

# The 2020 Pandemic and Its Effect on Companion Animals: From the Beginning of Quarantine to the Years Following.

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## Introduction

In 2020, everyone was affected by the pandemic. Many people live alone and did not have a family to rely on. With increase feelings of negative, free time and a need for companionship, people started adopting pets.

By the end of quarantine, the world was re-opening and some owners spent less time with their new animals. Leading some pets to develop new behavior issues that the owner did not have time to address anymore and other problems. These problems influenced relinquishment rate of shelter animals post pandemic.

## Materials and methods

To collect as much data as possible on the relinquished pandemic pets, it is important to gather information from animal shelters and the public.

- Fifty different shelter's intake and outtake date will be viewed. The data collected on each animal should be on those relinquished after 2020 to the present day.
- A public survey may supply information that the intake and outtake does not. Some shelters may not require any reason for relinquishment, or an owner may not feel comfortable telling their reasons.

The survey (can be viewed below)) supplied will be anonymous and completely voluntary it will be sent to those who relinquish a pet to the fifty shelters and open to the public to obtain more information. It will be available to the public using QR codes posted across social media to reach as many owners as possible.

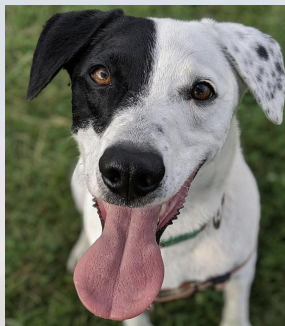
Once the data is collected it will be analyzed looking for animals that fit the criteria. These animals are dogs and cats relinquished between 2020 to the present day. Animals excluded will be those before this period and strays that the shelter took in. Along with those exclusions any animal with no reason for relinquishment will be excluded. Any animal that is not a dog or cat will be excluded. The data will be assessed using multiple regression analysis.

## Anticipated Results

Previous studies have shown that financial and behavior problems have played a role in animal relinquishments. These studies have taken place prior to the pandemic as well as during it. Charts with these results can be found in the appendices below.

Expectations for the outcome of this study should follow closely to those previously done. The top factor influencing relinquishment being financial concerns. Following the pandemic, the state of the economy became uncertain. Making money more of a concern to people in comparison to behavior when it comes to their pets.

Figure 1: Dog with tongue out  
Animal Adoption Foundation



## Hypothesis

H0- Financial and behavior problems played no role in relinquishment rates of companion animals as a result of the 2020 Pandemic.

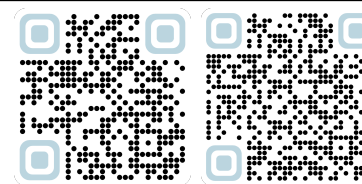
H1-Financial and behavior problems did play a role in relinquishment rates of companion animals as a result of the 2020 Pandemic.

## Literature cited

Carroll, G. A., Torjussen, A., & Reeve, C. (2022, September 9). Companion animal adoption and relinquishment during the COVID-19 pandemic: Peri-pandemic pets at greatest risk of relinquishment. *Frontiers*. Retrieved 2023, from <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fvets.2022.1017954/full>  
Ng, Z., Griffin, T. C., & Braun, L. (2021, September 23). The new status quo: Enhancing access to human-animal interactions to alleviate social isolation & loneliness in the time of covid-19. *MDPI*. Retrieved 2023, from <https://www.mdpi.com/2076-2615/11/10/2769/htm>

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Survey

Appendices



Figure 2: Cat reaching paw out  
Animal Adoption Foundation