

# PDSA ANIMAL WELLBEING REPORT 2018

The essential insight into the wellbeing of UK pets



# Key findings

This year's PDSA Animal Wellbeing (PAW) Report has once again been structured around owners' knowledge and application of the Animal Welfare Acts and the 5 Welfare Needs that are enshrined within them. While there are improvements to celebrate since our first report in 2011, there is still much work to be done.

The findings of the PAW Report continue to provide valuable insights into the wellbeing of our nation's pets. We hope it will continue to provide a focus for campaigning, appropriate intervention and educational initiatives across the animal welfare sector in order to help improve pet wellbeing and give our nation's pets the great lives they deserve.



This summary provides an overview of our key findings from our 2018 survey of pet owners in partnership with YouGov.

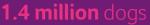
You can download the full PAW Report, including the results of our professional survey and BVA and BVNA's *Voice of the Profession* surveys, from our website **pdsa.org.uk/pawreport** 

#### We surveyed ...

2080 dog owners 2076 cat owners 483 rabbit owners







(16%) are walked less than once a day, and 89,000 are never walked at all (1%)

#### 40% of dog owners

don't know their pet's current weight and / or body condition score

#### **1.1 million** dogs

(12%) have received no training in any way

# 2.1 million dogs

(24%) are left alone for five or more hours on a typical weekday

# 91% of dogs

are microchipped

### 90% of dogs

are currently registered with a vet

### 65% of cat owners

don't know their pet's current weight and/or body condition score

#### 53% of cat owners

matched images of Body Condition Score 4 (overweight) or 5 (obese) to their cat's current body shape

#### 89% of cat owners

report that their cat is afraid of at least one thing

#### 77% of cat owners

would like to change one or more of their cat's behaviours

#### 4.8 million cats

(43%) live in multi-cat households

#### 81% of cats

are currently registered with a vet

**28%** of rabbits live in a hutch or cage that is too small

### 20% of rabbits

(200,000) are fed muesli as part of their main diet

#### 77% of rabbit owners

don't know their pet's current weight and / or body condition score

# 54% of rabbit owners

want to change one or more of their rabbit's behaviours

# **540,000** rabbits (54%) live alone

#### 13% of rabbit owners

have provided no preventive healthcare for their rabbit





# Help us improve pet wellbeing

Every year the PAW Report gives us essential insights into pet wellbeing in the UK. We're incredibly proud that over the last eight years, these findings have helped form the basis of campaigns and collaborative initiatives across the animal welfare sector and veterinary profession. On a local level, veterinary practices across the UK are able to use the findings to shape clinics and encourage behaviour change in owners to benefit their pet's wellbeing.

We'd love for the findings of this year's Report to again be used by the sector to continue to stimulate change – to enable us all to acknowledge the most pressing issues and tackle them head on. This will ensure continued momentum in the drive to improve the welfare of pets across the UK. Only through hard work and collaboration can we tackle these issues in order to see improvements in key areas such as obesity, loneliness, behavioural issues, pre-purchase decision making and more in future PAW Reports.

#### Saving pets is what we do. Every. Single. Day.

Your support today will save pets' lives tomorrow. DONATE | SHOP | VOLUNTEER | FUNDRAISE | GIFT IN WILL

Find out how you can help at pdsa.org.uk