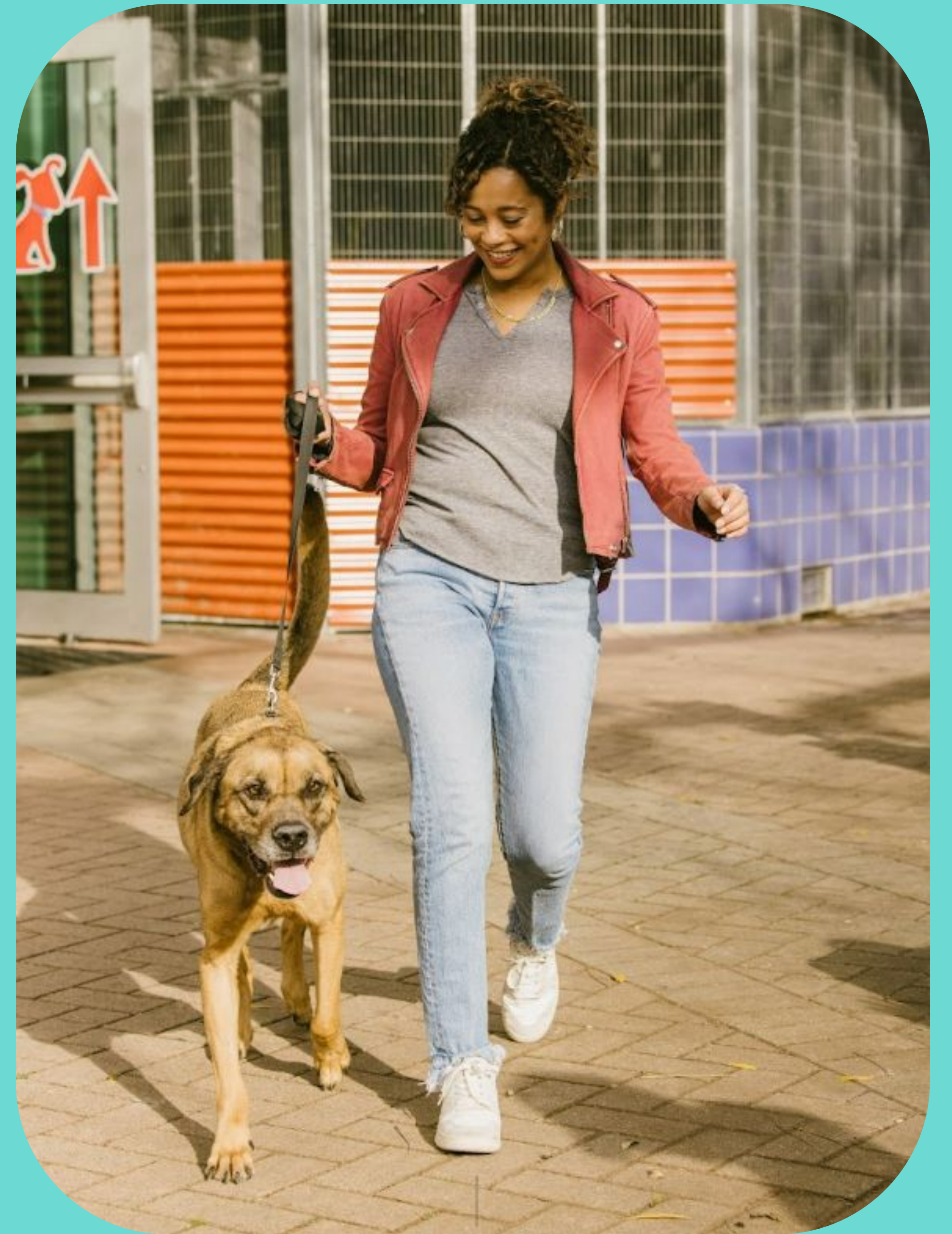


**Shelter Dog Activity:**  
What are they doing when  
nobody's looking?

**Adopt a Pet**



# Agenda

- The Why
- The Whistle Study
- The Wisdom Panel Study



# The Why

## Adopt a Pet



1. Is the activity level in shelter environment predictive of activity level in the home?
2. How long does it take for a dog to establish a new baseline once in a home?
3. Does the dog's size impact the data?
4. Does the dog's age impact the data?
5. Is there a difference for dog's that are medicated?

# The Whistle Study



# The Science

WHISTLE™ uses a three-axis accelerometer (just like your human activity monitor or smartphone does) to estimate the total amount of energy a dog expends each minute and quantifies this activity.


WHISTLE™

One tiny device.  
Endless pet health discoveries.



- Easily attaches to any collar
- Works on dogs of all sizes
- 20-day battery life
- Waterproof up to six feet
- Weighs less than a AA battery

30 Mon 31 Tue 1 Wed 2 Thu 3 Fri 4 Sat 5 Sun




**141**/60 min 🍀  
Goal met - nice work! 🎉

Calories	Distance	Rest
<b>354 kcal</b>	<b>9.3 mi</b>	<b>11.5 hrs</b>


### Scratching

Elevated Apr 25 - May 1

Otto is scratching more than 85% of dogs. Elevated scratching may be a symptom of skin issues like allergies and infections. It can also lead to skin damage. Consider booking a skin checkup.



13 average minutes/ day

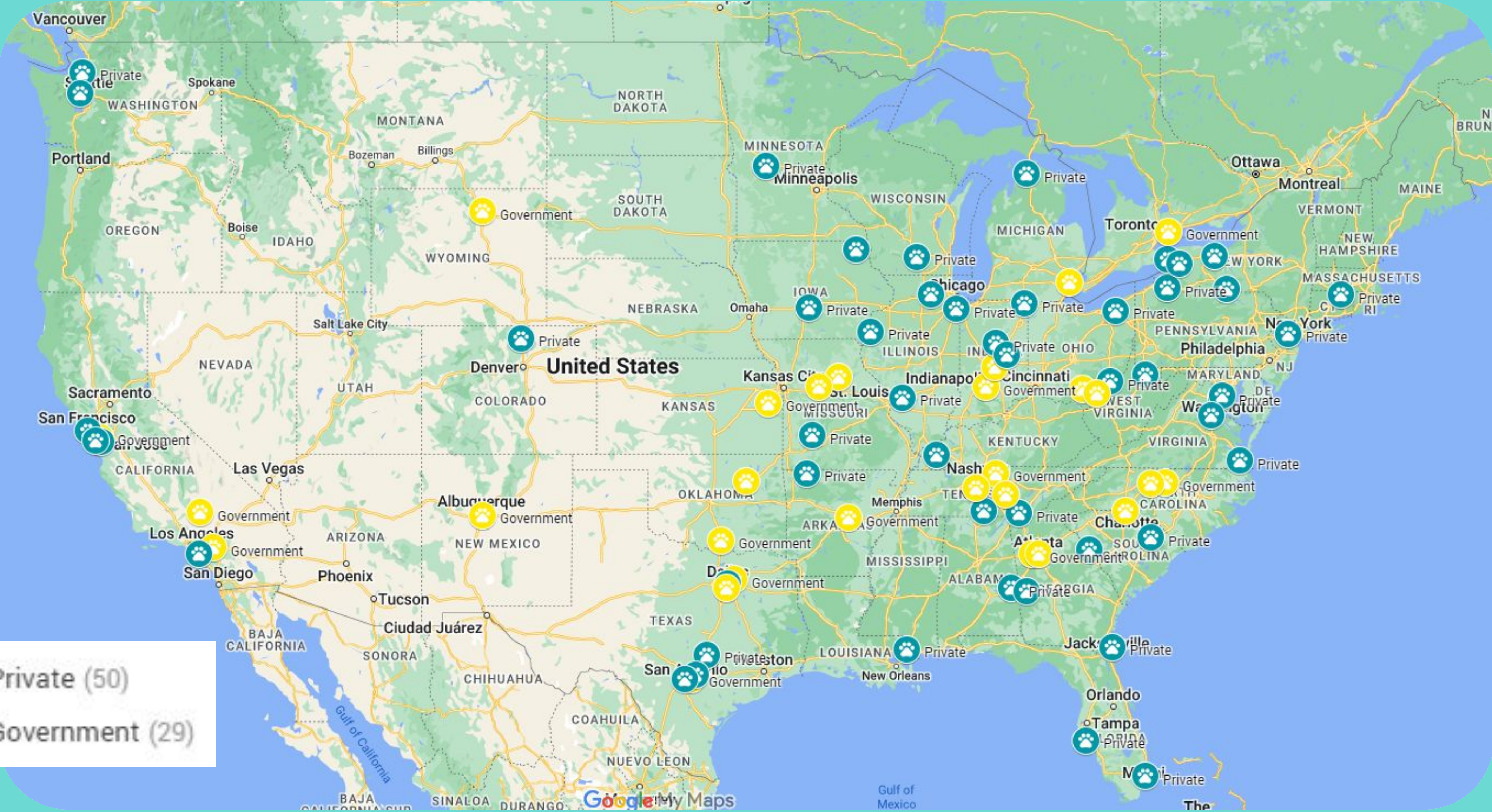


# The Study Details

- 5,000 activity monitors/devices
- Shelters of all sizes and types
- Placed on the dog when in the shelter
- Placed at anytime during the dogs stay
- Place regardless of knowing outcome
- No size, age or breed restrictions
- Adopters received device as part of the adoption
- Adopters received a year subscription to the device at no cost

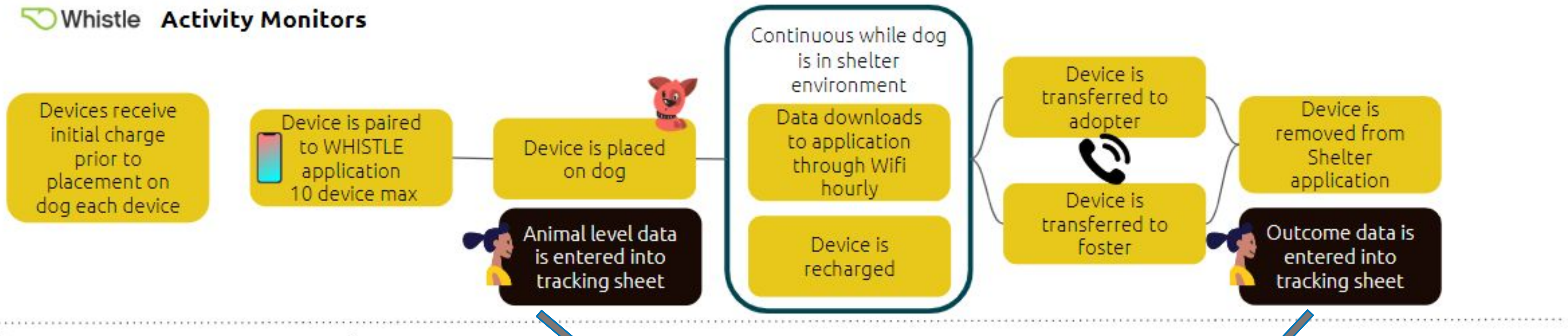


# The Study Details



# Study Administration

## Whistle Activity Monitors



- Intake date
- Date device placed
- Yes/No medication for anxiety/depression
- Foster date (when applicable)
- DNA test collected
- Outcome Date
- Notes



