

Overview

More than 67% of American households, or 84.6 million, own nearly 400 million companion animals. This includes dogs, cats, horses, birds, fish, horses and more. Pet owners rely on animal medicines to keep their pets healthy and to avoid passing disease and pests between animals and humans.

Pets by Type, 2016

Nearly half of pet-owning households include a dog while over one-third own a cat, for a total of 89.7 million dogs and 94.2 million cats. There are between 100,000 and 200,000 service animals, including those who assist the blind and disabled (but not including police, forensic, or military dogs). Almost all — 95% — of dog and cat owners view their pets as members of their family.

	HOUSEHOLDS WITH PETS (millions)	SHARE OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH PETS	AVERAGE NO. OF PETS PER HOUSEHOLD	TOTAL NO. OF PETS SHARE
Dog	60.2	47.8%	1.5	89.7
Cat	47.1	37.4%	2.0	94.2
Freshwater Fish	12.5	9.9%	11.1	139.3
Bird	7.9	6.3%	2.6	20.3
Small Animal	6.7	5.3%	2.1	14.0
Reptile	4.7	3.7%	2.0	9.4
Horse	2.6	2.1%	2.9	7.6
Saltwater Fish	2.5	2.0%	7.5	18.8
Any Pet	84.6	67.2%		393.3

Spending on Pets

Americans spent over \$75.5 billion on their pets in 2016, with an average total household spend of \$892 on pet food, veterinary services, supplies, and other services. As pet owners look for solutions to increase the length and quality of life for their pets, cutting edge treatments for illnesses such as arthritis and cancer are becoming more common. The average lifespan for a dog is 10 years, and the average lifespan for a cat is 15 years; households spend between \$9,106 and \$13,391 over their pets' lifetime. The median expenditures for medicines are \$5,154 for a dog and \$5,325 for a cat.

	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	EXPENDITURES PER HOUSEHOLD	SHARE
Pet food	\$26,507.4	\$313.3	35.1%
Vet services	\$26,354.6	\$311.5	34.9%
Pet purchase, supplies, medicine	\$15,829.9	\$187.1	21.0%
Pet services	\$6,833.1	\$80.8	9.0%
Total	\$75,525.0	\$892.7	100.0%

Human Health Benefits of Pets: Companionship & Communities

Pets improve the lives of their owners and may help them live longer: research shows that individuals who own dogs have a 36% lower risk of dying from cardiovascular disease and an 11% lower risk of a heart attack. Pet owners are more likely to get to know people in their neighborhood than those without pets, which leads to more community engagement, which in turn improves quality of life and relationships.

Mental Health

- Reduce anxiety, depression & PTSD
- Improve copy skills
- Improve social skills
- Positively impact child development

Physical Health

- Improve cardiovascular health
- Increase physical activity
- Increase lifespan

Research shows that animal companionship positively impacts mental and physical health.