

Interview Schedule for Pet Ownership Interview

Hello Blodwen, I'm Stacey. Thank you for taking the time to be here today and for agreeing to take part in this interview. Before we start, I am aware you have already returned your consent and read the information sheet but I will begin by giving you a brief overview of what we are here to discuss today. Before that, can I please just check that you are happy for this interview to be recorded? And if you are, just to confirm that everything that is discussed by us today will only be listened to by me for the purposes of transcription and once this interview has been transcribed, the recording will be deleted. Is that ok? Can I begin recording?

So, the purpose of this interview today is to explore the perceived benefits of owning a dog. As you are aware, the data collected from this interview will be provided to first year undergraduate students for the purposes of a degree assessment. Any information that you provide today will be kept strictly confidential and the audio recording will only be listened to by myself. If you do wish to discuss anything that is not relevant to the specific questions being asked today please do not hesitate to ask me once I have turned the audio recorder off. Is that ok?

Great. Finally I'd just like to let you know that your name will be replaced with a pseudonym when this interview is transcribed and any identifiable context will be removed. I'd also like to remind you that if you want to pause or stop the interview at any time because you feel uncomfortable please just let me know.

[Switch on tape recorder]

Do you have any questions before we begin?

Great. I'd also like to reiterate that anything that you mention today that could be traced back to identify you will be replaced with some unidentifiable context - so for example if you say your dog's names I will just replace those with different names when writing up this interview. Is that ok?

1) So first of all, can you please tell me a little bit about your dogs?

Prompt: how many do you have? What breed are they?

2) How long have you been a dog owner?

Prompt: have you always owned dogs or have you only recently become a dog owner?

3) So you've mentioned that (always owned dogs/recently become dog owner); can you tell me how you first decided to get a dog?

Prompt: do you have children who have always wanted a dog, for example? Was there something else that influenced your decision to get a dog?

4) Thank you for that. Can you explain a little about what your dog(s) mean to you?

- 5) So it sounds like _____ - do you feel that is an accurate reflection?
- 6) That's great. Can I please ask you to explain how your dog(s) make you feel?
Prompt: do you walk your dogs? How does that make you feel? Do you look forward to seeing your dogs after a day in work?
- 7) You've mentioned _____ - what role do you feel your dog(s) play(s) in your family?
Prompt: for example, do you regard them as part of the family? Do they provide comfort in your family home?
- 8) What do you feel in your own opinion is the best thing about owning a dog?
- 9) We are pretty much coming to the end of the interview now, so I'd just like to ask a final couple of questions. To what extent do you feel your dog(s) has/have an impact on you psychologically?

Prompt: do you feel they have any impact at all? How do they best help you when you're feeling down?
- 10) Finally, if you were going to offer one piece of advice to someone who was thinking of becoming a dog owner, what would it be?

[End of interview – close by summarising the conversation and relaying your thoughts back to the participant for approval. Thank the participant and remind them about the consent for recording and how the information will be used. Hand participant the debrief form and inform them that, if they have any further questions, to please get in touch at any time.]