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Dog Walker: How Artificial Intelligence Views the Dog Walking Professional

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ABSTRACT: It is noteworthy that physical activity offers benefits for both physical and mental health. This is no different for animals. Because of this, professional dog walkers have become essential for pet owners who are unable to walk their animals themselves. Similarly, Artificial Intelligence has emerged with the aim of facilitating work and social activities, with Expert Systems standing out as systems that think rationally, enabling the acquisition of answers to specific questions. In this context, given the scarce scientific literature on the topic of "Dog Walkers," the use of AI proves to be a bridge in researching the subject of dog walkers, serving as a means of comparison between their definitions in each territory and as a means of understanding the data already collected. Therefore, an analysis and research of virtual data was carried out on the ChatGPT, Blomm, Gemini (formerly Bert), Perplexity, and DeepSeek platforms, with the objective of obtaining, analyzing, and interpreting different responses from AI platforms on the topic of Dog Walkers.

KEYWORDS: walking, profession, leisure, chatbots.

I. INTRODUCTION

The practice of physical activity by human beings is ancient, being widely reported in Classical Antiquity, especially in Greece, due to the pursuit of an ideal of beauty (SOUZA, 2010). In modern times, physical activity can be understood as any bodily movement produced by skeletal muscles that results in energy expenditure, and can be exemplified by games, fights, dances, sports, physical exercises, work activities, and commutes (OLIVEIRA, 2010).

Its benefits go far beyond aesthetics, having advantages in the practitioner's own health. Quality of life, physical, social, and emotional well-being are greatly benefited when these are analysed through their involvement in the practice of physical exercise (MACEDO et al., 2003).

In this scenario, the use of animals to assist in sports has also been reported. In ancient Greece, for example, there were chariot races in the ancient Olympics where such wheeled structures were pulled by animal traction, specifically by horses, which were animals widely used in war.

However, according to Oliveira (2018), the change in the view regarding animals is impressive. Before, animals had secular functions, such as protection, and currently they have greater bonds with their guardians, even having the family surname and great affective importance in their lives. Furthermore, they generate positive social and health consequences since their company generates benefits such as joy, security, having a pastime and distraction (HEIDEN; SANTOS, 2012).

As a result of this change, physical activity has proven important for pets because it has benefits similar to those of humans. However, today we still face an increase in cases of obesity in dogs. Many animals live in apartments and houses, do not hunt and do not exercise as they did when they had a free life (MORGEN et al., 2020). The vast majority of health and behavioural problems in pets occur due to several factors such as an environment lacking stimulation, inadequate spaces, and a sedentary lifestyle.

In this sense, dog walkers have gained great importance in the issue of animal health and in assisting the lives of pet owners. Specifically, "dog walker" comes from English and the term means dog walker. That is, a professional who provides the service of walking the pet in place of the owner. This profession has gained great visibility and importance throughout history, mainly with the advent of globalization, where interactions have become more dynamic and free time for pets has been reduced, and later, by the Covid-19 pandemic, which, due to isolation and distancing, brought a significant importance to pets, since companion animals provide a significant improvement in quality of life, as they are able to improve the happiness of their owners, reducing loneliness and improving physical functions and emotional health (COSTA et al., 2009).

Despite its apparent importance, research on the subject is scarce and recent, making it an unexplored topic with great potential, since in English-language literature, the term refers to a person who walks their dog for leisure, and not as the term "Dog Walker" is understood in Brazil, that is, a professional.

From this perspective, along with human development and changes in habits, there has been the advent of technology as a tool to facilitate work and social activities. In this scenario, we have artificial intelligence (AI). Despite its various definitions, AI is conceptualized as the study of mental faculties through the use of computational models (CHARNIAK; MCDERMOTT, 1985).

Artificial intelligence is a branch of Computer Science whose interest is to make computers think or behave intelligently. Because it is a very broad topic, AI is also related to psychology, biology, mathematical logic, linguistics, engineering, philosophy, among other scientific areas.

One way to obtain data via AI is by activating an Expert System. An Expert System is an important area of AI, developed from the needs of processing non-numerical information. An expert system is capable of presenting conclusions on a given topic, provided it is properly guided and fed. That is, it allows the retrieval of data previously collected by its system. This system was built upon a knowledge base comprised of facts, rules, and heuristics about the domain, just as a human expert would, and should be able to offer suggestions and advice to users, as well as acquire new knowledge and heuristics through this interaction (BARONE, 2003). Thus, AI can be understood as a system that thinks rationally, enabling the obtaining of answers to specific questions. Therefore, this research seeks to analyse how Artificial Intelligence understands the term "Dog Walker," examining how Artificial Intelligence answers specific questions about the term "Dog Walker," interpreting and relating how different AI platforms interpret the same theme, and finally, analysing how Artificial Intelligence postulates specific answers despite its scarce source of scientific data and its variable regional definitions in each country.

II. METHOD

This study was conducted as an analysis and research of virtual data, with the objective of obtaining, analyzing, and interpreting different responses from AI platforms on the topic of Dog Walker. For this purpose, the following chatbot platforms were used: ChatGPT, Gemini (Google), Blomm, Perplexity, and DeepSeek. The search strategy involved asking specific and direct questions such as: “What is a Dog Walker?”, “What are the prerequisites to be a Dog Walker?”, “How does the literature understand the term Dog Walker?”, among other questions, which served as the basis for the creation of a comparative table.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The artificial intelligences (AIs) analyzed mostly interpret Dog Walker as a profession, with the exception of Blomm, which presents a broader view, including contexts beyond the professional one. All platforms highlighted physical fitness as an essential prerequisite for the activity, reinforcing the physically demanding nature of the work. The literature recognizes Dog Walker as a profession, but also inserts the term in variable contexts, such as leisure activity or volunteering, indicating a flexibility in the definition.

