

An Analysis of Tulpa-Host Relationships

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Abstract

A large portion and perhaps a majority of hosts have relationships of some kind with one or more of their tulpas. The motivations for both sides are simple – proximity to one another is extraordinary and interpersonal chemistry is often ideal – but the purpose of this study is to analyze how tulpa-host relationships develop and what forms they take at varying stages in a tulpa's life. Participants were voluntary survey respondents sampled from nine different tulpa-focused Discord servers, the Tulpas subreddit, and the regular tulpa threads located on 4chan's /trash/ server over a period of three days. Invalid or obvious troll responses (attack helicopter gender, 100,000 tulpas, etc) have been eliminated from the data set and a further two data points with 50 or more tulpas are not included in any data analysis but remain in the data set. Interview logs and case analysis was gathered on a voluntary basis from those who left contact information. Findings indicate that few hosts create tulpas with any intention of having sexual or romantic relations with them, but many end up with those relationships regardless, often at the behest of the tulpa. Tulpas are more likely to express feelings first, desire to take the relationship further, and be happy with their relationship than hosts.

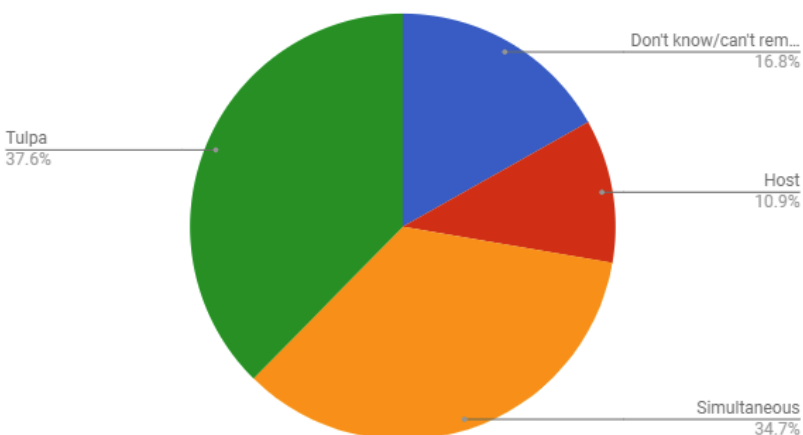
Survey Structure

104 trimmed voluntary responses were collected from nine Discord servers, the Tulpas subreddit, and 4chan tulpa threads located on /trash/. Of these, 102 are included in data analysis. Fill-in responses to Question 8, which asked about the current or most extensive relationship situation between the host and tulpa in question, were grouped under appropriate pre-made categories except for three responses sufficiently different from any existing categories.

Significant Findings

1. Tulpas are the predominant driving force in many relationships.

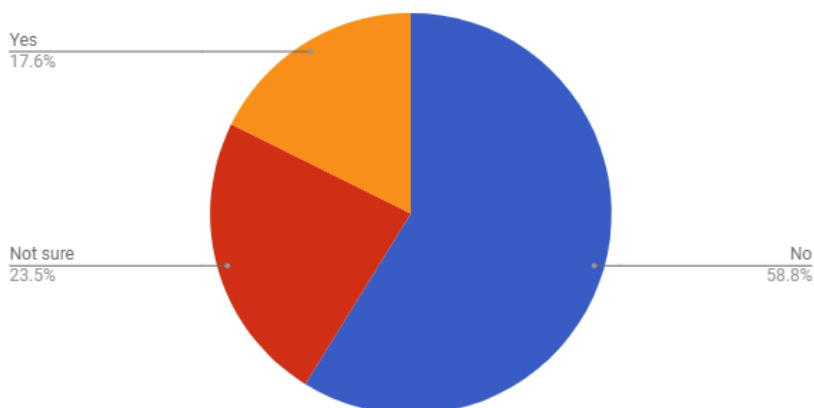
Who developed feelings first? (n=101)



Tulpas were the sole initiator of 37.6% of all observed relationships, while Hosts alone only represented 10.9% of cases.

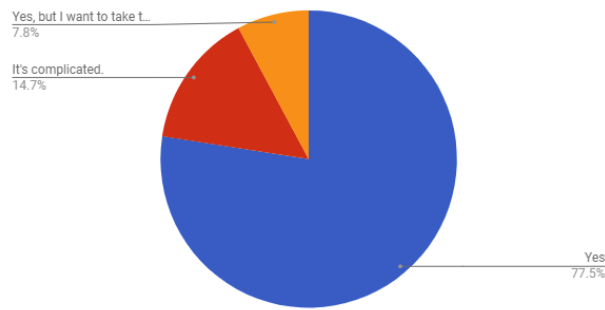
This correlates with the next chart that shows how even among hosts currently or formerly in a relationship with their tulpas (the sole and only respondents to this survey), a majority did not intend to have a relationship with their tulpas at all.

