

## Paw-ly pets: Over a third of pet owners lie to their boss about taking time off to nurse a poorly pet

- Two fifths (43%) of pet owners have used up annual leave to look after an unwell pet
- Half of pet owners believe their employers should provide “pet-ernity” leave
- Warrington is home to the highest number of pet insurance claims
- 43% of dog owners admit to doing no research on costs before getting their pup
- Cocker spaniels named the most problematic pooch claims costing over £3,000

New research from [Admiral Pet Insurance](#) reveals the lengths pet owners will go to look after their unwell pets; including lying to their boss to get time off work.

**Over a third (37%) of pet owners admit they have lied to their boss about taking time off to nurse a poorly pet, giving a made-up explanation instead<sup>1</sup>.**

Top of the list of fake excuses given to bosses was looking after a sick family member or child (20%), meanwhile one in 10 (11%) pet owners said they told their boss that they were sick rather than their pet.

### Most common fake excuses for taking time off to look after a sick pet

Rank	Reason
1	I said I was looking after a sick family member
2	I said that I was ill
3	I said I was looking after a sick child instead
4	I said that I had a hospital appointment
5	I took it as annual leave but didn't tell anyone why
6	I said my car had broken down

Men (42%) are more likely to lie about taking time off to comfort a sick pet and lie about the reason than women (32%), and younger generations are also more likely to fib about their pets, with 65% admitting to lying to their employer about it.

Meanwhile, two fifths of pet owners (43%) have taken annual leave to look after their pet when it's been ill, while a quarter (25%) said they would take leave if their pet fell ill.

### Farewell Fido

While almost half (47%) of pet owners have taken time off work after a pet passed away, the majority (71%) lied about why they weren't in work. A fifth (20%) claimed they didn't tell the truth because they were embarrassed and almost a third (30%) said it was because their boss wouldn't be happy or wouldn't understand.

### Pet-ernity leave

Nearly two thirds (60%) of pet owners or another member of their family took time off work when they first brought their pet home, with over a third (39%) taking off three or more days to settle their pet.



For half of pet owners in the UK, welcoming a new pet into the home properly is a big priority and think employers should offer “pet-ernity leave” for employees to help their latest addition to their family settle in.

Younger generations are the biggest advocates of employers introducing a “pet-ernity” policy (79%).

Meanwhile, older generations are more likely to take more time off to settle their pet with over a third (34%) of over 45s taking a week off compared to just 9% of 18-44 year olds taking the same length of time.

### Peak pups

Previous [research](#) from Admiral has revealed that a quarter (24%) of dog owners say they weren’t prepared for the cost of owning a dog and that it was more expensive than they expected.

Perhaps unsurprising when you consider that 43% of dog owners admit to doing no research on costs before getting their pup.

Rank	Top 10 dog breeds for cost of treatment	Top 10 dog breeds for cost of monthly insurance premium	Top 10 dog breeds for number of insurance claims
1	Cocker Spaniel	Leonberger	Cocker Spaniel
2	Medium Crossbreed	Bernese Mountain Dog	Medium Crossbreed
3	Small Crossbreed	Newfoundland	Small Crossbreed
4	Border Collie	Pyrenean Mountain Dog	Shih Tzu
5	Beagle	Saint Bernard	English Pointer
6	Golden Retriever	Dogue de Bordeaux	Large Crossbreed
7	Shih Tzu	Lagotto Romagnolo	Beagle
8	Jack Russell Terrier	English springer Spaniel	Yorkshire Terrier
9	Miniature Schnauzer	Sussex Spaniel	Miniature Schnauzer
10	Cavalier King Charles Spaniel	Miniature Wirehaired Dachshund	Golden Retriever

Topping the list as the most problematic pooch is the cocker spaniel, with both the highest number of pet insurance claims and highest average costs for treatment, with an average lifetime claim cost of **£3,112<sup>2</sup>**.

Cocker spaniels are followed by medium and small-sized crossbreeds as the most problematic pooches<sup>3</sup>.

Despite this, larger breeds like the Leonberger and Bernese Mountain dog see higher monthly premiums.

**Sian Humphreys, Head of Pet Insurance at Admiral** says, “Although not true for all dogs, larger breeds generally have a shorter lifespan and if they are going to develop medical conditions, it’s likely to be sooner in their life. They also have a higher potential to do more damage, impacting third-party liability insurance in the policy.”



## Moggie Malady

When it comes cats, moggies take the top spot for number of claims and the cost of claims, and they're also the third most expensive cat breed to insure in the UK.

**Sian Humphreys, Head of Pet Insurance at Admiral** says, "Medically, Ragdolls are prone to congenital heart problems and can have a heart murmur from birth. This will either disappear as the cat gets older, or it can develop into something more serious. They're also an expensive breed of cat, increasing their risk of being stolen. "

Rank	Top 10 cat breeds for cost of treatment	Top 10 cat breeds for cost of monthly premium	Top 10 cat breeds for number of claims
1	Moggie	Ragdoll	Moggie
2	Mixed Breed Cat	Domestic Shorthair	Mixed Breed Cat
3	Domestic Shorthair	Moggie	Domestic Shorthair
4	Ragdoll	Bombay	Bengal
5	Non Pedigree Shorthair	Domestic Longhair	Non Pedigree Shorthair
6	Bengal	Persian Cross	Ragdoll
7	Oriental	Burmese	Oriental
8	Scottish Fold	Scottish Fold	Persian
9	Domestic Longhair	Snowshoe	Domestic Shorthair
10	Exotic Shorthair	Bengal	Scottish Fold

**Sian added:** "Owning a pet can be really rewarding and for most animal lovers, pets play an important part in your life."

"However, it's also a big commitment and one that comes with responsibilities so it's important to do your research beforehand and are prepared for every eventuality.

"There are some costs you can plan and budget for, but things like vet bills can soon add up if you're not prepared and don't have the right insurance in place."

To find out more about insuring your pet visit Admiral's handy guide [HERE](#).

**ENDS**

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### Notes to editors:

<sup>1</sup> An online survey was conducted by Atomik Research among 1,001 pet owners aged 18+ from the UK. The research fieldwork took place on 15th – 19th August, 2019.



<sup>2</sup> The average claim for Cocker Spaniels is £386.39 – equating to £3112.34 over the course of their lifetime.

<sup>3</sup> Data from Admiral Pet Insurance 01.01.2018 – 31.12.2018

#### **About Admiral:**

Admiral (a trading name of EUI Ltd and part of Admiral Group plc) is a UK based insurance company, founded in 1993 to specialise in car insurance. In 2005, it launched MultiCar, a product designed to help people with two or more cars get a better deal and in 2013, it launched its telematics product LittleBox which helps safe drivers receive discounts based on their driving style. Admiral also offers other insurance products including home insurance, travel insurance, pet insurance, van insurance, learner driver insurance and recently MultiCover, enabling customers to insure their cars and home on one policy. Admiral was also voted the UK's Best Car Insurance Provider at the 2018/19 Personal Finance Awards and the Admiral Group employs over 7,400 people in the UK and has over 5 million UK customers.