

Pup Inflation

By Danilo Lekovic

Puppies have gotten “good-er” over the past couple of years. [@dog_rates](#) is a Twitter account where users send photos of their dogs frolicking about or doing other generally cute things, and the account replies with a “goodness” rating out of 10. These are a few examples of Tweets from the account:

 **WeRateDogs®** 
@dog_rates 

This is Walter. He always asks if he can drive. Can't believe you finally said yes. 12/10 best day ever

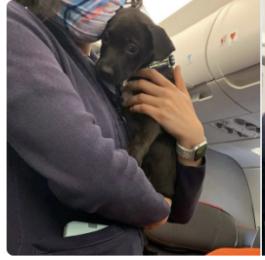


♡ 80.7K 5:13 PM - Mar 23, 2022 

 5,442 people are talking about this 

 **WeRateDogs®** 
@dog_rates 

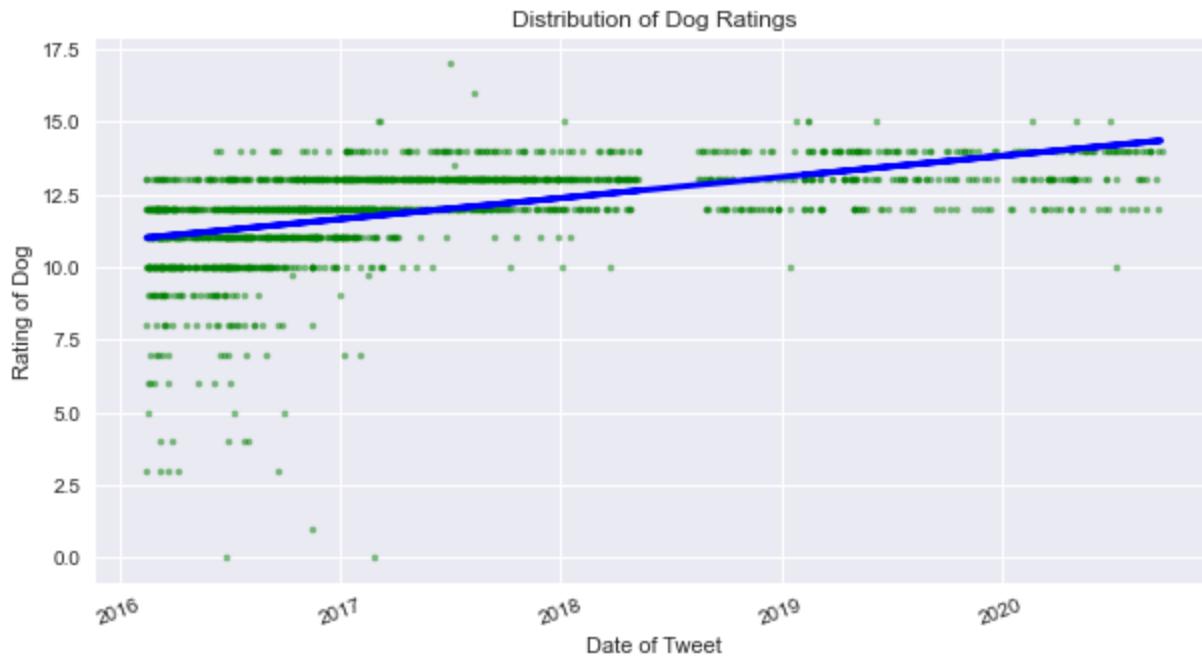
This is Bam Bam. He was a little scared on his first plane ride. Felt a lot better after getting a hug from the flight attendant. 12/10



