

MULTISPECIES FAMILIES ON THE STREETS: THE WELLBEING OF DOGS AND THEIR HOMELESS GUARDIANS

ASRI Event Report

May 25, 2023, University of Victoria
David Strong Building, C103, 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.



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We acknowledge and respect the ɫə́kwə́ŋən peoples on whose territory the university stands and the Songhees, Esquimalt and W̱SÁNEĆ peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

1. WHY THE SYMPOSIUM?

The seed for the Homeless Multispecies Families symposium was first planted in 2021 with a dog death row case in Victoria, B.C. The dog, Bronx, was the primary companion of a low-income, physically disabled person. Bronx's guardian was not homeless. He was on disability, and he was housed. But the case highlighted the disproportionate vulnerability of street-entrenched, marginalized humans and their dogs to punitive animal control interventions, some of which are fatal for the dogs in question. It brought to our knowledge other cases of homeless and/or marginalized, street-entrenched dog guardians who were forcibly separated from their dogs subsequent to punitive animal control interventions, and it identified homeless and/or street-entrenched multispecies families as families at risk. [Note: Homelessness can take different forms including sleeping on the streets or in nonconventional accommodation (primary homelessness); couch surfing or moving between shelters (secondary homelessness); or living longer term in boarding houses (tertiary homelessness) (Cleary et al., 2020).]

We began to ask ourselves about the lived realities of homeless multispecies families and the forces that shape their experiences—both those of the human guardians and the dogs in question—and whether there might not be more constructive ways of governance, ways that would support what we understand to be a family relationship. We felt that an intersectional, critical animal studies (CAS) framework would be helpful for examining the issue because dogs are animals who are dominated by humans, leaving them subject to seizure (by animal control) and even death. Persons experiencing homelessness (PEH) are low-income individuals who are marginalized based on their social class and thus have limited resources with which to advocate for their dogs or themselves. Compounding their individual oppressions, the homeless dog-human dyad is not recognized as a family, making them vulnerable to the trauma of forced separation and other harms by both social and animal services. For example, faced with the threat of separation, the person experiencing homelessness (PEH) often forgoes help, risking further harm to themselves. Another problem is that negative attitudes towards persons of low income (including PEH) can be transferred to their dogs who, then, are more likely to be seen as unruly and in need of punitive “control”. Finally, attitudes towards PEH can also lead to confiscation of dogs out of concern for the dog's welfare, even though recent studies show that these dogs are no less well cared for and, in some cases, better cared for than dogs living in conventional homes. It became apparent to us that attitudes towards homeless multispecies families needed to be disrupted and reconsidered.

To that end, we decided to organize a symposium on the subject of homeless multispecies families.

2. OBJECTIVES

Our aim was for the symposium to call attention to the lived realities of homeless multispecies families, to assist participants to gain a deeper understanding of the circumstances and barriers they face and the factors that affect them adversely, and to co-envision possibilities and strategies for enhancing their well-being. We intended for the symposium to contribute to risk reduction and enhancement of the wellbeing of homeless multispecies families, in particular the dog member, by mobilizing knowledge regarding the nature of the homeless multispecies family relationships and implications for supportive animal control and social and animal services' frameworks. We hoped that participants would learn new perspectives on dogs and their homeless guardians through the presentation of research, accounts of lived experience, and Q&A sessions. Through small and large group discussions, we expected that participants would begin to integrate new knowledge. The objective of the symposium included encouraging participants to consider novel, more effective and compassionate ways of envisioning the issue through which, we hoped, new strategies and priorities (policies and practices) for animal and human services would be identified. More broadly, we hoped that the symposium would lead to more inclusive, compassionate communities.

3. FORMAT

The symposium format was as follows:

8.30-9: Registration

9-9.30: Opening remarks: Dr. Lisa Warden

9.30-10.15: Keynote address: Dr. Leslie Irvine

10.15-10.45: Q&A

10.45-11: coffee break

11-11.30: small group breakout sessions

11.30-12.15pm: large group session

12.15pm-1.15pm: lunch

1.15pm-2.15pm: 4 panelists

2.15-2.45: Q&A

2.45-3: coffee break

3-3.30pm: small group breakout sessions

3.30-4.20: large group & action strategies

4.20-4.30: closing remarks Ranjana Basu and Lisa Warden

4. SPEAKERS

Keynote speaker:

Leslie Irvine, PhD is professor of Sociology at the University of Colorado Boulder. She is the author of *My Dog Always Eats First: Homeless People and Their Animals*, a study of the experiences of homeless animal guardians in five U.S. cities. Dr. Irvine's research on animal sheltering, animal abuse, animals in popular culture, animal selfhood, women in veterinary medicine, and other topics appears in journals and edited volumes. She serves as the director of the Animals and Society Certificate Program at the University of Colorado Boulder.

Panelists:

One individual (anonymous) with lived experience of animal guardianship while homeless. Video presentation to protect the confidentiality of the person and their dog.

Kim Monteith, animal trainer and Manager of Animal Behaviour and Welfare for the B.C. SPCA. For the last 20+ years, Ms. Monteith has been actively involved supporting and advocating for unhoused and marginally housed multispecies families in Vancouver and across Canada.

Dr. Chloë Roberts, a veterinarian who volunteers with Vets for Pets, a nonprofit veterinary clinic offering free veterinary care to the dogs and cats of homeless and low-income animal guardians in the Victoria area.

Dr. Jim Crosby, a former police officer of over 20 years and the former head of animal control in Jacksonville, Florida. Dr. Crosby has extensive canine behavioural training and expertise, holds a PhD in veterinary forensics, and is an internationally recognized authority and court-approved expert on canine attacks and aggression. (Dr. Crosby was scheduled to present but was called away on a family emergency on the morning of the event so he was unable to participate. His time slot was graciously filled by ASRI coordinator Holly Cecil, who took the participants on a tour of Finnerty Gardens.)

Over 50 people and three dogs, including speakers and volunteers, participated in the symposium and came from Victoria, Vancouver, and Calgary. Participants were from a variety of backgrounds and organizations including: Our Place Society, BCSPCA, Vets for Pets, Nurses, Canadian Mental Health Association, the Victoria and Saanich police departments, Parachutes for Pets (Calgary), Animal Alliance, UVic, Camosun College, Royal Roads University, Island Health, Umbrella Society, Veterinarians and vet techs, dog behaviorists and trainers, and ASRI scholars.

