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## **Abstract Book**

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## POSTERS

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### INFLUENCE OF BEHAVIORAL AND PHYSICAL TRAITS ON SHELTER STAY DURATION FOR DOGS

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The study investigates which traits influence the length of stay for dogs in the “Penkta Koja” shelter. The problem is significant, as longer stays reduce the likelihood of adoption and increase shelter costs. The aim was to assess how traits such as guard dog suitability, activity level, age, size, sex, color, and family-friendliness correlate with the number of days dogs spend in the shelter. A correlational analysis was conducted using real data on dog traits and their stay duration in the shelter. Results showed that dogs rated higher for guard dog suitability stayed the longest, with 0.40 positive correlation, while those rated as more family-friendly were adopted fastest, with -0.26 negative correlation. These insights can be used to improve shelter practices, enabling targeted marketing and campaigns to reduce the time dogs spend in shelters, enhancing their chances of adoption.

**Key words:** *dog adoption, emotional characteristics, demographics, shelter animals, adoption rates*

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