Explaining Pup Inflation

There have been many tweets over the years rating the cuteness of dogs on dog_rates twitter account, meanwhile some interesting trends have emerged. After cleaning and plotting the data we are able to see the distributions of the ratings have been changing over the years (see figure 1). After regressing the data we were able to conclude that there was grade inflation occurring, and that indeed users were giving higher score than usual as time went on.

To help visualize what was going on a bit better I split the data by year; before 2017 and after 2017. I then plotted the ratings on two histograms (figures 2 and 3). It is clear that early on in the account users were more thoughtful with giving scores which lead to a greater variance. Later on users ratings began concentrating at around 12. We can all agree that cuteness of dogs have not changed over the years, yet the ratings seem to be inflating and concentrating towards higher scores. This could be due to the fact users are perhaps bored of this content and are putting less thought into a score. It also could be that twitter has become more hostile and that users are afraid of online harassment if they score low. It could be that I am over analyzing and that the account as come up with ways to make dogs cuter with outfits and tricks.
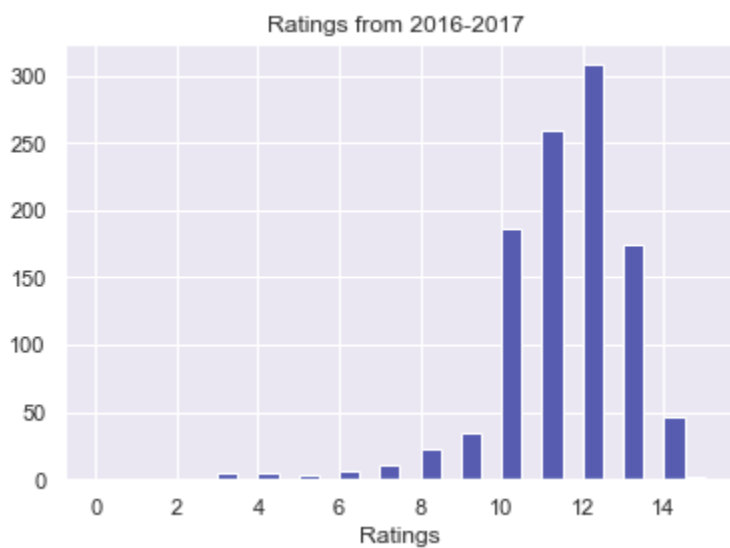
Figure 1.

Figure 2.

Figure 3.