Did the host intend to have a romantic and/or sexual relationship with the first tulpa they created? (n=102)

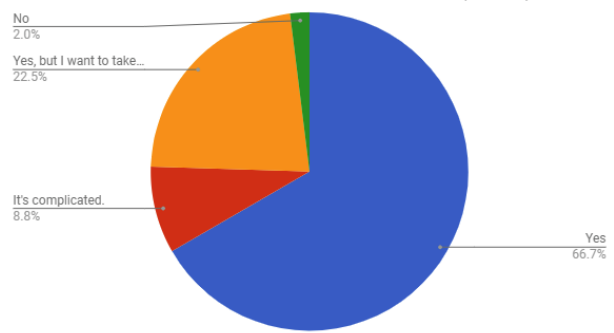


Predominantly, relationships form and are driven further either by the tulpa or a simultaneous development of feelings. This is also shown in the third and final chart for this section, that compares how hosts and tulpas view their current relationships, where slightly more tulpas than hosts are either happy with their current situation or want to take things further, and significantly more want a deeper relationship (next page).

Are you, the host/primary fronter, happy with the current relationship? (n=102)

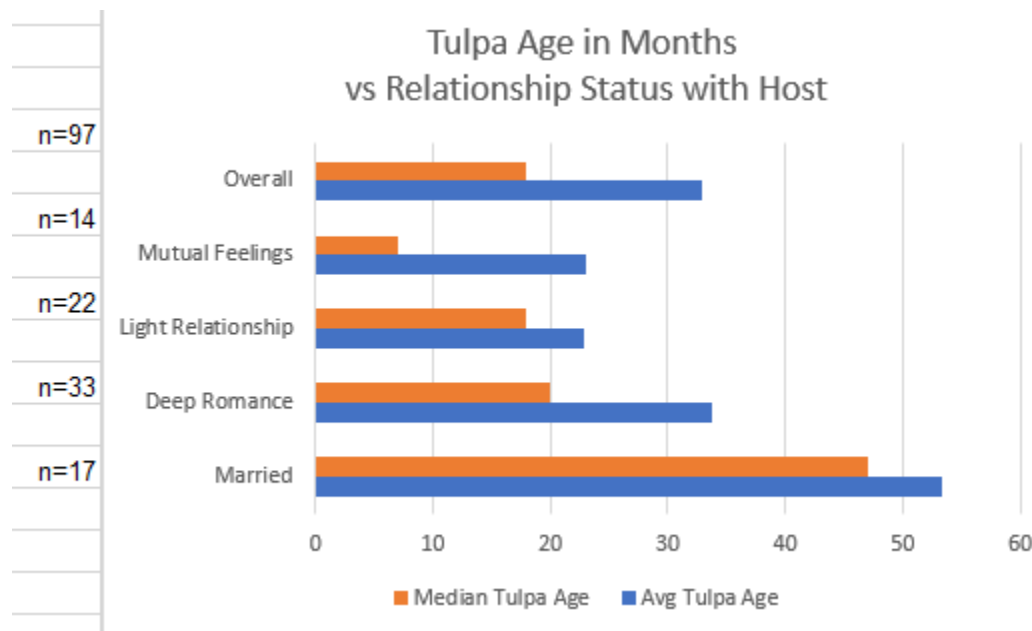


Is the tulpa happy with the current relationship? (n=102)

