Lori Kogan, PhD
Human Animal Interaction research
College-age women found the men holding cats as less masculine; higher on neuroticism, agreeableness, and openness; and ultimately, less datable in the short or long term. These findings were influenced by whether the female viewer self-identified as a “dog” or “cat” person.
Pet dogs during the time of COVID

- Online anonymous survey - March 2020; 4105 responses
- Sample - predominantly US women living with one other adult in “lock-down mode” (all non-essential stores and businesses closed and ordered/strongly recommended to stay at home)
Dogs' impact on negative emotions

- Feeling lonely
- Feeling isolated
- Feeling overwhelmed
- Feelings of depression
- Feelings of anxiety

PERCENT

- Increased
- No change
- Decreased
Dogs' impact on positive emotions

- Give purpose/meaning to one’s life
- Compassion towards oneself
- Ability to cope with uncertainty
- Maintain a regular schedule

PERCENT

Increased  No change  Decreased
Concern level with veterinary related issues

- Afford emergency vet care now
- Afford emergency vet care - future
- Afford non-emergency vet care now
- Afford non-emergency vet care - future
- My vet will not be available for emergencies
- My vet will not be available for non-emergencies
- Need to leave house if dog gets injured/sick

PERCENT

No concern
Minimal concern
Some concern
Great concern
Designated caretaker

Identified someone to care for dog if needed

- Yes: 59%
- No: 41%
Reasons for veterinary visit (22% visited veterinarian during ‘lock-down’ phase)
“I'm just so happy that I have them, I can't imagine going through this without them. Just petting them brings so much comfort. And watching their antics brings laughter that seems so rare these days.”

“I’m thankful for my dog being there for to hug and pet when things get down. I like knowing that he doesn’t know what’s happening in the world he is just happy to have a pet and a ball thrown to him. He is there for me through it all.”
Conclusions

• Cat survey results - very similar

• During these stressful times, our pets play a critical role in providing companionship, mitigating loneliness and isolation and giving us a sense of purpose.

• Tonight - take a minute to pet your companion - you both deserve it