 75% of adopters in all three rescue groups responded in the two agree conditions on the statement “My adopted dog makes me feel needed.” See Figure 28 for the percentage of Likert Scale responses for each rescue group. ANOVA results revealed the means of the rescue groups were not statistically significantly different, $F(2, 1913) = 0.86$, $MSE = 0.71$, $p = .422$, $\eta_p^2 = .001$. See Table 2 for comparison of descriptive statistics and 95% CIs.

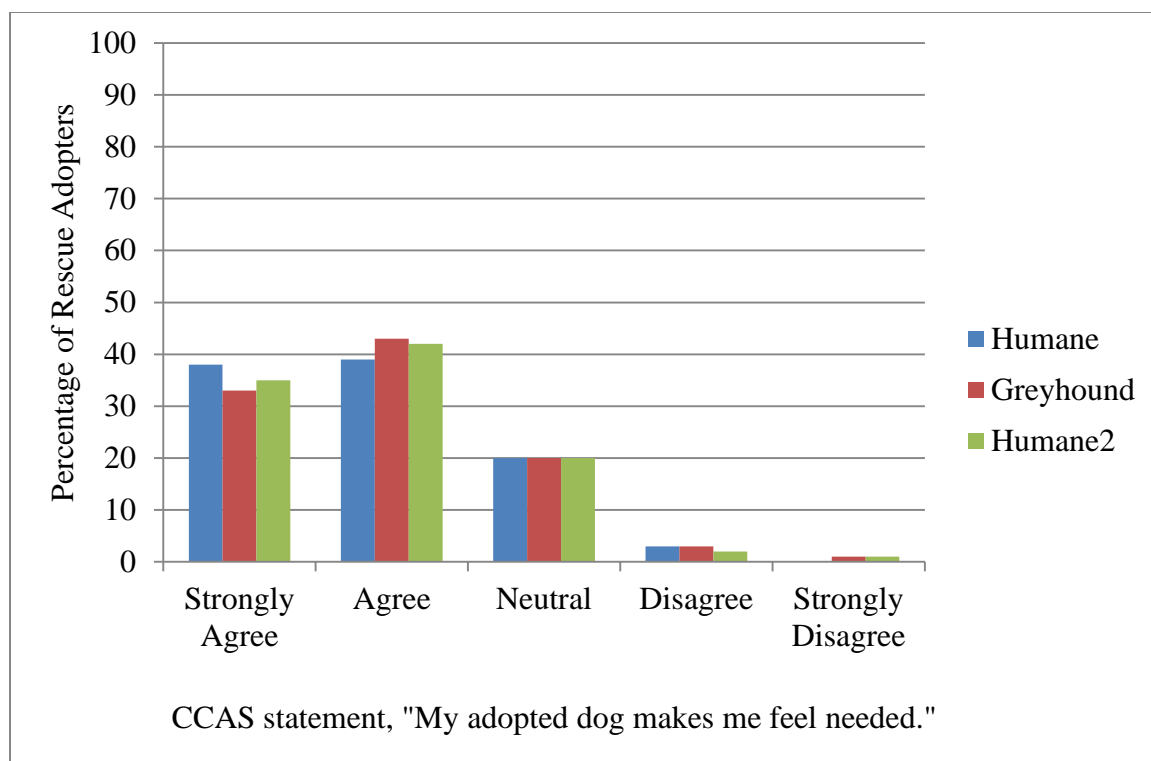


Figure 28. Comparison of rescue groups on Q26 of the CCAS, “My adopted dog makes me feel needed.”

Q27, “My adopted dog makes me feel safe.” Of the greyhound adopters, only 5% “strongly agreed” with the statement “My adopted dog makes me feel safe,” while humane society and pit bull adopters were more likely to respond in the “strongly agree” condition, 19% and 25%, respectively. See Figure 29 for the percentage of Likert Scale responses for each rescue group. Results from a one-way ANOVA indicated a significant difference among the means of the three rescue groups on Q27, $F(2, 1913) = 94.71$, $MSE = 0.81$, $p < .001$, $\eta_p^2 = .090$. The greyhound adopters significantly differed from both the humane society and pit bull adopters. The greyhound adopters were the least

likely to agree with statement. The *Ms*, *SDs*, and 95% CIs for the rescue adopters' responses to Q27 are found in Table 2.

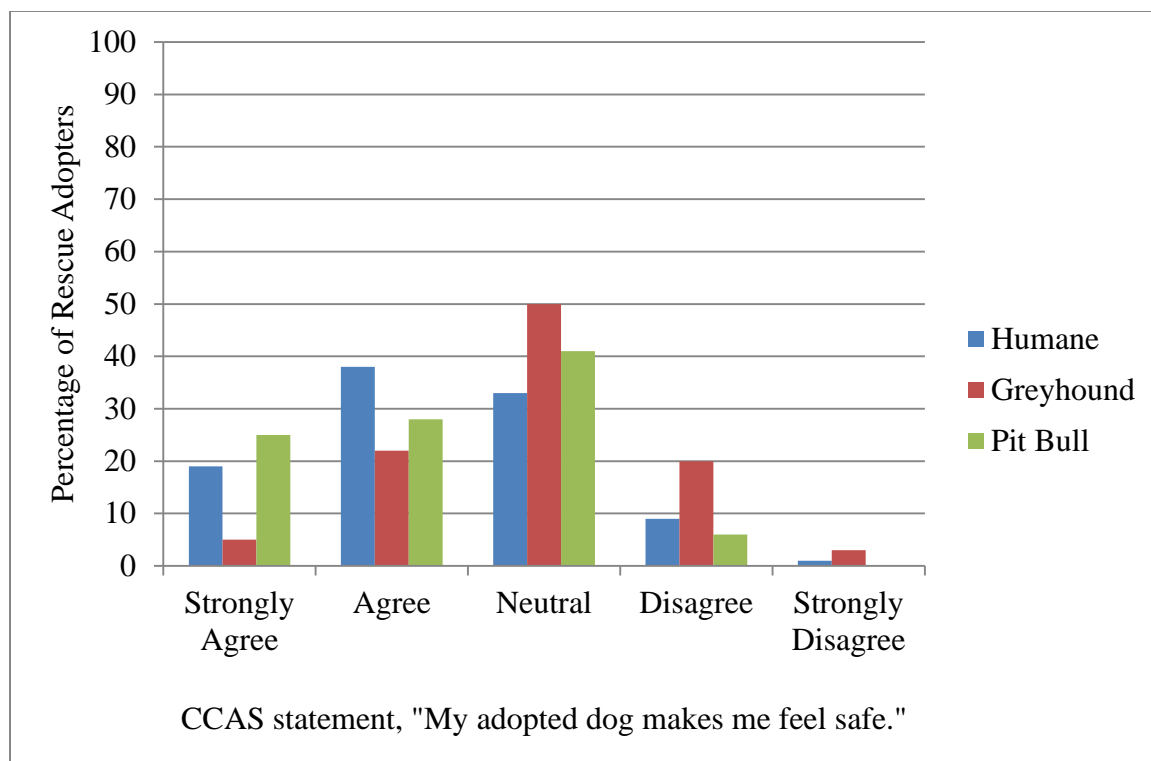


Figure 29. Comparison of rescue groups on Q27 of the CCAS, "My adopted dog makes me feel safe."

Q28, "I get more exercise because of my adopted dog." The responses to the statement "I get more exercise because of my adopted dog" indicated more pit bull adopters and fewer greyhound adopters responded to the agree conditions. See Figure 30 for the percentage of Likert Scale responses for each rescue group. A one-way ANOVA conducted on the means of the responses from the rescue adopters for Q28 found a significant difference among the means, $F(2, 1913) = 9.18$, $MSE = 0.82$, $p < .001$, $\eta_p^2 = .010$. All three rescue groups significantly differed from each other. The higher

agreement to the amount of exercise reported by the pit bull adopters was significantly different than the amount of exercise reported by the greyhound adopters. The humane society adopters' level of agreement with Q28 was in-between but also significantly different from the other rescue groups. Table 2 shows the *Ms*, *SDs*, and 96% CIs for the rescue adopters' responses to Q28.

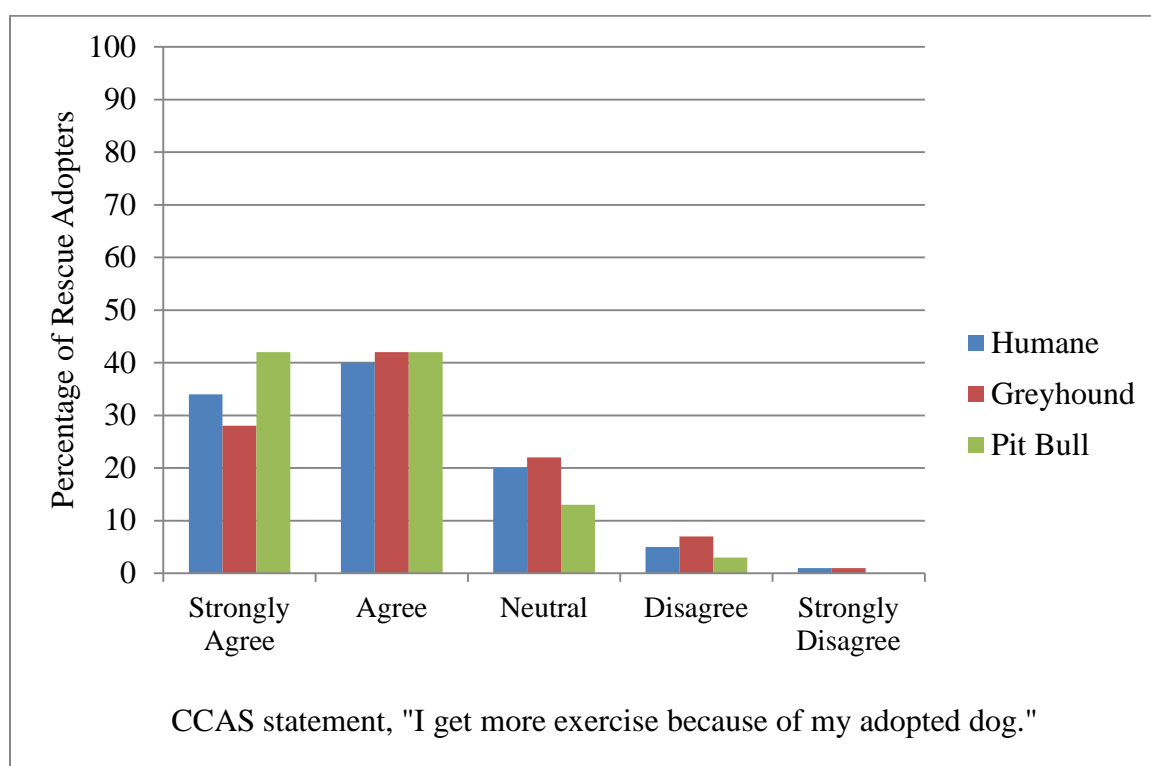


Figure 30. Comparison of rescue groups on Q28 of the CCAS, "I get more exercise because of my adopted dog."

Q29, "My adopted dog makes me play and laugh." Although the majority in the rescue dog adoption groups responded to "strongly agree" and "agree" for "My adopted dog makes me play and laugh," their mean values of agreement varied. See Figure 31 for the percentage of Likert Scale responses for each rescue group. One-way

ANOVA results on Q29 indicated a significant difference among the means of the three rescue groups, $F(2, 1913) = 12.31$, $MSE = 0.36$, $p < .001$, $\eta_p^2 = .013$. All three rescue groups significantly differed from each other. The pit bull adopter's level of agreement was the highest, the humane society adopters were in-between, and the greyhound adopters were the least to agree with the statement. The *Ms*, *SDs*, and 95% *CI*s for the rescue adopters' responses to Q29 are shown in Table 2.

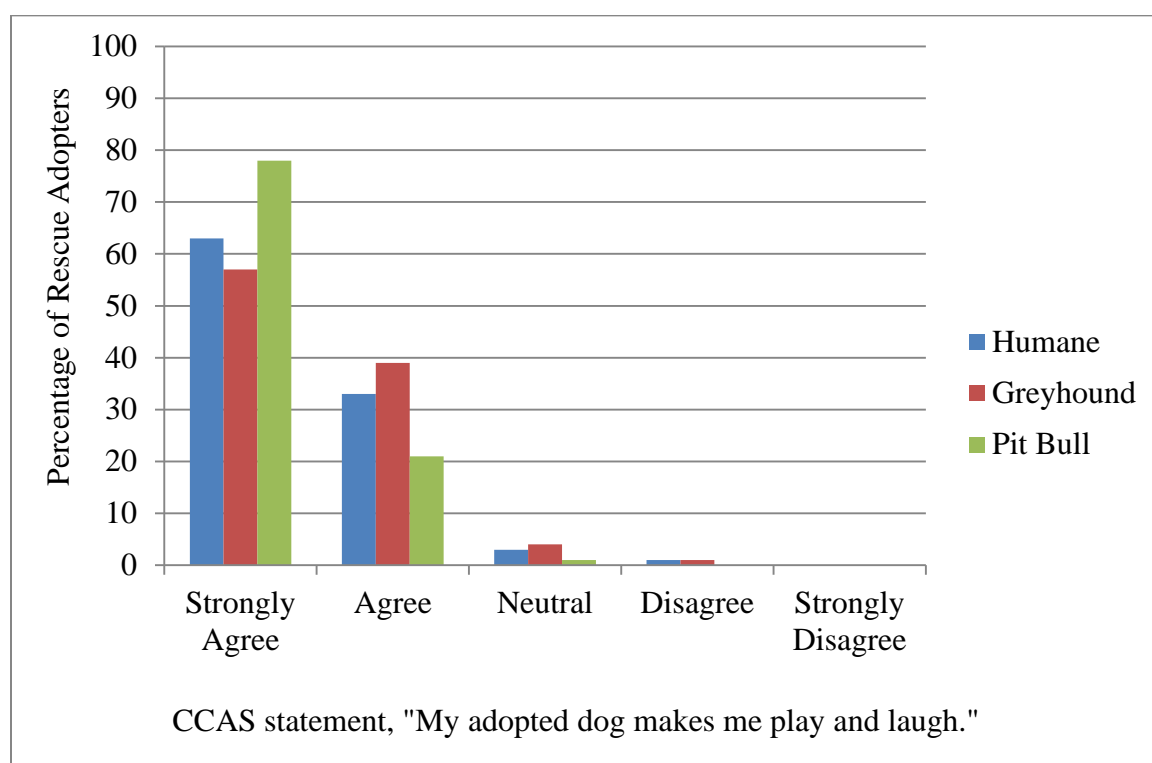


Figure 31. Comparison of rescue groups on Q29 of the CCAS, "My adopted dog makes me play and laugh,"

Q30, "I enjoy watching my adopted dog." The majority of responses from all rescue adopters were in the "strongly agree" condition to the CCAS statement "I enjoy watching my adopted dog." See Figure 32 for the percentage of Likert Scale responses

for each rescue group. A one-way ANOVA found a significant difference among the means, $F(2, 1913) = 6.56$, $MSE = 0.24$, $p < .001$, $\eta_p^2 = .007$. The humane society adopters significantly differed from both the greyhound and pit bull adopters. The Humane Society adopters were least likely to agree with Q30 compared to the adopters in the other two rescue groups. Comparisons of the *Ms*, *SDs*, and 95% CIs for rescue adopters' responses to Q30 are found in Table 2.

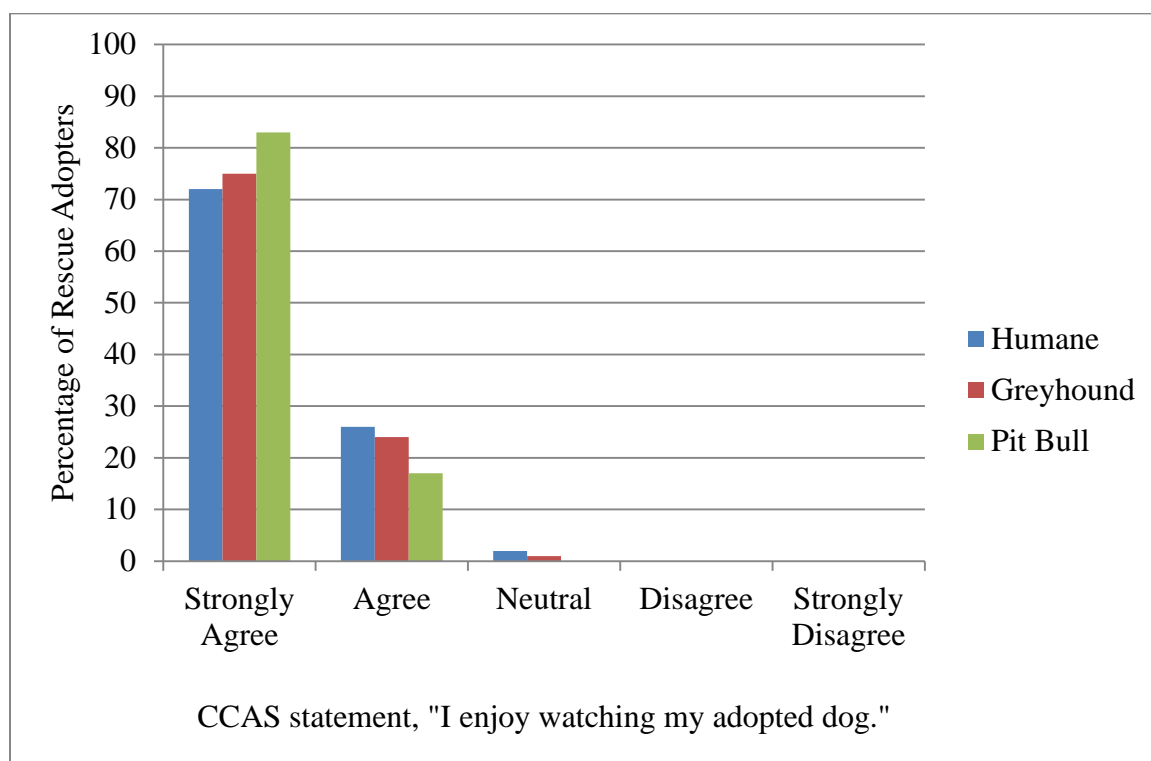


Figure 32. Comparison of rescue groups on Q30 of the CCAS, "I enjoy watching my adopted dog;"

Q31, "I get comfort from touching my adopted dog" The majority of humane society adopters, greyhound adopters, and the pit bull adopters responded to the agree conditions on the statement "I get comfort from touching my adopted dog." See Figure

33 for the percentage of Likert Scale responses for each rescue group. A one-way ANOVA conducted on Q31 found a significant difference among the means, $F(2, 1913) = 3.75$, $MSE = 0.32$, $p = .024$, $\eta_p^2 = .004$. The humane society and the pit bull adopters were found to significantly differ. The pit bull adopters were more likely to agree than the humane society adopters. Table 2 provides a comparison of the *Ms*, *SDs*, and 95% CIs for rescue adoption groups.

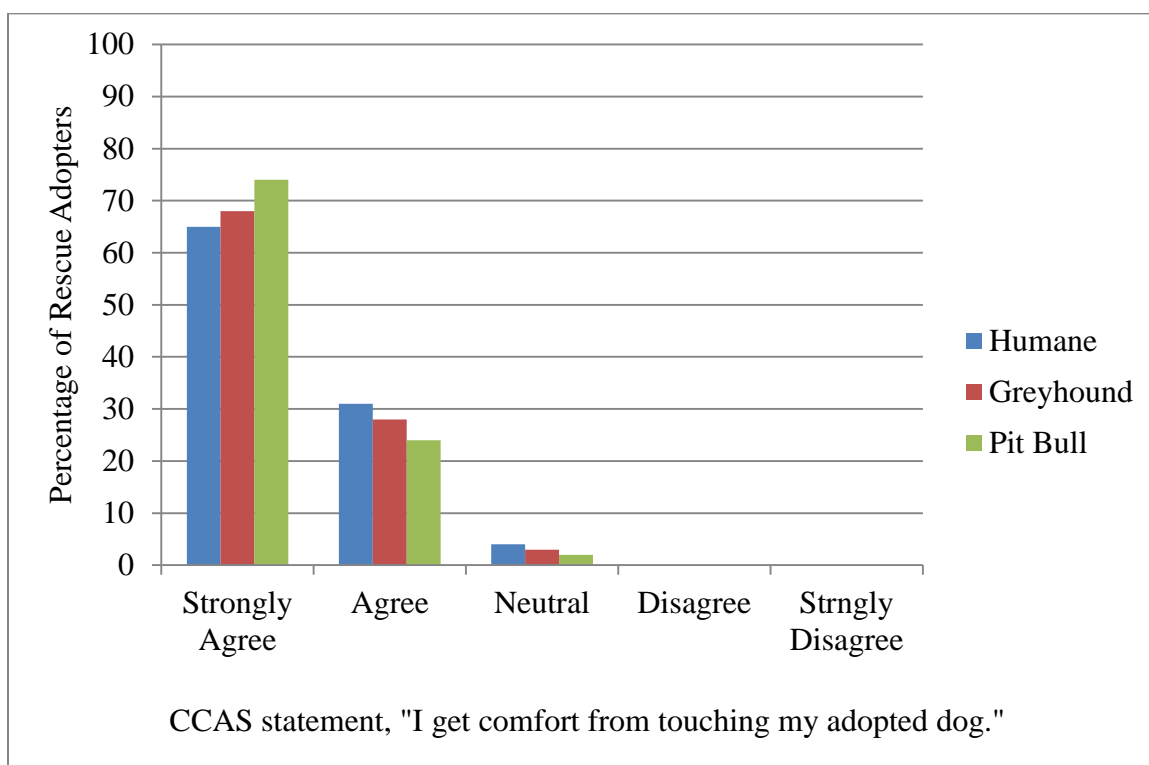


Figure 33. Comparison of rescue groups on Q31 of the CCAS, "I get comfort from touching my adopted dog."

Q32, "My adopted dog makes me feel loved" The majority of adopters from the humane society, greyhound, and pit bull rescue adopters agreed with the statement "My adopted dog makes me feel loved. See Figure 34 for the percentage of Likert Scale

responses for each rescue group. One-way ANOVA results on the response means of Q32, revealed that the rescue groups did not significantly differ, $F(2, 1913) = 2.56$, $MSE = 0.45$, $p = .078$, $\eta_p^2 = .003$. The M s, SD s, and 95% CIs are provided for each group of rescue adopters in Table 2.

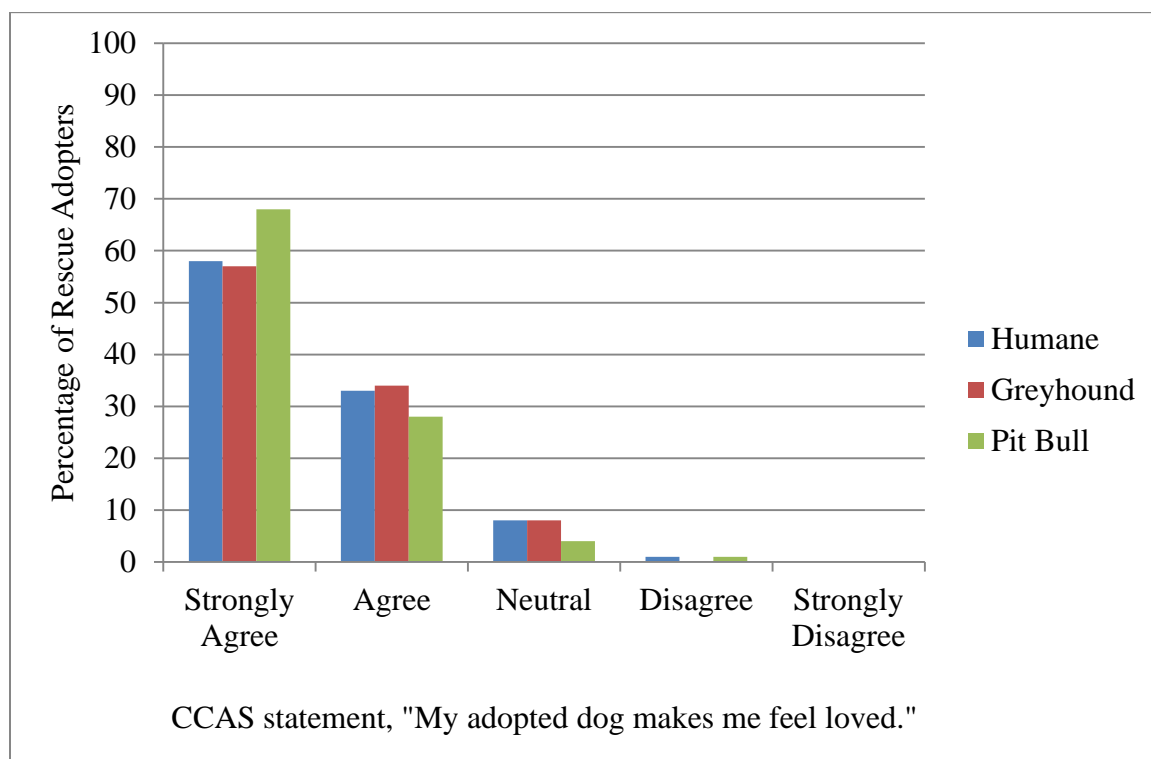


Figure 34. Comparison of rescue groups on Q32 of the CCAS, "My adopted dog makes me feel loved."

Q33, "My adopted dog makes me feel trusted." The majority of the responses to Q33, "My adopted dog makes me feel trusted," from the adopters from all three rescue groups were in the agree condition. See Figure 35 for the percentage of Likert Scale responses for each rescue group. The one-way ANOVA results on the responses to Q33

were nonsignificant, $F(2, 1913) = 2.51$, $MSE = 0.62$, $p = .082$, $\eta_p^2 = .003$. See Table 2 for comparisons of the M s, SD s, and 95% CIs for Q33.

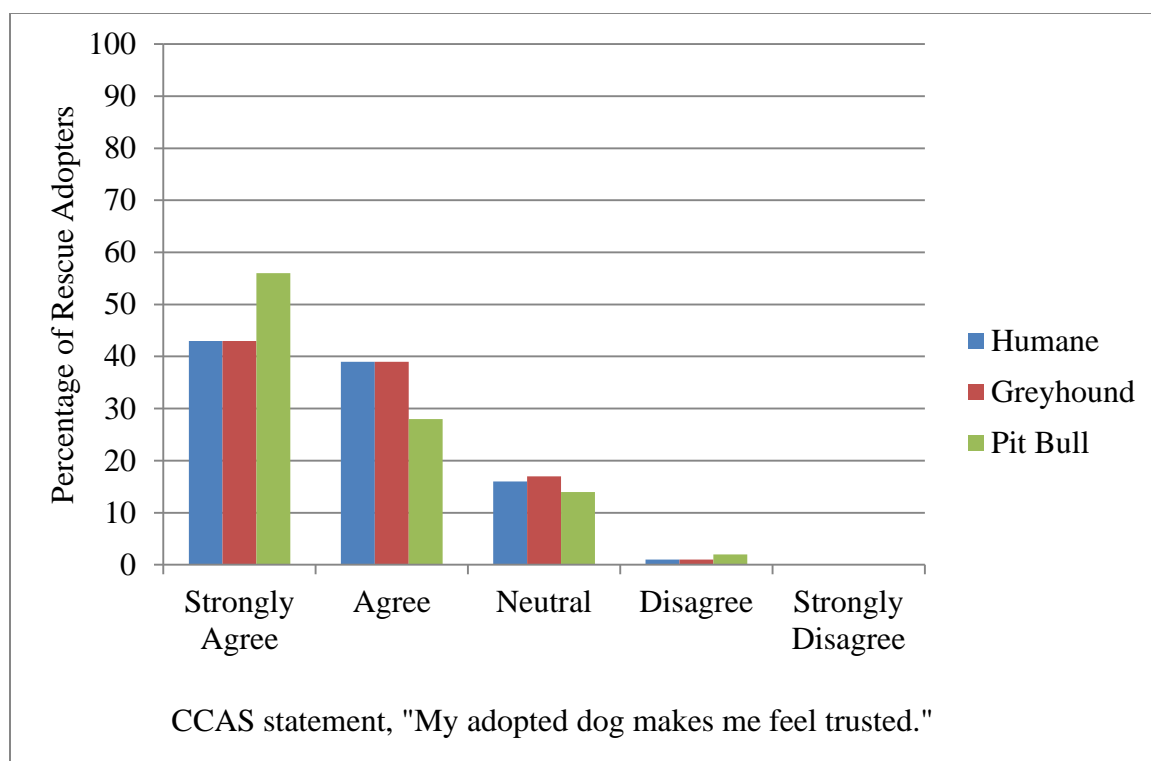


Figure 35. Comparison of rescue groups on Q33 of the CCAS, "My adopted dog makes me feel trusted."

Q34, "My adopted dog gives me something to love." The majority of humane society adopters, greyhound adopters, and pit bull adopters agreed with the statement "My adopted dog gives me something to love." See Figure 36 for the percentage of Likert Scale responses for each rescue group. A one-way ANOVA on the results from Q34 resulted in nonsignificance, $F(2, 1913) = 3.00$, $MSE = 0.60$, $p = .050$, $\eta_p^2 = .003$. See Table 2 for the comparison of M s, SD s, and 95% CIs of the rescue groups.

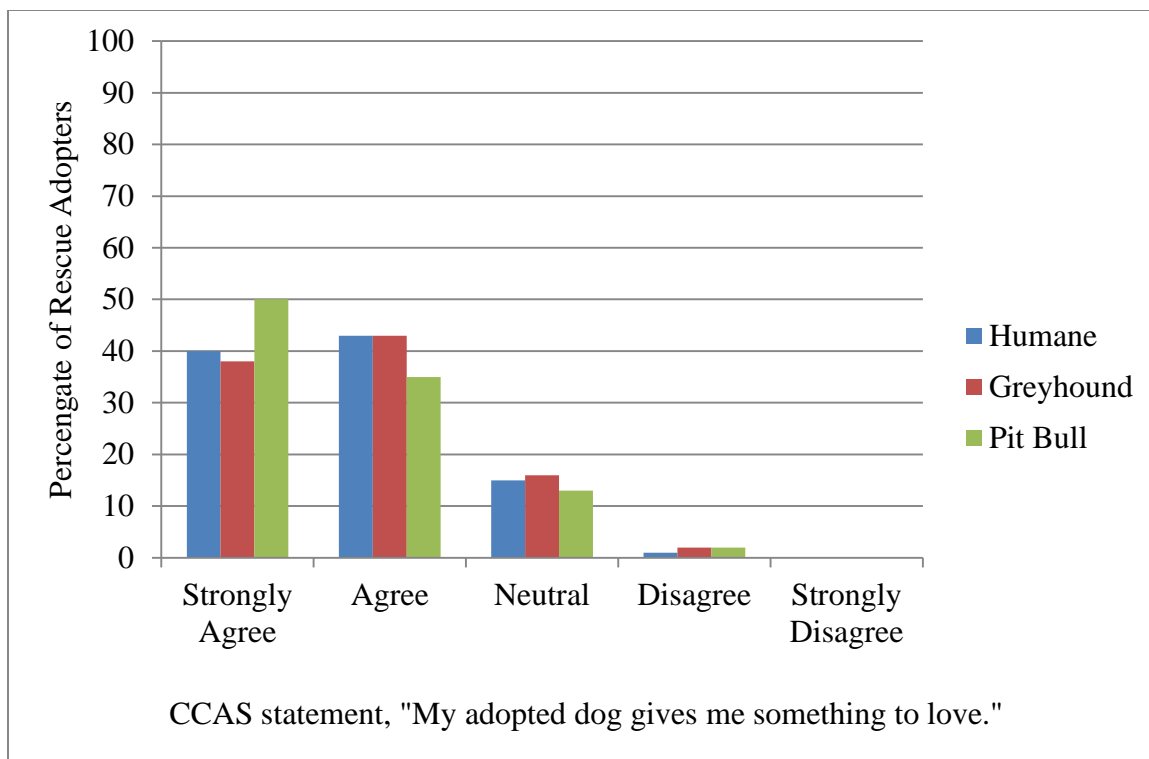


Figure 36. Comparison of rescue groups on Q34 of the CCAS, "My adopted dog gives me something to love."

Table 2.

Comparison of CCAS Likert Scale Ratings of Greyhound, and Pit Bull Rescue Adopters

Q#	Humane Society ^a (n = 829)			Greyhound ^b (n = 958)			Pit Bull ^c (n = 127)		
	M	SD	95% CI	M	SD	95% CI	M	SD	95% CI
CCAS	53.07 _a	5.81	[52.67, 53.47]	52.26 _b	5.21	[51.93, 52.59]	54.35 _c	4.92	[53.49, 55.22]
Q18:	1.48 _{a,b,c}	.64	[1.43, 1.53]	1.54 _{a,b}	.75	[1.50, 1.59]	1.34 _{a,c}	.61	[1.22, 1.46]
Q23:	1.79 _{a,c}	.76	[1.74, 1.84]	1.93 _{b,c}	.83	[1.88, 1.98]	1.77 _{a,b,c}	.70	[1.63, 1.91]
Q24:	1.42 _{a,b,c}	.60	[1.38, 1.45]	1.43 _b	.56	[1.39, 1.47]	1.31 _c	.48	[1.21, 1.41]
Q25:	1.74 _{a,b,c}	.79	[1.69, 1.79]	1.73 _{a,b,c}	.76	[1.68, 1.78]	1.60 _c	.73	[1.46, 1.73]
Q26:	1.90 _{a,b,c}	.85	[1.84, 1.96]	1.95 _{a,b,c}	.83	[1.90, 2.00]	1.91 _{a,b,c}	.83	[1.76, 2.05]
Q27:	2.37 _{a,c}	.93	[2.31, 2.43]	2.92 _b	.86	[2.87, 2.98]	2.28 _{a,c}	.92	[2.13, 2.44]
Q28:	1.99 _a	.91	[1.93, 2.05]	2.10 _b	.92	[2.05, 2.16]	1.77 _c	.79	[1.61, 1.93]
Q29:	1.41 _a	.60	[1.37, 1.45]	1.49 _b	.62	[1.45, 1.53]	1.23 _c	.44	[1.12, 1.33]
Q30:	1.32 _a	.54	[1.28, 1.35]	1.25 _{b,c}	.45	[1.22, 1.28]	1.17 _{b,c}	.38	[1.09, 1.26]
Q31:	1.40 _{a,b}	.60	[1.37, 1.44]	1.35 _{a,b}	.54	[1.31, 1.38]	1.28 _c	.50	[1.18, 1.38]
Q32:	1.51 _{a,b,c}	.69	[1.47, 1.56]	1.52 _{a,b,c}	.67	[1.48, 1.56]	1.38 _{a,b,c}	.60	[1.26, 1.50]
Q33:	1.78 _{a,b,c}	.80	[1.73, 1.84]	1.76 _{a,b,c}	.77	[1.71, 1.81]	1.61 _{a,b,c}	.79	[1.48, 1.75]
Q34:	1.78 _{a,b,c}	.76	[1.72, 1.83]	1.83 _{a,b,c}	.79	[1.78, 1.88]	1.67 _{a,b,c}	.77	[1.53, 1.80]

-Note: Rating of statements was made using a 5-point scale (1 = strongly agree, 2 = agree, 3 = neither disagree or agree, (neutral), 4 = disagree, 5 = strongly disagree).

-Means that do not share subscripts differ at $p < .05$ using the Dunnett's C post hoc comparison test

-Numbers in brackets are 95% confidence intervals of the means.

Adopter's Feeling of Satisfaction with the Adopted Rescue Dog (Q35)

Q35: "Have your expectations about your adopted dog as a companion animal been met with the dog you adopted from the (XXX) rescue." Most adopters in all rescue groups indicated that "yes" their expectations about their adopted dog as a companion animal had been met with the dog they adopted. More greyhound adopters responded "yes" to the question (92% of $n = 1029$) than the humane society (83% of $n = 902$) or pit bull adopters (87% of $n = 134$). No greyhound adopter reported that their expectations had not been met and only 2% from the humane society and pit bull adopters responded to the "no" condition. Figure 37 shows the percentage of adopters responding to whether their adopted dog met their expectations.

