

Additional File 1. Semi-structured Interview Guide (English Version)

1. Could you briefly introduce yourself and your companion animal(s)?
2. When and how did you first meet, and how long did you live together?
3. Could you describe your everyday life with your companion animal, or share any experiences that feel particularly meaningful or memorable to you?
4. Were there any aspects of caring for your companion animal that you found difficult or challenging? If so, could you tell me more about those experiences?
5. If you experienced your companion animal's aging, serious illness, or end-of-life stage, could you describe what that period was like for you?
6. (If the companion animal has died) Could you describe your companion animal's final days or moments? What changes, if any, did you notice in your life after their death?
7. How would you describe your relationship and interactions with your companion animal?
8. Did this relationship influence your other relationships, such as with other people or animals?
9. What does—or did—your companion animal mean to you?
10. Have you noticed any changes in societal attitudes toward companion animals, or in related social or institutional systems?