

## *Section Two*



# **The Body**

## *What Keeps the Ends Apart*

### *General, Historical, Philosophical,*

### *And Downright Nonsensical*

#### **Their World**

While our world consists of interests outside our pets, we are their entire world and they depend on us exclusively for their socialization and well-being. - Pawprints and Purrs, Inc.

#### **Our World**

We live in a miniscule breathable band of air above the earth's surface of 0.028% of the earth's diameter.

We, and all other animals, are sustained by plant growth in a miniscule band of topsoil that forms the earth's skin of 20-25 cms. average depth.

#### **The American Pet**

Although there are more cats in the USA than dogs, many cat owners have more than one cat so there are more households with dogs.

They own about 75 million dogs and 90 million pet cats. The number of cats passed that of dogs in 1987.

Behavior, not infectious disease, is the biggest killer of pets.

## Owners and their Pets

- 63% of US households (35 million) own a pet.
- 44.8% own a dog, 38.4% own a cat.
- 45% of US households own more than one pet.
- Total spent on the US Pet Industry: \$21 billion in 1996; \$38 billion in 2006.
- 94% of pet owners say their pet makes them smile more than once daily.
- 76% of pet owners feel that their pet is part of the family.
- 70% of owners say they sign their pet's name on greeting cards.
- 58% include pets in family and holiday portraits.
- 32% of pet owners surveyed say their pet watches TV.
- 39% of pet owners claim to have more photographs of their pet than of their spouse.

## Numbers of Cats and Dogs

- Seventy thousand puppies and kittens are born every day.
- For every person born in the USA each day, seven dogs and cats are born. Ten thousand humans are born in the US every day.
- Only one in five puppies and kittens stays in its original home for his/her natural lifetime.
- Forty-eight percent of the public get their pets as strays, from friends, or from animal rescuers; 38% get their pets from breeders or pet stores.
- Only 14% of pets come from shelters;

## Shelter Pets

- Four out of five are abandoned to the streets or end up at a shelter.
- Ten million pets are lost every year. One in three pets will be lost in its lifetime. Ninety percent of lost pets never get back to their original owner.
- Six to eight million pets are put in shelters each year.
- Approximately 55% of dogs and puppies entering shelters are

killed based on reports from 1,038 facilities across America.

- Approximately 71% of cats and kittens entering shelters are killed based on reports from 1,038 facilities across America.
- Euthanized by shelters each year: 3-4 million.
- Adopted from shelters each year: 3-4 million
- Between 600,000 and 750,000 (30% of dogs and 2-5% of cats) entering shelters are reclaimed by owners from shelters each year.
- Number of animal shelters in the United States-between 4,000 and 6,000.
- Percentage of dogs in shelters which are purebred: 25%.
- Local governments spend over \$2 billion every year to shelter and destroy 8-10 million adoptable dogs and cats because of a shortage of homes.
- Compiled from figures published by Spay USA, The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), Home Again, National Council on Pet Population Study and Policy-Shelter Statistics Survey, and Business Wire Features.

## **Reasons for Veterinary Visits 2006**

According to data from the Veterinary Pet Insurance Company, the ten top reasons owners take dogs and cats to the veterinarian:

### ***Dogs***

1. Skin allergies
2. Ear infections
3. Stomach upsets (gastritis)
4. Bladder infections (cystitis)
5. Benign tumors
6. Osteoarthritis
7. Soft tissue trauma/sprains
8. Eye problems (conjunctivitis)
9. Enteritis
10. Hypothyroidism

### ***Cats***

1. Urinary tract disease (LUTD)
2. Stomach upsets
3. Kidney disease
4. Skin allergies
5. Respiratory infections
6. Diabetes
7. Ear infections
8. Lower bowel problems (colitis)
9. Eye infections
10. Chronic kidney failure (renal failure)

## **Dogs and their Owners**

*Your pet knows these subtle truths. Believe it!*

- Humans and dogs have kept each other as pets for 12,000 years.
- The USA has the most dogs in the world.
- France has the second-largest dog population.
- More than one in three American families owns a dog.
- 87% of owners say their dog lies beside them, or at their feet, when they watch TV.
- It has been estimated that 100,000 dogs in the USA have been named the principle beneficiary in their owner's will.
- 33% of dog owners admit they have talked to their dogs on the phone.
- The average dog visits its veterinarian almost twice as many times as the average cat or horse.

