

Department of Social Science and Policy Studies

Honours Project

**A study of the social network and support system among pet owners:
the case of Tseung Kwan O pet-friendly environment**

Submitted by

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Declaration

I, Wong Sum Yee Sammi declare that this research report represents my own work under the supervision of Dr. Mok Ka Tung Francis, and that it has not been submitted previously for examination to any tertiary institution.

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Abstract

Pet-friendly environment provides spaces for pet owners to bring their pets roaming safely and building social connections in the community. Pet ownership shows that owning a pet is closely related to the formation of friendships of pet owners and social connections with neighbours. Pet owners are generally easier to create conversations and build up social networks with pet owners as pets are their common topics to chat with each other. Owning a pet gives pet owners opportunities to socialize with pet owners who have different backgrounds and getting social support in the community. Tseung Kwan O pet-friendly environment including pet friendly restaurants, shopping mall and pet garden give pet owners a variety of places to bring their pets outside and meeting neighbours which enhance their social life. In pet-friendly environment, pet owners have their hobbies to walk their dogs or playing with pets. Regarding to pets, pet owners can build up social connections and sense of community belonging by sharing resources among pet owners in Tseung Kwan O. Pet owners have specific styles of communication and friendships. Interviews of a qualitative approach and participant observations are applied to understand the social life of pet owners in Tseung Kwan O pet-friendly areas and their friendships with pet owners through their pets. In this study, Tseung Kwan O pet-friendly environment are the platforms that examine pet owners' social connections with each other and what are the possible types of social support that pet owners may receive among pet owners in Tseung Kwan O pet-friendly environments.

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1. Introduction

Pet ownership plays a significant role in creating social networks. In pet-friendly environment, it provides spaces for pets to interact with other pets in the community and pet owners to build up social networks with other pet owners. Hunt et al. (1992) indicated that pet owners could build up social networks with other pet owners easily based on common topics on pets. In Tseung Kwan O, there are pet-friendly environments such as pet-friendly shopping mall, pet-friendly restaurants and dog parks which provides pet owners public spaces to meet different pet owners that also live in Tseung Kwan O. To understand more about pet owners' social life, it is essential to find out the factors of pet-friendly environment that assist pet owner with the formation of social networks and receiving social support. Pets as common topics for pet owners to meet new friends within pet owners. By referring to the age, gender, hobbies, types of pets and social life experiences of the pet owners, the ways of pet owners of forming friendships through pet ownership and pet-friendly environment in Tseung Kwan O on offering platforms to the pet owners to maintain social relationships can be clarified clearly. Moreover, this study will indicate whether pets as common topics between pet owners can enhance social connections of pet owners and receive social support within social groups of pet owners that they form through social connections in pet-friendly restaurants, shopping mall, pet garden and other pet-friendly places in Tseung Kwan O. Individuals with regular social interactions and secure social support system could affect the insights of friendship and

neighbourhood relationships in Tseung Kwan O.

In this study, pet owners' social connections between pet owners that are developed through pet-friendly places in Tseung Kwan O will be analysed. For the research questions, there are one question will be examined to understand pet owners' friendships and social connections in Tseung Kwan O pet-friendly environments. For the question, I will examine what are the possible types of social support that pet owners may gain within pet owners in Tseung Kwan O pet-friendly environments. Based on my research topic, I will explore the experiences about pet owners have strong ties to other pet owners in Tseung Kwan O through pet-friendly environments and benefits of pet owners' links in the community. By using qualitative research, I am going to collect information about pet owners' social networks formation and social support through their social connections with other pet owners by in-depth interviews.

2. Literature review

2.1 Social network

Social network demonstrates different connections and social interactions patterns between people such as friends and neighbours. According to Lepore (2012), social networks was supportive that members in the social networks provide emotional support, financial and

materials resources, information, instrumental aids to each other. Pet owners interact with each other based on their shared interest on pet-keeping. In pet-friendly environments, there are different social interactions patterns between pet owners. Public spaces of pet-friendly environment can facilitate pet owners to get closer to other pet owners in daily life which gradually deepen their sense of community belonging based on their frequent interactions.

Much of the earlier work showed that pet owners' social interactions strengthened their social networks and support through their friendships with pet owners. Podberscek et al. (2005) stated that pets were the common topic of pet owners to maintain continuous social networks between pet owners in the community. It is mentioned that pet ownerships brought closer social connections between individuals in neighbourhood than not owning a pet. Corson and Corson (1981) stated that connections of pet owners can be developed on pet issues which are easier than not owning a pet to start conversations. Serpell (1991) stated that the expansion of social networks brought stronger social bonding with people in the community and gained access to social support from friends and neighbours. The writers also mentioned about the support of information and suggestions between pet owners could increase the opportunities of establishing friendships based on trust and community belonging. It showed that pet owners could form positive neighbourhood and friend relationships with pet owners who lived near them. Wood (2015) stated that social networks focused on the relationships and interaction patterns of a group of people. The analysis of the writer was clear to indicate that

social networks linked people who had similar thoughts and experiences to form a relationship of friends. It is mentioned that social networks shortened social distance of people through exchanging information and values in the community. The character of social relationships is stated that it was important to transmit information and nurture social cohesion based on communication from small groups of people to social networks. Social networks provide individuals with a platform of expressing views and sharing experiences which could receive responses and support from people with common encounter.

2.2 Social support

Social support can be referred to resources and support in social relationships. The support in social networks can give helps when an individual face troubles and emotional issues. Robin et al., (1991) stated that social support showed different levels of friendships and neighbourhood relationships depended on the types of resources and helps in daily life. The analysis of the writers indicated that social support provided social networks members like pet owners groups with support on both real life and mental issues. Moreover, pet owners are mentioned that receiving social support could facilitate them on solving problems that they faced during pet-keeping. It is also pointed out that social support can facilitate strong social connections between people in social groups. The analysis related to the proposal topic that

pet ownership could enhanced human connections and the obtainment of social support based on the built social groups in pet-friendly environment. Wallijasper (2007) stated that pet owners could share different pet-keeping information to each other and cultivated feeling of connection and trust. Both emotional and informational support are mentioned as resources based on the establishment of friendships in pet-friendly development. The analysis of social support system provided friendships and neighbourhood relationships with cohesive bonds and stress reduction function. It demonstrated the importances of social support between pet owners to solve their difficulties on pet-keeping or face challenges in real life. Piehler (2011) stated that the common behaviours of the social networks nurtured stronger ties between peer in social groups which encouraged them to receive and ask for support in their social groups if they were in need. The analysis of the writer was organized to explain that social support were the outcomes of social interactions in the community. Moreover, it is mentioned that social support could reduce the feeling of social isolation. Garrity et al. (1989) stated that receiving emotional or material resources from the friendships that had been built in the community enhanced social connections and motivation to cope with challenges.