5. SMALL & LARGE GROUP SESSIONS

Small breakout groups were asked to identify what they learned from the presentations and discuss how their learnings could be incorporated into their personal practice. The morning groups focused on the ways in which the material presented in the keynote presentation influenced and challenged the standard practices and pre-conceptions of attendees. The afternoon discussions focused on the material presented by the panelists and the ways in which it helped participants to think differently about homeless multispecies families and the need for systemic change. Learnings from the morning groups included a new or affirmed understanding of the stigma faced by homeless multispecies families. One example of the stigmatizing attitudes challenged by the material presented was that homeless humans should not keep their dogs because 1) the stressful conditions of their living environments are unsuitable for the dogs (regardless of the dogs' wishes), and 2) homeless individuals are unable to care for their dogs. Participants identified the importance of making assessments and providing services without being judgmental. It was emphasized that dogs grow extremely attached to their humans, and in many cases would rather remain with their humans in adverse conditions than be removed and placed in conventional settings. The latter course of action would actually cause great harm to the dog (and their human). Several participants determined that they would raise awareness of the stigma faced by homeless multispecies families to their colleagues, staff, volunteers, and members of the general public through discussion and education. Participants also saw the need to advocate for homeless multispecies families to help them receive more supportive services.

The understanding of the homeless-human-and-dog dyad as a multispecies family was new to many. The depth of the homeless-human-and-dog relationship, as evidenced by the extent to which PEHs take care of their dogs, and the attachment of the dogs to their humans were a revelation to some attendees. Implications for practice included considering the needs of both the PEH and the dog in the context of a family. One of the small discussion groups pointed out that a new lens is needed that conceives of the animals and the homeless persons as equally important members of a family unit. At present, animal services focus on the animal, while human services focus on the human. The new, multispecies lens changes the focus to the dyad as a family, where the family and its members, regardless of species, are equally important.

Participants also noted the concept of ‘do-gooders’ who try to intervene with the intention of “saving” (removing) dogs from PEHs. That such actions can actually harm both the dogs and the homeless persons was an important realization. This led to the recognition of the need to raise awareness of the dogs and their homeless humans as multispecies families. Conceiving of them as families affords a fuller understanding of both members of the dyad, and works to counter negative attitudes towards them.

The afternoon small group participants were excited to learn that supportive services for multispecies families do and can exist, even in Victoria. For example, free vet care for homeless and low-income multispecies families is available in Vancouver, Calgary, and, in fledgling form, Victoria. This gave a sense of hope that change is possible, and it inspired attendees to work towards change. Participants learned that situations confronting homeless multispecies families are complex and involve a variety of systems, including animal and human services, municipal regulations and animal control, mental and physical health, and housing services and access. For example, something as basic as having to use a bathroom can be a complex and acute challenge for a PEH with a dog. Given such complexity, group members identified the need for communication, collaboration, and development of wrap-around services. Wrap-around services necessitate families, service providers, and key members of families’ social support networks collaborating to build creative plans that meet the unique and complex needs of individual families. Wrap-around services are strength-based, needs-driven, coordinated services. They involve agencies like mental health services communicating with housing providers, food banks, community centres, veterinary services, dog behaviorists and trainers, and animal control. The value of coordination of services was demonstrated by the work of Charlie’s Place in Vancouver, which was shared by panelist Kim Monteith. Small groups identified the need for more coordination of services.

Participants were also struck by the realization that several groups and organizations share similar goals and experience similar challenges across jurisdictions. This led to identification of the need to develop a network to share information, provide support, and develop collaborations. Another learning was the need to give importance to both animal and human needs and health, as these factors influence the wellbeing of homeless multispecies families.

An action recommended by one small group was to include indigenous perspectives and experiences in collaborations and roundtable discussions so that the services developed are inclusive and more effective. This is particularly important since a higher percentage of the indigenous population experience homelessness than the general population; 20-50% of the homeless population is indigenous (<https://www.homelesshub.ca/about-homelessness/population-specific/indigenous-peoples>). The group pointed out that this would also be an important move towards an intersocietal (versus settler) social order.

Several groups identified the importance of trusting relationships between multispecies families and service providers, as well as between service providers, and between service providers and government. These relationships were seen to be key to the accessing of services by homeless multispecies families and the development of new/more effective services. Györffy et al. (2022) and Arluke & Rowan (2020) also highlight the importance of trust in PEH accessing services.

Similar to the literature on homelessness and homeless multispecies families, the need for affordable, pet-friendly housing was identified by all small groups. Elimination of pet deposits was suggested, as these were seen to be a barrier to accessing housing. Tax breaks for landlords who provide affordable, pet-friendly housing was also suggested as an incentive and support for these landlords.

Participants' evaluations showed that the vast majority of respondents found the small groups to be useful as a means of consolidating learnings from the presentations, and also for meeting and learning from members of other organizations. Many respondents also indicated that the small groups were useful for applying their learnings to the development of actions for change.

One respondent was frustrated that discussion in these groups comprised mostly a repetition of points made in the presentations. While this observation reflects the failure of the small group sessions to meet the expectations of that respondent, it also indicates the objective of the small group sessions was actually met; that is, to provide an opportunity to think about what was presented in order to integrate the knowledge into people's practices.

6. PRIORITIES FOR ACTION

In the large group sessions, participants shared the discussion outcomes of the small groups. In the final afternoon large group, participants identified the following five action priorities for enhancing the wellbeing of homeless multispecies families:

- 1. Education is needed about animal-human relations to help further the understanding of dogs and their homeless guardians as multispecies FAMILIES in diverse communities.**
- 2. Development of affordable, multispecies, family-friendly housing is a key priority. This recommendation should be shared with the city council, other stakeholders, and the provincial government. A grassroots movement could be initiated, including a petition signed by animal and human service organizations/groups, members of homeless multispecies families, and the general public. One participant shared that housing for companion animals has already been discussed with the provincial government and landlords. Although it was identified as a priority among the public, there was not sufficient interest among landlords to find a solution.**

- 3. Establishment of a network would connect organizations, service providers, and those with lived experience who have shared goals. Such a network (for example, a “slack” channel or facebook group) would provide an opportunity to share experiences, knowledge, and resources.**

