



Dog & Cat Population Estimates

City of Los Angeles and Los Angeles County

Executive Summary

- The estimated dog and cat populations for the City of Los Angeles and Los Angeles County vary drastically and are nearly impossible to calculate accurately.
- More specifically, dog and cat population estimates for the City of Los Angeles range from the 200,000s to nearly 900,000 for each species. In Los Angeles County, estimates range from approximately 700,000 to over 2 million for both dogs and cats.
- To better understand these discrepancies, this report evaluated formulas generated by the following five agencies to determine an estimate of the dog and cat populations for the City and County of Los Angeles:
 - City of Los Angeles Animal Services
 - 1-800-SAVE-A-PET
 - Zogby International
 - American Pet Product Manufacturers Association (APPMA)
 - American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)
- Found Animals then used the estimates produced to calculate our own estimates of the dog and cat populations in the City of Los Angeles and Los Angeles County.
- In doing so, Found Animals has calculated the following population estimates:
 - Dogs, City of Los Angeles: 351,761 - 600,999
 - Cats, City of Los Angeles: 618,675 - 707,058
 - Dogs, Los Angeles County: 899,236 - 1,536,383
 - Cats, Los Angeles County: 1,581,571 - 1,807,510

Baseline Data

- To calculate dog and cat population estimates, human population estimates for both the City of Los Angeles and Los Angeles County were obtained from the California Department of Finance.
- For 2009, the estimated populations are:
 - 4,065,585 for the City of Los Angeles
 - 10,393,185 for Los Angeles County
- To determine the number of households, the total population was divided by 3.45, the estimated number of persons per household according to the US Census Bureau.
- As such, the estimated number of households in:
 - City of Los Angeles is: $4,065,585 / 3.45 = 1,178,430$
 - Los Angeles County is: $10,393,185 / 3.45 = 3,012,517$
- These calculations were used as the baseline for generating data for dog and cat populations in both the City and County of Los Angeles.

Threats to Validity of Estimates

Zogby International

- Averages were generated from a survey of only 600 participants from throughout the State of California, and therefore may not be an accurate estimate of the Los Angeles pet population.

APPMA

- Estimates are based on national percentages, rather than state or regional. As such, these numbers fail to consider the unique demographics of the Los Angeles area and likely overestimate the number of dogs and cats.

AVMA

- Estimates are based on California averages, and therefore may not be truly reflective of the Los Angeles Area.

Dog Population Estimates for the City of Los Angeles

City of L.A.	800-Save-a-Pet	Zogby	APPMA	AVMA
% of dog-owning households: 14.75%	% of dog-owning households: 19.9%	% of dog-owning households: 47.7%	% of dog-owning households: 39%	% of dog-owning households: 34.4%
# of dogs per dog-owning household: 1.6	# of dogs per dog-owning household: 1.48	# of dogs per dog-owning household: 1.56	# of dogs per dog-owning household: 1.7	# of dogs per dog-owning household: 1.6
Multiplying Factor: 14.75% X 1.6 = 23.6%	Multiplying Factor: 19.9% X 1.48 = 29.45%	Multiplying Factor: 47.7% X 1.56 = 74.41%	Multiplying Factor: 39% X 1.7 = 66.3%	Multiplying Factor: 34.4% X 1.6 = 55.04%
Total # of dogs: 1,178,430 X 23.6% = 278,109 Dogs	Total # of dogs: 1,178,430 X 29.45% = 347,071 dogs	Total # of dogs: 1,178,430 X 74.41% = 876,893 dogs	Total # of dogs: 1,178,430 X 66.3% = 781,299 dogs	Total # of dogs: 1,178,430 X 55.04% = 648,607 Dogs

Summary of Dog Population Estimates for City of Los Angeles

<u>Source</u>	<u>Estimated # of Dogs</u>
City of Los Angeles Animal Services	278,109
1-800-SAVE-A-PET	347,071
Zogby International	876,893
APPMA	781,299
AVMA	648,607
Range:	278,109 - 876,893
Mean:	586,396

Cat Population Estimates for the City of Los Angeles

City of L.A.	800-Save-a-Pet	Zogby	APPMA	AVMA
No cat population estimates available.	% of cat-owning households: 13%	% of cat-owning households: 29.8%	% of cat-owning households: 34%	% of cat-owning households: 32.6%
	# of cats per cat-owning household: 1.57	# of cats per cat-owning household: 1.75	# of cats per cat-owning household: 2.3	# of cats per cat-owning household: 2.2
	Multiplying Factor: 13% X 1.57 = 20.41%	Multiplying Factor: 29.8% X 1.75 = 52.15%	Multiplying Factor: 34% X 2.3 = 78.2%	Multiplying Factor: 32.6% X 2.2 = 71.72%
	Total # of cats: 1,178,430 X 20.41% = 240,517 Cats	Total # of cats: 1,178,430 X 52.15% = 614,551 Cats	Total # of cats: 1,178,430 X 78.2% = 921,532 Cats	Total # of cats: 1,178,430 X 71.72% = 845,170 Cats

