

Summary:
Wales

PAW

PDSA ANIMAL WELLBEING

REPORT

2018

The essential
insight into
the wellbeing
of UK pets

Methodology

This summary provides an overview of key findings for Welsh pets from our 2018 PDSA Animal Wellbeing (PAW) Report.

We surveyed a demographically representative sample of 4,639 UK pet owners in partnership with YouGov for the main Report, and we present here the results for the subset of these owners living in Wales.

Our total sample size was 285 dog, cat, and rabbit owners; aged 18 or over; and living in Wales. Fieldwork was undertaken between 9th and 19th January 2018. The survey was conducted online and statistically analysed by YouGov.

Percentages were rounded to the nearest whole number. A minimum sample size of 50 was set to ensure robust results. Where a sample size of 50 was not available (i.e. for rabbit data), UK averages are shown. UK figures are taken from the main PAW Report and full methods are detailed therein. They have only been given for comparison where Welsh results are **statistically significantly different** from them. These have been highlighted in bold for clarity.

In Wales we surveyed ...

135 dog owners

124 cat owners

26 rabbit owners

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

100 years

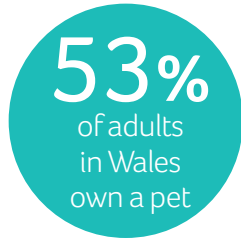
As the UK's leading veterinary charity, PDSA is committed to identifying and addressing barriers to pet wellbeing. After 100 years of working every single day to improve the lives of our nation's pets, we can reflect on how far we have come, and how far we still have to go.

The findings of our PAW Report continue to provide a valuable insight into the wellbeing of our nation's pets. 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, to help improve pet wellbeing and give our nation's pets the great lives they deserve.



Population

These estimates are calculated using a combination of data collected for the PAW Report, a nationally representative survey of UK adults, and official government statistics.



When calculating population figures in the rest of this Report we've taken the population figure here, multiplied it by the percentage, then rounded to two significant figures.



30%

of adults in Wales
own a dog
(600,000 dogs)



26%

of adults in Wales
own a cat
(600,000 cats)



2%

of adults in the UK
own a rabbit
(Unable to estimate total number of
rabbits in Wales due to sample size)

The 5 Welfare Needs

This Report is structured around owners' knowledge and application of the Animal Welfare Act and the 5 Welfare Needs that are enshrined within them.

In Wales ...

38% of owners state they are familiar with the Animal Welfare Act 2006

29% of owners feel very informed with all 5 Welfare Needs

but only

12% of owners are able to correctly identify all 5 Welfare Needs



A reasonable proportion of owners in Wales felt very informed of the 5 Welfare Needs, but this did not correspond with the ability to correctly identify them from a list.

Pre-purchase

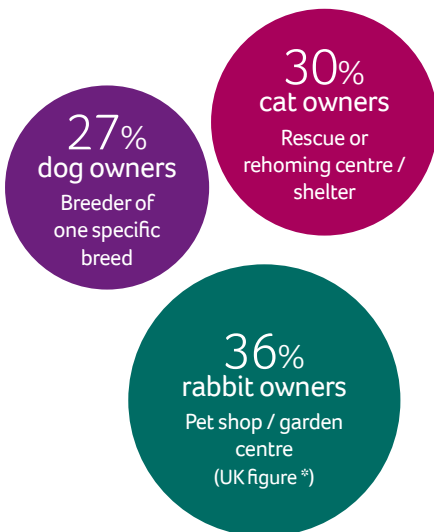
Despite pre-purchase research being a vital part of responsible pet ownership, 27% of Welsh pet owners did none at all before choosing a pet.

in Wales ...

Only 25% of pet owners visited their pet on more than one occasion before taking them home (worse than the UK average 35%)

13% of pet owners would consider buying from a puppy farm

Most common places Welsh owners got their pet...



Costs of pet ownership

78% of Welsh dog owners underestimated the minimum lifetime cost of dog ownership (worse than the UK average 68%)

93% of Welsh cat owners underestimated the minimum lifetime cost of cat ownership

92% of UK* rabbit owners underestimated the minimum lifetime cost of rabbit ownership

For details of the how we calculated the costs of ownership and what owners were asked to include in this estimate, please refer to the full Report available online at pdsa.org.uk/pawreport

in summary ...

A lower proportion of owners in Wales than in the whole of the UK visited their pet on more than one occasion before taking them home, and more underestimated the cost of owning a dog.

* All results for rabbits are UK averages due to our nationally representative dataset containing too few responses to report statistically significant figures for Wales.