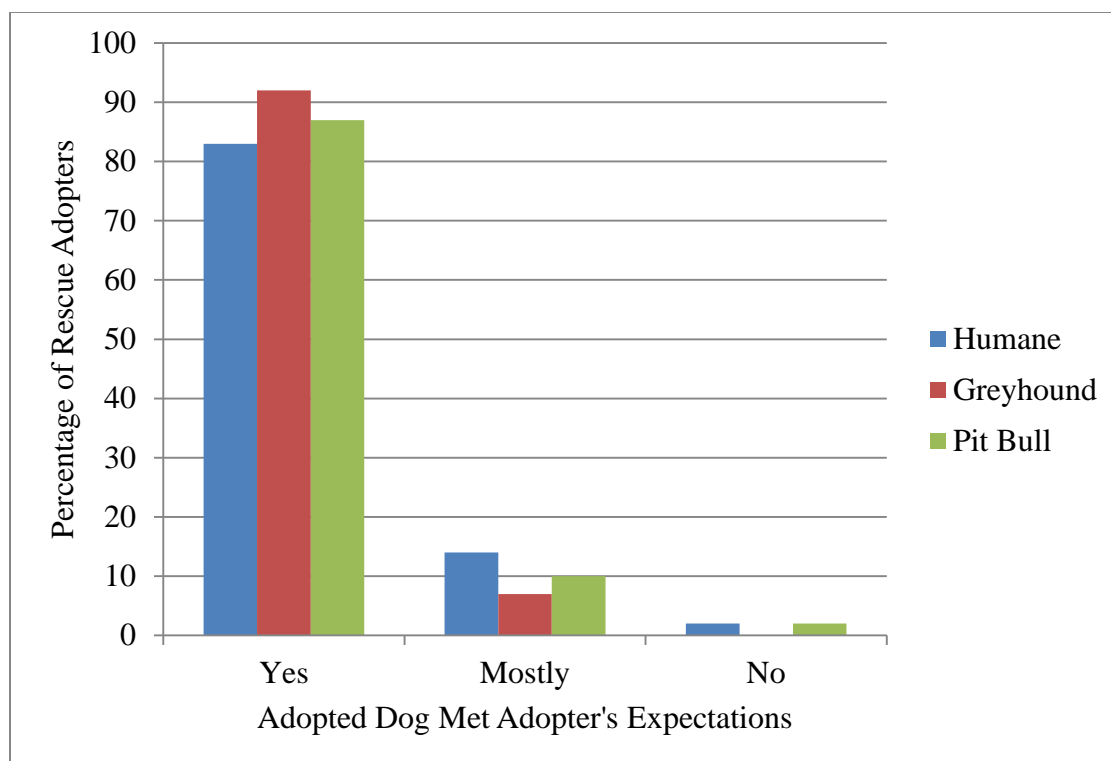


Figure 37. Comparison of rescue groups on Q35, how adopters responded to how their expectations have been met with their adopted dog.

Number of Dogs and the Length of Time Lived with Rescue Dog (Q36 – 39)

Q36: “How many adopted rescue dogs do you currently have?” A few adopters responding to the Rescue Dog Adopter Survey did not currently have an adopted rescue dog. Most adopters in all rescue groups had only one dog, with 80% of the humane society adopters ($n = 904$), 38% of the greyhound adopters ($n = 1034$), and 70% of the pit bull adopters ($n = 137$). The greyhound adopters were the most likely of the rescue adopters to currently have the greatest number of adopted dogs and especially in the multiple dog categories up through more than eight. No one from the humane society or pit pull rescue groups indicated they currently had five, six, or seven adopted dogs.

Only three humane society adopters indicated they currently had more than eight adopted dogs (Figure 38).

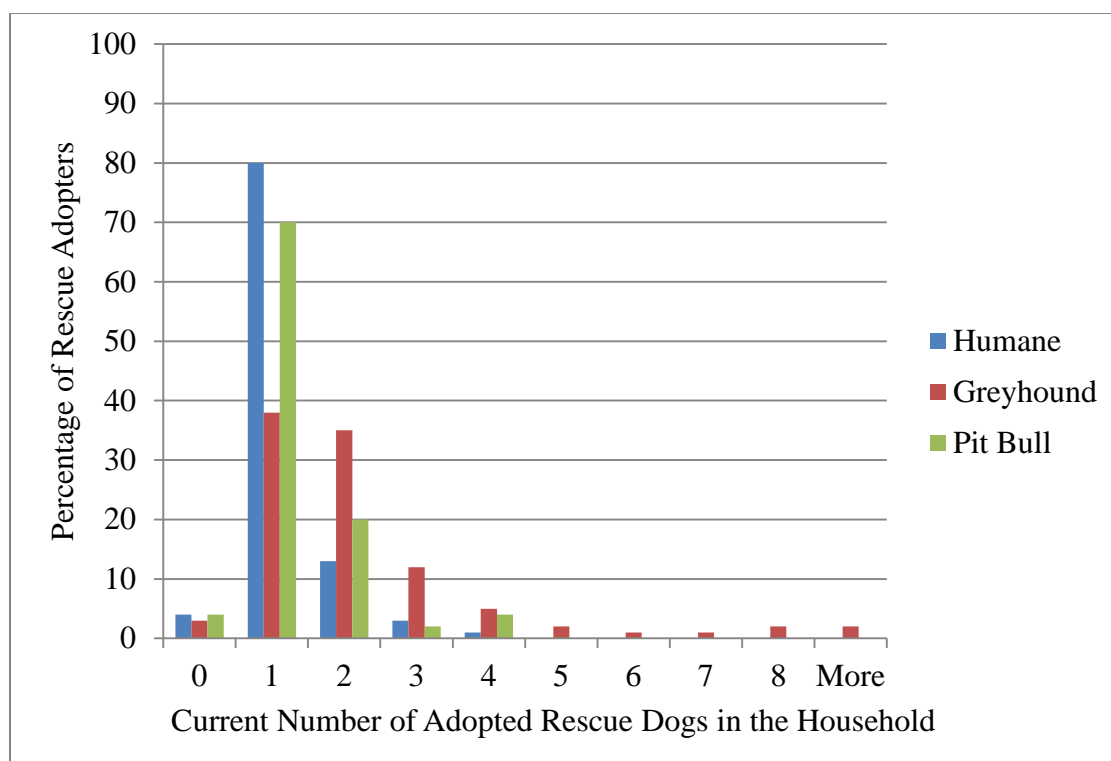


Figure 38. Comparison of rescue groups on Q36, the number of adopted dogs currently living in their households.

Q37: “How many adopted rescue dogs have you had in the past (other than those currently in the household)?” The number of previously adopted dogs other than those currently living in the adopter’s household ranged from none to more than eight. Most of the adopters from all three rescue groups had no other dog. More humane society (23% of $n = 901$) and pit bull (23% of $n = 136$) adopters had previously rescued only one other dog. The humane society and greyhound adopters had adopted a larger number of dogs in the past than the pit bull adopters. The greyhound adopters indicated they had

adopted more dogs at each level, especially “more than eight” (Figure 39) than the other rescue adopters.

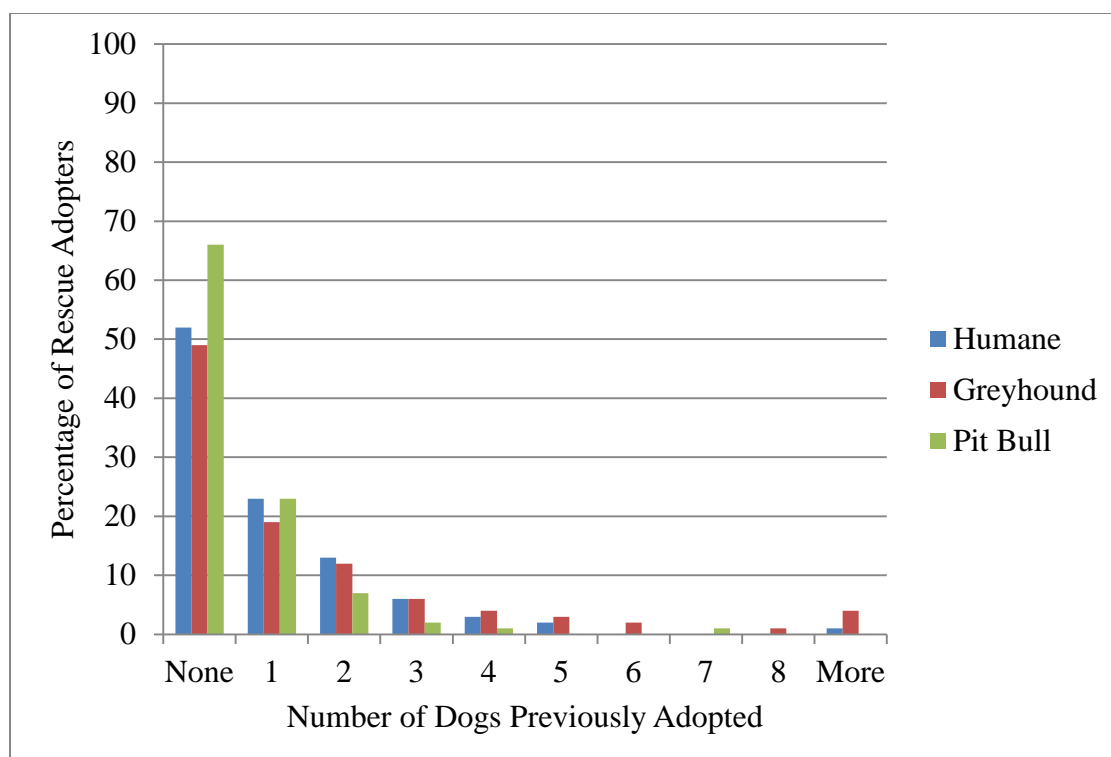


Figure 39. Comparison of rescue groups on Q37, the number of adopted dogs the adopters have had in the past.

Q38: “Do you currently have a senior (8 years or greater) adopted rescue dog?” The majority of adopters in all three rescue groups did not have a senior adopted dog. More humane society adopters (19% of $n = 902$) and greyhound adopters (25% of $n = 1025$) currently had one adopted senior dog in their household than pit bull adopters (12% of $n = 137$). Greyhound adopters reported more senior dogs in their households than the adopters in the other two rescue groups (Figure 40).

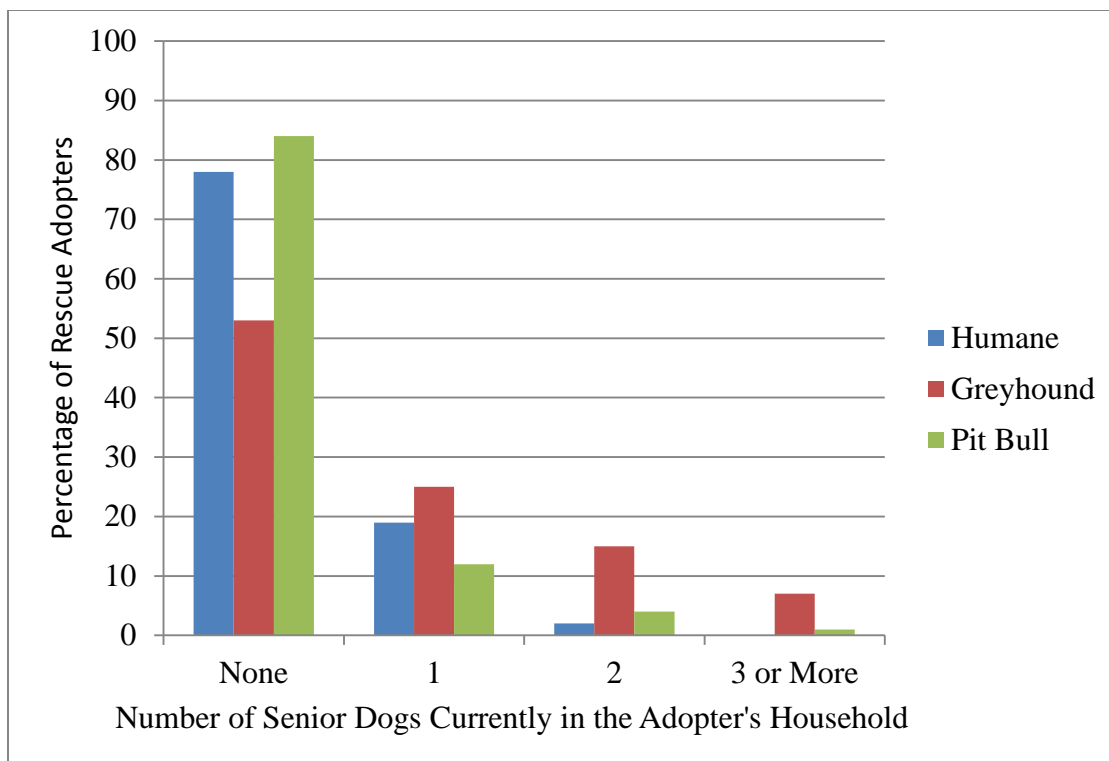


Figure 40. Comparison of rescue groups on Q38, the number of senior adopted dogs currently in the adopter’s household.

Q39: “How long have you had your adopted rescue dog?” More humane society adopters had their adopted dog less than one year (42% of $n = 897$) compared to the greyhound adopters (11% of $n = 1032$) or pit bull adopters (30% of $n = 134$). Conversely, more greyhound adopters (88%) and pit bull adopters (70%) had their adopted rescue dogs over a longer period of time – two years and longer – than the humane society adopters (58%) (Figure 41).

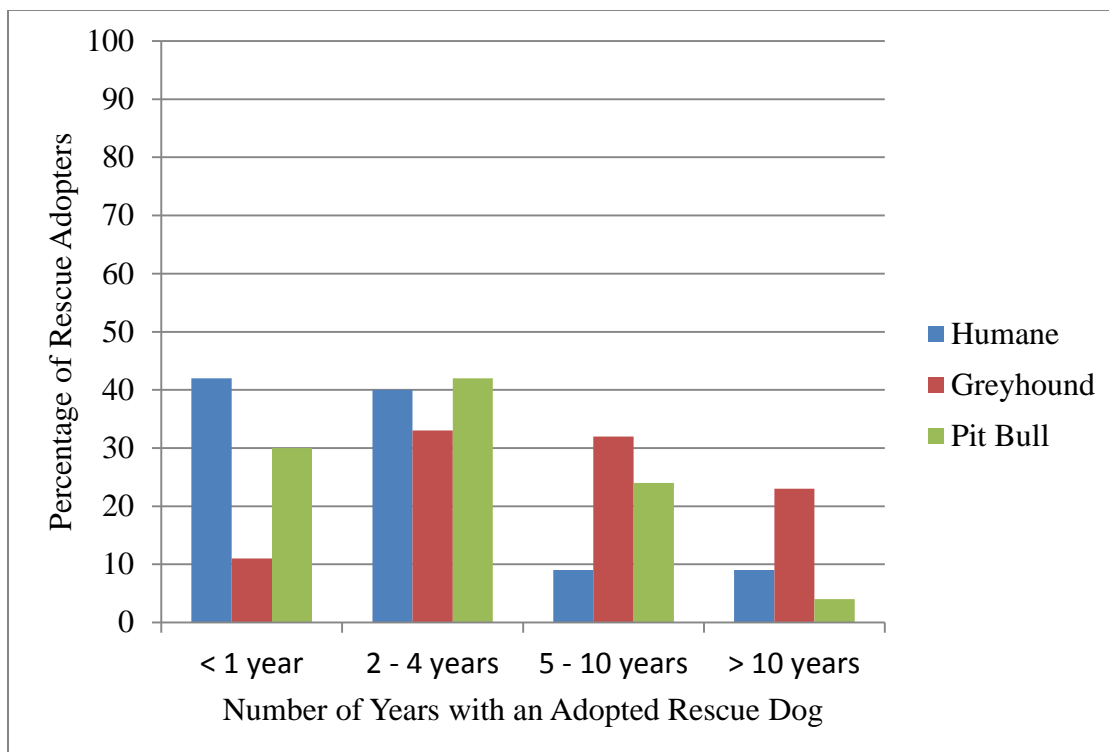


Figure 41. Comparison of rescue groups on Q39, the number of years the adopters have had a rescued dog in the household.

Activities Rescue Adopters Do with Their Adopted Dogs (Q40 – 41, and Q44)

Q40: “Have you taken your adopted rescue dog to an organized obedience training class?” More pit bull adopters (66% of $n = 137$) than either the humane society (34% of $n = 900$) or greyhound adopters (31% of $n = 1025$) indicated that they have taken their adopted dog to an organized training class (Figure 42).

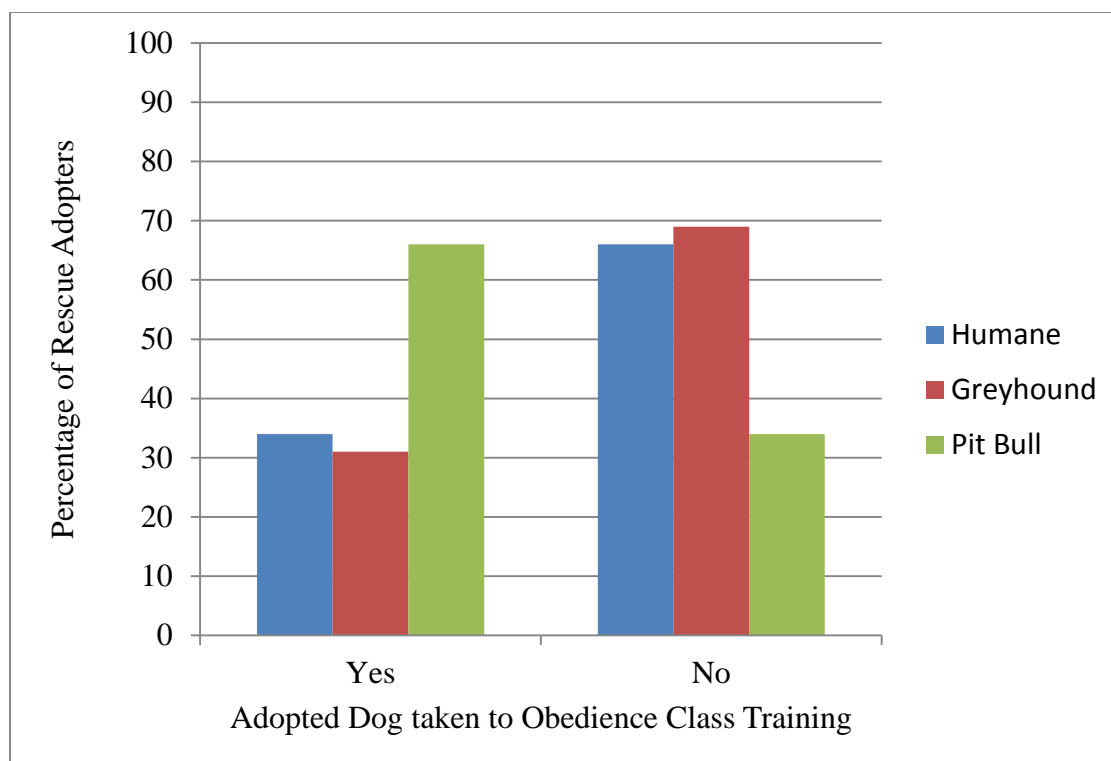


Figure 42. Comparison of rescue groups on Q40, the number of adopters that have taken their adopted dog to an organized training class

Q41: “Does your adopted rescue dog sleep in your bedroom?” Figure 43

shows the percentage of the adopter’s responses to Q41 by rescue group. The majority of the humane society adopters (82% of $n = 895$), greyhound rescue adopters (84% of $n = 1030$), and pit bull rescue adopters (79% of $n = 137$) allow their adopted dog to sleep in their bedroom.

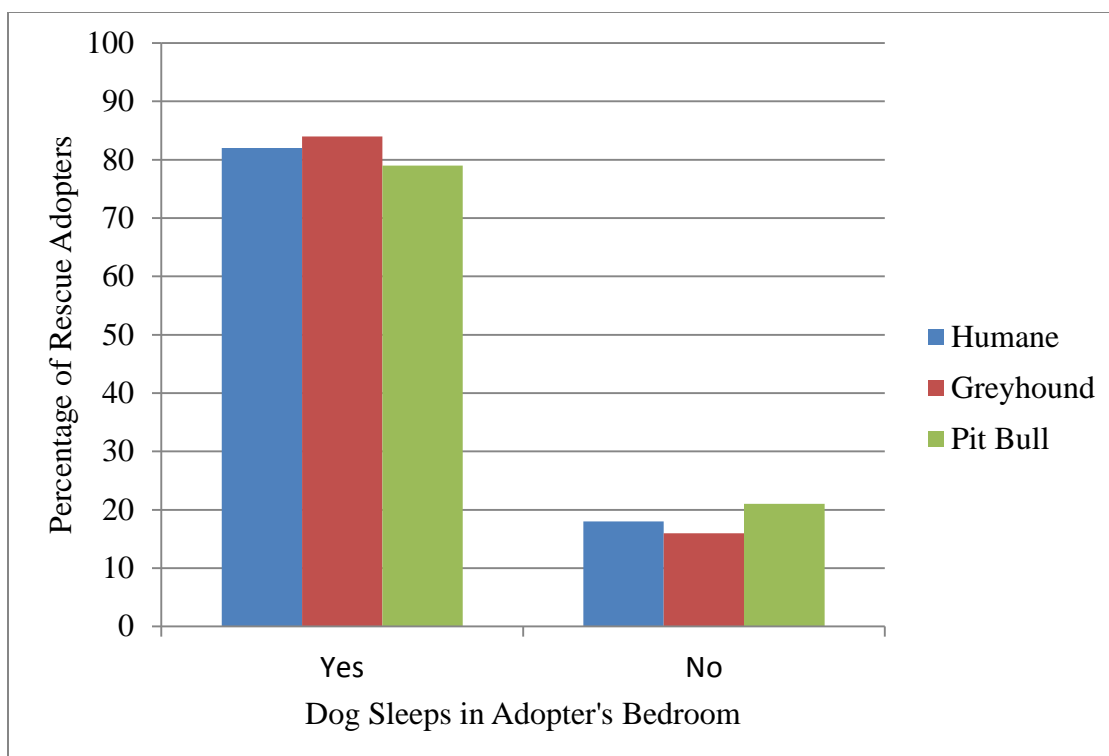


Figure 43. Comparison of rescue groups on Q41, whether the adopted rescue dog sleeps in the adopter's bedroom.

Q44: “Do you frequently take your adopted rescue dog with you on errands?” Pit bull adopters were the most likely to take their dog with them on errands (65% of $n = 137$), humane society adopters followed (59% of $n = 894$), and the greyhound adopters were the least likely to take their dogs along on errands (46% of $n = 1029$), see Figure 44.

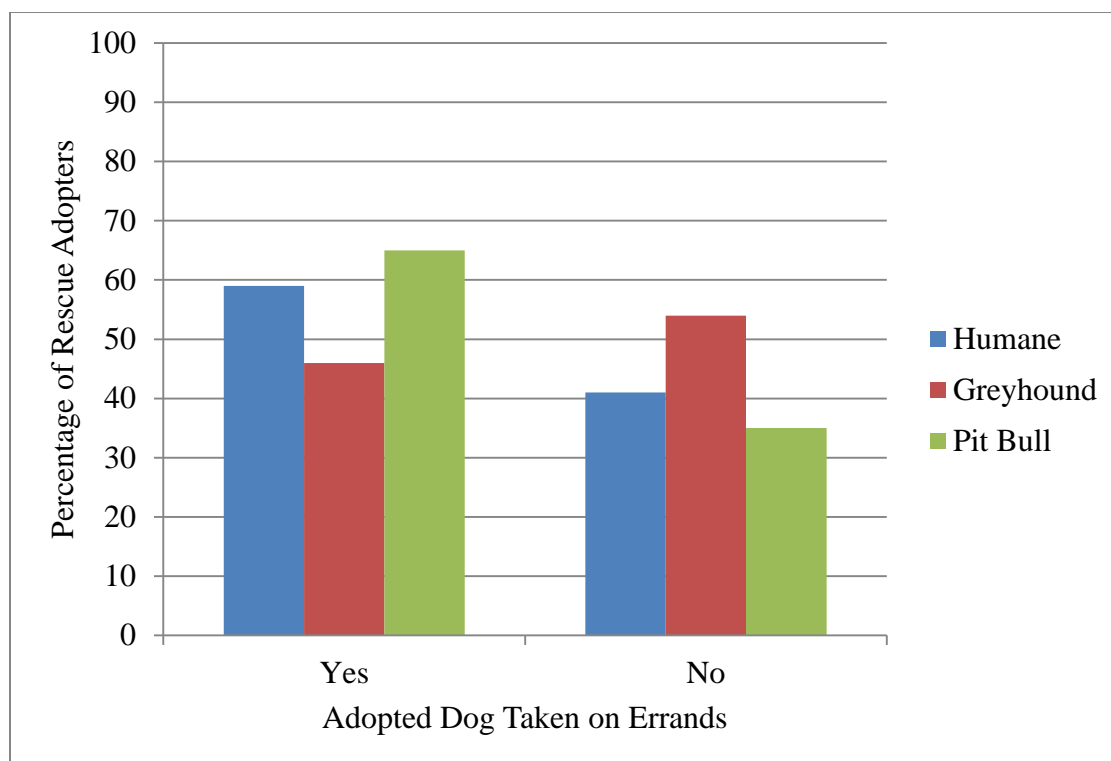


Figure 44. Comparison of rescue groups on Q44, whether the adopted dog is frequently taken along on errands.

Responsibilities for the Care and Health of the Adopted Dog (Q42 – 43)

Q42: “Who in your household has the primary responsibility for the general care and feeding of your adopted rescue dog?” The gender of the respondent was determined and used to replace the term “self” on the survey instrument. Being “female” was associated most frequently with the primary person responsible for the general care and feeding of the adopted dog, with 64% of the humane society, 72% of the greyhound, and 74% pit bull adopters. “Male” and “spouse/partner” followed with 15% of humane society adopters in each category, 12% and 13% for the greyhound adopters, and 14% and 8% for the pit bull adopters in the respective categories. “Children” took the most

responsibility in households of the humane society adopters (3%) and the least in the households of greyhound adopters (0%). Figure 45 shows the percentage of the primary person responsible for the care and feeding of the adopted dog in each rescue group. The “other” category was undefined and accounted for 4%, 2%, and 3% of the person responsible for the general care and feeding of the adopted dog among the humane society, greyhound, and pit bull adopters, respectively.

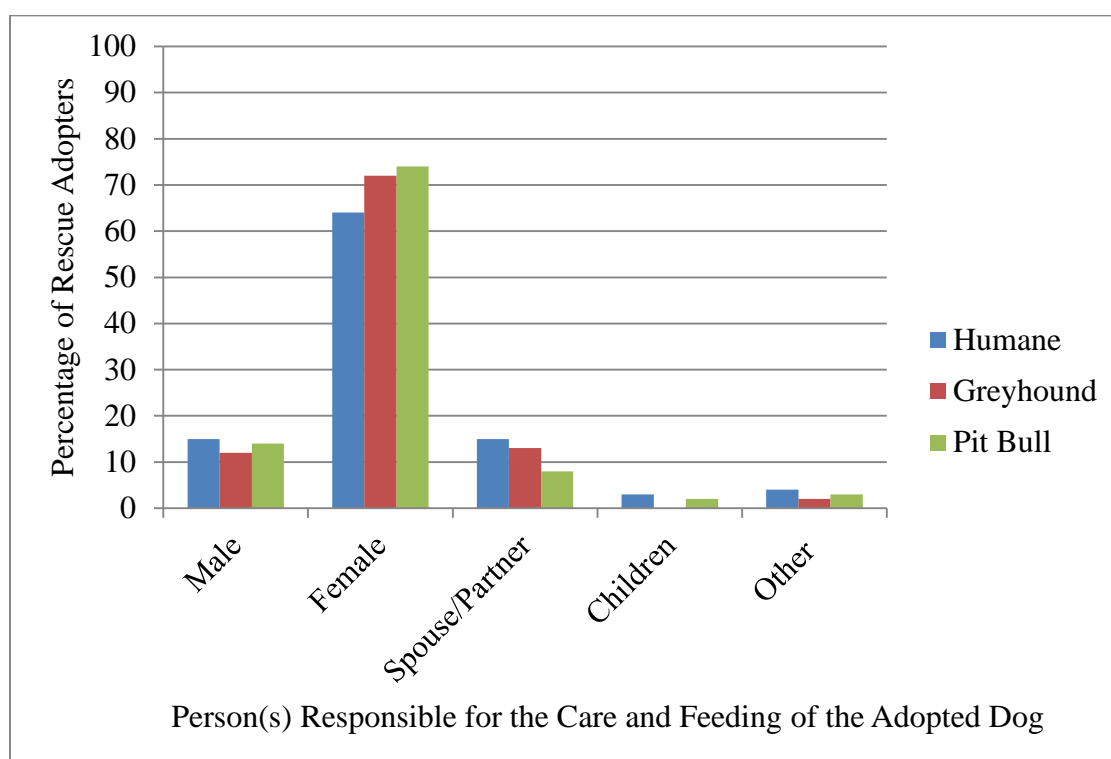


Figure 45. Comparison of rescue groups on Q42, who in the household has the primary responsibility for the general care and feeding of the adopted dog.

Q43: “Who typically takes your adopted rescue dog to the veterinarian?”

The “self” response to Q43 was recoded to indicate whether the respondent was “male” or “female.” The other levels of the independent variable were “spouse/partner,” “as a

family,” and “other.” Being “female” identified the primary person responsible for taking the adopted dog to the veterinarian in all rescue groups, with 62%, 67%, and 65% of the adopters from the humane society, greyhound and pit bull rescue groups, respectively. Taking the adopted dog to the veterinarian “as a family,” however, rated second to the “female” taking the responsibility, with 13%, 17%, and 16% of the responses among the humane society, greyhound, and pit bull rescue adopters, respectively. The percentage of adopters from each rescue identified with taking this responsibility is shown in Figure 46.

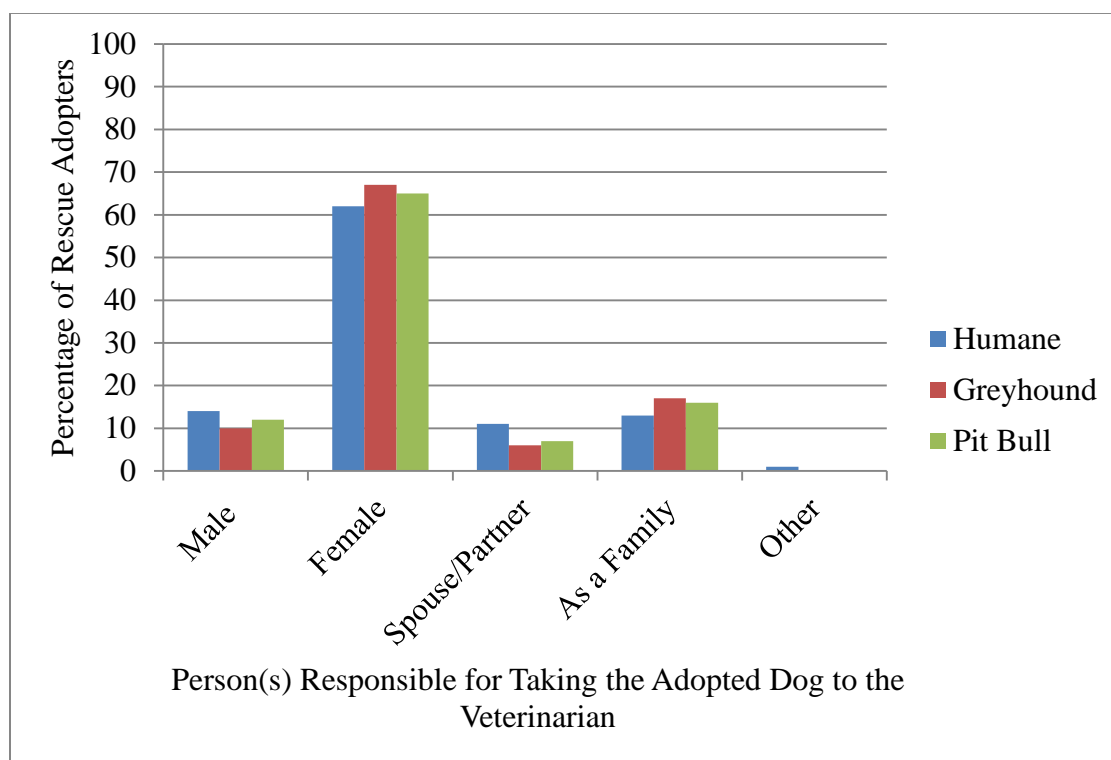


Figure 46. Comparison of rescue groups on Q43, who in the household typically has the primary responsibility for taking the adopted dog to the veterinarian.

Q44: “Do you frequently take your adopted rescue dog with you on errands?” See previous section.

Influence on a Decision to Proceed with an Expensive Medical Procedure (Q45)

Q45: “What will be the major influence (or was the major influence) on your decision to proceed with an expensive medical procedure?” The influence affecting the decision to proceed with an expensive medical procedure was evaluated with four conditions: “cost,” “quality,” “combination,” and “uncertain.” The humane society adopters, greyhound and pit bull rescue adopters rated “quality of life” as most important among 37%, 49%, and 67%, respectively, while a “combination” was most important for 54%, 48%, and 31% of the adopters, respectively. “Uncertain” rated above cost. “Cost” alone rated the lowest on its influence on a decision to proceed with an expensive medical procedure for all rescue adopters. Figure 47 shows the percentage of each rescue group and their rating of the type of influence on decisions involving expensive medical procedure.

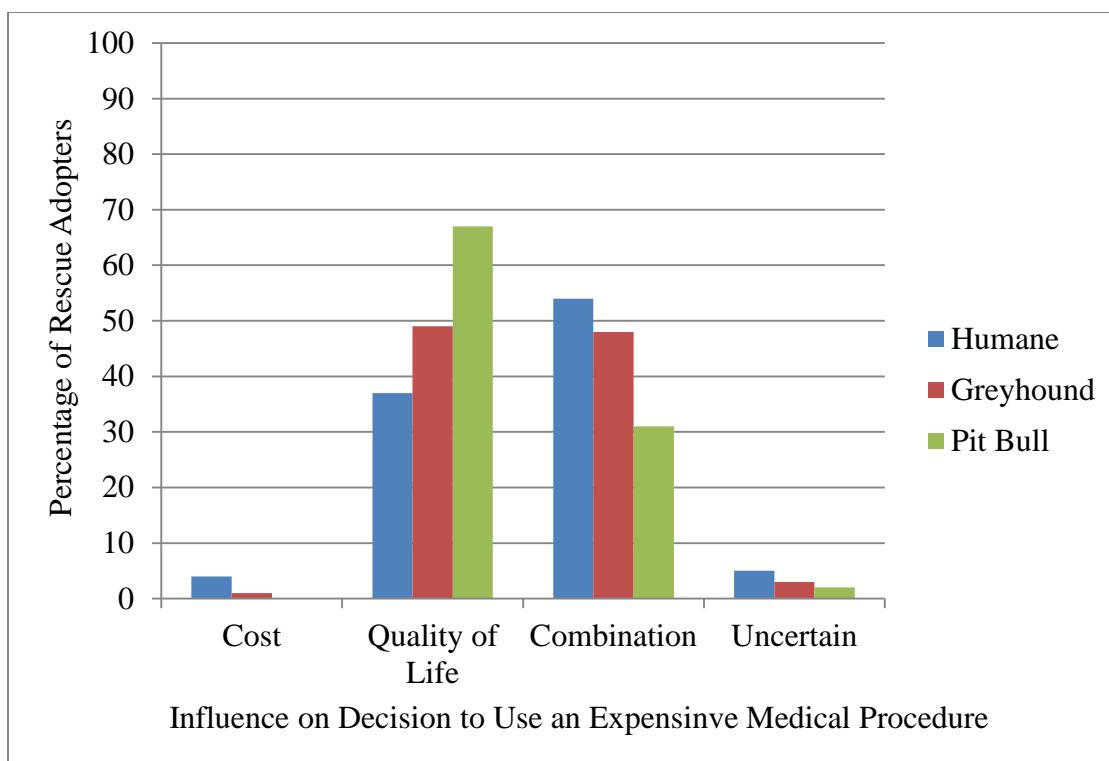


Figure 47. Comparison of rescue groups on Q45, what will be (or was) the major influence on your decision to proceed with an expensive medical procedure.

