## TAIS DE OLIVEIRA CAMPOS REBOUÇAS

Efeito do fornecimento de informações para adotantes de gatos no vínculo humano-animal e no bem-estar de gatos adotados de abrigos

São Paulo

## TAIS DE OLIVEIRA CAMPOS REBOUÇAS

## Efeito do fornecimento de informações para adotantes de gatos no vínculo humano-animal e no bem-estar de gatos adotados de abrigos

Dissertação apresentada ao Programa de PósGraduação em Anatomia dos Animais Domésticos e Silvestres da Faculdade de Medicina Veterinária e Zootecnia da Universidade de São Paulo para a obtenção do título de Mestre em Ciências

## Departamento:

Cirurgia

Área de concentração:
Anatomia dos Animais Domésticos e Silvestres

Orientador:
Profa. Dra. Paula de Carvalho Papa

São Paulo

Autorizo a reprodução parcial ou total desta obra, para fins acadêmicos, desde que citada a fonte.

DADOS INTERNACIONAIS DE CATALOGAÇÃO NA PUBLICAÇÃO
(Biblioteca Virginie Buff D'Ápice da Faculdade de Medicina Veterinária e Zootecnia da Universidade de São Paulo)

```
T. }325
FMVZ
Rebouças, Tais de Oliveira Campos
    Efeito do fornecimento de informações para adotantes de gatos no vínculo humano-
    animal e no bem-estar de gatos adotados de abrigos / Tais de Oliveira Campos
    Rebouças. -- }2016
        83 p. il.
        Dissertação (Mestrado) - Universidade de São Paulo. Faculdade de Medicina
Veterinária e Zootecnia. Departamento de Cirurgia, São Paulo, }2016
Programa de Pós-Graduação: Anatomia dos Animais Domésticos e Silvestres.
Área de concentração: Anatomia dos Animais Domésticos e Silvestres.
Orientador: Profa. Dra. Paula de Carvalho Papa.
1. Adoção. 2. Gato. 3. Comportamento e bem-estar animal. 4. Conscientização de tutores. 5. Vínculo humano-animal. I. Título.
```


## CERTIFICADO

Certificamos que o Projeto intitulado "Estudo sobre a possível correlação entre o fornecimento de informação para adotantes de gatos e o aumento do vínculo humano-animal e do bem-estar de gatos adotados de abrigos", protocolado sob o $\mathrm{n}^{0} 3119 / 2013$, utilizando 100 (cem) gatos, sob a responsabilidade da Profa. Dra. Paula de Carvalho Papa, foi aprovado e está de acordo com os princípios éticos de experimentação animal da Comissão de Ética no Uso de Animais da Faculdade de Medicina Veterinária e Zootecnia da Universidade de São Paulo.

São Paulo, 20 de março de 2015.


Denise Tabacchi Fantoni
Presidente

## FOLHA DE AVALIAÇÃO

Autor: REBOUÇAS, Tais de Oliveira Campos

Título: Efeito do fornecimento de informações para adotantes de gatos no vínculo humano-animal e no bem-estar de gatos adotados de abrigos

Data: $\qquad$ 1 1

Dissertação apresentada ao Programa de Pós-Graduação em Anatomia dos Animais Domésticos e Silvestres da Faculdade de Medicina Veterinária e Zootecnia da Universidade de São Paulo para obtenção do título de Mestre em Ciências $\square$

## DEDICATÓRIA

À minha avó, que sempre me disse que "toda 'criação' tem sentimentos" e que, ainda criança, me proporcionou os primeiros contatos com dois gatos apaixonantes, Mimi e Dudu.

Entre tantos, aos meus gatos, Mingau, Tom e Pepe, por terem me ensinado tanto e serem minhas "cobaias" e modelos para o trabalho.

## AGRADECIMENTOS

Agradeço à Faculdade de Medicina Veterinária e Zootecnia da USP, que me proporcionou os meios para desenvolver meu trabalho e que me mostrou tantas pessoas diferentes, com suas pesquisas e seus modos de pensar únicos e enriquecedores.

Agradeço aos muitos professores, formais ou não, que tive durante o mestrado ou que em algum momento contribuíram para minha formação: Profa. Dra. Mitika Hagiwara, Prof. Dr. Adroaldo Zanella, Prof. Dr. Ricardo Dias, Prof. Dr. José Grisi, Dra. Daniela Ramos, Profa. Dra. Rita Garcia, Dra. Vania Plaza Nunes e prof. Nestor Calderón. Em especial à minha orientadora, Profa. Dra. Paula de Carvalho Papa, por seus projetos audaciosos dentro da Faculdade, por ter aceito orientar minhas ideias tão diferentes e, principalmente, por me ensinar que isso também era ciência.

Agradeço imensamente à todos os membros do Projeto Santuário, os quais tive o prazer de conhecer antes do mestrado e que me acompanharam durante todo o tempo. Muito obrigada pelas discussões sobre guarda responsável, bem-estar animal, educação de proprietários e, lógico, Saúde Única, entre tantos outros temas. Muito obrigada por me apresentarem à pessoas que trabalhavam com os, à época, novos conhecimentos e que já adoravam tanto o Projeto. Obrigada pela companhia em congressos e tantos outros eventos, sempre com muito entusiasmo. E muito obrigada por todas as contribuições ao meu mestrado, intencionais ou não, e por sempre olharem para ele com tanto carinho.