2.3 Social interactions

Social interactions show the exchange of information and ideas of sharing process between

social network members. Turner and Turner (2013) stated that individuals' life satisfaction and emotional health might be weakened when they felt socially isolated from social relationships in the community. It is pointed out that persistent interactions including sharing pet anecdotes and seeking pet-related information by questioning between pet owners can foster social connectedness in the community. Social interactions between members in the social networks can nurture individuals' communication skills and expression of feelings. The interactions can lead to stronger neighbourhood relationships and friendships through similar interests and values on different issues in daily life. Kongable et al. (1989) stated that individuals could deepen social relationships in the community by spending time to meet the members of their social circles. Public spaces such as pet-friendly shopping mall, restaurants and pet garden provide opportunities for social interactions. Blume et al. (2011) stated that social interactions in neighbourhoods or friendship networks demonstrated long term participation in activities and cooperation with members in the social networks. The analysis of the writers clearly indicated that the importance of social interactions to maintain individuals' sense of belonging and social connections in the community. It could be applied to pet owners' social life. Through pet-friendly environments, pet owners can use the advantages of pet-friendly places like pet-friendly shopping mall and pet garden which facilitates pet owners to meet other pet owners with similar interests and values. For example, dog owners interact with each other while buying pet items in a pet shop and share their

experiences of using particular pet item. Through their social interactions, it can increase their support on getting more diversified information for pet-keeping. Melson (1988) mentioned that the interactions between pet owners in shared pet-friendly places facilitated better access of information in the community. It is beneficial to pet owners to avoid feeling isolated.

Viswesvaran, Sanchez & Fisher (1999) stated that social interactions between neighbours could enhance a sense of belonging and security in the community. The writers indicated that sharing thoughts and feelings to members in social networks could gain emotional support and informational support. It is also mentioned that social interactions based on common interests between members in social networks encouraged introverted people to be more active in participating group activities. Social interactions emphasized individuals' reactions toward members in their social networks.

3. Theoretical framework

3.1 Emotional support

Emotional support is a type of social support. It refers to interactions which gives an individual to feel being cared and encouraged by members in the social network. Cohen and Syme (1985) stated that social relationships with social support brought positive effects on mental health and wellbeing through mutual encouragements within social networks. Through

social support on the aspects of emotion, individuals share their concerns and difficulties that they face and cause them to feel depressed. The members in the social network play a role of listener between each other to listen to the concerns that are shared by people who are struggled and provide them encouragement. Thus, it can enhance individuals' confidence and feelings of self-worth to face different problems in daily life. The concept of emotional support relates to my research study that it could be analysed through the social network and support system among pet owners in the case of Tseung Kwan O pet-friendly environments. Through pet-friendly environments like cafes and pet garden, pet owners can meet pet owners who have similar interests and thoughts on pet-keeping or daily issues. Based on frequent social interactions, pet owners with other pet owners who have shared ideas can form positive neighbourhood's relationships with trust and empathy. The social connections between pet owners may develop the channels for them to express their feelings and thoughts with reassurances and cheer from the social relationships. Therefore, social support on emotions could reflect the importance of social network between pet owners on reducing stress and avoid feeling isolated.

3.2 Instrumental support

Instrumental support is a kind of social support which refers to practical assistance by actions

that can be received from social networks. Based on stable friendships or neighbourhood relationships, instrumental support between individuals in the social networks is supportive to the members who need practical support. Moreover, instrumental support includes different ways of practical assistance to help people. For example, financial assistance and help on specific tasks in real-life situations. Lakey and Cohen (2000) stated that instrumental support could alleviate individuals' pressure when they had lack of resources or abilities to handle specific issues. Individuals can receive tangible help from social networks which may facilitate them to reduce feelings of anxiety and nurture long term friendships. Pet owners develop their social networks regarding their pets and interact with each other through pet-friendly environments. The social connections among pet owners in Tseung Kwan O may deepen their understandings between neighbourhood. In long term interactions, pet owners may provide instrumental support to members to assist them with immediate problems and let them to feel secure when they feel hopeless. Applying instrumental support as a possible type of social support in the research study, it can be analyzed what instrumental support that could be received and are helpful to the pet owners when they face difficult circumstances from social networks among pet owners. Pet owners may receive instrumental support such as assistance of walking their pets if pet owners are busy at work and lending of pet-related items to the pet owners of the social networks under neighbourhood relationships. Therefore, instrumental support is important for this study as a possible type of social support among pet

owners in Tseung Kwan O to determine the importance of social support in social networks.

3.3 Informational support

Informational support is a social support type that refers to supportive messages include advice and knowledge. The information that are provided by social network can guide individuals in the social network on how to solve problems. By sharing own experiences, individuals who have concerns on similar issues may receive relevant information to make better decisions or gain wider perspectives among members in the social network to handle problems. Haythornthwaite (1996) stated that exchange of information was beneficial to individuals to enhance problem-solving abilities and self-confidence to deal with different aspects of problems. It is pointed out that the information that are provided by neighbourhood or friends included real-life experiences and knowledge. It may provide pet owners more guidance to grasp the updated information toward pet-related topics that they may not be familiar with. Through continuous interactions of exchange information, pet owners may have closer relationships between neighbours and develop better lifestyle habits with reliable suggestions. Moreover, information exchange among pet owners may facilitate them to know more about pet-friendly restaurants, dog parks and also pet care and services information in the community. Applying informational support in my research study as a possible type of

social support can enhance my understandings on how informational support facilitate pet owners to handle different daily issues based on relevant advice and sharing of similar experiences during their communication in pet-friendly environments with other pet owners. Therefore, informational support could be considered as possible types of social support among pet owners in Tseung Kwan O.

3.4 Appraisal support

Appraisal support is a social support type that refers to feedback on the appropriateness of acts and self-evaluation on behaviours after receiving feedback. Pet-friendly environment offers spaces for pet owners to interact with other pet owners in the community and develop friendships. Individuals can listen different perspectives of views based on their behaviours and decisions among members in the social network. Thus, appraisal support within social networks may bring individuals feedback to approach different challenges and overcome obstacles. It may also encourage individuals to understand their potential abilities and weaknesses for improvement. Stewart (1989) stated that receiving positive feedback among members in social networks assisted to identify existed deficiencies of performances. The ideas of appraisal support could be applied to analyze the benefits of appraisal support among pet owners in the community and understand about what circumstances pet owners would like

to receive appraisal support among each other. Moreover, appraisal support could reflect the importance of social support on enhancing pet owners' abilities to face challenges and giving reminders to pet owners to improve their deficiencies on actions. It is predicted that pet owners in Tseung Kwan O could gain insights and feedback between pet owners in their social networks. The feedback may relate to the topics of pet-keeping habits or daily matters. Based on self-evaluation, individuals may enhance their acceptance of diverse views among members in the social network that may emerge improvements. Therefore, appraisal support could be considered as possible types of social support for my research study.

4. Research gap

Much of the earlier research showed the relationship between pet ownership and social interactions among pet owners in the community. Peters et al. (2010) mainly focused on showing how pets could facilitate pet owners to meet friends and enhance social networks in the community. However, the results of the research were limited in bringing out the connections of pets and pet owners' social life in pet-friendly environments such as pet-friendly cafes and pet garden in the community. Most of the research showed that pet owners interact with each other based on the topics of pet-keeping and enhance their social networks. The analysis of the existing studies was concentrated on why owning a pet could increase pet

owners' social connections among pet owners and develop pet-related dialogue with people in the community. The earlier research studies were not detailed-oriented to examine the impacts of pet ownership on pet owners' mental health or any possible types of social support that pet owners could gain from their social networks among pet owners in the community. Besides, the perception of pet ownerships based on much of the earlier research studies showed homogeneity on analyzing the factors that owning a pet could maintain stronger social ties in the community. There is lack of supportive information to analyze what other factors could enhance social relationships among pet owners. For example, types of social support that are received between pet owners and events of social interactions. For the research gap, my research study is going to provide detailed information and analysis on social networks within pet owners in Tseung Kwan O and their social support system.

