

CONTRACEPTIVE METHODS USED IN A COMMUNITY OF SÃO PAULO, BRAZIL

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The aim of the study was to evaluate the methods used to prevent pregnancy in cats and dogs in the peripheral region of São Paulo, Brazil, between 2005 and 2006; interviews were conducted house-to-house in all homes, with 2,749 persons interviewed. 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. For animals who were not spayed, confinement during estrus was the most commonly used method of contraception for female dogs (55.19% (n=133)), followed by the use of contraception medication (4.58% (n=11)); 28, 63% (n=69) of owners did not prevent pregnancy of their female dogs. For cats, 22.63% (n=43) of owners allowed the animal to reproduce freely, 11.58% (n=22) kept the animal confined and 5.79% (n=11) used contraceptive medication. 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 female 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.