

Key findings

State of the nation

- There are 840,000 owned cats in Scotland; the same as last year
- The age split of Scottish cat owners has moved slightly towards middle-aged groups
- Scotland has a more equal split of male and female cat ownership, compared to other devolved nations

The cat market

- Pedigrees now represent 37% of the total Scottish cat population; an increase from last year
- 41% of the total Scottish cat population were 'bought'; higher than the UK as a whole (38%)
- The gap between purchase and adoption is wider for Scottish cats acquired in the last 12 months, compared to the entire Scottish cat population

Veterinary care

- Neutering numbers have fallen in Scotland to 83%
- There are fewer reported problems accessing veterinary services in Scotland than the UK as a whole, but the figures are not improving over time
- For the first time in Scotland, the stress of a vet visit is a greater barrier to visiting the vet than cost

Cat care, welfare and behaviour

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

Companionship

- Companionship is still the leading reason that Scottish people choose to own a cat

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