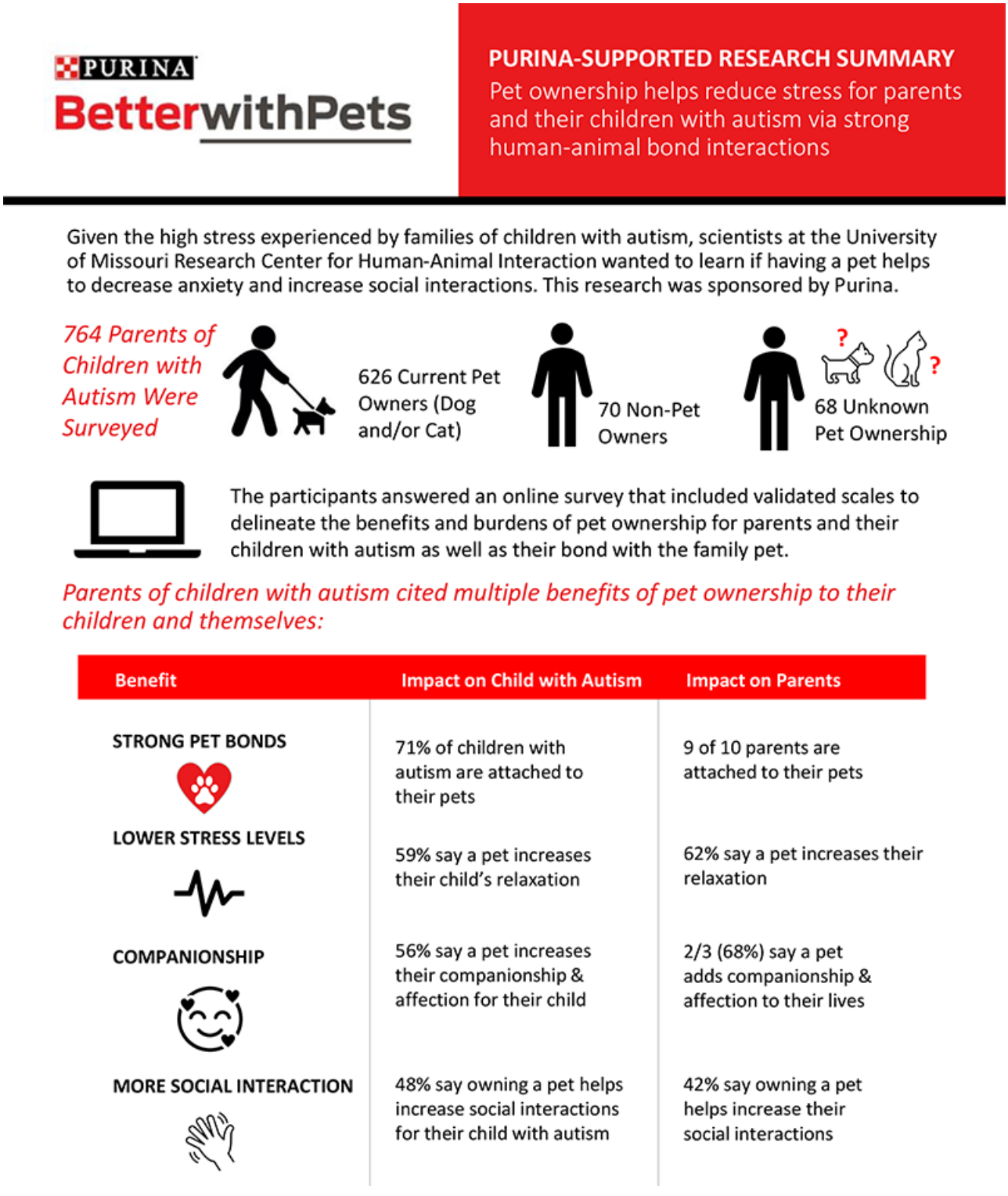
Purina-Sponsored Research Shows Benefits of Pets for Parents and their Children with Autism

A University of Missouri study, funded by Purina, shows pet ownership helps reduce stress for parents and their children with autism via strong human-animal bond interactions. The results of the study suggest that pets not only help provide comfort and support to children with autism but also to their parents. Companionship and increased social interactions were cited as the most important benefits outweighing burdens of pet ownership.



MORE EXERCISE 	1/3 (33%) say the pet helps increase exercise for their child	41% say the pet helps increase their exercise

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What's the Best Way a Family with a Child with Autism Should Add a Pet?

Include children in the decision-making. Some children with autism have sensitivities, so it's important to choose the right pet on an individual basis. A good match considers the pet's energy, size & vocalization. For example, a large, highly active, barking dog may not work as well as a quiet, laidback cat, for some children.

University of Missouri

Researchers: Carlisle GK, Johnson RA, Wang Ze, Brosi TC, Rife EM, Hutchison A.

Click here to read an abstract of the study published in the *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*.

PURINA Your Pet, Our Passion.