

**EVALUATION OF THE OPINION OF BRAZILIAN HEALTH CARE SYSTEM (SUS) USERS
IN BOTUCATU, SP, ON THE ROLE OF THE VETERINARIAN IN PUBLIC HEALTH**
(*AValiação da Opinião dos Usuários do Sistema Único de Saúde (SUS) do
Município de Botucatu-SP sobre a Atuação do Médico Veterinário na Saúde
Pública*)

**C. VICTÓRIA^{1*}, J. R. MODOLO², T. M. TREMORI³, I. A. D. PAPLOSKI⁴, C. R. PADOVANI⁵,
S. D. BABBONI⁶**

The Veterinarian plays an important role within the Unified Health System (SUS), planning and executing the activities of monitoring, preventing and controlling zoonoses that impact public health. He also conducts epidemiological surveys, investigates disease outbreaks, among others. This study aims to determine the opinion of SUS users in Botucatu about the importance of a Vet in Teams of the Programa de Estratégia de Saúde da Família and check how much they know about the role of a Vet and the activities developed by this professional. The formulated questionnaire had questions related to pet ownership, to the knowledge of the functions performed by the veterinarian and their importance. This questionnaire was applied to the users of 14 SUS units in Botucatu, by the students of the Faculdade de Medicina Veterinária e Zootecnia, UNESP. The number of interviews was determined using a 95% confidence level with estimated error of 10% in the casual participation of the respondent considering a systematic sampling procedure. A total of 409 interviews were obtained for 14 units distributed in the city. Subsequently, the data were subjected to statistical analysis. The results revealed that 73.1% of SUS users had some kind of animal while 26.9% did not, and this difference was statistically significant at $p < 0.01$. Pet owners have good or reasonable knowledge about the activities of the veterinarian, and this result may influence the population's perception of the importance of vets work as agent of public health. This study also showed that 92.4% of users consider important the presence of a veterinarian in SUS units $p < 0.005$, and the majority know about the activities performed and judged important his participation in Public Health so that it may improve the quality of life of people.

1 Professor Assistente Doutor da Disciplina de Planejamento de Saude Animal e Veterinaria Preventiva. Departamento de Higiene Veterinaria e Saude Publica – Faculdade de Medicina Veterinaria e Zootecnia – UNESP – Universidade Estadual Paulista Julio de Mesquita Filho – Campus de Botucatu - SP. email: cassiano@fmvz.unesp.br.

2 Professor Titular da Disciplina de Planejamento de Saude Animal e Veterinaria Preventiva. Departamento de Higiene Veterinaria e Saude Publica – Faculdade de Medicina Veterinaria e Zootecnia – UNESP – Universidade Estadual Paulista Julio de Mesquita Filho – Campus de Botucatu – SP.

3 Pós Graduando Departamento de Clínica Veterinária da FMVZ – UNESP – Botucatu – SP.

4 Pós Graduando da Fundação Oswaldo Cruz, Centro de Pesquisa Gonçalo Moniz, Salvador, Bahia, Brasil

5 Professor Titular do Departamento de Bioestatística do Instituto de Biociências da UNESP – Universidade Estadual Paulista Julio de Mesquita Filho – Botucatu – SP.

6 Pós Graduando do Departamento de Higiene Veterinária e Saúde Pública da FMVZ – UNESP – Botucatu – SP.