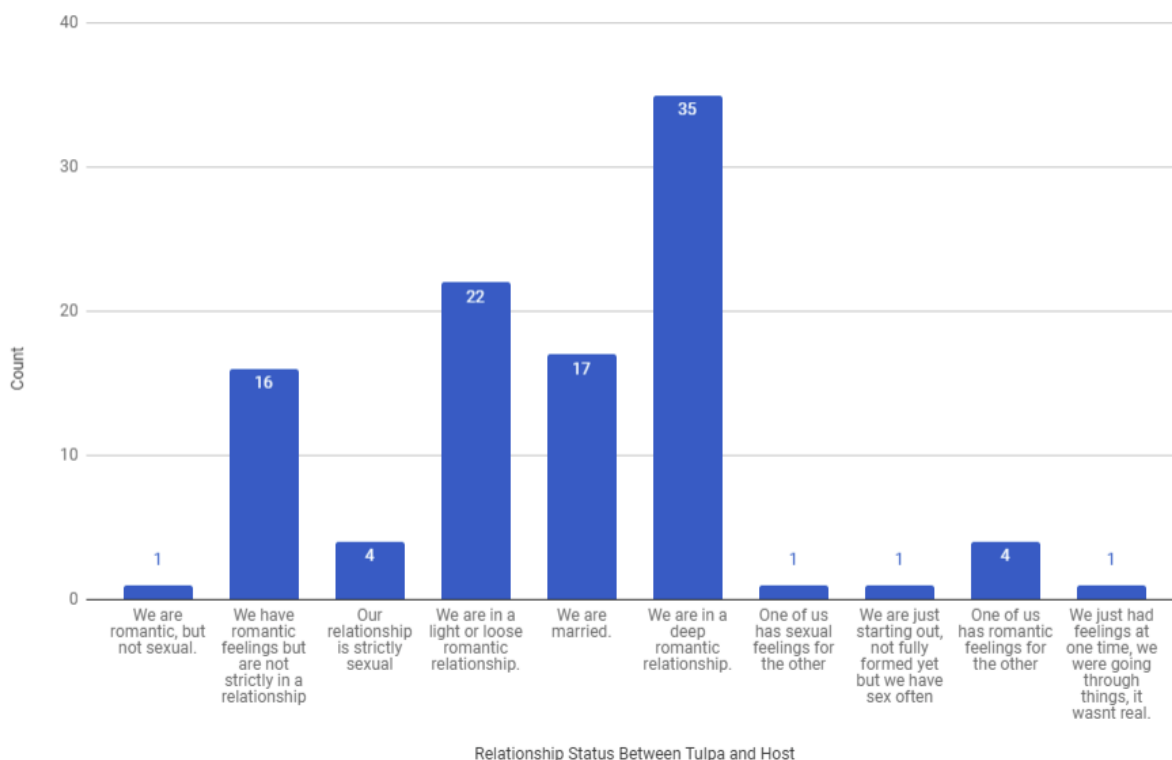


2. As tulpas grow older, they often desire or find themselves in deeper relationships.

Although this result is unsurprising, it is still significant to note how deeper levels of relationship and romantic involvement correlate with older age in tulpas. Note that several responses are omitted in the first chart because a few respondents declined to provide the age of their tulpa.

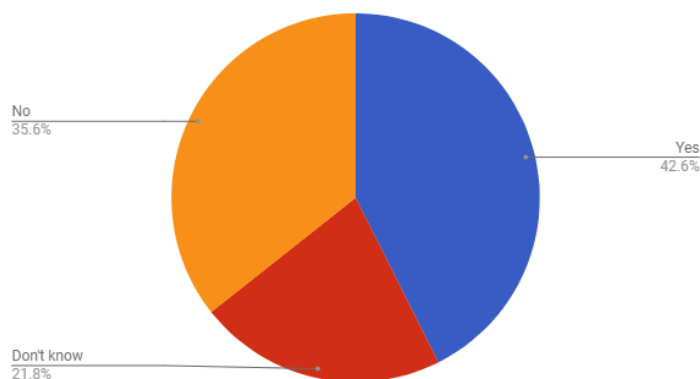


Which of these statements most accurately represents your, the host or primary fronter, relationship with the tulpa answered for above? If you are not currently in a relationship with your tulpa but had a past one, to what extent did it reach? (n=102)



3. A large portion of hosts with in-system relationships do not consider themselves monogamous.

Do you consider yourself to be monogamous? (n=101)



Relatively few hosts with an in-system relationship consider themselves to be monogamous, representing less than half of the overall sample. One of the most oft-cited reasons to avoid tulpa relationships is because of their

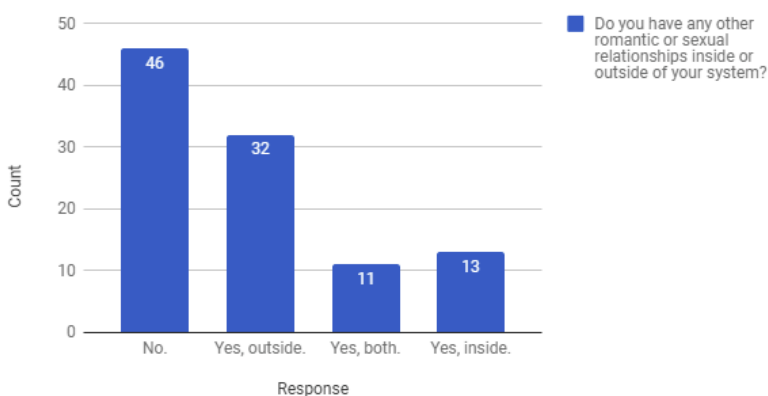
potential interference with physical relationships; most hosts seem to overcome this obstacle by discarding traditional ideals of monogamy. However, even among those who do consider

themselves to be monogamous, many do not feel that having both a physical relationship and a relationship with a tulpa violates this principle. In the words of one host who is married to his first tulpa, has a real-life girlfriend and a sexual relationship with another tulpa in the system, and still considers himself to be monogamous:

“I love each of them (TULPA1 and irl-gf) separately, and they know of eachother's existence; TULPA2 hasnt done anything sexual with us in quite a while. while I consider myself monogamous and would appear so to anyone outside my system, I know its not quite as simple as that. weird as it sounds, I do still consider myself monogamous; I wouldnt date any other real people alongside my gf, just as I wouldnt get romantically involved with any other tulpa than TULPA1 (Yes we've done things with TULPA2 a few times but we're still emotionally platonic with her).

In general, a majority of hosts in relationships with their tulpas do not feel that those relationships must be mutually exclusive with relationships involving an outside person.

Do you have any other romantic or sexual relationships inside or outside of your system?

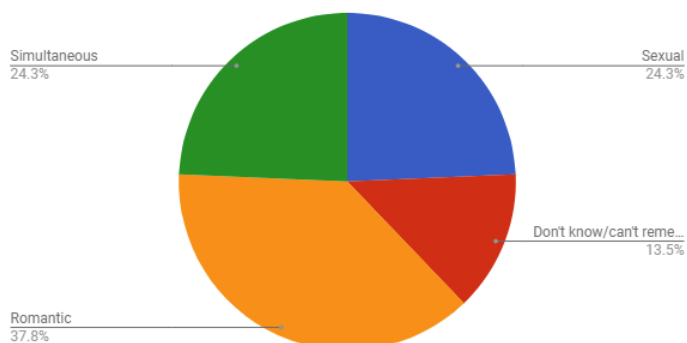


Note that many hosts who do not consider themselves monogamous are included in the “No” group.

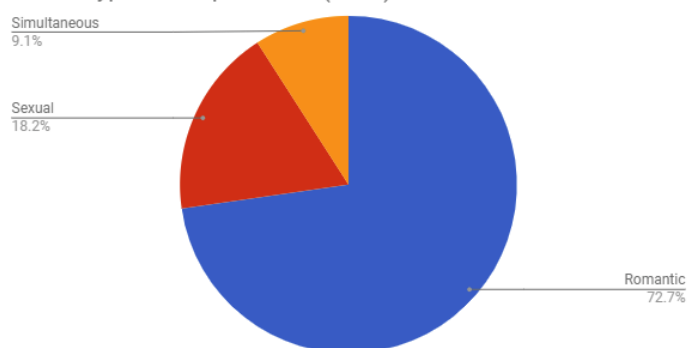
4. Tulpas have strong sexual inclinations.

I jokingly nicknamed this study the “Tulpas are Thirsty Survey” because of the combination of tulpas taking initiative before hosts and the results discussed below.

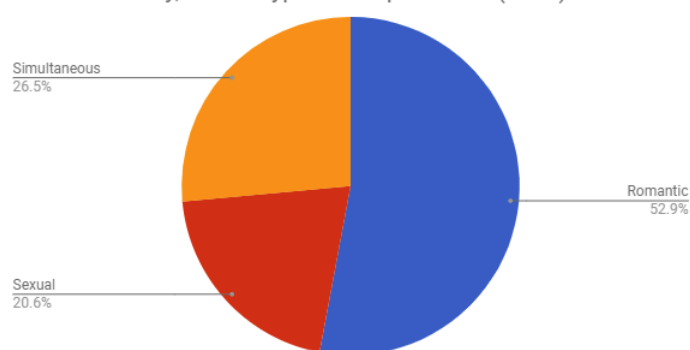
Among Relationships where Tulpa Developed Feelings First, Which Type Developed First? (n=38)



Among Relationships where Host Developed Feelings First, Which Type Developed First? (n=11)