5. Methodology

5.1 Qualitative research: In-depth interviews

In this qualitative study, I examine what are the possible types of social support that pet owners may gain between pet owners in Tseung Kwan O pet-friendly environments by having in-depth interviews with 8 interviewees. The interviewees are pet owners who live in Tseung Kwan O and had formed social networks by interacting with other pet owners in Tseung

Kwan O pet-friendly environments. Each interview took around 10 to 15 minutes. The purpose of conducting interviews is to understand pet owners' social interactions process, functions of social networks among pet owners and types of social support that could be received between pet owners. There were 11 questions for interviewees to answer. To illustrate, types of social support that pet owners think pet owner's community has given to them such as emotional support, material or financial support, pet ownership, self-confidence or encouragement had been asked. Additionally, questions about whether pet owners ever organized or attended any social gatherings or events with other pet owners in Tseung Kwan O had also been asked. It facilitated me to understand what the purpose or nature of social events to the pet owners. To understand more about pet owners' social life, it is important to find out the factors that assist pet owners with the formation of social networks and fostering of friendships. All interviewees are pet owners who live in Tseung Kwan O for at least two years. The information and experiences that had been shared by the interviewees were rich and detailed. It is supported by their real-life examples of social interactions in pet-friendly restaurants, cafes, and pet garden with different pet owners. Interviewees also mentioned about their past experiences on receiving what exact types of social support from their social networks with pet owners in daily life. The in-depth interviews could be applied productively into my research to understand pet owners' perceptions to pet-friendly environments in Tseung Kwan O and expand the exploration of their social network. The reciprocity between

pet owners in Tseung Kwan O could be found in their social support system.

5.2 Participant observations

Applying participant observation allows me to immerse myself in the social group of pet owners in Tseung Kwan O. The target of participant observation are three dog owners and one cat owner. For the venue, the observation was carried out at a pet-friendly café called “Stay with café” near Tseung Kwan O waterfront park. I did the observation on 10 March at 1 pm till 2:30 pm about 1.5 hours. The pet owners that I observed was having their lunch together with their pets. They were chatting about which pet-friendly restaurants they would take their pets to play and eat dinner in the coming Sunday. Three dogs were interacting with each other when the pet owners talked with each other. The dogs were kept on a leash and the cat slept on the pet’s chair near its owners. I observed that these pet owners had established long-term neighbourhood relationships as they discussed different topics in their daily life naturally. Three dog owners were active to talk about their dogs’ living habits and shared about their experiences and feelings of bringing their dogs to pet clinic in Tseung Kwan O. Besides, the cat owner asked if any of the dog owners could help to take care his cat one day as he would be busy at work in the coming weekend. It showed that they provided instrumental support with trust between members of the social network. They resonated with each other when they

discussed about services of pet care shops in Tseung Kwan O that they were unsatisfied. It demonstrated that keeping same type of dogs can narrow the gap between neighbours through mutual topics or similar experiences.

Another participant observation was carried out in the Tseung Kwan O Waterfront Park Pet Garden. The observation was started from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 a.m. on 24 March. Two dog owners brought their Poodles into dog shared zones of the pet garden. Dog owners were required to keep their dogs on a leash to avoid causing harm to other pet owners or dogs in the shared spaces. The interactions between Poodles lead to social interactions between dog owners. Owners of two Poodles mentioned that they were happy to meet each other in pet garden for few times. They discussed about their own ways of feeding Poodles. Also, they gave each other feedback based on their experiences and knowledge. Pet-friendly garden provided a platform for the dog owners to meet each other and maintain neighbourhood relationships based on their similar interests of making pets' food. During the process of social interactions, one of the Poodle owners invited another owner of Poodle to walk her dogs together in weekend. It showed that they would like to have more opportunities to meet each other to enhance their social connections.

6. **Findings**

After interviewing 8 pet owners in Tseung Kwan O pet-friendly environments, the following are the findings responding to research questions in relation to types of social support among pet owners and functions of social network among pet owners.

6.1 Informational support among pet owners

The answers of interviewees showed that social support could be received among pet owners including emotional support, instrumental support, informational support, and appraisal support. Information and knowledge about pet care or real-life issues are shared among pet owners.

“My dog is a Shepherd dog. I met few Shepherd dog owners while I was having coffee with my mum in pet-friendly cafe. We have now opened a WhatsApp group, which is a group for shepherd dogs. We will be there. We may share information about Shepherd dog, celebration of festivals or where we have visited during holidays in the group. We chat on social media platforms like WhatsApp and Instagram in daily life. When we think any veterinary service is good, we will send out the information and let our members in WhatsApp group to have more

choices of veterinary service nearby. If there is any information about dogs' grooming services, we will also discuss it." (Interviewee A)

"We help each other actively. I was arranged to go to Japan to work for a week. I temporarily brought my Chow Chow to a friend's home who lives in Tseung Kwan O with a cat. I am very grateful that he was willing to take in and help me take care of my Chow Chow for a few days. Recognizing other pet owners brought me support and developed a role in helping neighbours. I think they can actually help me in terms of information and emotions. Two years ago, I was a novice dog owner. I was not familiar with taking care a sick dog. As I met friends who kept Chow Chow, they shared experiences and information to me. They will also recommend some reputable pet grooming shops or pet-friendly restaurants to visit together."

(Interviewee B)

"Raising a Poodle allows me to get to know other Poodle owners or use WhatsApp to share where to buy items for my dog. It's interactive. I usually chat with pet owners who are about the same age. Also, I usually see them walking around dog garden at about the same time every day. I love to dress up my dog up and usually start conversation about pet apparel for dogs. There is also a WhatsApp group where we often send messages to share our difficulties

that we encountered in keeping a dog. I have more contacts with people and feel happy. I usually share with other pet owners where to buy cheaper pet items and which store has discounts for dog apparel.”

(Interviewee C)

Based on the answers of interviewees, most of the interviewees stated that they could receive different types of social support among pet owners in Tseung Kwan O. There are four types of social support could be shown in the social network within pet owners in Tseung Kwan O.

Pet-friendly environments in Tseung Kwan O including café, restaurants, shopping mall and pet garden are platforms that pet owners can meet each other easily with interactions and share their pet-keeping experiences. Thus, it strengthens strong neighbourhood and sense of community under continuous social interactions in daily life. For interviewees of dog owners, the number of times of bringing dogs to pet-friendly places in a week are more than other pet owners due to the reason that dog likes walking around freely. The dog owners can build up social networks among dog owners through long term communication and information exchange process with common topic of dog keeping. Informational support could be received among the dog owners. To illustrate, information is related to veterinary service in Tseung Kwan O, dog apparels and accessories, and ways to take care specific types of dogs

with sickness. Most of the interviewees think that informational support can facilitate them to handle different daily issues by acquiring guidance or useful knowledge between dog owners.

6.2 Emotional support among pet owners

Most of the interviewees thought that they could receive emotional support among pet owners from their built social networks in Tseung Kwan O through pet-friendly places.

“I am a very introverted person and rarely talk to other people. I feel shy in social situations and often can’t think of any topics to talk with others. When I raise a dog, I recognize some dog owners through pet garden. I have more common topics to talk with my friends who also own their dogs which increase my self-confidence.”

