



forever in your heart

Facts About the Connections Between Owners and Their Pets

These facts demonstrate the love and affection that pet owners have for their Faithful Pet Friends. This information supports the growing need for dignified, respectful options for owners to say goodbye to their pet companions.

- 54% of homeowners in Elkhart County have pets. 40% of pet owners have dogs and 28% have cats. Pocket pets, horses, birds, exotic pets, etc. make up the remaining 32%.
- The top three reasons why people own pets are: 1) Someone to play with, 2) Companionship, 3) Help children learn.
- Over 13 million Americans celebrate their dogs' or cats' birthdays and allow them to sleep on their beds.
- 39 million Americans give Christmas gifts to their dogs and cats.
- 16 million Americans say they are as attached to their pets as they are their best friends. Over 8 million say they are as attached to their pets as their children and spouses.

Source: American Veterinary Medical Association, Schaumburg, Ill., U.S. Pet Ownership and Demographics Sourcebook, 2002.

Article by about.com states the following:

<http://exoticpets.about.com/cs/resourcesgeneral/a/petstates.htm>

According to an APPMA ([press release from April 22, 2004](#)), Americans spent 32.4 billion dollars on their pets in 2003, which means pet-related spending has nearly doubled in the last 10 years in the US. This puts the pet industry well a head of other traditionally popular consumer sectors such as the toy industry (20 billion dollars spent) and the candy industry (24 billion dollars spent). Along with a general increase in the popularity of keeping pets, their owners seem to spending more money on their care.

The APPMA's reported the following breakdown for the areas in which money is spent on pets (2003 figures for the US)

- \$13.7 billion for food
- \$7.2 billion for supplies and O-T-C medications
- \$7.9 billion for veterinarian care
- \$1.5 billion for live animal purchases
- \$2.1 billion for other services such as grooming and boarding

For additional pet facts, go to the APPMA Industry Statistics and Trends

http://exoticpets.about.com/gi/dynamic/offsite.htm?zi=1/XJ&sdn=exoticpets&zu=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.appma.org%2Fpress%2Fpr-fact_sheets.asp

Time and time again, we hear stories about pet owners feeling awkward at the time of their pets' deaths. They feel they want to do something special to show the gratitude and affection to their pets for all the joys they gave to the family. But they aren't sure how. Not only is it important for young children to have this closure, but emotionally it is important to the grieving process, just as it is with any family member.

Faithful Friends is our solution to providing proactive, healthy healing processes for the grieving process. For years these services have been available throughout the country. Now, they are in our own backyard.

Please contact us for more information.

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