

Nowadays, keeping a pet has become a common phenomenon in Taiwan. Once perceived as a subordinate member of a family, these cuddly animals have gradually become a prominent part of many people's lives. In the past, most parents took their children as a priority, satisfying most of their needs. That ranged from daily necessities such as food, beds, toys to their demand for love and accompany. In contrast, modern couples might prefer keeping a pet to raising children. They would express their affection for their pets by providing them with premier material enjoyments. Some might customize clothes and accessories and dress their beloved pets up, as well as making them feed on nutritious and often costly pet food. Others even purchase specialized carts for pets in order to take them out for a stroll, for fear that these animals might feel isolated at home and lose their vitality. Furthermore, they would never hesitate to show their love for the pets to other ^{lovers} pet lovers, conversing with them enthusiastically. All these phenomena indicate that pets have already become a crucial member of their families.

From my perspective, I think why more and more people are keeping ^{pets} comes down to the following reasons. First of all, mounting economic and social pressure has discouraged many young couples from bearing a child. Factors like

soaring house price, higher living cost have made raising children a huge burden to most people, since it really demands a lot of money and energy. Therefore, keeping a pet becomes a more economical choice. What's better, pets could also be an emotional supporter who would never complain and always keep their owners company. Many pet owners devote so much love to their pets that they even feel great sorrow when their pets pass away. However, this phenomenon might lead to several impacts on the society. For instance, people of the earlier generations could hardly understand the significance of pets for some people, which might result in wider generation gap as well as domestic conflicts when you couples state that they don't want to raise children. Moreover, from a broader perspective, this phenomenon might contribute to lower birth rate in the long run, with less and less people willing to take the responsibility of bringing up children. This can be a great concern for the whole nation, since low birthrate means reduced labor force. To sum up, people of our generation ^{really} should ponder on the impact of this phenomenon.