(Interviewee C)

“I feel happy to talk with pet owners who own same type of pet easily based on similar experiences. We show care to each other when we meet in pet-friendly restaurants and pet garden. For example, listening to pet owners about their concerns on pets and reassuring them. Before I knew them, I feel bored to walk my dog alone. It’s glad that we can walk our dogs together and I feel reliable to talk with each other on different topics now.”

(Interviewee D)

“I think the social network within pet owners occupied a large part of my daily life. Pet owners with same age range and similar interest comprehend my feelings and concerns easily. Compared with other social circles, pet owners actively listen to each other with affection and show compassion when I share my worries.”

(Interviewee H)

Based on the responses, some of the interviewees expressed those social connections among pet owners brought support to their emotions. It is mentioned that most of them felt happy to meet neighbours of pet owners in pet-friendly environments with shared values and common interest. The interviewees also stated that they felt glad to receive care of support from pet owners when they felt anxious about pet issues. They were more active to face and tackle difficulties after getting encouragement and care among pet owners in daily life. Pets could be catalysts to meet neighbours regularly especially dog walkers. Thus, more than half of the interviewees thought that owning a dog could enhance their self-confidence to approach different pet owners and create conversation with them in pet-friendly environments while walking their dogs. Interviewees who were introverted or energized by independence became

more active to interact with pet owners in the community. They were willing to invite pet owners to meet in pet-friendly garden and have further social activities together.

6.3 Appraisal support among pet owners

Some of the interviewees thought that they could receive appraisal support from the social networks within pet owners in Tseung Kwan O. Appraisal support was regarded as a social support type that the interviewees could listen to feedback on the appropriateness of acts and self-evaluation on behaviours. The feedback was supportive to provide them diverse insights and affirmations to face different situations in daily life.

“We may discuss about what pet health products are suitable for Chow Chow dogs and give feedback to each other on what we had bought for Chow Chow dogs. For example, the strengths and weaknesses of products. Some experienced pet owners in the social networks give me comments to what I recently bought for my dog, especially daily pet supplies. It is beneficial for me to know more about the suitability of relevant products to the need of my dog.”

(Interviewee B)

“I like to invite my neighbours of pet owners that we are familiar with each other to have lunch in pet-friendly restaurants on Saturday or Sunday. For me, the purpose of these gatherings is to update our recent situations in daily life to each other with trust and evaluate myself with improvements after hearing trustful feedback among pet owners who had common experiences before.”

(Interviewee C)

Based on the responses of interviewees, some of the interviewees stated that they could receive and advanced by appraisal support among pet owners in Tseung Kwan O. Appraisal support could demonstrate the benefits of social support on enhancing pet owners’ abilities and perspectives to face challenges in daily life or workplace. Moreover, receiving trustful and constructive feedback could deliver reminders to pet owners to improve their weaknesses on handling different tasks in real life.

6.4 Instrumental support among pet owners

Instrumental support with tangible resources is received by the interviewees among pet

owners. The assistance is offered to tackle related problems or tasks. Tangible resources, funds or physical actions are regarded as examples of assistance that interviewees could receive among pet owners.

“We often meet each other in pet-friendly environments in Tseung Kwan O. I made friends with several dog owners who raise Chow Chow dogs. Based on mutual trust relationship, we often help each other. I remember that I was required to go to Japan to work for few days. I asked my friends who were dog owners and Tseung Kwan O residents. I received practical help from dog owners in the social network. I temporarily brought my puppy to a dog owner’s house in the social network who was willing to take care of my dog. I felt very grateful that he was willing to take care of my dog for a few days. Therefore, I understand that pet owners’ practical help is applicable when I faced some difficulties in daily life.”

(Interviewee B)

“If my neighbours of pet owners go on a trip, we will help each other to take care of our dogs. My neighbours and I usually don’t go on trips for long periods of time. I will bring my dogs to the neighbour’s home after his or her agreement and have enough spaces to contain one more dog. They provided pet care resources to take care of my dog. It is trustworthy that they

all have experiences on pet-keeping and understand my situations.”

(Interviewee D)

From the responses of interviewees, instrumental support could be received from pet owners in their social networks when they need tangible help for solving difficulties. Instrumental support provided practical and supportive resources to the interviewees especially when they were busy to take care of their dogs. The interviewees thought that instrumental support provided them help with personal care or tangible resources based on trust among pet owners of their neighbours.

6.5 Social connections among pet owners

Keeping a pet provides pet owners opportunities to interact with pet owners of different backgrounds and join social activities with pet owners in Tseung Kwan O. Most of the interviewees thought that pet as a common topic and fosterer of social interactions could enhance their sense of belonging in the community.

“I usually make appointments to meet other dog owners of neighbours in pet-friendly shopping mall or garden regularly. I personally think that shepherd dogs are pure dogs that can interact with other dogs coordinately. I also chat with cat owners or turtle owners if we see them in pet-friendly garden. They would say my dog is cute and leave. Before owning my Shepherd dog, I didn’t think that I could develop social networks with dog owners in Tseung Kwan O. Due to dog walking, I have made friends with dog owners or even pet owners with common topics.”

(Interviewee A)

“I usually establish social connections with pet owners in pet-friendly restaurants. When I saw Poodles in the restaurant, I feel active to talk with their owners with common topic on Poodles. Pet owners within social networks sometimes invite me to join their pets’ birthday parties in certain months. It is meaningful that I had also organized birthday party for celebrating my Poodle’s birthday for few times. The restaurant provides food and birthday cakes for dogs and their owners.”

(Interviewee C)

“I have met many friends who also keep a dog and live in Tseung Kwan O. We contact

through social media platforms' group on Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp. On weekdays, I share what my puppy eats and wear to other dog owners in the group. Some of the dog owners like to invite each other in the group to hang out in pet-friendly shopping mall in the weekend. There are pet owners who have cats within the social network. Social connections in my social network among pet owners are diversified to have different conversations and group activities with pet owners.”

(Interviewee D)

According to the responses of interviewees, social connections among dog owners in Tseung Kwan O deepened their understandings between neighbours and social bonds with neighbours through gatherings in pet-friendly restaurants. The interviewees also expressed that social connections within pet owners were diversified as they were not limited themselves to interact with dog owners but also cat or turtle owners in the community.

7. Research limitations

In this research study, there are limitations on the analysis of values of pet owners on social support system and functions of pet-friendly environment. The analysis may not cover all the values of pet owners as it exists geographical limitation based on the case study of Tseung

Kwan O. Also, research can only be conducted through certain types of pet-friendly environment based on regional limitation. For the respondents, most of the interviewees were dog owners. The perspectives of the interviewees may focus on their values and experiences of keeping a dog. It may not comprehensively reflect all insights of pet owners in Tseung Kwan O for the perceptions of social support system. For time limitation, I need to apply both in-dept interviews and participant observations to understand the patterns of social interactions among participants of pet owners in Tseung Kwan O pet-friendly areas and observe their motivations to interact with different pet owners for more detailed analysis,

8. **Conclusion**

To conclude, this research study mainly focuses on the analysis of social support system among pet owners and assistance of pet-friendly environments on the development of neighbourhoods among pet owners. Possible types of social support include emotional, instrumental, informational, appraisal support can be received among pet owners with trust and kindness. Due to continuous social interactions in the community, the acquire of social support exists to help individuals on solving difficulties and making better decisions in their daily life. Pet-friendly environment provides spaces for pets to interact with other pets in the community which enhance social networks with other pet owners. Through this research

study, it is important to find out that expansion of social networks bring stronger social bonding with people in the community and gained access to social support from friends and neighbours based on their common topics on pets.

