

Task 1: Defining Successful Adoptions

In this task, we'll complete activities that prepare us to entertain new thoughts about adoptions:

- Finding out where pets really come from
- Defining a successful adoption
- Creating the space for new thinking

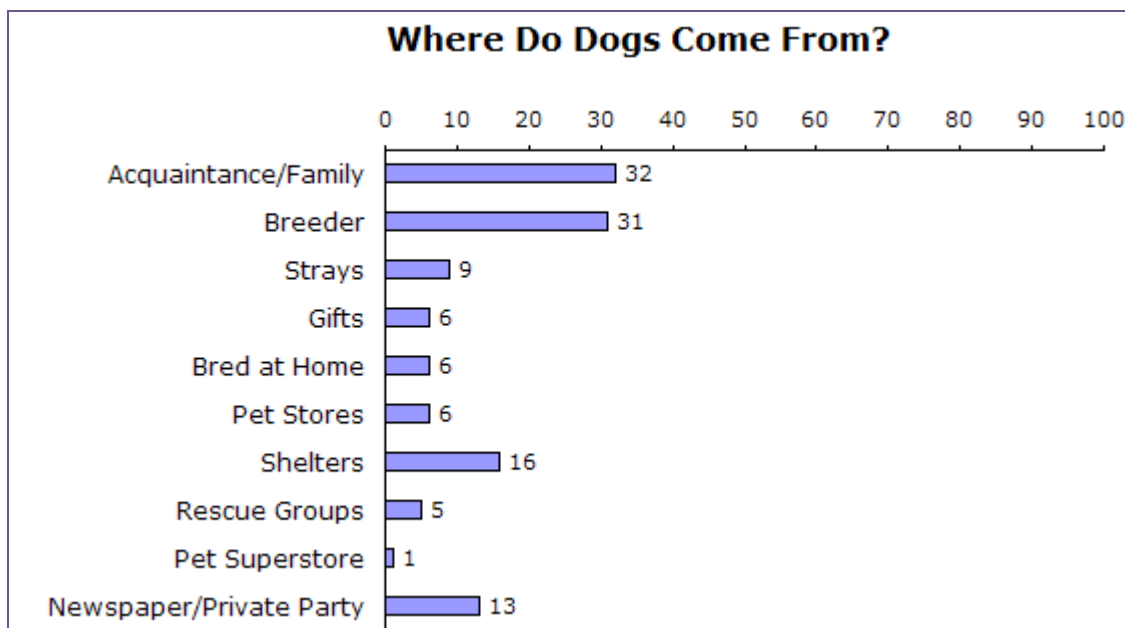
Where Do Americans Acquire Their Pets?

➤ Consider the following statistics about pet ownership in the United States.

- About 63% of all U.S. households have at least one pet, and 45% owned more than one pet: ¹
 - About 75 million owned dogs
 - About 90 million owned cats
- 65% of pet owners acquire their pets free or at low cost.²

A 2005-2006 survey³ of pet owners by the pet food industry identified the following sources for dogs and cats.

Note: Values are percentages, but they add up to more than 100% because respondents could choose more than one source. For example, a puppy acquired from a newspaper ad might be given as a gift.

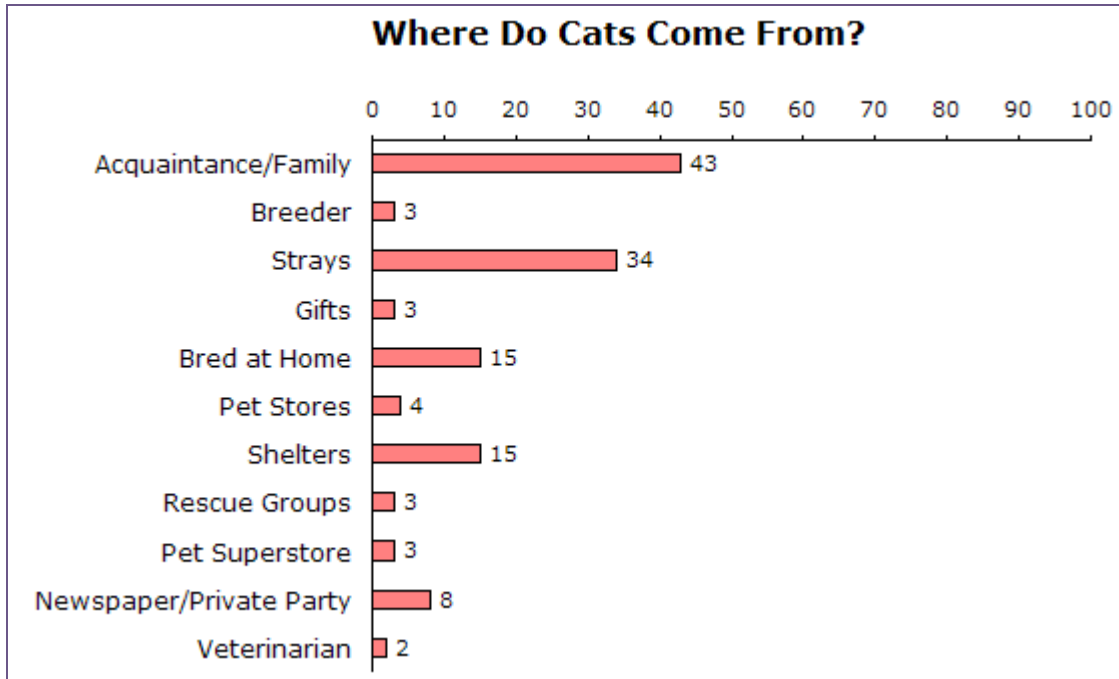


¹ 2005-2006 American Pet Products Manufacturers Association National Pet Owners Survey

² National Council on Pet Population Study & Policy

³ 2005-2006 American Pet Products Manufacturers Association National Pet Owners Survey

Note: Values are percentages, but they add up to more than 100% because respondents could choose more than one source.



➤ What surprises you about these statistics?

➤ Why do you think shelter adoptions represent such a small percent of the market share?

Defining a Successful Adoption

➤ Draw a picture or diagram to illustrate your vision of a successful adoption.

➤ Read pages 3 – 7 in *Report on Adoption Forum II*.

➤ Consider the criteria given for a successful adoption, and compare them to your own vision of a successful adoption. In particular, consider:

- What you'd like to happen for an animal in her/his new home

Jot down your notes here:

➤ We'll discuss our pictures/visions as a group.

Creating the Space for New Thinking

One way to create space for new thinking is to re-evaluate old thinking.

- Fill in the blanks for the following statements:

"When it comes to adoptions, I used to be really sure that _____
_____."

Now that I've seen the stats on adoption market share and read the *Report on Adoption Forum II*, I'm wondering _____
_____."

- Share your responses with the rest of the group.



Name one or two insights for you from the information and conversations in these learning tasks.