Agradeço à todos da Biblioteca da FMVZ-USP, pela paciência nos treinamentos e pela correção da dissertação, melhorando-a muito.

Agradeço à minha família, que desde cedo incentivou minha curiosidade pelos animais e tanto me ajudou na minha formação. Em especial à minha avó, que me proporcionou os primeiros contatos com gatos, ainda criança. E em especial à minha mãe, seja na leitura de todo o material, sempre com comentários indispensáveis à sua melhora, seja pela paciência nos muitos dias em que eu "roubei" seu carro para fazer minha pesquisa, e pela ajuda e carinho com meus gatos.

Aos meus colegas de graduação e pós-graduação, que discutiram temas comigo, que se interessaram pelo projeto e fizeram perguntas importantes. E aos
colegas veterinários e "leigos", que gentilmente leram todo o meu material e sem os quais eu com certeza não teria produzido coisas de tão lindas, Pedro, Isis, Nathasha, Juliana, Vinícius, Mariana, Carolina, Nádia, Lúcia, Francisco, Ângela, Val e Fábio.

Agradeço ao meu namorado, Pedro, que me ouviu falar de cada uma das minhas ideias, que deu ideias, que me aguentou em todas às horas, me acalmou, me incentivou a continuar, leu meus e-mails e foi meu grande companheiro nas feiras de adoção e nas minhas visitas por São Paulo inteira, do extremo norte ao sul. Foram muitas etapas, e você me apoiou até o final em cada uma delas! Metade do que eu consegui não teria ficado tão bom sem a sua ajuda!

Agradeço à Capes e ao Programa de Pós-Graduação em Anatomia, que concederam minha bolsa, imprescindível para que eu me dedicasse ao mestrado. Ao Instituto Premier Pet, que me apoio na fase final, sendo também imprescindível às horas dedicas ao trabalho. E à Fumvet e aos funcionários da Faculdade que tornaram tudo isso possível.

Agradeço às ONGs que aceitaram me receber para que eu pudesse desenvolver meu projeto com seus adotantes. Miriam, Perla e Maru, incluindo seus funcionários e voluntários, muito obrigada pela confiança, pelos ensinamentos e, principalmente, pela disponibilidade de que eu atrapalhasse a rotina de vocês com o meu trabalho.

Por fim, gostaria de agradecer imensamente aos tutores que aceitaram fazer parte do projeto e à todos os gatos (que fizeram ou não parte do trabalho), sem os quais eu jamais teria conseguido desenvolver minha pesquisa. Cada um me ensinou muito e isso certamente está refletido em cada linha desta dissertação. Meu mais sincero muito obrigado pela oportunidade e confiança!
"Educação não transforma o mundo. Educação muda pessoas. Pessoas transformam o mundo."

Paulo Freire
"What matters to the animal is not what we think or feel but what we do." John Webster (2005)

## RESUMO

REBOUÇAS, T. O. C. Efeito do fornecimento de informações para adotantes de gatos no vínculo humano-animal e no bem-estar de gatos adotados de abrigos. [Effect of counseling cat's adopters on the human-animal bond and on the welfare of cats adopted from shelters]. 2016. 83 p. Dissertação (Mestrado em Ciências) Faculdade de Medicina Veterinária e Zootecnia, Universidade de São Paulo, São Paulo, 2016.

O tutor é uma parte importante da vida do animal, já que ele determina todas as condições de vida do pet. A maioria dos tutores quer cuidar de seu cão ou gato com o melhor de suas habilidades, entretanto boas intenções não devem ser confundidas com bem-estar adequado na realidade. É importante que mais pesquisas sejam feitas para encontrar um método efetivo e barato para educar tutores. Nosso objetivo foi criar cinco folhetos e dois vídeos para informar adotantes sobre manejo, comportamento e as necessidades dos gatos. Nós os comparamos a outros tutores que receberam folhetos desenvolvidos pela Sacramento Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals e a tutores não-informados em São Paulo, Brasil. No momento da adoção, foi avaliado o nível de informação dos tutores. Após seis meses, foram medidos o vínculo do tutor com o gato, o bem-estar do gato e o acatamento dos tutores informados às recomendações fornecidas. Em geral, as pessoas acertaram mais de metade da maioria das perguntas do escore de informação, porém algumas perguntas apresentaram um número alarmante de respostas erradas. O escore de informação estava associado aos tutores possuírem um gato no momento em que respondiam ao questionário. Não houve diferença no vínculo tutor-gato e nos escores de bem-estar e acatamento entre os tutores informados e não-informados. Algumas perguntas do questionário estavam associadas a estes escores e um pequeno número de perguntas foi associado entre si. O estudo deixou clara a necessidade de informar tutores brasileiros a respeito da guarda responsável, mas não define a adoção como o momento ideal para esta conscientização.

Palavras-chave: Adoção. Comportamento e bem-estar animal. Conscientização de tutores. Gato. Vínculo humano-animal.


#### Abstract

REBOUÇAS, T. O. C. Effect of counseling cat's adopters on the human-animal bond and on the welfare of cats adopted from shelters. [Efeito do fornecimento de informações para adotantes de gatos no vínculo humano-animal e no bem-estar de gatos adotados de abrigos]. 2016. 83 p. Dissertação (Mestrado em Ciências) Faculdade de Medicina Veterinária e Zootecnia, Universidade de São Paulo, São Paulo, 2016.