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Appendix

1. 您什麼時候開始帶寵物到將軍澳的寵物友善空間？

Me: Hello，我想問一下你什麼時候開始帶寵物去將軍澳的寵物友善空間？

Interviewee A: 四年前開始。

2. 您每星期會到將軍澳的寵物友善地方多少次？例如：寵物友善餐廳、寵物公園

Interviewee A: 兩三次，因為我本身也很少放狗。通常是我媽媽負責。

3. 您是否與寵物友善環境中的其他寵物主人建立了任何社交聯繫？如果是這樣，這些聯繫是如何發展的？

Interviewee A: 也有的，我之前去寵物友善的餐廳，因為狗經常到處走，所以會走過隔壁的桌子，而且我狗本身是牧羊犬，我們誤打誤撞認識其他牧羊犬品種和其他牧羊犬的主人。我們現在開了一個 WhatsApp 群組，是牧羊犬的群組，我們會在那裡，可能有恭喜發財，節日或者去了哪裡玩都會在群組那裡分享。

4. 對您而言，擁有將軍澳其他寵物主人的社群網絡起了什麼作用？例如：鄰里互助

Interviewee A: 其實好像認識多一個朋友，即是你的寵物好像自己的小朋友，好像家人群組，都是分享一下自己的家裡的成員小動物。大家就好像朋友那樣去聊天。如果有機會都會約在一起出去玩，因為大家牧羊犬主人群組。

5. 您通常如何在寵物友善空間中與其他寵物主人發起對話或互動？

Interviewee A: 例如，跟牠們的動物打招呼，通常都會主人牠叫什麼名字，然後可不可以摸牠，介紹我那隻小狗後互相分享飼養過程，再問可不可以一起做朋友。有些狗比較兇，牠們有些主人都會拉著。通常去寵物友善空間，那些寵物都不會咬人。

6. 你認為寵物主人的社群令你獲得什麼社會支援？ 例如：情緒方面的支持、物質或金錢支持、飼養寵物心得、自信心或鼓勵

Me: 那你認為這些寵物主人，你說 WhatsApp group，開了一個社群會不會對你情緒，或者可能心理健康方面，有些什麼支援？

Interviewee A: 我們都會交流，可能這間獸醫服務很好，有機會都可以一起去。因為我們將軍澳都有些寵物的診所，我們大家都有帶狗隻看過。如果關於狗的東西我們都會討論。

7. 您試過與將軍澳其他寵物交換飼養寵物資訊？如果有，共享了哪些相關資訊？

Interviewee A: 都會的。不過其他人可能多一點交換意見。我自己就通常會看寵物主人交換意見為主。

8. 寵物友善環境中的哪些活動或事件促進了寵物主人之間的社交互動？

Interviewee A: 即是我們有時候，即是有機會就會約出來這樣見一下。因為我本身覺得牧羊犬都是一些比較純的品種可以和其他狗隻一起。

9. Interviewee A: 是。養狗會跟貓的主人都有交流，可能走過看見寵物會說幾句。我們那邊也有人放烏龜的，也會跟烏龜的主人交流。我自己是養狗，不會有深入交流。會說很可愛，然後就走。

10. 您曾否在將軍澳舉辦或參加任何與其他寵物主人的社交聚會或活動？如果是，這些聚會對你來說的目的或性質是什麼？

Interviewee A: 有，如果說去這些地方其實都是想給寵物主人去見一下其他狗主朋友。

11. 您認為將軍澳的寵物友善空間是否能促進寵物主人的社區意識或擴闊社交圈子？

為什麼可以或不可以？

Interviewee A: 這個一定有。即是好像你發現一開始因為我們住這個區以為都沒有甚麼人有飼養牧羊犬。後來入了一個群組就發現原來將軍澳區有很多人都是有養牧羊犬，因寵物找到很多共同話題的朋友。我又清楚牧羊犬本身的性格是怎樣，又認識到那一班人。

Interviewee B: 我想也有兩年。因為我兩年前新養了一隻小狗。帶牠到處走走，散步，我住在這邊的附近。所以我會選擇帶牠來將軍澳寵物友善空間海濱公園，或者有時我有空的話，也會帶我的小狗去附近的寵物友善商場逛逛街。

Interviewee B: 因為我每個星期大約都會去這些友善的地方三四次左右，平日我放工的時候就會帶我的小狗去海濱公園那邊散步，每次就會走大概一個小時到一個半小時左右。也會看到。晚上散步的時候，也會看到很多其他狗主，可能七點至九點那段時間就會放狗可能跟我一樣，都是吃了晚飯之後。星期六日通常我會和我的家人，帶著小狗去海濱公園附近的寵物友善餐廳那裡吃午餐或者有時候我們都會吃晚餐。上午到下午的時間，我們通常在這些寵物友善餐廳裡面吃東西 都有很多不同類型的小狗，我的小狗也很喜歡去那裡玩。

Interviewee B: 也有建立一些社交聯繫的。因為有時候可能晚上或者平時假日的話，放狗也會看到一些比較熟悉面孔的面孔。我們同樣也是住在將軍澳的居民。我都有認識到幾個朋友大家都是養鬆獅犬。因為我是養鬆獅犬的。所以我們都有試過帶著小狗出來吃飯。

Interviewee B: 互相幫助。有一次我記得就是有一次，因為我上班的那一天，需要我去日本工作。我暫時把我的鬆獅犬暫時同樣都是住在將軍澳的朋友的家裡。很感謝他很樂意收留，幫我照顧了我的鬆獅犬幾天。認識到其他寵物主人，對於我來說是有很大的幫助，也是鄰舍互助的一個作用。

Interviewee B: 因為我養的寵物狗仔類型是鬆獅犬，所以我對於其他主人都是養鬆絲犬的就會特別有興趣。所以通常我就會問一下他們的狗仔幾多歲，還有有沒有叫什麼名字，男生還是女生去開始我們的話題。通常問狗的背景資料，大家都會很踴躍去介紹他們自己的狗。那就很容易會展開到其他的話題。

Interviewee B: 我覺得這個寵物主人的社群其實無論在信息，還有那個情緒上，都可以幫助我。兩年前我作為一個新手養狗的主人，其實有很多地方，我都不是很熟悉怎樣去放狗或者怎樣照顧狗仔。就是牠病的時候。我應該怎樣去幫到牠，但是在這個社

群，我認識到這幾個朋友裡面。因為他們都是養鬆獅犬。令到我可以了解到我的狗仔的，可能有些習性或者可能有些什麼要避免。不要讓牠吃到下肚還有他們都會推介我一些信譽好的寵物美容店或寵物友善餐廳去吃飯。

Interviewee B: 會啊，通常我們聊天的內容都是離不開可能會聊大家最近買了什麼寵物保健品 給牠們的狗或者平時那些寵物用品，那些衣服，梳子，或者一些譬如去身上的毛的那些清潔用具，或者狗仔玩的玩具球。