Behavior Problems Exhibited by the Adopted Rescue Dogs (Q46)

Q46: “Does you adopted rescue dog have any behavior problems?”

Rescue dog adopters had the opportunity to make more than one choice to indicate which of the problems listed were associated with their adopted dog. The adopters also had the opportunity to supply other behavior problems not listed. Table 3 provides a list of the dogs’ behavior problems identified by the rescue adopters.

Table 3.

Behavior Problems of Rescue Dogs

Behavior Problem	Rescue		
	Humane Society % (<i>n</i> = 1453)*	Greyhound % (<i>n</i> = 1450)*	Pit bull % (<i>n</i> = 159)*
None	16.7	27.2	28.3
Separation anxiety	14.3	10.9	9.4
In-house soiling	8.6	6.6	2.5
Over-excitement (people)	13.8	9.4	17.6
Over-excitement (animals)	12.9	5.7	10.1
Over-excitement (cars)	1.6	1	0
Dominance aggression	4.2	2.6	2.5
Competitive aggression	3	2.1	1.9
Excessive barking	3.5	2.4	0.6
Noise/storm phobia	5.5	15.2	5.7
Other:	16	16.8	21.4
	Resource guarding	Resource guarding	Resource guarding
		Finicky eater	
	Chewing/digging	Chewing/digging	Chewing/digging
	Coprophagy		
	Fear of strangers	Fear of strangers	
	Counter surfing	Counter surfing	
	Fear biting	Fear biting	Fear biting
	Prey drive	Prey drive	Prey drive
	Runs away		
	Submissive	Submissive	
		Sleep aggression	
		Slick surfaces	
		Claustrophobia	

Note: * The *n* reflects multiple answers to the question in addition to including a count of written comments indicating a behavior problem.

Possible Reasons for Relinquishment of the Adopted Rescue Dog (Q47)

Q47: “For what reason would you return your adopted rescue dog?” For Q47, survey respondents had the opportunity to provide a written response as well as select from a listing of behavior problems. Ambivalence about a reason that would lead to the relinquishment of their adopted dog was responded to most frequently, with 34%, 41% and 38% of the humane society (n = 621), greyhound (n = 537), and pit bull (n = 65) adopters, respectively. The primary reason for returning a dog was “aggression towards children,” with 36%, 22%, and 40% of the humane society, greyhound, and pit bull adopters, respectively. In addition, “aggression toward adults,” “aggression towards other pets,” and “moving to a place where cannot keep a dog” were responded to more often than “has become too expensive,” “didn’t meet expectations,” “health problems,” and “destructive.” See Figure 48 for a comparison of percentage responses from the three rescue group adopters to Q47. The written comments contained many statements indicating that the adopters in all three rescue groups would not think about returning their adopted dog for any reason.

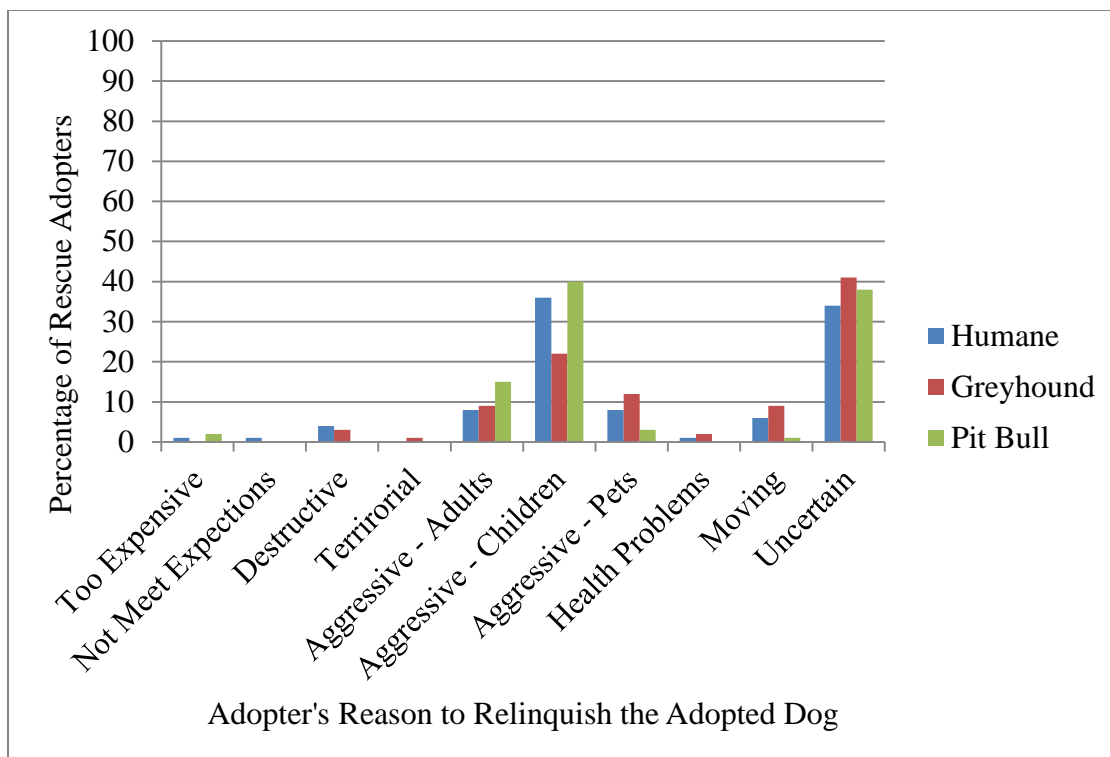


Figure 48. Comparison of rescue groups on Q47, what reason would you return your adopted dog back to the rescue organization.

Other Household Pets (Other Dogs and Cats) (Q48 – 49)

Q48: “Do you have another dog (s)? If so, where did you get your dog?”

Many rescue adopters in all three rescue groups had other dogs. The adopters had the opportunity to respond to as many categories as necessary for a total N of 2128. The categories to select the source of other adoptions were: “no other dog,” “rescue adoption,” “friend/relative,” “home bred,” “pet store,” “dog breeder,” and “other.” Most adopters had no other dog; however, where other adopted dogs were obtained varied in each rescue group. “Other” sources than the categories listed accounted for the next highest rating of sources for other adopted dogs. One of the most identified sources used

for the acquisition of other dogs was “rescue adoptions,” with 4%, 16%, and 9% of humane society, greyhound, and pit bull adopters, respectively. Obtaining a dog from a “dog breeder,” accounted for 9%, 7%, and 9% of the responses from the humane society, greyhound, and pit bull adopters, respectively. The “pet store” and “home bred” categories had the fewest responses. Figure 49 shows the percentage of sources of other dog acquisitions used by the three different groups of rescue adopters.

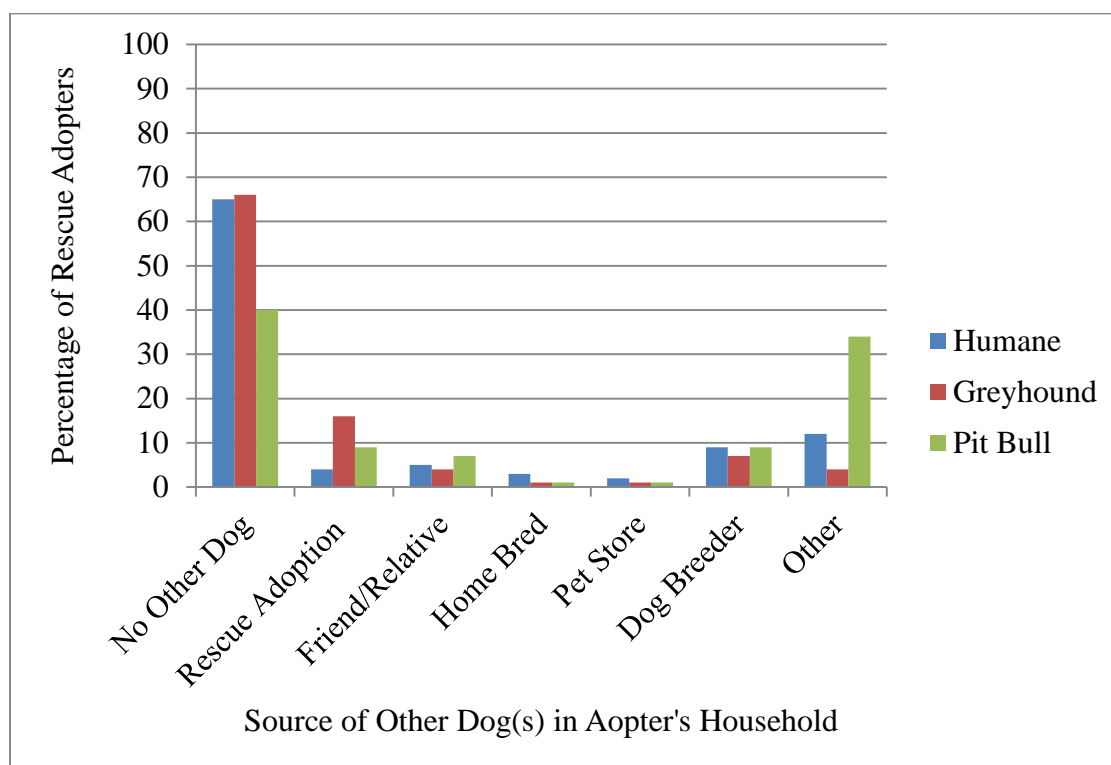


Figure 49. Comparison of rescue groups on Q48, if another dog in the household, where was it obtained.

Q49: “Do you have a pet cat?” Some dogs are known to not get along with cats.

The majority of the households of rescue dog adopters responding to the Rescue Dog

Adopter Survey indicated that they did not have a cat. A higher percentage of households

among the humane society adopters reported having a pet cat (47% of $n = 897$) than the households of the greyhound adopters (41% of $n = 1025$) or pit bull adopters (42% of $n = 136$) (Figure 50).

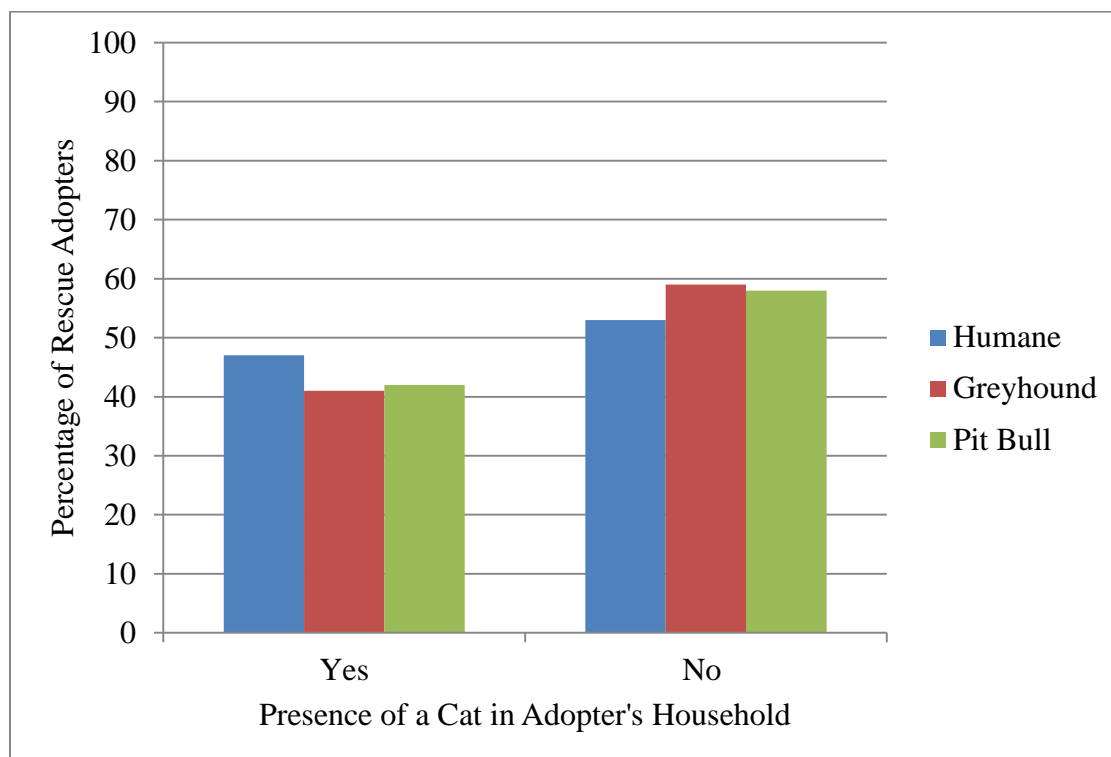


Figure 50. Comparison of rescue groups on Q49, whether there was a pet cat in the household.

Feelings About Future Rescue Adoptions (Q50)

Q50: “In the future, would you consider adopting another rescue dog?” To evaluate whether the current adopter would consider adopting again from the rescue organization, the response consisted of three alternatives: “yes,” “no,” and “uncertain.” Adopters in all rescue groups indicated they would consider adopting another dog from a rescue group in the future, with 93%, 95%, and 94% of the humane society ($n = 898$),

greyhound ($n = 1032$), and pit bull ($n = 136$) rescue adopters, respectively. Figure 51 shows the percentage of adopters in each rescue responding to the condition levels of Q50.

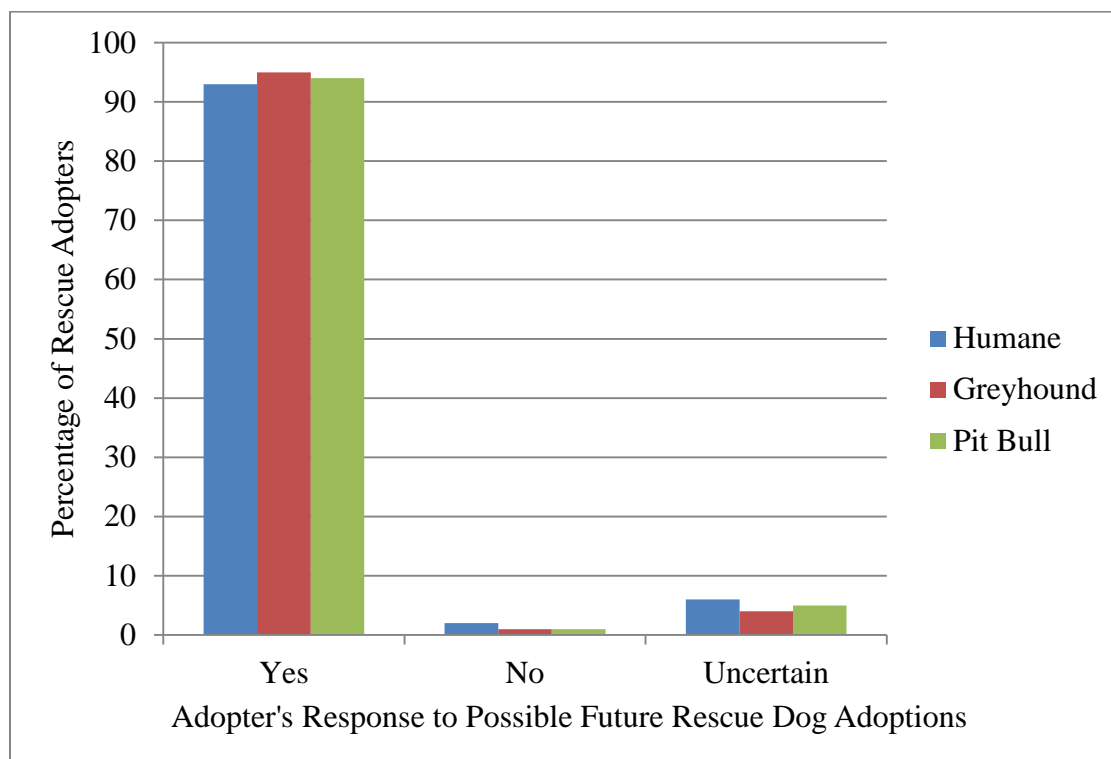


Figure 51 Comparison of rescue groups on Q50, whether the adopter would adopt another dog for a rescue in the future.

Feelings Toward the Adopted Rescue Dog (Q51 – 52)

Q51: “How do you regard your adopted rescue dog?” Whether the rescue adopter regards the adopted rescue dog as a “pet” or “a member of the family” was evaluated. Although, the majority of adopters in all three rescue groups considered their adopted dog as “a member of the family” opposed to as a “pet,” more pit bull adopters (97% of $n = 136$) considered their adopted dog a “member of the family” than humane

society adopters (91% of $n = 895$) or greyhound adopters (90% of $n = 1025$). The percentage of adopters in each rescue responding to how they feel about their adopted dog is shown in Figure 52.

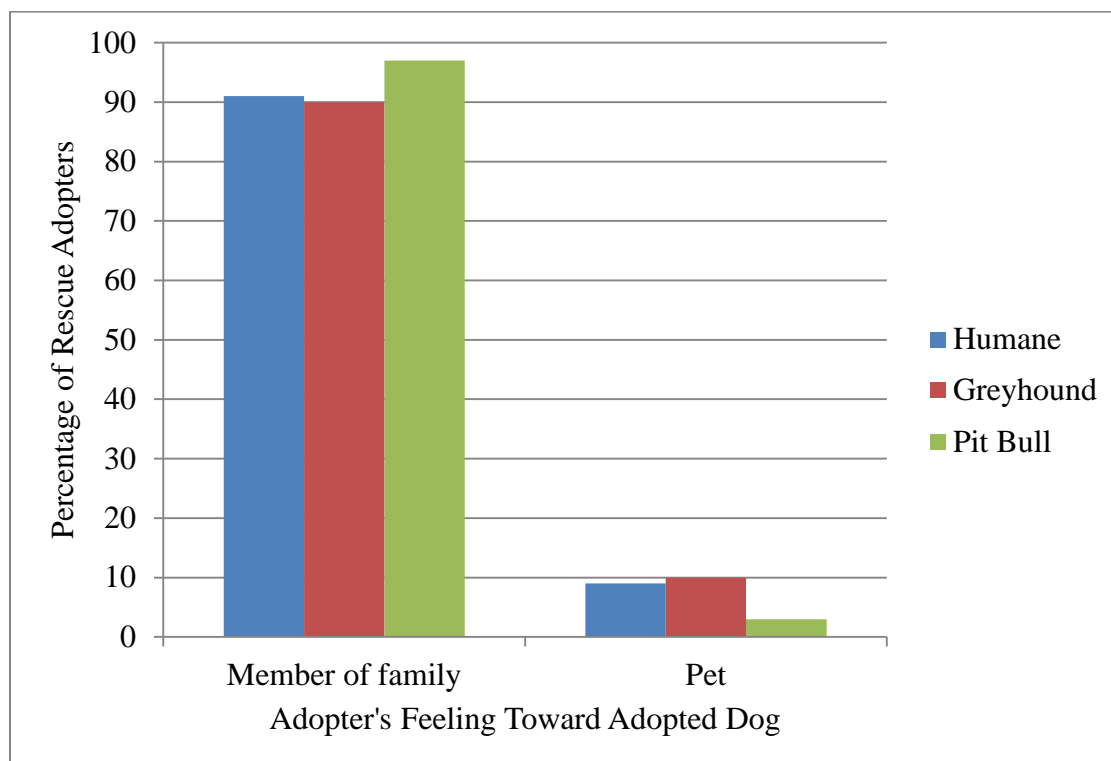


Figure 52. Comparison of rescue groups on Q51, whether the rescue adopters consider their adopted dog “a member of the family” or “a pet.”

Q52: “How do you feel about your adopted rescue dog in comparison with other dogs you have or have ever had?” More humane society and pit bull adopters had “no other dog” to compare to. For the adopters that had other companion dogs, five levels of attachment indicating how the adopter feels about their adopted rescue dog in comparison to other dogs they have had was evaluated: “much less attachment,” “somewhat less attachment,” “about the same attachment,” “somewhat more attachment,”

and “much more attachment.” Responses from both the humane society and pit bull adopters indicated they felt “about the same attachment” to their adopted rescue dog as they have felt about other dogs they have had, with 56% ($n = 889$) and 51% ($n = 137$), respectively, compared to 40% of the greyhound adopters ($n = 1027$). The greyhound adopters responded more frequently in both the categories indicating “somewhat more attachment” (22%) and “much more attachment” (35%) to their adopted greyhound than the humane society adopters (14% and 14%) and pit bull adopters (20% and 19%). The percentage of rescue adopter responses by rescue are shown in Figure 53.

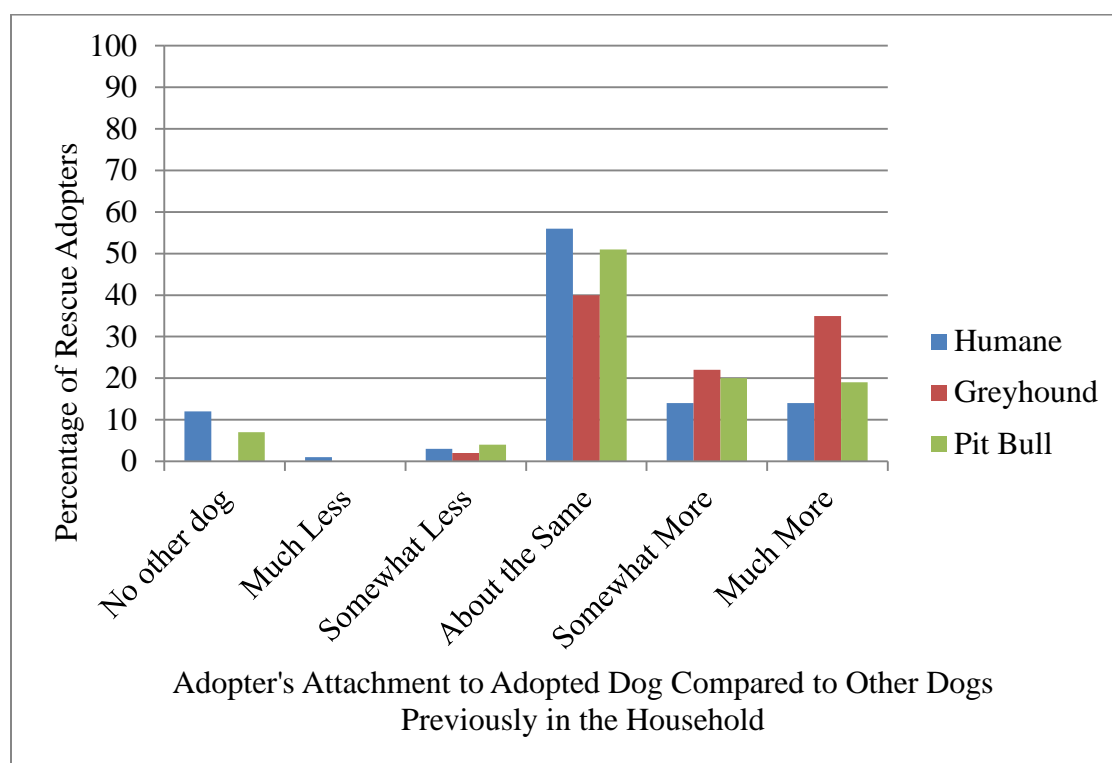


Figure 53. Comparison of rescue groups on Q52, how the adopter feels about their adopted rescue dog in comparison to other dogs they have had.

Adopter's Volunteer Characteristics (Q53 – 55)

Q53: “Have you attended a rescue adoption event with your adopted rescue dog?” The three rescue groups were compared on whether the adopters took their rescue dogs to a rescue adoption event. The greyhound adopters were the most likely to have attended a rescue event with their dog (91% of $n = 1031$), while the humane society adopters were the least likely to have attended a rescue event (24% of $n = 900$) and the pit bull adopters were in between (61% of $n = 136$). The responses to Q53 by rescue are shown in Figure 54.

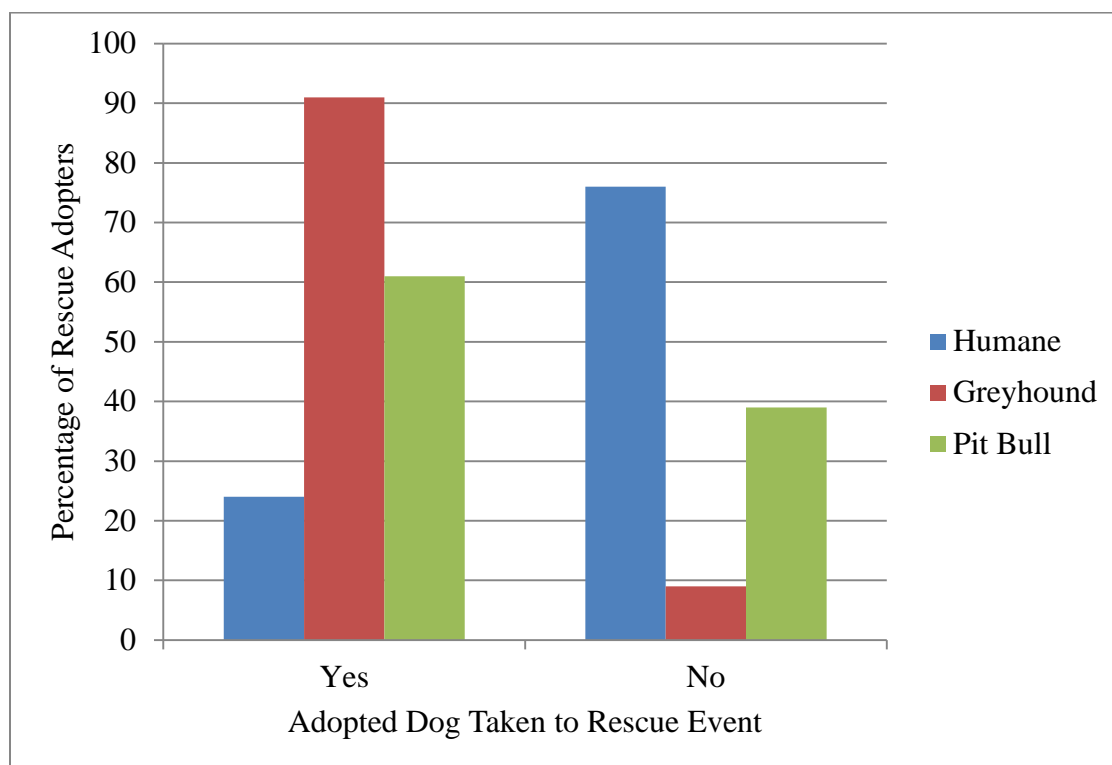


Figure 54. Comparison of rescue groups on Q53, whether the rescue adopter had attended a rescue organization event.

Q54: “Do you volunteer with a rescue group?” The volunteerism of the adopter within the rescue organization was assessed. The humane society adopters were the most likely “not to volunteer” for the rescue organization (63% of $n = 844$) and the greyhound adopters were the most likely to volunteer for the rescue organization (89% of $n = 1001$); the pit bull adopters were in between in volunteering in their rescue organization (66% of $n = 124$).

The six conditions categorizing volunteer activities of the adopters included: “financial support,” “donate items,” “foster home,” “officer/board member,” “staff information booth,” and “other.” The rescue adopters had the opportunity to respond to more than one answer as well as to provide information on the “other” activities they volunteer. “Other” activities included such activities as making items for sale to support the rescue group, rescue group event organizer, offer transportation for rescue dogs, and provide website management for the rescue group. The “other,” “financial support,” and “donate items” received the most responses from all rescue dog adopters. The level of volunteering for rescue activities is shown in Figure 55.

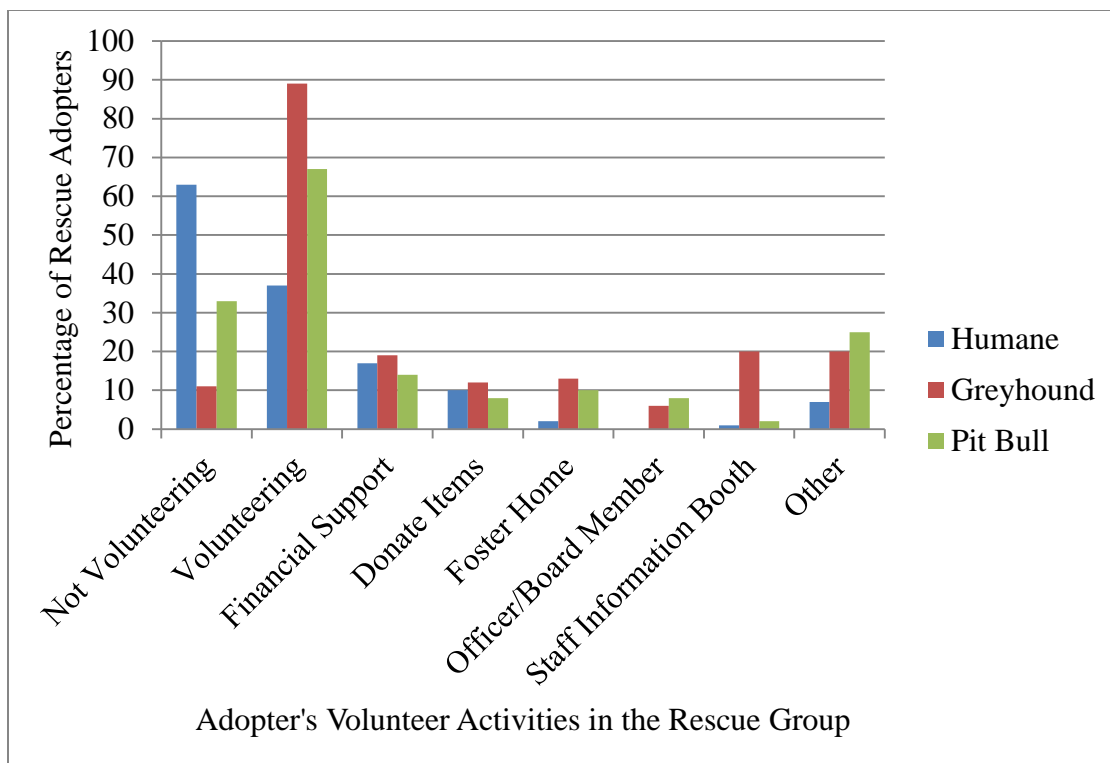


Figure 55. Comparison of rescue groups on Q54, how the rescue adopters volunteer with their rescue organization.

Q55: “Do you volunteer for other charity, community service, religious, etc., organizations?” How the rescue adopter volunteers for community organizations was evaluated. The majority of adopters in all three rescue organizations were not currently volunteering with other organizations. The humane society adopters indicated they were most involved in volunteering in the community (49% of $n = 894$), the greyhound adopters followed (46% of $n = 1032$), and the pit bull adopters were the least to indicate they volunteered in the community (39% of $n = 137$) (Figure 56).

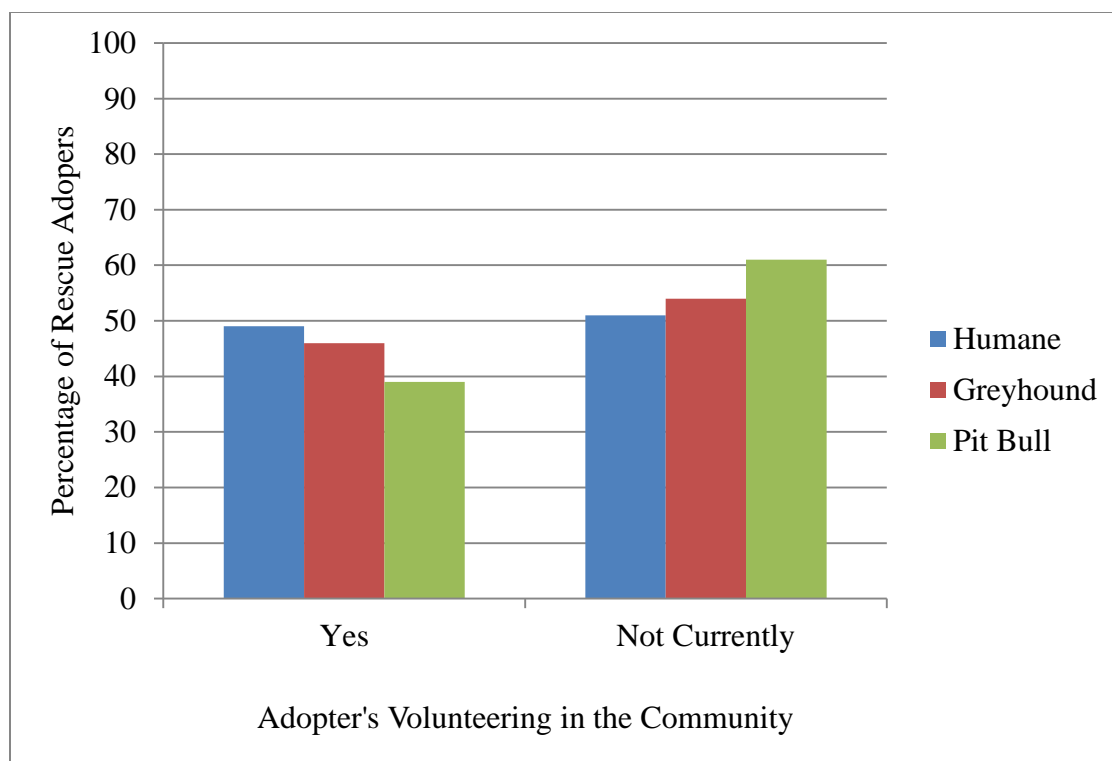


Figure 56. Comparison of rescue groups on Q55, whether the rescue adopters volunteer with other charity, community service, religious, *etc.*, organizations.

Chapter 8: Discussion

Research has suggested that the complex relationships with companion animals vary depending on a number of study population characteristics (Wilson & Netting, 1987). Different people have different connections with animals and, therefore, each situation reaps different benefits (Kennedy, 2005). Comparing different populations can reflect differences in beliefs, actions, attitudes, attachment, and decision-making processes and show how these populations and animals interact (Hutchins and Armstrong, 1994; Knight & Herzog, 2009; Lockwood, 2005; Mathews & Herzog, 1997).

Where possible, results of the current Rescue Dog Adopter Study are compared with existing research reports. Differences among the humane society, greyhound, and pit bull rescue dog adopters are identified. Subjective statements from adopter respondents about experiences with their adopted companion animal are added to illustrate the results.

Demographic Information (Q1 – 11, and Q13)

Q1: “Gender.” The current web-based survey of dog adopters did not find the respondents’ gender to vary between the three rescue groups. Women have been linked to a concern for animal issues. There was a predominance of female respondents in each rescue group and 81% overall. Similar gender responses were previously found in two of the web-based HSUS surveys reported on by Lockwood (2005). These internet surveys on animal welfare were strongly skewed to female respondents.

Differences in the attitudes and behavior of women and men towards animals have long been observed. Women comprise the majority of activists, members, and donors in the animal protection movement (Bekoff, 2010, p. 287).

Q2: “Age.” Dogs as canine companions are present in the households of people at every age. Pets can serve multiple functions at different points in the life cycle from early childhood through mature adulthood. However, studies have found their presence to vary in frequency according to the age of the pet owner. Raina *et al.* (1999) reported pet owners were most prevalent among the younger population. The American Pet Products Association (APPA) 2011-2012 National Pet Owners Survey reported pet owners were younger than the overall U.S. population as a whole. Other studies have indicated pet owners to be in their middle years. In the results of the 2011 Harris Poll, most pet owners’ were between 35 and 65 years of age. Another study found pet ownership was highest in households where a member was between 40 and 49 years of age (Salmon & Salmon, 1983). In addition, Murray, Browne, Roberts, Whitmarsh, and Gruffydd-Jones (2010) reported dogs were owned by respondents greater than 55 years of age than by respondents at other ages.

The majority of dog adopters that responded to the current survey were in the three age categories between 31 – 60 years of age (71%). It was found that pit bull adopters were the youngest, with the majority of those responding under 40 years of age (71%) and only 2% over 61 years of age. Greyhound adopters were the oldest, with the majority over 40 years of age (73%) of which 17% were over 61 years of age. Adopters from humane societies were nearly equally distributed in the four age categories below 60 years of age (20% were less than 30 years of age, 21% were 31 – 40 years of age, 25% were 41 – 50 years of age, and 23% were 51 – 60 years of age for a total of 89%).

Q3: “Household.” Most pet owners have been reported to be married or living with someone rather than living alone (Kendall, Lobao, & Sharp, 2006). The results of the APPA 2011-2012 National Pet Owners Survey, which profiles who pet owners are, indicated that pet owning households were more apt to be defined as traditional families (76%) than the U.S. population (68%). Also, the majority of pet owners were married (63%) compared to the rest of the population (55%).

