

As the society ushers in a brand-new era, peoples' perception of pets has gradually changed from merely adorable animals to intimate family members. The given pictures vividly depict the craze of keeping pets. In the first picture, a family is leisurely strolling in a spacious park. Notably, not only preschoolers, but also several dogs are sitting inside a compact cart that provides them with a sense of security. This scenerio conveys a hidden message that our furry friends play increasingly important roles in contemporary families. The second picture, which draws a comparison between two families, clearly illustrates that modern couples are swifiting towards keeping pets as life companions, rather than raising children. Immersed in a relaxed atmosphere, a couple is feeding their pet dogs with healthy delicacies, and the big smiles on their face suggest that the pleasure pets bring them are equivalent to, or even outweigh the joy children could provide.

As far as I am concerned, the growing popularity of keeping pets may result from several underlying reasons.

First and foremost, the soaring cost of living, I believe, is a major hindrance to many couples. My parents once told me that they have spent a great amount of money on taking good care of me and providing me with fine education, and the spending, summed up, could buy a luxurious and elaborate car! Secondly, more and more modern people are convinced that pets are superb alternatives to children. Pets don't cry as young children do, neither do they become rebellious teenagers when they mature. What's better, they show loving care to owners and can even sympathize with humans' emotions. These merits make them a great choice for modern families. However, the trend could result in pressing issues, too. As husbands and wives are reluctant to raise children, the birth rate in Taiwan keeps declining at an alarming rate. This could in the long run place more pressure on the middle-aged generation, since the aging population is eventually becoming a burden. All in all, the pet trend is a double edged sword, providing modern people company but also undermining our population make-up, and the issue surely deserves more public attention.