The owner is an important part in an animal's life, as he/she determines all the pet's living conditions. The majority of owners wants to look after their cats and dogs to the best of their abilities, but well-meaning intentions should not be confused with good welfare in reality. It is important to conduct more researches to find an effective and non-expensive method of educating owners. We aimed to create five pamphlets and two videos to inform adopters about cat's handling, behaviors and needs. We compared them to others owners that received pamphlets made by Sacramento Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and to non-informed owners in São Paulo, Brazil. At the adoption, we assessed the level of owner's information. After 6 months, we measured the owner's attachment to the cat, the cats' welfare and the compliance of informed owners with the advices given. In general, people got right more than half of each answer in the information score, although some questions had an alarming number of wrong answers. The information score was associated with owners already having a cat in the moment they were answering the questionnaire. There was no difference in the human-cat attachment, welfare or compliance scores among the informed e non-informed owners. A few questions in the questionnaire were associated with such scores and a small number of questions was associated with each other. The study emphasized the need to inform Brazilian owners about responsible ownership, but did not define the adoption as the ideal moment to counsel owners about this.

Keywords: Adoption. Animal behavior and welfare. Cat. Counseling owners. Humananimal bond.

## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Figure 3.1 - Charts of frequency from questions "Cats and dogs need vaccinations or may become ill/die" (2), "Cats and dogs will misbehave to spite their owners" (3), "Animals are better off having a litter before being spayed/neutered" (5) and "It is possible to change the behavior of cats" (10) of the Information score

35
Figure 3.2 - Frequency chart of Information score and the questions "Do you have a cat?" ( $p=0.002$ ) and "Do you know what 'feline environmental enrichment' is?" $(p=0.000)$ (Yes/No). The score ranged from 0 to 1036

Figure 3.3 - Multiple correspondence analysis of the questions "With whom do you currently live?", "Did you lived with animals as a child? Which?", "Do you have a cat?", "Where did you get your former animals?", "Did you asked other people about cats before adopting a cat?", "Did you read websites/books about cats before adopting?" and "Do you know what 'feline environmental enrichment' is?". The circles represent the categories that are associated. Total inertia=14\%37

Figure 4.1 - Map of the visits in the metropolitan area of São Paulo, São Paulo State, Brazil. Designed with Map data by Google. Informed SSPCA group: Informed with SSPCA material group44

Figure 4.2 - Scheme of cats and owner locations. Informed SSPCA: Informed with SSPCA material. *Unsuccessful ownership: cats that were returned, given away or run away divided by the group responses (WENG et al., 2006b), $\mathrm{p}=0.524$.46

Figure 4.3-Correspondence analysis of the cats and owners locations according to groups. Informed SSPCA: Informed with SSPCA material. The circles represent the categories that are associated. $p=0.000$, total inertia=30\%46

Figure 4.4 - Frequency chart of Information score and owner having or not a cat when he or she was answering the questions (Yes/No). The score ranged from 0 to 10. $\mathrm{p}=0.037$47

Figure 4.5 - Frequency and mean chart of Nutritional score and number of times the owner needed to take the cat to a veterinarian. The score ranged from 0 to 20. $\mathrm{p}=0.019$47

Figure 4.6 - Frequency and mean chart of Health score and number of hours the cat remained home without human presence. The score ranged from 0 to 20. $p=0.025$

Figure 4.7 - Frequency and mean chart of Compliance score and type of contact the owner replied. The score ranged from 0 to 17.5. $p=0.013$

Figure 4.8 - Score charts: Information Score, LAPS (Lexington Pet Attachment Scale), Welfare Scores (Nutritional, Comfort, Health and Behavioral) and Compliance score from Informed self-developed, Informed with SSPCA material and Non-informed groups. Mean $\pm$ standard error. $p>0.05$

Figure 4.9 - Discriminant analysis of the seven scores and three groups. Scores were standardized for analysis. Informed SSPCA: Informed with SSPCA material. p>0.0549

Figure 4.10 - Mean chart of Information and Nutritional scores of Informed and Non-informed groups. $a: p=0.027$. $b: p=0.029$49

Figure 4.11 - Frequency chart of Informed and Non-informed groups and if owners have read websites/books before adoption. Correspondence analysis: $p=0.045$, total inertia $=4.7 \%$.49

Figure 4.12 - Box plot of Comfort score and Informed self-developed and Informed with SSPCA material groups. $p=0.047$

Figure 4.13-Correspondence analysis of the cat being allowed to go to high places in the house and the researchers' assessment of perches and hiding places available. The circles represent the categories that are associated. $p=0.005$, total inertia $=33.7 \%$

Figure 4.14 - Correspondence analysis of the owner being attacked by the cat and the cat's attitude in the owner presence. The circles represent the categories that are associated. $\mathrm{p}=0.010$, total inertia $=31.2 \%$

Figure 4.15 - Multiple correspondence analysis of if the cat is scared or shy, cats attitude to human presence, cats attitude to owner presence, tail position and proximity to humans. The circles represent the categories that are associated. Total inertia=51\%51

Figure 4.16-Correspondence analysis of if the materials the owners received helped and if the owners' relationship with the cat has improved with the information they received. Only in the Informed groups. The circles represent the categories that are associated. $\mathrm{p}=0.049$, total inertia=23.4\%52