- 4. More supportive and coordinated wrap-around services are needed. For example, veterinary services, food banks, dog training services, housing services, mental health services, employment services all need to work together, talk to each other, and coordinate with each other. A specific recommendation towards this end is to move from a punitive model of animal control (as exists in Victoria, for example) to a supportive, outreach model.**

- 5. Incorporate a decolonizing approach by being inclusive, respectful, and collaborative with indigenous communities. This also recognizes that a high percentage of PEH are indigenous.**

These five priority recommendations are in keeping with what is known in the research as well as reports on homelessness in Canada. The need for communication, collaboration, and coordination of services has been identified by, for example, the homelessness hub (<https://www.homelesshub.ca/about-homelessness/homelessness-101/what-needs-be-done-end-homelessness>. Reproduced from: Stephen Gaetz, Tanya Gulliver, & Tim Richter: (2014) *The State of Homelessness in Canada 2014*.) The value of wrap-around services for the homeless population was highlighted in a study conducted in Winnipeg by Smith Ramey et al. (2021). The importance of housing is well recognized. However, the *Best Practices in Addressing Homelessness* (2019) report only briefly mentions the need for having “some” facilities that have pet-friendly spaces, and only in the context of seniors.

What stands out in the symposium participants’ action priorities is the focus on the unique needs of homeless multispecies families; their needs are even more complex than those of mono-species (human-only) families due to the focus on both animal and human needs and services. They call for the recognition of the dog-human dyad as a homeless multispecies family, as advocated by researchers such as Dr. Leslie Irvine. This has implications for supportive services, especially the need to de-silo and coordinate animal and human services to enhance the wellbeing of homeless multispecies families. Another important and more specific implication identified is to move from the present punitive role of animal control (as, for example in the city of Victoria) to a supportive, more outreach-oriented role.

7. WERE THE SYMPOSIUM OBJECTIVES MET?

Participant evaluations showed that the large group sessions were generally successful in helping participants identify priorities. One respondent found the priorities too broad to be effective in guiding action. Given that these sessions were only one hour in length, more specific recommendations, while desirable, were difficult to achieve. Since the action priorities are compatible with other, more comprehensive reports on homelessness, they add to the voices of others and point to the largely neglected but real need to address the issue of homeless multispecies families.

The symposium succeeded in achieving many of its objectives, including calling attention to the lived realities of homeless multispecies families, assisting participants to gain a deeper understanding of the circumstances and barriers they face and the factors that affect them adversely, and co-envisioning possibilities and strategies for enhancing their well-being. The event succeeded in mobilizing knowledge regarding the nature of the homeless multispecies family relationships and implications for supportive animal control and social services' frameworks. One respondent felt that the discussion and presentations were not adequately balanced or critical from an animal rights' perspective, and that the goals set were unrealistic.

The unfortunate absence of any staff or representatives from the City of Victoria, the City's Bylaw Department, or Victoria Animal Control Services served to limit somewhat the scope of the discussion and the capacity for envisioning novel policy-practice possibilities. The event organizers reached out to these departments, to no avail. It would have been most fruitful to hear the City's perspective as well as that of the City's animal control contractor. The absence of these key individuals meant that the participants' desire to brainstorm practical steps for risk reduction and increase wellbeing of homeless multispecies families was somewhat limited.

One other drawback was that due to limited time, participants did not have the opportunity to envision and brainstorm among themselves specific, practical ways in which animal control could be carried out differently (that is, more constructively). Another reason this perhaps did not occur may have been related to Dr. Jim Crosby's need to pull out of the event at the last minute due to a family emergency. He was planning to discuss the importance of a supportive, outreach role for animal control.

In retrospect, the organizing committee realized that it would have been a good idea for Lisa Warden to take Dr. Crosby's slot and present in detail what she learned during the Bronx case about the ways in which animal control is carried out in Victoria puts homeless multispecies families at risk.

These drawbacks aside, we feel that the symposium did encourage participants to consider novel, more effective and compassionate ways of envisioning the subject of homeless multispecies families, and that it succeeded in identifying valuable priorities for animal and human services.

On a practical level, people really enjoyed the food at the symposium, which included delicious snacks at the morning and afternoon coffee breaks, and a delightful vegan lunch. Some people would have liked to have coffee available on arrival at the event. Others would have liked to have the keynote speaker's book available for sale at the event, as well as business cards and pamphlets from the attendees and organizations represented at the event.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS TO ASRI

The symposium was very well received by those who attended. We recommend that ASRI hold multisectoral symposia on various animal issues (for example, wildlife issues, farmed animal concerns, companion animal subjects, liminal urban animal matters) every two years. By “multisectoral” we mean symposia that, like this one, draw participants not only from the academic community, but from various levels of government, concerned lay people, community groups, and relevant nonprofits and communities. By bringing in experts and including the community, it serves to build a bridge between university and city, and it might also serve to attract increased funding for ASRI. Participants clearly felt affirmed by being included in the university event, and the symposium provided validation to people who care both about animals and humans.

9. APPENDIX

I. Videos of the presentations

1. ASRI Symposium, UVic, May 25, 2023, Multispecies Families on the Streets. Opening remarks: Lisa Warden, Event Organizer <https://youtu.be/AFdgpnROiqE>
2. ASRI Symposium, UVic, May 25, 2023, Multispecies Families on the Streets. Keynote address and Q&A: Dr. Leslie Irvine <https://youtu.be/5aLVvnUOQ0c>
3. ASRI Symposium, UVic, May 25, 2023, Multispecies Families on the Streets. Morning large group session. <https://youtu.be/m2e1LJaJoA8>
4. ASRI Symposium, UVic, May 25, 2023, Multispecies Families on the Streets. Afternoon panel and Q&A. <https://youtu.be/U6d0XMRj9XI>
5. ASRI Symposium, UVic, May 25, 2023, Multispecies Families on the Streets. Afternoon large group session and action strategies. <https://youtu.be/oAwKKmENez4>

II. Invitation to symposium

Multispecies Families on the Streets: Dogs and Their Homeless Guardians

A Full-Day Symposium, Thursday, May 25th, 2023, 9am-4.30pm

University of Victoria, Victoria, BC, Canada

Join us for a one-day, educational, interactive symposium exploring the well-being of dogs and their homeless guardians.

