

# Pet Owner Survey

HOW OUR COMMUNITY CONNECTS WITH OUR AGENCY

12 MONTHS POST WILDFIRE



## about pet owning households

Pet households are very common in RMWB

OVER  
**93%**

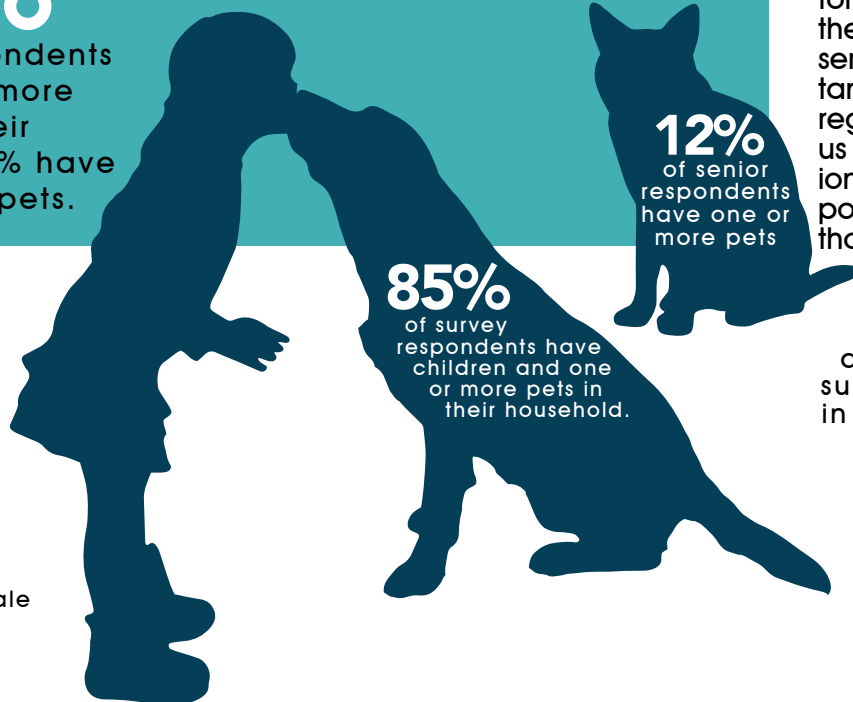
of survey respondents have one or more pets in their household. 65% have two or more pets.



almost  
**8 out of 10**

survey respondents are married or in common law relationships.

52% of our survey respondents were female



**85%**  
of survey respondents have children and one or more pets in their household.

**12%**  
of senior respondents have one or more pets

## PURPOSE OF THE SURVEY

The Fort McMurray SPCA is undertaking a series of surveys intended for current or previous pet owners living within the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo. Getting to know our community better and how you connect with the Fort McMurray SPCA is an opportunity for us to learn more about the programs and services that are important to provide to our region and how those of us who have pet companions in our households are positively impacted by those relationships.

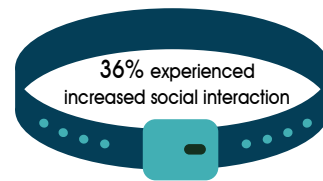
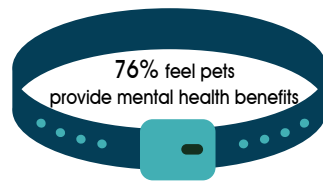
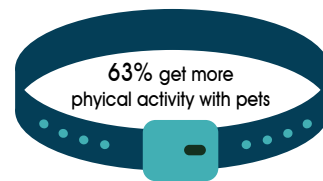
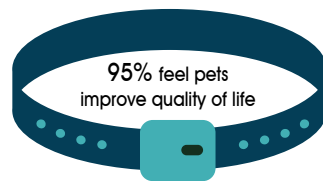
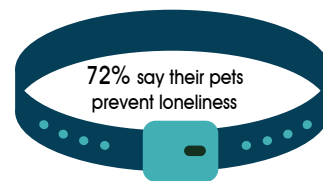
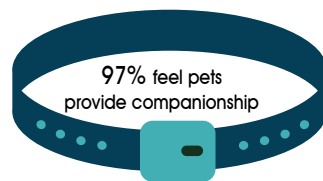
almost **10%** of our survey respondents live in rural or reserve areas

**7%** indicated that they identify as Indigenous

## what role to pet companions play in our households?

More and more studies reveal the important ways pets enrich our lives in important ways including overall health and psychological well being.

