Relationships Between Dog Owners and their Dogs: Benefits and Concerns

Emma Bland
Illinois Wesleyan University

Rebecca Gearhart, Faculty Advisor
Illinois Wesleyan University

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc

https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc/2006/posters2/36

This is protected by copyright and/or related rights. It has been brought to you by Digital Commons @ IWU with permission from the rights-holder(s). You are free to use this material in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. For other uses you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s) directly, unless additional rights are indicated by a Creative Commons license in the record and/or on the work itself. This material has been accepted for inclusion by faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@iwu.edu.
©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.
RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN DOG OWNERS AND THEIR DOGS: BENEFITS AND CONCERNS

Emma Bland and Rebecca Gearhart*
Anthropology Department, Illinois Wesleyan University

There is archaeological evidence that domesticated dogs existed 14,000 years ago, suggesting that dogs have had relationships with humans since then. Today, about 1 of every 4 people in the U.S. owns a dog, and this poster presentation takes a look at three different relationships between central Illinois dog owners and their dogs. Among the three human subjects who are the focus of the research, one relies on her dog for companionship and security. Another considers her dog to be part of the family, just like her four children are, and the third depends on his dog for help in hunting. While the three human-canine relationships are quite different, this presentation illustrates how all of the dog owners who participated in the research share similar sentiments about the benefits they get from their dogs and the concerns they have about them.