Tickets:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/multispecies-families-on-the-streets-dogs-and-their-homeless-guardians-tickets-601027638847>

Through a keynote address, expert panel presentations, Q&As, and group breakout sessions, we will endeavour to expand our knowledge and challenge our preconceptions about homelessness and animal guardianship. As a group, we will identify potential changes that might be made in local animal and human services, as well as in municipal policy and practices, to better serve all members of homeless multispecies families.

A plant-based lunch and coffee and snacks will be served.

Registration required. Registration opens at 8.30 AM.

\$20 for the employed

\$5 for students

Free for anyone who cannot afford the registration fee. (Registration IS required for free tickets. To get a free ticket, “buy” a \$0 ticket.)

Keynote speaker:

Leslie Irvine, PhD is professor of Sociology at the University of Colorado Boulder. She is the author of *My Dog Always Eats First: Homeless People and Their Animals*, a study of the experiences of homeless animal guardians in five U.S. cities. Dr. Irvine’s research on animal sheltering, animal abuse, animals in popular culture, animal selfhood, women in veterinary medicine, and other topics appears in journals and edited volumes. She serves as the director of the Animals and Society Certificate Program at the University of Colorado Boulder.

Panelists include:

Individuals with lived experience of animal guardianship while homeless.

Kim Monteith, animal trainer and Manager of Animal Behaviour and Welfare for the B.C. SPCA. For the last 20+ years, Ms. Monteith has been actively involved supporting and advocating for unhoused and marginally housed multispecies families in Vancouver and across Canada.

Dr. Chloe Roberts, a veterinarian who volunteers with Vets for Pets, a nonprofit veterinary clinic offering free veterinary care to the dogs and cats of homeless and low-income animal guardians in the Victoria area.

Dr. Jim Crosby, a former police officer of over 20 years and the former head of animal control in Jacksonville, Florida. Dr. Crosby has extensive canine behavioural training and expertise, holds a PhD in veterinary forensics, and is an internationally recognized authority and court-approved expert on canine attacks and aggression.

This symposium will be of relevance to law enforcement professionals, city managers, bylaw officers, animal control officers, animal guardians experiencing homelessness and/or poverty, veterinarians and paravets, mental health professionals, nurses, occupational therapists, social workers, government and nonprofit sector housing and drop-in centre staff, animal behaviorists, academics, students, animal law professionals, animal welfare workers, and anyone interested in the dog-human bond and homelessness. Nurses, social workers, mental health professionals, veterinarians, and law enforcement professionals may apply to their respective professional associations to obtain Continuing Education credit for attending the symposium.

FAQs:

Q. Are you saying that homeless people should have companion animals?

A. No. We are saying that people experiencing homelessness (“PEH”) who are responsible guardians, who have healthy relationships with their dogs, and who have developed strong mutual bonds with their companion animals should be supported in maintaining their roles as guardians and family members of those animals.

Q. Are you saying that homeless people make better dog guardians than people who are conventionally housed?

A. No. We are saying that both PEH and conventionally housed people can be good dog guardians. Likewise, abuse and neglect can occur in both situations.

Q. What about cases in which PEH are neglecting or abusing their dogs?

A. Dogs who are being abused or neglected by their guardians, whether those guardians are housed or unhoused, should be removed from such situations and rehomed, or fostered until suitable homes can be found.

Q. Why should valuable resources be used to provide supportive services to PEH with dogs?

A. Resources are already being spent to monitor, confiscate, impound, and destroy dogs. Existing resources can be allocated differently to effect better outcomes.

WHY THIS SYMPOSIUM?

A man sits on a downtown street strumming his guitar, a bowl on the sidewalk in front of him containing some coins and a five-dollar bill. At his side, snoozing comfortably on a blanket, lays a mixed-breed female dog. There’s a bowl of water beside the dog, and a cardboard sign in front of the pair that reads, “Homeless and hungry. Please help. God bless.”

A well-dressed woman walks by on the way to her office, takes in the scene, and winces inwardly. “Why do homeless people have dogs when they can’t even take care of themselves,” she thinks to herself and continues on her way.

A mother and a little boy approach, hand-in-hand. They pause in front of the man and his dog to listen to the music. The little boy steps forward and crouches beside the dog, who looks up at him and wags. The little boy strokes the dog, and relaxes alongside the dog and her human companion. He later tells his mother what a nice family they are, the man and his dog.

It is a familiar scene in cities across the Western world—people and their companion

animals who, for a myriad of reasons, have ended up on the streets. It is an issue that merits serious consideration, not only from the human angle, but from the perspective of the companion animals themselves, as well as that of the human-dog duo as a pair. A 2021 legal case in Victoria, British Columbia, in which the city council sought the destruction of the companion dog of a socioeconomically marginalized person, emphasized not only the vulnerability of such dogs and their human guardians, but also the complex interaction of forces that mitigate against their safety and well-being. It is our hope that this symposium will assist in gaining a deeper understanding of the experiences of homeless multispecies families, the factors that affect them adversely, and policies and practices that might lead to the reduction of risk and the maximization of their well-being.

TERMS:

First, a note on terms. Homelessness can take various forms, including sleeping on the streets or in non-conventional accommodation (primary homelessness); couch surfing or moving between shelters (secondary homelessness; or living longer-term in boarding houses (tertiary homelessness). We employ the term “homeless” and “homelessness” to refer to all of these. Further, since homelessness is not necessarily a permanent state, we refer to individuals in such situations as “people experiencing homelessness” or “PEH”.

NEGATIVE PERCEPTIONS:

Homeless dog-human families are frequently negatively viewed by the domiciled public and by some animal welfare organizations and animal advocates. Some judge PEH as incapable of managing their own lives and, by extension, incapable of providing proper care to companion animals. By contrast, several studies show that, in spite of the challenges of poverty and other social and health-related issues experienced by their guardians, the health and welfare of the dogs of PEH who visited veterinary clinics were in good overall health. This level of care speaks to the value of the human-dog relation to people experiencing homelessness and the kinship they feel. A person’s socioeconomic status does not predict whether a person will be a good dog guardian. What it can tell us is what supports may be needed to help that person provide care.

DOGS & THEIR HOMELESS GUARDIANS:

Literature about PEH and their companion animals indicates that strong bonds exist between people and their companion animals, especially when those animals are dogs. These dogs are considered the primary and often only sources of physical, psychological, and social support. Homeless people with companion animals have lower levels of depression compared to those without them, improved mood through lower stress, and feel more resilient.