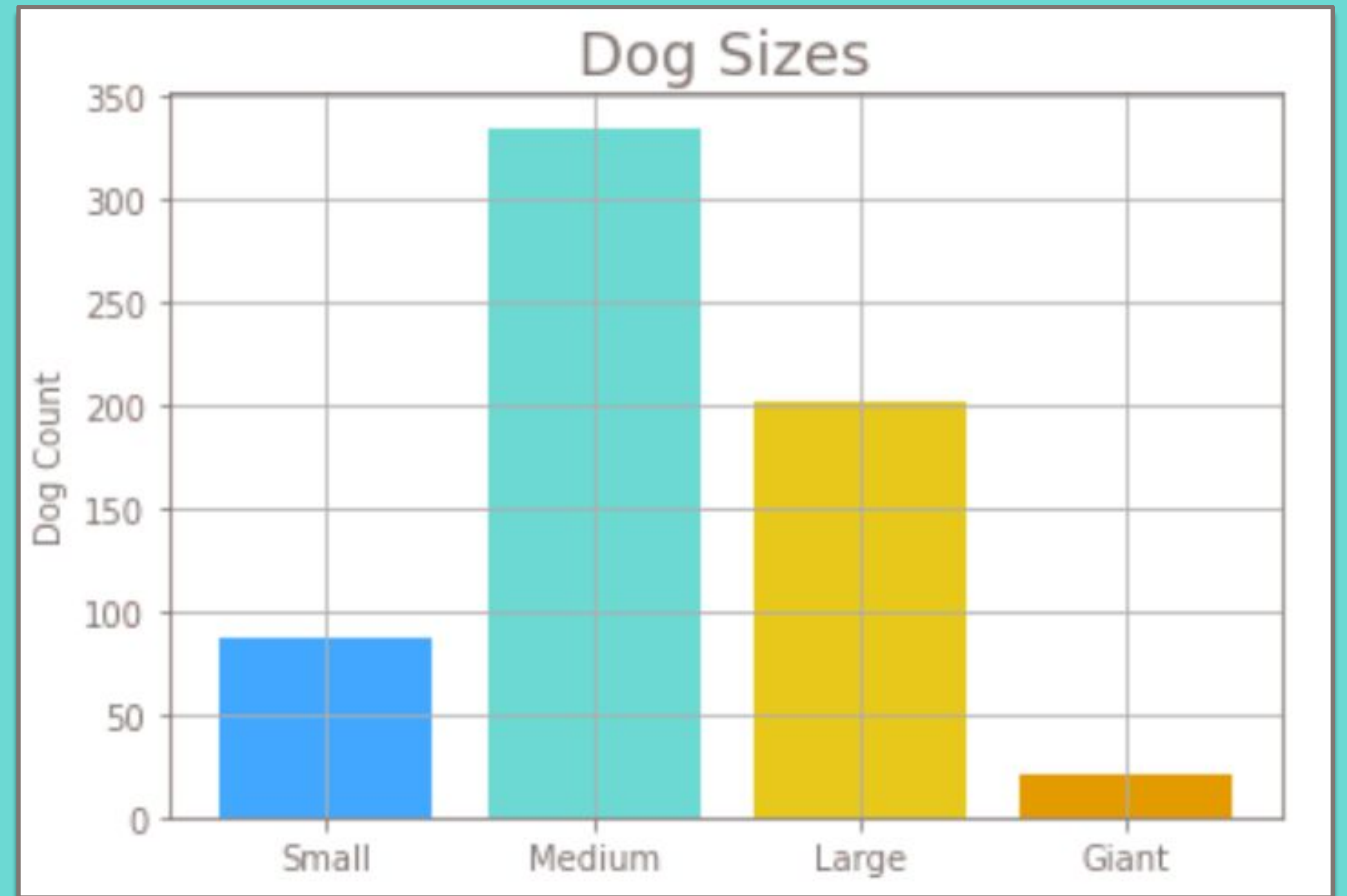
# The Data

**5,000** devices in study

**~4,000** devices linked to a dog

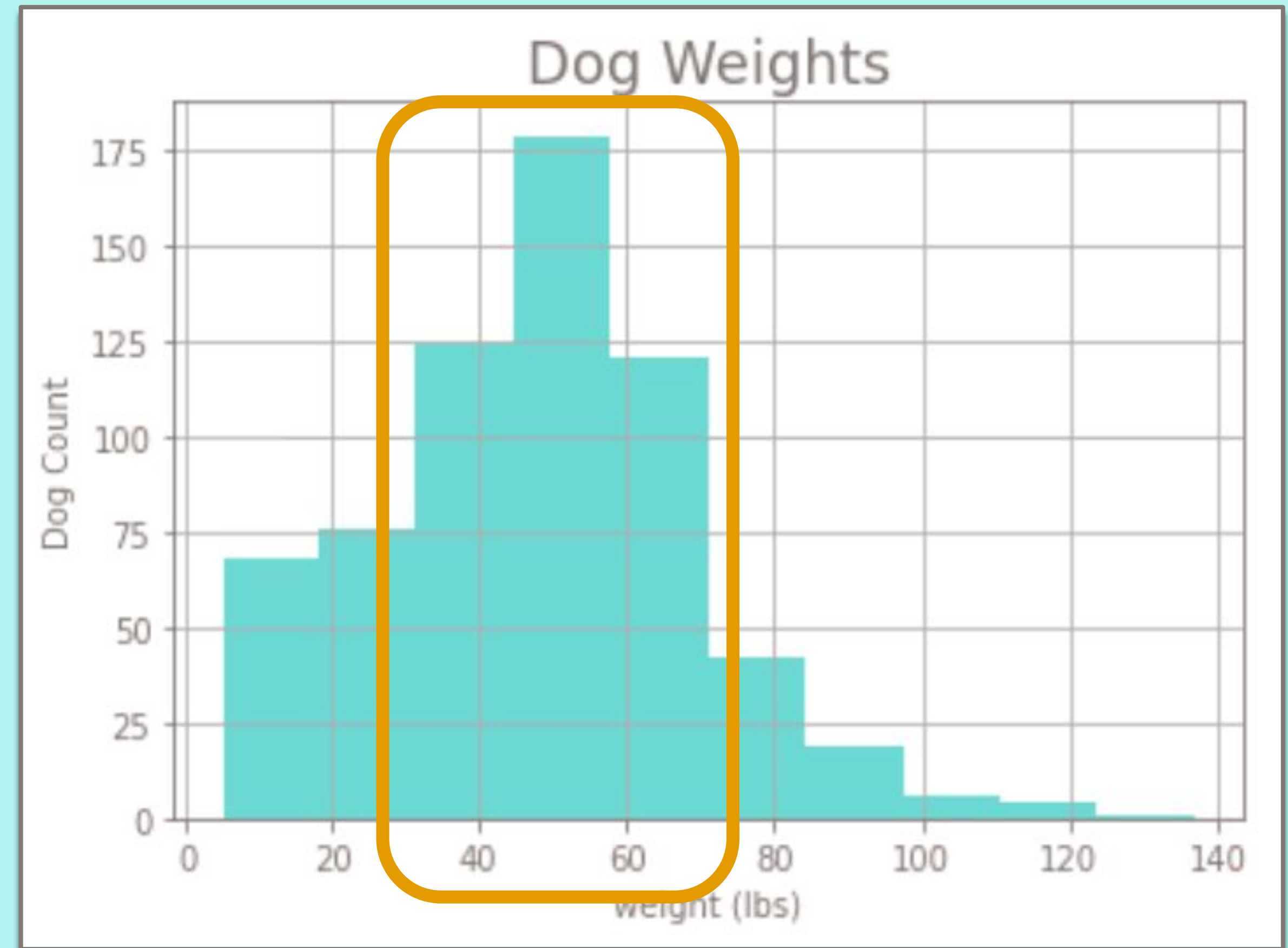
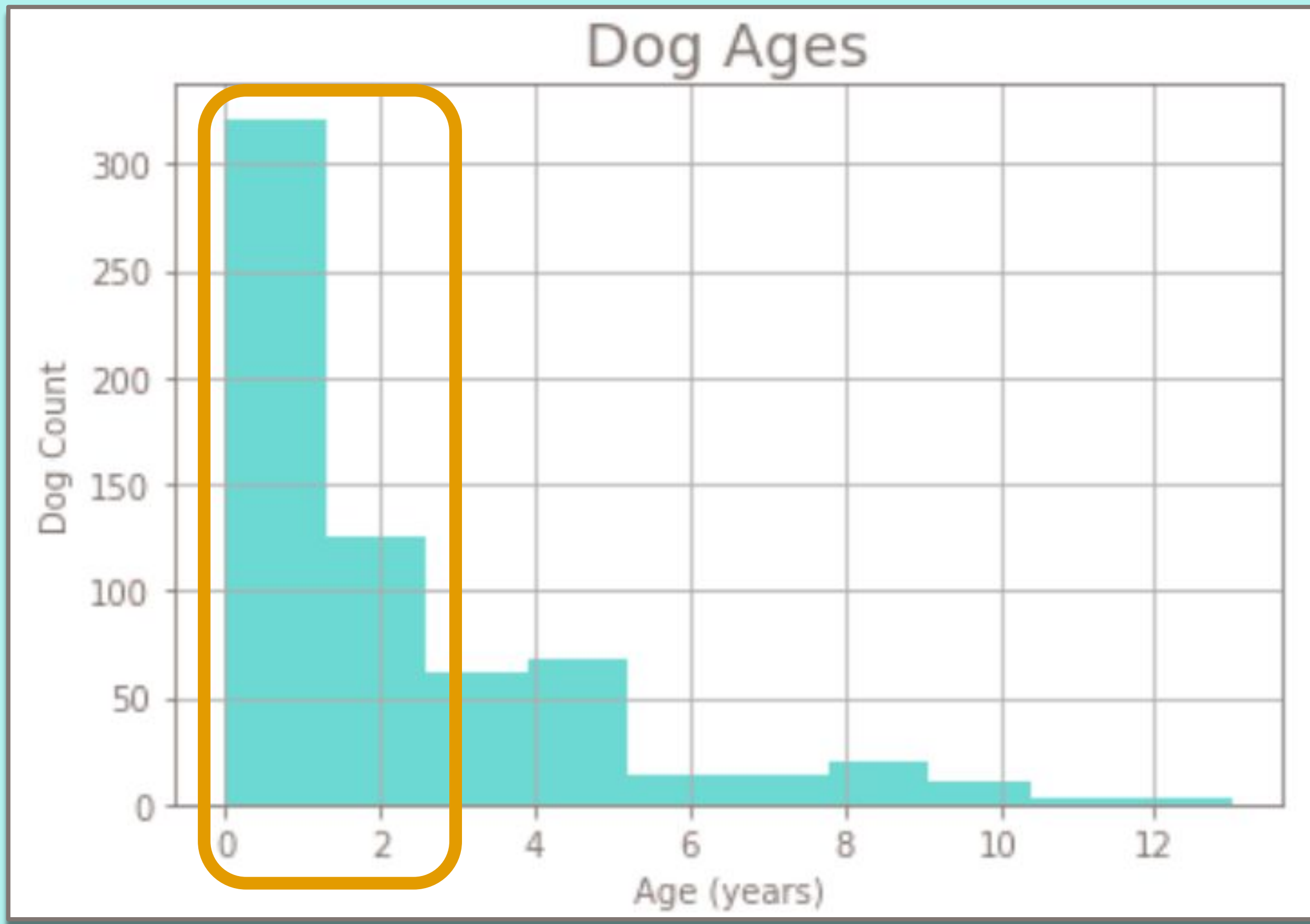
**883** with at least 7 days of data recorded

**643** with adoption date recorded (mean 38 days)



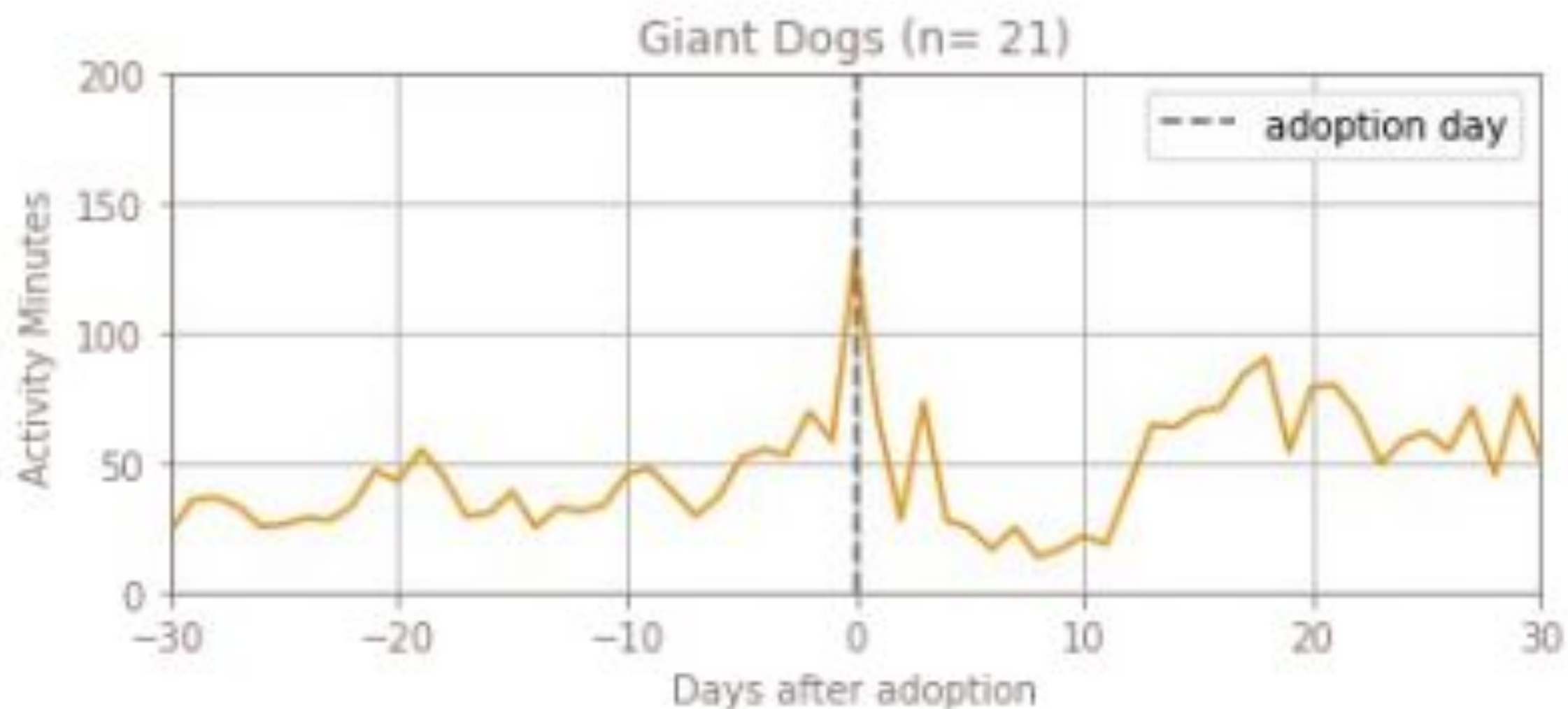
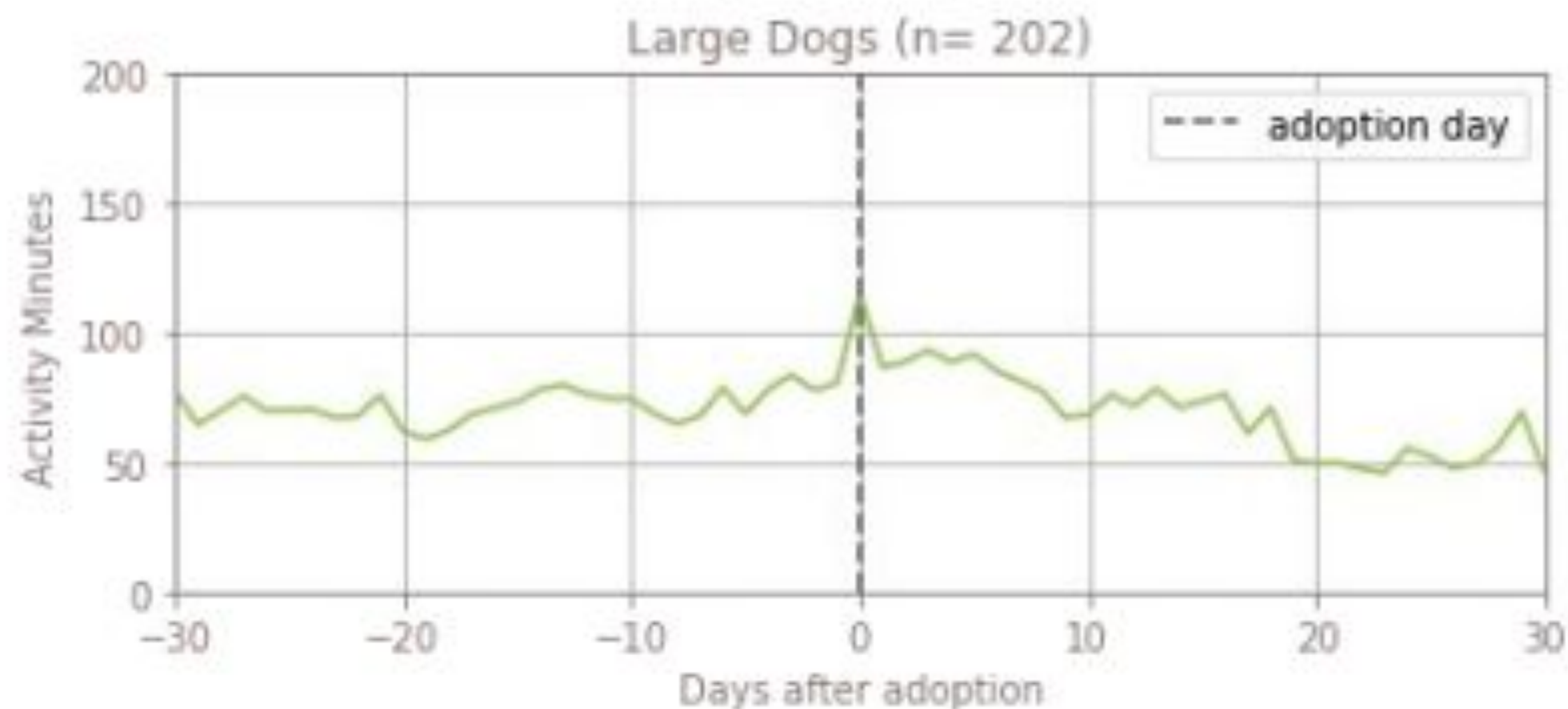
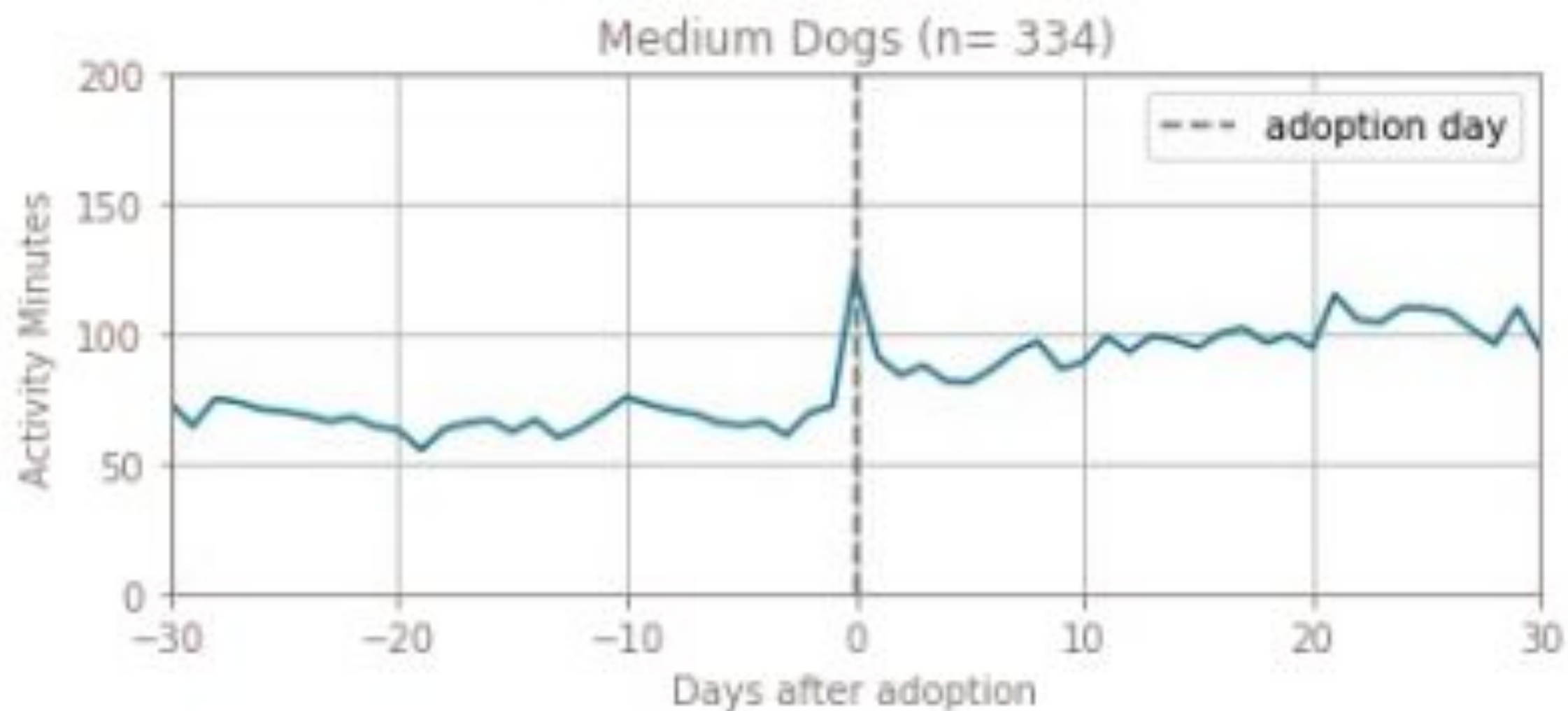
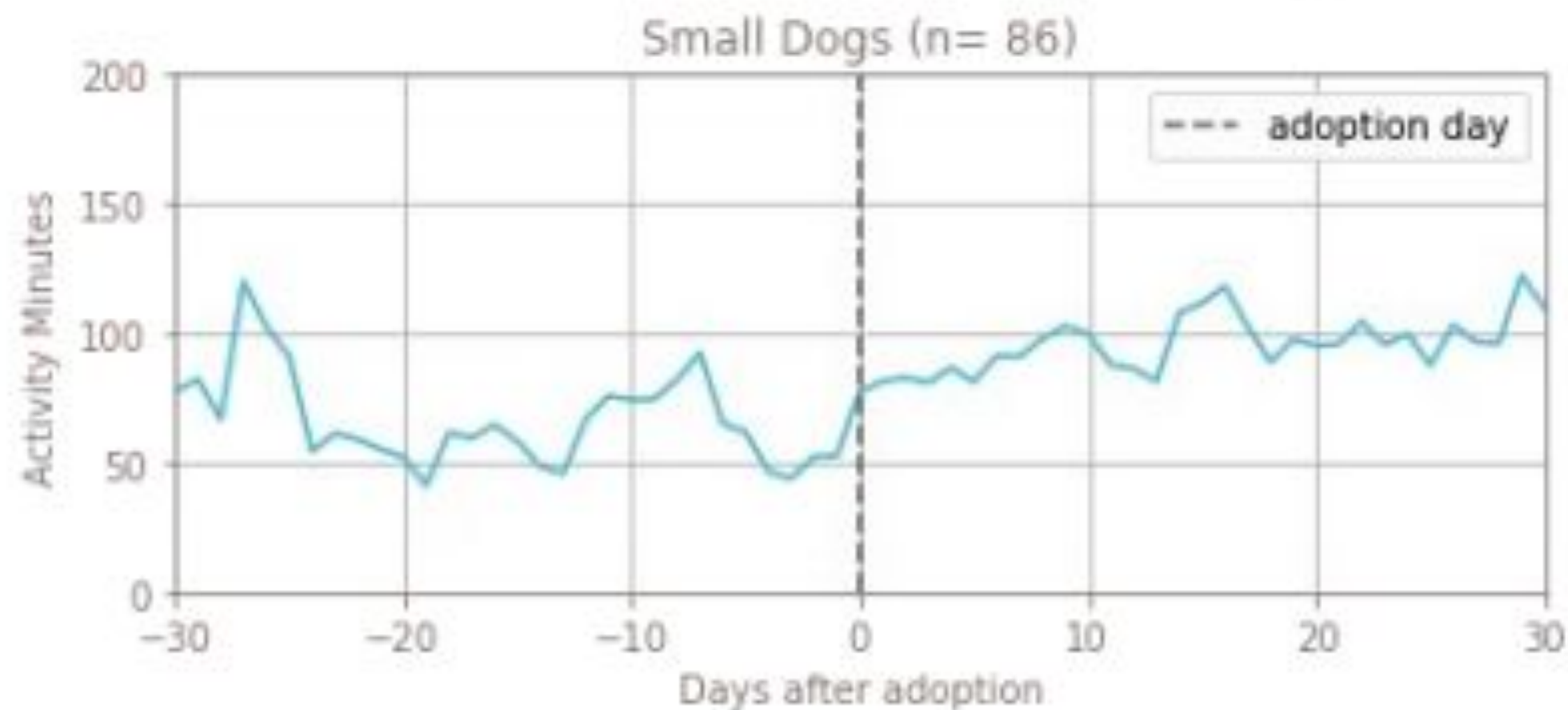
Small (< 23 lbs)  
Medium (23-55 lbs)  
Large (56-100 lbs)  
Giant (101+ lbs)

