**A Post-Covid World for Dogs: The effects of societal change on dog ownership and welfare**

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As the world attempts to deal with global issues such as the COVID-19 pandemic, our companion animals have become increasingly important support systems. As well as affecting humans, these changes also are likely to have an impact on the lives of the pet dogs in our care. So far, there has been little focus on how the large-scale social change we are currently living through may affect the roles, attitudes towards, and treatment of pet dogs on a societal level. We expect that the trends in dog ownership since the 1970s – increased control of dogs, reduced access to public spaces and the medicalisation of dogs – will be amplified by the current upheaval. In this talk I will begin by discussing how some of these changes may affect dog ownership in the long term and how dog welfare may be affected. I will then talk through our three proposed studies that aim to investigate different aspects of this topic. Study 1 will examine the causes of the changes in the way dog ownership was practised in the West in the 1970s to better understand the roots of the current issues we face. Study 2 plans to investigate the welfare impacts of the increased medicalisation of dogs by conducting a citizen science judgement bias task to assess the welfare of dogs purchased for emotional support. Study 3 will compare different dog cultures and compare them against problem behaviours to gain a better understanding of what policy makers and the public should aim for in the future.