

## Research question: Do retired breeding dogs have difficulty adjusting from the kennel to a home?



## Methods

Assessment of:

- Behavior and health of 590 dogs
- Management practices in 30 commercial breeding kennels

Survey of 32 adopters of retired breeding dogs

## Results



Most dogs were friendly when an experimenter approached...



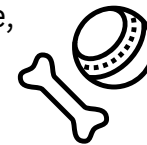
...but became more fearful when the experimenter moved to open their pen or touch them.

Overall, dogs were healthy and clean. Around 18% had eye discharge and 25% of dogs were overweight.



When there were fewer dogs for each caretaker to care for, dogs scored better on behavior and health assessments.

Most breeders offered their dogs exercise, enrichment and puppy socialization. Socialization of adult dogs and training were less common.



All adopters were satisfied with their new dog. More than 73% said the dog was exceeding their expectations.

Dogs who were more friendly in the kennel were more trainable and less fearful in the home.

## Research

### Takeaways

Overall, the dogs in the study were healthy and friendly.

Kennel management can have positive impacts:  
Fewer dogs for each person to care for was associated with better dog behavior and health.

Dogs who were friendly in the kennel tended to be more trainable and friendly in the home.

Adopters' satisfaction with their new dogs was high.