In the current study on rescue dog adopters, household was defined by three categories, “single head of household,” “married/partnered,” and “other.” Similar to the results from other studies, the majority of adopters in all three rescue groups were “married/partnered” (71% of the total $N = 2062$; 69% of 905 adopters in the humane society and 72% of 1020 adopters in the greyhound rescue group and 72% of 137 adopters in the pit bull rescue group).

Q4: “Race/ethnicity.” Although keeping pets is a universal cultural phenomenon; there are, however, variations expressed from culture-to-culture in the attitudes toward pets (Wolch, Brownlow, & Lassiter, 2001) and attachment to pets (Brown, 2002). Views toward animals depend on factors such as social, cultural, and environmental dimensions of race/ethnicity (Lawrence, 1995) and are based on beliefs that are affected by cultural preferences, personal values, and moral sentiment-traits (Jasper & Nelkin, 1992). All these help determine how culturally and socially acceptable it is to have a companion animal and how owners interact with their animals (Brown, 2004).

The Pew Research Center's (2006) profile of pet owners reported that more Whites (64%) have a pet than Blacks (30%) and Hispanics (39%). According to the APPA 2011-2012 National Pet Owners Survey, 92% of U.S. pet owners are White, while 4% are Black, and another 4% are Hispanic/other. These figures have remained fairly consistent since the 2003-2004 edition of the survey. The most recent U.S. Census reports that Hispanics now make up over 16% of the population (up 43% since 2000) and Blacks make up 12% (up 12.3% since 2000). When the results of surveys of pet owners are compared with the Census results, it seems that little headway has been made in promoting pet ownership among these ethnic groups (Kaylaygian, 2011). Risley-Curtis, Holley, and Wolf (2006) explored race/ethnicity in their study of the human-animal bond and found describing oneself as White, American Indian, or both was associated with being more likely to have a companion animal.

The majority of studies involving pet ownership, interaction with pets, and the human-animal bond has been conducted among Caucasians and has included other ethnic group members only incidentally. Lockwood (2005) comments on the measures that have been used in the past to attempt to assess the 'state of the animals' in society and cautions on the underrepresentation of ethnic populations in these studies. He cites two 2004 HSUS surveys where African Americans (2% in the survey vs. 13% in the population) and Hispanic/Latinos (1% vs. 13%) were undersampled. In the current study, the number of responses from both Black/African-Americans (less than 1%) and Latino/Hispanic ethnicities (not reaching 2%) along with Asian (1%), Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander

(only five responses), and Native Indian or Alaskan Native (only nine responses) indicate their underrepresentation in adopters from all three rescue groups.

The majority of rescue dog adopters in this study identified their race/ethnicity as Caucasian (93% of the total rescue adopters; with 90% of the humane society adopters, 96% of the greyhound adopters, and 93% of the pit bull adopters). There were less than 10 responses from the “Black/African American” population among all rescue adopters. More humane society adopters indicated their race/ethnicity as “Latino/Hispanic” (3%) and “other” (3%) than the greyhound and pit bull adopters (both groups reporting 1% in each condition). Those reporting their race/ethnicity as “mixed” accounted for 4% of the humane society adopters, 1% of the greyhound adopters, and 5% of the pit bull adopters.

Q5: “Region of residence.” According to a 2011 Harris Poll of pet owners, Midwesterners (54%) and Easterners (61%) are less likely to own pets than Westerners (65%) or Southerners (66%). The results of the present analysis of the five regions of the U.S. identified the majority of rescue dog adopters responding were from the West region (55%). The pit bull adopters were most frequently from the Northeast (63%). The greyhound adopters were most often from the Southeast and West regions (27% and 28%, respectively) as well as having 99 adopters respond (10%) from Canada and other countries. The humane society adopters were predominately from the West (92%) as would be expected since three Pacific Northwest humane societies’ databases were targeted by the survey. The results of the current study can only be used to show where the respondents to this survey lived.

Q6: “Children’s age.” Pets can be part of the child’s social support system, pets can provide opportunities to educate about responsibility and compassion, and pets can provide a child with something to love and nurture (Health Arena, 2012; Wilkes, 2009). Melson’s (1988) studies emphasize the importance of children being able to nurture animals, especially for the youngest or only child, who lacks the opportunities to care for a younger sibling. Pets can also teach children empathy and compassion. A child, who learns to care for an animal and treat it kindly and patiently, may get invaluable training in learning to treat people the same way. If a pet is lost or dies, this experience can provide emotional experience with loss. Developing positive feelings about pets can contribute to a child's self-esteem and self-confidence. Positive relationships with pets can aid in the development of trusting relationships with others. A good relationship with a pet can also help children in developing non-verbal communication. Pets provide physical activity for children as well as provide comfort contact, love, loyalty, and affection (Facts for Families: Pets and children, 2008).

Although some households are more likely to own a dog than others, surveys have indicated that 62% of families in the U.S. live with pets (APPA 2011-2012 National Pet Owners Survey). In a 2013 report, pets outnumbered children four to one in American households (Halper, 02/01/2013).

A UK study of dog owning households reported the likelihood of dog ownership increased as household size increased but that dogs were less likely owned by households with children aged 10 years or younger (Murray, *et al.*, 2010). Another study in the UK also found that dogs were most common in households containing older children

(between six and 19 years of age) (Westgarth, Pinchbeck, Bradshaw, Dawson, Gaskell, & Christley, 2007). A 1999 random telephone survey of 517 City of Los Angeles households found families with young children were less likely to have dogs (or cats); but that changed as the children got older especially after age 13 (Los Angeles Almanac).

This study found a predominance of respondents from all three rescue groups reporting “no children,” indicating that in this group of rescue dog adopters most homes were currently without children present. This provides an example of Herzog’s finding that empty nesters are among those increasing in pet ownership (2010).

When children were present in the households of the respondents to the Rescue Dog Adopter Survey, the most common age category representing the youngest child in the household was “5 – 12 years” in all rescue groups, with 23% of humane society adopters compared to the other rescue groups at approximately 15% each. Young children were found in the homes of adopters in all groups; however, the pit bull adopters reported having the largest percentage of children in the “younger than 5 years of age” category (15%) compared to adopters in the humane society (6%) and the greyhound rescue (5%). The humane society and greyhound adopters in this study had a slightly larger percentage of children in the age category “13 years and over” (8% each) compared to pit bull adopters (6%).

Q7: “Education.” The results of a 2011 Harris Poll indicated most pet owners have above a high school education. The results of the current study confirm the Harris Poll results; less than 6% of the total of current survey respondents (N = 2077) had a high school education or less. The majority of the rescue adopters had a 4-year college degree

(34%) with the other predominant categories being: “Master’s degree” (22%), “some college” (19%), and a “2-year college degree” (11%). Thirty one percent of the total respondents had higher than a 4-year college degree. The percentage of responses from the adopters from the individual rescue groups was similar to the percentages in the various category totals.as

Q8: “Household Income.” Income has been included as an indicator of pet ownership because resources spent on pets represent discretionary use of disposable income. Pet owners have been reported to have higher incomes than people who do not have pets (Albert & Bulcroft, 1987). The results of a 2011 Harris Poll indicated more pets reside in households with incomes above \$35,000. Higher income households reported higher percentages of pet ownership: 65% for \$35,000 – 49,999, 60% for \$50,000 – 74,999, 66% for \$75,000 – 99,999, and 68% for above \$100,000. Only 56% of households reporting an income of less than \$34,000 reported having a pet. Results of a survey by the Pew Research Center (2006) indicated nearly seven-in-ten (69%) adults with an annual family income of \$100,000 or more had a pet, compared with fewer than half (45%) of adults with an income below \$30,000. These survey results provide support for higher income households being most apt to own a pet.

The majority of rescue dog adopters responding to the current survey indicated their income was between “\$50,000 – 99,999.” More of the humane society adopters indicated their income was “below \$30,000” (12%) than the greyhound adopters (8%) or pit bull adopters (7%). The greatest percentage of greyhound rescue adopters were in the category of earnings “\$100,000 - \$149,999” (22%) compared to humane society and pit bull adopters (at 16% each). While the highest percentage of adopters with an income

“greater than \$150,000” were from the pit bull rescue (13%) compared to the humane society (7%) and the greyhound (11%) rescue groups.

Q 9 & 10: “Respondent’s and Spouse/Partner’s Employment.” Employment characteristics are not generally evaluated in pet related surveys. The majority of rescue dog adopters reported full-time employment for themselves and their spouse/partner (62% and 65%, respectively; with 61%, 62%, and 74% for the humane society, greyhound, and pit bull survey respondents and 61%, 67%, and 75% for their spouses/partners, respectively). Twelve percent of all the respondents and 7% of their spouse/partners were part-time employees. Of all rescue adopters, 11% of the respondents and 10% of their spouses/partners were retired. Of the adopters in the greyhound rescue group, 9% of the respondents and 6% of their spouses/partners were reported as retired compared to the humane society where 6% of the respondents and 4% of their spouses/partners were reported as being retired. No pit bull adopter indicated they were retired and only one pit pull adopter indicated their spouse/partner was retired. This relates to the finding that greyhound adopters were the oldest and the pit bull adopters were the youngest adopters to respond to the survey.

Q11: “Residence.” The APPA 2011-2012 National Pet Owners Survey found approximately one-quarter of the U.S. population as well as one-quarter of pet owners to live in rural, small towns. A 2006 nationwide Pew survey of 3,014 adults also found rural residents (65%) were more likely than suburbanites (57%) or city folks (51%) to have a pet.

In contrast to previous findings, the results of the current survey found that only the pit bull adopters most resembled the national trend, with 27% of them living in rural areas compared to 16% of the humane society adopters and 17% of the greyhound adopters. The majority of rescue dog adopters from all three rescue groups responding to the current survey indicated they lived in a “suburban” area (57% overall; 49% for humane society adopters, 63% for greyhound adopters, and 59% for pit bull adopters). More humane society dog adopters lived in an urban area (35% vs. 20% for greyhound adopters and 14% for pit bull adopters).

Q13: “Did you grow up with a pet dog in the household?” Owning pets as a child increases the likelihood of pet ownership later on (Paul & Serpell, 1993). Whether the mother had pets during her childhood has also been a strong predictor of later pet ownership in UK households (Westgarth, Heron, Ness, Bundred, Gaskell, Coyne, German, McCune, & Dawson, 2010). In addition, people have been found to gravitate toward the animals they were raised with (Herzog, 2010). Thus, growing up with a pet dog would suggest continued dog ownership as well as the breed of dog selected.

The majority of all rescue dog adopter respondents grew up with a pet dog in their household (82% of $N = 2070$). The percentage of adopters growing-up with a dog in the individual rescue groups varied little; 85% of the humane society adopters ($n = 900$), 81% of the greyhound adopters ($n = 1033$), and 79% of the pit bull adopters ($n = 137$).

Resources Used for Adoption Information (Q12 – Q14)

The resources used for information on rescue dog adoption were evaluated by Q12 and Q14. Behaviors, including adopting a companion animal, are conducted in ways

that fit into the expectations of themselves and of the person's image to others. Social learning theory (Bandura, 1977) states that models influence decision making. These models influence an individual's motivation to act in a certain way and may be part of the decision to adopt a dog from a rescue organization. Identity theories may also come into play in influencing the decision to adopt a rescue dog. Pet owners often regard their pets as extensions of their own selves or parts of their identities (Beck & Katcher, 1996; Belk, 1996; Hirschman, 1994).

Ramirez (2006) reports that people often use their dogs as displays or props in order to confirm gender qualities. He found that relationships with dogs emulated human relationships especially in stereotypes and expectations. Men are more typically involved in physical activity with their dogs. The mere company of a dog is a reflection of masculinity, "a dog is man's best friend." Women, on the other hand, often describe their dogs as a second set of kids. As such, women's discussions of their dog-owning practices reproduce the image of women as docile, family oriented, and nurturing.

The type and temperament of the companion animals one chooses and the instrumental purpose for which it is bred are also some aspects of identity symbolization. Powerful and aggressive dogs such as Rottweilers, German shepherds, and pit bulls not only have a protective function but also reflect their owners' desires to present social selves which are correspondingly aggressive (Fogle, 1984).

Q12: "Where did you learn about adopting your pet dog?" The pit bull was once considered the "all-American dog" and the dog that helped raise the children (Grossman, May 4, 2011). Some changes in attitudes, opinions, and policy are driven by

widespread media coverage of aggression including dog-bites and dog-bite-related human fatalities attributed to a small number of breeds (mainly pit bulls and Rottweilers). New laws have been put in place in some areas that go as far as outlawing the ownership of breed-specific dogs. These regulations have been criticized as an in-appropriate application of an extremely rare event (less than 0.0001% of dog attacks) to the formation of public policy against these breeds (Sacks, *et al.*, 2000). This negative attention has an effect on the presence of these dogs as animal companions. Pit bull rescue organizations responded and have become involved in rehoming the pit bull type dog.

Greyhounds have also received media attention but in regard to anti-cruelty statutes to protect them from abuse and mistreatment in racing conditions. There are cases of abuse but for the most part their care and training cannot be neglected in order to maintain their athletic performance. There is a concern about what happens to the racing greyhound that has completed its racing career. For many, the fate of the retired racer has been death. Now following racing, the racing industry and private organizations have gotten involved with adoption programs to aid in making a 'forever home' for retired racers (NGA, n.d.).

Humane society shelters have been around for a long time. They are a well-known resource for placing all types of homeless animals (Animal Shelter Org, n.d.).

The dog selected to adopt can vary for many reasons, one of which is breed preference. The results of a survey on role model and information source influence on breed loyalty indicated that some of the major influencers of breed loyalty are parents, breeders, other pet owners, and the trainability aspects of the dog. Interestingly, the

results also indicated that media, especially T.V. advertisements are not the most effective way to influence a consumer's purchase intentions (Clark & Page, 2009).

Most of the adopters responding to the Rescue Dog Adopter Survey indicated they were guided in their adoption decision by a "friend/relative," "personal research," and "internet use." Which resource was of the greatest influence varied by rescue. The humane society adopters used the "internet" and "personal research" equally (35% each). The greyhound adopters received most of their information on rescue adoption by attending a greyhound "adoption event" (38%). The pit bull adopters relied most on the "internet" for their information on rescue adoption (64%). Rescue dog adopters responding to the current survey indicated they relied on media ("radio, T.V.," and "written advertisements") very little as resources that influenced their adoption decision.

Q14: "Who was the most instrumental in selecting your adopted dog?"

According to Bandura's social learning theory (1977), anyone the individual comes in contact with, either directly or indirectly, can influence decisions or behaviors. Flemming and Petty (1999) further corroborate the finding that influence from other people affects personal opinions. People, therefore, often behave to match the opinions they think others have of them. Many behaviors are influenced and conducted without conscious awareness or intention. While most dog adoption decisions are made thoughtfully and with considerable information sought, some of the dog adoption decisions are based on emotions. Decisions attributed to "self" may then be initially primed by others so adopters unconsciously engage in a behavior (Chartrand & Bargh, 1999).

People are encouraged to take responsibility for their own actions. People interpret their own overt behavior rationally in the same way they attempt to explain the behavior of others (Bem, 1972). In their survey on dog adoption decisions and definition of self, Tesfom and Birch (n.d.) asked dog owners who most influenced the decision to acquire or adopt their most recent dog. Overwhelmingly, the dog owner was found to be the primary decision maker in acquiring the dog as well as choosing the dog breed. However, the dog owner's prior experience with dogs was found to be the primary influence on decisions about whether to acquire a dog. Influence attributed to spouses, significant others, and children were low and accounted for 25% and 8% of the decision outcome, respectively.

When "self," "spouse/partner," "children," and "other" were investigated to determine who had the most influence on the rescue dog adoption decision in the current study, the respondents indicated that they ("self") had the most influence (78%) on deciding to adopt their companion dog from a rescue (75% of humane society adopters, 81% of greyhound adopters, and 82% of pit bull adopters). Overall, the "spouse/partner" category accounted for 14% of the total influence on the decision to adopt, while "children" accounted for 5% and "other" accounted for 3%. The humane society and greyhound adopters indicated that "spouse/partner" was second to "self" in influencing the adoption decision. The pit bull adopters credited the "other" condition more than the humane society or the greyhound rescue adopters.

Other influences that have influenced pet ownership have also been investigated. Some of the other factors that have been found to influence adults' decisions concerning

pet ownership have included size of household, marital status, presence of children, occupational prestige, and past pet experiences (Feldmann, 1979).

One humane society adopter made a comment reflecting on the decision to adopt a rescue dog by saying:

“We moved to a larger place with a good sized backyard. We had a choice between spending money on a huge flat screen TV or getting a dog. We chose to add another member to our family, and we can’t even express just how much joy she’s brought to our lives. Best decision we’ve ever made.”

Influences on the Adoption Decision (Q15 – 22)

Q15: “Having a purebred dog influenced my decision to adopt a rescue dog.”

Breed has been studied as an important factor in dog adoption. Purebred dogs can carry a high price tag and having the means to acquire a purebred may influence where a canine companion is looked for. Most specialty breed rescue groups put prospective pet owners through a rigorous application process. It can take anywhere from a few days to a couple of months and cost between \$100 to \$500 (Specialty-breed groups have a rigorous application process, 2010). From the humane society, most – but not all – animals are available to go home on the same day. Their cost is dependent on the services provided and often the length of time the dog has been in the shelter (The adoption process, n.d.). Twenty-five of dogs for adoption in animal shelters are purebred (HSUS, May 3, 2013).

In a study of the factors predicting adoption versus euthanasia, DeLeeuw (2010) found that purebred status had the largest influence relative to six other variables used to predict whether dogs were adopted or euthanized. The dog owner’s prior experience with

dogs has been found to be the primary influence on decisions about choosing a dog breed (Tesfom & Birch, n.d.).

Results of the current study indicated a significant difference among the adopters in the three rescue groups. The humane society adopters were the most likely to be influenced by the opportunity to adopt a purebred dog. The breed specific adopters in this study were the least likely to indicate that their adoption decision was influenced by a desire to adopt a purebred dog; however, the greyhound adopters were more apt to indicate that the ability to adopt a purebred dog influenced them more than the pit bull adopters.

An estimated 25% of the dogs in shelters are purebred (May 3, 2013). Several humane society adopters made comments on their ability to find and adopt a purebred from the humane society:

“I wanted to rescue a border collie and I found a very nice puppy.”

“We had specific requirements for a purebred Pekinese puppy from a rescue. We found her at the shelter.”

“We wanted only a Pomeranian and couldn’t believe we found such a beauty and the age we wanted”

“We adopted because the dog was a Rottweiler and we loved her personality.”

“I was lucky to adopt a six month old Samoyed from the shelter. He has turned into the most wonderful dog in the world. I love him so much!”

“Adopting a greyhound was not my plan. I went to get a pair of mutts from a no-kill shelter. My greyhound adopted me. She is now a very big part of my life.”

Another humane society adopter indicated a desire for a non-purebred by saying:

“I don’t understand why anyone would want a purebred.
Why not get one that is unique and needs a home?”

Greyhound adopters often indicate that they know they wanted a greyhound long before they adopted one:

“Ever since I was a child, I liked the look of sight hounds. After college I actually went to the dog track in Florida for entertainment with friends. It was there that I found that the dogs were put down after their career was over. I vowed then that I would rescue a race track dog. Fast forward many years – when I was finally in a place where I could have a dog – I researched adoption groups and greyhounds and adopted my girl. I will probably never own another breed of dog. Retired racers are just magnificent, patient, loving, docile, creatures who adapt to home life well.”

“I have grown up with dogs and love them all; however, I can now say that greyhounds are my favorite. It’s just something about those eyes and their sweet, sweet heart.”

Pit bull adopters indicate they have found their ideal dog by saying:

“I will never ever own another breed of dog. These guys are my heart and my life. I am so very grateful to have discovered pit bulls!!!!”

Q16: “Adopting a rescued dog helped save a life.” Attitudes represent a positive, negative, or neutral feeling regarding animal welfare statements. Despite the fact that the development of animal welfare standards is an ongoing process, the general public has been found to be generally uninformed about the treatment of animals in specific instances. Attitudes toward animal handling are often based on media coverage of exaggerated situations and little understanding of the actual practices (Edwards & Schneider, 2005).

Despite the recognition and appreciation of the human-animal bond, there is a paradox in the treatment of canine companions. Animal shelters in the United States euthanize an estimated 2.7 dogs and cats annually (HSUS, May 3, 2013). Dog fighting, although outlawed, has reached epidemic proportions in some areas of the country (Gibson, 2005). Episodes of animal cruelty and neglect are reported with alarming frequency in the media; so frequently that discussions of the connection between animal cruelty and human violence have become daily parlance (Case, 2008).

It has been shown that women are more supportive of animal rights than are men (Gallup & Beckstead, 1988; Galvin & Herzog, 1992; Kruse, 1999; Nibert, 1994; Peek, Bell, & Dunham, 1996; Plous, 1998; Uyeki, 2000). Research has also suggested that women have greater concern for animal well-being than men (Peek, Dunham, & Dietz, 1997; Kendall, Lobao, & Sharp, 2006). Other research has found that women have greater bonds with companion animals than men. Kellert and Berry (1987) reported women to have greater attachment to pets and are, therefore, less likely to support activities that inflict harm on wildlife. Men, on the other hand, are more likely to hunt and to support activities related to the domination and exploitation of nature.

A gender difference in attitudes toward animals can be identified beginning from early studies on attitudes toward animal research (Gallup & Beckstead, 1988). The predominance of female respondents to surveys of animal welfare has suggested greater support for animal organizations by women (in Lockwood, 2005). In studies related to animal protectionism, Herzog (2007) also found about 75% of the grass roots animal activists were women. He also found the proportion of animal hoarders to be two-thirds

to three-quarters women. Among adults charged with animal cruelty, men outnumber women across most types of abuse.

Female association with animal welfare issues is confirmed by other studies. Heleski, Mertig, and Zanella (2004) found females had scores on an attitude scale indicating more empathy toward animal issues. They determined being female is among the strongest predictors of empathy toward animals. Mathews and Herzog (1997) used the Sixteen Personality Factor Inventory (16PF) and an Animal Attitudes Scale (AAS) developed by Herzog with 99 college students to assess individual differences in attitudes towards treatment of animals. Individuals with high scores on the 16PF were characterized as tender-minded, artistic, and intuitive. The results from the study indicated female subjects scored high on the 16PF and had significantly higher AAS scores than male subjects. Others have attributed feeling types to make decisions based on compassion and empathy (Broida, Tingley, Kimball, & Miele, 1993). The results of a survey of college students by Eldridge and Gluck (1996) also reported gender differences in attitudes toward animals. Women were more likely than men to support tenets of the animal protection movement. Likewise, women were more likely than men to favor increased restrictions on animal use and were more concerned than men about the suffering of research animals. Their analysis suggested that women endorsed items reflecting a general caring for animals, were more willing than men to make personal sacrifices such as giving up meat and medical benefits in an effort to protect animals, and were more likely than men to question the use of animals in research on scientific grounds. Men, on the other hand, tended to emphasize the potential benefits arising from

the use of animals in research. Some of the gender differences in attitudes toward animals have been postulated to be due to socialization throughout the life course, household care responsibilities, and work-related activities which confer different worldviews about animals for women and men (Warren, 2000).

Minorities, the less educated, those employed outside of the home, those in the lower income brackets, and the young have been found to be more likely supportive of animal rights (Franklin, Tanter, & White, 2001; Nibert, 1994; Peek, Bell, & Dunham., 1996; and Uyeki, 2000; Kendall, Lobao, & Sharp, 2006). Studies tend to find Whites are least likely to be concerned with animal well-being relative to other groups (Nibert, 1994). Experiences of socially marginalized groups may make them more empathetic to animals. Other features of the stereotypical profile of animal rights supporters indicated by previous research include being middle-aged, well educated (at least a bachelor's degree), and upper-middle class (Galvin & Herzog, 1992; Lowe & Ginsberg, 2002; Plous, 1998).

Adopting a rescue dog is currently a popular thing to do; it carries with it a statement of concern about animals and functions as an embodiment of a cultural value. Adopting a rescue dog is considered as the most legitimate and socially acceptable way to acquire a dog and it confers a social status and an identity on the rescue adopter. By adopting a dog, a homeless pet is helped and the adopter is recognized for the morally-superior way to acquire a pet, which sets a great example for others (About.com.dogs, Dog Basics, n.d.).

All responding to the current survey of rescue dog adopters strongly felt their rescue dog adoption helped to save a life; however, there was a significant difference between all three rescue group adopters. The pit bull adopters were the more apt to feel their adoption “helped save a life” than the greyhound adopters; the humane society adopters also rated to help save a life lower than the pit bull adopters but higher than the greyhound adopters. The majority of the study respondents were female, but when the interaction of gender with rescue group and the response to Q16 was evaluated, there were no significant difference between the rescue adopters. The interaction of age and rescue group on the responses to Q16 was also evaluated and was found to be nonsignificant.

Although the adoption of a rescue dog was felt to “help save a life” by the majority of all survey respondents, to some it was a two-way street. Humane society adopters made these comments:

“Most importantly an innocent animal’s life is saved. They get a second chance at a forever home and you get a new best friend.”

“We love Angel very much and are so glad to have given her a 3rd chance!”

Several greyhound adopters indicated:

“I thought I was rescuing my first greyhound, but it turns out that these dogs rescued me ... they have been my greatest source of comfort and joy.”

“People are always praising me for saving a greyhound ... I didn’t sacrifice anything ... I just got a gift that enriches our lives.”

“The life that was saved by this adoption was mine.”

Pit bull adopters also have positive feelings about their adopted rescue dog:

“Adopting a rescue dog is wonderful. They really seem to know what you have done for them.”

“There is nothing more satisfying than helping to save lives.”

“She has saved my life, just as I saved his.”

Q17: “My adopted dog provides me with good opportunities to meet and interact with new people.” Social capital is a multidimensional term that includes the quality and quantity of social relations that facilitate coordinated actions and enable participants to pursue shared goals (Lochner, Kawachi, & Kennedy, 1999). It, therefore, is a potential mechanism by which pets can exert an influence on human interaction. Pets act as instigators of social ties by enticing people outside their homes and into public spaces where they are likely to meet other people, some of whom may share their own characteristics as fellow pet owners in their surrounding neighborhoods. This may increase the frequency of social interactions of community members, which further increases feelings of trust, reciprocity, safety and sense of community (Hunt, Hart, & Gomulkiewicz, 1992; McNicholas and Collis, 2000; Wood, Giles-Corti, & Bulsara, 2005; Wood, Giles-Corti, Bulsara & Bosch, 2007).

As early as 1979, Swedish researches reported 83% of those questioned agreed with the statement “my dog gives me the opportunity of talking with other people” (Adell-Bath, Krook, Sanqvist, & Skarlitze). Greater than one-third (37%) of those surveyed in a study conducted by Cain (1983) also indicated companion animals aided them in making friends or increased their social contacts (1985). Dogs, like a wide

variety of other objects, act as sources of “mutual openness” (Goffman, 1963, p.131-139) and a non-threatening, neutral, and accessible focus of interaction between strangers. Lockwood (1983) found that people pictured with animals were judged by undergraduate respondents to be more sociable, content, and easygoing. The sociologist C H, Cooley (1964) is best known for his concept of the “looking glass self,” which is the concept that a person's self grows out of society's interpersonal interactions and the perceptions of others. The company of companion animals, therefore, can increase the quantity and enhance the quality of self-defining encounters and reinforce and extend key aspects of self into public places. In yet another way, companion animals facilitate social interaction and confirm self-definition by the use of companion animals as shared possessions, activities, and interests as central elements in extensive social rituals and organizations. Dog shows, breed specific organizations, and animal activity competitions extend the social interactions of pet enthusiasts (Veevers, 1985).

It is not doubted that pet ownership provides potential opportunities for social interactions (Hart, 2000; McNicholas, Collis, 2000). Companion dogs attract attention and increase social visibility, especially to other pet owners (Knight & Edwards, 2008). The presence of a companion can make their owners seem more appealing. People accompanied by dogs have been found to be positively associated perceptions of neighborhood friendliness; dogs have been shown to increase the likelihood of their owners meeting other people both within their immediate street and the wider suburb (Gunter, 2005).

Pets can serve as a neutral topic for conversation with other dog owners as well as in contacts with those without a dog (Wood *et al.*, 2007). Robins, Sanders, and Cahill (1991) suggest that canine companions are an antidote for human anonymity in public places. The presence of a dog may indicate a similarity between individuals and provide a resource for focused interaction and conversation.

It is as if the presence of a dog opens the person for interaction and transforms the situation. Geries-Johnson and Kennedy (1995) found individuals are perceived as more likeable when accompanied by a dog than by another animal or by no animal. Nicholas and Collis (2000) studied interactions between strangers meeting someone with or without a dog over a range of daily activities in which a dog could be included. Being accompanied by a dog increased the frequency of social interactions, especially interactions with strangers. They conducted a second study where they varied the dress of the dog handler with or without a dog. Although there were significantly more interactions when the participant was smartly dressed, the greatest effect was between the “dog present” and “no dog present” conditions irrespective of the handler's dress.

In another study, Sanders (2003) indicates that dogs offer strangers an easy and nonthreatening focus for short-term conversation. People generally do not start a conversation with those they do not know. This widely observed prohibition against talking to unacquainted others makes interaction in public places difficult to initiate and even more difficult to sustain. This prohibition is not generally as strictly observed when a person is accompanied by a dog. Saunders also found that individuals in public places

with dogs have both more and longer conversations with others than do those without dogs.

People in Western society describe scenes featuring animals as less threatening than ones without animals. A love of animals is highly thought of in our society and people with pets are generally perceived as nicer than average. People with pets are more approachable and animals can serve as a catalyst to conversation (Netting, Wilson & New, 1987). Pets are easily a part of small talk and may easily serve as an ice breaker (Messant, 1981; Missel, 2001; Wood *et al.*, 2007).

Like most parents with children, Kennedy (2005) found that most of the humans with dog companions she interviewed were willing to discuss their relationships with their dogs. For this reason, this increased interaction has been called a rippling effect and the animal referred to as a social lubricant (Podberscek, Paul, & Serpell, 2000).

An increasing number of dogs are being trained to assist individuals with a wide range of disabilities. There are social and emotional benefits to loving and caring for another creature and having that affection returned. The presence of a friendly animal helps to ease anxiety; this involvement can improve and decrease aggressive behaviors. Pets can also improve social interactions by providing relationship skills that increase social confidence for those with disabilities (Fine, 2000).

Just as pets can facilitate social interaction, they can also inhibit it. Some pets are deliberately chosen for their effectiveness of keeping people away. Pets can also be used as excuses to avoid dealing with people (Gunter, 2005).

In this study, a statistically significant difference was found among the groups of rescue dog adopters. The humane society adopters significantly differed from both the greyhound and the pit bull adopters. Fewer adopters in the humane society group than in the greyhound or pit bull rescue groups “strongly agreed” that they adopted their dog to increase social interaction, 23%, 50%, and 49%, respectively. More humane society adopters were also “neutral” regarding the social facilitation reason for adopting their dog.

Although adopters from all three rescue groups indicated they did not select their dogs for their role as a social facilitator, many adopters did indicate that their dog has increased their interaction with others. Humane society adopters indicated:

“People stop in the street to admire or comment on my dog.”

“Walking my dog has led me to know many of my dog-walking neighbors and to have friends I otherwise likely would never have met.”

Greyhound adopters indicated:

“Getting involved with greyhounds and all of the wonderful people I have met has been one of the most rewarding things I have ever done. I cannot imagine my life without at least one of these magnificent animals.”

“People driving through the neighborhood actually pull their cars over and stop to talk when I walk multiple greyhounds (two to three usually). People out walking always stop and talk and ask questions about them.”

“Retired racers are the best kept secret of the dog world. I would never want to be without at least one. Through our greyhounds, we have met our neighbors and have made many new friends.”

“Greyhounds make wonderful pets! We have made so many wonderful greyhound friends over the years. We have reunions even.”

“My beautiful brindle girl elicits so many comments from passers-by that it is a rare day when someone doesn’t stop me to ask about her and/or play with her. A neighbor accompanied me to a pet event in my area and couldn’t believe how many people stopped me to ask about my greyhound. It took us about an hour to walk two city blocks.”

“When you walk down the street it is like driving the most expensive sports car.”

Several pit bull adopters indicated that they use their interactions with other as a means to educate them about the pit bull breed:

“People are acutely aware of Trever’s breed; all too often they cross the street when we approach. Luckily, my other dog (Golden Retriever) causes people to stop and wonder how a Pit Bull and Golden Retriever can house together. The fact is, Trever reveres Bradley. Bradley is truly the alpha and when people realize this, they question (perhaps just the slightest) the notion that Pit Bulls are inherently unsafe and aggressive dogs. I like to think that Trever and I represent the goodness in Pit Bulls and perhaps may one day alter the perception of the Pit Bull breed. I always encourage friends to give Pit Bulls just a chance. I have nothing but love and praise for my Pit Bull. Pit Bulls are beautiful, loving creatures, and people need to stop brutalizing this breed!”

“We try to promote positive experiences for others we meet that are not familiar with the breed. However, it is a constant struggle to educate and make people feel comfortable, especially those with children, in our household just due to the breed of dogs we have. Pit bulls are wonderful companions and give much joy and love.”

Others indicated that their adopted pit bull was credited for the start of a long term relationship:

“I met my fiancé when we adopted our pit bulls.”

Q18: “I adopted my dog for companionship.” People seek relationships with animals for many reasons, chief among them is for companionship and love (Harris, 1983; Edenburg, Hart, & Bouw, 1994). Companion animals provide a supplement to interactions with other people. Most pet owners consider their animal to be a member of the family or to a lesser degree a close friend. From a symbolic perspective, pets may well represent the lost relationship of the mother to infant; a relationship that is characterized by complete and total devotion, love, and adoration. It is their role as companion that pet owners cite as the primary reason for owning pets (Gunter, 2005; Lagoni, Butler, & Hetts, 1994). Companionship is considered to outweigh the cost of maintaining and taking care of the companion animal (Netting, Wilson, & New, 1987).

In their capacity as a companion, pets are relied upon to meet numerous social needs. As companions, animals may assist in minimizing loneliness (Netting, Wilson & New, 1987). Pets can help bridge the developmental transitions that occur at varying times and stages in our lives (Friedmann, 1988). Companion animals are of special value to the elderly and others feeling lonely (Edenbury, Hart, & Bouw, 1994). Pets are a source of support during illness and can create links to people who have died (Toray, 2004). For persons with disabilities, pets often serve as a bridge to the outside world by functioning as the person’s ears and eyes or by increasing an owner’s ability to be mobile (Hart, 2000).

Despite the positive aspects of companion animals, people are also known to suffer inconveniences related to pets. People have curtailed visits in order to return home to check on the pet. Pets have even been the reason behind a severed a relationship because another individual does not like the pet (Voith, 1985).

In the current study, a significant difference was found among the adopters of the three rescue groups on Q18, “my adopted dog provides me with companionship.” Both the humane society and greyhound adopters significantly differed from the pit bull adopters. Although, most adopters “strongly agreed” with the statement; more pit bull adopters “strongly agreed” with the statement (72.4%) than adopters from the humane society (58.5%) or greyhound rescue groups (57.8%). More humane society and greyhound adopters “agreed” with the statement (35.7% and 32.9%, respectively) than the pit bull adopters (22%).

Comments from the rescue adopters about the companionship they receive from their adopted dog include these from the humane society adopters:

“We didn’t adopt a pet, we found a friend.”

“I wanted a companion animal and that is exactly what I got. My dog and I are very bonded. She is a loyal companion and always by my side.”

“Marlee is my best friend and a loyal family member. I couldn’t have a better friend.”

“As a military wife, I spend a lot of time alone. Shane has become my life and my favorite companion.”

Greyhound adopters also indicated that they have found a companion in their adopted dog:

“My greyhound is my shadow. She is my best friend. I am spoiled because she is such a wonderful companion.”

Q19: “The maturity of the rescue dog influenced my decision to adopt a rescue dog.” Most dogs obtained from breeders are less than 10 weeks of age (Voith, 1985). Humane society shelters and pit bull rescue groups have dogs of all ages to select from. Greyhound rescue dogs are generally mature, most having completed a racing career, or at least been brought up in a training kennel (Breed history of greyhounds, n.d.).

