

DOMESTIC ANIMALS IN ITALY

Italians really like sharing their life with an animal. At least 60 million pets live in their homes: a number equivalent to that of people who live in Italy.

The data, collected in the 2016 Italy Report, in fact indicate that 22.5% own one, 13% own two or three, and 4% say they welcome even four or more animals into their home.

The preferences are varied: there are about seven million dogs, animals that keep everyone company, big and small, and bring joy while wagging their tail carefree in the middle of the green. Cats are liked more and their number reaches a considerable figure of seven and a half million.

But even more numerous are the small fish that swim in our home aquariums, the goldfish so loved by children, and the exotic fish for those who usually frequent distant seas.

And what about the 13 million birds that cheer up Italian homes with their song?

Finally, there are almost two million rodents such as hamsters and there is no shortage of iguanas and turtles.

Cuddles and caresses, but also an economic commitment. Owning animals costs money, but Italians don't worry about spending too much on the health of their animals.

The Italians are people who love animals and are convinced that having an animal at home makes everyday life more peaceful. To spread the culture of pets they even organize parties in parks and beauty contests are organized!

- a. In Italy there are more animals than inhabitants.**
- b. 4% of Italians have four or more animals at home.**
- c. In Italy there are more dogs than cats.**
- d. Having pets is expensive.**
- e. Italians love to have animals because they make everyday life more peaceful.**