

Japanese and Pets 1997

The Asahi Shimbun conducted a face to face survey on the Japanese opinion about pets. The survey was done on June 8 and 9, 1997, for 3,000 votes and got effective response from 2,248. Proportion of male vs female was 49% : 51%.

1. [What do you think of a pet ?](#)
2. [What do you think is a good point of a pet ?](#)
3. [Then, what do you think is the problem about pet ?](#)
4. [Do your neighbours have good manners in owning a pet ?](#)
5. [How do you think about having pets in condominium ? Do you hope it is permitted to have them ?](#)
6. [When you see someone brings his/her pet in a park or square, are you anxious about its breeding ?](#)
7. [What do you think about dressing pets ?](#)
8. [What do you think if you see a cat dreaming on a fence ?](#)
9. [Then, what do you think of a person who feeds a homeless cat every day ?](#)
10. [Do you think you and your pet can understand each other if you love the pet ?](#)
11. [Do you think you feel happy often if you were a pet ?](#)
12. [Do you have any pets in your home ?](#)
13. [\(For those who have pets\) Then, what do you have ?](#)
14. [\(For those who do not have pets\) Do you want to have a pet if you have a chance ?](#)
15. [Which do you prefer between dog and cat ?](#)
16. [Recently, an electronic game to grow a virtual pet such as *tamagotchi* became very popular. How do you think about these games ?](#)

Q1: What do you think of a pet ? (Choose one)

Toy	7%
Fashion	3%
Decoration	2%
Cute friend	37%
Substitution of a child	7%
Support of soul	25%
Nuisance	12%
Others/NA	7%

Q2: What do you think is a good point of a pet ?

Gives charm and relief in life	36%
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Amusement for aged people	 8%
Gives children tender heart and imagination	 19%
Good gatekeeper	 11%
Helps to kill time	 5%
Makes family conversation richer	 7%
Makes human relations better	 6%
Others/NA	 8%

Q3: Then, what do you think is the problem about pet ?

Noise and smells	 19%
Danger to hurt human	 6%
Brings parasites and epidemics	 11%
Bad manner of owners	 40%
Costs too much	 4%
Imports rare animals	 6%
Many people are not sympathetic about pet	 11%
Others/NA	 3%

Q4: Do your neighbours have good manners in owning a pet ?

Yes	 49%
No	 42%
Others/NA	 9%

Q5: How do you think about having pets in condominium ? Do you hope it is permitted to have them ?

Hope to be permitted	 34%
Do not want to	 54%
Others/NA	 12%

Q6: When you see someone brings his/her pet in a park or square, are you anxious about its breeding ?

Yes	 67%
No	 30%

Others/NA	3%
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Q7: What do you think about dressing pets ?

Cute	15%
Pitiful	70%
Nothing special	9%
Others/NA	6%

Q8: What do you think if you see a cat dreaming on a fence ?

Envy	54%
Eyesore	11%
Nothing special	28%
Others/NA	7%

Q9: Then, what do you think of a person who feeds a homeless cat every day ?

Tender	38%
Trouble of neighbour	42%
Nothing special	10%
Others/NA	10%

Q10: Do you think you and your pet can understand each other if you love the pet ?

Yes	88%
No	7%
Others/NA	5%

Q11: Do you think you feel happy often if you were a pet ?

Feel happy often	28%
Rarely	59%
Others/NA	13%

Q12: Do you have any pets in your home ?

Yes	39%
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No	 61%
Others/NA	0%

Q13: (For those who have pets) Then, what do you have ? (Choose at most three)

Dog	 21%
Cat	 10%
Rabbit, squirrel or hamster	 4%
Bird	 5%
Tortois, snake etc.	 1%
Fish	 7%
Others	 1%
NA	0%

Q14: (For those who do not have pets) Do you want to have a pet if you have a chance ?

Yes	 24%
No	 37%
Others/NA	0%

Q15: Which do you prefer between dog and cat ?

Dog	 65%
Cat	 15%
Both	 10%
Neither	 8%
Others/NA	 2%

Q16: Recently, an electronic game to grow a virtual pet such as *tamagotchi* became very popular. How do you think about these games ?

Can enjoy having pet easily	 7%
Regarding soul as a toy	 13%
Just a game and totally different from a pet	 70%
Others/NA	 10%

Source: *The Asahi Shimbun*, June 28, 1997

NOTE: I tried to translate the essence of texts, but not aiming at word-by-word precision. In opinion polls, subtle change of wordings may generate different results. Thus, you should be careful in reading this page, understanding that your impression from the text might not be the same as those of who responded this survey.

[Opinion Poll in Japan home page](#) | [Poll in 1997](#)