# The Data



# The Data - Activity & Size

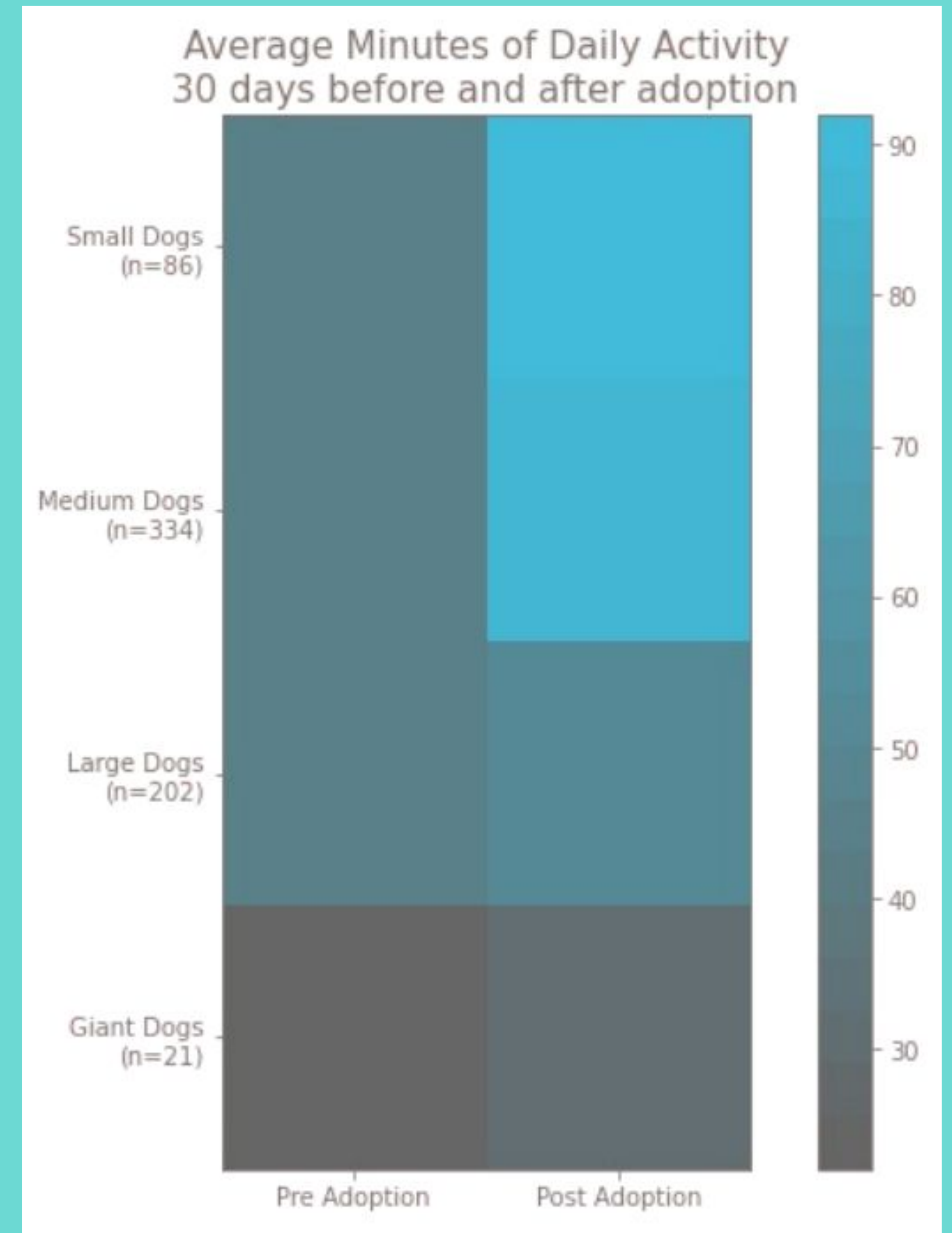
Average Activity Levels Before and After Adoption



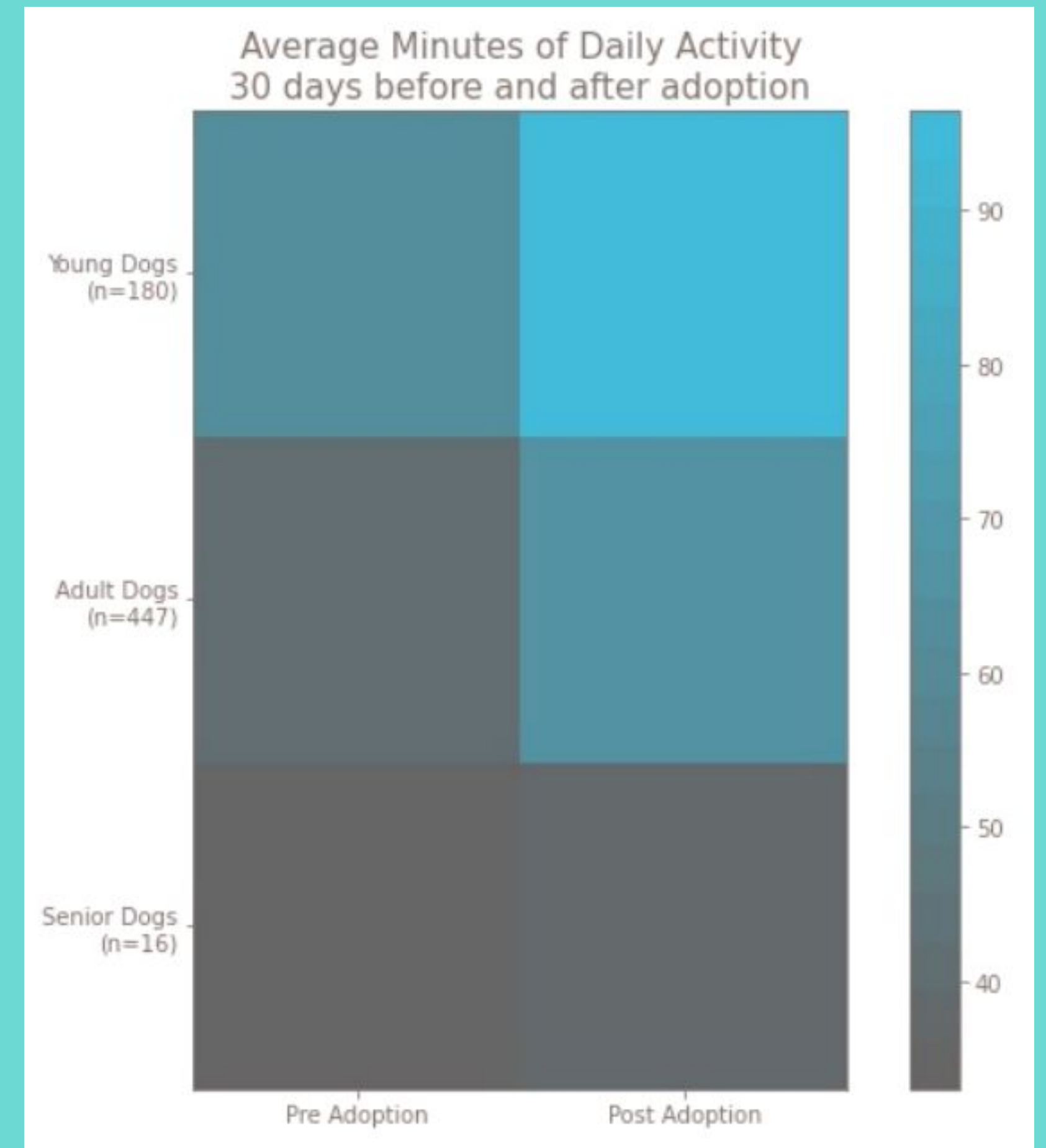
# The Data - Activity & Size

Dogs of all sizes had changing activity levels after adoption that did not level out within 30 days.

We found that small dogs had the largest **increase (49%)** in activity, followed by medium dogs **(10%)**. In contrast, giant dogs had a decrease in activity levels by a median of **17%**.



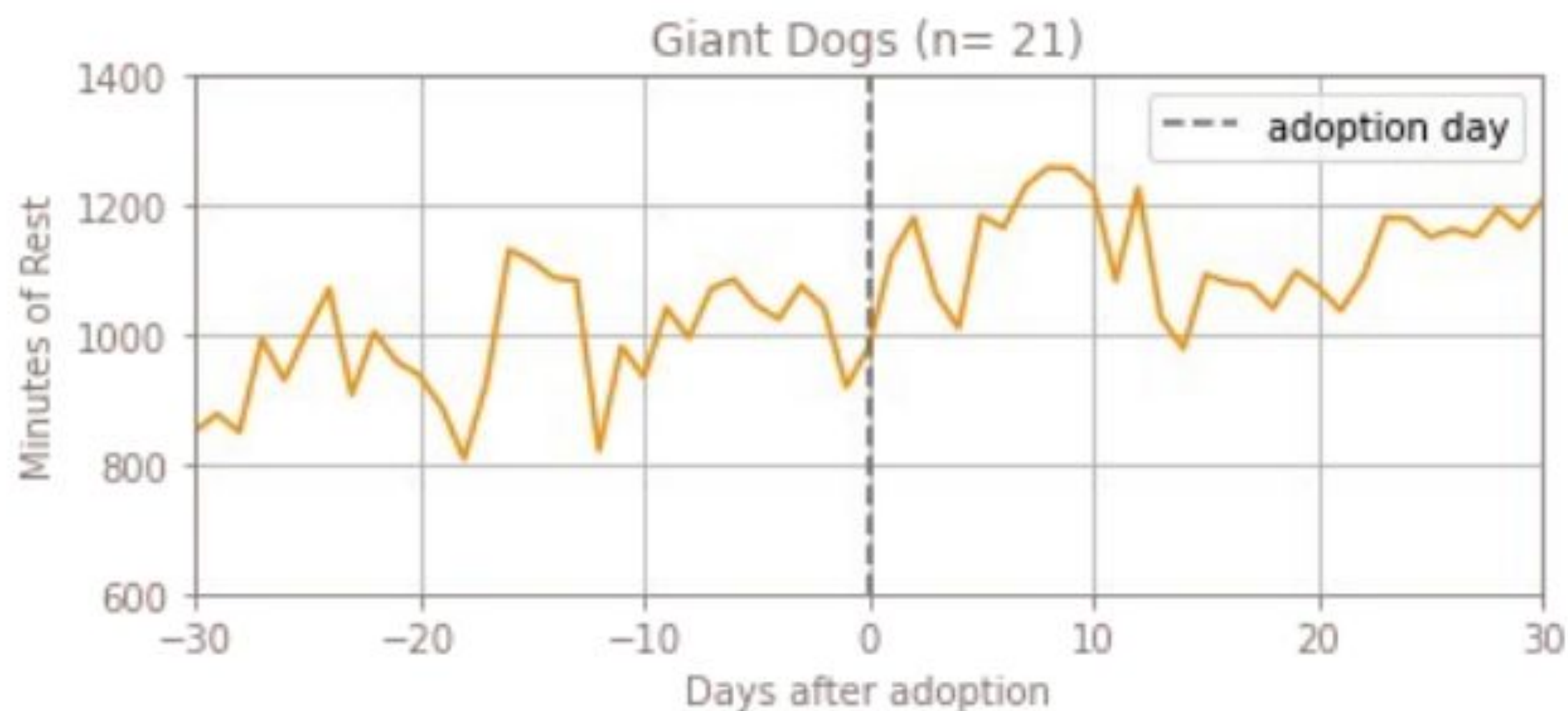
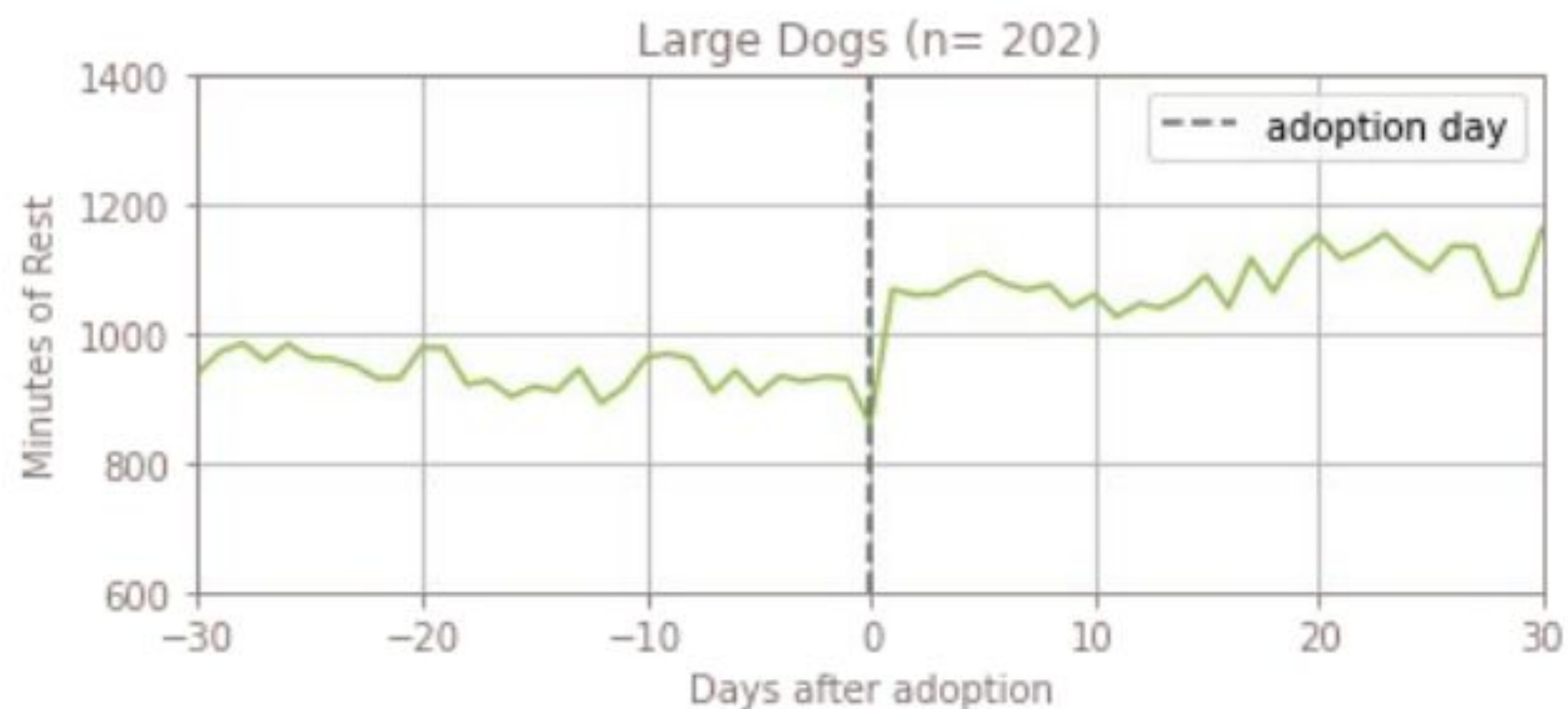
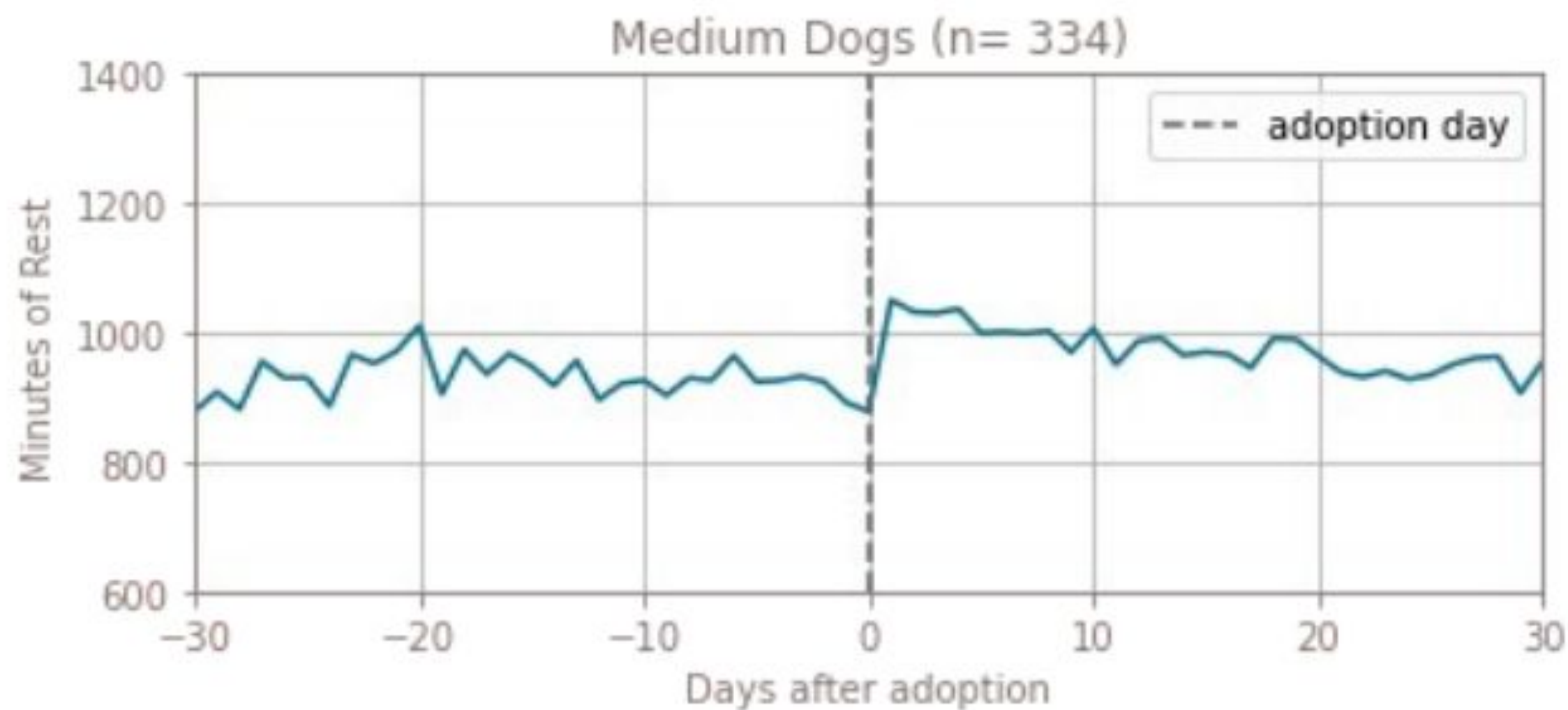
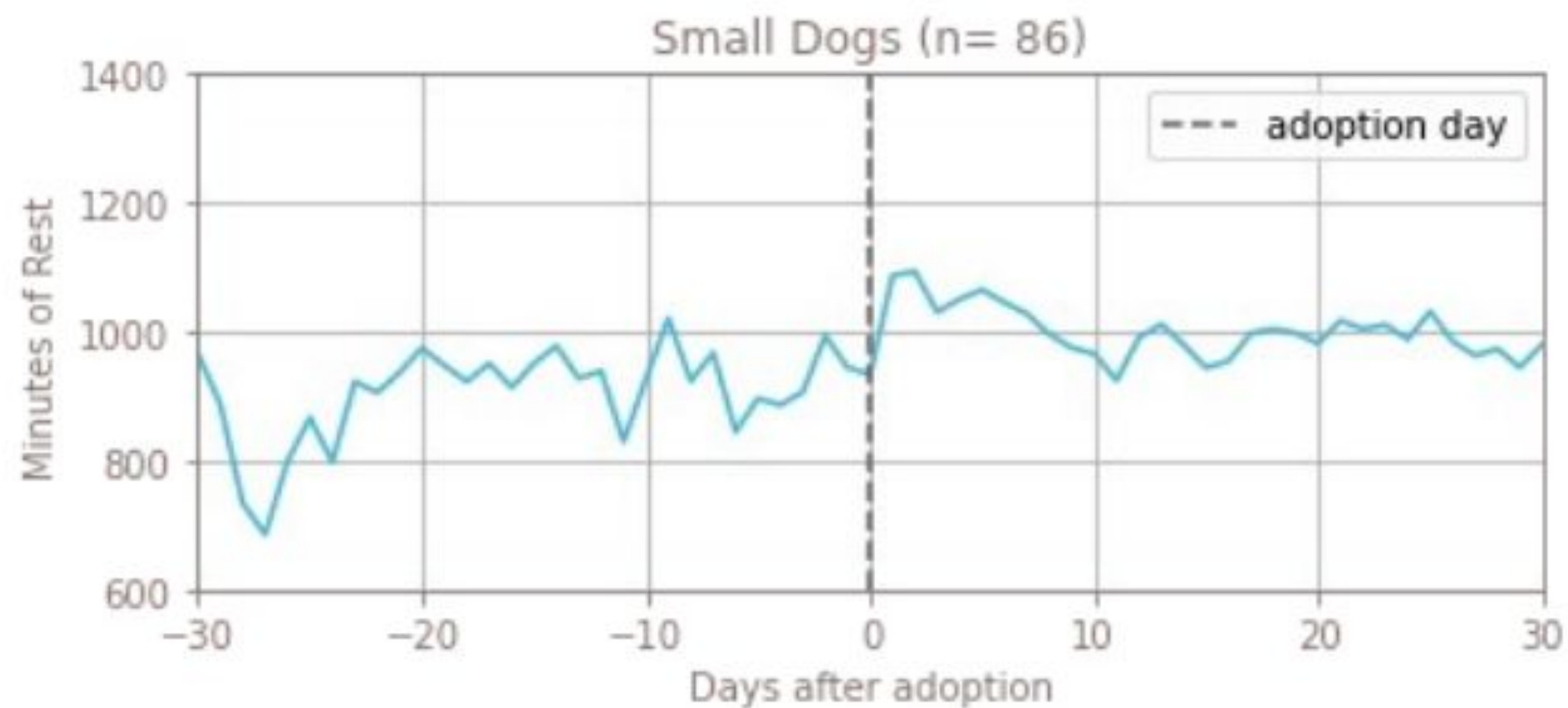
# The Data - Activity & Age Group