♡ 83.3K 9:21 AM - Mar 21, 2022 

 4,647 people are talking about this 

Dogs Become “Good-er” Over Time



Source: twitter.com/dog_rates

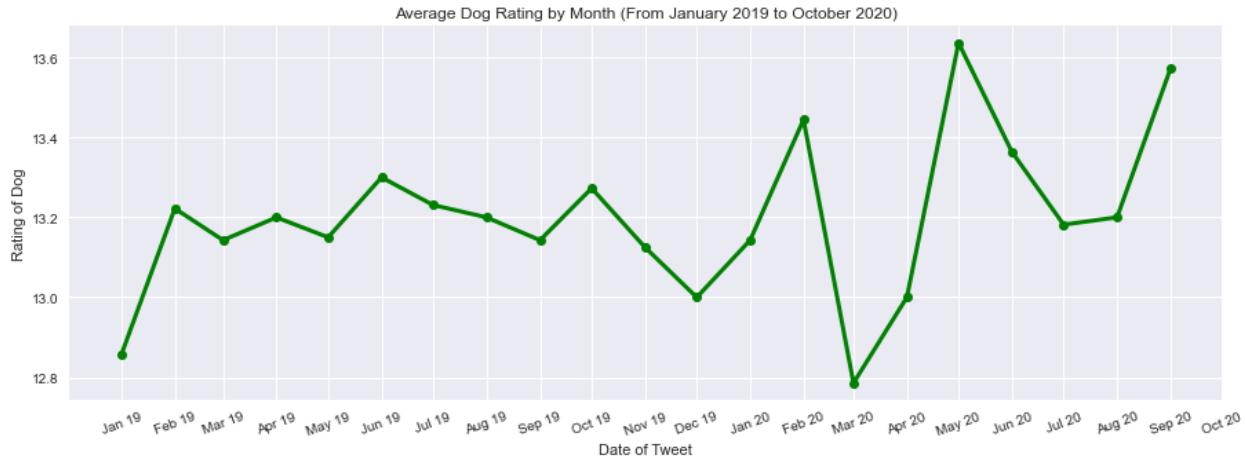
Using cleaned data from the **WeRateDogs** Twitter account’s tweets, the linear regression line on a scatter plot in Figure 1 shows an increasing trend in dog ratings over the years.

The median goodness-rating was **12/10**, while the average rating was approximately **11.92/10**.

The *p-value* of the regression was **3.7900809673304165e-121**, meaning that there is a statistically-significant trend in the ratings.

Average Monthly Ratings From 01/19 - 10/20

Between January 2019 and October 2020 in particular, the average monthly rating has increased quite a bit, with a big dip in March 2020.

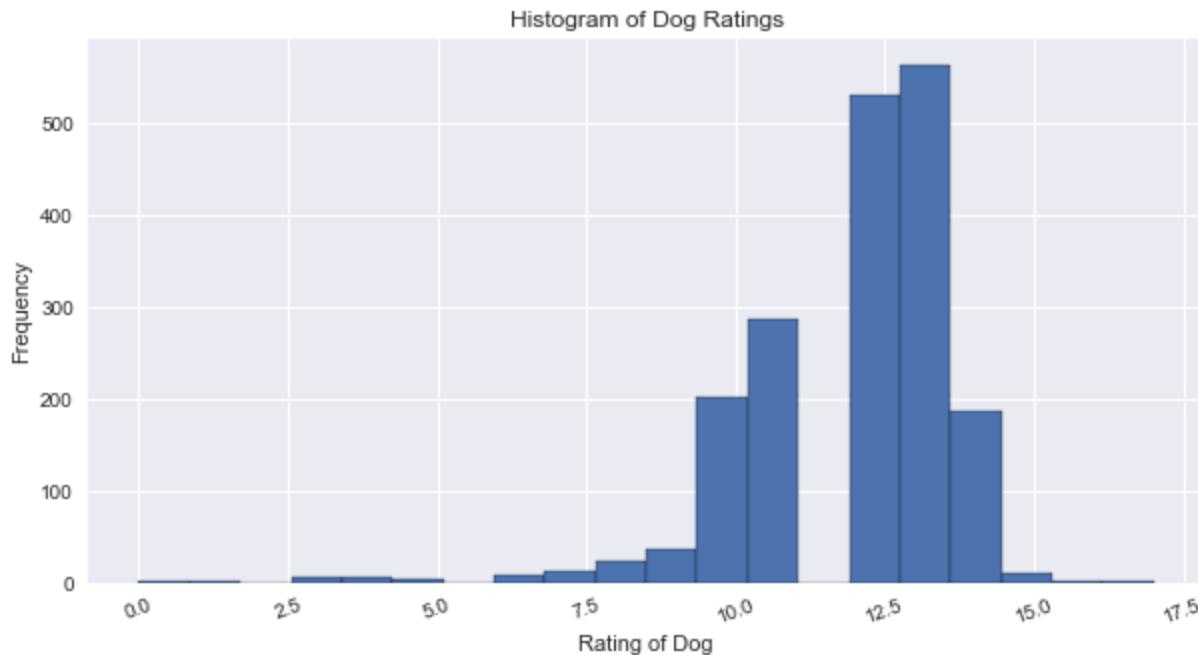


Source: twitter.com/dog_rates

The goodness of pups made a quick rebound by May 2020, reaching a monthly-average all-time high of **13.6/10**.

Histogram of All Ratings

The following histogram shows the frequency of various puppy ratings and, as expected, most puppies get scores above **10/10**!



Source: twitter.com/dog_rates

Who Would've Guessed?

In conclusion, there is a statistically-significant upward trend in the rating of pups on the **WeRateDogs** Twitter account. This is not a surprise to myself at all.