By contrast, there has not been nearly as much research conducted on the issue from the vantage point of the dogs themselves. From a critical animal studies* approach, dogs do not exist for the purpose of human companionship, well-being, or entertainment. Dogs and other animals in our society are commodified, relegated to “property” status, and denied agency. Dogs and other animals have inherent worth; they share this planet and the social space with us. Their interests and well-being must be considered in social policy and practices. Furthermore, the needs and desires of the companion dogs of PEH must be considered if we are to gain a deeper understanding of the experiences of homeless multispecies families. And something we can say with certainty about dogs is that their relationships with their primary caregivers matter to them, regardless of the social class of their guardians.

Domestic dogs are a unique species. Unlike, say, giraffes, hyenas, dingos, foxes, or wolves, *canis lupus familiaris* have sought out the company of humans throughout their evolution. They are an affiliative, gregarious species. Dogs form very strong bonds with their humans. In healthy dog-human relationships, if dogs are separated from their primary caregivers, they suffer trauma, anxiety, and even depression. To advocate for animals in the context of homeless multispecies families means taking into consideration not only the challenges faced by PEH in keeping their dogs, but the dogs’ desires to remain with their humans. In cases in which the bond is adequately healthy for both parties, should not the animal advocate’s role include finding a way to support the continuation of that relationship?

MULTISPECIES FAMILIES?

The recognition of dogs and their homeless guardians as families is advantageous in several ways. It works to counter the forces—such as commodification, legal status as property, and negative attitudes like paternalism, speciesism, and classism—that devalue and depersonalize both PEH and dogs. It serves to shake up our thinking because it reminds us that a family member’s socioeconomic or species status does not determine who they can care for or, indeed, whether they can care for someone. The multispecies family optic supports the agency of both the human and dog members of the family unit; it accords them value, significance, and relevance. Finally, if a dog and their homeless guardian are considered to be a family unit, it will necessarily affect the animal and human services available to them; these services are likely to be more supportive than punitive.

POTENTIAL OUTCOMES OF THE SYMPOSIUM:

We hope this symposium will shed light on the circumstances of homeless multispecies families, the barriers they face, and possibilities and strategies for enhancing their well-being. Participants will learn new perspectives on dogs and their homeless guardians through the presentation of research, practices, accounts of lived experience, and Q&A sessions. Through small and large group discussions, participants will begin to integrate new knowledge. They may begin to consider other, more effective and compassionate ways of envisioning the issue through which, we hope, new strategies and priorities for animal and human services will be identified. More broadly, we hope that the symposium will lead to more inclusive, compassionate communities.

*Critical Animal Studies, or CAS, is an academic field of study that investigates and challenges the complex dynamics of power formations that affect animals, humans, and the environment. It is committed to the abolition of animal and human exploitation and oppression.

This event is hosted by the Animals & Society Research Initiative at the University of Victoria, with support from Royal Roads University's School of Humanitarian Studies and the G & G Fund held at the Vancouver Foundation.

RELATED READING:

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III. Proposal for Symposium

Multispecies Families on the Streets: The Wellbeing of Dogs and their Homeless Guardians

Proposal for an ASRI Symposium

A 2021 dog death-row case in Victoria highlighted homeless multispecies families (dog-human dyads experiencing homelessness) as families at risk. The dog in question was labelled a dangerous dog by the City of Victoria and confiscated from his homeless guardian. The case revealed a need for greater understanding of the challenges faced by homeless multispecies families and the dogs, in particular. [Note: Homelessness can take different forms including sleeping on the streets or in nonconventional accommodation (primary homelessness); couch surfing or moving between shelters (secondary homelessness); or living longer term in boarding houses (tertiary homelessness) (Cleary et al., 2020).]

The problems faced by homeless multispecies families are multifold. First, from a critical animal studies perspective, dogs are animals who are dominated by humans, leaving them subject to seizure (by animal control) and even death. Persons experiencing homelessness are low-income individuals who are marginalized based on their social class and thus have limited resources with which to advocate for their dogs or themselves. Compounding their individual oppressions, the homeless dog-human dyad is not recognized as a family, making them vulnerable to the trauma of forced separation and other harms by both social and animal services. For example, faced with the threat of separation, the person experiencing homelessness (PEH) often forgoes help, risking further harm to themselves. Another problem is that negative attitudes towards persons of low income (including PEH) can be transferred to their dogs who, then, are more likely to be seen as unruly and in need of punitive “control”. Finally, attitudes towards PEH can also lead to confiscation of dogs out of concern for the dog’s welfare, even though recent studies show that these dogs are no less well cared for and, in some cases, better cared for than dogs living in traditional homes.

The aim of this symposium is to contribute to risk reduction and to enhance the wellbeing of these homeless multispecies families, in particular the dog member, by mobilizing knowledge regarding the nature of the multispecies family relationships in this population and implications for supportive animal control and social services’ frameworks. We will present a critical animal studies perspective that understands the experience of homeless multispecies families as influenced by the intersection of oppressions based on species and class. This understanding recognizes animal and human oppressions as part of a matrix of oppressions. Liberation requires the dismantling of both animal and human oppression. The dog member will be in special focus here to fill a void in which

attention has been paid mainly to challenges and benefits to the human. Centering only the human limits understanding of the power structures and dynamics involved in the problems outlined above and hence also limits the potential for resolution. Adding the dog's perspective as a family member with needs of their own deepens understanding and provides a better opportunity for enhancing the wellbeing of homeless multispecies families. The symposium, therefore, will impart an understanding of the dog-human dyad as a family and will draw special attention to the needs of the dog. It will identify gaps in meeting needs of these families as well as strategies for enhanced support. It will also point to directions for future research.

These outcomes will be achieved through knowledge exchange between, academics, practitioners (animal welfare and advocacy, social services, animal and human health-care, government representatives), and those with lived experience of homelessness in a multispecies family. Research knowledge will be mobilized through discussion of its application in improving practice and services.

The symposium will consist of two sections. The first will include a presentation by a keynote speaker on relevant research about dogs and homeless multispecies families, followed by small group discussions among participants about how this material applies in their work. The second section will be a panel presentation by local academics, practitioners, and those with lived experience serving or living as part of this population. This will be followed by small breakout groups that will identify potential changes that might be made in local animal and human services, as well as in municipal policy and practices, to better serve all members of homeless multispecies families. After each of the two small group sessions, participants will present their results to the larger group where broader themes will be identified and collated. After the event, knowledge will be further mobilized through dissemination of the results of the symposium through existing channels such as relevant websites, academic publications, and printed material. More broadly, it is hoped that this symposium will contribute to the elimination of speciesism and classism and to the development of a more inclusive community.

