

Quantifying the Power of Pets:

The Development of an Assessment Device to Measure the Attachment

Between Humans and Companion Animals

by

Krista S. Geller

Dissertation submitted to the Faculty of the

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

in partial fulfillment of the requirements

for the degree of

Doctor of Philosophy

in

Human Development

APPROVED:

Fred P. Piercy, Ph.D.

Chair

Kent E. Glindemann, Ph.D.

H. Marie Suthers-McCabe, Ph.D.

Peggy S. Meszaros, Ph.D.

Michelle L. Stevenson, Ph.D.

Key words: Pet, attachment, assessment device, companion animals, care, responsibility,
bonding, emotional fulfillment, companionship

Blacksburg, VA

April 21, 2005