Twitter has a unique ability to quickly capture otherwise-fleeting thoughts. Frequently, Twitter users adopt Twitter as a platform to share insights, opinions and commentary. This project explored one such Twitter feed - WeRateDogs.

By themselves the tweets are an amusing commentary on pictures of dogs presumably submitted by their owners. The writer or writers of WeRateDogs provide a 140 character commentary on the context of the dog in the photo. For example a recent tweet had a photo of a dog sitting in the front seat of a car looking over its shoulder at the viewer, the caption read - "This is Woody. He would like you to know that this car doesn't move an inch until you buckle pup. 13/10".

By unpacking the above example we can learn a few things. We know for instance that there's a picture, we know the dog's name, Woody. We also see that there's a score. Interestingly, most of the Tweets from WeRateDogs while unique contain attributes similar to those described.

To get an idea of certain characteristics or trends, regarding the dogs we as a society hare on Twitter we can use Twitter's application programming interface (API). The API allows us to programmatically conduct an in-depth data exploration of those trends.

Using Python's Tweepy library we get Twitter to give us our desired data. For example if we wanted to know the top 3 most common dog names, with a little data wrangling we can say the 3 most common names are Charlie, Cooper and Lucy.
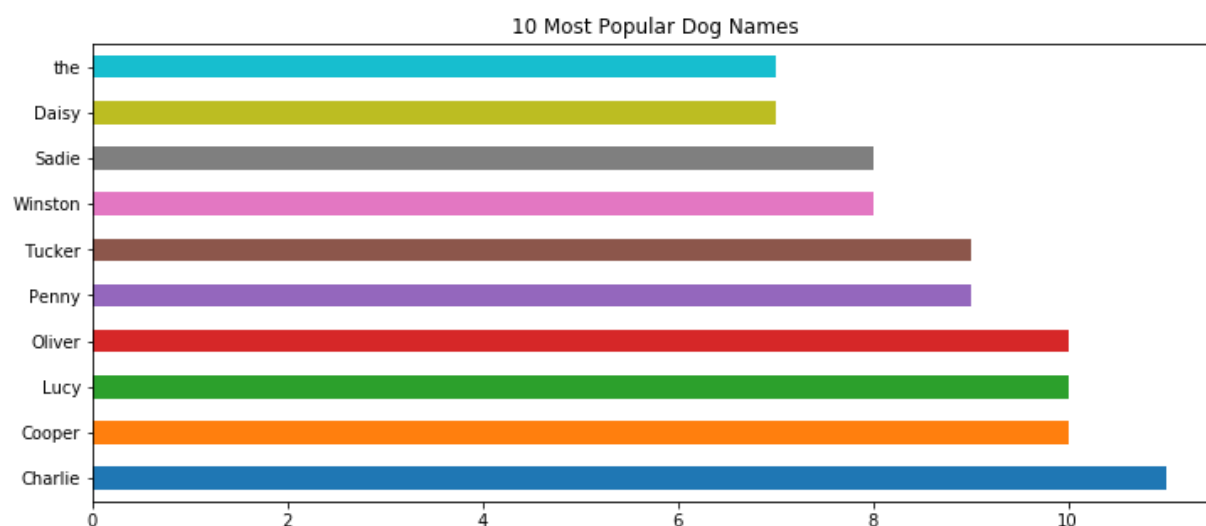
With the data gathered ee can also dig into the categories a bit more. For example on Twitter a user has the ability to 'retweet' tweets and they can also choose to favorite a tweet. Having accumulated a set of data on both categories we can see how the retweet and favorite compare. For instance, are the most 'retweeted' tweets the same as most 'favorited'. In the second group of graphs we can see how the 10 most retweeted and 10 most favorited dogs stack up. Very quickly we can see that tweets are more frequently favorited than they are retweeted, with favorites topping out at 120,000 vs. retweets at 60,000. We can also that the most favorites dog is not the most retweeted, but, the top 4 spots in both categories are the same, in slightly different order.
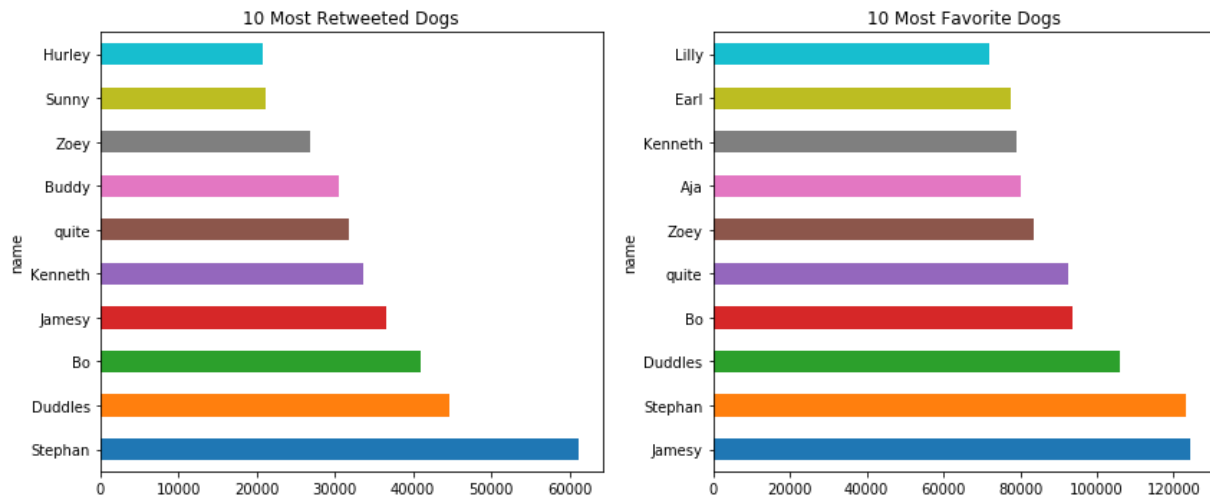
We can also see statistics to relating specifically to WeRateDogs, we know for instance that over time WeRateDogs has a grown in popularity. We can also tell that the summer months historically are pretty full of re-tweets.
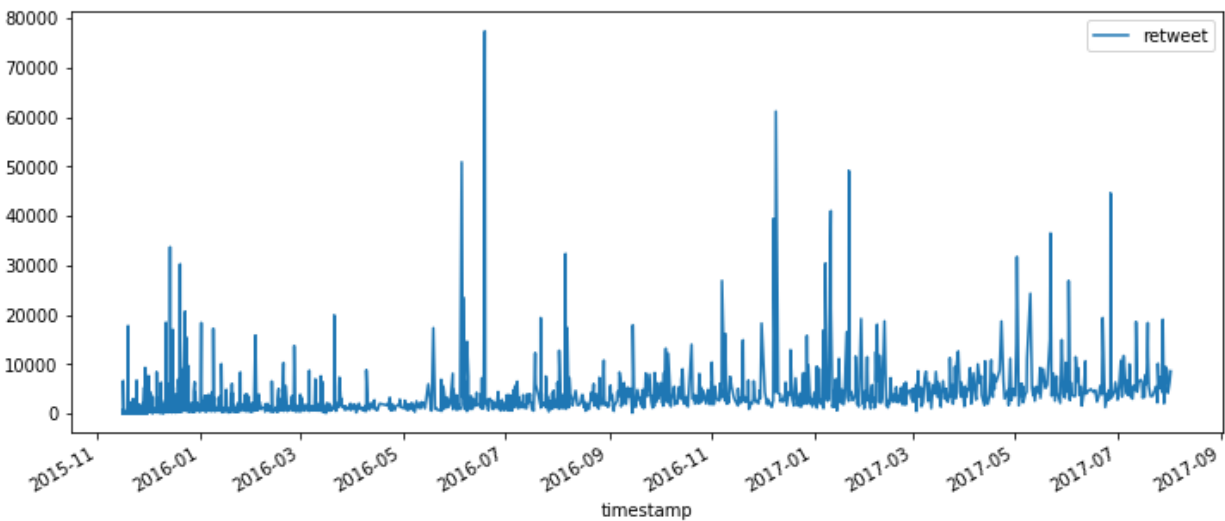
Data exploration is something we all do regularly, whether casually comparing prices in our heads' or rating a dog's cuteness factor. Programmatic data exploration and visualization provides a more meaningful way to frame data, from the mundane to the important.