Interviewee B: 我記得有一次就是幫我暫託狗仔的朋友他生日，他就開了個生日派對。然後那個生日派對，他就約了其他區都是有養鬆獅犬的狗主一起過來 然後帶著狗仔一起過來開生日派對，令同時間除了認識到我自己區內的主人之外，我都認識到其他區都是養鬆獅犬的主人，令我好像瞬間那個社交圈子擴闊了。

Interviewee B: 我覺得是的。因為大家都有個共通點也都會容易一點展開話題，因為我們大家都有養狗。作為狗的主人，如果其他寵物主人譬如養貓或者兔子那些我就比較難去發現到。牠們養這些寵物，除非我主動去找牠們聊天。所以因為如果我放狗的時候，跟人家聊天，寵物是作為我的媒介。

Interviewee B: 有就好像我剛剛說的，有參加過我朋友舉辦的生日派對都帶著寵物的。
當是認識新的朋友，而大家都是有養寵物的，目的主要都是擴闊社交圈子。

Interviewee B: 因為其實這些將軍澳寵物友善空間譬如餐廳，海濱公園好像集中在一個地方一樣。所以就會令到大家真的多一點機會見到，還有會多一點接觸的。所以我覺得可以令到我們會對整個將軍澳，會更加有社區意識，會容易一點認識到新朋友。

Interviewee C: 我之前不是住在這區，我是兩年前才搬來將軍澳這區。我聽到鄰居說這裡有很多寵物友善空間，所以我決定了養貴婦狗。

Interviewee C: 我每天都會帶我的狗去寵物友善地方，星期一至五下班後會帶他到寵物公園散步，星期六或星期日便會帶他到寵物友善餐廳用膳。

Interviewee C: 我通常都會在寵物友善餐廳和其他寵物主人建立了社交聯繫，在餐廳會
有其他貴婦狗，我會開始和他們的主人聊天，始終大家都是一起養貴婦狗，住在將軍澳，然後就開始聯繫。

Interviewee C: 我本身就是一個很內向的人，很少和其他人主動說話，養貴婦狗可以令我結識到其他養貴婦狗或者用 WhatsApp 一起分享去哪裡買給我的狗的物品都是一種互相交流。

Interviewee C: 我通常都是會和年紀差不多的寵物主人聊天。之後會看到每天差不多時間出來散步會問一下是否住附近。我都喜歡幫我的狗打扮通常是牠的打扮而發起對話。

Interviewee C: 我本身是比較害羞的，經常都想不到什麼話題和人溝通。我養狗就多了，一些話題多了朋友會增加了自信心，還有 WhatsApp group 我們都會經常發訊息分享一下保留飼養狗隻遇到有什麼困難，這樣我都多了跟人聯繫，感到開心。

Interviewee C: 我很喜歡幫狗打扮，我會和牠買很多衣服和飾物，通常我會和其他寵物主人分享一下在哪裡買便宜一點，哪一間有時候有優惠，買幾件會有優惠，就會和其他主人一起買。

Interviewee C: 將軍澳有間寵物友善餐廳有做寵物生日會，我有時候某些月份會和其他

不同狗的生日會。我也會幫我的貴婦狗去搞生日會，那間餐廳很好會提供食物和生日蛋糕都是可以給寵物食。

Interviewee C: 會有差異，因為我自己養狗。所以會留意狗和狗的主人的交流。我也見過有人帶貓和兔子，但牠們未必每天都會出來。所以會較少交流。

Interviewee C: 除了剛才說的生日會之外，我也有幾個特別交心的朋友寵物主人，我們大家朋友會一起去寵物友善餐廳，有時候星期六或日，因為養狗就可以發覺有很多共同的話題。之後大家聊多了。我發覺工作那些可能都會有些相似，這些聚會對我來講其實目的都是想認識多些朋友，然後可以開朗一點，提升到自信心。

Interviewee C: 我覺得是可以的。之前將軍澳海旁附近沒有那麼多住宅和那麼多寵物友善的空間，我就是會帶我的狗去公園散步，然後回家。現在多了這些寵物友善空間，我就可以認識多了朋友，還有我對將軍澳這一區的歸屬感也強。

Interviewee D: 近排這一個月。因為最近剛剛搬了去將軍澳，所以最近才開始帶牠（金毛尋回犬）去這些地方。

你每星期會帶牠去這些地方多少次 例如餐廳或者公園

Interviewee D: 通常三至四次。

Interviewee D: 也有，通常坐在戶外的餐廳的時候，通常坐在隔壁。我和其他寵物主人互相問牠吃什麼糧慢慢開始，都是通過一隻寵物開始講這些話題。

Interviewee D: 如果鄰居去了旅行會幫助鄰居照顧狗。鄰居去旅行的日子一般是不會特別長，暫住在我的家裡餵一餵糧，清理一下牠的大便那些都會有。

Interviewee D: 因為見到大家的狗很可愛或者同一個類型，更加有共同話題可能更加問牠你那隻狗吃什麼糧，或者是可能寵物有時不舒服帶牠去哪裡看醫生。

Interviewee D: 未認識到牠們的時候，帶狗仔散步的時候，可能比較平靜一點，但現在就可能開心一點，因為會約他們一起散步跟狗都會開心一點的。因為認識到新的朋友他們都是養狗的，更加有共同話題。可以聊在一起或者約出來散步也好，會更加開心，沒有隔膜。

Interviewee D: Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp 也有將軍澳區狗主群組。平日會分享一下大家的小狗牠們吃什麼。牠們的習慣通常是飲食習慣。或者是哪裡可以買到大件一點的衣服給狗隻。

Interviewee D: 同一個環境裡面都會跟其他的狗主互相交流，更加多東西聊因為大家都有在將軍澳養狗的經驗。

Interviewee D: 也有一些是養貓，照樣會跟他們有交流，不會因為自己養狗而不和他們聊天。

Interviewee D: 群組發起過一些聚會可能有寵物主人，或者那隻寵物生日。

Interviewee D: 都會，因為去多了。例如，可能去寵物友善公園，去多了一定會喜歡這個地方多了。因為帶狗去寵物友善空間一定是開心及結識其他寵物主人。

Interviewee E, F: 不一樣 都不同的時間

Interviewee E, F: 因為狗兩歲 兩年吧 兩年

Interviewee E, F: 五天

Interviewee F: 我這個少一點 三四天

Interviewee E, F: 是啊 是啊

Interviewee E, F: 是啊 沒錯 就是因為狗仔而相識的

Interviewee E, F: 是啊 因為狗仔而相識 我們是相識於狗的

Interviewee E, F: 絕對會 有一個共同語言

Interviewee E, F: 鄰居互相幫忙 旅行請鄰居幫忙照顧寵物

Interviewee E, F: 是 對 帶他們去寵物友善餐廳看見其他狗主便互相問大家狗隻的喜好

Interviewee F: 通常會互相問大家狗隻的年紀和習性

Interviewee E: 暫託著 因為每個人的狗才不一樣 就是不容易放在一起

Interviewee F: 很難 而且有很大的責任

Interviewee E: 去哪裡玩 例如去西貢 游泳 希望就是會可以給狗隻多些節目

Interviewee F: 幫他們打扮 去看獸醫

Interviewee E: 跟其他將軍澳寵物主人走走玩玩 相熟的狗主的狗隻一起 不用經常在家
裡 明白 那通常你覺得 有沒有一些 就是剛才你說 西貢 是不是都是自發去約出來