Figure 4.17 - Correspondence analysis of how often the cat plays and how much time someone plays with the cat daily. The circles represent the categories that are associated. $p=0.000$, total inertia $=55.2 \%$52

Figure 4.18 - Correspondence analysis of how frequently the cat's nails are clipped and if there were scratches in the house and whether the cat used it or not. The circles represent the categories that are associated. $\mathrm{p}=0.012$, total inertia $=24 \%$

Figure 4.19 - Correspondence analysis of the cat's body condition score (from 1 to 5 ) and how much time someone plays with the cat daily. The circles represent the categories that are associated. $\mathrm{p}=0.022$, total inertia=28.2\%

53

## LIST OF TABLES

Table 3.1 - Frequency of responses of three questions. In the two last questions, in was possible more than one answer - São Paulo - São Paulo state - 2014/2015

Table 3.2 - Frequency of responses of the Information score questions. The right answers are in bold - São Paulo - São Paulo state - 2014/2015

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

| FeLV | Feline Leukemia Virus |
| :--- | :--- |
| FIV | Feline Immunodeficiency Virus |
| LAPS | Lexington Pet Attachment Scale |
| SSPCA | Sacramento Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals |
| UNESCO | United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization |
| WHO | World Health Organization |

1 INTRODUCTION ..... 21
2 LITERATURE OVERVIEW ..... 24
2.1 SPAY AND NEUTER PET POPULATION ..... 24
2.2 FOMENT ADOPTION OF DOGS AND CATS ..... 26
2.3 FIGHT ANIMAL RELINQUISHMENT ..... 27
2.4 EDUCATE THE POPULATION ON RESPONSIBLE OWNERSHIP ..... 28
3 HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT CATS? ..... 31
3.1 INTRODUCTION ..... 31
3.2 METHODS ..... 32
3.3 RESULTS ..... 34
3.4 DISCUSSION ..... 36
3.5 CONCLUSION ..... 39
4 IS INFORMING CAT ADOPTERS SUFFICIENT TO INCREASE THEIR ATTACHMENT TO THE ANIMAL AND IMPROVE THE CAT'S WELFARE? ..... 41
4.1 INTRODUCTION ..... 41
4.2 METHODS ..... 43
4.3 RESULTS ..... 45
4.4 DISCUSSION ..... 54
4.5 CONCLUSION ..... 60
5 CONCLUSION ..... 61
REFERENCES ..... 62
APPENDIX ..... 70

## 1 INTRODUCTION

Although humans usually benefit from the relation with animals, the same is not always true to the animal (SHORE; DOUGLAS; RILEY, 2005). This can be changed in many owner-companion animal relationships, aiming to provide a better environment for the cat or the dog express their full necessities and to improve the human-animal bond, through some adjustments in the relationship.

The owner is an important part in the animal's life, as he/she determines all the pet's living conditions (HEIDENBERGER, 1997). Having an owner can ascertain that the cat or the dog has a good nutrition, a comfortable place to rest, its vaccines are updated and there are opportunities to play, besides the chance to be patted when the animal wants and to have individual human attention. These are some of the reasons that animals are much better when adopted by responsible owners, despite most shelter efforts to maintain the welfare of the animals under their responsibilities.

The adoption of the animal is all that a shelter wants, but it can have some cons. The process must be serious, and people should be made aware that it is not a random distribution of animals, but an established program that foresees attitudes the new owners have to assume so cats and dogs are not submitted to suffering or relinquishment (LAGES, 2009). The adopter should be oriented about the responsibility associated with his/her acquisition (ALVES et al., 2013).

If these attempts fail, the pet can be returned to the shelter or abandoned. The relinquished cat or dog can breed freely if not previously neutered and there are other problems associated with the animal's welfare, as a cat or a dog in the street can be hungry, thirsty, or exposed to abuse (ALVES et al., 2013). Even in a shelter, the pet will have its welfare compromised by the absence of its "owner" (DYBDALL; STRASSER; KATZ, 2007), showing stress related behaviors depending on handling (G. G. Lesnau, personal communication).

Some studies attempt to explain the reasons for relinquishment. Salman et al. (2000) found that $40 \%$ of the dogs and $28 \%$ of the cats were surrendered to shelters for behavioral reasons. Kidd, Kidd and George (1992) showed that more first-time adopters rejected the pet than present or previous pet owners, that rejecters were significantly younger than retainers and that a higher percentage of men than women
rejected pets. According to Neidhart and Boyd (2002), the causes for cats and dogs no longer to be with the adopter were: death of the pet, not get along with others people or animals, other reasons related to training and socialization, and time spent with the animal. The authors also say that some of these problems could be solved by providing more information before adoption.

There are more studies with dogs about behavior, relinquishment, adoption and the human-animal bond (ZASLOFF; KIDD, 1994). However, science is now starting to establish what cats need and want, from their own perspective (WENSLEY, 2008), although many cat owners still do not have access to this new knowledge, especially converted into words that they can understand and trust.

Many owners still thinks that a cat is a little dog, which results in the cat's needs not being met until it exhibits disturbing signs that attract the owner's attention. Consequently, the cat can have a number of behavioral problems, or the owner can see his/her cat as an unfriendly one. This will influence in the way the cat is treated and may end in relinquishment (SHORE; BURDSAL; DOUGLAS, 2008; ELLIS et al., 2013), as exemplified by Sherman and Serpell (2008) that urine marking can lead to cat relegation to the outside, re-homing, or euthanasia.

