

英国宠物零售商“**Pets at Home**”的全年零售额首次突破 10 亿英镑，这是由于宠物主人更舍得花钱把他们的宠物当作“小主人”般伺候，包括给狗狗购买用来玩乐的游泳池。

The **dilemma** of what to do with your dog while you're at work has long been a major **barrier** for many who'd like to become an owner. But Pets at Home say the pandemic has changed all that as we spend more time in our homes.

当自己上班不在家时，该怎么照料狗狗，这个问题实在让人左右为难，这也是让很多想养狗的人下不了决心的主要障碍。不过“**Pets at Home**”指出，新冠病毒疫情改变了这一切，因为我们待在家的时间更多了。

It's seen the number of pets in the UK grow by eight percent in the last year, leading to a similar sized growth in its sales to 1.1 billion pounds.

过去一年，英国的宠物数目上升了 8%，从而带动了这家宠物用品公司的销售相应增长，零售额达到 11 亿英镑。

We're **pampering** them more too. The industry calls it '**humanisation**'. Paddling pools for **pooches** helped sales of puppy products grow by more than a quarter.

But we were even keener for **kitten** kit, where the retailer saw spend increase by more than a third.

与此同时，我们也更加宠爱它们。宠物业界称之为“人性化”，就是把动物当作人类般对待。给狗狗玩水的小游泳池热销，从而带动小狗用品销售增长了超过 25%。但我们对购买猫咪用品甚至更热衷，在这上面的消费增加了超过三分之一。

Overall, profits **dipped** slightly to 88 million pounds as parts of the business, particularly **grooming** salons, were hit by Covid-related restrictions. But the company expects more growth to come as it cashes in on our **frenzy** for furry friends.

虽然宠物用品热销，但是整体而言，该公司的利润稍微下跌到 8800 万英镑，这是由于部分业务，尤其是宠物美容店，受到新冠疫情限制措施的打击。不过该公司预期，由于我们对这些毛茸茸的朋友们狂热不减，其生意会蒸蒸日上。

## 1. 词汇表

dilemma	左右为难，进退维谷
barrier	障碍
pampering	宠爱，精心照顾
humanisation	人性化（把宠物当作人类对待）
pooches	狗狗
kitten	小猫
dipped	下降了，下跌了

grooming	打扮，给动物梳理毛发
frenzy	狂热

2. 阅读理解：请在读完上文后，回答下列问题。（答案见下页）

1. What has long been a big obstacle to people getting pets?
2. True or false? *Products for dogs sold better than cats.*
3. Was there an overall increase in profits?
4. What does the company think will happen in the future?

### 3. 答案

1. What has long been a big obstacle to people getting pets?

**Worrying about what to do with pets while people are at work.**

2. True or false? *Products for dogs sold better than cats.*

**False. Kitten kits outsold puppy products.**

3. Was there an overall increase in profits?

**No. Overall, profits dipped slightly.**

4. What does the company think will happen in the future?

**There will be a continued growth in the area due to the trend.**