Results from the respondents of the humane society, greyhound, and pit bull rescue adopters in this study indicate significant differences between the adopters. The ability to choose from dogs of a variety of age dogs was significantly more important to humane society adopters than either greyhound or pit bull adopters. Greyhound adopters were also more interested in a variety of age dogs than the pit bull adopters but the difference was not significant.

Depending on shelter policy, puppies are usually available for adoption after about 7 weeks of age. Choosing a dog at the top end of the age range is mostly a matter of taste and judgment. Many older animals adapt well to new homes. The average life span of a dog is about 10 years (Adopting a shelter dog, n.d.). Retired racing greyhounds are typically two to four years of age when available for adoption; most are retired from racing by the age of five. A greyhound can live 12 to 14 years, much longer than many other large breeds (TerrificPets.com, n.d.). Pit bulls are available at many ages. Adopting

an adult dog will allow selection of the dog best suited to the home as the dog's temperament is already established (Real Pit Bull, n.d.).

The adopters from the humane societies had comments about their ability to adopt from a variety of age dogs.

“Older adopted dogs are the best to add to you families because they are the most loyal and they come housebroken and past the chewing stage.”

“One of the main reasons we adopted an older rescue dog, is so that we could get a dog that was not a puppy.”

Q20: “The personality/temperament of the adopted dog influenced my decision to adopt.” Behavioral characteristics include a number of different, measurable dimensions including aggression and demand for affection. Whereas dog characteristics used to identify one dog from another include physical attributes such as size, coat color, breed, sex, and reproductive status, dogs have either a good, bad, or neutral stereotype. The reputation of the dog breed because of a stereotype regarding its personality/temperament may, therefore, influence the choice of a dog as a companion animal and may also influence where people look to adopt a pet.

The judgments people make about which dog to adopt begins with preconceived notions about the kind of dog that would make an appropriate or an inappropriate companion animal. Initially, adoptability may be based on breed preferences and other physical characteristics. Wright, Smith, Daniel, and Adkins (2007) investigated peoples' perception of the characteristics that contribute to the adoption process. They exposed participants to a target dog's behavior (behaving badly or prosocially) and evaluated the influence of behavior on the subsequent perceptions of the adoptability of the target dog,

or dogs of the same breed, or any dog regardless of breed. They found the behavioral schema observed affected participants' perception of the dog observed but not the adoptability of less similar dogs. The study's findings indicated that people's evaluative judgments are affected by a brief exposure to biasing information and are influenced more heavily by negative than by positive information; adoptability was, therefore, more polarized by negative schema than by positive schema. The perceived adoptability of dogs was also related to "sociability" which included perceptions of approachability, friendly, intelligent, and less dangerous and aggressive. People's perceptions of different dogs' characteristics and behaviors can contribute to their decision to adopt one dog over another or one breed of dog over another.

As a result of media-perpetuated fear and hatred toward the breed, many people are afraid of pit bulls, even if they've never met one. Some people believe everything they read and hear on the news, and they'd never consider adopting a pit bull. Due to irresponsible owners who do not spay and neuter their dogs, there's a major over-population of pit bulls, which often causes entire litters to end up in shelters – if they will take them. Yet, pit bull-type dogs make up the majority of dogs in US shelters, and they are the most highly euthanized (The Lazy Pit Bull, 2012). Many shelters have a "non-adoption" policy on pit bull-type dogs and will not put them up for adoption at all ("The reality of pit bull adoption" at Pit Bull Rescue Central, n.d.).

The temperament of the adopted dog was important to all the rescue adopters in the current study. Temperament was most strongly important to the greyhound adopter.

This may be because they are adopting from a specialized adoption organization where the breed characteristics of the available dogs are consistent and generally known.

The greyhound adopters frequently made comments about their dogs such as:

“I work at an animal hospital and have never met an aggressive or disobedient greyhound –cannot say that for any other breed.”

“Greyhounds are low maintenance, well behaved, and intelligent dogs. They are entertaining and get along well with other dogs. Many are cat safe and they all love other greyhounds. Two are easier than one – they amuse each other!”

“I can’t imagine not having a retired racing greyhound as a pet. Their track experience has definitely contributed to their temperament, health, personality in a positive way.”

“All of our four have been the most stable, friendliest, most interesting dogs one could ever imagine owning.”

Pit bull adopters explain:

“Our dog (which we adopted five years ago) is a gentle loving soul. She is calm with a trusting demeanor. A wonderful addition to our family. She is the second pit bull breed which we have owned. We can attest to the fact how intelligent they are. When they are surrounded in a secure loving environment, they have so very much to offer. All they desire to do is please their family. The time and love invested in this particular breed especially, is well worth it in every aspect. TO KNOW a pit (and know their generous heart) is truly a rewarding experience.”

“I have a dog who was rescued from a fighting ring. Even though he was raised to fight (and scarred), he has proven to be a loving and stable dog.”

“These dogs are by far the most grateful, gentle, loving creatures I have ever known. The reputation this breed has is ridiculous and undeserved.”

Q21: “The physical characteristics (build and appearance) of the adopted dog influenced my decision to adopt.” There is a link between companion animals and social status in Western culture (Olson & Hulser, 2003; Sanders, 1999). The appearance and temperament of the companion animal chosen as well as the purpose for which it was bred, work together to demonstrate features of the owner’s identity. Certain kinds of companion animals serve as symbols of social status and serve to create an impression about the owner which is projected to others. Sanders (1999) call pets “a decorative addition to the self.”

Pets affect self-image and, as such, the pet selected makes a statement about the owner. The symbolic statement provided by the companion animal may or may not be intentional. Its presence and the way it is treated influences the owner’s image as it is likened to the way the kind of clothes worn or the kind of car driven are ways of expressing personality. Gunter (2005) suggests large dogs are associated with large incomes and large homes just as kings and emperors collected elephants and lions. Unusual pets also make a status point and status conscious people can be drawn to exotic pets. A study of 224 pet owners conducted in 1983 by Harris found only 0.4% to say they choose their pet for its status function. Gunter suggests that although a pet owner may not be conscious of a status function, or be willing to admit such motives, however, having a pet that is expensive, exotic, or difficult proclaims the person as a person of privilege. A dog other than a service or therapy dog is an indulgence. Companion animals can be regarded as part of our leisure lives and the resources spent on them represent discretionary use of disposable income.

Their past association with royalty and nobility has stereotyped the greyhound as a symbol of pride and respect in many civilizations. In ancient Egypt, the birth of a Greyhound was often second in importance to the birth of a son. In Britain, Greyhounds were appreciated for their well-adapted ability to hunt and course and their popularity grew among the elite. In the year 1014, King Canute enacted the Forest Laws, stating only persons of nobility were permitted to own a Greyhound. The modern day Greyhound still retains all the attributes that made it so treasured throughout the centuries (Grey2K educational fund USA, n.d.).

Pit bulls have a mixed background ranging from their initial breeding for aggression to other animals to being the “all-American dog.” Today, their link with aggression has made them subject to severe ownership restrictions in some places. All dogs are potentially dangerous and the majority of incidents involving dangerous behavior have been associated with the owner’s inability to train their dog. Some dogs are stereotyped as dangerous by breed or appearance and, in their own way, these dogs may also be status dogs. A small group (predominantly youth from inner city and deprived areas) has evolved that is associated with the use of dogs as protection and intimidation as a means of acquiring status. In these areas of social deprivation, bigger breeds such as the American pit bull terrier, Staffordshire bull terrier, Rotweiller, and dogue de Bordeaux, are bred for profit and trained to be violent (Status dogs: A reflection of a wider problem in society, 2010).

Although the physical appearance of the dog was important to all rescue dog adopters in the current study, there were significant differences among the adopters. A

healthy dog has the best physical appearance and is important to the dog adopter. Status related to the dogs appearance cannot be inferred as the question was stated. The humane society adopters were the most interested in their dogs' physical appearance; this may be partially due to the dogs obtained from specialty breed rescue organizations have a particular appearance. The greyhound and pit bull adopters were similar in their responses evaluating the importance of appearance for their adopted dog.

Q22: The most important reasons influencing rescue dog adoption. The three most important reasons influencing rescue dog adoption indicated by all the rescue adopters were to “help save a life,” “companionship,” and “personality/temperament.” The rating of the reasons varied among the various adopter groups. The pit bull adopters were strongly influenced by the ability to “help save a life” while among the greyhound adopters “personality/temperament” was indicated most frequently. The humane society adopters rated to “help save a life,” “companionship,” personality/temperament,” and “physical appearance” all about equally (between 60 -75%). “Social facilitation” rated as having a low influence on the adoption decision for all adopters in the three groups of rescue dog adopters.

Comfort from Companion Animal Scale (CCAS) (Q18, and Q23 – 34)

Zasloff (1996) designed an instrument focusing on the comfort offered by the companion animal called the Comfort from Companion Animals Scale (CCAS). The CCAS was used in a study by Smolkovic, Fajfar, and Mlinaric (2012) to investigate pet attachment between owner and a pet dog or pet cat. The results of their study confirmed that dog owners are more attached to their pets than cat owners. The study also found that

the higher attachment levels of dog owners can be linked to dogs requiring more individual care and variegated interactions, for example, walking or training which can result in stronger affection.

When companion animals interact closely with people, the roles they play may be categorized in terms of three major functions. The projective function involves the extent to which pets may serve as a symbolic extension of the self. The sociability function involves the role of pets in facilitating human-to-human interaction. The surrogate function involves the extent to which interaction with pets may supplement human-to-human interaction or serve as a substitute for it (Veevers, 1985).

All three groups of rescue dog adopters significantly differed from each other on their composite CCAS scores. Results indicated the greyhound adopters had the highest score indicating they felt the least amount of comfort from their adopted dog (rating based on strongly agree = 1 and strongly disagree = 5). The pit bull adopters had the lowest score indicating they felt the most comfort from their adopted dog. Other study results show that pit bull adopters interact more with their dog on training (Q40) and get more exercise (Q28) because of their adopted dog. Humane society adopters were in-between but differed significantly from the other two groups of adopters. Responses to the individual statements are discussed below.

Q18: “My adopted dog provides me with companionship.” See previous section.

Q23: “Having an adopted dog provides me something to care for.” Pets are dependent on their owners (Gunter, 2005) and require care. Through performing tasks

such as feeding, walking, or grooming, an individual can gain an increased sense of self-esteem, independence, and perceived control over his/her environment. Animals not only supply opportunities for nurture, they also teach about nurturing. For some, a pet may serve as a family substitute, e.g., a child to care for, a companion to be with, and reminiscences of a lost loved one (Wilkes, 2009). A relationship to a pet after children leave home can prove emotional continuity for those remaining (Friedmann, 1988).

It is widely believed that many women have a strong desire to nurture and care for living things that is met in motherhood (Kellert & Berry, 1987). When this desire cannot be fulfilled, women can develop parent-child relationships with companion animals. The helplessness of the animal has been cited as a strong reason for having a companion animal. The animal's total dependence upon a human caregiver makes these animals 'perpetual children' (Margolies, 1999). Turner reported on the results of two studies on the relationship of women to their pets. In her 1998 report, she found that the women in the study appeared to be more attached to the animals that they had prior to having children and following their children leaving home. In her 2001 study she found that women without children living with them were more likely to develop strong bonds with their companion animals than women with young children. She postulated that for many women, the companion animal becomes a surrogate child.

Adopters from the humane society were the most apt to indicate that their canine companion provided something to care for. However, these same adopters were the largest group to indicate the most children in their households. The humane society

adopters significantly differed from the greyhound adopters but not the pit bull adopters.

The greyhound adopters also did not significantly differ from the pit bull adopters.

A humane society adopter provided this comment regarding the adopted dog providing something to care for:

“I think she is a fine companion and I enjoy having the opportunity to take care of her.”

Q24: “My adopted dog provides pleasurable activity.” Pets bring pleasure to the lives of their owners through their attentiveness, loyalty, and affection. Pets are sources of fun, play, and relaxation. Pets can increase opportunities to exercise, participate in outdoor activities, and socialize. Therefore, regular walking or playing with pets can have health benefits.

No significant differences were found among the rescue adopters for Q24; the majority of adopters in all three rescue groups indicated they “strongly agreed” that their adopted dog provided them with pleasurable activity. As author and essayist Gene Hill (n.d.) insightfully quipped, “Whoever said you can't buy happiness, forgot little puppies.”

A greyhound adopter indicated:

“I love watching their personalities develop as they settle into my home.”

“Every day when I come home from work, they greet me. They always bring a smile to my face. I enjoy just being with them.”

Q25: “My adopted dog provides a source of constancy.” Constancy means dependability and may serve to help understand, predict, and control one’s environment (Nickerson, 1999). It is one of the facets of the emotional bond that organizes the unique

emotional benefits of security, trust, and support found in attachment relationships (attachment behavior in childhood in Bowlby, 1958; attachment in romantic relationships in Hazan & Shaver, 1987; in attachment behavior in relationships with pets in Beck and Madresh, 2008). Beck and Madresh adapted several measures originally used to measure insecurity in human relationships to measure relationships with pets. From responses to their web-based survey answered by 193 pet owners, participants' reports of their relationships with pets were compared to relationships with romantic partners. Their results showed that the dimensions of insecurity were similar for both pet and partner relationships, however, ratings of pet relationships were found to be more secure on every measure.

Pets can also facilitate adaption to tumultuous life changes (Allen, 1995). Cain (1985) found that families often acquire a pet at times when they were experiencing a move, separation, divorce, or death. During times of disruption, pets provide support, stability, and offer comfort, affection, and security. Doty (2007) describes how the close relationship with a dog can provide comfort and joy during an illness and death of a partner. Pets can offer stability as a reminder and a link to a deceased human companion (Walsh, 2009a, b). Women who have been betrayed, abused, or wounded in childhood or couple relationships are all the more attached to a pet that gives them uncritical support, security, and love (Flynn, 2000).

In their study of adoptive families, Linville and Lyness (2007) found more than half of the 20 families in the study adopted their pets from an animal rescue. They

specifically adopted from a rescue in order to provide a parallel experience for their adopted children.

In the current study, nearly 50% of adopters from the humane society, greyhound, and pit bull rescue groups “strongly agreed” with the statement their adopted dogs were a source of consistency. There were no significant differences among the rescue adopters.

A humane society adopter indicated how the adopted dog had provided consistency by saying:

“I love my dogs more than anything. They have gotten me through my divorce and have been with me through all the moving. I wouldn’t give them up for anything.”

A pit bull adopter had similar words:

“Adopting this dog has filled the void left when my last dog had to be put to sleep – she was 14.”

Q26: “My adopted dog makes me feel needed.” A pet may be the child for the childless, prolong the parenthood role for the middle aged and elderly, and act as another child to those with children. As a dependent, the pet serves the need to be needed (Gunter, 2005).

Lane, McNicholas and Collis (1988) summarize this effect:

“Pets can meet an esteem function in providing a ‘need to be needed.’ These aspects of pet ownership mirror elements of supportive human relationships that are believed to have important implications for health.” (p.52)

Nearly 80% of adopters from all three rescue groups responded to the “strongly agree” and “agree” conditions. No significant differences were found among the rescue adopters.

Fulfilling the need to be needed was expressed by a humane society adopter as:

“Once my children were grown, it became difficult not to be needed anymore and I just decided one day that there was probably a dog over at the shelter who needed me too and that I would know her when I saw her.”

Q27: “My adopted dog makes me feel safe.” Companion animals can provide a sense of calmness and security. Ramirez (2006) indicates, canine owners report feeling safer in their encounters with strangers when accompanied by their dog. People may be more willing to go for walks, to leave their homes, or to visit friends when their pet accompanies them or guards their homes in their absence. Neidhart and Boyd (2002) found 12% of their respondents felt that their adopted dog acted as a watchdog to protect their home. The visible presence of people with their dogs in the broad community is reassuring; people out walking their dogs were found to be a positive marker of community safety (Wood, *et al.*, 2007).

In the current study, a significant difference was found among the three rescue adopters on whether their dog makes them feel safe. The humane society and pit bull adopters were more likely to indicate they “strongly agreed” with the statement that their dog made them feel safe (19% and 25%, respectively), while only 5% of the greyhound adopters indicated they “strongly agreed” with the statement. More greyhound adopters responded to the “disagree” condition than the humane society and pit bull adopters. It would seem that the reputation of the pit bull-like dog provides a sense of security. Many of the adopted dogs from the humane society are of the pit bull-type. Greyhounds as a breed are not known as guardians. Although not specifically asked, people out walking

their greyhounds and other dogs may assist in confirming a neighborhood's safe environment. A humane society adopter indicated:

“My dog has been a great companion and guardian .”

Q28: “I get more exercise because of my adopted dog.” Pets entice people to get outside their homes and provide an avenue for increased activity. Pets free adults to play; playing is, however, something most adults are discouraged from doing (Coultis, 2004). The many health benefits of regular exercise and physical activity have been investigated by many. The benefits of exercise are available regardless of age, sex, or physical ability (Mayo Clinic, n.d.). The need to keep the companion dog healthy also means keeping the caregiver healthy. Older owners of companion animals have been reported to be more physically active than older non-pet owners (Raina, *et al.*, 1999). Results of an American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) study (2010) lend support to the positive relationship between exercise and pet owners. In their survey of 1,062 adults 50 years of age and older, more than half said they generally walked with their dog as a form of pet exercise. Nearly one-fourth of the dog owners reported exercising with their dog more than once a day, three in 10 reported exercising with their dog once a day, one in 20 did so every other day, roughly one in six indicated they exercised with their dog two to three times a week, and one in 13 exercised with their dog several times a month. Less than one-fifth of dog owners said they never exercised with their dog. Older dog owners were more likely than younger ones to report exercising with their dog more than once a day – a finding that may reflect retirement and having more free time. Women were more likely than men to report exercising with their dog more

than once a day (30% versus 20%). Men were more likely to report exercising with their dog two to three times per week (21% versus 12% for women). Six in 10 dog owners reported getting about the same amount of exercise now as compared to before they acquired their dogs, three in 10 reported getting more exercise, while 6% of the dog owners said they were getting less exercise now as compared to before they got their dog. In comparing these results with the 2004 American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) report on pet owners, which reflected a wider range of ages, six in 10 dog owners walked their dog each day with 10% jogging with their dog as a form of exercise.

Takeda (2010) reports on a British study of 5000 individuals that found dog walkers walk their dogs 30 minutes twice a day and longer three times a week. They determined that dog walkers accumulate more physical exercise per week than do individuals who go to a gym or health club on a regular basis or exercise on their own. Of those surveyed 86% enjoy this time with their dog in comparison to 16% who rated going to the gym favorably.

A significant difference was found between all three rescue groups on whether the adopters felt they got more exercise because of their adopted dog. More pit bull adopters and fewer greyhound adopters responded to the “strongly agree” condition.

Approximately 40% of each adoption rescue responded to the “agree” condition.

Although known for their speed, greyhounds are called “40 mile an hour couch potatoes” (Keith, 2011) which is reflected in the study results (greyhound adopters reported the least amount of exercise because of their adopted dog). All dogs require some exercise; pit bull adopters may recognize the athleticism of their dog more. Also, pit bull adopters

responding in the current study had a majority of younger age adopters in comparison with the other rescue groups. The variety of dogs that are adopted from the humane societies could also affect the overall amount of exercise the adopters in that group felt they received because of their adopted dog.

Adopters adding comments regarding the exercise they get as a result of adopting a dog include:

“My husband and I talked for years about how it would be good for us to go walking, but it never happened until our dog joined the family. We walk most every day. The exercise is good for all of us.”

“My greyhound is a great dog and loves to walk a lot which is really good motivation for me to get out of the house and take a brisk 45 minute walk every day.”

“I wanted a dog for companionship and to help me get more exercise by walking.”

Q29: “My adopted dog makes me laugh and play.” Play is an important element of dog activity and pets are a source of entertainment (Hart, 2000; McNicholas, Collis, 2000). Two of the most commonly shared activities people have with their animal companions are mutual play and touch (Sanders, 1999). One of the five reasons given for “why get a dog” is because a dog will make you laugh (Why get a dog, n.d.). Dogs are always doing silly and funny things that make one smile.

Studies have shown that there are many health benefits to laughter. Laughing can boost the immune system and help stave off viral infections. It can help people relax and reduce stress related illnesses (*e.g.*, high-blood pressure, ulcers). Laughter is also a good

tonic against negative feelings such as depression, frustration, and anger (Bennett & Lengacher, 2008).

Although there was a significant difference between the adopters of the three rescue groups in their rating of the statement “my adopted dog makes me laugh and play,” the majority of adopters were in the “strongly agree” and “agree” conditions. The majority of humane society and pit bull adopters responded to the “strongly agree” condition. The greyhound adopters dominated the “agree” condition. The more aristocratic image of the greyhound may affect how they are seen as being less silly and funny. Adopters from all rescue groups added comments to the survey indicating that their adopted dog made them laugh and play. A humane society adopter indicated:

“We love our hairy girl. She has lifted our hearts and makes us laugh every day. The snuggles she gives and the plays we have are all so wonderful.”

“Our adopted dog is family and he is wonderful! He is the funniest dog that we’ve ever had. He keeps us very entertained. We can’t imagine life without him or his sister who we adopted earlier.”

Despite their aristocratic image, greyhounds also amuse their owners:

“I love their attitude and style yet they are the goofiest breed of dog I’ve ever encountered.”

“Not a day goes by that I do not laugh at my greys. They are clowns, loving, sweet clowns. I love them dearly and they have added a tremendous satisfaction to my life.”

“She is silly and sweet and makes me laugh every day. Our greyhound is unique in his ability to surprise and amuse.”

Q30: “I enjoy watching my adopted dog.” This statement is related to the previous statement and provides information on the adopters’ interactions with their rescue dog. A significant difference was also found between the rescue adopters on “I enjoy watching my adopted dog.” The humane society adopters significantly differed from both the greyhound and pit bull adopters; the greyhound adopters and the pit bull adopters did not significantly differ. This time, the majority of responses from all rescue adopters were in the “strongly agree” condition. However, the mean rating of the pit pull adopters indicated more agreement to watching their dog than the other adopters.

Greyhound adopters remarked:

“She makes us laugh every day. She absolutely adores us and we adore her too. She is a joy to watch race around the back yard and she is a clown while inside.”

“Looking at her is soothing – like looking at a piece of beautiful art!”

”Watching my greyhound continues to provide great pleasure.”

Q31: “I get comfort from touching my adopted dog.” Pets fulfill the basic human need to touch (Health Arena, 2012). There is a growing recognition of the important positive role the sense of touch has throughout the human life cycle. Pets provide a source of tactile stimulation (Netting, Wilson, & New, 1987; Serpell, & Paul, 1994). The act of touching a pet is a means for expressing affection as well as decreasing a person’s anxiety and stress levels. Researchers have reported that talking to and petting a companion animal arouses the cardiovascular system less than talking with people. This lends credence to the non-threatening supportive nature of the bond between humans and

companion animals (Friedmann, 1988). Dogs are also affectionate animals. Touch means a lot to them, both in their natural world and when they live with us (Millan, 2012).

The responses to the survey question on touch indicated a significant difference between the humane society and the pit bull adopters, while the greyhound adopters did not significantly differ from the humane society or pit bull adopters. The variety of size dogs available from the humane society could account for the differences. Small dogs may lend themselves better to being held and petted and may contribute to the finding that humane society adopters receive the most pleasure from touching their canine companions.

Q32: “My adopted dog makes me feel loved.” Pet owners gain many benefits from owning a pet but perhaps the most valuable is the unconditional love they receive from them. Pets are seen as nonjudgmental, accepting, and genuine, requiring nothing from the relationship other than the affectionate reciprocation of attention. James Serpell has been quoted as saying:

Most pet owners believe that their animals are sensitive to their moods and feelings, and many confide in the pets verbally. In other words, the animal is perceived as empathetic. It listens and seems to understand, but it does not question or evaluate ... Lacking the power of speech, animals cannot participate in conversation or debate, but by the same token, they do not judge us, criticize us, lie to us, or betray our trust. Because it is mute and nonjudgmental, their affection is seen as sincere, innocent, and without pretense. It is essentially reliable and trustworthy. (Sanders, 1999, pp. 10-11)

In the current study, no significant differences were found among the three rescue groups on the adopters’ responses to the statement that their adopted dog makes them feel

loved. The majority of adopters from the humane society, greyhound, and pit bull rescue adopters positively agreed with the statement.

Q33: “My adopted dog makes me feel trusted.” In their examination of contemporary organizations, Wells and Kipnis (2001) stated that trust is an essential element in productive and effective interaction in the workplace. Workers’ dependency on others and past performance in interactions are imperative to building trust. A group can function only if its members are able to depend on and trust each other. Canine companions are dependent (Gunter, 2005) and they rely on their human companions for the sources and consequences of day-to-day interactions. They may be considered to be part of cooperative teamwork that requires a reciprocal exchange of trust. Animals’ participation in human social interaction can also increase feelings of trust, reciprocity, and a sense of community (Jackson, 2010).

Trust and a person’s self-concept are closely allied. Developing a relationship, especially with those of a different species, is more about building trust than about liking (Krahl, n.d.). In their study Wells and Kipnis (2001) also found that employees’ reasons for trust were based on personal characteristics rather than job-related qualities. The adopted dog may have no job related function other than spending time and being a companion, but the unconditional love and respect the companion dog gives makes the adopter feel trusted. The majority of responses from the adopters to the statement that their adopted dogs make them feel trusted from all three rescue groups. Adopters in this study were similar across rescue groups in feeling they have established a trustworthy relationship with their adopted dog.

Trust is a reciprocal feeling identified by several humane society adopters in their statements:

“Chuck and I spent at least 30 minutes together in a quiet room and I saw that he was willing to trust me. That was what I needed to see.”

“Adopting my first dog from the humane society was the most rewarding and lovely experience. It has brought joy to myself and my son. Our bond with our dog is so strong. I look forward to forming a friendship with our new dog and establishing the trust and confidence we will need in each other.”

Q34: “My adopted dog gives me something to love.” Love is an emotion of strong affection and personal attachment. Love is also said to be a virtue representing all of human kindness, compassion, and affection – “the unselfish loyal and benevolent concern for the good of another.” Love may describe compassionate and affectionate actions towards other humans, one's self, or animals (Love, n.d.). Whether as companion, friend, or surrogate child, companion animals provide people with the opportunity to have something to love.

Given the intense bond most of us share with our animals, it's natural to feel devastated by feelings of grief and sadness at the loss of a pet. While some may not understand the depth of feeling that can be had for a pet, one should never feel guilty or ashamed about grieving for an animal friend (Robinson, Segal, & Segal, 2012). Brown (2006) encourages pastoral careers to consider the place and importance of animal relationships in the lives of people. Brown suggests that in recognition of the love that owners have for their animal companions, churches might consider offering an “all creatures great and small” service.

There were no significant differences among the rescue adopters in this study indicating that rescue dog adopters are generally very fond of their adopted dog. The majority of humane society adopters, greyhound, and pit bull adopters responded in the “strongly agree” and “agree” conditions to the statement that their adopted dogs provides them with something to love. Humane society adopters made statements showing their affection such as:

“I love her unconditionally. She is my baby!”

“I love my dog(s)!!! they are my furry children.”

“Amy is a wonderful happy dog and has fit into our family and made it complete. We love him very much.”

Adopter’s Feeling of Satisfaction with the Adopted Rescue Dog (Q35)

Q35: “Have your expectations been met with your adopted rescue dog?”

Neidhart and Boyd (2002) reported on the outcomes from a companion animal adoption study conducted by a marketing research firm. A series of three surveys were conducted over a one-year period with dog and cat owners who had adopted their pet through either a Luv-A-Pet location, an Adopt-a-thon, or a traditional shelter. The majority (90%) were very satisfied with their companion animal with only 2% indicating dissatisfaction with their adopted animal. Most would go back to the same place to adopt another companion animal. Four out of five adopters still had their companion animal a year following the adoption. Retention was not affected by place of adoption. Roughly 25% of adopters who no longer had their adopted companion animal said they gave up their pet because it did not get along with others, either people or other companion animals. Satisfaction with the adoption and retention were attributed to the pet’s personality, compatibility, and

behavior rather than demographic differences among adopters or between adoption settings. Dog adopters were more inclined to mention positive behaviors (55%), such as being well-behaved or obedient compared to cat adopters (43%). Dog adopters were also more likely to cite the dog's ability to get along with others (48%), especially with children (32%), people in general (10%), and other companion animals (14%) as a reason for being satisfied with the adopted animal.

From a study of the greyhound adoption program in Australia, Elliott, Toribio, and Wigney (2010) found 91% of the adopters surveyed were 'very satisfied' with how well their greyhound fulfilled their expectations as a companion animal. The one-month post-adoption return rate was 3%, which is lower than that reported in shelter dog studies with comparable follow-up periods. Separation anxiety was the most frequently reported behavior problem. Dog return had a strong association with owners not having consulted a veterinarian regarding canine behaviors of concern.

In her study on dog adopters, Kennedy (2005) described that animal caretakers expected the canine companion to give back to the relationship in love and companionship. Most did not acquire their dogs with a specific reason in mind, but most seemed overjoyed and surprised with everything the dog had to offer. Kennedy reported the dog owners in her study that had obtained their dogs from shelters to state that their adopted dog would never be kenneled again.

The majority of rescue dog adopters in the current study also indicated that "yes" their expectations about their adopted dog as a companion animal had been met with the dog they adopted. However, a significant difference was found between the humane

society and the greyhound adopters indicating that more greyhound adopters responded “yes” to the question while more humane society adopters responded in the “mostly” or “no” conditions. No significant differences were found between the humane society adopters, greyhound adopters, or pit bull adopters.

Many adopters indicated that they were very satisfied with their adoption experience as indicated in statements such as the following from a humane society adopter:

“This dog has exceeded the expectation we had in adopting a dog. He is really very sweet and has obviously come from a loving family that worked with him on his manners and behavior. We could not be happier.”

Greyhound adopters report their satisfaction with their adopted dogs in statements such as:

“Adopting a retired racing greyhound is a better experience than I could have ever expected. The hounds are so smart, loving, goofy, and easy going. Our greyhound is the best dog I could ever ask for.”

“My retired racing greyhound has exceeded my expectations as a pet.”

Pit bull adopters also report great satisfaction with their adopted dogs as seen in the following statements:

“Best experience I could ever have hoped for.”

“I love my dog!!! I am so glad I decided to rescue!”

Number of Dogs and the Length of Time Lived with Rescue Dog (Q36 – 39).

Q36: “How many dogs do you currently have?” According to the American Pet Products Association (APPA) 2011-2012 National Pet Owners Survey, 39% of U.S.

households own at least one dog, 28% own two dogs, and 12% own three or more dogs. Most owners own one dog but, on average, owners have almost two dogs (1.69). In the UK, multi-dog owning households were more likely than single-dog if the household contained a person of 20 – 29 years of age (Westgarth, *et al.*, 2007). Helms and Bain (2009) found owners with more than one dog in their household reported a higher degree of attachment to the study dog than did owners of one dog. In a 2011 Harris Poll, 62% of dog owners reported owning one dog, 25% reported owning two, 8% reported owning three, and 4% reported owning more than four. In a HSUS web-based survey, the highest levels of past pet ownership (seven pets or more) were significantly associated with having children in the home (In Lockwood, 2005). According to the ASPCA pet statistics (2013), the majority of pets are obtained from acquaintances and family members. Twenty-six percent of dogs are purchased from breeders, 20 - 30% of cats and dogs are adopted from shelters and rescue organizations, and 2 - 10% are purchased from pet shops.

In the current study, there were differences between the rescue adopters and the number of dogs currently in the household. The majority of adopters in each rescue group reported owning one dog, 80% of the humane society adopters, 38% of the greyhound adopters, and 70% of the pit bull adopters. No adopter from either the humane society or the pit bull rescue groups reported currently having more than four dogs. The greyhound adopters reported having the greatest number of dogs; some reported having five (2%), six (1%), seven (1%), eight (1%), and nearly 2% reported having more than eight.

Many greyhound adopters made comments regarding the number of dogs they have and would like to have:

“You can’t have just one ... greyhounds are addicting and should come with that warning! I can’t imagine my life without one ... or three.”

“It has been a wonderfully enriching experience. I love each and every one of my four greyhounds. While they all have wonderful personalities; they each have their quirks that make them so unique.”

”Each new greyhound picked us but the gaggle also picked each other so as a whole it’s why we went from two to six while never intending to.”

“Greyhounds have changed our life for the better. We are part of a big social circle involving our dogs. We have fostered over 100 greyhounds and that has taught us patience. Our marriage is stronger because of the dogs.”

“Best experience with a pet I have ever had – adopting five greyhounds within four years must say something!!”

Q37: “How many dogs have you adopted from a rescue?” There were differences among all the rescue adopters on the number of dogs they had previously adopted. The number of dogs previously adopted ranged from none to more than eight. The humane society and greyhound adopters indicated they had adopted more rescue dogs than the pit bull adopters. The greyhound adopters also indicated they had adopted more dogs at each level, especially “more than eight.”

Rescue adoption has become an important source for family dogs. A humane society adopter who has repeatedly adopted from a shelter indicated:

“It’s very fulfilling to adopt a shelter dog. We have had several; they have all been wonderful companions.”

Many adopters felt very empathetic toward rescue dogs no matter which rescue group the dog was adopted from. Humane society adopters indicated:

“If I had room, I would take them all. Their eyes are so sad and scared.”

“All the people at the shelter we worked with were wonderful. I wished that I could take every dog and cat home with me!”

“We have 5, and had 6 up until last December. All are very important members of the family.”

Q38: “Do you currently have a senior rescue dog?” The 3 STRIKES against adoption are being black, large, and older. Mature dogs do adjust quickly to rehoming. When you choose an adult dog, you have a pretty good idea what you’re getting. You can see their physical traits and get some idea of their basic temperament (Pet Finder, Should you adopt a puppy or an adult or a senior dog, n.d.).

Greyhound adopters differed from the other adopters in whether they have had an adopted senior dog in the household. Greyhound adopters were the most likely of the rescue adopters to have a senior adopted dog (47%). If adopters had a senior dog, the humane society and pit bull adopters only had one, 19% and 12%, respectively. Besides being the adopters most likely to have senior dogs, greyhound adopters were also the most likely to have multiple senior dogs, 15% with two and 7% with three or more. The age of a typical retired racing greyhound may contribute to an older dog being more apt to be in the household of greyhound adopters. The older dogs in the humane society and pit bull rescue may have been unlucky to be adopted earlier in their lives or relinquished for some reason.

Older dogs are available from all three rescue groups and are sought after by some adopters as indicated by the following statement by a humane society adopter:

“When we were considering adopting a dog, we never considered adopting a nine year old dog. However, he and my other dog got along so well and he was so sweet. It was a no-brainer. He makes my life 100 times more fun.”

“When our other dog left, I wanted another dog. We walked into the shelter and a volunteer asked, ‘What kind of a dog are you looking for?’ I replied, ‘An old, half-dead, arthritic, tired speed bump.’ We found Bearly who became the love of our family. He was nine when we adopted him, no one else wanted him. He was PERFECT and an angel. He lived with us for eight years. That started our love of adopting seniors. They bring a sense of wisdom and calm to our home. Bearly will always be a special dog for many reasons, but one of them is that he led us to adopt other senior dogs that no one else wants. They are gems!”

“I love my newest two old dogs.”

A greyhound adopter indicated:

“We adopted a nine-year old that lived to be 15 years young. She was and always will be the light of my life. Seniors should not be pushed aside so someone can adopt a younger one. Everyone needs love no matter what age or disabilities they may have.”

“To me the experience was like receiving a puppy in a grown up dog. “Puppy” meaning everything was a new experience. It was fun to watch her learn her new surroundings. It has been fun watching her confidence and personality develop. “Grown up dog”- meaning she was leash trained, crate trained, and potty trained. It has been a wonderful experience!”

“The joy of seeing one of these older hounds enjoying their golden years with no worries is very fulfilling and so worth it.”

Pit bull adopters also have enjoyed bringing a senior dog into their home:

“I am glad daily that we were lucky enough to share our lives with our adopted senior.

Q39: “How long have you had your adopted rescue dog?” The length of time the pet is owned was found to have an important influence on pet attachment in a study by Smolkovic, Fajfar, and Mlinaric (2012). Owners who owned their pet for more than three years reported stronger attachment to their pets. They proposed that those that had their adopted pet for a longer period of time reported stronger attachment because through time, people become more attached to their pets (Wood, Giles-Corti, & Bulsara, 2005).

