Dogs are the most popular pets in New Jersey outnumbering cats, their closest rivals, by more than a two to one margin. Further back in the pet popularity parade are tropical fish, birds and rabbits, and other rodents.

In a recent New Jersey Poll, a cross-section of the state's residents were asked what, how many and what kind of pets, if any, they had in their homes. Over half—53 percent—reported owning at least one pet. More than one kind of pet was reported by 16 percent of the respondents.

Of the different kinds of pets people reported owning, dogs were the most popular with 32 percent of those questioned owning one dog and an additional 10 percent owning two or more. Since there are about 2,300,000 households in the state, the Poll estimates there are almost 1,300,000 dogs in New Jersey being kept as pets.

Cats, the second most popular pets, were reported by 17 percent of the respondents with 4 percent owning more than one. The estimated number of cats in New Jersey households is over 550,000.

Both cats and dogs were reported to be present in 10 percent of the state's households.
Tropical fish--in 5 percent of the homes--are the third most popular pet, followed by birds--in 3 percent of homes. Rabbits, and assorted rodents including gerbils and guinea pigs were reported as pets in just under 3 percent of New Jersey households.

The Poll found that, not surprisingly, pets were most common in rural and suburban areas and in private homes. In general, pet ownership was more frequent in wealthier families than in poorer ones. Only 32 percent of the respondents with a family income of less than $5000 reported owning at least one pet while the figure was 61 percent of those respondents with a family income of more than $10,000.

The Tenth New Jersey Poll was conducted by telephone from the Eagleton Institute of Politics, New Brunswick, N.J. between March 27 and April 3. A scientifically selected random sample of 1222 New Jersey residents 18 years of age or older were interviewed.

Copyright, The Eagleton Institute, 1974
TO: SUBSCRIBERS TO THE NEW JERSEY POLL

FROM: STEPHEN A. SALMORE

SUBJECT: THE TENTH NEW JERSEY POLL, RELEASE #10, WE DINESDAY AFTERNOON MAY 15, 1974

This release, the last one in the current series, deals with a different topic than we have covered in the past--pets and pet ownership.

The questions used for this release are as follow:

"Do you own or keep any pets in your household?"

If Respondent answered YES to the above question, they were then asked: "What kinds of pets do you have? For each kind, how many do you have?"