A common situation is when the owner sees normal cat behaviors as abnormal (JONGMAN, 2007), i.e., a behavior that is part of the normal cat repertoire, but occur in a place or context that is unacceptable to the owner (CASEY; BRADSHAW, 2008a). Owners who do not understand the motivational basis for the behavior, attributing "spiteful" intentions and punishing the animal (COMPANION ANIMAL WELFARE COUNCIL, 2009), often make the situation worse.

Reasons for the behavior can be explained to give the owner a different perspective on the problem, leading to a change in the owner's attitude (CASEY; BRADSHAW, 2008a). The lack of knowledge might contribute to unrealistic expectations and inappropriate actions in an attempt to solve a problematic behavior, and owner education could raise awareness about cat's needs and natural behavior (NEW et al., 2000).

The owner can also take attitudes that compromise cat's welfare, either because they do not know their needs or there is a lack of desire in satisfying those needs (MIRANDA, 2011; ALHO, 2012). It takes a committed owner to fulfill all the cat's environmental needs, which includes encouraging most of the cat's natural behaviors and behaviors that enrich the pet's life (ADAMELLI et al., 2005; JONGMAN, 2007).

Another factor that affect cat's welfare are unpredictable interactions, which can lead to anxiety and other issues related to stress (ELLIS, 2009). This happens with owners that think, or heard from unreliable sources, that certain situations can be corrected with punishment - the result is usually a cat that does not know what to expect from its owner. Understanding the unique environmental needs of the cat will help to reduce stress, unwanted behaviors, and can affect the owner-cat relationship (ELLIS et al., 2013). It will also have impacts in the human-cat bond, which may not have been developed or may have been only weakly developed (SHORE, 2005).

It is necessary to connect the positive sentiment that the human-animal bond creates and use it to motivate behaviors that has positive welfare outcomes to the cat (WENSLEY, 2008), as in the absence of the bond there is little motivation to adopt improvements to the animal's quality of life (HAMMERSCHMIDT, 2012). However, changing animal care practices by changing the attitudes and the behavior of owners is a major challenge (COMPANION ANIMAL WELFARE COUNCIL, 2009).

Reaching a point and actually changing attitudes and behaviors can be hard myths and mistaken information can lead to people being averse to change their daily practices (IRVINE, 2002). To overcome these obstacles, veterinarians and others that wish to educate owners should give advices based on the existing expert knowledge and on the newest scientific findings, since understanding the origins of feline behavior is important in helping owners to recognize the cats' behavioral needs (MENGOLI et al., 2013). The ignorance of the animals' needs and false interpretations of behavior must be eliminated by careful explanation, not by criticism (TURNER, 1997).

There is little information on when these advices should be given to owners. New et al. (2000) state that the window of educational opportunity is narrow. Herron et al. (2007) say that effective advice could be delivered quickly in conversation and increased by written materials, and that the focus should be placed on information about pet health and in the human-animal bond success.

Under this regard, we aimed to create five pamphlets and two videos to inform adopters about cat's handling, behaviors and needs. Afterwards, we compared them to others owners that received pamphlets made by SSPCA (Sacramento Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals), and to non-informed owners. At the adoption, we assessed the level of owner's information. After a time window of 6 months, we measured the owner's attachment to the cat, the cats' welfare and the compliance of informed owners with the advices given.

## 2 LITERATURE OVERVIEW

A recent official national research in Brazil showed that in 2013 there were 28.9 million of homes with dogs and 11.5 million homes with cats in the country, with nearly 52.2 million dogs and 22.1 million cats (IBGE, 2015). In 2012, a research in the United States showed that there were 83.3 million of owned dogs and 95.6 million of owned cats in the country, with 82.5 million pet-owning households (AMERICAN PET PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION, 2013). In the same year, another study showed that there were 6 to 8 million cats and dogs entering shelters per year in the US, with 3 to 4 million pets adopted from shelters and 2.7 million adoptable cats and dogs euthanized in shelters annually (NATIONAL COUNCIL ON PET POPULATION STUDY \& POLICY, 2013).

There are not estimates about the total of stray or shelter animals in Brazil and no population control method has been proven to lower those numbers. Constantino et al. (2015) argues that four approaches would be useful to guarantee population management in Brazil: spay and neuter pet population, foment adoption of dogs and cats, fight animal relinquishment, and educate the population on responsible ownership.

### 2.1 SPAY AND NEUTER PET POPULATION

The increased number of unowned animals is a public health, socioeconomic, political and animal welfare problem (SALAMANCA; POLO; VARGAS, 2011). For example, cities that do not have effective programs to control overpopulation register three times more bite incidents than cities that already have implemented programs (GARCIA, 2005). The first attempt to manage the overpopulation in several countries dated around 1970s and intended to euthanize all unowned cats and dogs, also as a way to control rabies in pets (GARCIA; CALDERÓN; FERREIRA, 2012).

A few years later, the experience of several countries showed that the euthanasia of healthy animals was not going to solve the problem, as the number of
cats and dogs in the streets did not decrease (IRVINE, 2002). The free-roaming population is a result of owned animals allowed to roam, pets that have been lost or abandoned and reproduction within unowned animal populations (RAMÓN; SLATER; WARD, 2010); moreover, euthanized animals were easily compensated by increased survival in the remaining population (DALLA VILLA et al., 2010). Indeed, due to the difficulties to euthanize a large number of animals in a called "humane" manner, euthanasia has been considered an animal welfare issue (DALLA VILLA et al., 2010).

