

“Generation Pup” – Methodology & early recruitment for a UK birth cohort of dogs

Jane Murray¹, Michelle Lord¹, Rachel Kinsman¹,
Séverine Tasker², Toby Knowles² and Rachel Casey¹

¹ Dogs Trust, 17 Wakley Street, London, EC1V 7RQ

² Bristol Veterinary School, University of Bristol, Langford, North Somerset, BS40 5DU

How did you hear about the study?

- Social media: 19%
- Word of mouth: 19%
- Magazine article: 19%
- From my vet: 14%
- Training/puppy classes: 7%
- Rehoming centre: 6%
- Internet: 5%
- “Through Dogs Trust”: 4%
- My puppy’s breeder: 2%
- ‘Other’: 5%

Target: 10,000 dogs by 2021

893

71%: named breed
21%: cross of 2 breeds
8%: mixed/unknown breeding

49%: female
51%: male

Registered with the Kennel Club?
- Yes: 414
- No: 441
- Don’t know: 26

893 dogs registered by (01/03/18)



04/05/16-30/06/17: 212 registrations
Recruitment started in earnest July 2017, and is still being scaled up.
01/07/17-22/02/18: 681 registrations



Data collection

% consenting to aspects other than questionnaire completion

Vet-completed health cards:

Heart murmur (8-16 weeks, then at age 1 year)
Body condition score &
Oral health (annually)

Sampling time points:

12-16 weeks: Hair, buccal swab, faeces, urine.
6 & 12 months: Buccal swab, skin swab, faeces, urine.
2, 3 & 4 years: Skin swab, faeces, urine

Owner-completed questionnaires

- 12 weeks
- 16 weeks
- 6 months
- 7 months
- 9 months
- 12 months
- 15 months
- 18 months
- 2 years...(every 6 months)

Vet-completed health cards 96% of 639 requested

Clinical notes 79%

Behaviour tests / videos 96%

Canine samples

Hair 93%;
Buccal swab 92%;
Skin swab 86%;
Faeces 84%;
Urine 74%

Aim: to identify & quantify risk factors for a range of canine health and behaviour outcomes

e.g. aggression to people, aggression to dogs, limb fractures, overweight body condition score, heart murmurs

Acknowledgements: Thank you to Dogs Trust Welfare Grants Committee for funding, vets, trainers, rehoming centres & all those involved with recruiting owners. Thank you to the owners for their participation.