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Relationships Between Dog Owners and their Dogs: Benefits and Concerns

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Poster Presentation P8

**RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN DOG OWNERS AND THEIR DOGS:
BENEFITS AND CONCERNS**

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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.