

# Statistics Regarding Companion Animals & Fires

Each year, fire departments respond to nearly 2 million fires that result in thousands of deaths, tens of thousands of injuries, and billions of dollars in property loss. There are huge indirect costs of fire as well-temporary lodging, lost business, medical expenses, psychological damage, pets killed, and others. These indirect costs may be as much as 8 to 10 times higher than the direct costs of fires.

### Source: U.S. Fire Administration

Each year in the United States, approximately 500,000 pets are affected by home fires. Source: National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC)

Approximately 40,000 pets die each year in the United States as a result of fire. Source: Live-Safe.org

According to the 2011-2012 APPA National Pet Owners Survey, 62% of U.S. households own a pet, which equates to 72.9 millions homes. Source: MissoulaPets.com

Over the past five years, the number of residential fires in the United States has averaged between 350,000 and 400,000 per year.

## Source: U.S. Fire Administration

Number of U.S. Households that Own a Pet	Total Number of Pets Owned in the U.S.
<ul> <li>Bird - 6 million</li> <li>Cat - 38.2 million</li> <li>Dog - 45.6 million</li> <li>Equine - 3.9 million</li> <li>Freshwater Fish - 13.3 million</li> <li>Saltwater Fish - 0.7 million</li> <li>Reptile - 4.7 million</li> <li>Small Animal - 5.3 million</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Bird - 15 million</li> <li>Cat - 93.6 million</li> <li>Dog - 77.5 million</li> <li>Equine - 13.3 million</li> <li>Freshwater Fish - 171.7 million</li> <li>Saltwater Fish - 11.2 million</li> <li>Reptile - 13.6 million</li> <li>Small Animal - 15.9 million</li> </ul>

#### Source: FetchPetCare.com

Pets are at risk: Those with limited physical and cognitive abilities are at a higher risk of death and injury from fire than other groups.

## Source: U.S. Fire Administration

According to a study at the State University of New York at Buffalo found that people with hypertension who adopted a cat or dog had lower blood pressure readings in stressful situations than did those who did not own a pet. (Dr. Karen Allen, State University of New York at Buffalo) Source: LongLeashOnLife.com

Over 90% of U.S. households now have at least one smoke alarm. Only 60% of households where a fire death occurred were equipped with smoke alarms; of those, 39% did not operate. These results clearly indicate that smoke alarms do contribute to saving lives. *Source: U.S. Fire Administration* 

Nationwide, approximately 30% of households have cats, and the estimated numbers of pet cats in the United States has grown from 30 million in 1970 to 60 million in 1990. These estimates are based on U.S. Census data and include only those cats that people claim to "own" as pets, not cats

that are semi-wild or free-ranging. Source: University of Wisconsin Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology

Pets help to fight depression and loneliness, promoting an interest in life and helping people stick to a regular daily routine. (*Between Pets and People: The Importance of Animal Companionship*) **Source: AnimalHumaneSociety.org** 

*Lung size matters:* Children under age 5 are 40% more likely to die in a fire than the general population. As the age of the child increases, the likelihood of dying in a fire decreases. *Source: U.S. Fire Administration* 

Pet pals are natural teachers. They help people of all ages learn about responsibility, loyalty, empathy, sharing, and unconditional love qualities particularly essential to a any age groups health. *Source: Examiner.com* 

Pets Help to Prevent Heart Disease and lower blood pressure. Because pets provide people with faithful companionship, research shows they may also provide their owners with greater psychological stability, thus a measure of protection from heart disease. (National Institute of Health Technology Assessment Workshop: Health Benefits of Pets) *Source: PetsAddLife.org* 

Companion Animals can be Integral to Fostering Compassion. The U.S. National Parent-Teacher Association Congress was quoted as saying the following: "Children trained to extend justice, kindness, and mercy to animals become more just, kind, and considerate in their [relations] with one another. Character training along these lines in youth will result in men and women of broader sympathies; more law-abiding-in every respect more valuable-citizens." *Source: CompassionateKids.com* 

According to the National Institute of Health, people with pets actually make fewer doctor visits, especially for non-serious medical conditions. (National Institute of Health Technology Assessment Workshop: Health Benefits of Pets)

#### Source: PreciousPets.org

Walking with a pet helps to soothe nerves and offers instant relaxation. Studies conducted worldwide have shown that the impact of a stressful situation is lesser on pet owners, especially males, than on those who do not own a pet. (Josephine M. Wills, Waltham Centre for Pet Nutrition, United Kingdom ) *Source: Animal Planet: Animal.Discovery.com* 

The leading three causes of fire in 2001 for all property types were incendiary/suspicious (arson) (25%), cooking (15%), and open flame (11%). *Source: U.S. Fire Administration* 

Approximately 88% of pet owners consider their pets to be valued family members, so it makes sense to include them in fire prevention plans and rescue alerts should a house fire strike. *Source: American Kennel Club* 

# The Pet Fire Alert System can help prevent companion animals from dying in residential fires. Your pets are your family. Order now at <u>PetFireAlert.com</u>.