Senior dogs had a notable decrease in activity by a median of **55%**.

# The Data - Rest & Size

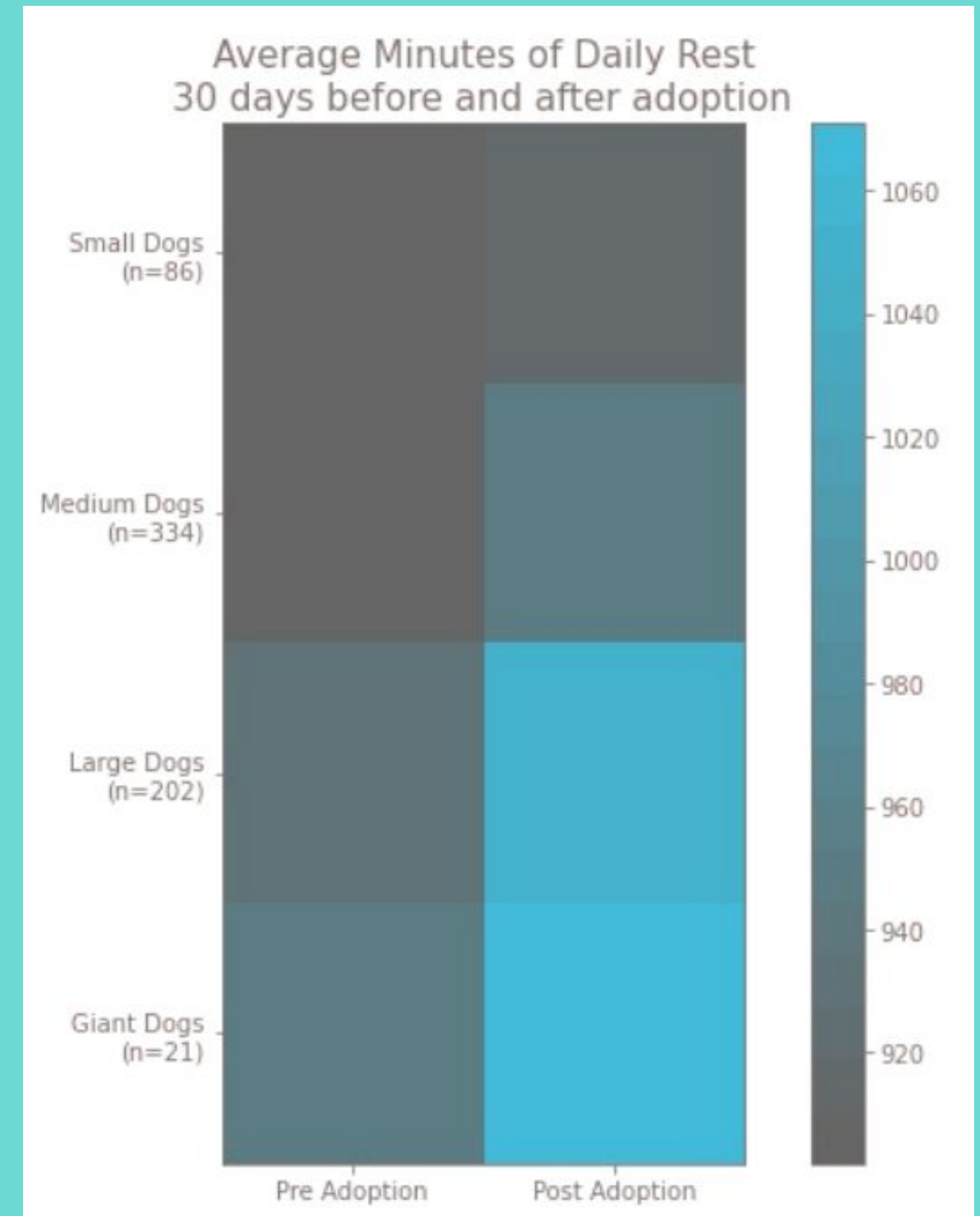
## Average Rest Before and After Adoption



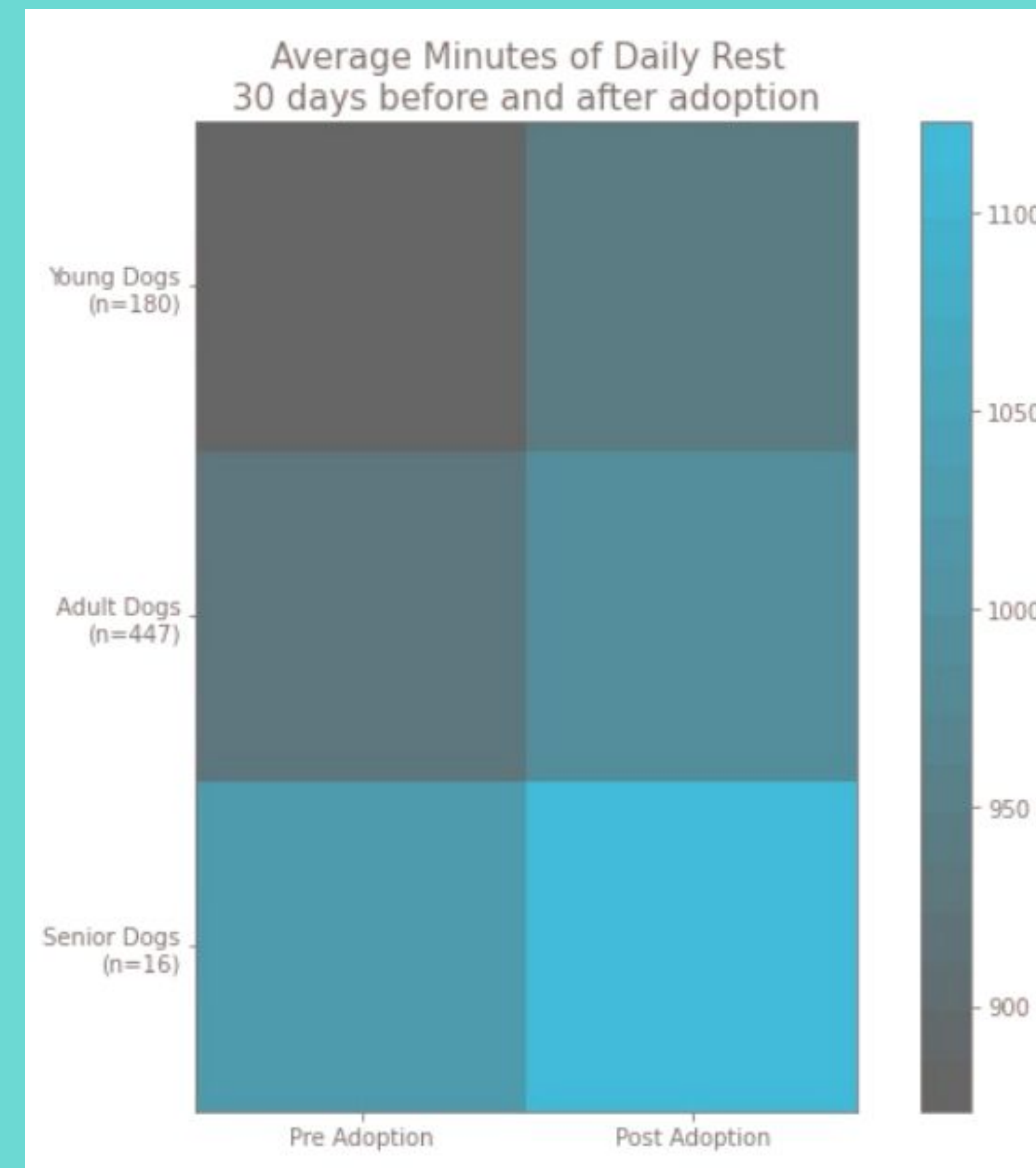
# The Data - Rest & Size

Most dogs had an increase in resting after adoption (**median of 15%**), with the upper quantile of dogs increasing their resting by over **44%**.

We found dog size had a slight impact as smaller dogs tended to rest slightly more relative to their baseline than larger dogs.



