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Title: Can you spare 15nullminutes? The measurable positive impact of a 15-minute petting session on shelter dog well-being

Authors: Ragen T.S. McGowan, Cynthia Bolte, Hallie R. Barnett, Gerardo Perez-Camargo, François Martin

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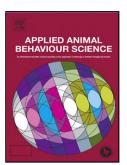
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## ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

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#### **Highlights**

- Shelter dog response to 15 minutes of petting by an unfamiliar volunteer was assessed
- Positive behavioral and physiological effects on shelter dogs were detectable
- While generally positive, dog response to the session was variable
- Dogs naturally fit into three groupings based on time spent in contact with volunteer

#### **Abstract**

It is well established that human interaction has positive effects on shelter dogs. This work set out to answer the question: "Does one 15-minute petting session make a difference for shelter dogs?" Fifty-five dogs were subject to one 15-minute petting session with one of five unfamiliar

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