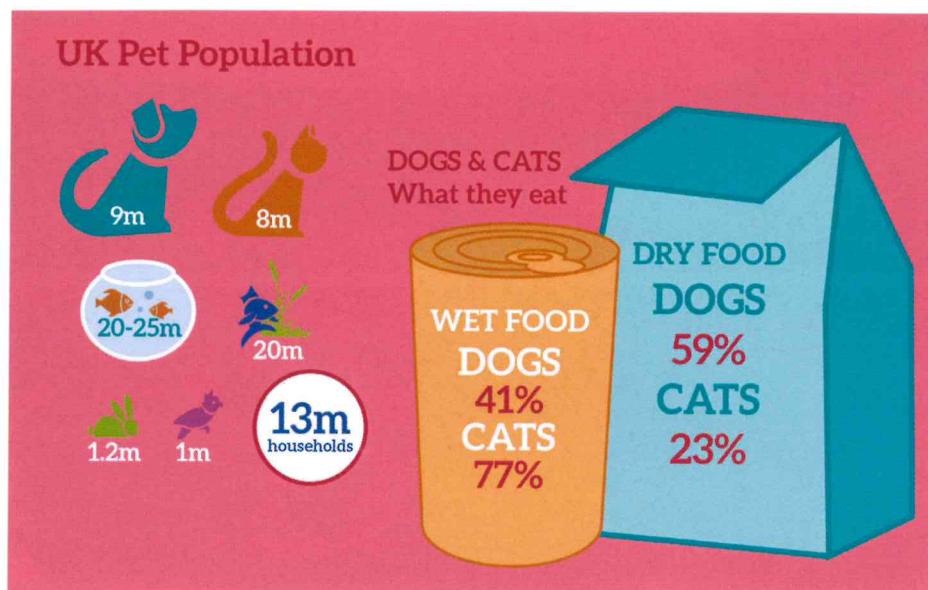


The latest PFMA and Dogs Trust figures show that dogs have overtaken cats as the UK's most popular pets. Nicole Paley investigates



Pet Population in NUMBERS



For many years, the Pet Food Manufacturers' Association (PFMA) have been tracking the UK's pet population, keeping a record of its highs and lows. This year, the PFMA teamed up with the Dogs Trust to run the largest survey to date and the latest figures show that dogs have come up trumps.

According to the Dogs Trust/PFMA figures there has been a significant increase in the UK dog population over the past two years with canines now exceeding their feline friends by almost one million⁽¹⁾. This is the first time in 21 years that there have been more dogs than cats in the UK.

After level pegging for five years, the figures now show that the number of dogs has increased from 8.6 to 8.9 million (24 percent of households) with a corresponding decline in the cat population from 8.5 to 7.9 million (17 percent of households).

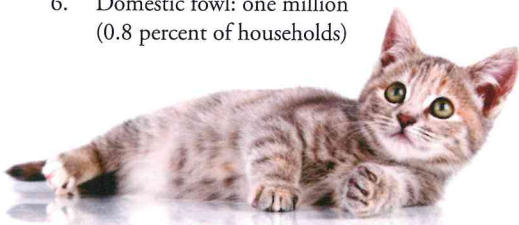
Taking a look around the country, the research also shows that:

- The North East of England tops the table of dog lovers with 36 percent of households owning a dog, but only 14 percent owning a cat.
- Northern Ireland and Wales have the second largest dog populations with 35 percent of households owning one. Only 13 percent of households in Northern Ireland have a cat, compared with 21 percent in Wales.
- The South West of England has the highest level of cat ownership at 23 percent.
- London has the lowest level of both dog and cat ownership, with just 8 percent of households having a dog and 12 percent having a cat.

The UK's Top Ten Pets

Our recent trade trip to Interzoo showed us that people are keeping an increasingly diverse range of pets – even jellyfish! From speaking to our members, we know that pet chickens are also becoming popular but here is our official round up of the UK's top ten pets:

1. Fish kept in tanks: 20-25 million (9 percent of households)
2. Fish kept in ponds: 20 million (5 percent of households)
3. Dogs: nine million (24 percent of households)
4. Cats: eight million (17 percent of households)
5. Rabbits: one million (2.4 percent of households)
6. Domestic fowl: one million (0.8 percent of households)
7. Caged birds: one million (1.4 percent of households)
8. Guinea Pigs: 500,000 (1.1 percent of households)
9. Hamsters: 400,000 (1.4 percent of households)
10. Lizards: 400,000 (0.7 percent of households)



DID YOU KNOW?

Seventy-two million European households have at least one pet with 25 percent owning a dog and 24 percent owning a cat⁽²⁾. Sixty-eight percent of U.S. households own a pet⁽³⁾, which equates to 82.5 million homes. In 1988, the first year the survey was conducted, 56 percent of U.S. households owned a pet.

Other popular pets in the UK include tortoises and turtles (300,000, 0.6 percent of households), snakes (400,000, 0.5 percent of households), horses and ponies (400,000, 0.3 percent of households).

USEFUL CONTACTS

- www.pfma.org.uk for PFMA market and pet population data
- www.fedialf.org for European Facts and Figures
- www.americanpetproducts.org for American Pet Products Association

1. The pet population estimates were made over two years, with total sample of 6,000. Nationally representative of households in UK. Conducted by TNS.

2. Statistics from FEDIAF – the European Pet Food Industries Federation

3. 2013-14 APPA National Pet Owners Survey