



COLLEGE OF SOCIAL AND APPLIED HUMAN SCIENCES  
Department of Family Relations and Applied Nutrition

## INFORMATION LETTER

### **Title: Family Care Work in Interspecies Homes**

You are being invited to participate in a research study aiming to create digital stories with those who share their lives with at least one dog. Digital stories will focus on playful and joyful encounters between species and moments of playful care. You are under no obligation to agree to participate in this study.

You received this information letter because you indicated interest in future research from the FIDO lab, and signed up for a walking interview to talk about your family care relationships, including your dog.

**If you are 18 years or older, live with at least one dog, and signed up for Phase One of the research study (walking interviews), please consider taking part in this study.**

**Note that you do not need to have been selected for a walking interview to take part in Phase Two. Only ten participants will be selected to take part in Phase Two.**

### **Who is conducting this research study?**

This research study is being conducted by PhD Candidate Julia Linares-Roake (Department of Family Relations and Applied Nutrition), with the supervision and support from the following researchers:

- Dr. Andrea Breen, Department of Family Relations and Applied Nutrition
- Dr. Carla Rice, Department of Family Relations and Applied Nutrition
- Dr. Lauren Van Patter, Department of Clinical Studies, Ontario Veterinary College
- Julia Linares-Roake. PhD Candidate, Department of Family Relations and Applied Nutrition

- Kailyn Brewer, MSc Student, Department of Family Relations and Applied Nutrition
- Allana Cortese, BAsC Student, Department of Family Relations and Applied Nutrition
- Rayana Sader, MSc Student, Department of Family Relations and Applied Nutrition

DeMontfort University

- Dr. Erika Cudworth, Department of Applied Social Sciences

Please feel free to contact Julia Linares-Roake at [linaresj@uoguelph.ca](mailto:linaresj@uoguelph.ca) or Dr. Andrea Breen at [abreen@uoguelph.ca](mailto:abreen@uoguelph.ca) with any questions you might have about the project.

### **What will I be asked to do?**

You will be invited to:

- Create a digital story online using WeVideo, with the support of members of the research team and trained facilitators.
- Participate in a group screening of the completed films comprised of digital stories, and researcher reflections.
- Participate in a final focus group with Julia Linares-Roake, reflecting on your experiences of the storytelling workshop.

### **How long will it take?**

We anticipate this research taking approximately 24 hours over a multi-week period.

You will be asked to participate in:

- Three two-hour sessions to create the digital story including voiceover, images, editing, and finalizing (6 hours)
- Independent work on your digital story may take an additional four hours for a three week period (12 hours)
- The week of screening may take an additional two hours of final edits for the group screening.

The screening session will take approximately three hours, and the final focus group will take approximately one hour.

### **Are there any risks or possible negative outcomes for me if I participate?**

By creating a digital story, you will be sharing personal stories. The sharing of stories might be sensitive or uncomfortable. It might also be uncomfortable to hear other people's stories, especially if they are emotional. You will be supported to freely choose the content of your story.

If you use your real name on Zoom, do not blur your features and/or do not make your video anonymous, your identity will be known to other participants and the researcher(s) cannot guarantee that others in the group will respect the confidentiality of the group. However, we remind all participants not to share personal moments of the digital storytelling process beyond their own experience.

When we are working online, we will be using Zoom which is an externally hosted cloud-based service and WeVideo to create digital stories; a link to their privacy policy (<https://www.wevideo.com/eduprivacy>) is also included on this consent form. **Please note that confidentiality cannot be guaranteed while data are in transit over the internet.** The stories and film will be saved on an encrypted hard drive and Vimeo, which is password-protected. You will also be provided with a list of resources for dog care should you need it.

### **What are the benefits of the research project?**

You will learn about digital story making and will be invited to take-part in dissemination efforts (e.g., publications or presentations) if you choose. The digital story will be yours to keep and share as you wish. You may benefit from sharing your experiences of play and joy in connection with others and building community. This research will generate insights that will help researchers and community agencies develop better supports for those who are providing care to non-human family members, and to promote play in dog-human families.

### **After I agree to participate and sign the Info/consent letter, can I change my mind?**

You will have final approval of the content in the final film. You can withdraw your consent at any time regarding the inclusion of your digital story online. The film will be edited in such a way that it will be possible to remove your story if you decide to withdraw from the project.

For focus group data, withdrawal of your data must occur no later than 48 hours following the completion of the group. You may ask to have your data withdrawn by emailing Julia Linares-Roake ([linaresj@uoguelph.ca](mailto:linaresj@uoguelph.ca)). After that, the data will be fully anonymized and we will not be able to take out your words.

### **Will the study be published or otherwise disseminated?**

The results of this research may be screened in the following ways, and you will be asked to sign a media release for this process:

- At workshops, groups, and presentations for educational purposes.
- At community screenings
- At public health, social justice and academic conferences.
- At film festivals.

Additionally, the results of this research will be discussed:

- Within a PhD students' dissertation
- In academic journal articles
- In op-eds and other public-facing information sites.

However, in the media release, you will be able to choose whether your stories may be included and if you would like them to be anonymized in written reports.

### **How will you protect the information I provide?**

The digital story and completed film will be archived on Vimeo, which is password protected and an encrypted One Drive folder. It is your choice if you share the video elsewhere, or wish for us not to password-protect your video.

If you withdraw consent, we will discuss if you want your digital story removed and if you want it also removed from the archive. You may withdraw consent at any time.

In order to participate in this research study, you will be asked to complete a survey through Qualtrics which will collect your contact information and/or your availability for possible meeting times.

### **Will I receive an honorarium?**

You will receive a \$150 gift card (Visa or Mastercard) as honorarium for your participation in this project. The honorarium is meant to support you in obtaining required child care, elder care, or canine care during the time spent on the workshop, and to thank you for your time.

Additionally, you will receive a \$25 cash gift card if you choose to participate in a focus group following the workshop. You may also choose to submit your story to a film festival, and the research team can support in covering a portion (up to \$50) of submission costs.

## What are my rights as a research participant?

- You do not waive any legal rights by agreeing to take part in this study.
- This project has been reviewed by the Research Ethics Board for compliance with federal guidelines for research involving human participants
- If you have questions regarding your rights and welfare as a research participant in this study (REB# 23-02-010), please contact: Manager, Research Ethics; University of Guelph; reb@uoguelph.ca; (519) 824-4120 (ext. 56606).

A copy of this Letter of Information will be left with you, and a copy will be retained by the research team.

Please print a copy of this information for your records

I have read the Information Letter and have had an opportunity to have my questions about the project answered. By selecting agree, I am providing an electronic signature to freely consent to participate in this research.