SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

University of Pennsylvania

SHELTER INFORMED CONSENT FORM

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| Protocol Title**:** | Quality of Life of Cats and Dogs in Animal Shelters |
| Principal Investigators: | Dr. Lauren Powell  [lrpowell@vet.upenn.edu](mailto:lrpowell@vet.upenn.edu)  Dr. Brittany Watson  [brittawa@vet.upenn.edu](mailto:brittawa@vet.upenn.edu)  3900 Delancey St, Philadelphia 19104  215 898 8341 |

# What is the purpose of this research?

The goal of this study is to learn more about quality of life in animal shelters using data collected through a Quality of Life assessment mobile app tool developed by the Penn Vet Shelter Medicine research team. Data from the app will be used in research only, and all identifiable information about the shelter will be kept strictly confidential (unless required by law). The mobile app consists of questions about an animal’s environment, behavior, and physical health.

# Does the shelter have to participate?

The shelter’s participation is entirely voluntary which means it can choose whether or not to participate. However, it is a condition of use of the Penn Vet Quality of Life app that shelters agree to participate in the research study by automatically sharing their data with the research team through the app. If the shelter chooses not to participate, it will not affect its association with the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine or Penn Vet’s Shelter Medicine program in any way. Before the shelter can make a decision, the shelter’s manager and/or decision-making representative(s) will need to know what the study is about, the possible risks and benefits of participating in this study, and what shelter staff will have to do. The research team are available to talk to the shelter’s representative(s) about this study. If the shelter decides to participate, the shelter manager or other authorized representative of the shelter will be asked to sign this form.

# How long will the shelter be in study?

The shelter will be in the study as long as it continues to use the Penn Vet Quality of Life mobile app to assess animals housed in its facility. Data collected through the app will be retained in the Penn Vet database indefinitely for analysis and research. If a shelter wishes to withdraw their data, they can do so by written notification to the investigator/s listed at the top of this form.

# What is the shelter being asked to do?

The shelter is being asked to use the Penn Vet Quality of Life mobile app to assess cats and dogs housed within their facility. The assessments can be conducted by shelter employees or volunteers at any time. We estimate that each assessment will take approximately 20 minutes to complete.

# What are the possible risks or discomforts to shelter animals and shelter staff?

There are no foreseeable risks to shelter animals or shelter staff involved with this study beyond those encountered in day-to-day life in the animal shelter.

# What are the possible benefits of the study for this shelter?

The shelter may benefit from using the mobile app to monitor the quality of life of animals housed in their facilities.

# Will the shelter be paid for being in this study?

There is no compensation for participation in this study.

# Will the shelter have to pay for anything?

There is no fee for participating in this study.

# What happens if a shelter animal or shelter personnel is injured or hurt during the study?

If you think a shelter animal, shelter staff member, or shelter volunteer has been injured or hurt as a result of participation in this research study, please contact the investigator/s listed on page one of this form. The Penn Vet Shelter Medicine program will not cover any costs associated with the treatment of injuries that may occur during the use of the Penn Vet Quality of Life app.

# When is the study over? Can a shelter leave the study before it ends?

The Penn Vet Quality of Life app will collect data indefinitely for the purpose of research and analysis only. Data collection may be discontinued by written notification at any time by your shelter or Penn Vet. Withdrawal will not interfere with the shelter’s association with University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine or Penn Vet’s Shelter Medicine program in any way.

# Who can see or use the shelter’s information? How will this information be protected?

All identifiable information about the shelter, shelter animals, and shelter personnel will be kept strictly confidential by the research team unless required by law. Information will not be shared with or sold to any third-party vendors or marketing companies.

# Who can be contacted with questions, complaints or concerns about this research?

If you have questions, concerns or complaints regarding this research, you should speak with Dr. Lauren Powell ([lrpowell@upenn.edu](mailto:lrpowell@upenn.edu)). If you want to talk to someone other than those working on the study, you may contact the Chair of the Privately Owned Animal Protocol (POAP) committee at the Matthew J. Ryan Veterinary Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania by calling 215-898-5448 and leaving a message for Dr. Lili Duda.

When this form is signed, the shelter is agreeing to take part in this research study. This means that the shelter’s manager and/or decision-making representative(s) have read the consent form, their questions have been answered, and the shelter has decided to volunteer to participate. The shelter is also allowing Penn Vet’s Shelter Medicine program to disclose information about the shelter to people involved in the operations of this study or outside organizations as required by law. The signatures on this form confirm that the person(s) signing are legal authorized agent(s) for the shelter. A copy of this consent form will be available at all times through the app.