Interviewee F: 我沒有統籌 一般靠狗主群組與其他將軍澳的狗主相約到寵物友善餐廳
吃飯或商場散步

Interviewee E: 有其他寵物的主人 都會有交流的 就很少在將軍澳的寵物友善空間見到貓的主人

Interviewee F: 通常都是狗的主人 都會有交流的

Interviewee E: 狗主之間 吃飯 會約出來吃飯

Interviewee F: 都會看電影 我們有狗群組 都有三四十人 因為你去到海旁 狗朋友在海旁慢慢會見識到不同的

Interviewee E: 會 都有擴闊到社交圈子 一定會

Interviewee F: 有 還有很開心 因為外面是找不到這麼好的空間 將軍澳的寵物友善空間種類多 狗主和狗主很容易談得來 特別是養狗 忍不住和其他將軍澳狗主聊天

Interviewee G: 應該是由我的狗已經打完防疫針，然後可以出街開始，可能六、七個月的時候已經帶牠出街。

Interviewee G: 一開始主要是帶牠去寵物公園，以前牠小時候，可能一個月都有兩、三次週末的時候，但後來就發覺可能我的狗未必跟其他小狗相處得很好，特別可能跟小狗，因為我的狗是。之後我就感覺到我的狗好像不是特別喜歡去寵物公園，所以我們之後就轉了，去一些海旁的地方，例如：寵物友善的咖啡店或餐廳，還有商場，主要

因為我自己的狗比較怕熱，所以夏天的時候我們就未必會去室外活動，特別是室內。

多數是去商場，讓狗進入的餐廳吃東西。

Interviewee G: 我之前也有，我的狗小時候去寵物公園的時候。我們之前是有見到同品種的狗主，我們就是會好像我們的圈子一樣，主要 focus 都是說這一種品種的狗狗，可能怎樣飼養牠的方法，或者一些牠們有趣的東西。然後我們知道這個狗種，很多時候在 Facebook 也有一個群組。所以我們大家就會問，我們多數第一句都會問你有沒有進那個群組。因為那個群組都很出名，所以我們就會 focus 了，你有在那個群組。然後我們在那個群組，可能遇到一些不認識的東西我們就會在那裡問，或者分享一些生活上有趣的照片。

Interviewee G: 因為就大家所知，其實香港我覺得，寵物友善這個概念沒有外國發展得那麼好的或者是寵物公園都是近這幾年興起，當建立了這些東西的時候，我覺得的確是給多了空間。不論是寵物或者是寵物主人都可以跟牠們去。我們叫做去放下空，去走走，比起以前可能沒有這些地方的時候，我們可能可以養寵物或者帶牠們去逛街的地方，其實真的好少。還有可能有時候會遇到一些可能不太怕狗，或者不太理解寵物的人可能有些針鋒相對，或者這些寵物友善的餐廳的確是給了一個空間。我們養寵物的人去聚在一起，多了一個地方。我們可以帶狗狗一起出來。

Interviewee G: 其實都是用狗的品種去開始的。我的狗種是肥肥嘟嘟的，矮腳的。所以很多人 首先就會問我你這隻是什麼狗種，因為可能比較少見，可能就會誤解這隻是不是沙皮狗。然後我們就會跟他們解釋。有些人就會跟我們說，覺得這隻狗的品種以前小時候在卡通片看，很兇的。我們都會打開一個話題跟他們說，其實不是的，他們的品種其實是很純的，不是真的在卡通片，畫得那麼兇。就是這樣去打開一些話題。

Interviewee G: 絕對有的，首先就好像剛才所說，我們在 Facebook 那裡會有一個群組。然後我們很多時候，都會在上面發問因為狗的品種的皮膚，很容易出問題的。所以我們都會經常當皮膚有問題的時候，就會在上面問有沒有什麼藥可以配給牠們。或者就是可以對傷口快點好。另外情感之外，因為我們都會在上面會見到有些狗可能因病去世，或者是老死了。大家都會在下面留言希望主人不要太不開心我們絕對都會有這些的。還有實質上的支援，我比較用我的例子，就是當初我養了我的狗。然後我們就想買一個類似寵物的車給狗坐，但是因為我覺得我狗還比較大，市面上的狗手推車都比較小。我們當時我和那邊人都有上去，我們那個群組那裡突發，我經常問有哪一輛車比較適合我這個狗種。可能載到一些比較重，然後大一點的車。我當時在那裡得到很多留言，跟我們說哪一個牌子好一點，哪一個牌子耐用一點，最終就因為這樣我們就買了這輛車。

Interviewee G: 有啊。我們最主要就是我們多數是 Instagram 的。因為我們可能很多都會開一個寵物的 fanpage，我們會 follow 寵物的 fanpage，然後就在那裡用 Instagram 的 "direct message" 溝通。我都記得散步的時候，我們也是遇到不同的狗，然後就聊天。那時候在將軍澳海旁有一間餐廳新開的可以帶狗去，我們就互相共享了。

Interviewee G: 我覺得建了一個寵物公園絕對是有幫助的，因為寵物公園狗和主人都會多了空間，狗主可以不用那麼擔心。有時候因為你要通過繩子帶著狗，有時候都會有些市民是真的會怕狗，可能你就會比較謹慎一點，會把牠們拉得快一點，令到狗狗都不會跟人接觸，自然我覺得狗不會跟人接觸，你也不會跟另一個人接觸。

Interviewee G: 都會，是很明顯的。就是因為類型而有差別，還是都會聊天的都會聊的，就是個人來說都會和其他寵物主人閒聊雖然是少的。但是因為近幾年我發現多了很多人帶貓出街，以前我覺得小貓可能是會留在家裡多一點但是現在可能有個背囊帶牠出街這樣。我們都會說那隻貓貓好可愛，就會覺得肯出街的好少。就是這樣就會和養貓的主人打開這個話題。

Interviewee G: 我帶過我的狗去西貢和其他都是老虎狗的寵物主人一起去聚會聯誼講一下養狗的話題，可能狗隻弄傷了有些傷口，又或者因為有些市民不太喜歡狗隻，與其他寵物主人互相傾訴寵物主人被歧視的經歷。

Interviewee G: 我覺得可以。對於我來講我不是經常去寵物公園，可能我的狗不喜歡，比其他狗狗有不同的情況，所以我們就有一點可能避免了。但在將軍澳另外一些寵物友善空間如商場和餐廳就有機會見到其他寵物主人和跟他們說話。飼養不同狗種的寵物主人都可以打個招呼。

Interviewee H: 一年前開始 將軍澳海濱寵物公園可以容許狗隻在草地上跑而且有分大小狗隻範圍覺得很方便

Interviewee H: 每星期四次

Interviewee H: 有啊 我在海濱的寵物公園結識了 4 個同樣都養巴哥犬的寵物主人 大家都是住在將軍澳海濱附近的樓宇 而且大家的狗隻都可以融合相處 開了 Whatsapp 群組互相分享飼養的心得

Interviewee H: 我每星期都會帶我狗隻到將軍澳海濱公園寵物友善空間 一般都是吃飯後八九點和其他鄰居一起和狗散步 她們都有養狗比較有共鳴可以聊天

Interviewee H: 通常都是因為我的狗會在寵物公園接觸到其他狗隻 狗主在旁邊觀察便會互相問大家的狗隻年齡

Interviewee H: 我認為寵物主人的社群佔有生活的很大部分 這個社群比起其他社交圈子更容易有溝通因為大家都又一個共通點就是養狗 即使是到將軍澳寵物友善餐廳或公園也很容易碰到對方 相比起其他朋友圈子 寵物主人的社群見面的頻率會較多 比較少會沒有話題 因為大家都會圍繞狗隻的生活互相分享

