



University
of Victoria

Graduate Studies

Notice of the Final Oral Examination
for the Degree of Master of Science

of

KATELYN KENNEDY

BA (University of Victoria, 2013)

“An Exploratory Study of Dog Owners’ Experiences in Nature”

School of Exercise Science, Physical and Health Education

Friday, May 11th, 2018

10:00 a.m.

McKinnon Building

Room 179

Supervisory Committee:

Dr. John Meldrum, School of Exercise Science, Physical and Health Education, University of Victoria
(Supervisor)

Dr. Sam Liu, School of Exercise Science, Physical and Health Education, UVic (Member)

External Examiner:

Dr. John Telford, Centre for Sport and Exercise Education, Camosun College

Chair of Oral Examination:

Dr. Mihai Sima, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, UVic

Dr. Stephen Evans, Acting Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies

Abstract

The purpose of this phenomenological study was to explore the experiences of individuals who spend time in nature with their dogs. The study was guided by three key research questions: what is the essence of the experience; how does time in nature with a dog differ from time in nature without a dog; and what are the outcomes of spending time in nature with a dog? Eight participants who spent at least six hours a week in nature with their dog were interviewed. Transcripts were analyzed and coded. Three overall themes (heightened experience, negotiating constraints, and outcomes) emerged, which informed the three research questions. This study connected two related research areas, adding to existing literature on dog ownership and nature experiences.