

PRESS RELEASE

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Vermont #1 in Pet Ownership

A recent survey of U.S. Pet Ownership by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) ranks Vermont as the top pet owning state where 70.8% of households own a pet. Rounding out the top are New Mexico (67.6%), South Dakota (65.6%), Oregon (63.3%) and Maine (62.6%). Vermont also ranks at the top of the cat owning states, with 49.5% owning a cat. The states with the least number of pet owning households include Rhode Island (53 %), Minnesota (53 %), California (52.9 %), Maryland (52.3 %), and Illinois (51.8%).

The report also indicates that, between 2006 and 2011, the percentage of households that made no trips at all to the veterinarian increased by 8 percent for dog owners and a staggering 24 percent for cat owners. Overall, about 81 percent of dog owning households made at least one visit to the veterinarian in 2011, down 1.7 percent from 2006. The decrease for cat owners was, once again, much higher, as only 55.1 percent of cat owners made at least one visit to the veterinarian in 2011, down 13.5 percent from 2006.

Dr. Douglas G. Aspros, president of the AVMA reports, "Unfortunately, the report reveals that fewer dogs and cats are seeing the veterinarian regularly, and that's something that the AVMA and every companion animal veterinarian are concerned about. Pet owners across the country need to remember to bring their pets into the veterinarian - at least once a year - to maintain optimal health."

To obtain a copy of the U.S. Pet Ownership and Demographics Sourcebook, visit <http://www.avma.org> or visit www.vtvets.org.

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The Vermont Veterinary Medical Association (VVMA), founded in 1898, is a professional organization of 330 veterinarians dedicated to compassionate animal care and quality medicine. For more information, visit www.vtvets.org or call (802) 878-6888.