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**Chadrad Communications, Inc.**  
226 Bordeaux St - Chadron, NE 69337  
308-432-5545 fax 308-432-5601  
E-mail: [kcsr@chadrad.com](mailto:kcsr@chadrad.com)

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#### **(S.D.)-South Dakota's Unique Pet Population Ranks Near The Top**



By: Dennis and Kathi Brown Posted at: 04/21/2013 07:42 AM

RAPID CITY, South Dakota (AP) - A survey from the American Veterinary Medical Association says more than 65 percent of South Dakotans own at least one pet.

The state ranks third in the nation for pet ownership. The survey, which uses 2011 data, includes a wide range of animals that includes horses, snakes, hedgehogs and even livestock if they are considered pets by their owners.

The Rapid City Journal reports that the survey shows South Dakota ranked fourth nationally for cat ownership and 12th for dog ownership. Dogs are the most popular pet in the state. More than 42 percent of households own one dog compared to 39 percent who own a cat.

Veterinarian Lynne Mazzone says the survey says a lot about South Dakotans. She says South Dakotans are kinder people and family-oriented.