Summary of Cat Population Estimates for the City of Los Angeles

<u>Source</u>	<u>Estimated # of Cats</u>
1-800-SAVE-A-PET	240,517
Zogby International	614,551
APPMA	921,532
AVMA	845,170
Range:	240,517 - 921,532
Mean:	655,443

Dog Population Estimates for Los Angeles County

City of L.A.	800-Save-a-Pet	Zogby	APPMA	AVMA
% of dog-owning households: 14.75%	% of dog-owning households: 19.9%	% of dog-owning households: 47.7%	% of dog-owning households: 39%	% of dog-owning households: 34.4%
# of dogs per dog-owning household: 1.6	# of dogs per dog-owning household: 1.48	# of dogs per dog-owning household: 1.56	# of dogs per dog-owning household: 1.7	# of dogs per dog-owning household: 1.6
Multiplying Factor: 23.6%	Multiplying Factor: 29.45%	Multiplying Factor: 74.4%	Multiplying Factor: 66.3%	Multiplying Factor: 55.04%
Total # of dogs: 3,012,517 X 23.6%	Total # of dogs: 3,012,517 X 29.45%	Total # of dogs: 3,012,517 X 74.4%	Total # of dogs: 3,012,517 X 66.3%	Total # of dogs: 3,012,517 X 55.04%
= 710,954 Dogs	= 887,246 Dogs	= 2,241,674 Dogs	= 1,997,298 Dogs	= 1,658,119 Dogs

Summary of Dog Population Estimates for Los Angeles County

<u>Source</u>	<u>Estimated # of Dogs</u>
City of Los Angeles Animal Services	710,954
1-800-SAVE-A-PET	887,246
Zogby International	2,241,674
APPMA	1,997,298
AVMA	1,658,119
Range:	710,954 - 2,241,674
Mean:	1,499,058

Cat Population Estimates for Los Angeles County

City of L.A.	800-Save-a-Pet	Zogby	APPMA	AVMA
No cat population estimates available.	% of cat-owning households: 13%	% of cat-owning households: 29.8%	% of cat-owning households: 34%	% of cat-owning households: 32.6%
	# of cats per cat-owning household: 1.57	# of cats per cat-owning household: 1.75	# of cats per cat-owning household: 2.3	# of cats per cat-owning household: 2.2
	Multiplying Factor: 20.41%	Multiplying Factor: 52.15%	Multiplying Factor: 78.2%	Multiplying Factor: 71.72%
	Total # of cats: 3,012,517 X 20.41%	Total # of Cats: 3,012,517 x 52.15%	Total # of Cats: 3,012,517 X 78.2%	Total # of cats: 3,012,517 X 71.72%
	= 614,585 Cats	= 1,571,027 Cats	= 2,355,788 Cats	= 2,160,577 Cats

Summary of Cat Population Estimates for Los Angeles County

<u>Source</u>	<u>Estimated # of Cats</u>
1-800-SAVE-A-PET	614,585
Zogby International	1,571,027
APPMA	2,355,788
AVMA	2,160,577
Range:	614,585 - 2,355,788
Mean:	1,675,494

Summary of Population Estimates

- As is evidenced by the data, the estimated dog and cat population varies greatly. Until the Census surveys pet ownership, an accurate estimate may be difficult to obtain.
- Based on the data evaluated in this report, Found Animals has established our own formulas for calculating both dog and cat ownership.
- For dogs:
 - Found Animals believes that the formula generated by the LA City Licensing Report is too low, as this estimate indicates that only 14% of households own a dog, while other estimates place this number at 30-50%.
 - Found Animals also believes that the formula generated by Zogby International study and APPMA are too high, as they estimate that nearly 48% and 39% of households own dogs. Studies have shown that urban areas tend to have lower pet ownership rates than more suburban areas, and given that the 39% estimate generated by APPMA was a national estimate, a reliable figure for LA would likely be lower.
 - As such, Found Animals believes that a more accurate percentage of dog ownership lies between the 19.9% generated by the Save-a-pet study and the 34% generated by the AVMA.
 - Because the number of dogs per household appeared to be relatively constant among the different formulas, Found Animals believes the estimate of 1.5 dogs per dog-owning household is a relatively accurate figure.
- For cats:
 - Found Animals believes that the percentage calculated by the Save-a-pet study (13%) is too low, as most other estimates place this number in the 30% range.
 - Because the other three available estimates are all roughly 30%, Found Animals believes this is a relatively accurate percentage of the cat-owning households in Los Angeles County.
 - Given that the range of cats per cat-owning household is from 1.57 to 2.3, Found Animals has narrowed this range down from 1.75 to 2 cats per cat owning household.