Dogs



Environment

More dogs in Wales are missing out on being walked daily compared to the UK average, which could lead to behavioural and health issues

- **130,000 dogs (22%) are walked less than once a day (worse than the UK average 16%)**
- 6,000 dogs (1%) are never walked
- 48% of owners have one or more concerns about walking their dog

Diet

Welsh results are similar to UK averages, with dog obesity remaining a key problem

- 20% of dog owners matched the shape of their pet to an overweight or obese silhouette (body condition score (BCS) 4/5 or 5/5)
- 40% of owners did not know the weight or BCS of their dog

Behaviour

Welsh results are similar to UK averages, with many dogs showing fearful or troublesome behaviours

- 14% of dog owners (84,000 dogs) haven't trained their dog in any way
- 72% of dog owners (430,000 dogs) report that they would like to change at least one of their dog's behaviours
- 500,000 dogs (84%) are reported to be afraid of something (e.g. fireworks, thunder and lightning)
- 240,000 dogs (40%) are afraid of fireworks

Companionship

Fewer dogs in Wales are left on their own for longer than recommended compared to the UK average

- **60,000 dogs (10%) are left alone for 5 or more hours on a typical weekday (better than the UK average 24%)**
- 5% of owners report that they'd like to change their dog showing signs of distress when left alone

Health

More young dogs in Wales are left unprotected from preventable diseases compared to the UK average

- 14% of dogs (84,000 dogs) aren't registered with a vet
- 50% of dogs (300,000 dogs) aren't insured
- 72,000 of dogs (12%) aren't microchipped
- **33% of dogs (200,000 dogs) aren't vaccinated with a primary course when young (worse than the UK average 25%)**

in summary ...

Welsh dog owners echo national shortfalls regarding their pets' welfare needs. In Wales, a focus to encourage owners to walk their dogs and have them vaccinated from a young age would help improve their health and wellbeing.



Cats



Environment

Welsh results are similar to the UK average, with lack of resources a major problem

- In homes with multiple cats, owners aren't providing enough scratching posts or water bowls for their cats (recommended minimum is number of cats + 1)



Diet

More Welsh owners are unsure of their cat's weight compared to the UK average

- 54% of cat owners matched the shape of their pet to an overweight or obese silhouette (body condition score (BCS) 4/5 or 5/5)
- **75% of owners don't know the weight or BCS of their cat (worse than the UK average 65%)**



Behaviour

Welsh results are similar to UK averages, with increased complaints of hunting wildlife possibly reflecting a larger rural population

- 80% of cat owners (480,000 cats) report that they would like to change at least one of their cat's behaviours
- Top three behaviours that owners wanted to change were scratching furniture, killing wildlife and 'waking me up'
- 520,000 cats (86%) were reported to be afraid of something. The top three fears were unfamiliar people, vacuum cleaners and travelling in the car.



Companionship

Welsh results are similar to UK averages, revealing poor owner understanding of cats' solitary natures

- 300,000 cats (50%) live in a multi-cat household
- 21% of cats live with another cat or cats that they don't get on with



Health

Welsh results are similar to UK averages, with several shortfalls in preventive health provisions

- 22% of cats (130,000 cats) aren't registered with a vet
- 8% of cats (48,000 cats) aren't neutered
- 38% of cats (230,000 cats) aren't microchipped
- 43% of cats (260,000 cats) aren't vaccinated with a primary course when young

in summary ...

As well as issues noted in the main Report, more owners of cats in Wales are unsure how to recognise body shape or weight in their cats. Further education in this area, as well as a focus on how to prevent hunting of vulnerable wildlife, could help to address region-specific concerns.

Rabbits

(UK)



Environment

Across the UK, rabbits are facing life in small, barren hutches

- 28% of UK rabbits are kept in inadequate housing



Diet

Across the UK, despite some improvement many rabbits are still fed inappropriate diets

- 20% of UK rabbits are fed rabbit muesli as part of their main diet
- Only 53% of UK rabbit owners feed the daily recommended amount of hay
- 77% of UK rabbit owners don't know the weight or body condition score of their rabbit



Behaviour

Across the UK, rabbits' natural behaviours are being misunderstood as problems

- 54% of UK rabbit owners want to change at least one of their rabbit's behaviours
- Top three behaviours owners wanted to change were thumping their back feet, digging up ground and / or carpets, chewing furniture etc.
- 66% of UK rabbits are reported to be afraid of something (e.g. loud noises, fireworks, unfamiliar people)



Companionship

Across the UK, despite being highly social, many rabbits are lonely

- 54% of UK rabbits live alone



Health

Across the UK, the preventive health of many rabbits is being neglected

- 34% of UK rabbits aren't currently registered with a vet
- 46% of UK rabbits aren't neutered
- 49% of UK rabbits aren't vaccinated with a primary course when young

in summary ...

The reality for pet rabbits is unfortunately far from having all their needs provided for. This is highlighted in one of the veterinary professions' top concerns for them: a complete lack of care and/or being forgotten about. Issues across all 5 Welfare Needs must be addressed in order to improve their wellbeing.

• All results for rabbits are UK averages due to our nationally representative dataset containing too few responses to report statistically significant figures for Wales.



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Help us improve pet wellbeing

Every year the PAW Report gives us essential insights into pet wellbeing in the UK and this year we have released results for the UK's constituent nations and England's regions to help tailor local strategies.

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 in Wales and 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.**

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Find out how at pdsa.org.uk