## **Cats and their Owners**

- Most American pet owners get their cats by adopting strays.
- One third of all pet cats stay in the same household for life.
- Every year 25% of cats leave their household.
- Only 50% of cat owners take their cat to a veterinarian for health care. Shame on them.
- 95% of cat owners talk to their cats.

## **The Skinny on Women Owners**

*Your pet knows these subtle truths as well, it's time men did, too.*

- Most women prefer their pets to their partners.
- Twice as many women as men – 45% – think their pet is cuter than their partner.
- 56% of women believe that their pets are more affectionate than their partners.
- 73% of female respondents say they are more likely to date or marry someone who also has a pet.

- 72% of women report their pets make them happier than their jobs, compared to 60% of men.
- 70% of women owners believe that their pets reflect their personality.

### **Other Pet Facts**

- The Japanese keep birds and crickets.
- Dogs are considered unclean in Islamic countries.
- Eskimos raise birds, baby seals, bear cubs and foxes as pets.
- Animals are rarely kept as pets in Africa.
- The Chinese keep cats in houses and shops for good luck.

### **Honesty and Ethics**

*How the professions are rated by the public —Gallup poll*

- 84% voted nurses highest in honesty and ethics, followed by:
- 73% pharmacists
- 71% veterinarians
- 69% physicians
- 62% dentists

### **American Veterinarians**

- Number of veterinarians registered with the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA): 78,424.
- Number of veterinary practices in the USA: 27,000.
- Number of veterinarians teaching in US veterinary schools: more than 3,800.
- Number of veterinarians working in federal, state, and local government, and in the armed services: about 3,200.

### **Women Veterinarians**

In 2005, 75% of graduating veterinarians in Britain were women.  
In 2006, 75% of graduating veterinarians in the USA were women.

50% of veterinarians in practice, in both Britain and USA, are women.

### **The Change to Women**

- In 1930 there were only 30 women veterinary graduates in the USA.
- Until 1972 there were fewer than 500 women veterinarians in the USA.
- By 1986 there were 7,000 women veterinarians, roughly 16% of the profession.
- In 1987 48% of all veterinary graduates in the USA were women; they made up 55% of all veterinary students as well as 57% of the admissions that year.

### **Dunlop**

No one expected the bicycle to supersede the horse as a means of transport, however when veterinarians started getting saddle sore, John Boyd Dunlop (1840-1921), a Scottish veterinarian, invented the first *practical* pneumatic or inflatable tire for bicycles, which he patented in 1888.

Although he had practiced veterinary medicine in Scotland, he made his invention after moving to Ireland.

Charles Goodyear had already invented vulcanized rubber in 1844. And Robert William Thomson (1822-1873), another Scottish inventor, had patented the first vulcanized rubber pneumatic tire in 1845, but it was too expensive and did not catch on.

Thomson also patented a fountain pen in 1849, which made it easier for doctors and veterinarians to write illegible prescriptions.

### **Small Pet Mammals**

Also known as pocket-pets. These are small animals, often rodents that are kept as pets, small enough to fit in your pocket. For some of them you might need large pockets!

## Pocket pets:

Ferrets, gerbils, guinea pigs, hamsters, mice, rats, chinchillas, chipmunks, degus, and sugar gliders.

## Rodents

Rodents are the largest group of mammals. The name comes from the Latin verb, *rodere*, to gnaw. Their upper and lower incisors never stop growing.

Also rodents: Woodchucks, squirrels, prairie dogs, gophers, beavers, and porcupines

Rabbits, moles, shrews, and hedgehogs are not rodents.

## Naked Mole Rat

The naked mole rat from East Africa looks like a pink, wrinkly, saber-toothed sausage and lives up to 25 years, making it the longest-lived rodent. It is neither a mole nor a rat. Their colonies are “eusocial” (similar to ant colonies). They have one breeding female “Queen” tended by soldiers and workers.

## Three Blind Mice

Three blind mice,

Three blind mice.

See how they run!

See how they run!

They all ran after the farmer’s wife,

This caused her unimaginable strife

So she cut off their tails with a carving knife.

And was sued by the state to an inch of her life

Did you ever hear such a case in your life?

As three blind mice!

*-Traditional and R.H.*