

ManyDogs Connected

July 2026 · Collaborator Update



REPORT FROM LEADERSHIP

From the Leadership Team

Welcome to the second edition of ManyDogs Connected, our internal newsletter hosted by the Communications & Community Building Committee.

As a reminder, one of ManyDogs' greatest strengths is its people, and so we've created this space to help keep you connected. Here, we'll share project updates, celebrate publications, highlight new opportunities, and amplify the impactful work happening across our community.

NEW THIS ISSUE

Ever wish you didn't have to play fetch for answers about who does what?

Introducing the ManyDogs Org Chart:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/11xTZsEd01FP4jxsJVFTTfVHo-XKsx6qB/view?usp=drive_link

ELECTION NEWS

All registered members can vote at the following link by **July 17th at 11:59pm Pacific Time (UTC-7:00)**:
https://ssp.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_01dkBoD9D33q7Gu

Questions? Direct them to Julia Espinosa (espinosajuliah@gmail.com) or the election tellers, Lupin Teles (Lupin06@outlook.com) and Gabriella Bank (dogsportstudy@gmail.com).

CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

Camila Cavalli, candidate for Co-Director

Hi! My name is Camila and I am a Lecturer at the Psychology Department in the University of British Columbia. I have been involved with Many Dogs for a number of years in different capacities. My initial participation was collecting data for MD1 with the Canid Behavior Research Group (Dr. Bentosela's lab in Buenos Aires, Argentina; where I was a PhD student at the time). Soon after, I became a member of

what at the time was the “Methods Development and Project Monitoring” committee; and have stayed a member of the now called “Methods Development and Monitoring” committee.

However, my main contribution to the leadership of MD has been as Co-director since 2023, and I would love to continue supporting the project in this capacity over a new term as Co-director. I have also recently helped to collect data for MD2 with the UBC Human Animal Interaction lab (Dr. Protopopova’s lab in Vancouver, Canada; where I was a postdoctoral fellow until last year).

My interest in MD comes from an obvious love for dogs, together with a strong interest in Open Science and finding ways to make science more inclusive. In that sense, I believe I bring a unique perspective to the project, as I did most of my schooling and initial research in the so called “Global South”; but I am now faculty in a North American institution. My background highlights my interest in considering questions that can be best answered with large samples, while reflecting on the impact WEIRD samples have in research.

In my new term as Co-Director, I plan to continue contributing to the growth of MD by helping oversee different tasks and identifying opportunities to make our internal protocols more efficient and streamlined, as well as adaptable to new situations. In addition, I will continue serving on the Methods Committee, supporting the Assistant Director with tasks related to development and monitoring of methods.

Gita Gnanadesikan, candidate for Assistant Director of Communications & Community Building

I am currently finishing a postdoc position at Emory University, and I will be starting as an assistant professor at Hunter College (City University of New York) in August of 2027. I was happy to be “in the room where it happened,” when we first conceived of ManyDogs in 2018, as well as one of the project coordinators for ManyDogs 1. I stepped away from ManyDogs during my postdoc, which has been focused on cooperation and oxytocin in capuchin monkeys, but as I get ready to start my own lab, I am excited to return to dog research and to ManyDogs. I am enthusiastic about the collaborative mission of the ManyDogs consortium and the focus on open science and best practices.

My dissertation was focused on the genetic and endocrine contributions to individual differences in behavior and cognition in a population of assistance dogs. My vision for my lab at Hunter includes partnering with local organizations—especially animal shelters—to study the behavior, cognition, and welfare of animals in their care. I hope that ManyDogs can continue to diversify in terms of collaborators and study subjects to address questions of broad interest and applications.

As a nominee for the Assistant Director of Communications & Community Building, I see two main goals for the role: 1) to strengthen the community among ManyDogs collaborators, and 2) to increase our external communications and outreach so that we can both grow the consortium and share our findings and other interesting canine science with public audiences. Internally, I propose a monthly journal club to foster intellectual community, as well as idea generation for future projects. For outward facing communication, I propose to 1) increase our social media presence, 2) directly communicate with a variety of dog-focused organizations to foster collaboration, and 3) support individual researchers interested in forging new connections with local organizations to broaden our reach, participants, and impact. I also look forward to working with the rest of the Communications & Community Building committee, and all ManyDogs members, to assess the needs of the consortium and experiment with new strategies to engage our members and the wider dog-loving community.

Hillary Jean-Joseph, candidate for Assistant Director of Data Management & Open Science

I am an independent researcher, founder of my own research business, CanidaEtho. My current project with CanidaEtho aims to evaluate the effectiveness of non-lethal wolf-deterrent measures in the Southern Alps and their impact on livestock and guardian dogs. My last affiliation was with the Université

Paris Nanterre (France). I am most interested in domestication, human-animal interaction, and cross-species comparative methods.

