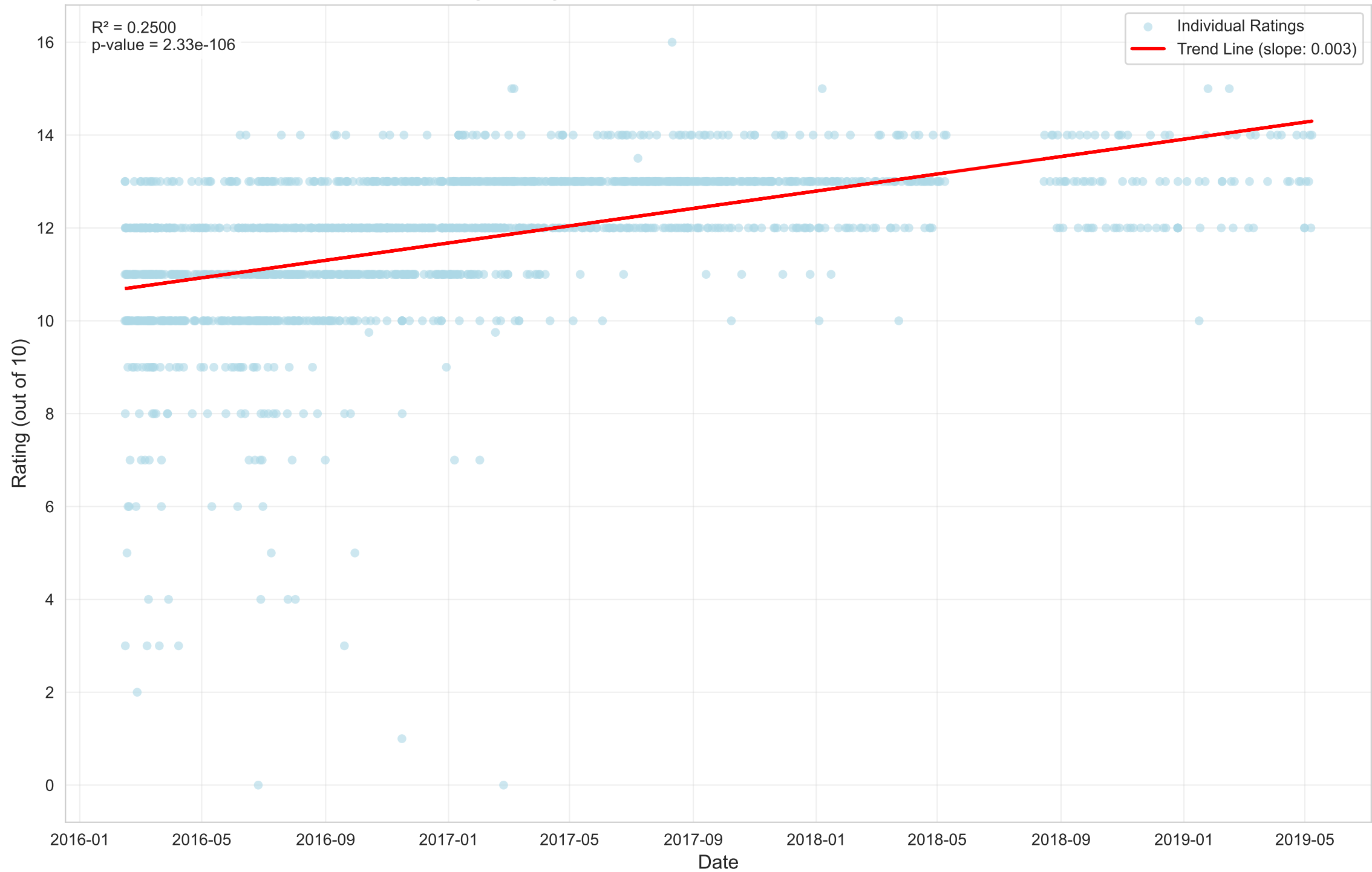
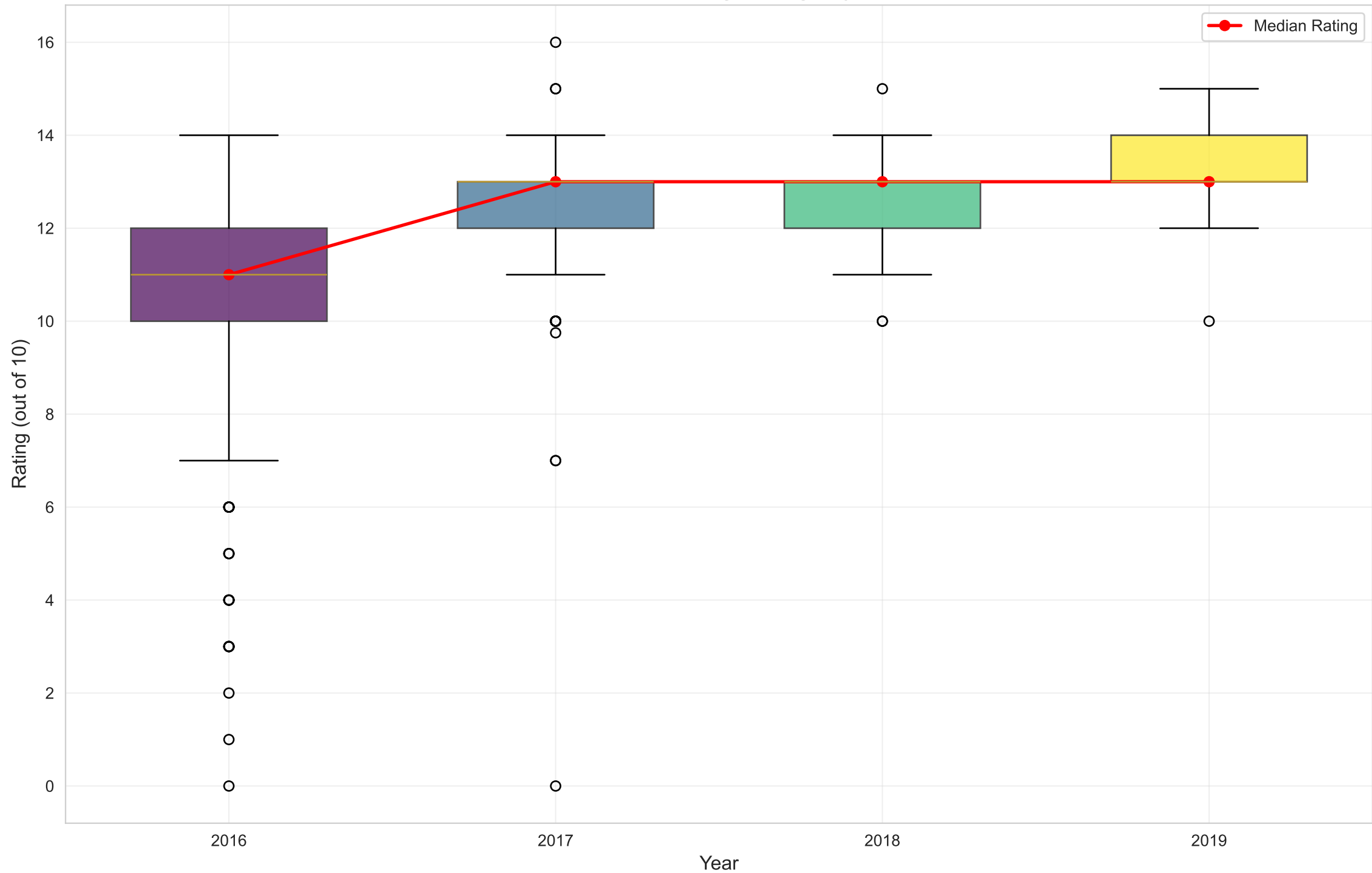


