Increasing Permanent Adoptions of Shelter Dogs Through Wearable Technology

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INTRODUCTION

There are an estimated 4 million dogs relinquished to shelters each year, of the shelter dogs that are adopted, 18.8% are returned. 40.7% these returns occur in the first week.

We present the results of an 8-week pilot study with 42 dogs aimed at using wearable activity monitors and a companion smartphone application to reduce returns and increase the strength of bonds between newly adopted dogs from Humane Society of Silicon Valley (HSSV) and their adopters.

RESULTS

• Of the adopted dogs whose owners consented to be surveyed, there was a relinquishment rate of 8.3%

• Adopters reported increasing the activity time together with their dog based on information the system provided

• 67% reported the application was helpful with the bonding process during the first week.