For most of my academic career I have been studying dogs' cognition, first comparatively to wolves' cognition at the University of Vienna (Austria), and then focusing on various aspects of the cognition and welfare of various working dogs. As such, I am experienced in handling data related to dogs sciences, as well as the challenges reproducibility of results can pose in our field. Through my postdoctoral position on the HAPNESS project, I have also gained experience leading the ethological component of a larger interdisciplinary project, coordinating with collaborators from different fields around a shared research goal. I currently serve on the ManyDogs Methods Development and Monitoring Committee, working with the other members on the internal survey about topics of interest within the community.

As Assistant Director, first, I would like to bring the topic of AI to the discussion. AI (and LLMs) are an interesting new tool, but if their use is not correctly documented, it could lead to further reproducibility problems. Hence, I would like to design and run a short community-wide survey to assess: 1) what the community thinks about AI; 2) how widely AI tools are used; and 3) what they are used for in our community (coding, data analysis, writing, or study design). I would then use these findings to open a structured discussion on whether the ManyDogs Project needs formal guidelines, restrictions, or disclosure requirements for AI use. Based on that input, I would help draft new AI guidelines (or, if the community prefers, targeted restrictions) covering disclosure, appropriate use cases, and data privacy. Secondly, I would also pursue the committees' current work on the topic of open science and data management.

Being part of ManyDogs' community has already been a rewarding experience, and I look forward to the opportunity to give back through this role.

RECENT ROUNDUP FROM MD LABS

News

Reminder to share any news and opportunities using the following link:

<https://forms.gle/HrSQrwfjoMKuE9yw6>

Recent Publications from our members

Reminder to share any new publications using the following link:

<https://forms.gle/HrSQrwfjoMKuE9yw6>

Upcoming conferences

July 14-18	Animal Behavior Society Conference	Cincinnati, Ohio
Aug 4-6	2026 AKC National Detection Dog Conference	Durham, North Carolina
Aug 6-8	2026 Canine Health in Motion Symposium	Durham, North Carolina
Aug 10-14	Congress of International Society of Applied Ethology	New Delhi, Delhi, India
Aug 18-20	IACP Canine Science Summit	Newport Beach, California

MD2 Updates

The MD2 coordinators need help with manuscript writing and are counting on you to be involved to finish this project!

If you currently have only one contribution area in MD2 (not in the areas of Supervision or Investigation), and you want to be included as an author, please sign up before **July 14th, 2026**.

You can check your info here: [MD2_tenzing](#)

A significant writing contribution on the manuscript is needed in order to be listed as an author. E.g., contributing original writing (such as a paragraph), or editing entire sections to improve clarity, impact, and narrative.

1. Please read the [Manuscript Writing Timeline and Guidelines](#)
2. Please add your details in the next open row of the [Table](#), indicating the sections and contribution areas you're interested in as well as your availability

Please remember that there are specific [criteria for co-authorship](#)
Further details can be found in the [MD2 manual](#)

You must sign up by the deadline to be included as an author; otherwise, we'll assume you're not interested.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out to the MD2 coordinators at manydogsproject2@gmail.com or contact them directly in the [md2_admin](#) Slack channel.

USEFUL MANYDOGS LINKS

Resources & Links

This issue:

- **ManyDogs Org Chart** https://drive.google.com/file/d/11xTZsEd01FP4jxsJVFTTfVHo-XKsx6qB/view?usp=drive_link
- **Internal Updates Archive** <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/15XzC14dOdPZdljWqrZVi93U-tet8clsw?usp=sharing>

Permanent resources:

- **Submit News & Opportunities** <https://forms.gle/HrSQrwfjoMKuE9yw6>
- **Add to the MD Presentation Repository** https://ssp.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9oCFdkFMgeeWql6
- **Share Canine Science Events and Conferences** <https://forms.gle/t5FYP55hjUPV7YQG6>
- **Subscribe to our curated conference calendar** [Google Calendar](#)
- **How to Speak ManyDogs** Coming soon!

Thanks for being part of this community — we genuinely couldn't do it without you. And remember:

- *Remember to vote for our newest ManyDogs co-directors and assistant directors!*
- *Presented on a ManyDogs-related topic recently? Log it in the Qualtrics form.*
- *Know of a conference or event? Add it to the community calendar.*
- *Have a job posting, opportunity, or field news to share? Tell us via the Google Form.*

See you soon!

The ManyDogs Communications and Community Building Team
Emily Bray | Hannah Burrows | Julia Espinosa | Lucia Lazarowski | Courtney Sexton

ManyDogs Project · manydogsproject.github.io