"ONE HEALTH" THE IDEA THAT HUMANS + OTHER BEINGS' HEALTH IS INTERRELATED

HOMELESSNESS & ANIMALS

WHAT DO RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN HUMANS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, WHO ARE MARGINALLY HOUSED, RESIDENTIALLY-CHALLENGED +/-or STREET-ENTRENCHED + ANIMALS LOOK LIKE?

- * FRIENDS + FAMILY

HOW DO PEOPLE PROVIDE FOR OTHER BEINGS ON THE STREETS?

- * "MY DOG ALWAYS EATS FIRST"
- * CAT COLONY CARETAKING

WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES?

① CONSISTENTLY HAVING TO DEFEND RIGHT TO RELATIONSHIPS WITH ANIMALS

- "DO-GOODERS"
- POLICE
- ANIMAL CONTROL
- LOCAL GOVERNMENTS
- PUBLIC

② PEOPLE WHO ARE UNHOUSED/ MARGINALLY HOUSED/STREET ENTRENCHED WHO HAVE ANIMAL COMPANIONS OFTEN PLAN ALL OF THEIR DECISIONS ON THE PRESENCE OF THEIR COMPANION ANIMALS.

- * LIMITED RESOURCES
- * BYLAWS
- * LANDLORDS, TENANCY
- * SHELTERS
- * COURT CASES → holding dogs in solitary confinement
- * Biting/scratching
- * LIABILITY OF MUNICIPALITY unless court says to free dog
- * PTSD

③ LIVING IN CONSTANT FEAR OF APPREHENSION OF COMPANION ANIMALS

- "DO-GOODERS" CAUSING HARM



KEY LEARNINGS

* CHALLENGING PRECONCEPTIONS

- ↳ REGULATORY/ADMINISTRATIVE VIOLENCE
- ↳ recognition of current barriers → choices people have to make
- ↳ unconscious + socially-determined biases
- ↳ dismissal of lived experience
- ↳ challenging our own biases
- ↳ focusing on what brings us together + "us-them" mentalities
- ↳ what quantifies a good life?
 - humans + other beings
 - thinking individually + collectively
 - what does it mean to be a good animal companion
 - increasing our respect for what animals (and humans) are communicating

* studies show animal companions of people who are homeless/residentially challenged have similar levels of physical health and superior mental health to animals who are companions to domiciled/housed people

- * conditions of vulnerability created by current systems
- * animals' agency in relationships
- * Who counts as a "pet"?
- * how much housed human populations can learn from unhoused populations
- * Policy ≠ informed by evidence

* HOMELESSNESS IS A MULTI-SPECIES ISSUE

- * hidden homelessness in non-human+human-unfriendly societies

CHANGES

- * education for the public + authorities + service orgs
- ↳ challenging biases from cultural conditioning
- ↳ humane "warriors"
- ↳ education around different kinds of animals (domesticated, wild, etc, within + beyond species boundaries, on individual + community levels to increase literacy of animals' experiences)

* Change animal law to address inequity, application + enforcement

* SUPPORT-BASED rather than interventionist + paternalistic

LEGISLATIVE, POLICY, + REGULATORY CHANGE

- * Bonds for dogs awaiting trial
- * # of days before animals euthanized
- * "PETS OK" tenancies movement

* doing a barriers + needs analysis to current systems

- ↳ resource navigation

- * wrap-around support
- ↳ training for animal companions (housed + unhoused)
- ↳ community engagement
- ↳ food delivery programs
- ↳ combined events
- ↳ having a legal team
- ↳ having hair cutting services
- ↳ nail-cutting services for animals
- ↳ dog training + education
- ↳ access to pet-friendly resources
- ↳ pop-up clinics + permanent clinics
- ↳ grief counseling for animals who've passed
- ↳ cremation + paw print services
- ↳ expert witness support + funding
- ↳ counselling
- ↳ veterinarians
- ↳ free euthanasia services
- ↳ free veterinary services

* PEOPLE WHO ARE UNHOUSED, RESIDENTIALLY CHALLENGED, + HAD LIVED EXPERIENCE ARE THE EXPERTS

- * street pet survival guide
- * animal first → one health

TENSIONS + CONCERNS

* What and who are we leaving out of these conversations?

WHAT?

- ↳ anthropogenic (human) impacts
- ↳ commercialization of animals
- ↳ development
- ↳ climate change

WHO?

THANK YOU TO

- ↳ ANIMALS & SOCIETY RESEARCH INITIATIVE
- ↳ ORGANIZERS, FACILITATORS, VOLUNTEERS
 - * RANJANA BASU, KYRON BASU, CHEN
 - * HOLLY CECIL, ELLEN CAMPBELL, LISA
- ↳ SPEAKERS
 - LESLIE
 - ANONYMOUS
 - DR GALOE (VETS FOR PETS)
 - KIM MONTEITH (BCSPCA)

ACTION ITEMS

HOUSING

- * meeting with decision makers
- * support, resources, training
- * legal
- * fair awareness + skills
- * safe use of the home
- * education + research
- * referrals to city councilors/decision-makers

SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

* Animal + Human

- ↳ policy change
- ↳ animal friendly public spaces
- ↳ increasing accessibility of services to work with animals
- ↳ wrap-around services

EDUCATION & AWARENESS-RAISING

DECOLONIZATION

- * indigenous governance
- * indigenous legal orders
- * shifting from colonial governance/systems to indigenous legal orders
- * based on R.I.P.A. + UNDRIP

RELATIONSHIP-BUILDING + COLLABORATION

- * community of care
- * relationship building
- * support
- * training
- * resources
- * referrals

#1

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, May 29, 2023 1:35:03 PM
Last Modified: Monday, May 29, 2023 1:44:44 PM
Time Spent: 00:09:41

Page 1

Q1 **Not so important**

How important do you think the issue of dogs and their homeless guardians is for the city, town, or area where you live?

Q2 **No better understanding**

Did the keynote address by Dr. Irvine give you a better understanding of the issue of dogs and their homeless guardians?

Q3 **Not so useful**

Did you find the small-group breakout sessions useful?