Although many countries still employ euthanasia as a population control method, in 1990 the World Health Organization (WHO) addressed that isolated activities of collection and disposal of dogs and cats were not effective for population control. Action should be taken in the causes of the problem: uncontrolled animal reproduction and lack of human responsibility as their guardians (WHO, 1990).

Under this regard, spay and neuter cats and dogs was one of the first measures trying to control the overpopulation. In the US, several strategies to neuter pets lowered the number of dogs presented each year to shelters in almost half between 1985 and 1994 (MARSTON; BENNETT, 2003). In Brazil, many cities have programs to free spay and neuter pets. São Paulo city also has a law preventing intact dogs and cats to be sold or donated (SÃO PAULO, 2008a), avoiding them to eventually became the source of free-roaming litters.

It is also important to educate owners about responsible ownership, guaranteeing that the neutered animal stays with that family for its whole life, not being replaced by an intact animal, which could reassume the issue (GARCIA, 2001). Likewise, understanding the owned population is required, which will provide a baseline for designing and implementing interventions to control overpopulation (SLATER et al., 2008).

Though the public authorities encourage owners to spay and neuter their animals, many still believe that animal overpopulation does not have anything to do with owned cats and dogs (GARCIA, 2001) or have misconceptions about neutering their cats and dogs, especially the males (BRAGA; FERREIRA, 2013). In addition, the measures taken to control the overpopulation in Brazil are still ineffective, once the growth of the population is higher than the control rates (LIMA; LUNA, 2012), and we still need to search for definitive measures to further decrease and solve the problem.

### 2.2 FOMENT ADOPTION OF DOGS AND CATS

Since euthanasia of healthy animals has been proved an ineffective method to control overpopulation, the only way shelters have to lower the number of animals is to foment adoptions. A good methodology to promote adoptions should be cheap, feasible, efficient and would provide animal well-being (LESNAU, 2014).

Yet, an adoption can potentially lead to relinquishment or the return of the animal to the shelter, and has to be well thought (MARSTON; BENNETT, 2003). The owners should be questioned about their attitudes and expectations; and if attitudes are neutral and expectations unrealistic, they should receive training in responsible ownership (KIDD; KIDD; GEORGE, 1992).

Even in research facilities, where occasionally the animals are put for adoption at the end of an study, little is known about the adoption processes (DIGANGI; CRAWFORD; LEVY, 2006). Digangi, Crawford and Levy (2006) defined as successful the adoption in which cats remain in the original homes roughly 3 years after adoption. Mertens and Coppola (2012) evaluated placement success based on retention, level of satisfaction with the dog and owner compliance with recommendations made at the adoption.

Other things can affect the adoption process and may have to do with the animal, as behavioral and emotional traits or physical characteristics, or with the environment where the pet is (GOURKOW; FRASER, 2006). Also, shelters can use pre-adoption counseling to help adopters make an appropriate selection (MARSTON; BENNETT, 2003).

The ultimate goal of shelters is to get their animals adopted by lovely homes with families who are committed to the success of their pets (WEISS; GRAMANN, 2009). In this process, adopters should be educated that the relationship with the animal will take time to stabilize and can always be improved (SHORE, 2005), encouraging them to learn more about the animal that they just adopted and continuously searching for ways to be a better owners.

### 2.3 FIGHT ANIMAL RELINQUISHMENT

According to UNESCO's Universal Declaration of Animal Rights (1978), the abandonment of an animal is a cruel and degrading act and the animal rights must be recognized by law (ALVES et al., 2013). In São Paulo state, a law says "The relinquishment, by the suffering inflicted to the animal, configures, in theory, an environmental crime" (SÃO PAULO, 2008b).

Yet, it is a crime difficult to punish and even harder to investigate, having few studies in Latin America (ALVES et al., 2013). Garcia (2005) reports that 70\% of stray animals already had had a house, providing feedback to the overpopulation problem.

Some researchers try to ascertain the risk factors for relinquishment to happen. New et al. (2000) list as risk factors if the animal had problems with house soiling, had damaged things, or was overly active. Marston and Bennett (2003) identified the lack of veterinary care as strongly related to relinquishment.

A research in Taiwan found that no single set of risk factors substantially accounted for the unsuccessful dog ownership (WENG et al., 2006b). According to Salman et al. (1998), protective factors against relinquishment of a cat could be reading a book or other educational material about feline behavior, providing the animal veterinary care, or obtaining the cat as a stray.

As for the pets characteristics, more intact, mixed breed and young animals (less than 3 years) were abandoned, as well as animals that were with the new owner for less than a year for dogs and less than 2 years for cats (NEW et al., 2000). Changes in the owner's life, as divorce, moving domiciles or financial changes, also contributes to relinquishment (KENDALL; LEY, 2006). The absence of behavioral problems strengthens the relationship with the owner (ADAMELLI et al., 2005). The friendliness of the cat can also strengthen the human-cat bond and increase the retention of the pet (CASEY; BRADSHAW, 2008b).