Having identified the important support role companion animals played during evacuation and re-entry post wildfire in our first survey, we asked our respondents to tell us what roles their pet companions continue to play in their households one year later.



OVER  
**71%**

of survey respondents had adopted their pet companion from the Fort McMurray SPCA or another rescue facility.

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## connecting with FMSPCA programs

The Fort McMurray SPCA provides a range of programming that impacts our region's youngest citizens to our seniors providing community based supports for health and safety, social wellness and education.

We asked our survey respondents to indicate which community programs they were aware of and had participated in:

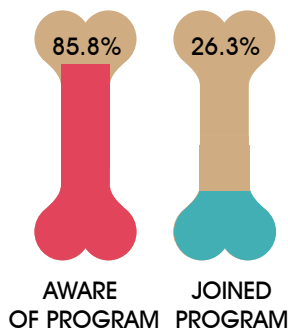


foster homes urgently needed



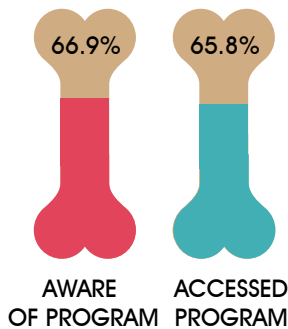
Animal foster volunteers are a life-saving role for many animals who enter the shelter. These volunteers provide temporary care in their homes for animals that

may be too young for adoption, sick or injured, need work on their behaviour outside of the shelter or provide palliative care for animals in need of a quiet, relaxed home for the remainder of their lives.



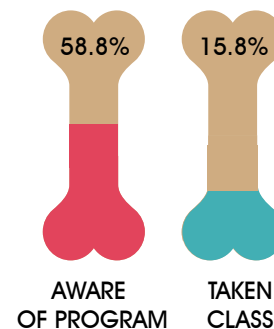
The Pet Food Bank program created in cooperation with the Wood Buffalo Food Bank whereby food bank clients and those demonstrating need are provided with pet food for their companion

animals in order to assist families and individuals in caring for their pets and contributing as a preventative measure to companion animals becoming homeless.



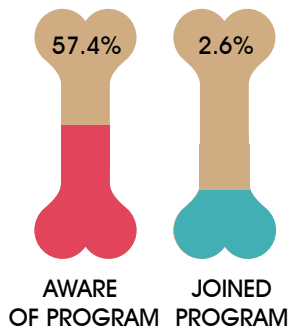
Cool Cat Yoga program at the FMSPCA shelter. This Hatha Yoga course is not only healthy and fun, it also helps to socialize and enrich

the lives of the shelter cats, as well as, encourages adoption and builds the human animal bond as participants interact with them.

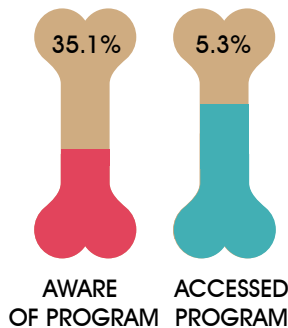


Book Buddies – This is a reading to shelter pets program where children in grades 1-8 who are able to read at any level are invited to the shelter to read to

the pets in our adoption rooms. The program will help children improve their reading skills while also helping the shelter animals by providing socialization and human interaction.



Animal Safe Haven (ASH) – The ASH program has been created to provide temporary homes to animals that are part of families fleeing abusive and violent situations or for those who for medical reasons are unable to provide care while hospitalized. It is not easy to leave an abusive or violent relationship and it can be more difficult when there is fear for the family pet. We can provide them with a shelter from the storm.



**under 25% of survey respondents were aware that the FMSPCA also provides the following programs:**

Our 9 Lives program pairs seniors who would like to have a pet with senior adoptable animals, usually cats, that could benefit from a home of their own. Through this program, all food and veterinary costs are provided, as well as regular check-ups to ensure everyone is enjoying the companionship.

The FMSPCA's ground breaking Northern Animal Management and Education (NAME) program provides solution based services that addresses humane education, animal care supplies, medical treatment and intervention as well as assists rural communities in establishing humane animal best practices.

Animal Safety and Awareness Program (ASAP) – The ASAP program is available to school aged children from kindergarten to grade 8 and teaches humane education instilling kindness towards both humans and animals as well as safety and bite prevention.