Q4
 In what way were the small-group sessions useful or not useful?

Discussion was not focused, more just repetitive of what was presented in the main room.

Q5 **Did not succeed well**

Did the large-group sessions succeed in reaching consensus on any issues?

Q6 **About what I expected**

How well did symposium meet your expectations?

Q7
 Following up on the previous question, how were your expectations met or not met?

The narrative was more about how unhoused people benefit from animals, without addressing a number of issues that arose around the issue. Problematic statements from speakers worsen animal relations.

Q8

Do you have any suggestions for how the symposium might have been better organized?

Perhaps a more balanced critical discussion of the issue. Formulate and focus on key goals and realistic steps to achieve them in advance and then build consensus, rather than creating the goals at the event. Hard for decision makers to take away how to change anything if goals are made which are unachievable.

#2

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, May 29, 2023 1:50:15 PM
Last Modified: Monday, May 29, 2023 1:54:34 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:19

Page 1

Q1 **Extremely important**

How important do you think the issue of dogs and their homeless guardians is for the city, town, or area where you live?

Q2 **Very much better understanding**

Did the keynote address by Dr. Irvine give you a better understanding of the issue of dogs and their homeless guardians?

Q3 **Extremely useful**

Did you find the small-group breakout sessions useful?

Q4
 In what way were the small-group sessions useful or not useful?

met some very high-powered people and established a connection for the future

Q5 **Succeeded very well**

Did the large-group sessions succeed in reaching consensus on any issues?

Q6 **Much better than expected**

How well did symposium meet your expectations?

Q7
 Following up on the previous question, how were your expectations met or not met?

I didn't realize there were so many aspects to the issue. The organization of it all was a good model for future related projects

Q8

Do you have any suggestions for how the symposium might have been better organized?

No. It couldn't have been better.

#3

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, May 29, 2023 2:21:52 PM
Last Modified: Monday, May 29, 2023 2:25:14 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:21

Page 1

Q1 **Extremely important**

How important do you think the issue of dogs and their homeless guardians is for the city, town, or area where you live?

Q2 **Somewhat better understanding**

Did the keynote address by Dr. Irvine give you a better understanding of the issue of dogs and their homeless guardians?

Q3 **Very useful**

Did you find the small-group breakout sessions useful?

Q4
 In what way were the small-group sessions useful or not useful?

Useful to generate and record dialogue and understandings about the topic.

Q5 **Succeeded very well**

Did the large-group sessions succeed in reaching consensus on any issues?

Q6 **About what I expected**

How well did symposium meet your expectations?

Q7 **Respondent skipped this question**

Following up on the previous question, how were your expectations met or not met?

Q8 **Respondent skipped this question**

Do you have any suggestions for how the symposium might have been better organized?

#4

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, May 30, 2023 11:47:07 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, May 30, 2023 11:50:48 AM
Time Spent: 00:03:40

Page 1

Q1 **Extremely important**

How important do you think the issue of dogs and their homeless guardians is for the city, town, or area where you live?

Q2 **Much better understanding**

Did the keynote address by Dr. Irvine give you a better understanding of the issue of dogs and their homeless guardians?

Q3 **Very useful**

Did you find the small-group breakout sessions useful?

Q4
In what way were the small-group sessions useful or not useful?

Experience sharing, resource sharing, collaborating.

Q5 **Succeeded somewhat well**

Did the large-group sessions succeed in reaching consensus on any issues?

Q6 **Better than expected**

How well did symposium meet your expectations?

Q7
Following up on the previous question, how were your expectations met or not met?

Quality speakers, quality brainstorming, great food!

Q8

Do you have any suggestions for how the symposium might have been better organized?

May be coffee available at check-in? Thinking for those that travelled far and needed some caffeine.

#5

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, May 30, 2023 2:00:43 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, May 30, 2023 2:04:11 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:27

Page 1

Q1 **Very important**

How important do you think the issue of dogs and their homeless guardians is for the city, town, or area where you live?

Q2 **Much better understanding**

Did the keynote address by Dr. Irvine give you a better understanding of the issue of dogs and their homeless guardians?

Q3 **Very useful**

Did you find the small-group breakout sessions useful?

Q4

In what way were the small-group sessions useful or not useful?

Helps learning sink in, and hearing different perspectives and impressions always good. Plus hearing who is from where provides opportunity for networking.

Q5 **Succeeded very well**

Did the large-group sessions succeed in reaching consensus on any issues?

Q6 **Much better than expected**

How well did symposium meet your expectations?

Q7

Following up on the previous question, how were your expectations met or not met?

It was organized, flowed, and good for multi-learning styles with diversity of lecture, slides, break out rooms, break etc. Exceeded in that food was exceptional. Wish speaker had copies of her book for sale to sign only boo.

Q8

Do you have any suggestions for how the symposium might have been better organized?

Have people from the different organizations bring pamphlets/business cards - encourage cards ahead of time in email...and could have table by food with brochures/cards etc.

#6

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, May 30, 2023 3:33:49 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, May 30, 2023 3:36:50 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:00

Page 1

Q1 **Very important**

How important do you think the issue of dogs and their homeless guardians is for the city, town, or area where you live?

Q2 **Much better understanding**

Did the keynote address by Dr. Irvine give you a better understanding of the issue of dogs and their homeless guardians?

Q3 **Very useful**

Did you find the small-group breakout sessions useful?

Q4
 In what way were the small-group sessions useful or not useful?

Finding the most important issues that will have the most change.

Q5 **Succeeded very well**

Did the large-group sessions succeed in reaching consensus on any issues?

Q6 **Better than expected**

How well did symposium meet your expectations?

Q7 **Respondent skipped this question**

Following up on the previous question, how were your expectations met or not met?

Q8

Respondent skipped this question

Do you have any suggestions for how the symposium might have been better organized?

#7

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, May 31, 2023 1:27:43 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, May 31, 2023 1:32:48 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:04

Page 1

Q1 **Extremely important**

How important do you think the issue of dogs and their homeless guardians is for the city, town, or area where you live?

Q2 **Much better understanding**

Did the keynote address by Dr. Irvine give you a better understanding of the issue of dogs and their homeless guardians?

Q3 **Very useful**

Did you find the small-group breakout sessions useful?

Q4
 In what way were the small-group sessions useful or not useful?

They enabled us to meet other attendees and hear their ideas.

