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The downturn in the [economy](#) appears to be causing people to seek more comfort in their pets than ever. A new AP/Petside poll released Tuesday shows that half (50%) of [American pet owners](#) consider their pets to be as much a part of the family as any person in the household.

The survey reveals that single people of both genders, but especially single women (66%), were likely to say that their pet is a full member of the family. Only 46 percent of married women shared the same viewpoint. In comparison, 52 percent of single men said so, compared to 43 percent of married men.

A great percentage (43%) of pet owners think their pooch or kitty has their own sense of [style](#), with 1 in 5 dressing them up in fashionable attire. That said, results show that "Fido" is more likely to be fashion forward, with almost a quarter (23%) of dog owners saying they've purchased an outfit for their pet, compared with 12 percent of cat owners.

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Show Dedicated to Pets Returns

Earlier this week, a television show dedicated entirely to pets returned to air exclusively on the...

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Human tastes also reach pet tastebuds, with 43 percent of respondents admitting to feeding their pets people food at least sometimes, with more dog owners doing so (48%) than cat owners (40%).

In some respects, this poll reveals that dog owners treat their pets more like members of the family than cat owners. Dog owners are more likely to have taken their pet to a family [vacation](#) than cat owners (50 % vs. 39%) and are also more likely to have included their pet in a [holiday card](#) (37% vs. 33%) or family portrait (38% vs. 32%). Canines are also more likely to be [taken to work](#) than felines (21% vs. 14%).

Still, more cat owners (36%) allow their [furry friends](#) to [sleep](#) in the same bed with them than dog owners (29%), with married people more likely to relegate their pets to its own bed than singles. And owners who celebrate pet birthdays are almost even, with 29 percent of dog owners and 26 percent of cat owners marking the occasion.

Finally, they say a "rose is a rose" by any [name](#), but almost half (49 percent) of respondents have given at least one of their current pets a human-like name, including 51 percent of dog owners and 50 percent of cat owners.

For more information go to: <http://surveys.ap.org/>

Also see our previous polls on the [Obama Puppy](#) and [Pet Owners Understanding Their Pets](#).



Petside Team

Petside is run by pet lovers just like you, and is here to help you be the best pet parents you...

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Lessly (Unverified)

Added 11-10-2010 02:01pm

I dont care about this i just wanna say hi soo.... HI PEOPLE!!!!!!

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chine (Unverified)
Added 01-31-2010 03:21am

I have a dog, he is part of the pack. Fun loving and a joy to have around. Its like having a 2 year old that never grows up. I like him more than most humans. It takes a lot of patience sometimes. 3 rules that I have and I allow no exceptions for are no begging, no whining and he is not allowed to sleep in my bed. Thats all. I have also trained him with hand commands. Dogs understand body language better than words. Most people cannot believe how well behaved he is. He is an adoption and was passed off as a dumb dog. This was not the case. Its very easy to train a dog. If you cant train a dog how can you raise a child to become a productive member of society. He is a good dog and a great friend to boot. He gets people food on occasion, chili dogs for Christmas dinner and bits of food that I cook if Im full. I save him bones from rib dinners too. But he loves his dog food just fine. He and I also exercise regularly. A good addition to my life. I am also a chef, and had to wait tables in school.

Just a note, please dont tell your server or cook or chef that you cant finish your meal and you are going to feed it to your dog when you get home. Im sure the dog will love it. But the food we cooked and busted our butts getting getting to you (to enjoy) should not go to the dogs. Or at least dont let that be known.

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