# The Data - Rest & Age Group

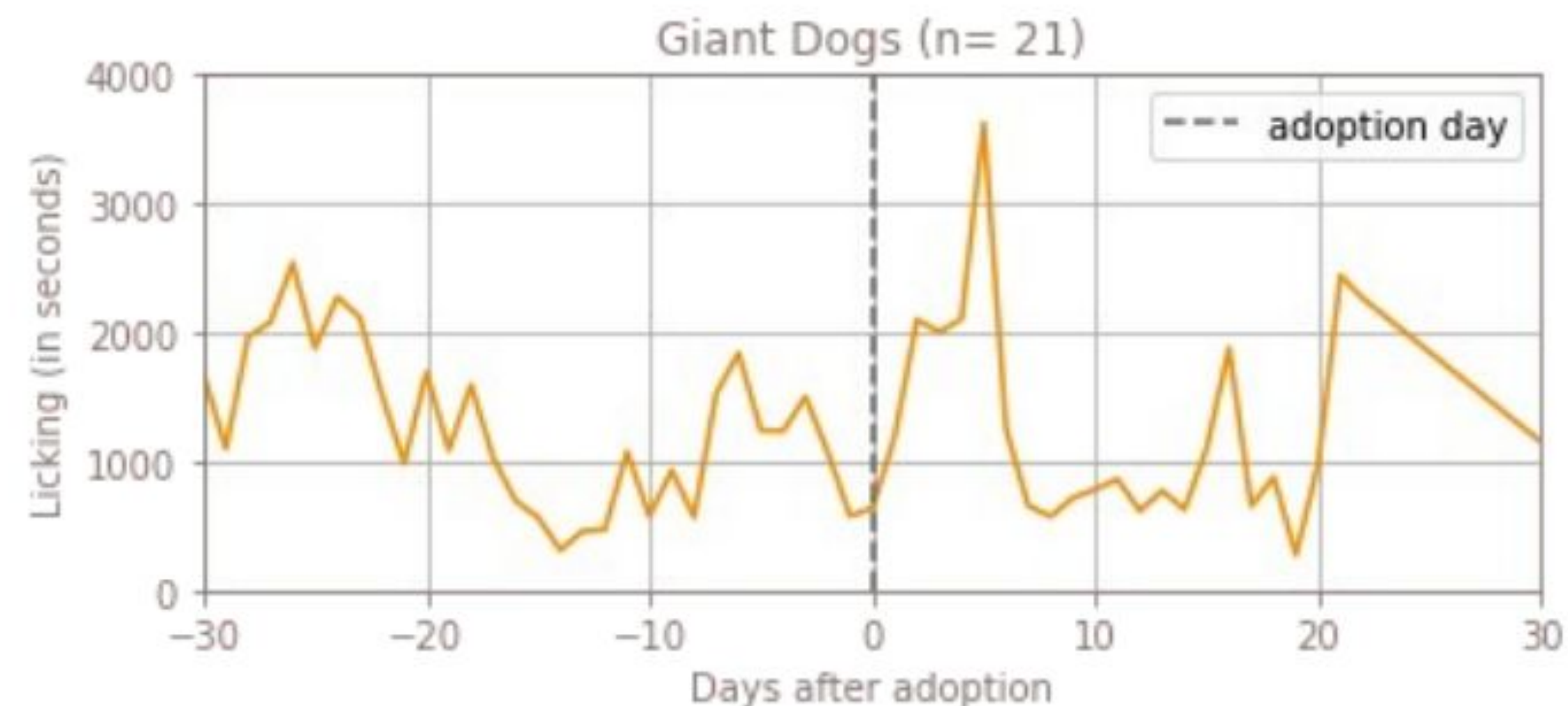
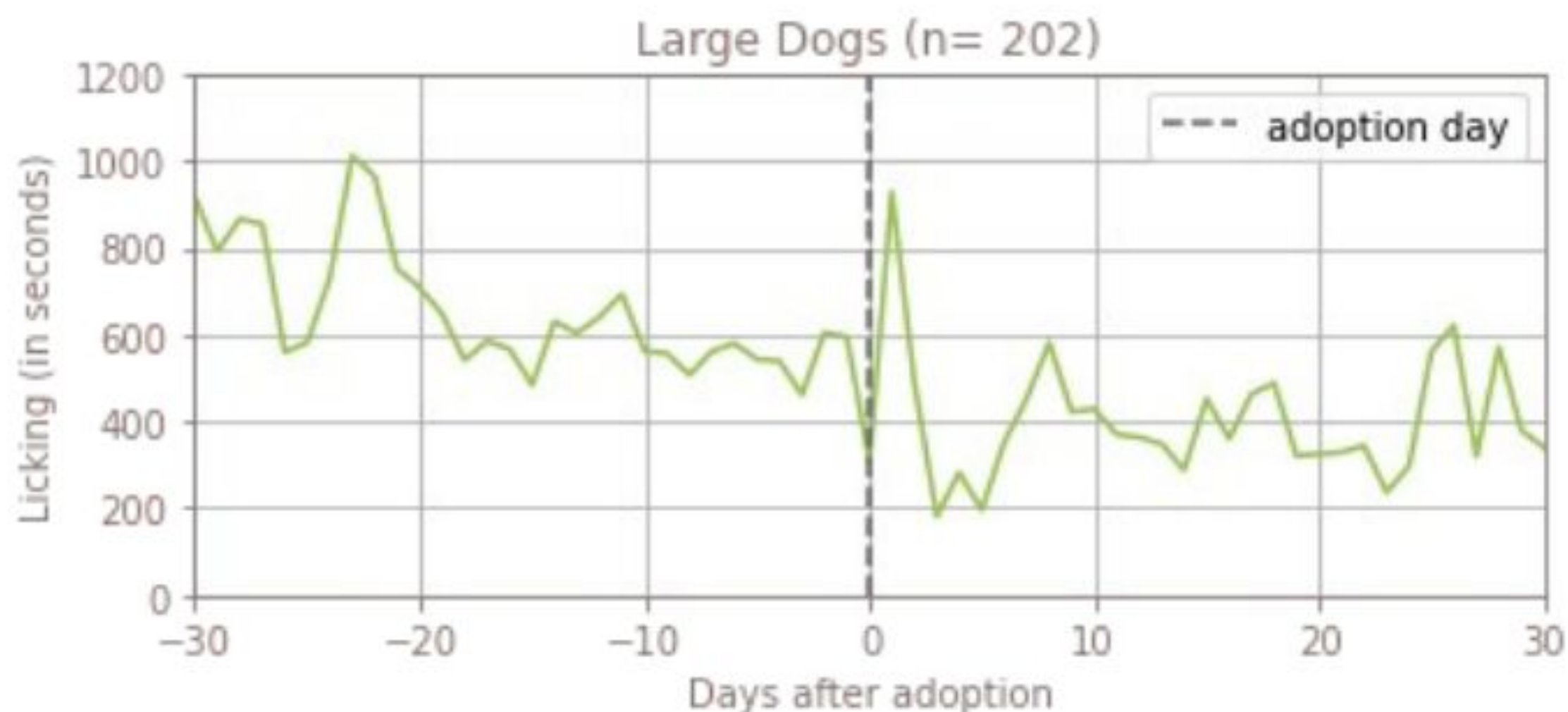
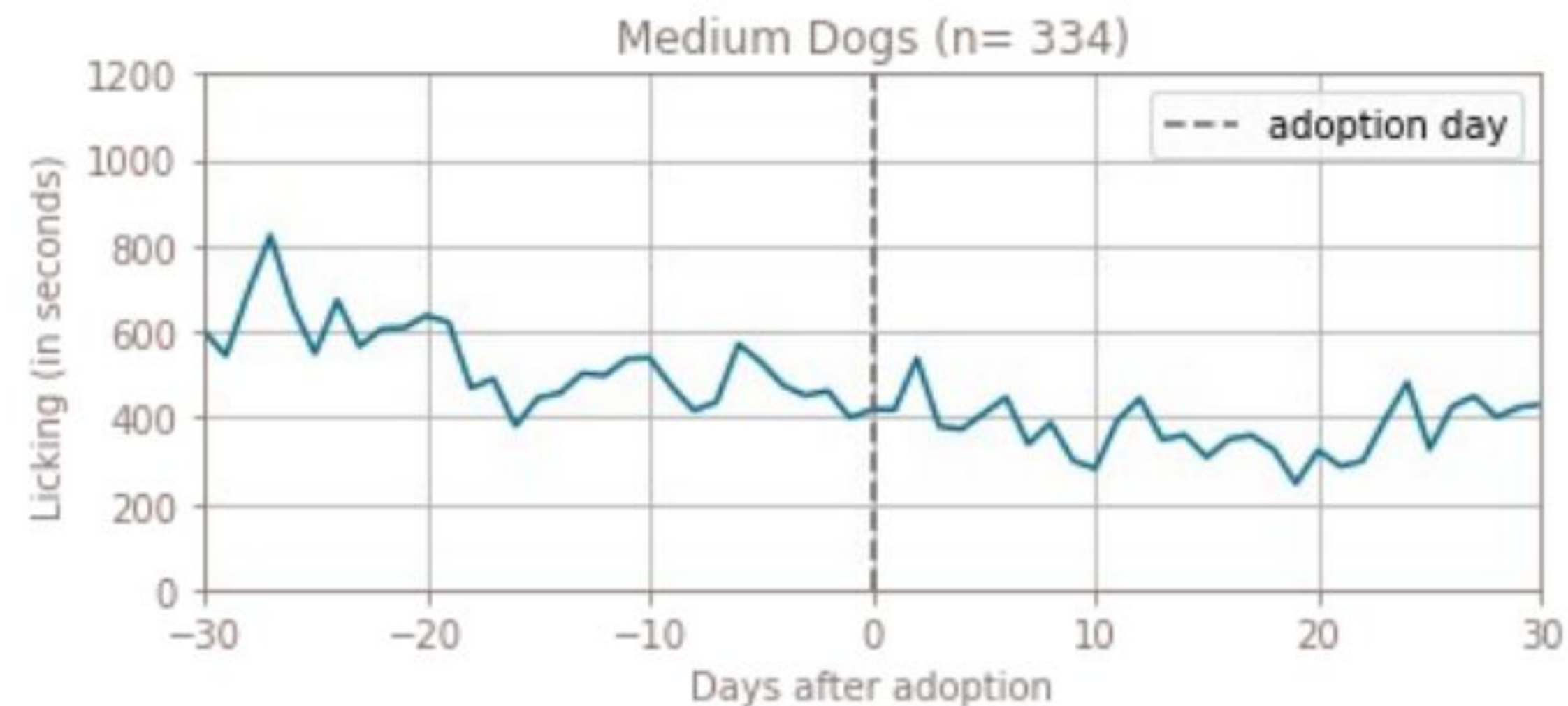
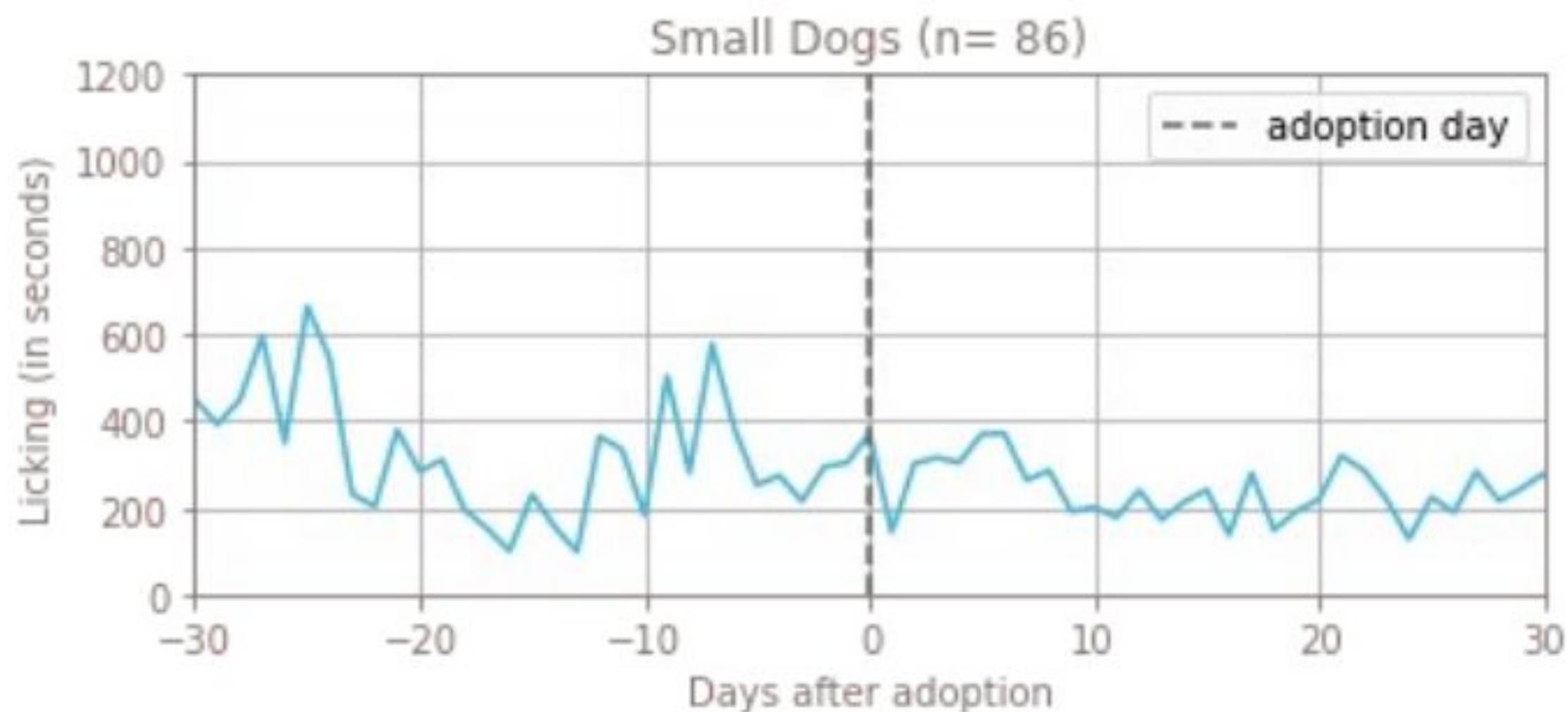


Senior dogs increased their resting by a median of **40%** after adoption.



# The Data - Licking & Size

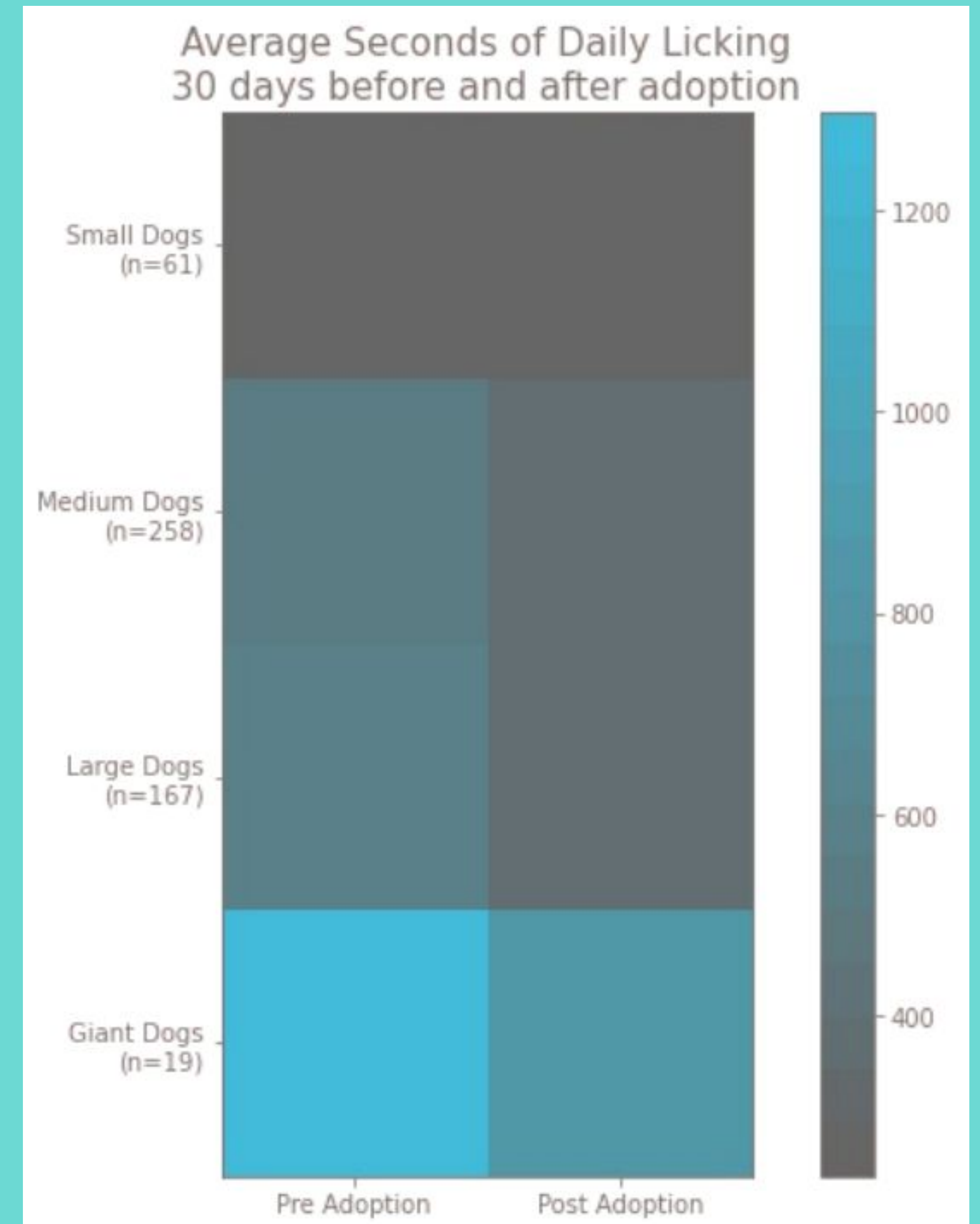
Average Licking Before and After Adoption



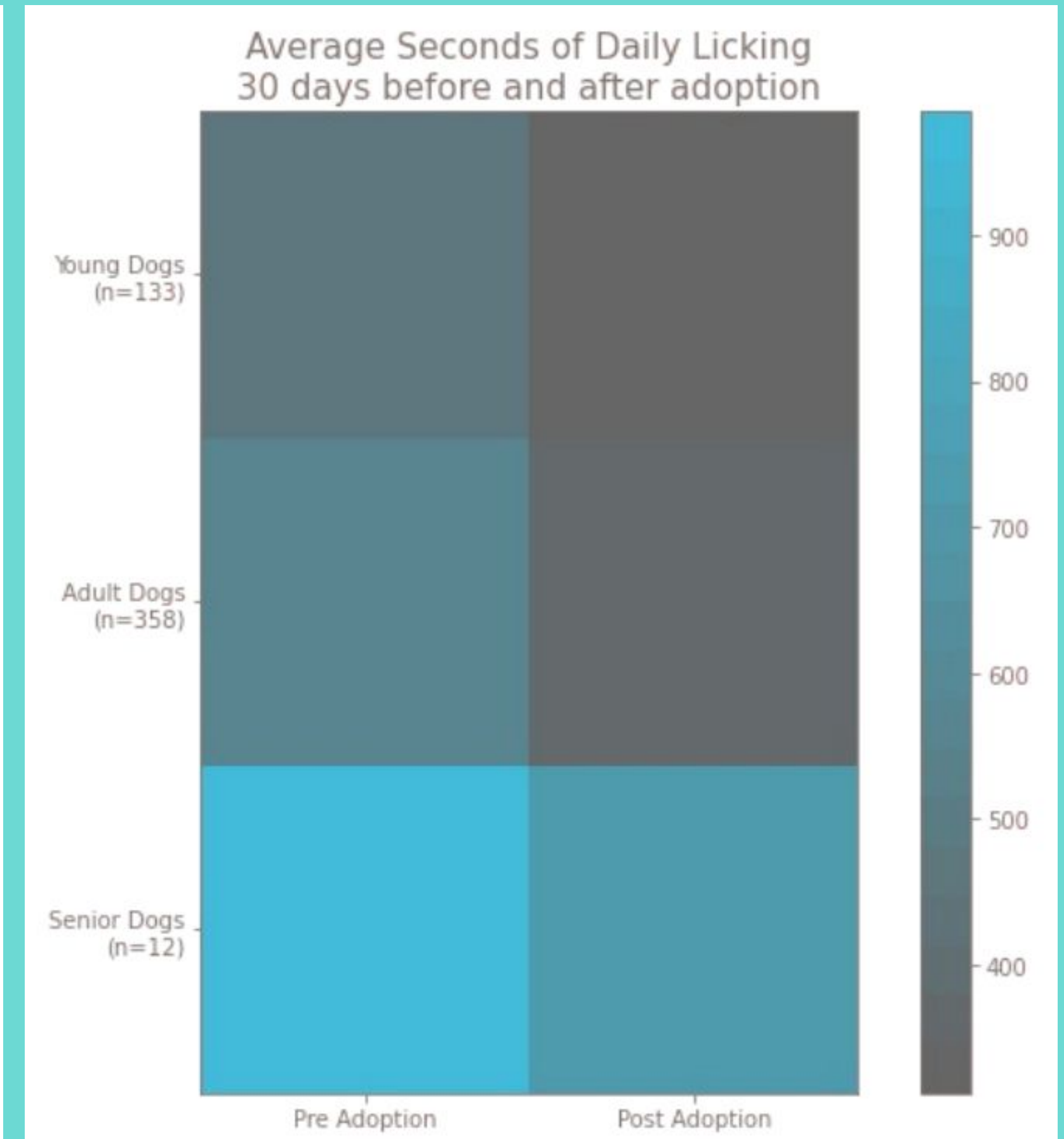
# The Data - Licking & Size

Most dogs had a decrease in licking behaviors after adoption (**median of 18%**), with the upper quantile of dogs increasing their licking behaviors by over **24%** and the lower quantile of dogs decreasing their licking behaviors by more than **51%**.

Various differences in licking behavior occurred when compared to dog size, with all medians indicating overall **decreases** for the category.



