

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Veterinary Economics Division  
American Veterinary Medical Association  
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Introduction.....	2
Pet population.....	2
Expenditure and visits.....	7
Pet owners .....	11
Pet owner segments .....	13
Satisfaction with veterinary services.....	17
COVID-19 and adoptions.....	21
The economics of pet adoptions during COVID-19.....	23
Methodology .....	25
Citations .....	25



# INTRODUCTION

The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) is committed to advancing the science and practice of veterinary medicine, and a key component of that mission is understanding pet populations and ownership. This report provides updated information on pet-owning households, including demographics and behavior information. It analyzes pet owner data through an economic and social lens to better understand who pet owners are, how they behave, and what their impact is on pet populations. In this edition of Pet Owner Trends, readers will find valuable insights on pets and their owners, plus information on the impact of COVID-19 on pet ownership and behaviors, such as adoptions.

This report is based on a survey conducted in early 2021 via online opt-in, reflecting 2020 data. The data were sampled, weighted, and screened to eliminate potential sources of bias and provide accurate estimates and insights. A total of 2,011 respondents completed the online survey and were included in the final analysis reported here; the margin of error is 2.2% within a 95% confidence level.

Both demographic and behavioral characteristics of respondents were compared to the general population for weighting and estimations. Logistic regression and difference in means test were performed to see which characteristics influence whether a household adopted a pet, how likely they were to see a veterinarian, and how likely they were to delay seeing the veterinarian. More information is available in the methodology section.

PET POPULATION	
2020	2016*
<b>83,739,829 – 88,853,254</b> dogs	<b>76,811,305</b> dogs
<b>1.46</b> dogs per household	<b>1.6</b> dogs per household
<b>45%</b> of households own dogs	<b>38%</b> of households own dogs
<b>60,217,861 – 61,910,686</b> cats	<b>58,385,725</b> cats
<b>1.78</b> cats per household	<b>1.8</b> cats per household
<b>26%</b> of households own cats	<b>25%</b> of households own cats