



# ANIMALS, TRENDS, FUTURES

January 27, 2008

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**We need to understand population dynamics in order to develop effective plans for animals and for the future**





# Dogs and Cats in Massachusetts

Every 5 years, we conduct a formal study of pet populations and pet ownership trends - most recently in October 2006. (RDD methodology, sample size 1,857, margin of error for this sample is +/- 2.3%)



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# AVMA Research

**The AVMA conducts national research with 80,000 households using a written questionnaire.**

**The most recent research was done in January 2007.**





# Dog Populations by State (AVMA)

(% of households)

1. Wyoming
2. Oklahoma
3. New Mexico
- .....
47. Connecticut
48. New Jersey
49. New York
50. ....





***We are #50! - the lowest dog  
owning state in the U.S. (by far!)  
(AVMA)***

**• Why?**

- \* Housing**
- \* Socio-economics**
- \* High transient population**
- \* Effective Spay/Neuter efforts**





# Dogs in Massachusetts

- **20.1% of households own a dog (17.1% in 2001, 16.5% in 1996, 21% in 1991)**
- **1.3 dogs per dog owning household**
- **702,520 owned dogs in MA (522,000 in 2001, 444,000 in 1996, 566,000 in 1991)**
- **In Western MA, dog ownership rates are nearly twice that of Eastern MA**





# AKC Breed Popularity

	2006	2001	1996
Labs	1	1	1
Yorkies	2	6	9
Gr. Shepherds	3	3	3
Goldens	4	2	4
Beagles	5	5	5
.....			
Rotties	17	11	2

**On the rise: Bulldogs, King Charles Spaniels, Havanese, Bernese Mountain Dogs**

**On the decline: Rotties, Samoyeds, Shar-Peis, Pekingese, Akitas, Chows**





# Cat Populations by State (AVMA)

(% of households)

1. Maine

2. Vermont

3. Oregon

.....

16. Massachusetts

.....

48. Illinois

49. New Jersey

50. Louisiana





# Cats in Massachusetts

- **19% of households “own” a cat (18.5% in 2001, 20.2% in 1996, 22% in 1991)**
- **1.6 cats per cat owning household (1.6 in 2001, 1.8 in 1996, 1.6 in 1991)**
- **816,000 owned cats in MA (723,000 in 2001, 817,000 in 1996, 791,000 in 1991)**
- **MSPCA Research from 1996: Free roaming cats – 500-800,000, 2/3 of which are “tame”**





# Births and Adoptions

(data from 1998-2006)

- 12% of “owned” female cats have had at least 1 litter
- 200,000 kittens born annually (from owned cats)
- 10% of owned female dogs have had 1+ litter
- 85,000 puppies born annually
- ??? kittens from free roaming cats
- 100,000 new kittens go into MA homes (2001)
- 80,000 new puppies go into MA homes (2001)





# Spaying and Neutering

- **S/N rate of owned dogs – 87% (89% in 2001, 77% in 1996, 73% in 1991)**
- **S/N rate of owned cats – 94% (89% in 2001, 1996, and 1991)**
- **The cost of s/n is a significant factor in whether people s/n cats. (1996)**
- **Except for low income, cost is not a factor in whether people s/n dogs.**





# Where do people get their pets?

- **23% of dogs come from shelters (24% in 2001, 16% in 1996)**
- **31% of cats come from shelters (23% in 2001, 17% in 1996)**
- **71% of dog acquisitions are planned**
  - \* **Main sources: breeders, friends, shelters**
  - \* **73% of dogs are acquired as puppies**
- **55% of cat acquisitions are unplanned**
  - \* **Main cat sources: shelters, found animals, or neighbors**
  - \* **78% of cats are acquired as kittens**





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# Pet owner behaviors (2001)

- **Dogs owners bring their pets to vets twice as often as cat owners**
- **Dog owners spend nearly twice as much money on veterinary care than cat owners do**
- **35% of cat owners don't have a vet**





# The broken bond...(2001)

- The leading reason for dog-human break up is behavior of the dog
- The leading reason for cat-human break up is the result of the cat “disappearing”
- 88% of dogs wear a collar
- 17% of owned cats wear a collar





## Other Findings

- **48% of owned cats are kept indoors 100% of the time**
- **If a dog is missing for 10 minutes, 69% of owners start to worry**
- **It takes 2 hours of missing before 69% of cats owners worry**
- **Single people represent 25% of cat owners, but only 8% of dog owners**



