

## **PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET**

**PROJECT TITLE:** Pet ownership, Personality and Attitudes towards Animals and Conservation

You are invited to take part in a research project about the relationship you have with your pet, your attitudes towards animals and conservation, and your personality. Results will be used to validate a scale measuring pet-owner connectedness in horses, reptiles, birds, and fish. Results will also enhance our knowledge of the role pets play in shaping our cognitions around human-animal interactions more broadly. The study is being conducted by Dr Jessica Oliva and research students, Ms Sara-Kate Jackson and Ms Katherine McKean, and will contribute to their Honours degree in Psychology at James Cook University.

As a participant in this research, you will be asked to complete a survey containing questions relating to your demographic information (e.g. age, gender, education etc.), as well as ask you to rate your level of agreement with a series of statements about your pet, your personality, and your attitudes and values towards animals and animal conservation, using either a 5 or 7 point scale. If your primary place of residence is Australia, you will be asked to provide a short text response in support of some of your responses about Australian animals. The entire questionnaire should take no longer than 20 minutes to complete. You are free to withdraw from the study at any time by simply ceasing your participation, however, because of the anonymous nature of the survey, any individual data entered before this point will not be able to be deleted.

Participants who identify as the **primary care-giver** of any of the following pets are invited to take part: i) horse ii) bird iii) reptile iv) fish. A primary caregiver is considered the main caregiver for the animal e.g. spends most time with pet, is mostly responsible for the pet needs etc.

To take part in this research you must be at least 18 years old (or 17 years old and be considered an adult for educational purposes i.e. a university student). You must also be proficient in the English language in order to complete the survey. Pet owners will be excluded from the study if they own their pet as a secondary caregiver.

We do not foresee any risks in taking part in this study. If you know of others that might be interested in this study, please pass on the study link to them so they can follow the link to take part.

Your participation in the study will be anonymous – no personal identifying information will be collected. The data from the study will be used in research publications and reports, such as journal articles and conference presentations. You will not be identified in any way in these publications. You may email the principal investigator if you are interested in receiving a copy of these results once data have been collected and analysed. If you have any questions about the study, please contact Dr Jessica Oliva.

### **Principal Investigator:**

**Jessica Oliva**

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**James Cook University**

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*If you have any concerns regarding the ethical conduct of the study, please contact:*

*Human Ethics, Research Office*

*James Cook University, Townsville, Qld, 4811*

*Phone: (07) 4781 5011 ([ethics@jcu.edu.au](mailto:ethics@jcu.edu.au))*