



Additional information for participants (Q1)

As you have seen on our website, we are looking for people who are currently thinking about getting a dog, to answer some questions about how they go about this.

If you are over 18 years old, living in the UK and considering getting a dog in the near future, we would be very grateful if you would complete this online questionnaire which should take no more than 20 minutes of your time.

At the end of this questionnaire we will ask for your email address and consent for us to send you three more questionnaires:

Once you acquire your dog, we would like to ask you some more questions about how you went about this and your plans for you and your dog.

We'd then ask you some more questions about what you and your dog have been up to six months later and then again 18 months after that.

There will be four questionnaires to complete in total.

All the questionnaires will be online. All you need to do is fill out the questionnaires when we email to remind you.

As a thank you for being part of the research, a small gift for your dog will be provided when you complete the fourth and final questionnaire. You will also be offered the chance to enter into prize draws at various stages of the project with the chances of winning up to £100 of Amazon vouchers.

If you forget to fill out a questionnaire, we will send you up to three reminders, two weeks apart. If we do not hear back from you and the survey is not completed after that final reminder we will presume you want to withdraw from the research and won't contact you again. You are free to withdraw from the research at any point and there is no obligation to complete each survey, even once we have sent it to you.

When we email you with links to questionnaires 2,3 and 4 we will send you a unique code to enter at the start of each questionnaire. This code will allow us to collate your answers from all four questionnaires. Your email address will only be used for the purposes of contacting you to complete each survey.

Even if you don't end up getting a dog, or you no longer have your dog during the research project period, you will still be able to make a very valuable contribution to our research and understanding of what people do and think when considering getting a dog and their subsequent dog ownership practices.

This research is being conducted by researchers in the Animal Behaviour and Welfare Group at the Veterinary School, University of Bristol and is part of a PhD project. If you have any queries, contact Izzie Philpotts (PhD Student) email: izzie.philpotts@bristol.ac.uk or PhD supervisor; Dr Nicola Rooney nicola.rooney@bristol.ac.uk or 01179 289469.