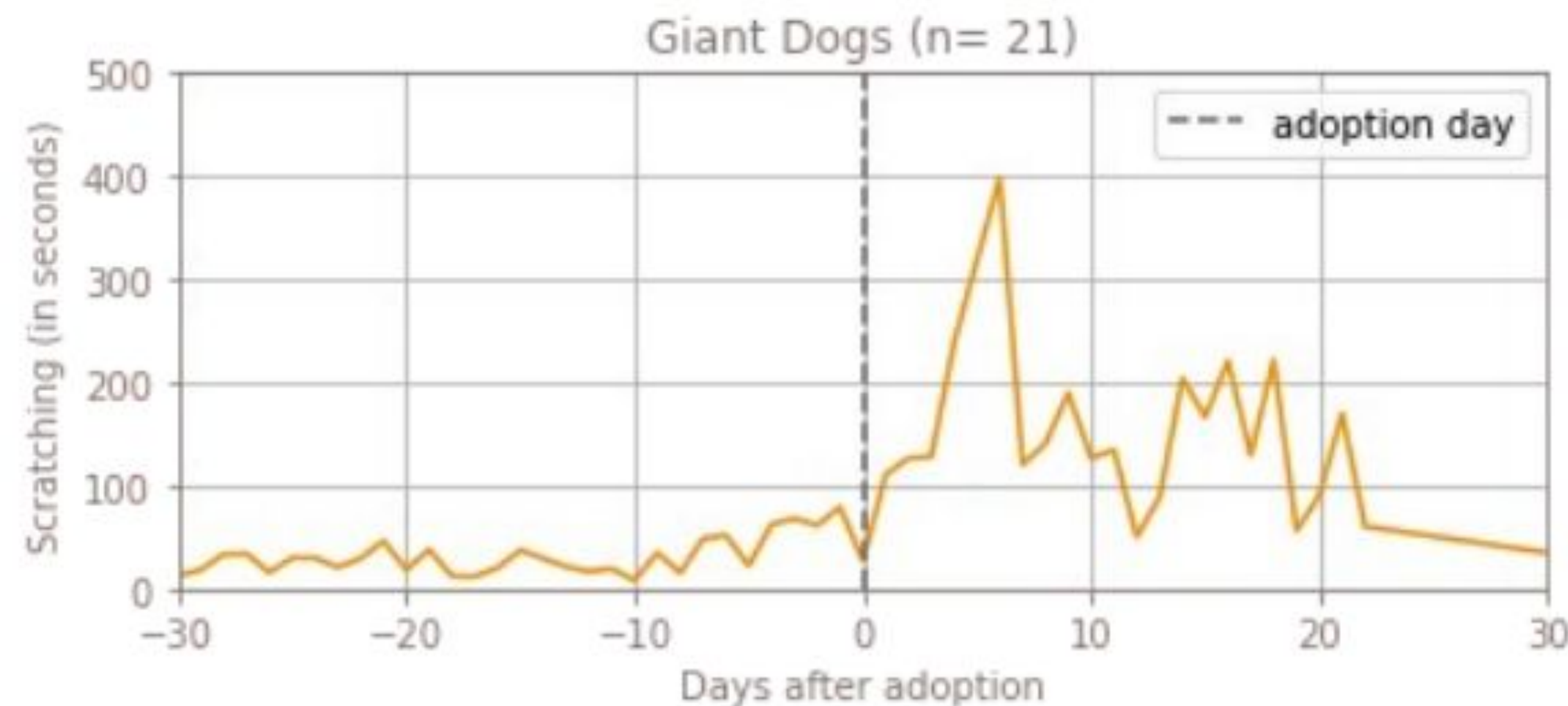
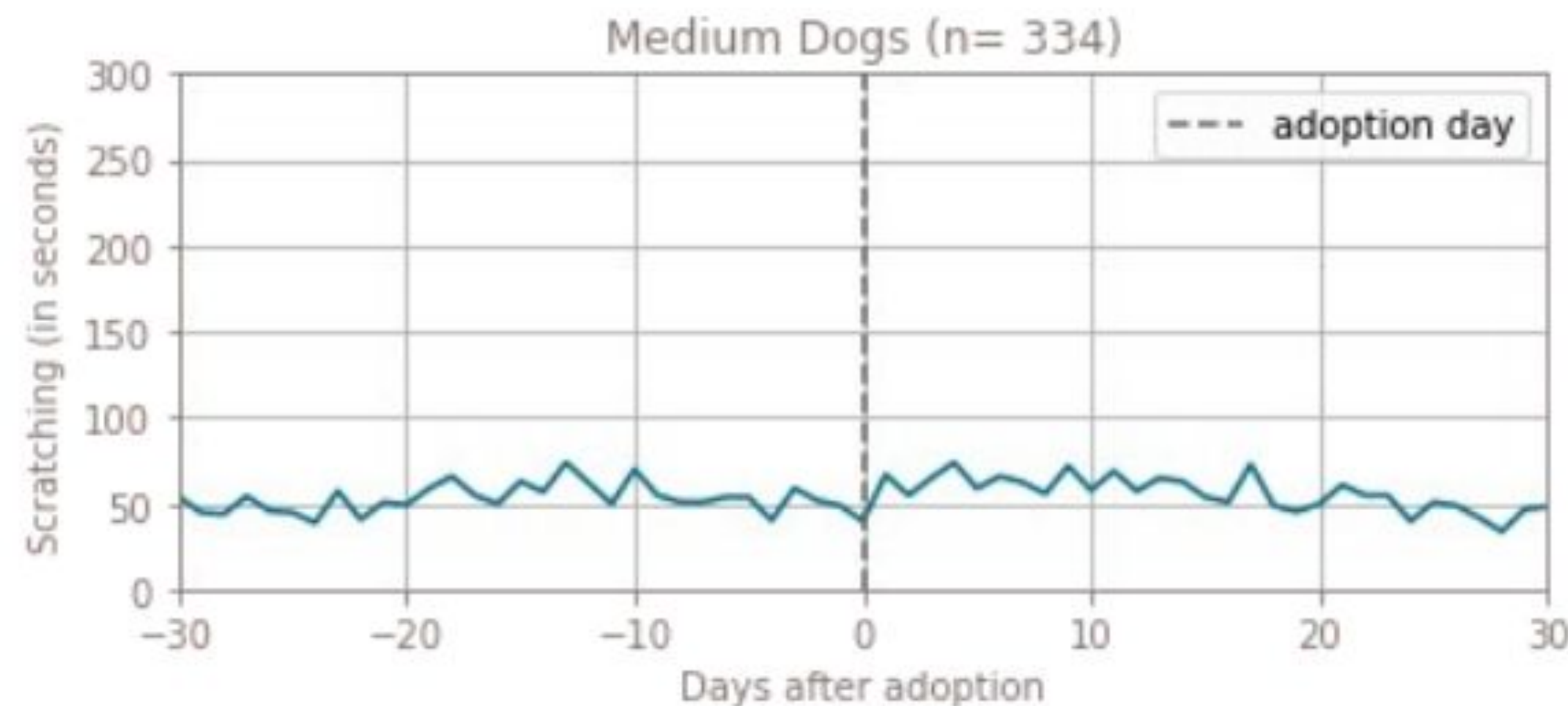
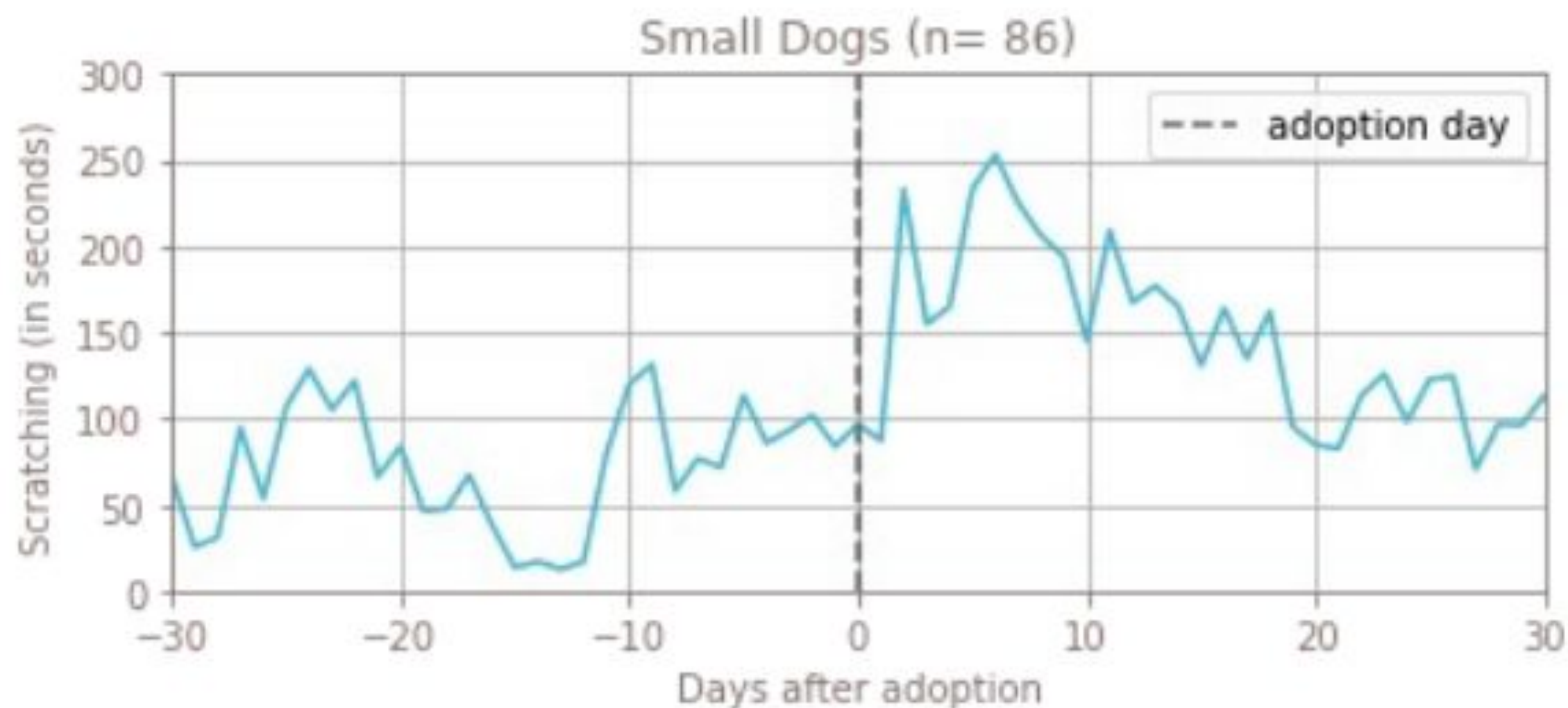
# The Data - Licking & Age Group



Senior group increase their licking behavior by **85%**.

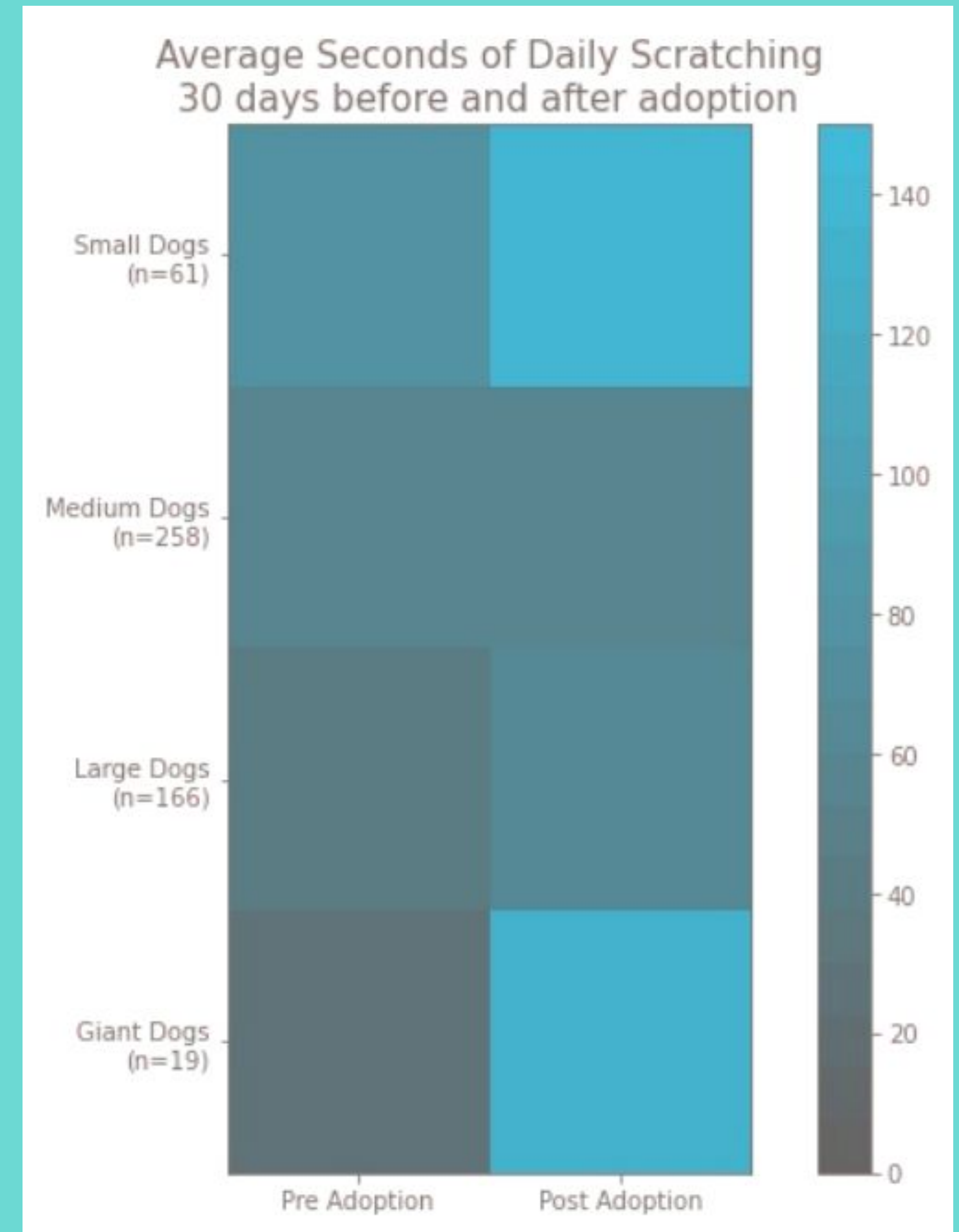
# The Data - Scratching & Size

Average Scratching Before and After Adoption

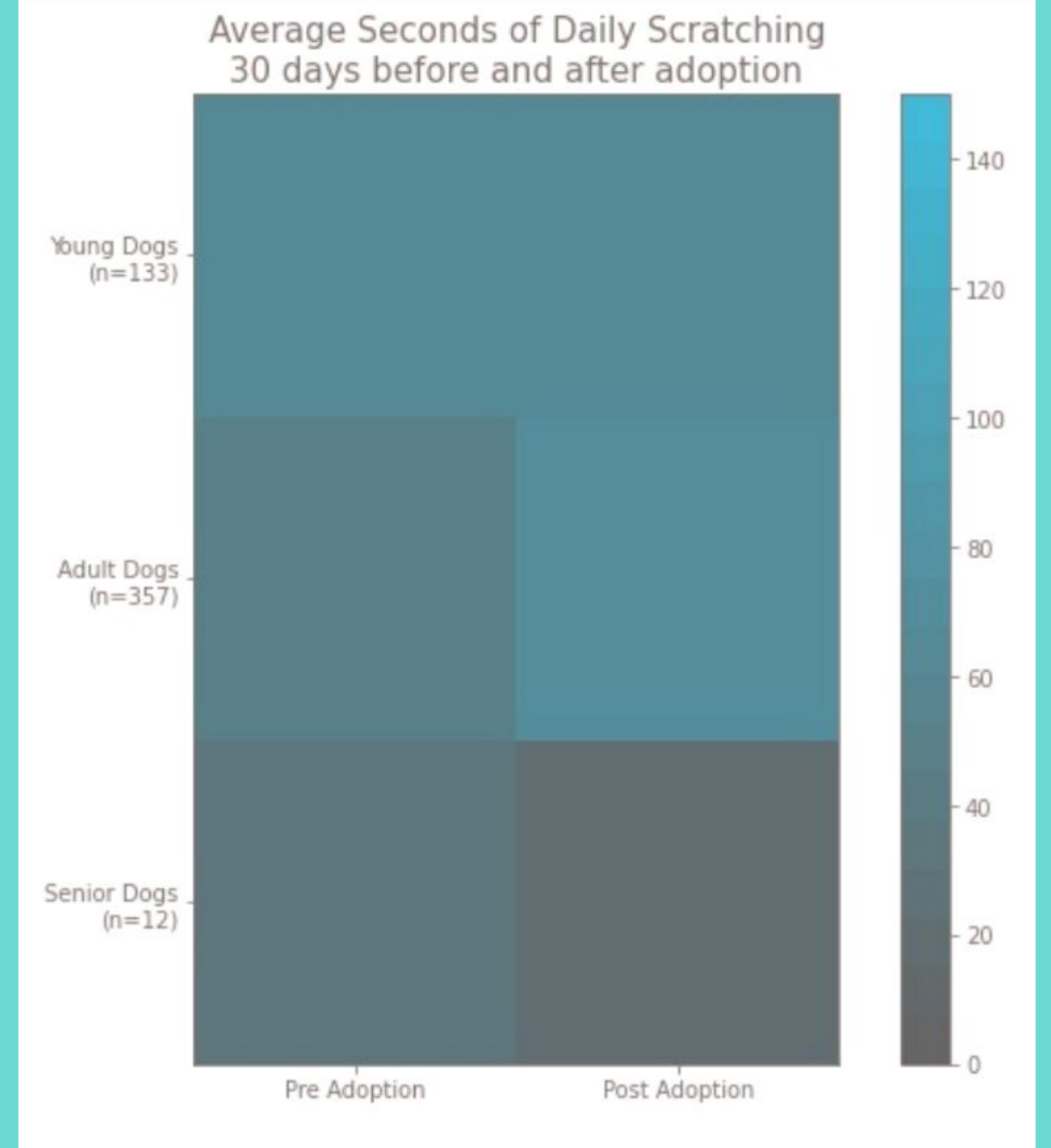
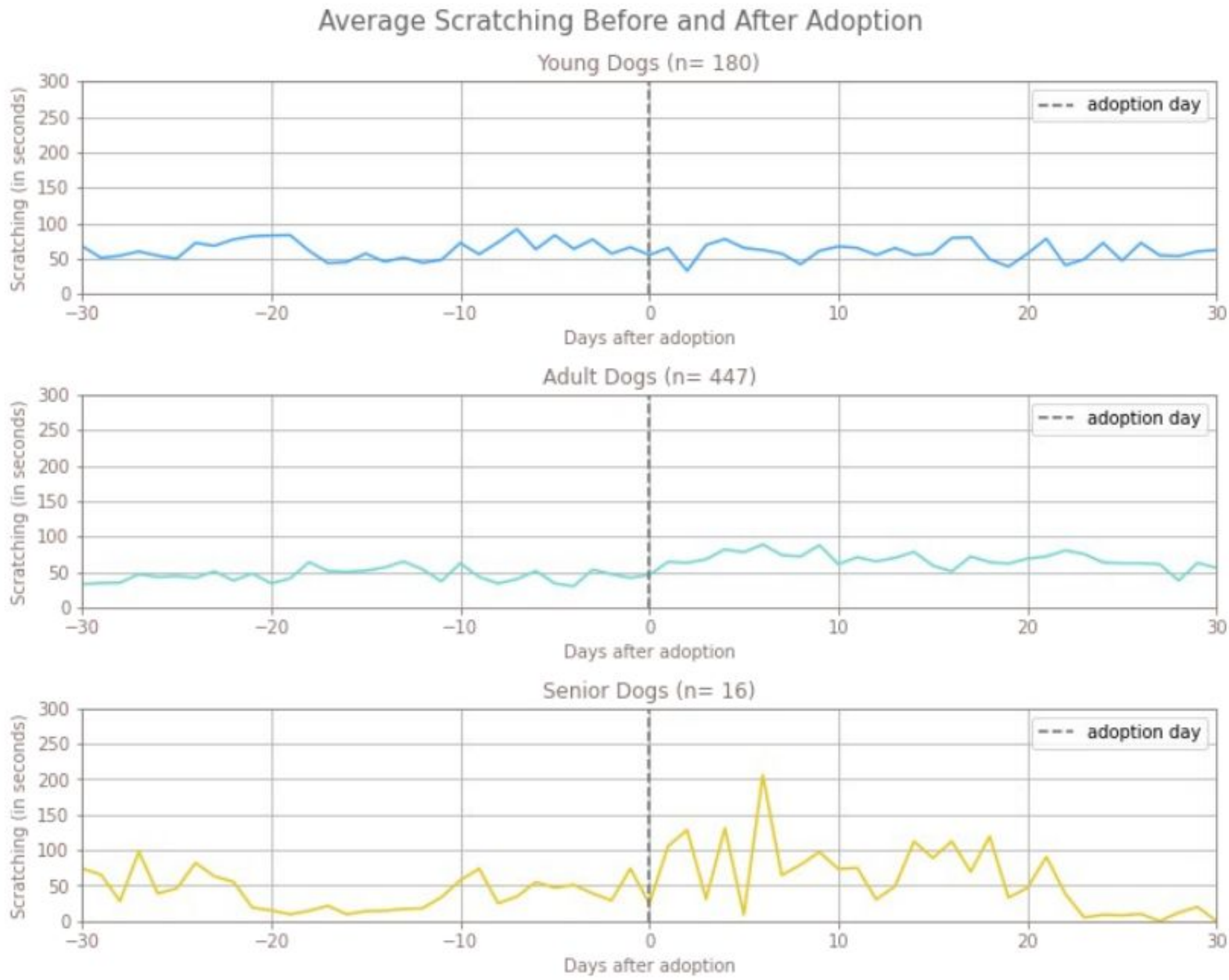