There was a difference among the rescue adopters in the current study on the length of time they have had their adopted dog. More greyhound and pit bull adopters had their adopted rescue dogs over a longer period of time than the humane society adopters. The greyhound adopters also adopted from the greyhound rescue for the longest time.

Activities Rescue Adopters Do with Their Adopted Dogs (Q40 – 41, and 44)

Q40, “Have you taken your adopted dog to an obedience class?” Dog obedience classes have been shown to increase the animal-human bond by making communication understood by both the human and animal involved in the relationship. Research has also found that dog obedience training reduces the risk of animal relinquishment (Braem & Mills, 2010). However, research also finds that only a minority of pet owners participate in organized obedience training activities (Shore, Peterson, & Douglas, 2003). Dogs obtained from humane societies are reported to be among the least

apt to receive dog obedience training (Miller, Staats, Partlo, & Rada, 1996; Salman, 1996).

Formalized training helps dog owners to understand principles of animal behavior. It also begins the process of assimilating the dog into the household by teaching it how to behave appropriately so that a positive canine-human relationship can develop. Jagoe and Serpell (1996) indicate certain problematic behaviors are reduced in obedience trained dogs. Clarke and Boyer (1993) report a strengthening of the human-canine bond with training and with increased quality time spent with the dog. This bond may mean the difference between relinquishment of the animal and seeking other avenues for correction of a behavioral problem (Miller *et al.*, 1996; Marston & Bennett, 2003).

It is important for animal owners to know what training methods are effective and how dogs learn behavior. Dogs that are trained and learn to behave appropriately will be a valued companion, while those that are not, may become more of a nuisance than a benefit. Dog obedience classes are an ideal avenue to introduce pet owners to appropriate ways to train and socialize their pets to be a valuable part of society (Seksel 2008).

Based on the results of this online Rescue Dog Adopter Survey targeting dog adopters from three types of rescue groups – humane society, greyhound, and pit bull – participation in dog obedience classes was shown to vary among the groups. Adopters from pit bull rescue organizations reported the highest participation in dog obedience training classes (66%). Between 66 and 69% of the adopters from the humane societies and greyhound rescue groups, respectively, did not take their adopted dog to an obedience class.

A humane society adopter whose dog had some behavior problems was willing to work to remediate the behaviors said:

“I adore my adopted dog even with some of his short comings – he is trainable.”

Other humane society adopters made these comments:

“In my experience with training ... actually it is the humans that needed the training most.”

“I look at the shelter as a military style boot camp they attend, then I pick them up and finish them at home with the manners I believe are most important for my household.”

Greyhounds are involved in obedience classes as described by one greyhound adopter:

“These dogs are an amazing breed. I hike, run, and hunt with my dogs. I have titled greyhounds in the ring, obedience, and agility, lure coursing, and amateur racing. I have also taught greyhound only obedience and agility classes. They are so much more than most groups market them as.”

Q41: “Does your adopted dog sleep in your bedroom?” In their companion animal adoption study Neidhart and Boyd (2002) found nearly nine out of 10 adopted companion animals ($n = 307$) slept inside, with half sleeping on a human bed. Six out of 10 companion animals adopted through the Luv-A-Pet program ($n = 91$) slept inside on a human bed, compared to about four in 10 companion animals adopted from other venues, an Adopt-a-thon and a traditional shelter. Of adopters who were less than very satisfied with their new companion animal, one third of the companion animals ($n = 21$) slept outside, with only one in 10 companion animals of adopters who were very satisfied

($n = 286$) slept outside. This indicates an association between bonding with a companion animal and where they sleep.

Among other findings, in the Harris Interactive (2012) poll 58% of pet owners reported they frequently let their pet sleep in bed with them, compared to 23% who reported never allowing their pet to sleep with them. Among dogs that sleep with their owners, an APPA survey found 62% were small dogs, 41% were medium sized, and 32% were large (finding reported by Eckstein, n.d.). In a 2005 survey about dog ownership conducted by the AKC 21% of dog owners interviewed said that they slept with their dog regularly; women were more likely than men to allow the practice (25% versus 16%). Another 16% said that their dogs snuck into their beds at least once in a while (in Chomel & Sun, 2011).

In the current study there were no differences found among the three rescue adopters on whether they allowed their adopted dog to sleep in their bedroom. The majority of all rescue dog adopters let their adopted dog sleep in their bedroom.

Many dogs not only are allowed to sleep in their adopter's bedroom, many got to share their bed. A humane society adopter reports:

“He doesn't just sleep in the bedroom, he sleeps in the bed with us.”

“He usually tries to weedel his way under the covers – I draw the line there.”

As big as the greyhound is, greyhound adopters also let their dogs into their beds:

“The retired racer is a wonderful house mate and bed warmer.”

Q44: “Do you take your adopted dog with you on errands?” Unchanged since 2008, 3% of dog owners have taken their dog to work with them, an average of 22 times, up from 17 times in 2008. Based on the number of dog owners (46.3 million), approximately 1.4 million dog owners are taking their pet to work (APPA, 2012). As far as taking a dog with on regular errands, it is a practice not advocated, in fact, many consider that pets and owner errands don’t mix. It is not advisable to tie your dog outside a store or take him into the store. Trips in the car may not be the best idea, especially on warm days. As much as your dog may look forward to going along and the enjoyment of the dog biscuit dispensed at the gas station, each trip needs to be taken with the welfare of the dog in mind. It is advised never to leave your dog behind in a locked car (Johnson, 2010).

The results of the current survey on rescue dog adopters indicated that many adopters do take their rescue dogs with them on errands. The humane society adopters and the pit bull adopters were the most likely to indicate that they take their dogs with them on errands, 59% and 65%, respectively. A little less than half of the greyhound adopters were likely to take their dogs with them (46%). Contributing to this finding may be such things as the size of the greyhound and respondents living in warmer areas.

Responsibilities for the Care and Health of the Adopted Dog (Q42 – 43)

Q42: “Who has primary responsibility for the general care and feeding of your adopted dog?” Owning a dog is a responsibility. These animals depend on their human owners for, at minimum, food and shelter. Without assistance, the animal will suffer from dehydration, malnutrition, ill health, and may exhibit anti-social behavior.

A dog will bond first and closest to the person who feeds it (Greyhound adoption manual, n.d.). Taking responsibility for the care and feeding of a pet is often regarded as a training ground for the responsibility of looking after someone else, regardless of personal convenience. When kids learn to provide for a pet's physical needs such as food, water, bathing, training, and playtime, they learn to give their pet's well-being precedence and by extension, the well-being of others (Wells, n.d.).

Among the three groups of rescue adopters in the current study there was a difference between who in the family had the primary responsibility for the general care and feeding of the adopted dog. Women were the primary person responsible for the general care and feeding of the adopted dog among all adopters (64% of humane society adopters, 72% of greyhound adopters, and 74% of pit bull adopters). Being male and spouse had similar percentages among the humane society, greyhound, and pit bull adopters (15%, 12%, and 15% for being male and 15%, 13%, and 8% for spouse, respectively). Children took the most responsibility in households of the humane society adopters (4%) and the least in the households of greyhound adopters (2%).

Q43: “Who typically takes your adopted dog to the veterinarian?” Being a responsible dog owner is not just about feeding your dog, it also involves taking the dog to the veterinarian to insure its health and when it is sick or injured. According to the Associated Press-Petside.com poll of pet owners' spending habits (2011), most pet owners (eight in 10) took their creatures -- be they scaly, furry, fanged or feathered -- to the vet within the last 12 months. Respondents who made more money (households with annual incomes above \$50,000) were more likely to take their pets to the vet.

It has been advised that children go along when taking the dog to the veterinarian for a checkup. The children learn that dogs are living beings and need the same things as humans to stay healthy and happy (Wells, n.d.).

In the current study, women were the principal person to take the adopted dog to the veterinarian among all rescue groups (62% of humane society adopters, 67% of greyhound adopters, and 65% of pit bull adopters). “As a family” also received high percentage responses in all three rescue groups (13% in humane societies, 17% in greyhound rescue groups, and 16% in pit bull rescue groups).

Q44: “Do you take your adopted dog along on errands?” See previous section on activities rescue adopters do with their adopted dogs.

Influence on a Decision to Proceed with an Expensive Medical Procedure (Q45)

Q45: “What will be the major influence on your decision to proceed with and expensive medical procedure?” In a poll of pet owners conducted by The Kroger Co. (a company that offers pet insurance) to find out how much they are willing to spend to save their pet’s life, the majority of those polled (61%) indicated they would be willing to spend between \$100 and \$1,000 on medical procedures. Fifteen percent said they were comfortable spending between \$1,000 and \$3,000 for life-saving medical care for their pet. Ten percent were willing to spend \$3,000 on medical procedures if it meant that their pet’s life could be saved (Lang, 2011). The Associated Press Petside.com Poll (2011) found that pet owners spent an average of \$505 on veterinary care in 2011. Most pet owners in the survey, about 60%, spent below the average, or about \$300; the overall average jumped to \$505 because of the approximately 13% who spent well over \$1,000

on veterinary care. Slightly over half (52%) of the pet owners polled said their veterinarians do not often recommend excessive treatment; 26% said that happens moderately often, and 17% said it happens extremely often or very often. Those with seriously ill pets were not more likely than others to say that veterinarians suggest excessive treatments.

In this study, dog adopters from all three rescue groups indicated that cost was not a determinant in deciding on an expensive medical procedure for their dog. Overall “quality of life” following surgery and a “combination of cost and quality of life” predominated the responses. The majority of pit bull adopters answered with “quality of life” (61%); most of the humane society adopters chose a “combination” (54%); and there was an almost even split between “quality of life” (49%) and a “combination” (47%) among the greyhound adopters. “Cost” was indicated as an influence most for the humane society adopters but then only for 4%.

Behavior Problems Exhibited by the Adopted Rescue Dogs (Q46)

Q46: “Does your adopted dog have behavior problems?” Behavioral problems are a consistent reason given for pet relinquishments (Jago & Serpell, 1996; Miller et al., 1996; Salman, *et al.*, 1998; New, *et al.*, 1999; Irvine, 2003). Aggression, anxiety, and disobedience are reported as the most prevalent behavior problems among dogs (Diesel, Brodbelt, & Pfeiffer, 2010). According to dog owners the most seriousness of the problem behaviors are those behaviors that directly affect humans, especially when directed toward children; those involving the destruction of property are next in severity; and those affecting the animal are the least severe (Shore, Burdsal, & Douglas, 2008).

The possible reasons for potential behavior problems include improper raising, lack of socialization, and insufficient dog training classes. Canine behavior could, therefore, be improved by owner education (Kim, Kim, Lee, Choi, Kim, & Shin, 2010). Therefore, there is a need to educate the dog owners on matters surrounding how behavioral issues develop and how they can be prevented through effective obedience training (Braem & Mills, 2010). Past studies have found a positive relationship between obedience training and reducing behavioral problems (Reisner, 2003) as training improves communication between a dog and its owner (Braem & Mills, 2010).

Behavior problems are among the primary reasons pets get passed over for adoption at animal shelters and returned to shelters and rescue organizations. There are many kinds of dog behavior problems; they can affect all dog breeds and at any time throughout a dog's life. Many behavior problems can be corrected through dog behavior training sometimes called "behavior modification." Proper obedience training at an early stage is a most effective technique to correct any behavior problems and also to prevent any future problems (Dog Training Central, n.d.)

Purina (Purina Pet Care Insurance Blog, n.d.) reported on a study that evaluated the effects of basic obedience training and "environmental enhancement" on adoption rates for 180 randomly selected dogs. According to this study, the behavior of dogs waiting to be adopted is very crucial to adoption success. Potential adopters are more concerned with how these dogs behave more than what breed or mixture of breeds they are. Dogs were assigned to either a trained or control group for an eight week period. The trained dogs were handled once a day for about twenty minutes. They were taught to

walk off lead, sit on command, not to jump up, and to come to the front of the run when someone walked by. The environmental enhancement included providing toys and blankets, using colored cage cards and adding artificial plants to the area where the dogs were kept. By the end of the study 116 had been adopted, 57 were euthanized, 4 went to rescue groups, 2 were returned to their owners and one died. The authors concluded that the trained dogs were 1.4 times more likely to be adopted and that their behavior was the key to the higher adoption rate.

In their companion animal adoption study, Neidhart and Boyd (2002) found that one year following adoption, the majority of dog adopters (77%) said their dog had no behavioral problems. The types of problems that were mentioned included bad habits, problems with people, aggression, being scared or shy, and eating problems. Despite having a behavior problem, the people kept their pets because of affection; they “loved him.” They also kept the pet because of humanitarianism; because “No one else would take him; therefore, I have to keep him. You wouldn’t get rid of a child because it had a behavior problem, would you?” (Voith, 1985).

The majority of the behavior problems listed by rescue adopters in the current study are modifiable behaviors: separation anxiety and over excitement issues (See Results for Q46 for a list of behavior problems). The discussion of Q40 describes the low rate for taking adopted rescue dogs to obedience training classes. Because most behavior problems are modifiable behaviors, it is a “win-win” situation for both owner and companion dog to work together in training and learning appropriate behaviors.

Possible Reasons for Relinquishment of the Adopted Rescue Dog (Q47)

Q47: “For what reason would you return your adopted dog?” Satisfaction and retention are attributed to the pet’s personality, compatibility, and behavior among adopters and between adoption settings (Neidhart & Boyd, 2002). Behavioral problems were the second most common reason given by owners for disowning a pet (Arkow & Dow, 1984). Serpell (1996b) investigated this phenomenon and found that dog owners who report weaker attachments for their pets are consistently less satisfied with most aspects of the dogs’ behavior compared with those who report stronger attachments.

Behavioral problems are identified as the primary reason given by new owners for returning shelter dogs. Diesel, Pfeiffer, and Broadbelt (2008) found that 59% of adopted dogs were returned for behavioral issues. Wells and Hepper (2000) found a higher percentage (90%) of returned dogs that presented a behavior problem in the first month post-adoption; most of these dogs were sexually intact which tends to increase their risk of relinquishment (Patronek, Glickman, Beck, & McCabe, 1996). In their study of greyhound adoption in Australia, Elliott, Toribio, and Wigney (2010) found owners who returned their greyhounds did so within one month because of behaviors that were rated as very concerning such as aggression, problems with other pets, separation anxiety, and escaping.

A series of reports appeared from a survey of 12 shelters in the U.S. on the reasons why dogs were relinquished (New, Salman, Scarlett, Kass, Gehrke, King, & Hutchinson, 2000; New, *et al.*, 1999; Salman, *et al.*, 1998; Salmon, Hutchinson, Ruch-Gallie, Kogan, New, Kass, & Scarlett, 2000). The top 10 reasons identified for

relinquishment of dogs were moving (7%), landlord not allowing a pet (6%), too many animals in the household (4%), cost of pet maintenance (5%), owner having personal problems (4%), inadequate facilities (4%), no homes available for litter mates (3%), having no time for pet (4%), pet illness(es) (4%), and biting (3%). The majority of the surrendered dogs were between five months and three years of age and had been owned from seven months to one year. Half were not neutered and most had not received any obedience training. The owners of the relinquished dogs represented a broad range of age, ethnicity, education, and income levels.

Shore, Peterson and Douglas (2003) conducted interviews of 57 people relinquishing their pets to a shelter because of moving. They found the largest portion of those interviewed were White, in their 20s, lived with a spouse or significant other, had children, and were employed with an household income of less than \$30,000 per year. Many indicated the reason for relinquishment was because they were moving for work and were moving to a place where the new landlord requirements did not allow their pet. The typical animal given up was one that was given to them and one that they had about 18 months. Unintentional pet acquisition and young age of relinquished dog are similar determinants found in other studies of the characteristics of relinquished dogs (DiGiacomo, Arluke, & Patronek, 1998; Patronek, Glickman, Beck, & McCabe, 1996; Marston, Bennett, & Coleman, 2004). Of the animals allowed to be retained in the new place of residence, they were animals most attached to, more well-behaved, easier to care for, and older. In their study of relinquishment of pets due to health and personal issues

Scarlett, *et al.* (1999) also found the pet owners to retain one or more pets, perhaps selecting the least favorite animal to be given up.

In the study by Neidhart and Boyd (2002) on the outcomes from a companion animal adoption study, roughly 25% of adopters who no longer had their adopted companion animal said they gave up their pet because it did not get along with others, either people or other companion animals. Satisfaction with the adoption and retention were attributed to the pet's personality, compatibility, and behavior rather than demographic differences among adopters or between adoption settings.

Most rescue organizations will take the dog back if things don't work out with the adopted dog rather than making the adoption experience miserable. It is also best for the dog and provides the dog with a second chance (Adopt a Pet, n.d.).

This study also found behavior problems to influence possible relinquishment. Aggression, especially toward children, was the primary reason for possible relinquishment of their adopted dog for adopters in all three rescue groups. Other than "aggression toward children," "aggression toward adults" and "and aggression toward other pets," were also among the top reasons for possible relinquishment of the adopted dog. In addition to these behavior problems, a few adopters from the humane society (4%) and greyhound (3%) rescue groups indicated destructiveness could be a cause for returning their adopted dog. "Uncertainty" rated next to "aggression toward children" for all adopters. In the written comments, many adopters indicated they would work with their adopted to dog to retrain the dog's behavior before they relinquished the dog. The most common response, however, was that their adopted dog would not be relinquished

for any reason. These responses support previous findings that indicate the absence of behavioral problems strengthens the relationship with its owner especially for those whose degree of attachment depends on some simple behavioral criteria (Serpell, 1996a).

Moving was also mentioned in this study as a possible cause for returning their adopted dog; moving was indicated most by greyhound adopters (9%) then humane society adopters (6%) and least by pit bull adopters (2%). Nearly 35% of animal-cruelty investigation calls are regarding pets left behind after people have moved away, making abandoned pets the No. 1 call to which the Humane Society's emergency staff responds (Animal abuse and family violence: A self-guided training presentation for law enforcement officers, n.d.).

Ignorance about the cost or amount of care a pet may require is another problem affecting relinquishment. This is more common during an economic downturn when expenses such as veterinary bills may not be considered essential or even possible (Creature comforts, 2008).

Identifying, preventing, and treating behavior problems are important in maintaining the human-animal bond and insuring retention of adopted dogs. The focus on pet behavior as a major cause of relinquishment has guided animal welfare professionals' efforts to promote the use of obedience training as the primary strategy to curtail pet relinquishment (Adkins, 2008; Salman, *et al.*, 1998; Fournier & Geller, 2004). Dogs obtained from shelters are at increased risk of relinquishment (Miller *et al.*, 1996; Patronek, Glickman, Beck, McCabe, & Ecker, 1996). Failure to modify problem behaviors can result in disruption of the human-animal bond and subsequently result in

abandonment, relinquishment, or even euthanasia of the affected dog (Sherman & Mills, 2008).

Dogs are amenable to learning and having humans as companions. This capacity makes their desirable as well as their undesirable behavior easily reinforced in some way by the handler's behavior. Successful training uses praise and/or treats to reward the dog for doing something that is wanted. Because the reward makes the behavior more likely to be repeated, positive reinforcements are the most powerful tools for shaping or changing a dog's behavior (Seksel, 2008).

In comparing the adopters from three rescue organization, the primary reason for returning a dog was "aggression towards children." In addition, "aggression toward adults," "aggression towards other pets," and "moving to a place where cannot keep a dog" were identified most frequently as reasons for the return of an adopted rescue dog. Many adopters responded with the "uncertain" response, indicating they hadn't given much thought to a reason for giving up their adopted dog. "Has become too expensive," "didn't meet expectations," "health problems," and "destructive" were mentioned least frequently.

Returning an adopted dog seems unthinkable to many adopters as is reflected in the statements provided from adopters. The humane society adopters indicated:

"I continually have to shake my head and wonder how anyone could have given our adopted dog up, especially since she lived with her previous owner all of nine years. Their reason for giving her up seemed very selfish. She is a lovely dog and as with all the dogs at the shelter, deserves a good life with much love and affection. Even if she were to get quite ill and needed expensive medical treatment, I

would be there for her and do whatever I could to help her.”
Dogs make us better humans. We own them a lot.”

“We love this dog. If we had to move, the new place would have to be one where we could have her with us.”

Another humane society adopter reaffirmed the findings from the survey that aggression, especially directed toward children would be a possible reason for the relinquishment of the adopted dog:

“I am sad that I am needing to find her a new home after three years due to redirected aggression toward my daughter when seeing other dogs.”

Pit bull adopters indicated:

“Return is not an option. I adopted/committed for the remainder of their life!”

“Dogs are yours for life as you would not return a child, nor should you consider returning a dog”

Other Household Pets (Other Dogs and Cats) (Q48 – 49)

Q48: “If have another dog(s), where did you get your dog?” The majority of all adopters in the current study indicated that they did not have any dog(s) other than the one they adopted from the rescue organization. The greyhound and pit bull adopters were the most likely to have other dogs that also were adopted from a rescue, 16% and 9%, respectively, while only 4% of the humane society adopters had other adopted dogs. Few adopters from any of the rescue groups indicated they obtained their other dog(s) from a pet store, 2%, 1%, and 1% of the humane society, greyhound, and pit bull adopters, respectively. The humane society and greyhound adopters were most likely to have obtained their other dog(s) from a dog breeder, 9% and 7%, respectively, while less than

16% of the pit bull adopters did. The majority of pit bull adopters and humane society adopters indicated their other dog(s) were obtained from other sources, 34% and 12%, respectively; in the minority were the greyhound adopters at 4%.

Q49: “Do you have a pet cat?” Most dogs regardless of breed or breed mix, if well-trained and raised with cats, will be tolerant, if not affectionate, with the family cat. Dogs that have been raised with cats or been kept in a foster home with a cat have established a history with feline relationships. Bringing an already cat-tolerant dog into a cat-owning family is a lot easier than introducing a dog to a strange cat and hoping that everything will work out okay (Adame, n.d.). Because of the prey/chase instinct, greyhounds may not be tolerant of cats. Most greyhound rescue organizations put their dogs through a training program involving a test for cat-tolerance; however, passing this test does not mean the greyhound will automatically be tolerant of cats in the new home (Smith, n.d.).

The majority of all the adopters responding to this survey did not have a cat, however, there was a difference between the homes of humane society adopters and greyhound adopters. The greyhound adopters were the least likely of the rescue adopters to have a companion cat.

One humane society made the comment about how their adopted dog and cat get along by saying:

“Everyone that meets Bronx loves him. Even though he is a big dog, he is great with all children, He plays with our humane society cat, and he gets along with other dogs when we board him at a doggy daycare facility.”

“We found a perfect match for our three cats, she’s calm and wonderful. Great overall experience in adopting.”

Although, few cats were reported in the homes of greyhound adopters, many of the greyhounds that live with cats get along with them. A greyhound adopter reported that their greyhound:

“... lives with five cats of varying ages and is very friendly to all of them, even to the point of sharing his water dish!”

A pit bull adopter reported how well her adopted dog and their cat get along by saying:

“My five year adopted pit bull was raised by my cat and now they are the best of friends.”

Feelings About Future Rescue Adoptions (Q50)

Q50: “Would you consider adopting another rescue dog?” The majority of adopters in all groups indicated they would consider adopting another rescue dog. Many rescue dog adopters responding to the survey reported they would adopt another rescue dog. Humane society adopters said:

“We are absolutely thrilled with our adopted dog. He’s been an amazing addition to our family; we can’t remember what it was like before he joined us. We’re currently discussing adopting another so he can have a buddy.”

“We feel very fortunate to have Palmer in our lives. He is a constant source of laughter and we would adopt again!”

Greyhound adopters made statements such as:

“I’ve had many adopted dogs in my life but having a greyhound surpasses them all. I’ve never had a dog that is so low maintenance and such a joy to have in my life! I will definitely be getting another one ... soon.”

“If you can see the floor, there’s room for at least one more!”

“I know that once I went greyhound, I’ll never go back to having another breed of dog. I know I will have more.”

Pit bull adopters also made statements indicating they would adopt from the pit bull rescue again:

“I will probably always adopt rescue pit bulls, they have my heart.”

“It was the best thing I ever did, and I will continue to adopt all my dogs from a pit bull rescue. In my opinion, they need loving homes more than any other breed.”

“Down the road, I would consider to continue to adopt the breed.”

“Despite all the stereotypes, my pit bull is the most affectionate, loving, fun, goofy, and wonderful dog I have ever known. I would never consider another breed after having him. I will continue to adopt from the pit bull rescue group.”

Feelings Toward the Adopted Rescue Dog (Q51 – 52)

Q51: “How do you regard your adopted dog?” In the past, society’s view of animals and companion animals has been one of utilitarianism (Meyers, 2002). However, there has been a growing body of research on the elevated status of pets in urban societies and the recognition of an animal-human bond (Kaufman & Kaufman, 2006). In the 1980s people began to report they considered their pets as members of the family (Katcher, 1981).

Anthropomorphism is the attribution of human mental states (thoughts, feelings, motivations, and beliefs) to nonhuman animals. Serpell (2002) has indicated anthropomorphism is an almost universal trait among companion animal owners.

Anthropomorphic thinking enables the animal companions' social behavior to be construed in human terms, allowing these nonhuman animals to function for their human owners as providers of social support. Research has shown that humans do relate to their companion animals as though they are equal to people in some ways. Serpell used these results to illustrate that most owners truly believe that their companion animals feel the same feelings that they do, such as feeling love for them, admiration for them, missing them while away, joy when they return, and jealousy when their attention is given to others. It is anthropomorphism that appears to be responsible for many of the social, physical, and psychological benefits people derive from the company of pet animals. Anthropomorphizing nonhuman agents makes them appear more predictable and understandable and seems to satisfy the basic motivation to make sense of an otherwise uncertain environment (Waytz, Morewedge, Epley, Monteleone, Gao, & Cacioppo, 2010). Results from the 2004 AAHA survey indicate 94% of the pet owners responding considered their animals to have human-like personality.

In 1988, Albert and Bulcroft found as many as 70-90% of pet owners to describe their pets in terms of them being "a member of the family." Pets' integral involvement in the family has continued and increased as more research has confirmed companion animals to be identified as members of the family. In 2002 Cohen reported 85% of pet owners considered their pet as family. The 2005 Pew Research Center survey of pet owners (2006) found 85% of dog owners think of their pet as family compared with 78% of cat owners. The 2011-2012 Harris Poll (2012) of 2,184 pet owners reported an increase to over nine in 10 pet owners (91%) to consider their pet to be a member of their

family, a sentiment found in 92% of dog owners and 91% of cat owners. Results in the current *U. S. Pet ownership and demographics sourcebook* (2012) of a survey of 50,000 households by the AVMA found that currently six out of 10 owners, or 63 %, considered their pets to be family.

Personhood is conveyed upon pets through the long-term relationships with them, establishing an intimate incorporation into families which is anthropomorphized by the caretaker to create *virtual persons* (Sanders, 1999). People do with pets what they also do with other humans: talk, eat, groom, walk, relax, and sleep. Naming the pet seems to begin the transformation from dog into a specific family member (Arluke & Sanders, 1996) and most people (if not all) give names to their pet's (Brown, 2006). Many people celebrate their pet's birthdays and give them presents. One in five pet owners (20%) frequently purchase birthday presents for their pets and nearly that many (17%) do so occasionally. One-third of pet owners (33%) frequently purchase holiday presents for their pets and many (27%) occasionally do so (Kruse, 2002). Pet owners are known to carry photos of their pets in their wallets (Beck & Meyers, 1996) as well as include pets in family portraits (Voith, 1985). One-third of pet owners indicate they dress their pet in some type of clothing. One in five pet owners take their pet to work with them and many take their pets on vacation (Kruse, 2002). Four out of 10 dog owners hold funerals or special events to mark the passing of their four-legged friends (The Guardian, 2006). Research shows that pet owners feel just as close to companion animals as to other humans and view pets as members of the family (Risley-Curtiss, Holley, & Wolf, 2006).

More women than men describe their pet as a member of the family. The same is true for those who aren't parents compared with those who have children. The Associated Press/Petside.com Poll conducted by GfK Roper Public Affairs (2011) found half (50%) of American pet owners consider their pets to be as much a part of the family as any person in the household. Their survey also revealed that single people of both genders, but especially single women (66%), were likely to say that their pet is a full member of the family. Only 46% of married women shared the same viewpoint. In comparison, 52% of single men said so, compared to 43% of married men.

Results of a national survey reported by the AVMA (2007) on the perceived role of pets, found that nearly 50% of all U.S. households with dogs considered their dog to be a family member. In a telephone survey of 587 adults conducted by Risley-Curtiss, Holley, and Wolf (2006), it was found there were no significant differences in the rates at which owners of various racial and ethnic backgrounds (White, African-American, Hispanic, Asian, Native American, and Pacific Islander) identified pets as family members. They did find that owners who live in cities or suburbs are more likely than those who live in rural areas to describe their pet as a family member.

In their companion animal adoption study, Neidhart and Boyd (2002) found cat and dog owners had similar, close relationships with their companion animals. Dog adopters were split between thinking of their dog as a child or close companion or as a part of the family (48% and 52%, respectively; $n = 157$). Cat adopters were more apt to view their cat as part of the family rather than a child or close companion (59% and 39%, respectively; $n = 181$). Adopters whose companion animal slept inside on a human bed

(49%; $n = 146$), pet bed (52%; $n = 33$), other furniture (48%; $n = 31$) or someplace else inside (40%; $n = 52$) were more than twice as likely to view their companion animal as a child or close companion compared to those whose companion animal slept outside (19%; $n = 26$).

In her interviews with dog owners Kennedy (2005) reported many referred to themselves as ‘mom’ and ‘dad’ in relation to their animals. Additionally, she reported several of her interviewees referred to their parents as the dog’s ‘grandparents.’ Also, their parents were said to refer to the dog as the “grand-dog.”

Although the results from these studies may be skewed by sampling bias and not generalizable to the entire population of dog owners, they provide an idea of the strong connection between many people and their dogs. Companion animals are clearly participants in human social life and are incorporated into the owner’s network of relationships. Companion animals are often viewed as integral members of family systems and they are loved in an emotionally attached kind of way, in some cases, as if they were human (Kennedy, 2005; Turner, 2001).

Pets are truly “all in the family.” More American homes have pets than have children. There are more dogs in the U.S. than people in most countries in Europe – and more cats than dogs. Americans spend more money on pet food than on baby food. Even more significant, is that a child in America is more likely to grow up with pets than with a live-at-home father (Animal Abuse and Family Violence, n.d.).

There is nothing like the unconditional love of a pet, whether it is a cat that snuggles up to you while watching TV or a dog who greets you so enthusiastically when you walk in the door, even if you just left to take out the garbage. It's no wonder these animals are treated like family members (Harris Poll, 2011). Lane, McNicholas and Collis (1988) summarize this effect:

Many pet owners regard their pet as valued members of the family and may seek them out as a source of comfort at times of stress. The relationship can involve confiding and talking to the pet, a feeling of empathy and a sense of loving and being loved which can combat loneliness and depression, particularly in individuals who feel socially isolated. (p.52)

Although, the majority of adopters in all three rescue groups consider their adopted dog “a member of the family” as opposed to a “pet,” results from the current survey indicated more pit bull adopters (97%) considered their adopted rescue dog a “member of the family” than the greyhound adopters (90%) and humane society adopters (91%). Many comments from the rescue adopters were about their adopted dog as family members. Humane society adopters commented:

“Our dog has turned out to be a fantastic member of the family.”

“My dog has completely changed my life for the better – and that was totally unexpected, I just thought I would get a dog for companionship but she is now completely a part of my family.”

“I love my dogs ... my furry children.”

It is a privilege to have her as a member of the family.”

Greyhound adopters commented that:

“My greyhound has definitely been a great addition to my family.”

“She is a well-loved member of the family. They are greyt kids.”

“She is my companion and my fur child.”

“They are my four legged children.”

“I probably devote too much of my time to my dogs. They are very much my other two kids, only they have fur and do not argue with me.”

Pit bull adopters indicated:

“My rescue dog is my kid.”

“These dogs are loyal, goofy, and incredibly smart. They deserve a fair chance to be a member of one’s family. Unfortunately, ignorance and media hype has negatively affected pitties. I feel so sorry for the breed and will do everything I can to help improve their standard of living.”

“We got to select our next family member.”

Q52: “How do you feel about your adopted dog in comparison with other pets you have or have ever had?” Those owners currently living with multiple dogs or who have had pets in the past make comparisons between their animals’ unique personal attributes. Each dog has individual personalities, tastes, histories, and emotions that can be evaluated (Sanders, 1999). In their companion animal study, Neidhart and Boyd (2002) found the bond between adopters and their companion animals grew stronger over time. Smolkovic, Fajfar, and Mlinaric (2012) investigated pet attachment between owner and pet and found the pedigree of the pet influenced owner-pet attachment levels.

When comparing the adopters from three rescue groups, results of the analysis indicated the responses from the humane society and pit bull adopters were similar; these adopters indicated they felt “about the same attachment” to their adopted rescue dog as they have felt about other dogs they have had. More humane society and pit bull adopters also had “no other dog” to compare to. The greyhound adopters responded more frequently in both levels indicating “somewhat more attachment” and “much more attachment” to their adopted greyhound than the humane society and pit bull adopters. The majority of adopters from all rescue groups responding to the survey indicated they are very attached to their adopted dogs. Responses from the humane society adopters include:

“I have had special connections with the two dogs adopted from humane societies.”

“I had no idea I could love a dog as much as this.”

Katie is the most loving and attentive dog ever.”

One humane society adopter who adopted a pit bull mix commented on how she based her feelings of attachment by saying:

“I love my new dog and he has tons of potential. I feel somewhat less emotionally attached to him than the last dog I adopted, but probably only because I had that dog for 11 years and went through a lot with him and I’ve only had the new dog for four months. The new dog is a pit bull mix and I use him as an ambassador for the breed when meeting new people.”

A greyhound adopter wrote as a comment:

“Once you have owned a greyhound, every other breed is just a dog.”

“I have always had a dog ... for some reason I am more attached to the greyhounds than any other animals/pets I have ever had.”

Pit bull adopters also indicate strong attachment to their adopted dog. They said:

“This is our fourth dog and never have I been so smitten with a dog. I absolutely adore our pit bull and am having a wonderful experience with training her.”

“There are no other dogs that even come close to my pit bull terrier.”

“My girl is the one of my dogs that I am most connected to. She is a great part of my family and I don’t know what I did before she came.”

Adopter’s Volunteer Characteristics (Q53 – 55)

Social capital includes benefits derived from the treatment and cooperation between individuals/groups; it is generally positively related to health (Almedom, 2005). By having the pool of human resources associated with a community work together – in this case, dog adoption organizations – the productivity of the group is enhanced. All dog rescue groups studied have facilities and events where individuals can volunteer to help maintain and promote the dog adoption organization and adoption. Participating in an organization that benefits a worthy cause is a source of self-esteem and contributes to an individual’s positive view of self.

Q53: “Have you attended a rescue adoption event with your adopted rescue dog?” Animal nonprofit organizations are among the top rated charities (Marketing Charts, 2011). Greyhound adopters in the current study were the most apt to have received information about rescue adoption from specialty rescue events (Q12). The

internet was a resource for information frequently used by adopters from all three rescue groups.

Despite the widespread knowledge about the adoption of rescue dogs, the results of the analysis of the adopters responding in this study indicated the humane society adopters were the most likely not to volunteer for the rescue organization and the greyhound adopters were the most likely to volunteer for the rescue organization.

Greyhound adopters indicated:

“I didn’t expect that adopting a greyhound would lead to such an involved social life, including “family trips” to greyhound gatherings, monthly strolls with our local adoption group, and opportunities to walk with other greyhound owners a few times a week. Maybe I’m biased, but I think greyhound owners are very interesting, warm, and generous people!”

“We go on trips with our dogs to greyhound events. They have truly changed our lives. They are so goofy, sweet, and just looking at them gives us pleasure. Everything about them is just perfect. I could go on and on, but I think you get what I am talking about.”

Q54: “Do you volunteer with a rescue adoption group?” Most local animal shelters and rescue organizations are not-for-profit organizations and work on a shoestring budget while relying upon donations and volunteers to help the animals in their care. There are many things volunteers do from helping with filing, paperwork, and answering phones to walking dogs, cleaning cages, feeding the animals, *etc.* or just spending time petting and talking to the animals. Animal shelter volunteers often take on fostering animals and even adopting the animals from the shelter. Volunteering at the

animal shelter is also a good thing for families, it exposes the kids to animal care, and introduces them to all sizes and types of pets.