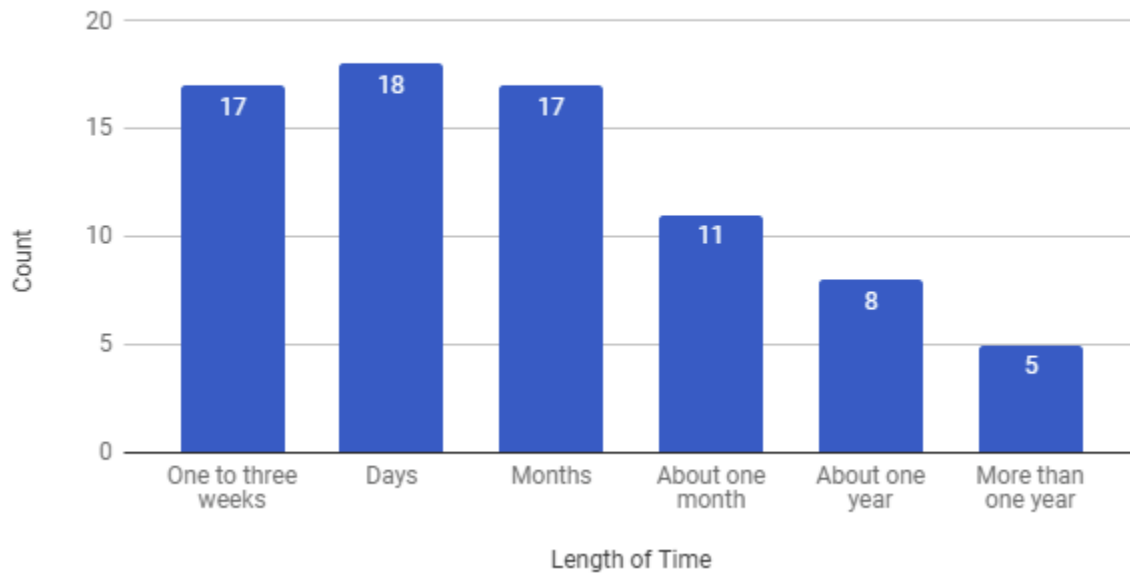
Among Relationships where Both Developed Feelings Simultaneously, Which Type Developed First? (n=35)



Tulpas generally seem to exhibit more sexual feelings than their hosts in the early stages of their relationships. The picture that appears to be presented in these findings is that hosts may be more inclined to feel and act on romantic feelings as opposed to those of a sexual nature, whereas tulpas may be more likely to incorporate their sexual desires into impetus to form a relationship. Again, this is unsurprising: tulpas often do not have “plenty of fish in the sea” and may only have a sole outlet (the host) for their sexuality.

5. It may take some convincing.

If one of you had feelings for the other before starting a relationship, how long did it take to begin a relationship?



Many relationships see a delay between when feelings first start to form and when the relationship is enacted, even within a tulpa system wherein an advanced state of mutual understanding and expression of feelings exists. This may suggest that many partners require some amount of convincing or are otherwise hesitant to express their feelings.

Analysis

In summary, the survey indicates that tulpas are the driving force in most tulpa-host relationships. Given the lack of available alternative relationship outlets, this may be unsurprising for many, but other factors may be at play. Most tulpas are consciously or subconsciously created to be compatible and compassionate with their hosts, setting foundations from the start for other feelings and relationships to progress into those of a romantic variety. Furthermore, without traditional concepts of family guiding most tulpa systems, otherwise familial love may be expressed in non-familial ways.

As tulpas grow older, their relationships often grow deeper. Tulpa marriage in particular is an unusual concept to many, as there are few legal or social expectations from such a commitment. However, for many, including the tulpa of the author of this document, marriage is a primarily symbolic show of commitment and dedication to the partner to affirm permanent love. A follow-up study in several years when many of these relationships may be expected to mature and develop could yield strong insights on this matter.

Stigma exists in the tulpa community surrounding hosts who create tulpas with the intention of forming relationships with them, but this may be unfounded. Tulpas from hosts who intended to have a relationship from the start are no less happy than others and are not significantly different from other groups in any way. This stigma should perhaps be lessened, as the very low proportion of respondents (again, all respondents consist of only those who have a relationship with at least one tulpa in their system) that intended to have a relationship from the start indicates that many aspiring hosts who would seek romantic affection from their tulpas may be ward off by guides and community backlash against their motivations.

Case Analyses and Interviews

Aside from the excerpt posted in Section 3, no particularly interesting or insightful comments resulted from conducted interviews. However, they do provide a more detailed perspective on how many individuals experience and develop relationships with their tulpas and are thus worth investigating regardless. The logs will be edited to remove names and only names before being released in a zip file alongside this study.

Footnote: Thank you to Winter from tulpa.info for helping to clean up survey questions and solidify structure.