

SUMMARY

PAW

PDSA ANIMAL WELLBEING

REPORT

2017

The essential
insight into
the wellbeing
of UK pets



Key findings

Over the last seven years, the PDSA Animal Wellbeing (PAW) Report has continued to track the health and wellbeing of UK pets. The PAW Report is based on the five welfare needs animals require to be healthy and happy, as detailed in the Animal Welfare Acts.

Despite some positive changes, it's clear there is still much work to be done to ensure the five welfare needs of pets are being met, and encourage responsible pet ownership.



This summary provides an overview of our key findings from our 2017 survey of pet owners in partnership with YouGov.

You can download the full PAW Report from our website pdsa.org.uk/pawreport

We surveyed:

2076 cat owners
1814 dog owners
263 rabbit owners



Dog Owners

54%

Female



46%
Male



1.2 million dogs (13%) have received no training at all



1.2 million dog owners (13%) did no research at all before taking on their pet



93,000 dogs are never walked at all



Almost 1.8 million dogs (19%) are left alone for five hours or more on a typical weekday



92% of dogs are registered with a vet



25% of dogs have not had a primary vaccination course when young



Cat owners

58%

Female



42%

Male



98% of cat owners underestimated the potential lifetime costs of cat ownership



On a scale of 1 to 5, 50% of cat owners matched images of Body Condition Score 4 or 5 to their cat's current body shape



62% of owners report they'd like to change one or more of their cat's behaviours



Over 4.3 million cats (42%) live in a multi-cat household



36% of cats are not microchipped



35% (3.6 million) of cats have not had a primary vaccination course when young



Rabbit owners

50%

Female



50%

Male



35% of rabbits live in inadequate housing



25% of rabbit owners feed rabbit muesli mix as part of their main diet



33% of rabbits are not being fed the correct amount of hay



44% of rabbit owners would like to change at least one of their rabbits' behaviours



56% of rabbits are still living alone



44% of rabbits have not been neutered



50% of rabbits have not had a primary vaccination course



32% of rabbits are not registered with a vet



Which Pet?



We believe that many of the welfare issues highlighted in this year's PAW Report start with a lack of pre-purchase research.

Our research identified 18% of pet owners did **no research at all** before taking on a new pet, and only 5% asked a vet or vet nurse for advice.

We think that veterinary teams are the key to changing this situation. If vets and vet nurses can engage with owners **before** they get a new pet, we hope they will be more likely to choose a pet that is suitable for them and to provide for that pet's five welfare needs.

We've developed our 'Which Pet?' consultation framework to help veterinary teams run pre-purchase advice clinics for pet owners across the UK. Clients can also be advised where to responsibly source a pet and how to avoid potential pitfalls, such as online adverts and puppy farms.

We want all potential pet owners to fully understand the needs of different species and breeds, choose the right pet from a responsible source, and understand how to give them a happy, healthy life.

Visit pdsa.org.uk/whichpet to take our e-learning module and download your free practice support pack.