The greyhound rescue adopters were the most likely to indicate they volunteered for their rescue adoption group (89.3%). This may be partially due to the many groups available, their wide distribution, and the longevity of the greyhound adoption program. The humane society adopters were the most likely to indicate that they do not provide any volunteer service to the rescue organization (62.9%).

A humane society adopter with a long term volunteer experience indicated:

“I have volunteered at our local shelter for seven years. I can appreciate all the time, effort, money, and emotional involvement staff and volunteers put into these wonderful animals.”

Greyhound adopters report their feelings about their volunteer work with the rescue:

“When we take our dogs out to events, people thank us for what we do for these dogs, but we are the lucky ones. Our dogs bring so much joy into our lives that the least we can do is try to bring that joy to someone else.”

A pit bull adopter commented:

“It is the best feeling in the world to know that you helped save a life just by being involved in rescue however you can, transports, home visits, *etc.* – every little bit helps!”
 “Working with a rescue has made me a better person, and definitely a better dog owner. It’s more than a rescue, it is a family. We have started fostering dogs through the rescue, and it is one of the most rewarding experiences. Unfortunately not all dogs that we have fostered were eligible for adoption, but at least they were given a chance, which is more than they had before. Our rescue believes in positive training, responsible ownership, education, and advocacy.”

Q55: “Do you volunteer for charity, community service, religious, etc. organizations?” Adopting a dog from a rescue can be considered an act of altruism, especially to a creature that is not genetically related (Voith, 1985). In 2011, the number of people volunteering reached its highest level in five years, as 64.5 million Americans volunteered through an organization, an increase of 1.5 million from 2010 (Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) in partnership with the National Conference on Citizenship (NCoC), 2012). Data on volunteering indicate the volunteer rate of women increased from 29 percent to 30 percent in the year ending in September 2011, while the volunteer rate for men, at 24 percent, changed little. Women continued to volunteer at a higher rate than did men across all age groups, educational levels, and other major demographic characteristics (supplement to the September 2011 Current Population Survey (CPS)).

By age, it the 35- to 44 year olds and the 45- to 54 year olds who are the most likely to volunteer (32% and 31%, respectively). Persons in their early twenties are the least likely to volunteer (19%). Among the major race and ethnicity groups, Whites continue to volunteer at a higher rate (28%) than do Blacks (20%), Asians (20%), and Hispanics (15%). The volunteer rate for Blacks was shown to increase in 2011 over 2010. For all other major race and ethnicity groups, the 2011 volunteer rates were little different from the rates in 2010 (supplement to the September 2011 Current Population Survey (CPS)).

As in earlier years, married persons volunteered at a higher rate (32%) in 2011 than did those who had never married (21%) and those with other marital statuses (22%).

The volunteer rate of parents with children under age 18 (34%) remained higher than the rate for persons without children (24%).

Individuals with higher levels of educational attainment engaged in volunteer activities at higher rates than did those with less education. Among persons age 25 and over, 42% of college graduates volunteered, compared with 18% of high school graduates and 10% of those with less than a high school diploma (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2012).

Differences have been noted among those rating animal protection as a low priority and their support of the United Way as well as to make contributions to churches or religious organizations compared to those rating animal protection high. More than a third of animal protection donors supported the United Way or other social service charities and religious groups. Donations to health-related charities have been shown to increase with age, with older cohorts more likely to be concerned about and supportive of health-related issues (Lockwood, 2005).

Wood *et al.* (2007) found that pet owners were 57% more likely to be civically engaged than were non-pet owners. The majority of rescue dog adopters in the current study did not volunteer with other charity, community service, religious, *etc.* organizations. While not volunteering with the rescue, the humane society adopters were the most likely to volunteer with other groups. Because the pit bull adopters were the youngest, they may have the least amount of time for volunteer activities.

Chapter 9: Conclusion

While some qualities of the relationship people have with companion animals seem universal, at the same time, each relationship is unique. As with any human relationship, the person is an individual with a unique personal, family, and cultural history with animals. The animal has its own breed characteristics and individual mannerisms and personality as well. The pair live in a certain setting, with certain habits of husbandry, and contexts for interacting. Over time they establish a unique relationship with its own routines and rituals that are familiar to both parties, and also to some other people and animals. It is a one-of-a-kind relationship that evolves and is shaped over years, growing with time, and being based on the specific experiences of the pair (Hart, 2008).

In spite of the growth of information on the human-animal bond, there still remains a need for further research on the complexities of this relationship. There is something special that only animals can give their human companions. This study shows that dog adopters differ according to different owner demographic characteristics, reasons for selecting a rescue dog adoption, attitudes toward the adopted dog, feelings of attachment to the adopted dog, and experiences with the dog and rescue organizations. This study also shows that there are commonalities in the emotional experience of having a close and caring relationship with a pet, irrespective of where an adopter finds the companion dog.

Females and Caucasians were in the majority of respondents to this survey from all rescue groups; this is similar to findings reported by other researchers. The humane

society adopters had the most children between 5 and 12 years of age, had the most respondents in the lower income brackets, and had the most living in urban areas. The greyhound adopters were the oldest, had the oldest children living at home, had the most respondents in the \$100,000 – 149,999 income brackets, and had the most living in suburban areas. The pit bull adopters were the youngest, had the most children below 5 years of age, had the most living in rural areas, and had a higher percent of respondents in the highest income bracket (greater than \$150,000).

The resources the adopters used to find out about rescue adoption varied. The humane society adopters used the internet and personal research for their information, the greyhound adopters used greyhound adoption events for their information, and the pit pull adopters mainly relied on the internet. Although the “self” (the majority of respondents were female) was the one primarily involved in making the adoption decision in all rescue groups, the humane society adopters were most apt to have been influenced by a mix of spouses and family members when making the adoption decision compared to the other rescue adopters, especially the greyhound adopters.

The humane society adopters were the most interested of the respondents in the ability to adopt a purebred dog. The greyhound and pit bull adopters had already made this decision in going to a specialty breed adoption organization for their adopted dog. All adopters felt they had helped save a life by adopting from a rescue organization; however, the pit bull adopters responded most strongly. The social facilitation offered by the companion dog was most important to the greyhound and pit bull adopters. Adopting a dog for companionship was most important to the pit bull adopters. The humane society

adopters liked the opportunity to be able to adopt from a variety of age dogs. The personality/temperament of the dog was most important to the greyhound adopter. The humane society adopters were attracted to the physical appearance of their adopted dog. Among all three groups of rescue adopters, the three main influences on the adoption decision were “companionship,” “the personality/temperament of the dog,” and to “help save a life.”

The greyhound adopters had the highest composite score from the CCAS, indicating they received the least comfort from their adopted dog. However, the greyhound adopters were the most apt to feel their expectations had been met in their adopted dog. The pit bull adopters had the lowest CCAS scores indicating they felt the most comfort from their adopted rescue dog. The adopted dogs from the humane society were the least apt to meet the expectation of their adopters.

Greyhound adopters were the most likely of the rescue adopters to have more than one adopted dog; for some greyhound adopters, the number of adopted dogs exceeded eight. In addition, the greyhound adopters had adopted the most rescue dogs in the past and had adopted from the rescue for longest period of time. The greyhound adopters also had the most senior adopted dogs, a likely reflection of the availability of retired racers who would already be three to five years of age. In addition, the greyhound adopters were the ones most likely to indicate that the other dogs in their household were adopted rescue dogs – likely from the greyhound rescue. The majority of adopters in all rescue groups would consider adopting another rescue dog in the future.

Obedience training is considered the most optimal way to insure good behavior in a dog. The pit bull adopters were the group to be the most likely to have taken their adopted dog to an obedience class. The pit bull adopters were also the most likely to take their dogs along with them on errands.

Females were the most likely to be responsible for the general care as well as veterinary visits for the adopted dog in all rescue groups. Although the female adopters were responsible for the adopted dog's general care and feeding, this responsibility was more likely to be assigned to children in the humane society households. The condition 'to insure quality of life' was the most important to pit bull adopters if making a decision to proceed with an expensive medical procedure. A combination of 'quality of life' and 'cost' were more likely to influence the decision of the greyhound and humane society adopters.

Many adopters did not respond with a possible reason they would return their adopted dog. Many also chose "uncertain" and could not provide a reason that would cause them to return their adopted dog. Aggression in general, but especially that directed toward children, was the most cited reason for possible relinquishment of the dog among the respondents from all three rescue groups.

As in other studies, the majority of respondents to the Rescue Dog Adopter Survey indicated that they regarded their adopted dog as a member of the family. The pit pull adopters were the least likely to consider their adopted dog a pet. The pit bull and humane society adopters reported the attachment they felt toward the adopted rescue dog was about the same they felt for other companion animals. However, it was the

greyhound adopters that were most likely to feel greater attachment to their adopted dog than to other companion animals they have had.

Greyhound adopters participated in adoption events more than the adopters in the other rescue groups. Greyhound adopters also reported volunteering to take on a variety of responsibilities within the rescue organization more than the other rescue adopters. The majority of adopters in all three groups were not currently volunteering with the rescue organization.

Stereotypes were both confirmed and broken. Shelter dogs are healthy, available in a variety of ages, 25% are pure bred; they are loving, well-adjusted animals who are homeless through no fault of their own. Despite greyhounds being known for their speed, most retired racing greyhounds adapt well to life as a companion animal. Pit bulls were acquired for companionship more than the other dogs, live indoors, and had regular playtime and exercise with their families. Pit bull adopters were more likely to take their dogs to dog obedience training classes, which is a positive response to breed specific legislation against pit bull-type dogs because of their stereotyped aggressiveness.

Results from this study indicate there are many instances where there are differences between the adopters from the humane societies, greyhound, and pit bull rescue groups. Just as groups of people have preferences for clothes and cars, there seems to be a preference among people who want a dog for a particular companion animal. There has been some evidence that people's taste in animals is associated with their own appearance (Coren, 1999). When Roy & Christenfeld (2004) investigated whether owners could be matched to their dog, they found that observers were not able to match photos of

dogs with photos of their owners except where purebreds were involved. They concluded “the results suggest that when people pick a pet, they seek one that, at some level, resembles them, and when they get a purebred, they get what they want.” Dog adopters in this study support the variation that exists between adopters and their experience with their adopted dogs. Results of the analysis of the research questions generally place the adopters of the purebred dogs as different from each other and from the humane society adopters, the group not associated with a specialty bred dog.

The importance of human-animal bonds has been documented throughout history, across cultures, and explored in recent research. Individual demographics can be revealing in tracking the changing relationships between people and animals. Comparing different study populations at different times can reflect changes in beliefs and actions and how people and animals interact (Lockwood, 2005). Attachment to companion animals is, therefore, a subject that needs continued research. Future research is needed to better understand the meaning and significance of our bonds with companion animals and the interactions of key variables such as personal needs and preferences, relational dynamics, life situation, and sociocultural context. The typical underrepresentation of certain groups (males and minority groups) needs to be addressed in order to have a more conclusive understanding of all facets of the relationship humans have with their companion animals.

The adopters’ relationships and experiences with their adopted rescue dog vary across rescue groups and illustrate both similarities and differences in human-companion animal dynamics. As each question on the Rescue Dog Adopter Survey was investigated,

many other questions arose. Never can everything be investigated in one study; this only points out the necessity of continued efforts to explore the situational variations, meanings, and benefits of human-animal connections.

References

- About.com.dogs. (n.d.). Dog basics: Dog adoption guide. Retrieved October 4, 2012 from <http://dogs.about.com/od/becomingadogowner/a/adoption.htm>
- Adame, L. (n.d.). Advice on greyhound and cats. Retrieved September 20, 2012 from http://www.greyhoundlist.org/cats_and_greys.htm
- Adell-Bath, M., Krook, A., Sanqvist, G. & Skarltze, K. (1979), "*Do we need dogs? A study of dogs' social significance to man,*" Gothenburg: University of Gothenburg Press.
- Adkins, B. L. (2008). *Factors associated with the relinquishment of domestic canines to animal shelters*. Doctor dissertation, Lynn University, Boca Raton, FL.
- Adopt a Pet. (n.d.). Home page. Retrieved September 20, 2012 from <http://www.adoptapet.com/> <http://www.clickandtreat.com/dfogb8.htm>
- Adopting a shelter dog. (n.d.) Retrieved October 7, 2012 from <http://www.clickandtreat.com/dfogb8.htm>
- Advocates battle stereotypes of bully breeds. (October 17, 2011). Retrieved from <http://theanimalrescuesite.greatergood.com/clickToGive/ars/article/Advocates-battle-stereotypes-of-bully-breeds641>
- Albert, A., & Bulcroft, K. (1987). Pets and urban life. *Anthrozoös, 1*, 9-25.
- Albert, A., & Bulcroft, K. (1988). Pets, families and the life course. *Journal of Marriage and the Family, 50*, 543-552.
- Alessi, E. J., & Martin, J. I. (2010). Stressful events, avoidance coping, and unprotected anal sex among gay and bisexual men. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry, 80*, 293–301.
- Allen, K. (1995). Coping with life changes and transitions: The role of pets. *Interactions, 13*, 5-8.
- Almedom, A. (2005). Social capital and mental health: An interdisciplinary review of primary evidence. *Social Science and Medicine, 61*, 943-964.
- American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) 2004 pet owner survey. (2004). Retrieved from <https://www.aahanet.org/PublicDocuments/petownersurvey2004.pdf>

- American Association of Retired Persons (AARP). (2010). Pet ownership and exercise: An AARP Bulletin Poll. Retrieved from http://assets.aarp.org/rgcenter/health/bulletin_petex.pdf
- American Greyhound Council (AGC). (n.d.). Home page. Retrieved October 12, 2011 from AGC, <http://www.agcouncil.com>
- American Humane Association. (n.d.). Breed specific legislation. Retrieved October 15, 2011 from <http://www.americanhumane.org>
- American Kennel Club (AKC). (n.d.) Retrieved November 10, 2011 from <http://www.akc.org/breeds/greyhound/>
- American Pet Products Association (APPA) 2011-2012 national pet owner's survey. (2012). Retrieved from <http://media.americanpetproducts.org/press.php?include=142818>
- American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA). (n.d.). Retrieved August 30, 2011 from <http://www.aspca.org>
- American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA). (2013). Pet statistics, Retrieved from <http://www.aspca.org/about-us/faq/pet-statistics.aspx>
- Anderson, W. P., Reid, C. M., & Jennings, G. L. (1992). Pet ownership and risk factors for cardiovascular disease. *Medical Journal of Australia*, 157, 289-301.
- Animal abuse and family violence: Partners in crime a self-guided training presentation for law enforcement officers. (n.d.). Latham Foundation. Retrieved January 27, 2013 from <http://latham.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/Latham-Link-for-Law-Enforcement-Outline-Part-1.pdf>
- Animal shelter. (n.d.). Web definition. Retrieved October 5, 2011 from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Animal_shelter
- Animal Shelter Org. (n.d.). Retrieved September 22, 2012 from <http://www.animalshelter.org/>
- Animal welfare. (n.d.). Web definition. Retrieved October 5, 2011 from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Animal_welfare

- Arkow, P. S., & Dow, S. (1984). The ties that do not bind: A study of the human-animal bonds that fail. In R. K. Anderson, B. L. Bart, & L. A. Hart (Eds.), *The pet connection: Its influence on our health and quality of life* (pp. 348-354). Minneapolis, MN: CENSHARE, University of Minnesota.
- Arluke, A., & Sanders, C. R. (1996). *Regarding animals*. Philadelphia, PA: Temple University Press.
- Associated Press-Petside.com Poll. (2011). GfK Roper Public Affairs & Corporate Communications. Retrieved from http://surveys.ap.org/data%5CGfK%5CAPPetside%20com%20October%202011%20Pets%20Topline%20FINAL_Shelter.pdf
- Bandura, A. (1977). *Social learning theory*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall.
- Barnes, J. E. (2012). Tongues are wagging after Chesty's Marine Corps promotion. *Wall Street Journal*, August 25-26, Vol CCLX (47): A1 & A10.
- Beck, A., & Katcher, A. (1996). *Between pets and people: The importance of animal companionship*. West Lafayette, IV: Purdue: Purdue University Press.
- Beck, L., & Madresh, E. A. (2008). Romantic partners and for-legged friends: An extension of attachment theory to relationships with pets. *Anthrozoös*, 21, 43-56.
- Beck, A. M., & Meyers, N. M. (1996). Health enhancement and companion animal ownership. *Annual Review of Public Health*, 17, 247-257.
- Behrens, T., Maziak, W., Welland, S. K., Rzehak, P., Siebert, E., & Keil, U. (2005). Symptoms of asthma and the home environment. The ISAAC I and III cross-sectional surveys in Munster, Germany. *International Archives of Allergy and Immunology*, 137, 53-61.
- Bekoff, M. (2010). *Encyclopedia of animal rights and welfare* (2nd ed.). Santa Barbara, CA: Greenland Publishing Group.
- Belk, R. W. (1996). Metaphoric relationships with pets. *Society and Animals*, 4, 121-145.
- Bem, D. J. (1972). Self-perception theory. In L. Berkowitz (Ed.), *Advances in Experimental Social Psychology*, (Vol. 6, pp. 1-62). New York: Academic Press.

- Bennett, M. P., & Lengacher, C. (2008). Humor and laughter may influence health: III. Laughter and health outcomes. *Evidence-Based Complementary and Alternative Medicine*, 5, 37-40.
- Bowlby, J. (1958). The nature of the child's tie to its mother. *International Journal of Psycho-Analysis*, 39, 350-373.
- Braem, M. D., & Mills, D. S. (2010). Factors affecting response of dogs to obedience instruction: A field and experimental study. *Applied Animal Behaviour Science*, 125, 47-55.
- Branigan, C. A. (2003). *Adopting the Racing Greyhound*. New York: Wiley Publishing, Inc.
- Branigan, C. A. (2004). *The reign of the greyhound: A popular history of the oldest family of dogs*. Hoboken, NJ: Howell Book House.
- Bauer, A. L., & Woodward, L. E. (2007). People and their pets: A relational perspective on interpersonal complementarity and attachment in companion animal owners. *Journal of Human-Animal Studies*, 15, 169-189.
- Breed History of Greyhounds. (n.d.). Retrieved October 27, 2011 from <http://www.goldengreyhounds.com/about/history.htm>
- Broida, J. P., Tingley, L., Kimball, R., & Miele, J. (1993). Personality differences between pro and anti vivisectionists. *Society and Animals*, 1, 129-144.
- Brown, D. (1985). Cultural attitudes toward pets. *Veterinary Clinics of North America: Small Animal Practice*, 15, 311-317.
- Brown, K. (2006). Pastoral concern in relation to the psychological stress caused by the death of an animal companion. *Mental Health, Religion & Culture*, 9, 411-422.
- Brown, S. (2002). Ethnic variations in pet attachment among students at an American School of Veterinary Medicine. *Society and Animals*, 10. Retrieved from <https://plus7.safe-order.net/psyeta/sa/sa10.4/brown.shtml>
- Brown, S. (2004). The human-animal bond and self-psychology: Toward a new understanding. *Society and Animals*, 12, 67-86.
- Bullseye mascot. (n.d.). Retrieved August 16, 2012 from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bullseye_%28mascot%29

- Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2012). Volunteering in the United States, 2011. Retrieved from <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/volun.nr0.htm>
- Cain, A. (1985). Pets as family members. In M. Sussman (Ed.), *Pets and the family life* (pp. 5-10). New York: Haworth Press.
- Case, L. (2008). Perspectives on domestication: The history of our relationship with man's best friend. *Journal of Animal Science*, 86, 3245-3251.
- Chaix, L. (2000). A preboreal dog from the northern Alps (Savoie, France), In S. J. Crockfort (Ed.), *Dogs through time: An archaeological perspective* (pp. 49-59). Oxford: British Archaeological Reports.
- Chartrand, T. L., & Bargh, J. A. (1999). The chameleon effect: The perception-behavior link and social interaction. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 76, 893-910.
- Chomel, B. B., & Sun, B. (2011). Zoonoses in the bedroom. *Emerging Infectious Diseases*, 17, 167-172.
- Clancy, E. A., & Rowan, A. N. (2003). Companion animal demographics in the United States: A historical perspective. In D. J. Salem & A. N. Rowan (Eds.) *The state of the animals II: 2003*. Washington, D.C.: Humane Society Press.
- Clark, P. W., & Page, J. B. (2009). Examining role model and information source information on breed loyalty: Implications in four important product categories. *Journal of Management and Marketing Research*, 2. Retrieved from <http://www.aabri.com/manuscripts/08119.pdf>
- Clarke, G. I., & Boyer, W. N. (1993). The effects of dog obedience training and behavioral counseling upon the human-canine relationship. *Applied Animal Behaviour Science*, 37, 147-159
- Clutton-Brock, J. (1995). Origins of the dog: Domestication and early history (pp. 7-20). In J. Serpell (Ed.), *The domestic dog, its evolution, behavior and interactions with people*. Cambridge: CUP.
- Cohen, S. P. (2002). Can pets function as family members? *Western Journal of Nursing Research*, 24, 621-638.
- Coile, D. C. (2001). Pitting and Petting: The pit bull's past. In *Pit bulls for dummies*. New York: Hungry Minds, Inc.

- Collis, G. M., & McNicholas, J. (1998). A theoretical basis for health benefits of pet ownership: Attachment versus psychological support. In C. C. Wilson & D. C. Turner (Eds.), *Companion animals in human health* (pp. 105-122). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.
- Cooley, C. H. (1964). *Human nature and the social order*. New York: Schocken.
- Cooper, A., Scherer, C., & Mathy, R. M. (2001). Overcoming methodological concerns in the investigation on online sexual activities. *CyberPsychology and Behavior*, 4, 437-447.
- Coppinger, R. (2001). *Dogs: A startling new understanding of canine origin, behavior and evolution*. New York: Scribner.
- Coren, J. (1999). Do people look like their dogs? *Anthrozoös*, 12, 111-114.
- Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) in partnership with the National Conference on Citizenship (NCoC). (2012). Volunteering and civic life in America 2012. Retrieved from <http://www.volunteeringinamerica.gov/pressroom.cfm>
- Crawford, E. K., Worsham, N. L., & Swinehart, E. R. (2006). Benefits derived from companion animals, and the use of the term "attachment." *Anthrozoös*, 19, 98-112.
- Creature comforts. (November 11, 2008). Pet owners are increasingly skipping vet visits as the economy declines. *Newsweek*. Retrieved from <http://www.thedailybeast.com/newsweek/2008/11/11/creature-comforts.html>
- Current population reports. (1996). Projections of the Number of Households and Families in the United States: 1995 to 2010. Retrieved from <http://www.census.gov/prod/1/pop/p25-1129.pdf>
- Dayan, T. (1994). Early domesticated dogs of the near East. *Journal of Archaeological Science*, 21, 633-640.
- DeLeeuw, J. L. (2010). *Animal shelter dogs: Factors predicting adoption versus Euthanasia*. Published doctoral dissertation, Wichita State University, Wichita, KS.
- Diesel, G., Pfeiffer, D. U., & Broadbelt, D. (2008). Factors affecting the success of rehoming dogs in the UK during 2005. *Preventive Veterinary Medicine*, 84, 228-241.

- Diesel, G., Brodbelt, D. & Pfeiffer, D. U. (2010). Characteristics of relinquished dogs and their owners at 14 rehoming centers in the United Kingdom. *Journal of Applied Animal Welfare Science*, 13, 15-30.
- DiGiacomo, N., Arluke, A., & Patronek, G. J. (1998). Surrendering pets to shelters: The relinquisher's perspective. *Anthrozoös*, 11, 42-52.
- Ding, Z.L., Oskarsson, M., Ardalán, A., Angelby, H., Tepeli, C., Kirkness, E., Savolainen, P., & Zhang, Y-P. (2012). Origins of domestic dogs in Southern East Asia is supported by analysis of Y-chromosome DNS. *Heredity*, 108,507-514.
- Dog Breed Info Center. (n.d.). Retrieved October 4, 2011 from <http://www.dog-obedience-training-review.com/dog-behavior-training.html>
- Dog Training Central. (n.d.). How to train a dog at home like professional dog trainers. Retrieved October 4, 2011 from <http://www.dog-obedience-training-review.com/>
- Doty, M. (2007). *Dog years*. New York: HarperCollins.
- Eckstein, S. (n.d.). Pets in your bed. *WebMD*. Retrieved February 16, 2012 from <http://pets.webmd.com/features/pets-in-your-bed>
- Edelson, J., & Lester, D. (1983). Personality and pet ownership: A preliminary study. *Psychological Reports*, 53, 3.
- Edenburg, N., Hart, H., & Bouw, J. (1994). Motives for acquiring companion animals. *Journal of Economic Psychology*, 15, 191-206.
- Edwards, J.D., & Schneider, H.P. (2005). The World Veterinary Association and animal welfare. In *Animal Welfare: Global issues, trends and challenges. Scientific and Technical Review* (pp. 639-646). Paris: OIE.
- Eldridge, J., & Gluck, J. P. (1996). Gender differences in attitudes toward animal research. *Ethics and Behavior*, 6, 239-256.
- Elliott R., Toribio, J. A. L. M. L., & Wigney, D. (2010). The greyhound adoption program (Australia & New Zealand): A survey of owners' experiences with greyhounds a month after adoption. *Applied Animal Behavior Science*, 124, 121-135.
- Evans J. R., & Mathur A. (2005). The value of online surveys. *Internet Research*, 15, 195-219.

- Facts for Families: Pets and children, (2008). American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP). Retrieved from http://www.aacap.org/galleries/FactsForFamilies/75_pets_and_children.pdf
- Feldmann, B. M. (1979). Why people own pets. In: R. Allen & W. Westbrook (Eds.), *The handbook of animal welfare* (pp. 87-94). New York: Garland STPM.
- Fine A. H. (2000). Animals and therapists: incorporating animals in outpatient psychotherapy. In Fine AH (Ed.). *Handbook on animal-assisted therapy: Theoretical foundations and guidelines for practice* (pp. 179-211). San Diego, CA: Academic Press.
- Flemming, M., & Petty, R. (1999). Identity and persuasion: An elaboration likelihood approach, In D. J. Terry & M. A. Hogg (Eds), *Attitudes and behavior and social context: The role of norms and group membership* (pp. 171-199). Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.
- Flynn, C. P. (2000). Battered women and their animal companions. *Society and Animals*, 8, 99-127..
- Fogel, B. (1984). *Pets and their people*. New York: Viking Press.
- Fournier, A. K., & Geller, S. E. (2004). Behavior analysis of companion-animal overpopulation: A conceptualization of the problem and suggestions for intervention. *Behavior and Social Issues*, 13, 51-68.
- Franklin, A. (1999). *Animals and modern cultures: A sociology of human-animal relations in modernity*. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications Inc.
- Franklin, A., Tranter, B., & White, R. (2001). Explaining support for animal rights: A comparison of two recent approaches to humans, nonhuman animals, and postmodernity. *Society and Animals* 9, 127-144.
- Frew, A. J. (2005). Advances in environmental and occupational diseases 2004. *Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology*, 115, 1197-1202.
- Friedmann, E. (1988). People and pets - psychological and sociological aspects. *UNESC Courier*, February. Retrieved from http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m1310/is_1988_Feb/ai_6331600
- Friedmann, E., Katcher, A. H., Lynch, J. J., & Thomas, S. (1980). Animal companionship and one year survival of patients after discharge from a coronary care unit. *Public Health Reports*, 95, 307-312.

- Friedmann, E., & Son, H. (2009). The human-companion animal bond: How humans benefit. *Veterinary Clinics of North America: Small Animal Practice*, 39, 293-326.
- Gallup, G., & Beckstead, J. (1988). Attitudes towards animal research. *American Psychologist*, 43, 474-476.
- Galvin, L., & Herzog, Jr., H. A. (1992). Ethical ideology, animal rights activism, and attitudes toward the treatment of animals. *Ethics and Behavior*, 2, 141-149.
- Geries-Johnson, B., & Kennedy, J.H. (1995). Influence of animals on perceived likeability of people. *Perception and Motor Skills*, 80, 432-434.
- Gibson, H. (2005). Dog fighting detailed discussion. Animal Legal and Historical Center, Michigan State University College of Law. Retrieved from <http://www.animallaw.info/articles/ddusdogfighting.htm>
- Goffman, E. (1963). *Behavior in public places*. New York: Basic Books.
- Gosling, S. D., Sandy, C. J., & Potter, J. (2010). Personalities of self-identified “dog-people” and “cat-people.” *Anthrozoös*, 23, 213-222.
doi:10.2752/175303710X12750451258850
- Green, S. B., Salkind, N. J. (2011). *Using SPSS for Windows and Macintosh: Analyzing and Understanding Data*, 6th Edition, Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Pearson.
- Grey2K educational fund USA. (n.d.). A brief history of the greyhound. Retrieved January 13, 2013 from <http://www.grey2kusaedu.org/pdf/ShortHistoryForStudents.pdf>
- Greyhound adoption. (n.d.), Retrieved January 14, 2013 from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greyhound_adoption
- Greyhound adoption manual*. (n.d.). Greyhound Pets of America-Atlanta/Southeastern Greyhound Adoption. Retrieved January 14, 2013 from <http://www.greyhoundadoption.org/downloads/adopt/AdoptionManual.pdf>
- Greyhound Pets of America (GPA). (n.d.). Home page. Retrieved October 12, 2011 from <http://www.greyhoundpets.org>
- Greyhound racing in the twentieth century (n.d.). Track Racing. Retrieved March 15, 2012 from <http://www.gulfcoastgreyhounds.org/hist-20th-cent.html>

- Grossman, Y. W. (May 4, 2011). For over one hundred years Americans knew pit bulls for what they did best, babysitting. Part I. Retrieved from <http://www.ywgrossman.com/photoblog/?p=676>
- Gunter, B. (2005). *Pets and people: The psychology of pet ownership*. London: Whurr Publishers Ltd.
- Halper, D. (February 1, 2013). Animal Planet: Pets outnumber children 4 to 1 in America. *The Weekly Standard*. Retrieved from http://m.weeklystandard.com/blogs/animal-planet-pets-outnumber-children-4-1-america_699157.html
- Harris Interactive. (September 28, 2012). Three in five Americans own pets, Harris Poll finds. *Veterinary Practice News*. Retrieved from <http://www.veterinarypracticenews.com/vet-breaking-news/2011/06/10/three-in-five-americans-own-pets-harris-poll-finds.aspx>
- Harris Poll. (2011). Pets aren't just animals; they are members of the family. Retrieved from http://www.harrisinteractive.com/vault/Harris%20Poll%2054%20-%20Pet%20Ownership_9%2013%2012.pdf
- Harris, M. B. (1983). Some factors influencing the selection and naming of pets. *Psychological Reports*, 35, 1163-1170.
- Hart, L. A. (2000). Psychosocial benefits of animal companionship. In A. H. Fine (Ed.), *Handbook on animal-assisted therapy: Theoretical foundations and guidelines for practice*. San Diego, CA: Academic Press.
- Hart, L. A. (2008). Understanding and optimizing attachment to animals. Convention for the Veterinary Community (CVC) in Kansas City Proceedings. Retrieved from <http://veterinarycalendar.dvm360.com/avhc/Medicine/Understanding-and-optimizing-attachment-to-animals/ArticleStandard/Article/detail/567240>
- Hazan, C., & Shaver, P. (1987). Romantic love conceptualized as an attachment process. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 52, 511-524.
- Heady, B. (1998). Health benefits and health cost savings due to pets: preliminary estimates from an Australian national survey. *Social Indicators Research*, 1-11.
- Health Arena. (May 11, 2012). The healing powers of pets. Retrieved from <http://health-arena.blogspot.com/2012/05/healing-power-of-pets.html>

- Helms, T. D., & Bain, M. J. (2009). Evaluation of owner attachment to dogs on the basis on whether owners are legally considered guardians of their pets. *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association*, 234, 896-900.
- Heleski, C. R., Mertig, A. G., & Zanella, A. J. (2004). Assessing attitudes toward farm animal welfare: A national survey of animal science faculty members. *Journal of Animal Science*, 82, 2805-2814.
- Herzog, H. (2010). *Some we love, some we hate, some we eat: Why it is so hard to think straight about animals*. New York: Harper.
- Herzog, H. A. (2007). Gender differences in human-animal interactions: A review. *Anthrozoös*, 20, 7-21.
- Hill, G. (n.d.). Dog quotations. Retrieved December 30, 2012 from <http://www.dogquotations.com/gene-hill-dog-quotes.html>
- Hirschman, E. C. (1994). Consumers and their animal companions. *Journal of Consumer Research*, 20, 616-632.
- History of the Pit Bull. (n.d.). Retrieved September 17, 2011 from <http://www.pitbull411.com/history.html>
- Hochschild, A. (1983) *The managed heart: Commercialization of human feeling*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- HuffPost DC. (July 20, 2002). Adopt These Adorable Dogs: 'Love-A-Bulls' Adoption Event at Washington Animal Rescue League. Retrieved from http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/07/20/adoptable-pit-bulls-dc_n_1686485.html
- Humane Society of the United States (HSUS). (n.d.). Common questions about animal shelters. Retrieved from <http://www.humanesociety.org>
- Humane Society of the United States (HSUS). (May 3, 2013). HSUS pet overpopulation estimates. Retrieved from http://www.humanesociety.org/issues/pet_overpopulation/facts/overpopulation_estimates.html
- Humane Society of the United States (HSUS). (2011). U.S. pet ownership statistics. (2011). Retrieved from http://www.humanesociety.org/issues/pet_overpopulation/facts/pet_ownership_statistics.html

- Hume, D. (1957). *The natural history of religion*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press. (Original work published 1757)
- Hunt, S., Hart, L., & Gomulkiewicz, R. (1992). Role of small animals in social interactions between strangers. *Journal of Social Psychology, 132*, 245-256.
- Internet World Stats. (2010). Retrieved from <http://www.internetworldstats.com/am/us.htm>
- Hunter, C., & Workman, L. (2009). Are pets like their owners? Dog ownership and personality traits in comparison with personality expectations. *Proceedings of the 2009 British Society Annual Conference in Brighton, UK*. Retrieved from <http://abstracts.bps.org.uk/index.cfm?&ResultsType=Abstracts&ConferenceID=4363&localAction=details>
- Hutchins, M. E., & Armstrong, J. B. (1994). College student's attitudes toward animal use. *College Student Journal, 28*, 258-266.
- Irvine, L. (2003). George's bulldog: What Mead's canine companion could have told him about the self. *Sociological Origins, 3*, 46-49.
- Irvine, L. (2004). A model of animal selfhood: Expanding interactionist possibilities. *Symbolic Interaction, 27*, 3-21.
- Jackson, S. (2010). Pets as generators of social capital: A preliminary review of primary evidence. *Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Science and Humanitarianism, 1*, 27-39.
- Jagoe, J. A., & Serpell, J. A. (1996). Owner characteristics and interactions and the prevalence of canine behaviour problems. *Applied Animal Behaviour Science, 47*, 31-42.
- Jasper, J. M., Nelkin, D. (1992). Moral sentiments. In *The animal rights crusade: The growth of a moral protest* (pp. 11-25). New York: The Free Press.
- Jessup, D. (1995). *The working pit bull*. Neptune, NJ: T.F.H. Publications, Inc.
- Johnson, M. (2010). Should I take my dog to the park or on errands this summer? Mother Nature Network. Retrieved from <http://www.mnn.com/family/pets/questions/should-i-take-my-dog-to-the-park-or-on-errands-this-summer>
- Johnson, R. (n.d.). All about the humane society fund. Retrieved June 8, 2013 from *Animal Planet* <http://animal.discovery.com/pets/humane-society1.htm>

- Kass, P. (2001). Understanding companion animal surplus in the United States: Relinquishment of nonadoptables to animal shelters for euthanasia. *Journal of Applied Animal Welfare Science*, 4, 237-248.
- Katcher, A. (1981). Interaction between people and their pets: Form and function. In B. Fogel (Ed.), *Interrelations between people and pets* (pp. 41-68). Springfield, IL: Charles C. Thomas, Publisher.
- Kaufman, K. R., & Kaufman, N. D. (2006). And then the dog died. *Death Studies*, 30, 61-76.
- Kaylaygian, M. (2011). Riding the wave. *Pet Business*. Retrieved from <http://digital.macfad.com/imag/petbiz/PET1105/pageflip.html>
- Keith, C. (2011). Looking to adopt a dog? The case for bringing home a greyhound. Retrieved from <http://www.vetstreet.com/our-pet-experts/looking-to-adopt-a-dog-the-case-for-bringing-home-a-greyhound>
- Kellert, S., & Berry, J. (1987). Attitudes, knowledge and behaviors toward wildlife as affected by gender. *Wildlife Society Bulletin*, 15, 363-371.
- Kendall, H. A., Lobao, L. M., & Sharp, J. S. (2006). Public concern with animal well-being: Place, social structural location, and individual experience. *Rural Sociology*, 7, 399-428.
- Kennedy, S. E. (2005). *More than man's best friend: A look at attachment between humans and their canine companions*. Published master's thesis. University of South Florida, Tampa, FL.
- Kidd, H. (1983). Pet ownership throughout history. *Delta Society Newsletter*, 12, 1-7.
- Kim, Y. M., Kim, S. A., Lee, S. M., Choi, Y. J., Kim, B. J., & Shin, N. S. (2010). Canine behavioral problems and their effect on relinquishment of the Jindo dog. *Journal of Veterinary Science*, 11, 345-50.
- Knight, S., & Edwards, V. (2008). In the company of wolves: The physical, social and psychological benefits of dog ownership. *Journal of Aging and Health*, 20, 437-455.
- Knight, S. & Herzog, H. (2009). All creatures great and small: New perspectives on psychology and human-animal interactions. *Journal of Social Issues* 65, 451-461.
- Koler-Matznick, J. (2002). The origin of the dog revisited. *Anthrozoös*, 15, 98-118.