# The Data - Scratching & Size

We found that most dogs had an increase in scratching behaviors after adoption (**median of 25%**), with the upper quantile of dogs increasing their scratching behaviors by over **158%** and the lower quantile of dogs decreasing their scratching behaviors by more than **33%**.



# The Data - Scratching & Age Group



# Fidget's Story



Fidget had a good night of sleep with minimal disruptions.

**10.4**  
duration (hours)

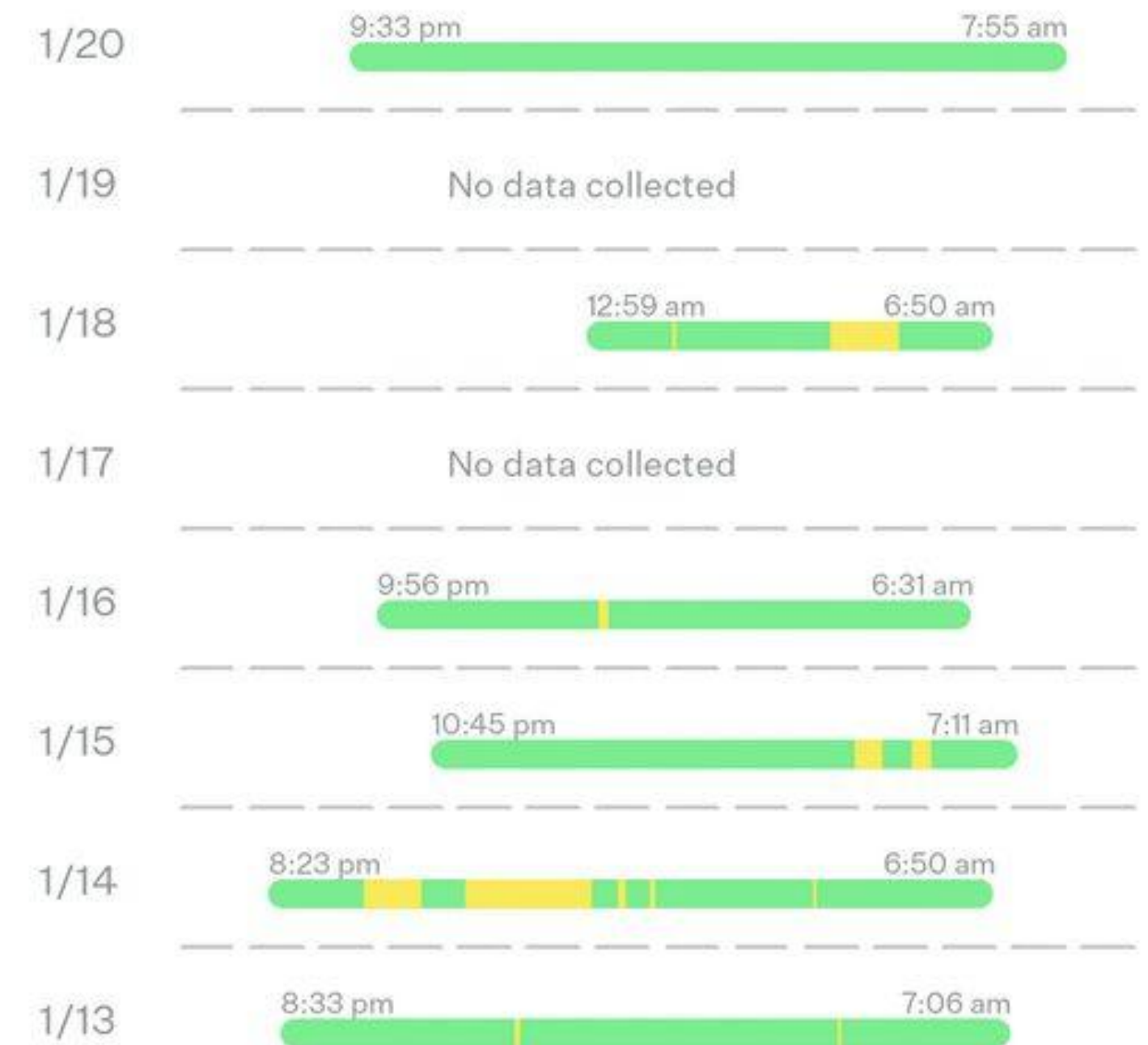
**0**  
disruptions

■ Sleeping ■ Disruption

Have concerns? Get free advice from one of our licensed vets by phone, chat, or email.

[Ask a Vet](#)

This Week



Jackson County Dog Pound, OH

# Doggy Downtime POC

## **Doggy Downtime" for 2 hours every weekday**

- Shut off the artificial lights off - still have natural light
- No one enters the dog housing areas

## **Benefits:**

- Dogs learn to self-soothe resulting in less separation anxiety.
- Dogs need some rest and keeping them at high arousal all day is not good for their health.

## **Criticisms:**

- Volunteers were only available at those and to be turned away from walking a dog
- The dogs are bored
- They are not resting
- 2 hours is too long

## **Results:**

- 100% of the dogs wearing devices slept for almost the entire 2 hours
- They were not waking up until the staff woke them up





# Other use cases

- Transport programs
- Environment – cage types
- Environment – number of kennels in a room
- Co-housing dogs
- Volunteer program management





**PEDIGREE  
FOUNDATION.**

**Established in 2008 as a separate  
501c3 to help more dogs get adopted.**



#### Our Vision

We see a day when all  
dogs are safe, secure,  
cared for, fed well, and  
loved



#### Our Mission

Supporting 501c3  
organizations  
working to end pet  
homelessness  
by helping dogs  
in need find  
loving homes



# Our Impact

## Grants



6,200+

grants given out to caring, committed shelters and rescue organizations



800,000+

dogs helped



\$12M+

donated

## Best Practices



**BARK TO BASICS:  
CREATIVE ADOPTION  
IDEAS FOR DOG  
ADOPTIONS**

Maximize dog exposure in your community for more adoptions



**BUILD YOUR DOG  
ADOPTION  
SUPER HIGHWAY**

Increasing engagement with your community to get more pets adopted faster



## Thought Leadership



Shelter Advisory Council



Collaborative Partnerships



Dogs & Data Initiative



# Working Together

## Apply for a Grant

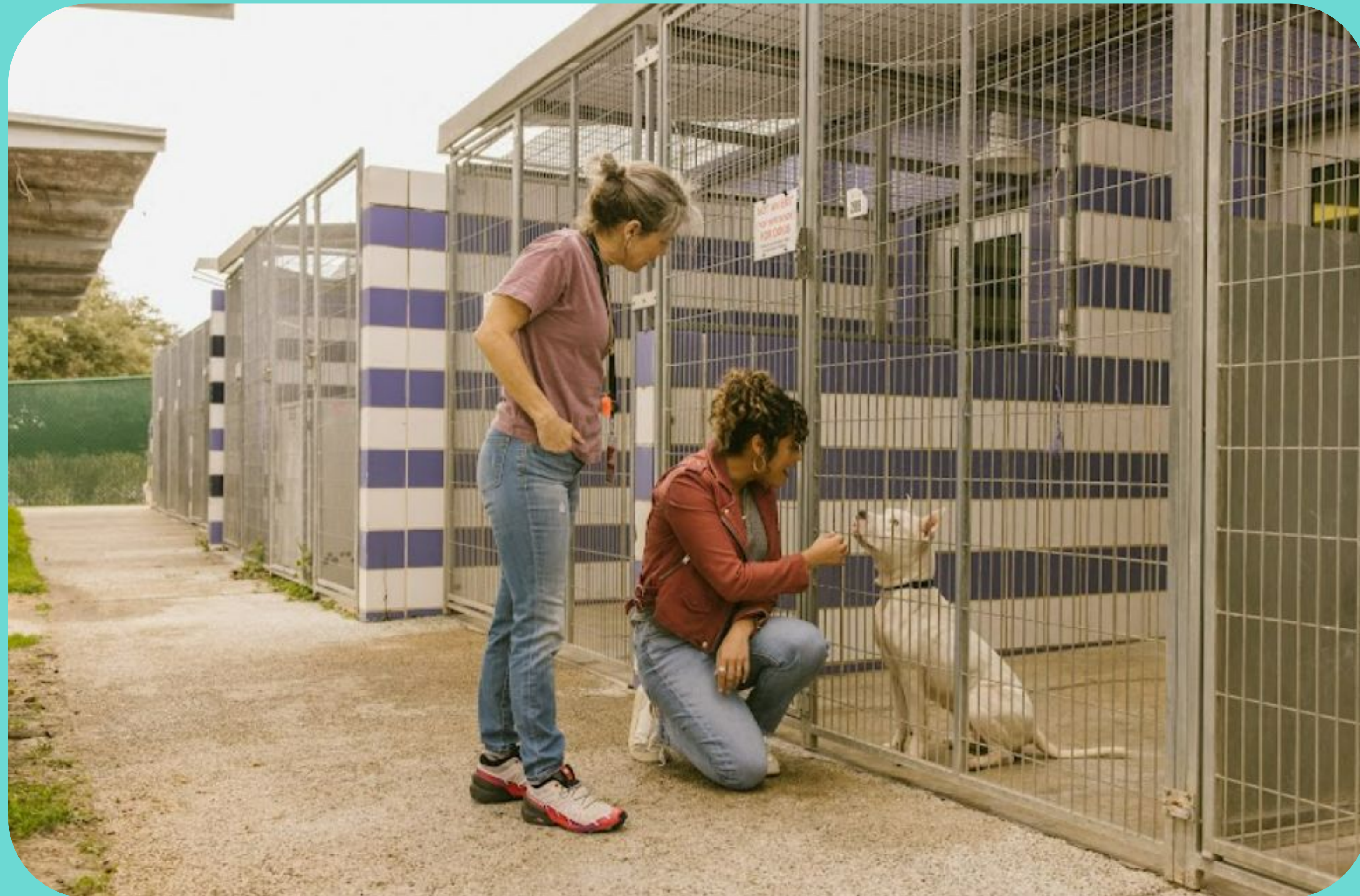
**Application cycle typically opens from March – April each year**

<https://www.pedigreefoundation.org/shelters-grant/> for more information.

## Sign up for the PEDIGREE Foundation Newsletter

<https://www.pedigreefoundation.org/> and scroll to the bottom of the page.

# The Wisdom Panel Study



# The DNA test



## 1. Activate

Register your kit with your profile using the code included with it.



## 3. Send

Mail your samples to our lab using the prepaid mailer.



## 2. Collect

Swab for 15 seconds to gather a DNA sample.



## 4. Results

We'll email you a report in 2-3 weeks' time

### Breed Mix

We detected 10 breeds in Coco's DNA.



### Herding Group

- 26% Great Pyrenees
- 15% German Shepherd Dog
- 13% Beauceron
- 13% White Swiss Shepherd
- 1% Maremma Sheepdog

# Dipper



Border Collie

Labrador Retriever

Golden Retriever

American Pit Bull Terrier

## Ancestry

We detected 12 breeds in Dipper's DNA.



## Top 5 Breeds

- 32% American Pit Bull Terrier
- 20% Labrador Retriever
- 12% American Staffordshire Terrier
- 10% Golden Retriever
- 7% Siberian Husky

# Simon



Plott Hound

American Pit Bull Terrier

Golden Retriever

Great Pyrenees



Ancestry

We detected 17 breeds in Simon's DNA.



Top 5 Breeds

- 16% Great Pyrenees
- 15% Plott Hound
- 15% Treeing Walker Coonhound
- 8% Chihuahua
- 8% Chow Chow



# Roosevelt



German Shepherd Dog

Belgian Malinois

Belgian Tervuren

Dutch Shepherd

## Ancestry

Roosevelt 22-2487 appears to be 100% German Shepherd Dog.



## Top 1 Breeds

100% German Shepherd Dog

# Brandy



Boxer

American Pit Bull Terrier

Dogue de Bordeaux

Neapolitan Mastiff

## Ancestry

We detected 7 breeds in BRANDY's DNA.



## Top 5 Breeds

- 46% Boxer
- 28% American Pit Bull Terrier
- 13% American Staffordshire Terrier
- 7% Neapolitan Mastiff
- 2% Dogue de Bordeaux

# Corndog



Italian Spinone

Yorkshire Terrier

Dachshund

Basset Hound

## Ancestry

We detected 14 breeds in Corndog's DNA.



## Top 5 Breeds

- 30% Dachshund
- 20% Yorkshire Terrier
- 16% Chihuahua
- 10% Miniature Pinscher
- 4% Poodle (Toy and Miniature)

# Patches



Rottweiler

Chow Chow

Boxer

German Shepherd Dog

## Ancestry

We detected 11 breeds in Patches's DNA.