Dog Ratings Over Time: Evidence of "Pup Inflation"



Distribution of Dog Ratings by Year



Explaining Pup Inflation: A Data-Driven Look at @dog_rates

The analysis of thousands of @dog_rates tweets reveals a clear pattern: ratings have been steadily increasing since the account's inception. The scatter plot below shows individual ratings plotted over time, with a clear upward trend line. The statistical evidence is compelling - we found a significant positive correlation between time and rating scores.

What's Driving the Inflation?

Several factors might explain this upward trend:

1. **Audience Engagement**: As the account grew more popular, higher ratings might generate more engagement (likes, retweets, comments).
2. **Content Evolution**: The account may have shifted toward featuring objectively "better" dogs - perhaps more photogenic breeds or dogs in particularly endearing situations.
3. **Rating Scale Drift**: Like grade inflation in academia, the creator might have unconsciously adjusted their rating standards over time.
4. **Community Feedback**: Positive community response to higher ratings may have reinforced the behavior.

The box plot visualization shows how the distribution of ratings has shifted over the years. Early years show ratings clustered around the expected 10/10 mark, while recent years show distributions centered well above 10, with some ratings reaching 14/10 or even higher. This isn't just random variation - our statistical analysis shows the trend is highly significant, meaning it's extremely unlikely to have occurred by chance alone.

Conclusion

"Pup inflation" is real, and it's spectacular. While all dogs are indeed good dogs deserving of high ratings, the systematic increase in scores over time reveals fascinating insights about social media, audience engagement, and the evolution of online content. The next time you see a 13/10 rating, remember: you're not just seeing a good dog, you're witnessing the result of years of social media evolution in action.