Table 1. Results of AIs interpretation.

	ChatGPT	Perplexity	Gemini	Blomm	DeepSeek
What is a Dog Walker?	Professional	Professional	Professional	“Someone who walks (dogs)”	Generally paid
Prerequisites	Knowledge, physical fitness, love	Knowledge, physical fitness	Knowledge, physical fitness, love	Knowledge, physical fitness, love	Knowledge, physical fitness, love
Literature	Various approaches: profession	Professional	Professional	Varied contexts	Promotes well-being
Leisure or profession?	Both	Profession	Both	Both	Both
Different literatures	Caregivers, guardians/owners, professional, intermediaries	Terminology varies	Ethology, Veterinary Medicine, Animal Psychology	Humanities, Veterinary, Business, regionally	Well-being, public health, economy
How to start?	Learning (health), physical fitness, business plan, legalization	Did not mention physical fitness	Knowledge	Practice, promote yourself, quality services, courses	Knowledge, experience, portfolio, register as a professional, marketingStudy, research the

					market, promote yourself, set your prices
License?	Business registration, municipal licensing, liability insurance, certifications	No	Varies	Depends on the location	Depends on the location
Example:	Brazil: (MEI)USA: Business License and England: Pet Sitting License	–	Registration at city hall or a Dog Walker course certificate	Brazil: MEI	–
Do you need to be a veterinarian or a physical education professional?	No	No	No	No	No
Prices	R$ 20 to R$ 600Variations depending on duration and frequency of walks	R$ 20 to R$ 50 per walk	R$ 30 to R$ 80 per hour of walking	R$ 15 to R$ 400	R$ 30 to R$ 80Varies by location, time, number of animals
References	General knowledge	No scientific literature; open websites	No scientific literature; open websites	Open websites; not directly scientific literature	Based on general knowledge

Initially, the AIs treated Dog Walker predominantly as a profession, but some, throughout the responses, also associated it with a leisure activity. Perplexity, however, remained firm in classifying it exclusively as a professional occupation. It is also noted that, although the terminology varies between sources, no AI compared the linguistic nuances between English and Portuguese, where there is a perceptible difference in the conceptualization of the term.

Regarding the requirements to enter the profession, all platforms emphasized the need for studies and knowledge in animal health, although none indicated specific training in veterinary medicine or physical education as mandatory. However, they acknowledged that knowledge in these areas can add value to the service provided.

Regarding the necessary licenses, there was divergence among the responses. ChatGPT stood out for addressing the documentation required in different countries, while other AIs were more generic. In Brazil, for example, although it is not mandatory, a Dog Walker can register as a Microentrepreneur Individual (MEI), which provides some formalization to the activity.

Regarding the fees charged, the AIs pointed out that these vary according to factors such as location, time, and number of animals, reflecting the market dynamics of the profession. As for the sources used, it was observed that no AI directly cited scientific literature in its responses, relying mainly on open websites. Blomm was the only one that mentioned scientific sources, but made it clear that these served only as a complement, not as the main basis. This lack of academic references suggests a gap in the depth of the information provided, indicating that AIs still rely largely on data available on the internet, without more rigorous curation. In short, AIs show consensus regarding the professional nature of the Dog Walker and the physical requirements demanded, but diverge in aspects such as regulation and contextualization of the activity.

Interventions aimed at encouraging dog walking may be more effective by strengthening male owners' intention to engage in this activity, as well as by promoting the creation of schedules, routines, and shared responsibilities among different household members (WESTGARTH et al., 2022). In addition, it is important to reinforce the habit of walking the dog in everyday life. These interventions should also consider strategies to overcome perceived barriers and challenges, especially those related to self-efficacy, as such factors may hinder the translation of intention into practical action.

Ressetti and Portela (2025) emphasize that the topic of "Dog Walking" remains underexplored and presents considerable potential for research, as it relates to both human and animal health, making this investigation pioneering in this field and of extraordinary importance. Through a literature review, the authors report that the term "Dog Walking" initially yielded a large number of results; however, after all filtering and analysis procedures, no eligible studies or contents were identified, thereby

reinforcing the broad possibilities for future research. The term “Dog Walking” proved to be more promising in the initial numerical analysis, but it also presented no corresponding eligible records after the final screening, confirming the need for and feasibility of further studies in this area.

CONCLUSIONS

The topic of "Dog Walker" presents great research potential, as it connects human and animal health, revealing itself as a pioneering and extremely important area. The AIs analyzed agree that Dog Walker is a profession requiring physical fitness and knowledge of animal behavior, without requiring specific training. They differ on regulation: ChatGPT details requirements by country, while others are vague. In Brazil, they cite MEI (Individual Microentrepreneur) as a non-mandatory option. Prices vary according to demand, but there is a lack of market data support. The main limitation is the dependence on generic sources, with only Bloom using complementary academic literature. There is a lack of comparative analysis between cultures and terminologies, pointing to the need for more contextualized and technically grounded answers. Furthermore, it is observed that although the AIs are constantly improving based on user research, some of their answers are still based on non-scientific literature, which may generate erroneous or incomplete responses.

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