

Pathways and Paw(es): Visualising co-performance and place-making

QUT Ethics Approval Number 1900001170

Research team

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Why is the study being conducted?

The purpose of this research is to understand how people walking their dogs engage in place-making activities in urban environments. There are 20 dogs for every 100 people in Australia. The dog-owning population includes all demographics and ages; understanding how humans and companion animals dwell in urban/sub-urban environments can be a fundamental factor to plan and achieve better smart cities, in alignment with UN Habitat New Urban Agenda (NUA) and UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

You are invited to participate in this research project because you are an urban (or peri-urban) dog walker.

What does participation involve?

Participation will involve completing a short survey that will take approximately 15–20 minutes of your time.

Questions will include general profile questions (e.g. age group and gender), general indicators of area where you usually walk your dog/s (e.g. local streets, parks) and general description of dog/s walked (e.g. breed, age) and questions like:

- Your preferred local walks?
- Reasons for these preferences (distance, facilities, parks)?
- Do you meet regular people and other dogs on your walks?
- Aspects of these walks you think your dog/s enjoy?
- Repeated behaviors that your dog engages in during the walks (e.g. regular business spots, favorite places to stop and smell, places they prefer to avoid)?

Your participation in this research project is entirely voluntary. If you agree to participate you do not have to complete any question(s) you are uncomfortable answering. Your decision to participate or not participate will in no way impact upon your current or future relationship with QUT. If you do agree to participate you can withdraw from the research project during your participation without comment or penalty. However, as the survey does not request any personal identifying information, once it has been submitted it will not be possible to withdraw.

You will be able to review your responses before submitting and save a copy of your responses after submitting the survey.

What are the possible benefits for me if I take part?

It is expected that this research project will not benefit you directly. However, there are an estimated 4.8 million pet dogs in Australia; 20 dogs for every 100 people, the dog-owning population includes 38% of households and all demographics and ages (ABS data, 2010). The majority of these companion animals are taken for walks daily and dog walkers are a major feature of urban (sub-urban and peri-urban or small town) environments and it may benefit our understanding about the ways that people and their companion animals engage in place-making in urban environments and create opportunities for design which recognise that place-making and collaboration in urban environments is co-created through the activity of humans and their companion animals.

What are the possible risks for me if I take part?

There are no risks beyond normal day-to-day living associated with your participation in this research project.

What about privacy and confidentiality?

All comments and responses are anonymous i.e. it will not be possible to identify you at any stage of the research, because personal identifying information is not sought in any of the survey responses.

However, you should be aware your answers may create a risk of identifiable data (e.g. a specific walk locale and distinct breed). This will be minimised through reporting e.g. locations will be de-identified and specific breeds de-identified (a St. Bernard becomes a large dog). An additional risk of identification is through use of your dog's name (it may be distinctive). The survey invites you to give a 'temporary nick name' to your companion animal if you so wish.

How do I give my consent to participate?

The submission or return of the completed survey is accepted as an indication of your consent to participate in this research project.

If you wish to stay informed about the project or are interested in being connected with further project activities or research, you can click this link which will take you to a new webpage, where you can leave an email address so we can contact you. Your email address will not be connected to the survey answers, so nobody can use it to trace what you said.

<http://pathways-paws.making-games.net/2020/01/13/dog-walking-survey-stay-informed/>

What if I have questions about the research project?

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact the researcher:

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What if I have a concern or complaint regarding the conduct of the research project?

QUT is committed to research integrity and the ethical conduct of research projects. If you wish to discuss the study with someone not directly involved, particularly in relation to matters concerning policies, information or complaints about the conduct of the study or your rights as a participant, you may contact the QUT Research Ethics Advisory Team on +61 7 3138 5123 or email humanethics@qut.edu.au.

Thank you for helping with this research project. Please keep this sheet for your information.