



U.S. Pet Ownership Statistics

Companion animals | Exotic animals | Formulas/Calculator

Source: 2012 U.S. Pet Ownership & Demographics Sourcebook

Companion animals

	Dogs	Cats	Birds	Horses
Percent of households owning	36.5%	30.4%	3.1%	1.5%
Number of households owning	43,346,000	36,117,000	3,671,000	1,780,000
Average number owned per household	1.6	2.1	2.3	2.7
Total number in United States	69,926,000	74,059,000	8,300,000	4,856,000
Veterinary visits per household per year (mean)	2.6	1.6	0.3	1.9
Veterinary expenditure per household per year (mean)	\$378	\$191	\$33	\$373
Veterinary expenditure per animal (mean)	\$227	\$90	\$14	\$133

► View 2007 statistics

Specialty and Exotic Animals

	Households (in 1,000)	Population (in 1,000)
Fish	7,738	57,750
Ferrets	334	748
Rabbits	1,408	3,210
Hamsters	877	1,146
Guinea Pigs	847	1,362
Gerbils	234	468
Other Rodents	391	868
Turtles	1,320	2,297
Snakes	555	1,150
Lizards	726	1,119
Other Reptiles	365	732
Poultry	1,020	12,591
Livestock	661	5,045
All others	246	898

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Formulas for estimating percentage of pet-owning households and pet population in your community

Most communities do not have data on the number of households that own dogs, cats, birds, or horses, nor do they have data on the numbers of these pets in their communities. The following formulas can be used to estimate the number of pet-owning households and pet populations in your community.

These formulas will give you an approximation of the number of pet-owning households and pet populations. These formulas assume that the demographics and rates of pet ownership in your community are similar to national, state and regional demographics and rates of pet ownership. However, because these formulas use sample survey data, they should not be considered 100% accurate.

To use the formulas below you need to know the total number of households in the community in which you are estimating. If you only know the population of the community, you can estimate the number of households by dividing the population of the community by the average number of members per household. In 2011, the U.S. Census Bureau's Current Population Survey estimated that there were 2.6 members per household.

Estimate the Number of Pet-owning Households

► Use the **Pet Ownership Calculator** to estimate the number of pet-owning households in *your* community

To estimate the number of pet-owning households in your community, multiply the total number of households in your community by the percentage of households that owned pets. For dogs and cats you may replace the national percentage with the percentage for the state in which the community is located. For birds and horses you may replace the national percentage with the percentage for the region in which the community is located.

The demographics of the state or region may be more similar to the demographics of your community, but, as indicated above the state and regional estimates have a greater degree of statistical error associated with them than the national estimates. Therefore, without additional analysis, it is undetermined whether an estimate for the number of pet-owning households in your community will be more accurate by using the national estimates, regional estimates or state estimates.

Formulas for estimating the number of pet-owning households using national percentages:

All Pets:	Number of pet-owning households = $.56 \times$ total number of households
Dogs:	Number of dog-owning households = $.365 \times$ total number of households
Cats:	Number of cat-owning households = $.304 \times$ total number of households
Birds:	Number of bird-owning households = $.031 \times$ total number of households
Horses:	Number of horse-owning households = $.015 \times$ total number of households

Estimate the Number of Pets

► Use the **Pet Ownership Calculator** to estimate the number of pets in *your* community

There are two alternative methods for estimating the number of pets in your community. You can multiply the total number of households in your community by a factor determined by multiplying the percentage of households that own pets by the number of pets owned per household. Alternatively, you can multiply the number of pet-owning households determined above by the mean number of pets owned per household.

As with the number of households, state or regional values may be substituted for the national values if desired. (The number of dogs, cats, birds or horses per household for states or regions can be determined by dividing the total