

Key findings

State of the nation

- There are 10.2 million owned cats across the UK, a slight fall from 10.6 million in 2024
- Ownership among those aged 35 to 54 has declined
- Cat owners tend to be younger compared to the general population

The cat market

- Specific breeds of cats make up over 50% of recent acquisitions and now represent 36% of the total cat population
- For cat acquisition, there has been a shift back to using classified sites, but social media continues to play a significant role
- Those acquiring cats tend to be younger, more affluent owners living in urban areas

Veterinary care

- Neutering numbers are falling as we also see a rise in younger, more affluent pet owners of pedigree cats, many of whom want their cats to have kittens
- More owners are choosing to breed their cat, but more kittens are being given away, rather than sold
- Microchipping numbers have not increased, despite the introduction of compulsory microchipping for pet cats in England in 2024

Cat care, welfare and behaviour

- Cat owners are researching the needs of their cats more, but younger owners are turning to their vet for advice less often
- Social media and video content are increasingly influential on the knowledge of cat owners
- Fears over cats getting hurt or lost mean owners are choosing to keep their cats indoors

Companionship and challenges to ownership

- Companionship is still the main reason that people own cats
- The companionship benefits of cats are most keenly felt by those who live alone, and female owners
- Affordability is a leading barrier to cat ownership

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