- Krahl, S. (n.d.). How to win your horse's heart. *Soulful Equine*. Retrieved June 8, 2013 from <http://www.soufulequine.com/how-to-win-your-horses-heart/>
- Kraut, R., Olson, J., Banaji, M., Bruckman, A., Cohen, J., & Cooper, M. (2004). Psychological research online: Report of Board of Scientific Affairs Advisory Group on the conduct of research on the Internet. *American Psychologist*, 59, 105-117.
- Kruse, C. R. (1999). Gender, views of nature, and support for animal rights. *Society and Animals* 7, 179-198.
- Kruse, C. R. (2002). Social animals: Animal studies and sociology. *Society and Animals*, 10, 375-379.
- Lagoni, L., Butler, C., & Hetts, S. (1994). *The human animal bond and grief*. Philadelphia: W.B. Saunders Co.
- Lane, D. R., McNicholas, J., & Collis, G. M. (1988). Dogs for the disabled: Benefits to recipients and welfare of the dog. *Applied Animal Behavior Science*, 59, 49-60.
- Lang, L. (2011). Pet owners willing to spend thousands to save animals (American Pet Products Association survey results). *9News.com*. Retrieved from <http://www.9news.com/shows/weekends/224784/320/Pet-owners-willing-to-spend-thousands-to-save-animals>
- Lawrence, E. A. (1995). Cultural perceptions of differences between people and animals: A key to understanding human-animal relationships. *Journal of American Culture*, 18, 75-823.
- Linzey A., & Cohn, P. N. (2011). Terms of discourse. *Journal of Animal Ethics*, 1, vii-ix.
- Linville, D., & Lyness, A. P. (2007). Twenty American families' stories of adaptation: Adoption of children from Russian and Romanian institutions. *Journal of Marital and Family Therapy*, 33, 77-93.
- Livingood, L. (2000). *Retired racing greyhounds for dummies*. New York: Willey Publishing, Inc.
- Lochner, K., Kawachi, I. & Kennedy, B. P. (1999). Social capital: A guide to its measurement. *Health and Place*, 5, 259 - 270.

- Lock, C. (n.d.). Why you should consider getting a shelter pet: 5 common myths about adopting from a shelter. *PetMD* Retrieved June 8, 2013 from http://www.petmd.com/dog/care/evr_multi_5_shelter_pet_adoption_myths#.UbPr_djDBdA
- Lockwood, R. (1983). The influence of animals on social perception. In A. Katcher & A. Beck (Eds), *New Perspectives on our lives with companion animals*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press.
- Lockwood, R. (2005). Tracking the “state of the animals”: challenges and opportunities in assessing change. In D. J Salem & A. N. Rowan (Eds.) *The state of the animals III: 2005*, 1-14. Washington, D.C.: Humane Society Press.
- Lord, L. K., Yaissle, J. E., Marin, L., & Couto, C. G. (2007). Results of a web-based health survey of retired racing greyhounds. *Journal of Veterinary Internal Medicine*, 21, 1243-1250.
- Los Angeles Almanac. (1999). Characteristics of the privately owned dog & cat population & their owners in the city of Los Angeles. Retrieved from <http://www.laalmanac.com/environment/ev21.htm>
- Love. (n.d.). Web definition. Retrieved December 30, 2012 from <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Love>
- Lowe, B., & Ginsberg, C. (2002). Animal rights as a post-citizenship movement. *Society and Animals*, 10, 203-215.
- MacNeil, A. (March 15, 2012). A new pit bull study. *StubbyDog: Rediscover the pit bull*. Retrieved from <http://stubbydog.org/2012/03/a-new-pit-bull-study/>
- Make Peace with Animals, Inc. (n.d.) Retrieved September 20, 2012 from <http://www.petfinder.com/shelters/PA274.html>
- Margolies, L. (1999). The long good-bye: Women, companion animals and maternal loss. *Clinical Social Work*, 32, 289-304.
- Marketing Charts. (2011). Animal charity top rated non profit of 2011. Retrieved from <http://www.marketingcharts.com/wp/direct/animal-charity-top-rated-non-profit-of-2011-16864/>
- Marston, L. C., & Bennett, P. C. (2003). Reforging the bond-towards successful canine adoption. *Applied Animal Behaviour Science*, 83, 227-245.

- Marston, L. C., Bennett, P. C., & Coleman, G. J. (2004). What happens to shelter dogs? An analysis of data for 1 year from three Australian shelters. *Journal of Applied Animal Welfare Science*, 7, 27-47.
- Mathews, S., & Herzog, H. A. (1997). Personality and attitudes toward the treatment of animals. *Society and Animals*, 5, 169-175.
- Mayo Clinic. (n.d.). Exercise 7: The benefits of regular physical activity. Retrieved November 1, 2011 from <http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/exercise/HQ01676>
- McKenna, E. (August 16, 2010). What your dog says about you. *Forbes.com*. Retrieved from <http://www.forbes.com/2010/08/16/dog-breeds-owners-lifestyle-style-canines.html>
- McKeon, D. (August 2, 2012). Grey2K lies: A vendetta reaches its climax. Retrieved from <http://grey2klies.blogspot.com/2012/08/a-vendetta-reaches-its-climax.html>
- McNicholas, J., & Collis, G. M. (2000). Dogs as catalysts for social interactions: Robustness of the effect. *British Journal of Psychology*, 91, 61-67.
- McNicholas, J. Gilbey, A., Rennie, A., Ahmedzai, S., Dono, J., & Ormerod E. (2005). Pet ownership and human health: A brief review of evidence and issues. *BJM*, 331, 1252-1254.
- Mead, G. H. (1934). *Mind, self, and society*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Melson, G. F. (1988). Availability of and involvement with pets by children: Determinants and correlates. *Anthrozoös*, 2, 45-52.
- Messent, P. R., & Serpell, J. A. (1981). An historical and biological view of the pet owner bond. In B. Fogle (Ed.), *Interrelationships between people and pets* (pp. 5-22). Springfield, IL: Charles C. Thomas.
- Meyers, B. (2002). Disenfranchised grief and the loss of an animal companion. In K.J. Doka (Ed.), *Disenfranchised grief: New directions, challenges and strategies for practice* (pp. 251-264). Champaign, IL: Research Press.
- Millan, C. (2012). The importance of giving your dog affection. Retrieved from <http://www.cesarsway.com/tips/basics/the-importance-of-affection>
- Miller, J., Daly, J., Wood, M., Brooks, A., & Roper, M. (1996). Electronic bulletin board distributed questionnaires for exploratory research. *Journal of Information Science*, 2, 107-115.

- Miller, D. D., Staats, S. R., Partlo, C., & Rada, K. (1996). Factors associated with the decision to surrender a pet to an animal shelter. *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association*, 209, 738-742.
- Missel, M. (2001). The use of choice theory in animal assisted therapy for children and young adults. *International Journal of Reality Therapy*, 20, 40-41.
- Murray, J. K., Browne, W. J., Roberts, M. A., Whitmarsh, A., & Gruffydd-Jones, T. J. (2010). Number and ownership profiles of cats and dogs in the UK. *Veterinary Record*, 166, 163-169.
- Nafsted, P., Magnus, P., Gaader, P. I., & Jaakola, J. J. K. (2001). Exposure to pets and atopy-related diseases in the first 4 years of life. *Allergy*, 56, 307-312.
- Neidhart, L., & Boyd, R. (2002). Companion animal adoption study. *Journal of Applied Animal Welfare*, 5, 175-192.
- Netting, F. E., Wilson, C. C., & New, J. C. (1987). The human-animal bond: Implications for practice. *Social Work* 32, 60-64.
- New, J. C. Jr., Salman, M. D., Scarlett, J. M., Kass, P. H., Gehrke, B., King, M., Hutchinson, J. (2000). Characteristics of shelter relinquished animals and their owners compared with animals and their owners in U.S. pet-owning households. *Journal of Applied Animal Welfare Science*, 3, 179-201.
- New, J. C. Jr., Salman, M. D., Scarlett, J. M., Kass, P., Vaughn, J. A., Scherr, S., Kelch, W. J. (1999). Moving: characteristics of dogs and cats and those relinquishing them to 12 U.S. animal shelters. *Journal of Applied Animal Welfare Science*, 2, 83-96.
- Nibert, D. (1994). Animal rights and human social issues. *Society and Animals*, 2, 115-124.
- Nickerson, R. S. (1999). How we know – and sometimes misjudge – what others know: Imputing one's own knowledge to others. *Psychological Bulletin*, 125, 737-759.
- Olson, R. J. M., & Hulser, K. (2003). Petropolis: A social history of urban animal companions. *Visual Studies*, 18, 133-143.
- Operario, D., & Fiske, S. T. (2003). Stereotypes: Content, structures, processes, and context. In: R. Brown & S. L. Gaertner. *Blackwell handbook of social psychology: Intergroup processes* (pp. 22–44). Malden, MA: Blackwell.

- Ownby, D. R., Johnson, C. C., & Peterson, E. L. (2002). Exposure to dogs and cats in the first year of life and risk of allergic sensitization in 6 to 7 years of age. *JAMA*, 288, 963-972.
- Palika, L. (2004). *Purebred rescue dog adoption: Rewards and realities*. Hoboken, NJ: Howell Book House.
- Palmatier, R. A. (1995). *Speaking of animals: A dictionary of animal metaphors*. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press.
- Parslow R. A., & Jorm, A. E. (2003a). Pet ownership and risk factors for cardiovascular disease: Another look. *Medical Journal of Australia*, 179, 466-468.
- Parslow R. A., & Jorm, A. E. (2003b). The impact of pet ownership on health and health service use: Results from a community sample of Australians aged 40 to 44 years, *Anthrozoös*, 16, 43-56.
- Parslow R. A., Jorm, A. E., Christensen, H., Rodgers, B., & Jacomb, P. (2005). Pet ownership and health in older adults: Findings from a survey of 2551 community based Australians aged 60-64. *Gerontology*, 52, 40-47.
- Patronek, G. J., Glickman, L. T., Beck, A. M., & McCabe, G. P. (1996). Risk factors for relinquishment of dogs to an animal shelter. *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association*, 209, 572-581.
- Paul, E. S., & Serpell, J. A. (1993). Childhood pet keeping and humane attitudes in young adulthood. *Animal Welfare*, 2, 321-337.
- Peek, C. W., Bell, N. J., & Dunham, C. C. (1996). Gender, gender ideology, and animal rights advocacy. *Gender and Society*, 10, 464-478.
- Peek, C. W., Dunham, C. D., & Dietz, B. E. (1997). Gender, relational role orientation, and affinity for animal rights. *Sex Roles: A journal of research*, 37, 905-920.
- Pet adoption. (n.d.). Web definition. Retrieved October 5, 2011 from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pet_adoption
- Pet Finder. (n.d.). Should you adopt a puppy or an adult or senior dog? Retrieved October 4, 2012 from <http://www.petfinder.com/pet-adoption/dog-adoption/puppies-vs-senior-dog-adoption/>

- Pets 101: Adopting a Shelter Dog. (n.d.). Retrieved October 4, 2012 from http://www.today.com/id/28798925/ns/today-today_pets_and_animals/t/pets-adopting-shelter-dog/#.UGTz4q563To
- Pets and Animals. (n.d.). How pets benefit child development. Retrieved January 23, 2013 from <http://www.sheknows.com/pets-and-animals/articles/2212/kids-and-pets>
- Pew Research Center. (2006). Gauging family intimacy. Retrieved October 25, 2012 from <http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2006/03/07/gauging-family-intimacy/>
- Phillips, C. (2009). *The welfare of animals: The silent majority* (pp. 1-12). The Netherlands: Springer.
- Pit Bull Rescue Central. (n.d.). Retrieved September 10, 2011 from <http://www.pbrc.net>
- Plous, S. (1998). Signs of change within the animal rights movement: Results from a follow-up survey of activists. *Journal of Comparative Psychology, 112*, 48-54.
- Podberscek, A. L., Paul, E. S., & Serpell, J. A. (Eds). (2000). *Companion animals and us: Exploring the relationships between people and pets*. Cambridge University Press.
- Posage, J. M., Bartlett, P. C., & Thomas, D. K. (1998). Determining factors for successful adoption of dogs from an animal shelter. *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association, 213*, 478-482.
- Preis, J. (n.d.). Owner versus guardian. *Defending Dog*: Retrieved June 8, 2013 from <http://www.defendingdog.com/id29.html>
- Purina Pet Care Insurance Blog. (n.d.) Here's a way to increase pet adoption rates. Retrieved September 20, 2012 from <http://blog.purinacare.com/post/2011/04/20/Heres-a-Way-to-Increase-Pet-Adoption-Rates.aspx>
- Raina, P., Waltner-Toews, D., Bonnett, B., Woodward, C., & Abernathy, T. (1999). Influence of companion animals on the physical and psychological health of older people: An analysis of a one-year longitudinal study. *Journal of the American Geriatric Society, 47*, 323-329.
- Ramirez, M. (2006). "My dog's just like me": Dog ownership as a gender display. *Symbolic Interaction, 29*, 373-391.

- Real Pit Bull. (n.d.) Is the pit bull the right breed for you? Retrieved October 12, 2012 from <http://www.realpitbull.com/rightbreed.htm>
- Regions of the United States. (n.d.). Retrieved August 16, 2012 from <http://teach.fcps.net/trt14/US%20Regions/usregions.htm>
- Reisner, I. R. (2003). Differential diagnosis and management of human-directed aggression in dogs. *The Veterinary clinics of North America: Small animal*, 33, 303-20.
- Risley-Curtiss, C., Holley, I. C., & Wolf, S. (2006). The animal-human bond and diversity. *Social Work*, 51, 257-268.
- Robins, D. M., Sanders, D. R., & Cahill, S. E. (1991). Dogs and their people. *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*, 20, 3-25.
- Robinson, L., Segal, J., & Segal, R. (2012). Coping with pet loss. Retrieved from http://www.helpguide.org/mental/grieving_pets.htm
- Rosser, B. R. S., Oakes, J. M., Bockting, W. O., Babes, G., & Miner, M. (2007). Capturing the social demographics of hidden sexual minorities: An Internet study of the transgender population in the United States. *Sexual Research and Social Policy*, 4, 50-64.
- Roy, M. M., & Christenfeld, N. J. S. (2004). Do dogs resemble their owners? *Psychological Science*, 15, 361-363.
- Sacks, J. J., Sinclair, L., Gilchrist, J., Golab, G. C., & Lockwood, R. (2000). Breeds of dogs involved in fatal human attacks in the United States between 1979 - 1998. *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association*, 217, 846-840.
- Sampling bias. (n.d.). Web definition. Retrieved October 5, 2011 from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sampling_bias
- Salmon, P. W., & Salmon, I. M. (1983). Who owns who? Psychological research into the human-pet bond in Australia. In A. H. Katcher & A. M. Beck (Eds), *New perspectives in our lives with companion animals* (pp. 244-265). Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press.
- Salman, M. D., Hutchinson, J., Ruch-Gallie, R., Kogan, L., New, Jr., J. C., Kass, P. H., & Scarlett, J. M. (2000). Behavioral reasons for relinquishing of dogs and cats to 12 shelters. *Journal of Applied Animal Welfare Science*, 3, 93-106.

- Salman, M. D., New, J. C. Jr., Scarlett, J. M., Kass, P. H., Ruch-Gallic, R., Hetts, S. (1998). Human and animal factors related to the relinquishment of dogs and cats in 12 selected animal shelters in the United States. *Journal of Applied Animal Welfare Science*, 1, 207-226.
- Sanders, C. R. (1999). Introduction: The relationships between people and pets and The everyday dog owner: Knowing and living with dogs. In *Understanding dogs: Living and working with canine companions*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press.
- Sanders, C. R. (2003). Actions speak louder than words: Close relationships between humans and nonhuman animals. *Symbolic Interaction*, 26, 405-426.
- Sarmicanic L. (2004). Goffman, pets, and people: An analysis of humans and their companion animals. *ReVision*, 27, 42-47.
- Savolainen, P., Zhang, Y. P., Luo, J., Lundeberg, J., & Leitner T (2002). Genetic evidence for an East Asian origin of domestic dogs. *Science*, 298, 1610-1613.
- Scarlett, J. M., Salman, M. D., New, J. G., & Kass, P. H. (1999). Reasons for relinquishment of companion animals in U. S. animal shelters: Selected health and personal issues. *Journal of Applied Animal Welfare Science*, 2, 41-57.
- Seksel, K. (2008). Preventing behavior problems in puppies and kittens. *Veterinary Clinics of North America: Small Animal Practice*, 38, 971-982.
- Serpell, J. A. (1996a). *In the company of animals* (2nd (revised) edition). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (Canto).
- Serpell, J. A. (1996b). Evidence for an association between pet behavior and owner attachment levels. *Applied Animal Behaviour Science*, 47, 49-60.
- Serpell, J. A. (2002). Anthropomorphism and anthropomorphic selection: Beyond the "cute response." *Society and Animals*, 10, 437-454.
- Serpell, J. (2009). Having our dogs and eating them too: Why animals are a social issue. In S. Knight & H. Herzog (Issue Eds.), *New perspectives on human-animal interactions: Theory, policy and research*. *Journal of Social Issues*, 65, 633-644.
- Serpell, J., & Paul, E. (1994). Pets and the development of positive attitudes to animals. In A. Manning and J. Serpell (Eds.), *Animals and human society: Changing perspectives* (pp. 127-144). London: Routledge.

- Shelter dogs hold a special place in the hearts of all animal lovers. (n.d.). Retrieved December 31, 2012 from http://www.hartz.com/Dogs/Getting_Started/October_is_Adopt_Shelter_Dog_Month.aspx
- Sherman, B. L., & Mills, D. S. (2008). Canine anxieties and phobias: an update on separation anxiety and noise aversions. *Veterinary Clinics of North America: Small Animal Practice*, 38, 1081-1106.
- Shore, E. R., Burdsal, C., & Douglas, D. K. (2008). Pet owners' views of pet behavior problems and willingness to consult experts for assistance. *Journal of Applied Animal Welfare Science*, 11, 63-73.
- Shore, E. R., Peterson, C. L., & Douglas, D. K. (2003). Moving as a reason for pet relinquishment: A closer look. *Journal of Applied Animal Welfare*, 6, 39-52.
- Simpson, A., & Gustovic, A. (2005). Pets and the development of sensitization. *Current Allergy and Asthma Reports*, 5, 212-220.
- Smith, S. (n.d.). Breeds of dogs compatible with cats. Retrieved September 20, 2012 from http://www.ehow.com/info_8611477_breeds-dogs-compatible-cats.html
- Smolkovic, I., Fajfar, M., & Mlinaric, V. (2012). Attachment to pets and interpersonal relationships. *Journal of European Psychology Students*, 3, 15-23.
- Specialty-breed groups have a rigorous application process. (March 11, 2010). *Washington Post*. Retrieved from <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/03/09/AR2010030902963.html>
- Status dogs: A reflection of a wider problem in society. (2010). *Veterinary Record*, 167, 508-509.
- Stewart, D. (2003). Investigating the relationship between assistance dogs and their owners with physical disabilities: Complex affection or simple attachment (Master's thesis, Simon-Fraser University, 2003). Retrieved from <http://summit.sfu.ca/item/2305>
- Stratton, R. F. (1981). *The American Pit Bull Terrier*. Neptune, NJ: T.F.H. Publications, Inc.
- Survey Monkey Web site. Available at <http://www.surveymonkey.com>
- Takeda, A. (2010, January 17). A happy way to get fit. *Parade Health*. Retrieved from <http://www.parade.com/health/2010/01/17-a-happy-way-to-get-fit.html>

- 10% of owners willing to spend \$3,000 to save pet's life. (October 2011). *Veterinary Practice News*. Retrieved from <http://mydigitalpublication.com/publication/?i=83044&p=18>
- TerrificPets.com. (n.d.). Lifespan issues for the greyhound. Retrieved January 14, 2013 from <http://www.terrificpets.com/articles/102161365.asp>
- Tesfom, G., & Birch, N. (n.d.) Dog adoption decision: Relationship between definition of self and dog breeds choice as mediated by dog breed categorization. Retrieved October 3, 2012 from <http://www.wbiconpro.com/1.Goitom.pdf>
- The adoption process. (n.d.). Retrieved January 25, 2012 from <http://www.dpvhs.org/adopt/process.php>
- The Greyhound Review*. (May 2010). National Greyhound Association (NGA).
- The Lazy Pit Bull. (2012). 4 reasons you should adopt a pit bul. Retrieved from <http://www.thelazypitbull.com/2013/03/4-reasons-you-should-adopt-pit-bull/>
- Theil, C. (February 12, 2012). Greyhound breeding declines for the 10th straight year. *Grey2K USA: Saving Greys*. Retrieved from <http://blog.grey2kusa.org/>
- Toray, T. (2004). The human-animal bond and loss: Providing support for grieving clients. *Journal of Mental Health Counseling*, 3, 244-259.
- Turner, W. (1998). *Euthanasia of the companion animal: Understanding the pet owner's experience*. Published doctoral dissertation, The Ohio State University, Columbus.
- Turner, W. G. (2001). Our new children: The surrogate role of companion animals in women's lives. *The Qualitative Report* 6. Retrieved from <http://www.nova.edu/ssss/QR/QR6-1/turner.html>
- U.S. Census. (2008). Family living arrangements. Retrieved from <http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/hh-fam.html>
- U. S. pet ownership and demographics sourcebook*. (2012). Schaumburg, IL: American Veterinary Medical Association.
- Uyeki, E. S., & Holland, L. J. (2000). Diffusion of pro-environmental attitudes? *American Behavioral Scientist*, 43, 646-461.

- Veevers, J. (1985). The social meaning of pets: Alternative roles for companion animals. *Marriage and Family Review*, 8, 11-30.
- Voith, V. L. (1985). Attachment of people to companion animals. *Veterinary Clinics of North America: Small Animal Practice*, 15, 289-295.
- Walsh, F. (2009a). Human-animal bonds I: The relational significance of companion animals. *Family Process*, 48, 462-480.
- Walsh, F. (2009b). Human-animal bonds II: The role of pets in family systems and family therapy. *Family Process*, 48, 481-499.
- Warren, K. J. (2000). *Ecofeminist philosophy: A Western perspective on what it is and why it matters*. Lanham MD: Roman and Littlefield Publishers, Inc.
- Wayne, R. K., Leonard, J. A., & Vilà, C. (2006). Genetic analysis of dog domestication. In M. A. Zeder, D. Decker-Walters, D. Bradley, & B. D. Smith (Eds.), *Documenting domestication: New genetic and archaeological paradigms*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Waytz, A., Morewedge, C. K., Epley, N., Monteleone, G., Gao, J.-H., & Cacioppo, J. T. (2010). Making sense by making sentient: Effectance motivation increases anthropomorphism. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 99, 410-435.
- Weise, E. (August 8, 2012). Pet ownership declines, but more households loyal to dogs. USA TODAY. Retrieved from <http://usatoday30.usatoday.com/news/nation/story/2012-08-06/pet-ownership-down/56882786/1>
- Wells, C. V., & Kipnis, D. (2001). Trust, dependency, and control in the contemporary organization. *Journal of Business and Psychology*, 15, 593-603.
- Wells, D. J., & Hepper, P. G. (2000). Prevalence of behavior problems reported by owners of dogs purchased from an animal rescue shelter. *Applied Animal Behavior Science*, 69, 55-65.
- Wells, V. (n.d.). Teaching you child to be pet responsible. Retrieved December 31, 2012 from <http://parenting.kaboose.com/family-dynamics/pets/pet-responsible-children.html>
- Westgarth, C., Pinchbeck, G. L., Bradshaw, J. W., Dawson, S., Gaskell, R. M., & Christley, R. M. (2007). Factors associated with dog ownership and contact with dogs in a UK community. *BMC Veterinary Research*, 3, 5.

- Westgarth, C., Heron, J., Ness, A. R., Bundred, P., Coyne, R. M., German, K. P., McCune, Dawson, S. (2010). Family pet ownership during childhood: Findings from a UK birth cohort and implications for public health research. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 7, 3704-3729.
- White, R. W. (1959). Motivation reconsidered: The concept of competence. *Psychological Review*, 66, 297-331.
- Why get a dog. (n.d.). Retrieved October 25, 2012 from <http://shibashake.hubpages.com/hub/Why-Get-a-Dog>
- Why adopt a greyhound (n.d.). Retrieved February 15, 2013 from <http://www.gpatristate.org/faqs.pdf>
- Wilkes, J. K. (2009). *The role of companion animals in counseling and psychology: Discovering their use in the therapeutic process*. Springfield, IL: Charles C. Thomas-Publisher Ltd.
- Winefield, H. R., Black, A., & Chur-Hansen, A. (2008). Health effects of ownership of and attachment to companion animals in an older population. *International Journal of Behavioral Medicine*, 15, 303-310.
- Wolch, J., Brownlow, A., & Lassiter, U. (2001). Constructing the animal worlds of inner-city Los Angeles. In C. Philo & C. Wilbert (Eds.), *Animal spaces, beastly places: New geographies of human-animal relations* (pp. 71-97). London: Routledge.
- Wollrab, T. I. (1998). Human-animal bond issues. *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association*, 212, 1675.
- Wood, L., Giles-Corti, B., & Bulsara, M. (2005). The pet connection: Pets as a conduit for social capital? *Social Science and Medicine*, 61, 1159-1173.
- Wood, L. J., Giles-Corti, B., Bulsara, M. K., & Bosch, D. A. (2007). More than a furry companion: The ripple effect of companion animals on neighborhood interactions and sense of community. *Society and Animals*, 15, 43-56.
- Wright, J. C., Smith, A., Daniel, K., & Adkins, K. (2007). Dog breed stereotype and exposure to negative behavior: Effects on perceptions of adoptability. *Journal of Applied Animal Welfare*, 10, 255-265.
- Zasloff, R. L. (1996). Measuring attachment to companion animals: A dog is not a cat is not a bird. *Applied Animal Behavior Science*, 47, 42-48.

Zeuner, F. E. (1963). *A history of domesticated animals*. New York: Harper and Row.

Appendix

Rescue Dog Adopter Survey

You have already made a difference in the life of a companion animal by adopting from a XXXX Rescue organization. Now you can also help other dogs that have entered this rescue organization. The following survey will ask questions about you and your relationship to your adopted XXXX dog. It will help determine what characteristics distinguish you as a XXXX adopter and what is important to you about your adopted pet. The answers to these and other questions about you and your adopted dog are of interest in order to understand the characteristics and attitudes of the population of people that adopt dogs from a XXXX rescue adoption organization. The information about who you are and the experiences you have with your adopted dog will aid in promoting future adoption of pets from the XXXX rescue organization. The results of the survey will be used to fulfill the requirements for a MAIS degree at Oregon State University. Final survey results will be submitted for publication. The Institutional Review Board (IRB) at Oregon State University has approved this study. You may withdraw from the survey at any time and may choose not to answer all questions.

I appreciate your taking the time to complete this survey. Thank you in advance for your participation.

Zelda L. Zimmerman

Survey Questionnaire

1. Who are you?

Male

Female

2. What is your age?

18 – 30 (Those less than 18 are not eligible to participate)

31 – 40

41 – 50

51 – 60

61 – 70

71 or over

3. What characterizes your household?

Single head-of-household

Married/Partnered

Other

4. What do you consider your race/ethnicity?

Caucasian (non-Hispanic)

Black or African American

Latino or Hispanic

Asian

Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander

Native American or Alaskan Native

Mixed

Other

5. Where do you live? Indicate the State/Province you consider to be your primary place of residence?

_____ State

6. Do you have children living in your home; if so, what are their ages? (Mark all that apply)

No Children

Younger than 5 years of age

5 to 12 years of age

13 to 18 years of age

Over 18 years of age

7. What is the highest level of education you or your spouse/partner have completed?

Less than High School

High School/GED

Some College

2-year College Degree

4-year College Degree

Master's Degree

Doctoral Degree

Professional Degree (PhD, MD, DDS, JD, DVM, *etc.*)

Other

8. What is your average annual household income?

Less than \$30,000

\$30,000 – \$49,999

\$50,000 – \$99,999

\$100,000 – \$149,999

Above \$150,000

9. What is your employment status?

Full-time employment

Part-time employment

Homemaker

Student

Retired

Out-of-work

Not able to work

Other

10. What is the employment status of your spouse/partner?

Full-time employment

Part-time employment

Homemaker

Student

Retired

Out-of-work

Not able to work

Other

11. What do you consider your primary residence?

Rural

Suburban

Urban

12. Where did you learn about adopting your pet dog from a XXXX rescue organization?

Friend/Relative

Internet

Written advertisement/Poster

Rescue activity fund raiser

Radio/TV

Personal research

Other (Please specify)

13. Did you grow-up with a pet dog in the household?

Yes

No

14. Who was the most instrumental in electing to adopt a dog from the XXXX rescue organization?

Self

Spouse/Partner

Children

Other

15. How would you rate the following statement? "The desire for a purebred dog influenced my decision to adopt from the XXXX rescue organization."

Strongly agree

Agree

Neither agree or disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

16. How would you rate the following statement? "Adopting a XXXX rescue dog helped save a life."

Strongly agree

Agree

Neither agree or disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

17. How would you rate the following statement? "My adopted dog provides me with good opportunities to meet and interact with new people."

Strongly agree

Agree

Neither agree or disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

18. How would you rate the following statement? "I adopted my rescue dog for companionship."

Strongly agree

Agree

Neither agree or disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

19. How would you rate the following statement? "The ability to select a dog from a variety of ages (puppy to mature dog) influenced the adoption of my dog from the XXXX rescue organization."

Strongly agree

Agree

Neither agree or disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

20. How would you rate the following statement? "The personality/temperament of the dog influenced my decision to adopt a dog from the XXXX rescue organization."

Strongly agree

Agree

Neither agree or disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

21. How would you rate the following statement? "The physical characteristics (build and appearance) of the adopted dog influenced my decision to adopt a dog from a XXXX rescue organization."

Strongly agree

Agree

Neither agree or disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

22. Which three reasons were the most important to you when selecting your dog to adopt?

The ability to have a pure bred dog

The opportunity to save a life

The opportunity to meet and interact with new people

Companionship

The ability to choose between dogs of a variety of ages

The personality/temperament of the dog adopted

The physical characteristics (build and appearance) of the dog adopted

Other (Please specify)

23. How would you rate the following statement? "Having a pet dog gives me something to care for."

Strongly agree

Agree

Neither agree or disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

24. How would you rate the following statement? "My adopted dog provides me with pleasurable activity."

Strongly agree

Agree

Neither agree or disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

25. How would you rate the following statement? "My adopted dog is a source of constancy in my life."

Strongly agree

Agree

Neither agree or disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

26. How would you rate the following statement? "My adopted dog makes me feel needed."

Strongly agree

Agree

Neither agree or disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

27. How would you rate the following statement? "My adopted dog makes me feel safe."

Strongly agree

Agree

Neither agree or disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

28. How would you rate the following statement? "I get more exercise because of my adopted dog."

Strongly agree

Agree

Neither agree or disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

29. How would you rate the following statement? "My adopted dog makes me play and laugh."

Strongly agree

Agree

Neither agree or disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

30. How would you rate the following statement? "I enjoy watching my adopted dog."

Strongly agree

Agree

Neither agree or disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

31. How would you rate the following statement? "I get comfort from touching my adopted dog."

Strongly agree

Agree

Neither agree or disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

32. How would you rate the following statement? "My adopted dog makes me feel loved."

Strongly agree

Agree

Neither agree or disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

33. How would you rate the following statement? "My adopted dog makes me feel trusted."

Strongly agree

Agree

Neither agree or disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

34. How would you rate the following statement? "Having an adopted dog gives me something to love."

Strongly agree

Agree

Neither agree or disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

35. Have your expectations about your adopted dog as a companion animal been met with the dog you adopted from a XXXX rescue organization?

Yes

For the most part

No

Comment if desired

36. How many dogs do you currently have?

None at this time

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

More

37. How many dogs have you adopted from a rescue organization in the past (beside those currently in the household)?

None

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

More

38. Do you currently have a senior dog (8 years of age or greater) that you adopted from a rescue organization?

No

Yes, 1

Yes, 2

Yes, 3 or more

39. How long have you had an adopted dog from a rescue organization?

Less than 1 year

1 to 4 years

5 to 10 years

More than 10 years

40. Have you taken your adopted rescue dog to an organized obedience training class?

Yes

No

41. Does your adopted dog sleep in our bedroom?

Yes

No

42. Who in your household has the primary responsibility for the general care and feeding of your adopted dog?

Self

Spouse/Partner

Children

Other

43. Who typically takes your adopted dog to the veterinarian?

Self

Spouse/Partner

As a family

Other

44. Do you frequently take your adopted dog(s) with you on errands?

Yes

No

45. What will be the major influence (or was the major influence) on your decision to proceed with an expensive medical procedure?

Cost of the procedure

Quality of life after the procedure

Combination of cost and quality of life after the procedure

Uncertain

Add a comment if you wish

46. Does your adopted dog have any behavior problems [check one and add others in the comment box]

None

Separation anxiety

In-house urination/defecation

Over-excitement when meeting people

Over-excitement to other animals

Over-excitement to cars

Dominance aggression

Competitive aggression

Excessive barking

Noise/storm phobia

Other (Please specify)

47. For what reason would you return your adopted dog back to the XXXX rescue organization?

Has become too expensive

Didn't meet expectations

Destructive

Territorial marking or guarding

Aggressive toward adults

Aggressive toward children

Aggression toward other pets

Health problems

Moving to a place where cannot keep a dog

Uncertain

Other (Please specify)

48. Do you have another dog(s)? If so, where did you get this dog(s)? [check all that apply]

No other dog(s)

Another adoption group

Friend/relative

Home bred

Pet store

Dog breeder

Other

49. Do you have a pet cat?

Yes

No

50. In the future, would you consider adopting another dog from a XXXX rescue organization?

Yes

No

Uncertain

51. How do you regard your adopted dog?

Member(s) of the family

Pets

52. How do feel about the rescue dog(s) you adopted from the rescue organization in comparison with other pets you have or have ever had?

No other dog to compare to

Much less emotional attachment

Somewhat less emotional attachment

About the same emotional attachment

Somewhat more emotional attachment

Much greater emotional attachment

53. Have you ever attended a XXXX rescue organization event?

Yes

No

54. Do you volunteer with a XXXX rescue organization? (Check the one most appropriate and others in the comment box).

Not currently volunteering

Financial support

Donate food, toys, bedding, etc.

Foster home

Officer/Board member

Staff at information booth

Other (Please specify)

55. Do you volunteer for other charity, community service, religious, etc. organizations?

Yes

Do not currently, volunteer

56. Would you like to comment about your XXXX rescue adoption experience, share an experience you have had with your adopted dog, or describe your feelings for your adopted dog?

