



## Latest Canadian Pet Population Figures Released

Guelph, Ontario  
February 12, 2015

Cat and dog populations in Canada fell in 2014 for the first time since the Canadian Animal Health Institute (CAHI) began tracking pet populations in 2007. Cats continued to outnumber dogs with 7 Million cats considered household pets in 2014, down from an estimated 7.9 Million in 2012. Dog population figures for 2014 were a bit more stable with a slight dip to 6.4 Million in 2014, down from 6.6 Million in 2012.

These figures are the result of a nation-wide survey conducted by Ipsos of over 4,200 pet-owning households and are consistent with historical tracking done by Ipsos on behalf of CAHI in 2007, 2010 and 2012.

Research lead, Colin Siren, Vice President, Agriculture and Animal Health, Ipsos indicates that “This research is unprecedented in Canada as it relates to pet population tracking. With 4 iterations of this survey over the last 8 years, the relative number of pets has remained consistent. The trend, however when we compare number of pets to overall Canadian population growth, is that the incidence of pet ownership is not keeping up with this new demographic.”

“While our 2014 study shows an unfortunate drop in percentage of households owning a pet, cat ownership has shown the most dramatic decrease, going from a high of 38% of households reporting owning a cat in 2007 to just 32% in 2014. Similarly, dog incidence seemed to peak at 36% in 2010 and has dropped to 34% in 2014. Canadian households owning pets is consistent with the pet demographics that we’ve seen in the U.S., with about 36.5% of households owning a dog and 30.4% of households reporting cat ownership<sup>1</sup>” indicated Tracey Firth, CAHI Programs Director.

Pet ownership has proven benefits to both our health and social well-being. Similarly, working animals improve the lives of those with disabilities. Healthy pets mean healthy Canadians.

Members of CAHI provide Canada’s veterinarians and animal owners with the animal health products necessary to maintain the health of our pets and food animal population. More on the CAHI can be found on our website at: [www.cahi-icsa.ca](http://www.cahi-icsa.ca)

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<sup>1</sup> American Veterinary Medical Association 2012 Pet Ownership & Demographics Sourcebook.