

SUMMARY



PAW

PDSA ANIMAL WELLBEING

REPORT

2019

The essential
insight into
the wellbeing
of UK pets

ISSUE IN FOCUS:
VACCINATION

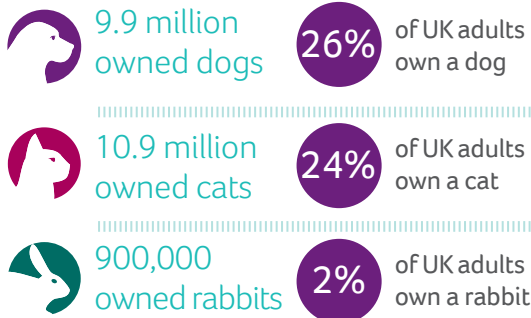
YouGov[®]
What the world thinks

pdsa
SAVING PETS CHANGING LIVES

Key findings

The PAW Report has been a barometer for pet wellbeing in the UK for the last nine years, identifying issues and helping drive positive change.

This year, we surveyed 5,036 adult pet owners to understand the wellbeing of UK pets, and used additional data from 10,000 UK adults to determine the pet population figures.




The UK is a nation of animal lovers. 95% of dog owners, 93% of cat owners and 91% of rabbit owners told us that owning their pet **makes them happy**. Sadly, being loved doesn't always translate to good wellbeing, and our research shows that many pets are not having their 5 Welfare Needs met (environment, diet, behaviour, companionship and health).


Understanding their needs before getting a pet is the best start, but our Report shows that 21% of current owners had done **no research** before taking on a pet and over a quarter of owners (26%) were **unaware of the Animal Welfare Acts**, which outline the 5 Welfare Needs.




 **1.3 million dogs** (13%) aren't walked every day.

 **1.9 million dogs** (19%) are left alone for five or more hours every day.

 **31% of owners** don't know the weight or body condition score of their dog.

 **Only 72% of dogs** have had a primary vaccination when young.


 **55% of owners** rely on past experience to train their dogs. 12% of dogs have had no training at all.




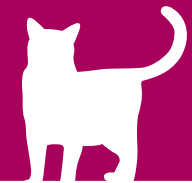
 **67% of owners** with two or more cats provide only one or no litter trays.

 **43% of cats** live in a multi-cat household, which can cause stress.

 **56% of owners** don't know the weight or body condition score of their cat.


 **Only 61% owners** report that their cat has had a primary vaccination when young.

 **77% of owners** want to change one or more of their cat's behaviours.



 **25% of rabbits** are kept in inadequate housing conditions.

 **44% of owners** want to change at least one of their rabbits' behaviours.

 **26% of owners** didn't provide any hay, which should be a main food for rabbits, and 21% fed muesli as part of their rabbit's main diet.

 **49% of rabbits** live alone, despite needing the companionship of their own kind.

 **13% of rabbits** get no preventive healthcare.



ISSUE IN FOCUS: VACCINATION

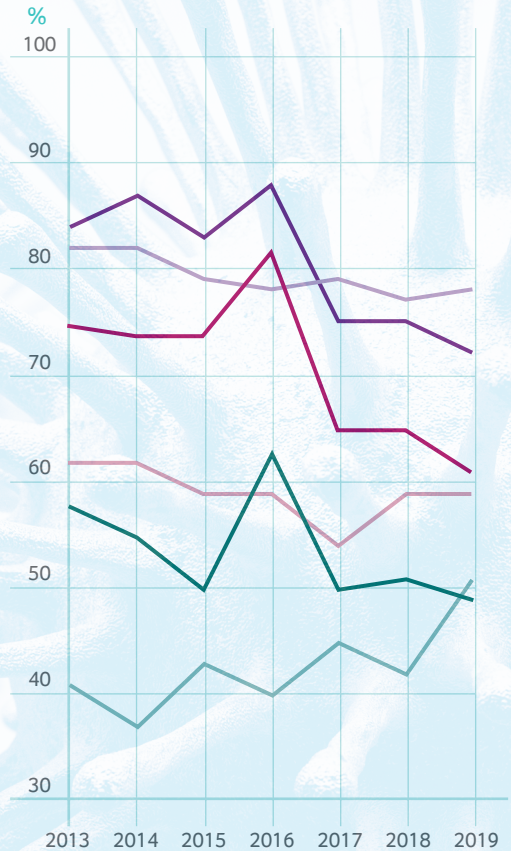
Preventive health – vaccination (primary and regular boosters)

Vaccinations save lives and protect pets from infectious diseases.

We first noted a reduction in the proportion of pet owners reporting that their dog, cat or rabbit had had a primary vaccination when young in 2017, and this year, our findings show a further drop.

Our findings suggest rising levels of vaccine hesitancy amongst pet owners, so we have focused on this significant issue in this year's Report.

Further analysis of this issue, including the reasons pet owners gave for not vaccinating, can be found in the full Report.



#VacciNation



- Vaccinated – primary course when young (72%)
Vaccinated – regular boosters (78%)
- Vaccinated – primary course when young (61%)
Vaccinated – regular boosters (59%)
- Vaccinated – primary course when young (49%)
Vaccinated – regular boosters (51%)
(2019 statistics are shown in brackets)

This summary provides an overview of our key findings from our 2019 survey of pet owners in partnership with YouGov.

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