Interviewee H: 有 除了可以去海旁的那條路還有寵物友善商場可以開放給寵物去走 我們都有共享這個消息 現在那些狗狗行不了 我們可以帶牠走

Interviewee H: 當你在狗公園裡面放繩子讓牠到處跑來跑去的時候 狗的社交就是會互相用鼻子聞內文去 或者可能碰一下大家 其實都是一個牠們玩的模式 這個時候其實可

能我們兩方面的主人都會問狗叫什麼名字 幾歲然後令到我們產生了這個話題

Interviewee H: 會 因為我對其他寵物例如 貓 烏龜 兔子的飼養方法不太瞭解 但喜歡小小動物所以都會在將軍澳的寵物友善空間與其他寵物主人有交流 但相對有局限 只是說說話 始終對其他寵物的了解不深 擔心沒有共同話題

Interviewee H: 有 週末上午的時候我會一邊與狗隻散步一邊跑步當作運動 沿途會遇到其他將軍澳狗主朋友 便會邀請他們一起到寵物友善餐廳吃午飯

Interviewee H: 可以 假如大家都有同品種的狗的時候甚至會留下互相的聯絡方法或者 Facebook 就是大家再談下去 也都可以約出來食餐飯

THE EDUCATION UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND POLICY STUDIES

CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE IN INTERVIEW

Social networks between pet owners in Tseung Kwan O pet-friendly environment

I _____ hereby consent to participate in the research supervised by Dr Mok Ka Tung, Francis and conducted by Wong Sum Yee Sammi, who are staff/students of Department of Social Sciences and Policy Studies in The Education University of Hong Kong.

I understand that information obtained from this research may be used in future research and many be published. However, my right to privacy will be retained, that is my personal information in details will not be revealed.

I acknowledge that I have the right to question any part of the procedure and can withdraw at any time without negative results.

Name of interviewee:

Signature of interviewee:

Date:

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Information Sheet

Social networks between pet owners in Tseung Kwan O pet-friendly environment

You are cordially invited to participate in a project supervised by Dr, Mok Ka Tung, Francis of the Department of Social Sciences and Policy Studies of the

Education University of Hong Kong and conducted by Wong Sum Yee Sammi, a year four student of the Bachelor of Social Sciences (Honours) in Sociology and Community Studies.

This is an academic study on sociological analysis and pet ownership and aims to examine the development of social networks and friendship between pet owners with different sociological factors.

Purpose of the research

This research aims to examine the features of pet owners' social networks through pet-friendly environment in Tseung Kwan O and how pets bring pet owners closer to other residents or neighbors in Tseung Kwan O who are pet owners through pet-friendly environment of public spaces.

Research procedure

To assist this research, you are invited sincerely to participate in the interview. The interviews will be conducted approximately 20 to 30 minutes. The data collected will provide informative feedback to the research topic on analyzing factors that pet owners are approachable to meet each other in pet-friendly environment in Tseung Kwan O and what

features do the friendship of pet owners have. During the interview, questions may be involved value-oriented judgement. The interview will be recorded for analysis in the research only.

Potential risks/discomforts

This research will examine issues related to personal views and values. If participants are unwilling or feel uncomfortable to answer relevant questions, they can ask researcher to stop interviewing and withdraw from interview anytime.

Confidentiality agreement

This research will be conducted anonymously which can protect personal privacy. The collected data are used for academic research only and will not be disclosed to anyone without consent of participants. The content of interview will be handled by researchers only and collected data will be destroyed within six months completion of the research of the research report.

Participation and withdrawal

Your participation in the project is voluntary. You have the right to withdraw from the study at any time without negative consequences.

Related questions

If you have any inquiries about this research, please contact Wong Sum Yee Sammi

or her supervisor Dr Mok Ka Tung,

Francis

If you have any concerns on the ethics of this research, you may contact the Committee on the Human Research Ethics Committee at The Education University of Hong Kong at any time by email at hrec@eduhk.hk or by mail to Research and Development Office, The Education University of Hong Kong.

Thank you for your interest and patience in participating this research.

Wong Sum Yee Sammi

Student of the Bachelor of Social Sciences (Honours) in Sociology and Community Studies

香港教育大學

社會科學與政策研究學系

參與研究同意書

<將軍澳寵物友善環境中寵物主人互相之間的社交網絡>

本人_____ 自願地同意參加由莫家棟負責監督，黃心怡同學負責執行的畢業專題研究項目的訪問，他們是香港教育大學社會科學與政策研究學系的教員/學生。

- 我了解從本研究中獲得的資訊可能會用於未來的研究，並且許多資訊可能會發表。但是，我的隱私權將被保留，即我的個人詳細資料不會被洩露。
- 我承認我有權對程序的任何部分提出質疑，並且可以隨時退出，不會產生負面結果。

受訪人士姓名:

受訪人士簽名:

日期:

訪談研究須知

<將軍澳寵物友善環境中寵物主人互相之間的社交網絡>

現誠邀閣下參與由香港教育大學社會科學與政策研究學系莫家棟博士負責監督，社會學及社區研究課程四年級學生黃心怡同學負責執行的畢業專題研究的訪問。這是一項關於社會學分析和寵物飼養的學術研究，旨在考察具有不同社會因素的寵物主人之間的社交網絡和友誼的建立。

研究目的

本研究旨在探討將軍澳寵物友善環境下的寵物主人互相之間建立的社交網絡的特徵，以及寵物如何透過寵物友善環境的公共空間拉近寵物主人與其他寵物主人之間的距離，建立友誼或緊密的鄰里關係。

研究流程

為協助本研究，誠摯邀請您參加本次訪談。訪談將持續約 20 至 30 分鐘。收集到的數據將為研究主題提供資訊回饋，分析寵物主人在將軍澳寵物友善環境中容易見面的因素以及寵物主人的友誼有什麼特點。面試過程中，問題可能涉及價值判斷。訪談內容將會錄音，僅供研究分析之用。

潛在風險/不適

本研究將探討與個人觀點和價值觀相關的問題。如果參與者不願意或感覺不舒服回答

相關問題，可以隨時要求研究者停止訪談並退出訪談。

保密協議

本研究將以匿名方式進行，以保護個人隱私。收集的數據僅用於學術研究，未經參與者同意不會向任何人透露。訪談內容僅由研究人員處理，收集的資料將在研究報告研究完成後六個月內銷毀。

參與和退出

閣下的參與純屬自願性質。參與者可以隨時終止參與是項研究，有關決定將不會引致任何負面後果。

相關疑問

如有任何疑問，請聯絡黃心怡
導師莫家棟博士

或聯絡她的

如閣下對這項研究的操守有任何意見,可隨時與香港教育大學人類實驗對象操守委員會聯絡(電郵: hrec@eduhk.hk ; 地址:香港教育大學研究與發展事務處) 。

謝謝閣下參與協助這項研究的耐心和興趣。

黃心怡

社會學與社區研究學生

Images of the research

Images of Tseung Kwan O pet-friendly environment



