

Supplementary file 1: Primer used during semi-structured interviews.

Introduction: My name is ER and I'm the vet running the GOdogs project at the U of C. Thank you for volunteering for our study. I'd really like to hear a bit about ____, in particular his/her attitude to food.

Next, start a deliberately unstructured part of the conversation, asking the owner to volunteer information. Usually prompted by asking the following:

'Perhaps you can start by telling me what ____ is like with food?'

And later:

'Why do you think ____ is the size and shape he/she is?'

'How long have you had ____?'

'What else goes on for ____ in every day – daily life, exercise and so on?'

The owner's responses should be used as a guide for the subsequent conversation, and to ensure the **following topics were covered. Example questions are included for each topic.**

	Topic	Example Questions
Dog Topics		
a	Responsiveness to food	How do you feed ____? What happens at feeding time?
b	Speed of eating	Describe how ____ eats
c	Satiety responsiveness	What's ____ like once the food is finished?
d	General interest in eating	What do you feed ____? Is ____ choosy about different foods? Does he/she get any titbits or human food? What, and how often? What's ____ like when offered food between his/her usual meals? What's ____ like when you are preparing human food? What's ____ like when you are eating? Do you have other dogs? Have you had other dogs in the past? How does ____'s attitude to food compare?
e	Food fussiness	
f	Emotional eating	Does ____ ever go off food? If so, why? What about when you go away from home? Does food help when he/she is frightened or upset? How useful is food as a training aid or reward?
g	Scavenging/stealing food	Does he/she steal food? Dog food? Other pets' food? Human food? What's he/she like when he/she comes across discarded human food or disgusting stuff on a walk? Does ____ seek out food when out on walks or in the garden?
h	Food related aggression	What's he/she like when there's food around? Does ____ get grumpy around food?

Owner Management Topics		
a	Control over eating	See a-d above. Do you measure how much you feed? How? Do you interfere if ___ finds something edible out and about?
b	Prompting/encouragement	See a-d above. Do you do anything to make food more interesting? Do you ever change ___'s diet? Why? Do you have to encourage ___ to eat? How?
c	Instrumental feeding	Do you use food rewards in training? Did you in the past? How helpful are/were they?
d	Emotional feeding	See (f) above.
e	Importance of body shape	Are you happy with ___ weight? Do you think he/she could do with losing or gaining any weight? What do you do to maintain that weight? What do you do to alter it? How important is it to keep a dog at a healthy weight?
f	Exercise	What sort of exercise does ___ get? Do you/how do you play with your dog? Does he/she work or do agility? Does he/she match a human exercise programme? How long do you spend taking your dog out each day? How does that vary through the week/year?
g	Level of training	Does he/she work or do agility? What's his/her personality like? How well trained is your dog? How do you think it may influence your dog's behaviour around food, if at all? How well can you control behaviour around food that you don't like (like scavenging)?
h	Health	Tell me about his/her health. Any one off or recurrent problems over the years? Is he/she on any long term treatment or has he/she been in the past? Does ___ ever get tummy upsets? Are there any things he/she can't eat?

Conclusion:

Do you have any questions for me?

Thank you; explain how to find out more about the project and future results; discuss whether owner would mind being contacted in future.