Q5 **Succeeded very well**

Did the large-group sessions succeed in reaching consensus on any issues?

Q6 **Better than expected**

How well did symposium meet your expectations?

Q7
 Following up on the previous question, how were your expectations met or not met?

I would have liked more practical ideas and brainstorming about creative ways of implementing "animal control" that are supportive and not punitive. The discussion stayed quite abstract. I was hoping that more concrete ideas, options, and possibilities would have been articulated.

Q8

Do you have any suggestions for how the symposium might have been better organized?

I thought it was very well organized. Some representation at the event by the city or province would have been great. Too bad they didn't come.

#8

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, June 02, 2023 8:39:36 AM
Last Modified: Friday, June 02, 2023 8:41:42 AM
Time Spent: 00:02:05

Page 1

Q1 **Extremely important**

How important do you think the issue of dogs and their homeless guardians is for the city, town, or area where you live?

Q2 **Much better understanding**

Did the keynote address by Dr. Irvine give you a better understanding of the issue of dogs and their homeless guardians?

Q3 **Very useful**

Did you find the small-group breakout sessions useful?

Q4

In what way were the small-group sessions useful or not useful?

Interesting to hear other people's ideas and perspectives.

Q5 **Succeeded somewhat well**

Did the large-group sessions succeed in reaching consensus on any issues?

Q6 **Much better than expected**

How well did symposium meet your expectations?

Q7

Following up on the previous question, how were your expectations met or not met?

We were able to cover the full agenda, the speakers and questions were interesting and the small break out sessions were useful. Lunch and snacks were lovely as was the walk to the garden.

Q8

Do you have any suggestions for how the symposium might have been better organized?

I think it was well organized.

#9

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, June 02, 2023 5:34:11 PM
Last Modified: Friday, June 02, 2023 5:36:32 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:20

Page 1

Q1 **Extremely important**

How important do you think the issue of dogs and their homeless guardians is for the city, town, or area where you live?

Q2 **Very much better understanding**

Did the keynote address by Dr. Irvine give you a better understanding of the issue of dogs and their homeless guardians?

Q3 **Very useful**

Did you find the small-group breakout sessions useful?

Q4

In what way were the small-group sessions useful or not useful?

Help to focus the key concerns / goals. What to do next.

Q5 **Succeeded very well**

Did the large-group sessions succeed in reaching consensus on any issues?

Q6 **Much better than expected**

How well did symposium meet your expectations?

Q7

Following up on the previous question, how were your expectations met or not met?

To see hope and how many organizations and individuals share this focus

Q8 **Respondent skipped this question**

Do you have any suggestions for how the symposium might have been better organized?

#10

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, June 03, 2023 2:38:48 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, June 03, 2023 2:41:52 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:04

Page 1

Q1 **Very important**

How important do you think the issue of dogs and their homeless guardians is for the city, town, or area where you live?

Q2 **No better understanding**

Did the keynote address by Dr. Irvine give you a better understanding of the issue of dogs and their homeless guardians?

Q3 **Very useful**

Did you find the small-group breakout sessions useful?

Q4
 In what way were the small-group sessions useful or not useful?

They were useful to hear different perspectives on the issues and to learn issues I hadn't considered.

Q5 **Succeeded very well**

Did the large-group sessions succeed in reaching consensus on any issues?

Q6 **Better than expected**

How well did symposium meet your expectations?

Q7
 Following up on the previous question, how were your expectations met or not met?

I expected great discussions and speakers, both were met.

Q8

Do you have any suggestions for how the symposium might have been better organized?

It was well organized. Might help to have rooms for people to sit, eat and network during lunch or breaks.

#11

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, June 06, 2023 8:36:54 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, June 06, 2023 8:51:34 AM
Time Spent: 00:14:40

Page 1

Q1 **Extremely important**

How important do you think the issue of dogs and their homeless guardians is for the city, town, or area where you live?

Q2 **Very much better understanding**

Did the keynote address by Dr. Irvine give you a better understanding of the issue of dogs and their homeless guardians?

Q3 **Somewhat useful**

Did you find the small-group breakout sessions useful?

Q4

In what way were the small-group sessions useful or not useful?

it was nice to interact with smaller groups

Q5 **Succeeded very well**

Did the large-group sessions succeed in reaching consensus on any issues?

Q6 **Much better than expected**

How well did symposium meet your expectations?

Q7

Following up on the previous question, how were your expectations met or not met?

I was blown away by the level of speakers

Q8

Do you have any suggestions for how the symposium might have been better organized?

No it was very good

#12

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, June 08, 2023 12:23:16 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, June 08, 2023 12:25:01 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:45

Page 1

Q1 **Extremely important**

How important do you think the issue of dogs and their homeless guardians is for the city, town, or area where you live?

Q2 **Much better understanding**

Did the keynote address by Dr. Irvine give you a better understanding of the issue of dogs and their homeless guardians?

Q3 **Extremely useful**

Did you find the small-group breakout sessions useful?

Q4

In what way were the small-group sessions useful or not useful?

Learning through people's experience and dialogue.

Q5 **Succeeded somewhat well**

Did the large-group sessions succeed in reaching consensus on any issues?

Q6 **Better than expected**

How well did symposium meet your expectations?

Q7

Following up on the previous question, how were your expectations met or not met?

I was hoping to connect with others and learn more as we review how we provide services to multispecies families

Q8

Respondent skipped this question

Do you have any suggestions for how the symposium might have been better organized?

#13

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, June 20, 2023 1:23:18 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, June 20, 2023 1:44:48 PM
Time Spent: 00:21:30

Page 1

Q1 **Extremely important**

How important do you think the issue of dogs and their homeless guardians is for the city, town, or area where you live?

Q2 **Somewhat better understanding**

Did the keynote address by Dr. Irvine give you a better understanding of the issue of dogs and their homeless guardians?

Q3 **Very useful**

Did you find the small-group breakout sessions useful?

Q4
 In what way were the small-group sessions useful or not useful?

Great to hear similar and new perspectives.

Q5 **Succeeded somewhat well**

Did the large-group sessions succeed in reaching consensus on any issues?

Q6 **Better than expected**

How well did symposium meet your expectations?

Q7 **Respondent skipped this question**

Following up on the previous question, how were your expectations met or not met?

Q8 **Respondent skipped this question**

Do you have any suggestions for how the symposium might have been better organized?
