

In recent years, more and more Taiwanese people keep pets at home. In the left picture are four adults. Three of them are carrying pets, while only one of them has two children in his stroller. The picture shows the phenomenon that more Taiwanese people choose to keep pets rather than to raise children. Moreover, people in the left picture are all taking a walk on the boulevard, indicating that they treat pets and children the same. The two pictures in the right demonstrate how people take care of their children and their pets. Parents accompany their children, helping them with their homework and feed them. Pets keepers provide food for their pets and feed them carefully, just as what human parents do. This once again shows that pet keepers treat their cats and dogs as if they were their own children. In brief, the three pictures given demonstrate the phenomenon that many people keep pets in Taiwan and treat them like their children.

From my perspective, the phenomenon may be due to several factors below. First and foremost, raising a child needs a lot of money, since parents are responsible for providing food, a place to live, educational resources, entertainment, and so on. On the other hand, the cost of keeping a pet is relatively low, since pet owners only have to provide food, medical resources, and taking them for a walk once in a while. Secondly, some people don't like children, but they need someone to accompany them when they feel depressed, and pets, especially dogs, which are called "human's best friends" are the first choice. This phenomenon leads to both positive and negative impacts. With more people keeping pets, the amount of stray dogs and cats can be reduced, which in turn increases animal welfare and also ensures the safety of a community. However, with more people choose to keep pets rather than to raise children, the popularity of Taiwan will decline, which leads to lack of labor, making young generation more stressful, since they have to take care of more elderly. All in all, while enjoying the time spend with adorable pets, we should also be aware of the potential crisis they bring.