

CONTRACEPTIVE METHODS USED IN A COMMUNITY OF SÃO PAULO, BRAZIL.

Rita Garcia¹, Gina Polo^{1,2}, Oswaldo Santos^{1,2},
Marcos Amaku² and Fernando Ferreira²

¹Education, Conservation and Animal Welfare Institute – ITEC

²University of São Paulo, SP, Brazil

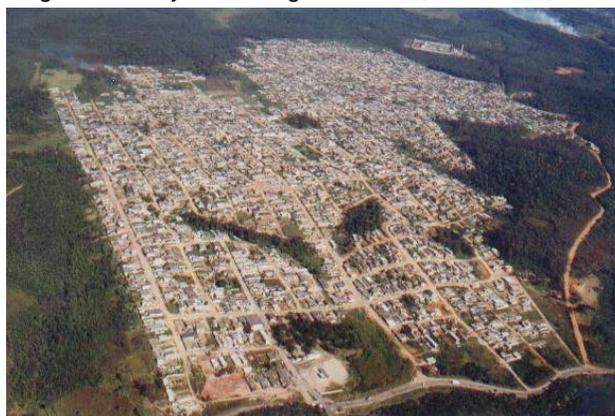
The aim of the study was to evaluate the use of methods to prevent pregnancy in cats and dogs in the peripheral region of São Paulo, Brazil, between 2005 and 2006. Interviews were conducted in all households of the study area (N = 2749). For the canine species, 9.25% (n = 64) of males were neutered and 19.05% (n = 104) of females were spayed. For felines, 18.32% (n = 70) of males were neutered and 23.13% (n = 96) of females were spayed. Table 1 shows the absolute and relative frequency of the three owner-reported methods of contraception.

Table 1. Contraceptive method: frequency of use in dogs and cats. São Paulo, Brazil, 2005-2006.

Contraceptive method	Dogs		Cats		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Confinement	334	69.44	12	27.27	346	65.90
Drugs	80	16.63	16	36.36	96	18.29
Surgery	67	13.93	16	36.36	83	15.81
Total	481	100.00	44	100	525	100

Regarding spay/neuter, 74.54% (n = 486) of owners would not pay anything to do it. The most commonly used contraceptive method was the confinement of dogs and cats. Due to the disadvantages of this method and the risks of unwanted pregnancy, it is suggested that new contraceptive methods that are more effective and accepted by the public are offered to the community, and that educational programs to raise awareness of the need for birth control be implemented

Figure 1. Study area. Vargem Grande, São Paulo, Brazil



Acknowledgments: thanks to CAPES, FAPESP, WSPA, ITEC, Work-Pro, Partners Microchip for the support.