

# PAW

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](https://pdsa.org.uk/pawreport)

## We surveyed ...

2080 dog owners  
2076 cat owners  
483 rabbit owners



**1.4 million dogs**  
(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.

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Find out how you can help at [pdsa.org.uk](https://pdsa.org.uk)