

## 1. Privacy Notice

**PRIVACY POLICY/NOTICE  
FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH  
EU General Data Protection  
Regulation  
Art. 12–14  
Date: 23.1.2024**

### **Information on the processing of personal data in the research on pet behavior and the personality and well-being of pet owners.**

The research on pet behavior and the personality and well-being of pet owners involves the collection and processing of personal data. The purpose of this data protection notice is to describe how personal data is processed, where it is obtained, and how it is used. Detailed information on the rights of data subjects will be provided at the end of this notice.

Participation in the study is voluntary. There will be no negative consequences if you choose not to participate in the study or if you withdraw from the study.

#### **Data Controller**

University of Helsinki  
Address: PL 3 (Fabianinkatu 33), 00014 University of Helsinki

#### **Contact person and principal investigator**

Contact person in matters concerning the research project:  
Name: Hannes Lohi  
Faculty/department/unit: Department of Medical and Clinical Genetics, Faculty of Medicine;  
Veterinary Biosciences, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine  
Address: Haartmaninkatu 8, PL 63 00014 University of Helsinki  
Tel.: +358 2 941 25085  
E-mail: hannes.lohi@helsinki.fi

#### **Contact details of the data protection officer**

You can contact the data protection officer of the University of Helsinki at tietosuoja@helsinki.fi.

#### **Description of the research and the purposes of processing personal data**

Research on pet behavior investigates the genetic and environmental background of behavior and personality variation between individuals. Research on cat owners' personality and well-being examines how the owner's personality, well-being, attachment, and mental strain during the pet's early months are associated with their pet's personality and unwanted behavior.

Personal data is collected from pet owners to identify owners and animals, collect information about them, report research findings and for contact purposes.

#### **Personal data included in the research data**

The following kinds of personal data will be collected and stored in the research:

- Owner's name: for identifying owners and animals
- Gender, age, socioeconomic status, municipality and country of residence: information needed for data analysis
- Email address: for asking data subjects further information about their pet's health and other information needed for the research, reporting the research results

In addition, data subjects are asked to answer surveys on their personality, attachment, well-being and mental strain during the pets' first months of life. They are asked to evaluate their own personality, stress, psychological well-being, satisfaction with life, symptoms of depression and anxiety, attachment to their pet and thoughts about their pet's first months of life. Additionally, subjects are asked to answer behavioral and background surveys on their pet, where they evaluate their pets' personality and behavior and provide other relevant information on their pets' current and early living environment.

## Sources of personal data

The pet owners participating voluntarily in the research disclose their own data through an electronic form in RedCap or on the MOOC platform during the course.

## Sensitive personal data

The research processes personal data (i.e., sensitive data) when collecting information on data subjects' psychological well-being, as defined in Article 9 of the General Data Protection Regulation. The processing of special categories of personal data is based on the Article 9(2)(j) of the General Data Protection Regulation (Processing for Archiving, Scientific or Historical Research or Statistical Purposes).

## Lawful basis of processing

Personal data is processed on the following basis, which is based on Article 6(1) of the General Data Protection Regulation:

- task carried out in the public interest:
  - scientific or historical research purposes or statistical purposes (Article 4(3) of the GDPR)
  - archiving of research materials and cultural heritage materials (Article 4(4) of the GDPR)
- participant's consent
- compliance with a legal obligation to which the controller is subject
- legitimate interests pursued by the controller or by a third party  
description of the legitimate interest:

## Recipients of the personal data

The personal data is collected and stored on the University of Helsinki MOOC platform and in RedCap. The staff at the MOOC center can process personal data, for example, when solving technical issues.

For more details, please refer to the privacy notice of the MOOC platform:  
<https://www.mooc.fi/faq/tietosuojaseloste/>

The data subjects agree that their data can be transferred from RedCap or the MOOC platform to the research group. The data is not disclosed outside the research group.

## Transfer of personal data to countries outside the EU/European Economic Area

No personal data will be transferred to recipients outside the European Economic Area.

## Automated decisions

No automated decisions with significant effects on the participants are made in the study.

## Safeguards to protect the personal data

The research data collected on the MOOC platform and in RedCap will be transferred to a server of the University of Helsinki for the use of the canine genetics research group. Personal data is processed and stored in such a way that only persons who need the data for research purposes can access them.

Personal data processed in IT systems will be protected using the following:

- username and password
- logging
- access control
- encryption
- two-factor identification
- other (please specify): VPN connection outside the university

Processing of direct identifiers:

- The data is collected without direct identifiers.
- Direct identifiers will be removed in the analysis phase and stored separately from the analysed research data.
- The material to be analyzed includes direct identifiers. Reason: *(reason for retention of direct identifiers)*

## Duration of processing of personal data

Personal data will be processed for the entire duration of the research. Research data is collected in RedCap and on a MOOC course that is supposed to last for various years. The duration of the study depends on the number of data subjects, but it is estimated to last for at least two years.

## Retention of personal data after the completion of the study

- The research material will be deleted
- The research data will be retained for the purposes of validating or replicating the results of this research project:
  - without identifiers
  - with identifiers
- The research data will be archived for later, compatible scientific research according to the requirements of the GDPR:
  - without identifiers
  - with identifiers

The research data will be stored according to Article 5(1)(b) and (e) of the GDPR. Data subjects will be informed about a new use of the research data with a new privacy notice unless the controller can no longer identify the subjects from the data.

Data subjects will not be informed of new research if delivering the information to them is impossible, involves a disproportionate effort or renders impossible or seriously impairs the achievement of the research objectives (Article 14(5)(b) of the GDPR).

Where and how long the data will be stored: After the research, the research register will be archived with identifiers on a protected server at the University of Helsinki indefinitely for possible later use. The need for data retention will be reassessed every ten years. The retention time starts from the date of submitting the survey.

## **Your rights as a data subject, and exceptions to these rights**

The contact person in matters concerning the rights of the participant is the person mentioned in section 1 of this notice.

### **Rights of data subjects**

According to the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), data subjects have the right

- of access to their data
- to rectification of their data
- to the erasure of their data and to be forgotten
- to restrict the processing of their data
- to data portability
- to object to the processing of their data
- not to be subject to a decision based solely on automated processing.

Not all of these rights can be exercised in all situations, depending on factors such as the basis for the processing of personal data.

For more information on the rights of data subjects in different situations, please see the Data Protection Ombudsman's website: <https://tietosuoja.fi/en/what-rights-do-data-subjects-have-in-different-situations>

### **Derogations from rights**

Under the General Data Protection Regulation and the Finnish Data Protection Act, certain exceptions to the rights of data subjects can be made when personal data is processed in scientific research and fulfilling the rights would render impossible or seriously impair the achievement of the objectives of the processing (in this case, scientific research).

The necessity of exceptions to the rights of data subjects will always be assessed on a case by case basis.

### **Right to appeal**

You have the right to lodge a complaint with the Data Protection Ombudsman's Office if you think your personal data has been processed in violation of applicable data protection laws.

Contact details:

Data Protection Ombudsman's Office (Tietosuojavaltuutetun toimisto)

Street address: Ratapihantie 9, 6<sup>th</sup> floor, 00520 Helsinki

Postal address: PL 800, 00521 Helsinki

Tel. (switchboard): 029 56 66700

Fax: 029 56 66735

E-mail: tietosuoja(at)om.fi

