

SURGICAL STERILIZATION OF DOGS AND CATS IN BOTUCATU, SP

ESTERILIZAÇÃO CIRÚRGICA DE CÃES E GATOS NO MUNICÍPIO DE BOTUCATU/SP

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Many municipalities face overpopulation of dogs and cats, which can become a problem. Sixty percent of Brazilian households own at least one pet, which represents 32 million dogs and about 16 million cats. With the increasing population of animals, at least two problems emerge: increasing number of stray animals and the spreading of zoonoses. The interaction of these two elements potentializes environmental damage, favors the spreading of diseases and aggression occurrences, thus becoming a public health matter. To tackle this problem, Botucatu, a city in São Paulo state, is castrating dogs and cats in an attempt to reduce the uncontrolled breeding of these animals. This study surveys the number of castrated animals (surgical sterilization) in Botucatu, SP. The data were collected from the castration forms filed in the Canil Municipal (Environmental Health Surveillance/Health Department of the Municipality). In recent years, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013 to date, 1889 animals were neutered, of which 980 dogs and 909 cats. The castrations were performed at the Municipal Kennel in partnership with the Association for the Protection of Animals (APA), private clinics and the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science, Botucatu (FMVZ). All castrations performed in the Municipal Kennel in partnership with FMVZ were free. We conclude that the Secretaria da Saúde of Botucatu has been playing an active role regarding castration of animals. However, future work involving not only castration, but also continuing health education should be pursued so that responsible ownership of dogs and cats becomes effective in the city.

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