The environment that the owner provides should offer good opportunities for interaction between the owner and the cat, since the human-animal bond is influenced by positive interactions (JONGMAN, 2007). Constant contact and daily caretaking can increase the companionship between individuals and their pets (GELLER, 2005).

The human-animal bond is also important in the decision of maintaining a pet (KIDD; KIDD; GEORGE, 1992; SHERMAN; SERPELL, 2008). Recognition of
problematic behaviors is critical in recently adopted pets since the human-animal bond has had little time to develop and the owner may not be committed to the pet yet (HERRON; LORD; HUSSEINI, 2014). The bond might protect some animals from abandonment or harm and there is a positive relation between level of attachment to a pet and whether the animal went with the family during the transfer of a military man or the likelihood that pets were evacuated during a flood (DOUGLAS, 2005).

The failure of the bond between the human and their pet is mainly due to the lack of knowledge about the animal (GARCIA, 2005). A solution to the problem would be to inform owners about the animal's behavior and needs (TURNER, 1997; ROCHLITZ, 1999; MARSTON; BENNETT, 2003; HUNTHAUSEN; LANDSBERG; ACKERMAN, 2005; GENARO, 2013), as educated owners may be less likely to resort to abandonment (RAMÓN; SLATER; WARD, 2010) and as all variables related to relinquishment are modifiable (PATRONEK et al., 1996).

Sherman and Serpell (2008) advise that one of the most effective methods by which veterinarians can influence the number of animals surrendered to shelters is to provide behavioral counseling to their clients. Genaro (2013) says veterinarians should minimize the chances of a conflict between the owner and the pet by making the owner aware of the animal's behavioral traits and discussing what they expect from it. However, cats relinquished or presented to behaviorists are likely to be the "tip of the iceberg" in terms of the general population showing behaviors that are considered to be "problematic" by owners (CASEY; BRADSHAW, 2008a).

An approach to fight animal relinquishment would be to do an epidemiological surveillance of the problem, defining its distribution, identifying all risk groups and indicating measures to its prevention (GARCIA; CALDERÓN; FERREIRA, 2012). As long as on-going studies about these factors are not concluded, it will not be possible to find a definitive solution to the problem.

### 2.4 EDUCATE THE POPULATION ON RESPONSIBLE OWNERSHIP

Responsible ownership is an ethical duty the owner has towards the animal, ensuring the provision of its physical, psychological and behavioral needs, with the responsibility of preventing hazards that his/her animal can cause to the community or
to the environment (HAMMERSCHMIDT, 2012). The education and consciousness about responsible ownership are cornerstones in an population control program (GARCIA, 2005).

It includes the promotion of their physical and mental welfare; the provision of basic care as shelter, adequate food, hygiene, affection, exercise, vaccinations, deworming and veterinary treatment; as well as restricted mobility (LAGES, 2009). It also encourages people to reflect whether or not it is the right time to adopt a new cat or dog (LAGES, 2009). It can be easy to apply and to measure - for example, cities that microchipped their animals lowered in $60 \%$ the number of euthanized animals (GARCIA, 2005).

Responsible ownership is also important to assure that the animal shows a high level of welfare, although most owners normally think that is enough to satisfy only the basic needs (SHORE; DOUGLAS; RILEY, 2005; HAMMERSCHMIDT, 2012). It will also prevent environmental contamination by the well-assisted cats and dogs (GARCIA, 2005; LAGES, 2009), contributing to the concept of "One Health".

Human education is relevant not only to engender more respect for animals but also to reduce the incidence of animal abuse due to ignorance (PODBERSCEK, 19971 apud ADAMELLI et al., 2005, p. 91). People's understandings of what pets are, affects how people treat and relate to them (BLOUIN, 2012).

However, little has been researched in how or when to educate owner population. Irvine (2003) says that interactions between shelter workers and adopters provides a window of educational opportunity, that may open briefly. Another research pointed out that people caught more information from a health professional than from written material (WENG et al., 2006a), showing the importance of the veterinarian as a spreader of concepts regarding responsible ownership.

Herron et al. (2007) researched if 5 minutes of owners' pre-adoption counseling would increase the success of house-training among dogs in their new homes, finding that counseling is a useful owner-education tool in shelters. Gazzano et al. (2008) showed that dogs, whose owners were given advice by a veterinary behaviorist, behaved differently in many respects, exhibiting less inappropriate elimination and aggression toward unknown people or dogs, even when the advice

[^0]was given to owners of dogs older than 4 months, i.e., outside the sensitive period, or to owners who had another animal before.

Hammerschmidt (2012) found that lack of care with the dogs' health was explained by the lack of financial resources or by the ignorance of its importance. After an educational project with children in elementary school, Guedes (2011) indicated that the children's parents showed an increase in the belief that it was important to neuter pets and that the animals could carry diseases to humans, revealing that there are many ways to propagate the concepts of responsible ownership.

If we want to continue to enjoy the relationships with pets and benefitting with them, we must stimulate responsible ownership in every opportunity. Additionally, as our knowledge about the human-animal bond increases, adequate measures will be established to eradicate many problems derived from overpopulation (SALAMANCA; POLO; VARGAS, 2011).

To accomplish that, we should begin to look to the animal in a integrate view, that is made by its physical health but also by many others aspects for years overlooked. We need to view the overpopulation control as connected to the animals, to the humans, whether they are owners or not, and to the environment, applying the "One Health" concepts to live in a better world.

