WeRateDogs retweet, like, and ratings development by M. Joukamaa

@WeRateDogs, like its name says, is a Twitter account that exists to give ratings to other Twitter users' dogs. The owner of the account, Matt Nelson, has made the tweet archives of @WeRateDogs up until August 2017 available for Udacity projects, so I used this opportunity to take a peek at couple of trends and features in this data.

Beginning its dog-rating mission in 2015, the popularity of @WeRateDogs has grown strongly during the time it has been active. How strongly, you ask? Well, lets just have the data itself answer that question:

WeRateDogs yearly retweets per posted tweet development

Year	Tweet count	Mean	Std.	Min.	25 %	Median	75 %	Max.
2015	676	1102.7	2627.7	13.0	244.0	499.5	969.0	33915.0
2016	1064	2778.3	4769.2	26.0	936.8	1547.5	2888.0	77886.0
2017	377	5890.0	5916.4	454.0	2745.00	4223.0	6505.0	49509.0

WeRateDogs yearly tweet likes per posted tweet development

| Year	Tweet count	Mean	Std.	Min.	25 %	Median	75 %	Max.
2015	676	2551.0	5644.0	80.0	642.3	1250.0	2350.3	79096.0
2016	1064	7710.5	9378.8	264.0	3034.5	4801.0	8873.5	128971.0
2017	377	23829.8	16758.0	2504.0	13670.0	20573.0	28051.0	144058.0

As the data available covers 2017 tweets only until August 1st, the tweet count for that year is markedly lower than for the two previous years. Still, the rising averages and medians for both likes and retweets alike show a strong and clear trend of increasing popularity for @WeRateDogs. For example, the median number of likes received by @WeRateDogs tweets is nearly 4-fold for 2016 and over 16-fold for 2017 when compared to 2015 tweets. For retweets the numbers are not quite as impressive (3-fold and 8-fold respectively), but the overall trend is still clear.

The number of retweets and likes are not the only rising trend that can be observed in the data about @WeRateDogs, however. In the table below, you can see how the dog ratings given by the account have inched slowly but clearly toward higher numbers during the time covered by the data:

WeRateDogs yearly dog rating development

Year	Tweet count	Mean	Std.	Min.	25 %	Median	75 %	Max.
2015	673	9.3	2.3	1.0	8.0	10.0	11.0	13.0
2016	1058	10.8	1.8	0.0	10.0	11.0	12.0	14.0
2017	377	12.4	1.2	0.0	12.0	13.0	13.0	14.0

Are these two trends related to each other somehow or do they just co-exist? Taking a look at the dog ratings and the like and retweet counts at the same time seems to indicate that these measures are indeed intertwined. The following two boxplots show that higher dog ratings are clearly associated with larger like and retweet counts for @WeRateDogs tweets:

Boxplot grouped by rating_numerator — retweets

Boxplot grouped by rating_numerator — likes
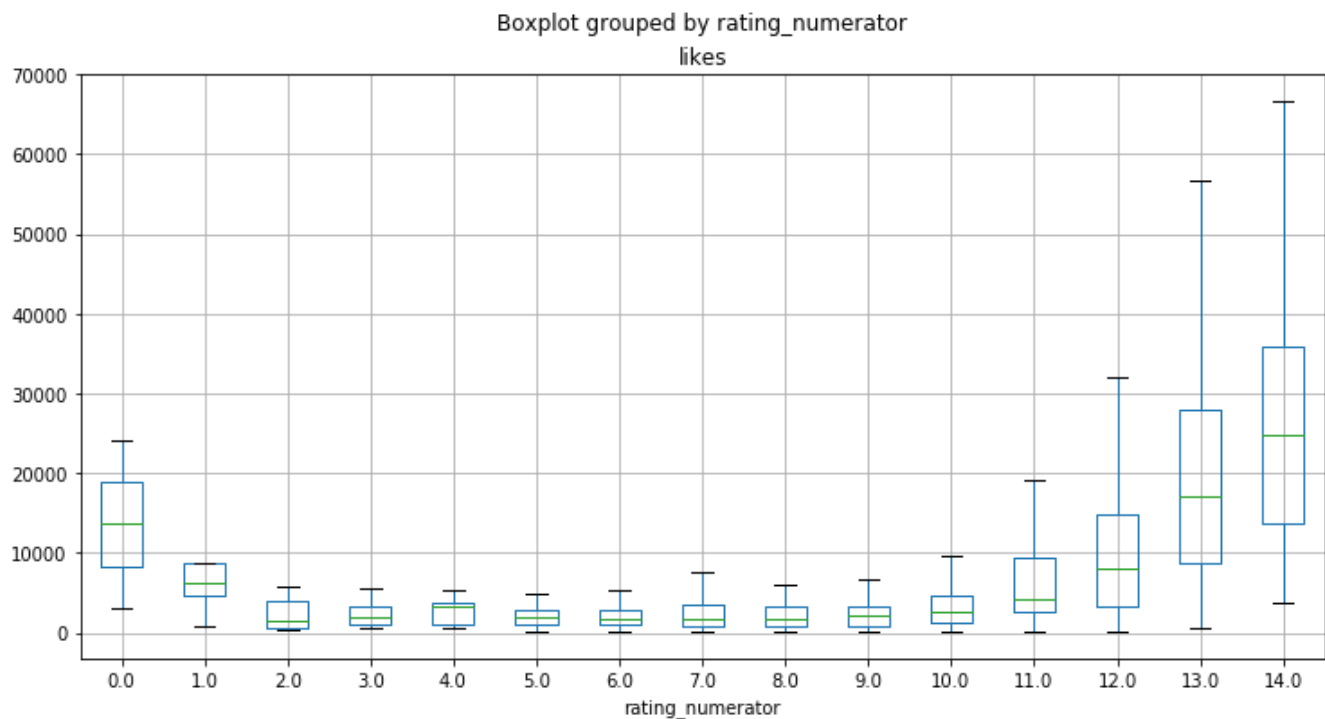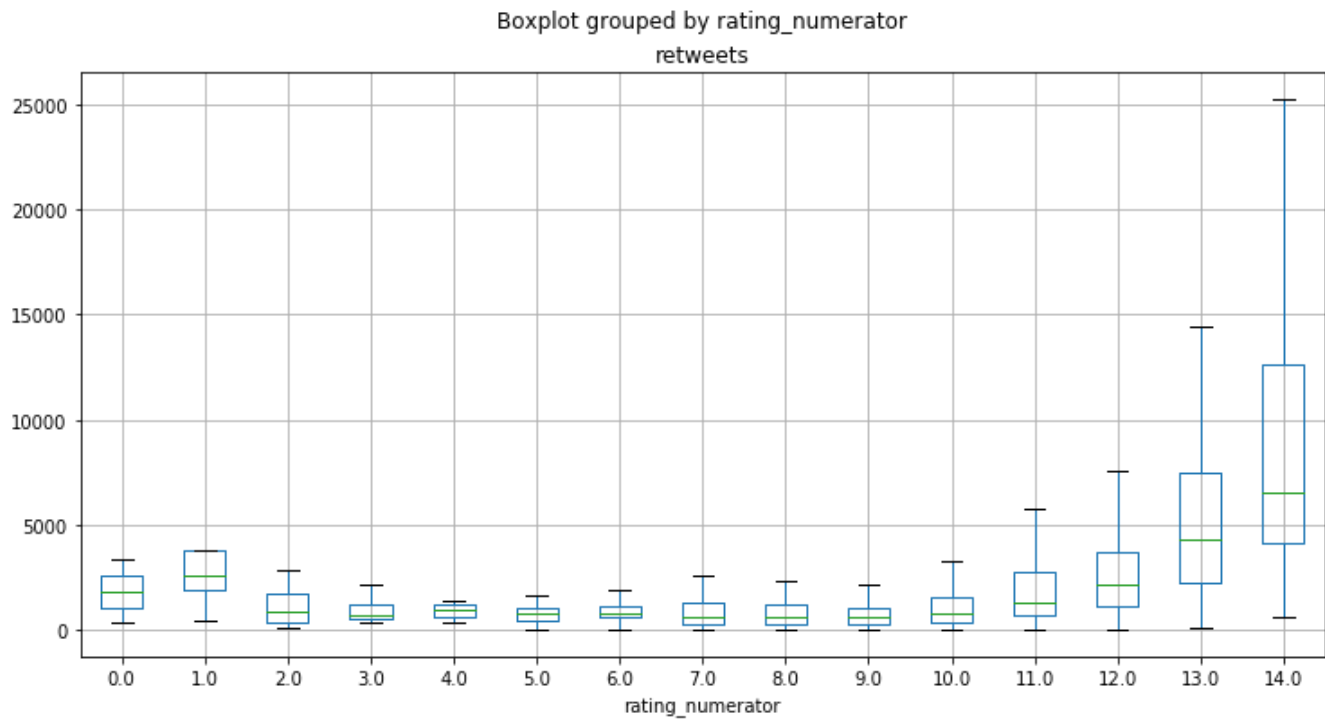
Of course, one should be careful not to imply or infer causational links between these measures simply because there is an association between them. Any number of factors might be responsible for the relationships observed above between these three variables. Still, it would be interesting to see if the ratings of the dogs will creep to even higher numbers should the popularity of @WeRateDogs continue growing in its current trajectory. ∎