

RISE: DO YOU HAVE A FOUR-LEGGED MEMBER OF YOUR FAMILY? I'M RISE JILL MILLER.

THE A-V-M-A REPORTS THAT 60 PERCENT OF HOUSEHOLDS IN THE U-S HAVE A PET, BUT FEWER ARE BEING SEEN BY VETERINARIANS.

MAY SIXTH THROUGH TWELTH IS NATIONAL PET WEEK, WHICH AIMS TO CELEBRATE THE HUMAN-ANIMAL BOND, PROMOTE RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERSHIP, AND PUBLIC AWARENESS OF VETERINARY MEDICINE.

WHILE THE PEOPLE- PET BOND HAS NEVER BEEN STRONGER, FOR SOME REASON IT HAS NOT TRANSLATED TO INCREASED ATTENTION TO HEALTH CARE.

DOCTOR RENÉ CARLSON, PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION:

DR: THE DECREASE IN REGULAR VETERINARY VISITS, WHICH HAVE DECLINED FOR ALMOST A DECADE, MAY BE LINKED TO AN INCREASE IN PREVENTABLE AND TREATABLE ILLNESS IN PETS. THESE INCLUDE DIABETES, EAR INFECTIONS, INTERNAL PARASITES AND DENTAL DISEASE, WHICH AFFECT ALMOST 80 PERCENT OF DOGS AND 70 PERCENT OF CATS. BE SURE TO SEE YOUR VETERINARIAN REGULARLY TO KEEP BOTH YOU AND YOUR PET HEALTHY AND HAPPY.

RISE: FOR MORE, VISIT A-V-M-A DOT ORG.