Revised Dog Estimates

Low-end Prediction: City of L.A.

% of dog-owning households: 19.9%

of dogs per dog-owning household: 1.5

Multiplying Factor: 29.85%

Total # of dogs:
1,178,430 X 29.85%

= 351,761 dogs

High-end Prediction: City of L.A.

% of dog-owning households: 34%

of dogs per dog-owning household: 1.5

Multiplying Factor: 51%

Total # of dogs:
1,178,430 X 51%

= 600,999 dogs

Low-end Prediction: LA County

% of dog-owning households: 19.9%

of dogs per dog-owning household: 1.5

Multiplying Factor: 29.85%

Total # of dogs:
3,012,517 X 29.85%

= 899,236 dogs

High-end Prediction: LA County

% of dog-owning households: 34%

of dogs per dog-owning household: 1.5

Multiplying Factor: 51%

Total # of dogs:
3,012,517 X 51%

= 1,536,383 dogs

Revised Cat Estimates

Low-end Prediction: City of L.A.	High-end Prediction: City of L.A.	Low-end Prediction: LA County	High-end Prediction: LA County
% of cat-owning households: 30%	% of cat-owning households: 30%	% of cat-owning households: 30%	% of cat-owning households: 30%
# of cats per cat-owning household: 1.75	# of cats per cat-owning household: 2	# of cats per cat-owning household: 1.75	# of cats per cat-owning household: 2
Multiplying Factor: 52.5%	Multiplying Factor: 60%	Multiplying Factor: 52.5%	Multiplying Factor: 60%
Total # of cats: 1,178,430 X 52.5%	Total # of cats: 1,178,430 X 60%	Total # of cats: 3,012,517 X 52.5%	Total # of cats: 3,012,517 X 60%
= 618,675 Cats	= 707,058 Cats	= 1,581,571 Cats	= 1,807,510 Cats

Summary of Revised Estimates

<u>Area</u>	<u>Pet</u>	<u>Estimates</u>
City of Los Angeles	Dogs	351,761-600,999
Los Angeles County	Dogs	899,236 -1,536,383
City of Los Angeles	Cats	618,675 - 707,038
Los Angeles County	Cats	1,581,571 - 1,807,510

Feral Cat Population Estimates

- In addition to the estimated number of owned dogs and cats, we must also consider the number of feral cats in Los Angeles County in order to accurately estimate the pet population.
- While establishing an accurate estimate of the number of feral cat population is nearly impossible, numerous agencies have published their population estimates. Some of the feral cat population estimates for LA County include:
 - more than 1 million (FixNation)
 - Approximately 3 million (Los Angeles Animal Services)
 - Approximately 4 million (Stray Cat Alliance)
- Instead of developing an estimate for the overall population, the Feral Cat Project has developed an estimate of the number of feral cats per household. Their estimate is that there are approximately 0.5 cats per household. Using this figure and the number of households for LA City and LA County, we can calculate another set of feral cat population estimates.
 - $1,178,430$ (# of HHs in LA City) $\times 0.5 = 589,000$ feral cats
 - $3,012,517$ (# of HHs in LA County) $\times 0.5 = 1.5$ million feral cats
- Overall, the population of feral cats in Los Angeles County is estimated to range from approximately 1.5 million to nearly 4 million.

Conclusions

- Based on the new estimates, Found Animals speculates that there are:
 - between **351,000 and 600,000 owned dogs** in the City of Los Angeles.
 - *Mean: 475,500 Dogs*
 - between **900,000 and 1.5 million owned dogs** in Los Angeles County.
 - *Mean: 1.2 million*
 - between **618,000 to 707,000 owned cats** in the City of Los Angeles.
 - *Mean: 662,500*
 - between **1.5 - 1.8 million owned cats** in Los Angeles County,
 - *Mean: 1.65 million.*
- Feral cat population estimates are nearly impossible to estimate accurately but are thought to range from approximately 1.5 million to nearly 4 million in Los Angeles County.
- By using this population data, Found Animals can approximate the percentage of the pet population in the Los Angeles area that is handled by animal control facilities every year.
- Using these baseline estimates, Found Animals can evaluate whether its involvement is helping reduce shelter intake and improve the overall outcomes of the dog and cat population in shelter facilities.