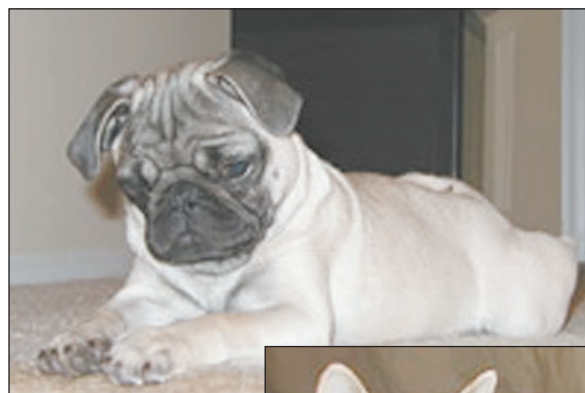


Be Kind to Animals Week

Pets are such an important part of our lives that one week each May is set aside to show our love for our pets. Be Kind to Animals Week was created by the American Humane Society in 1915 to provide education and opportunities to develop compassionate attitudes towards animals in our world. It is celebrated May 1-May 7. In 1993, President Clinton designated the week of May 2-8 as Be Kind to Animals and National Pet Week.

Throughout our history, animals have played an important part in our lives. They carried us, worked with us, and helped us earn a living. Today, animals still help us, but they have taken on a greater role as guardians and companions. Animals assist in the military and law enforcement. They aid the blind. As friends, they ease the lonely and the sick, entertain our families, and give us plenty of love. 🐾



Top Ten Cat Breeds

Source: Cat Fanciers' Association

- Persian
- Maine Coon
- Exotic
- Siamese
- Abyssinian
- Oriental
- Birman
- American Shorthair
- Tonkinese
- Burmese



Top Ten Dog Breeds

Source: The American Kennel Club

- Labrador Retriever
- Golden Retriever
- German Shepherd
- Beagle
- Dachshund
- Yorkshire Terrier
- Boxer
- Poodle
- Chihuahua
- Shih Tzu



We Love Our Pets

Just how much do people love their pets? Seventy-eight percent of dog owners allow their pet to lick their face, as do 68 percent of cat owners. Seventy percent of pet parents refer to their pets as their children, and nothing keeps them from be-

ing with their kids. Sixty-five percent take their pets on errands with them at least once a month and 28 percent take their pets to work. Even those poor puppies who do have to stay home are only a phone call away: 37 percent of pet owners talk to their pets on the telephone or through an answering machine.

If pet owners are generous with their affection, they're even more so with their money. They spend a total of \$23 billion a year on their pets' needs and wants. Ninety-three percent of pet owners buy at least one present for their pet every year and 55 percent buy them four or more. Twenty-four percent have a wardrobe for Fluffy, and of those, 52 percent say they dress their pet for holidays, 57 percent dress them for cold weather, and 10 percent dress them in seasonal outfits. Forty-four percent have purchased souvenirs for their pets while on vacation and 39 percent have furniture in their homes that is reserved for use by their pets. 🐾

