

Key findings

State of the nation

- There are 480,000 owned cats in Wales; the same as last year
- The age split of Welsh cat owners has remained largely in line with last year; Welsh cat owners tend to be younger than the general Welsh population
- Welsh cat owners are more likely to be female than male

The cat market

- Pedigrees now represent 32% of the total Welsh cat population; an increase from last year
- While buying cats has increased in popularity in Wales, the proportion of 'bought' cats in the total Welsh cat population remains lower than the UK as a whole
- The gap between purchase and adoption is wider for Welsh cats acquired in the last 12 months, compared to the entire Welsh cat population

Veterinary care

- Neutering numbers have fallen in Wales to 81%
- Welsh owners are less likely to take their cat to the vet routinely every year compared to the UK as a whole (55% versus 64%)
- Cost remains the top reason for Welsh owners not visiting the vet as much as they would like

Cat care, welfare and behaviour

- Welsh cat owners are researching the needs of their cats more, and still primarily turn to their vet for advice
- Social media and video content are increasingly influential on the knowledge of Welsh cat owners, particularly younger owners
- Fears over cats getting hurt or lost mean many Welsh owners are choosing to keep their cats indoors

Companionship

- Companionship is still a leading reason that Welsh people choose to own a cat
- The proportion of Welsh owners that own cats because they 'have always had cats' is significantly higher than that for the UK as a whole (39% versus 30%)
- Compared to the UK as a whole, Welsh owners consistently agree more with wellbeing-related statements about cat ownership

To read the full **CATS Report UK** visit cats.org.uk/cats-report