## Top 5 Breeds

- 32% German Shepherd Dog
- 20% Boxer
- 12% American Pit Bull Terrier
- 10% Rottweiler
- 9% Chow Chow

# Echo



Siberian Husky

Akita

Bulldog

American Staffordshire  
Terrier

## Ancestry

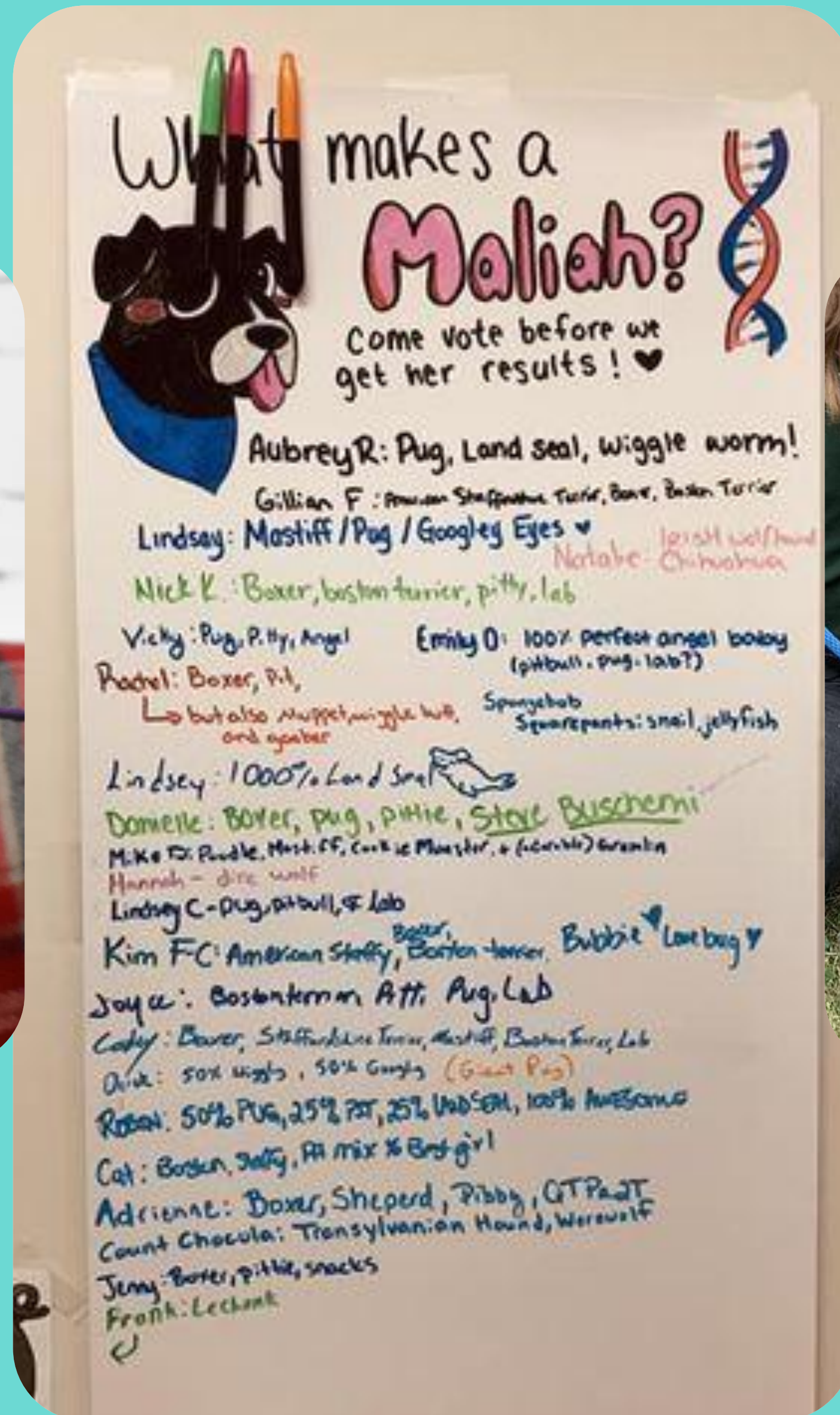
We detected 5 breeds in Echo  
11012's DNA.



## Top 5 Breeds

- 42% Siberian Husky
- 37% American Staffordshire Terrier
- 16% American Pit Bull Terrier
- 3% Bulldog
- 2% French Bulldog

# Maliah



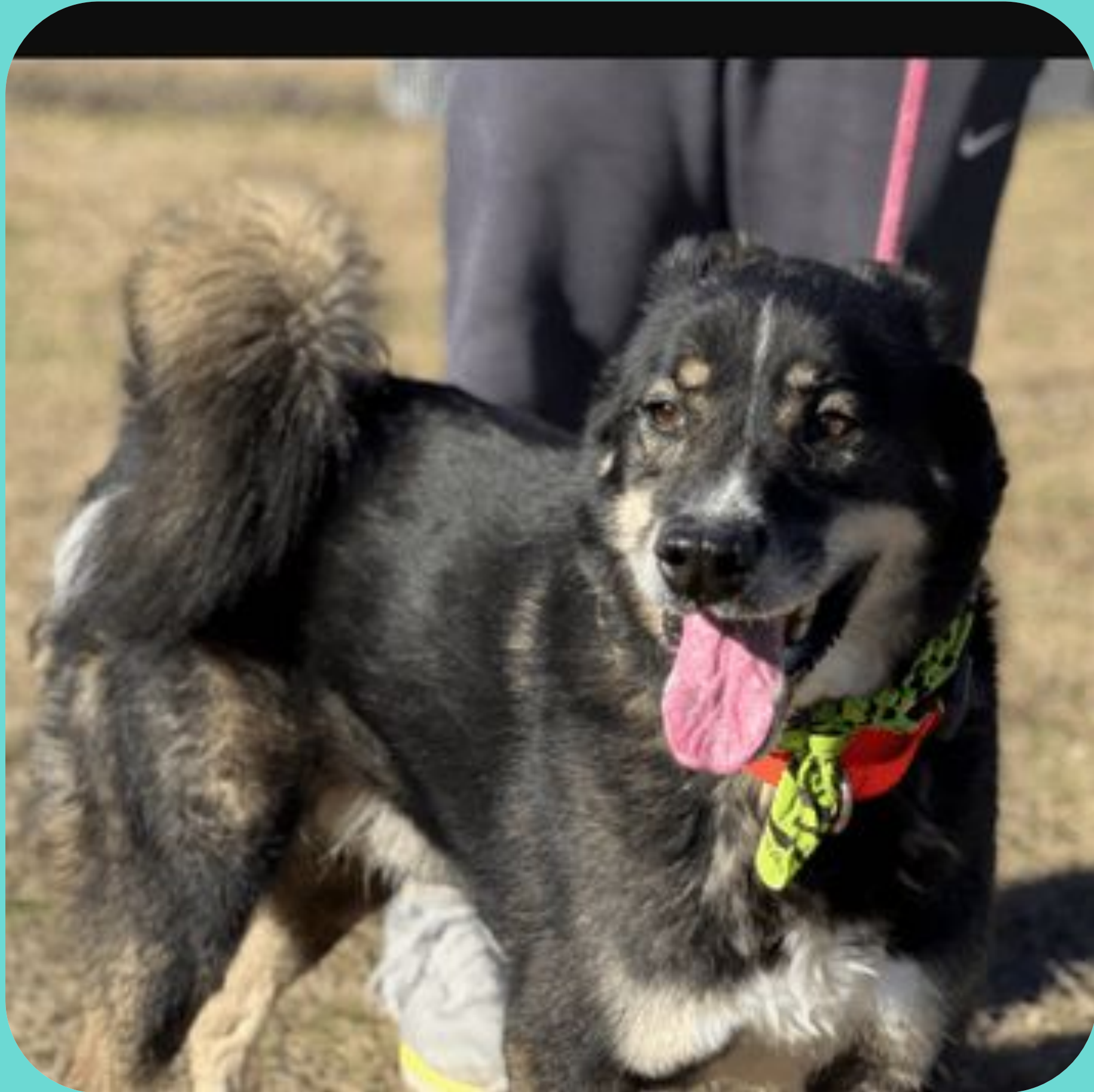
# Spike



We detected 14 breeds in Spike (A-6591)'s DNA.



# Bucky



Good Shepherd Humane Society, AR

## Ancestry

We detected 17 breeds in Bucky's DNA.



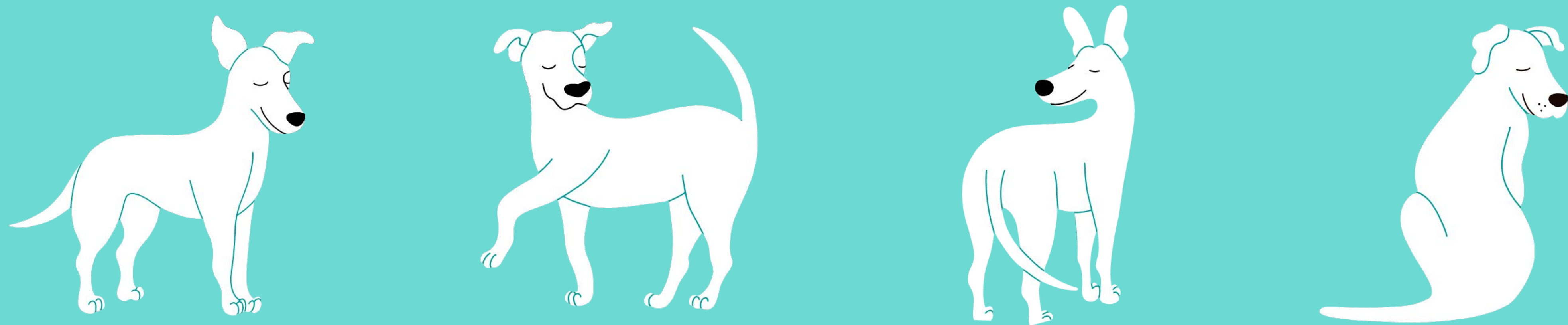
## Top 5 Breeds

- 37% Siberian Husky
- 16% Great Pyrenees
- 11% Chow Chow
- 6% Labrador Retriever
- 5% German Shepherd Dog

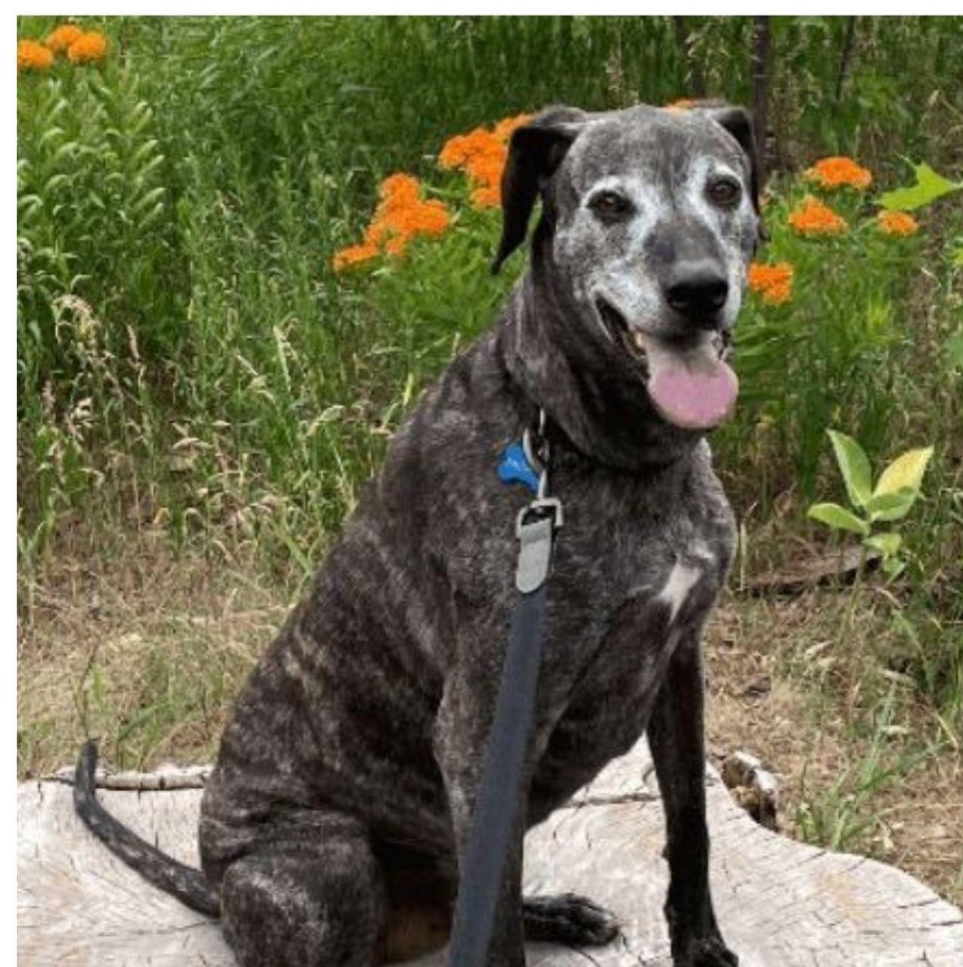
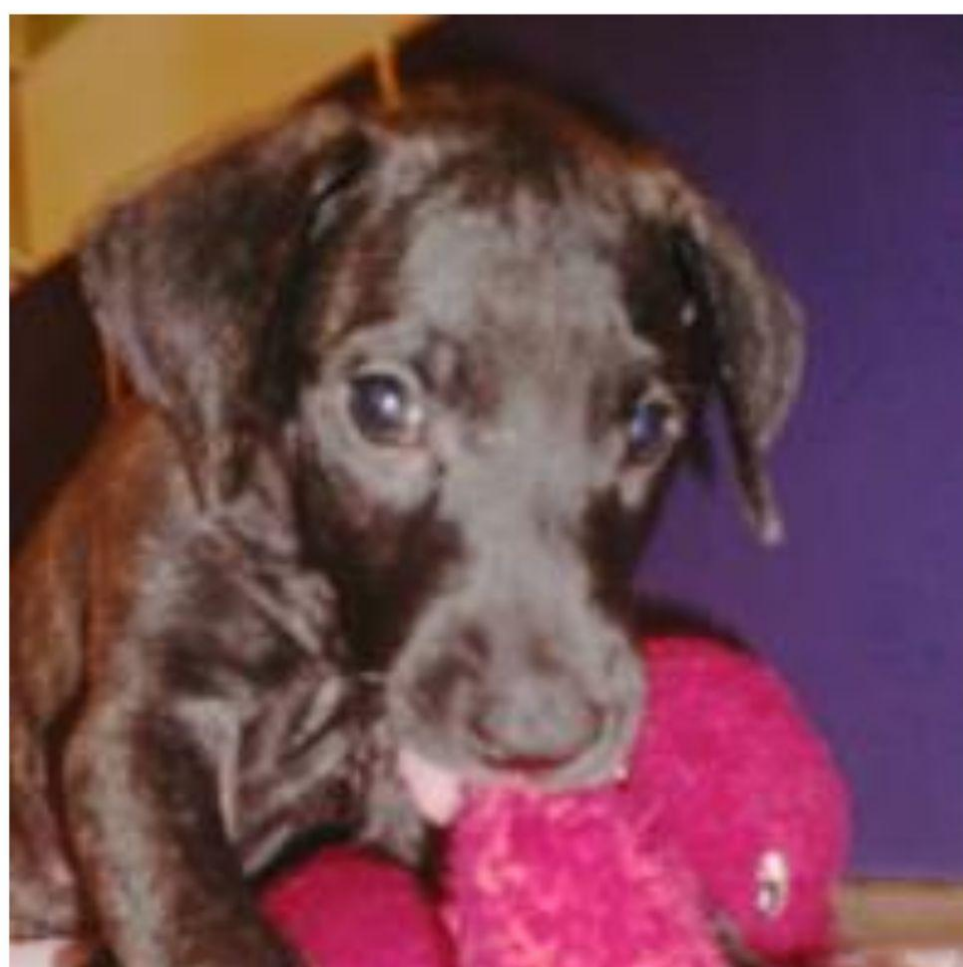
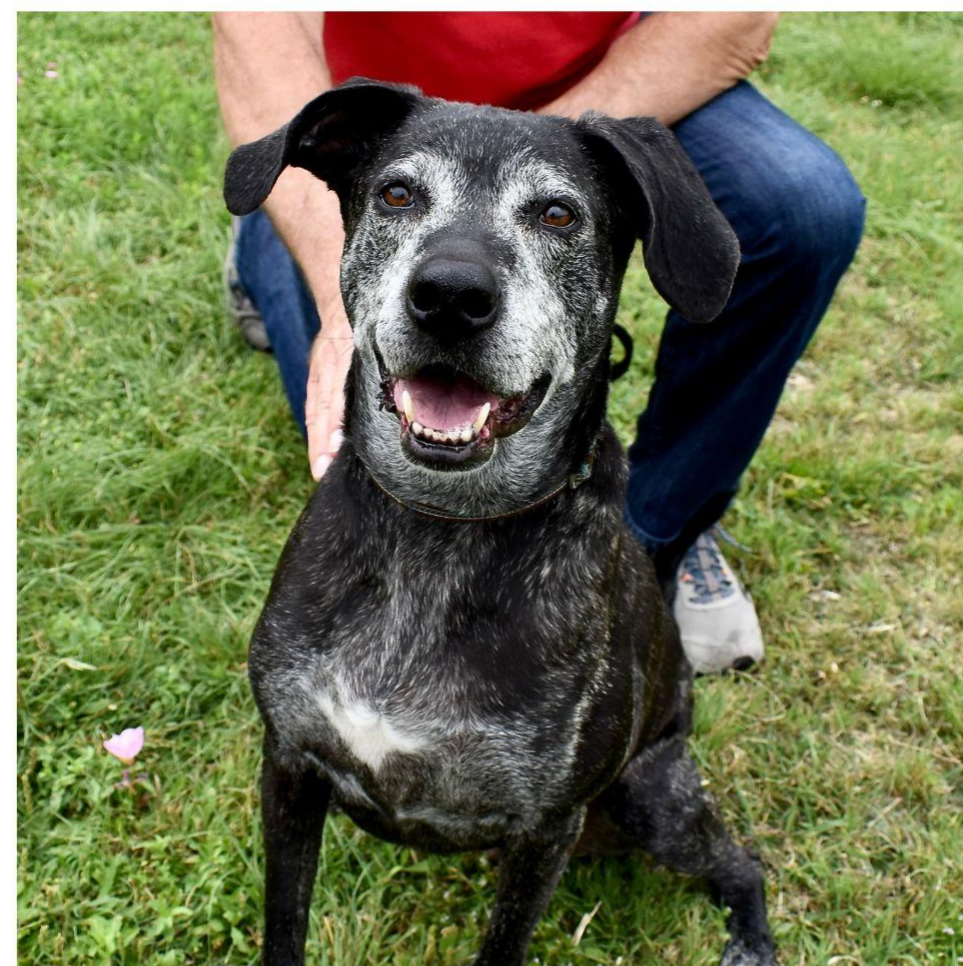


# Relatives in the community

*“The biggest adventure we went on was finding out how many of our dogs are related. It was really frustrating that a huge number of our intakes are the relatives of just a few dogs in our community.”*



# Lucy & Murphy



# Final thoughts

- Activity trackers may be worth the worth investment depending on your programs and services
- DNA tests may help long-timers or more difficult to place dogs
- “Sponsor an activity tracker for [Dog Name]” or “Sponsor a DNA test for [Dog Name]”



# A special thank you!

April Huntsman, CAWA  
Senior Director, Animal Welfare  
[helpdesk@adoptapet.com](mailto:helpdesk@adoptapet.com)




Meet Cupcake.



100% Chihuahua.  
100% Good Dog.

Meet Cocopuff.



84% Chihuahua.  
100% Good Dog.

- 84% Chihuahua
- 6% Poodle (Toy and Miniature)
- 3% Pomeranian
- 3% Maltese
- 2% Pekingese

and 2 more