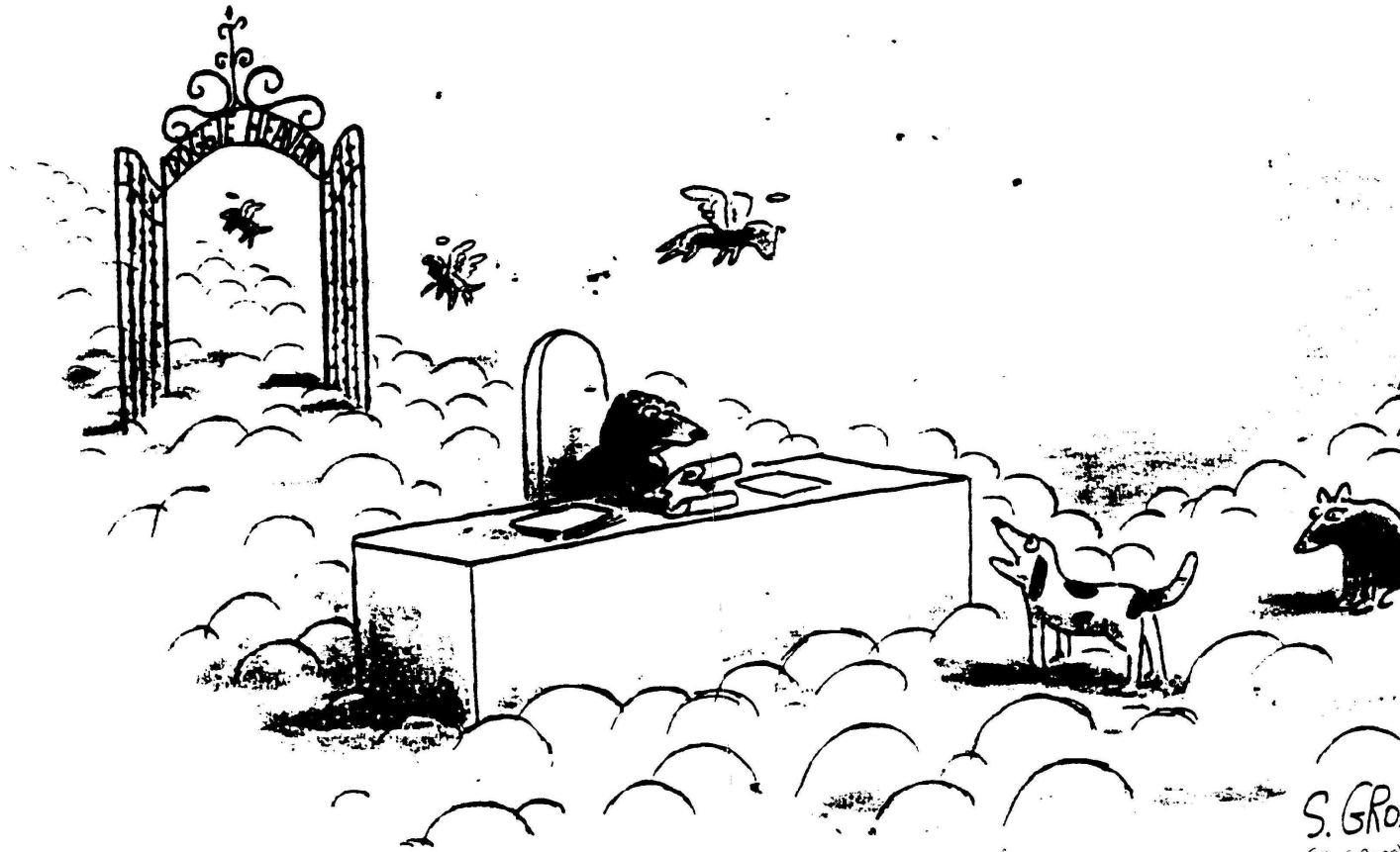


# MSPCA Shelter Data/Trends

**Dogs, Puppies, Cats, Kittens 1986-2006**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Dogs</b>	<b>Puppies</b>	<b>Cats</b>	<b>Kittens</b>
<b>1986</b>	<b>43,476</b>	<b>12,117</b>	<b>5,827</b>	<b>10,961</b>	<b>14,571</b>
<b>1991</b>	<b>32,323</b>	<b>8,251</b>	<b>1,508</b>	<b>12,058</b>	<b>10,506</b>
<b>1996</b>	<b>32,807</b>	<b>7,908</b>	<b>1,795</b>	<b>13,003</b>	<b>10,101</b>
<b>2001</b>	<b>26,323</b>	<b>6,448</b>	<b>1,243</b>	<b>11,183</b>	<b>7,449</b>
<b>2006</b>	<b>21,802</b>	<b>4,564</b>	<b>349</b>	<b>11,209</b>	<b>5,680</b>





S. GRO.  
(S. GROSS)

*"Is there any chance of getting my testicles back?"*

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“Hi! I’m new in town. Mind if I live with you for the rest of my life?”

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Luke —

Don't let anyone touch me!



Seth Adams

