

Nowadays, the trend of keeping a pet has become increasingly popular, with more and more people joining every day. It has also become very common for young couples to replace their plans of having a child with that of keeping a pet, treating puppies and kittens like their own babies. The first picture shows a woman pushing a cart of bulldogs around in a park. A man is pushing a trolley with two children sitting in it beside her. There are also two men carrying their own pets. This shows that people now are caring more about their pets. Similar to baby carriers, people now purchase carts designed specifically for dogs and cats. Also, like how parents often enjoy going outdoors to allow their children to play, pet owners are likely to take frequent walks in the park with their pets, often on a daily basis. The second picture depicts two families. The first shows a mother feeding her baby and father assisting his son in his homework. The other illustrates a young couple tending their two pet dogs, feeding them with a spoon. The men and women in both families are depicted showing immense love and care for their loved ones. All of this goes to show that an increasing number of people are now choosing to keep a pet rather than having a child, showing a similar amount of passion for both.

There are quite a few reasons to this phenomenon. Firstly, with more and more awareness of women's rights, some believe that pregnancy is too dangerous. The potential of a miscarriage and the dangers while giving birth simply outweigh the joy of having a child. Furthermore, raising a child has become too expensive for many families. It has been estimated that the bare minimum amount of money required to raise a kid from birth to adulthood has exceeded a million dollars and is still skyrocketing today. Unlike babies, pet cats and dogs, even with all the costly pet foods and medical expenses, are much cheaper and easier. They also show a similar if not greater level of emotional and spiritual support in comparison with babies. The phenomenon has had a few effects on the society. For starters, there has been a great decrease in the number of newborns every year. This replacement of babies with pets poses a genuine and immediate threat to the society with population beginning to drop. This means that there won't be a sufficient amount of young workers in the near future as the ones now grow old and retire. Moreover, this rise in the number of pets has led to the growth and prosperity of certain industries, namely companies that develop and produce pet-related items such as dog feed and cat toys. The growth in customer base has allowed said companies to expand, creating more job vacancies. This growth, with the trend becoming more popular than ever, is unlikely to end soon.