



Understanding the Relationship Between Choice of Pet and Priorities in an Intimate Relationship – A Research Proposal



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Research Question

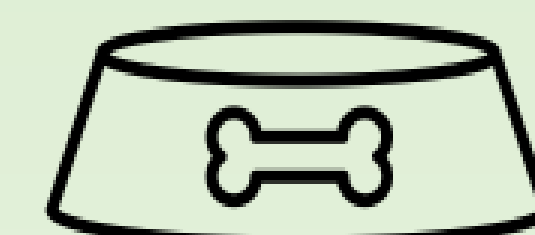
Does our choice of pet symbolize the priorities that we hold in intimate relationships?

Literature Review

- Cats that hide under the bed tend to have owners who feel uncomfortable around people (Notarantonio, 2023)
- Cats high on gregariousness have owners with higher extraversion (Finka et al., 2019)
- Pet owners were more responsive to their partner and showed more investment in their relationships (Cloutier & Peetz, 2016)
- Dogs and owners' personality mirror one another (Chopkin & Weaver, 2019)
- Dogs aggressive towards strangers had owners who scored low for anxious attachment (Gobbo & Zupan, 2020)
- Dogs aggressive towards owners had owners who scored high for avoidant attachment (Gobbo & Zupan, 2020)

Hypotheses

- Dog owners will value physical affection and a sense of togetherness in a relationship more than cat owners
- Cat owners will value time away from their partner and will not rate a sense of togetherness as high of a priority as dog owners



Contributions

- Determine if there are any differences between intimate relationship priorities between cat owners and dog owners
- Offer another way for people to understand themselves and their relationship needs
- Findings may be applied for therapeutic purposes in the future

Proposed Method

Participants

- Pet owners who are over 18 years old

Procedure

- An online Qualtrics survey will ask about pet ownership and people's views on romantic relationships

Sample Questions

- How important is physical affection to you in a romantic relationship?
- How important is it for you to spend time away from your partner in a romantic relationship?

References

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