## 3 HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT CATS?


#### Abstract

The demand for studies of consciousness and public education about responsible ownership is growing, but little is known about that in Brazil. We assessed the level of information and the relation with animals in the past and in the present of people adopting cats and cat owners in São Paulo, Brazil. In general, people got right more than half of each answer in the information score, although some questions, as "Animals are better off having a litter before being spayed/neutered", had an alarming number of wrong answers. The information score was associated with owners having a cat and with the owner knowing what feline environmental enrichment was. The study emphasized the need to inform Brazilian owners about responsible ownership, as a way to increase cats and dogs' health and welfare.


Key words: Adoption. Counseling owners. Responsible ownership.

### 3.1 INTRODUCTION

Little is known about the domestic animal population and responsible ownership in Brazil (DOMINGUES et al., 2015). In a town in the State of São Paulo, Langoni et al. (2011) found that the studied population recognizes the importance of responsible ownership but does not practices it entirely.

Responsible ownership includes appropriate vaccination, deworming, food, sterilization, comfort and other care actions (LANGONI et al., 2011). Furthermore, it can approach issues related with care for the environment (GARCIA, 2005) and call attention to human responsibility in animal welfare (SOUZA-DANTAS et al., 2009).

At the moment, there is an abundance of available knowledge about good husbandry for companion animals to allow the development of codes of practice (COMPANION ANIMAL WELFARE COUNCIL, 2009; ALVES et al., 2013), aimed to help owners raise healthier and happier animals (ELLIS et al., 2013). A law in São Paulo city says that "The municipal authority responsible for the zoonosis control should promote a program for continued education of public awareness about responsible ownership of domestic animals" (SÃO PAULO, 2001).

Shelters and veterinarians are in a unique position to educate new owners about the importance of the home environment for a adopted animal (ELLIS et al., 2013). Veterinarians should educate owners about the animals' behavioral needs, to guarantee them a good life quality (ADAMELLI et al., 2005). Veterinarians should also inform and educate the population about responsible ownership (ALVES et al., 2013).

The demand for studies of consciousness and public education about this subject is growing (LAGES, 2009). Neidhart and Boyd (2002) found that some reasons for relinquishment would most likely be prevented if the adopter received more information before adoption. Also, the use of pre-adoption counselling to adjust adopter expectations may be beneficial, as it would help adopters to make an appropriate selection and reduce the risk of relinquishment (MARSTON; BENNETT, 2003).

Herron et al. (2007) found that effective advice could be delivered quickly in conversation and increased by written materials, and that the focus should be placed on information about pet health and in the human-animal bond success. In another study, the participants who did not use an educational material had a higher number of failures in owner-dog relationship (WENG et al., 2006a).

Knowledge and education form the basis of any program for the prevention, control and eradication of diseases (LAGES, 2009). The education process, as well as evaluating the results obtained, should be continuous (LANGONI et al., 2011). The measure of the effectiveness of a program aimed at changing the way people look after their animals would be to observe changes in the behavior and actions of these owners (COMPANION ANIMAL WELFARE COUNCIL, 2009).

Identifying the population level of knowledge, attitudes and practices before the development of any educational effort about responsible ownership is central, so the activities can be focused on the real necessity of the audience (LAGES, 2009). Therefore, we aimed to assess the level of information and other details of people adopting cats or that already owned cats.

### 3.2 METHODS

Cat owners and adopters were addressed to answer a questionnaire having 20 questions (Appendix A). Eighty-three cat adopters were obtained from three
adoption places, and 29 cat owners were obtained from the database of those places, a total of 112 people answered the questionnaire in the metropolitan area of São Paulo, São Paulo State, Brazil. The ones that agreed to be part fill up a consent form (Appendix B).

One of the adoption places was a cat shelter with approximately 250 cats of all ages. All the cats were examined for FIV and FeLV upon arrival and most was spayed or neutered before adoption, whilst the shelter availability. The cats were divided in rooms, according to their age or temperament. On Saturdays, a shelter worker and volunteers welcomed adopters and visitors, which previously had made an appointment.

The other place was a cat and dog adoption fair in the parking lot of a pet shop, run by a group of people that rescued, took care and donated abandoned animals, every Saturday and Sunday. About four persons regularly took cats to be donated in that place. As a rule, all the animals were neutered before heading to the fair.

The last place was a non-governmental organization that rescue and recover all kinds of animals, from cats and dogs to pigeons and laboratory rodents, open from Thursday to Sunday. At the adoption place, they also had a veterinary clinic and a pet shop. Different people let their rescued cats and dogs from different ages to be adopted there. The animals went through a veterinary consult and were neutered before being available for adoption.

Every animal was dewormed and received at least one vaccine before being placed for adoption. In all the places, the adopter would go through an interview and sign an adoption form before taking the cat or dog home.

The Information score was based in the work of Salman et al. (1998, p. 211) "to evaluate the owner's general animal behavior knowledge and her or his attitude toward animals". Questions that these or other authors thought to be confusing were removed (RAMÓN; SLATER; WARD, 2010) and two questions were added to understand better how owners felt about their relationship with the animals, in a total of ten questions. The Information score was calculated by adding a point to the right answer, which could be either "true" or "false". The wrong answer or the answer "don't know" gave zero points to the participants. The higher was the Information score, the greater was the person's knowledge.

The questionnaire also had questions about the adopter's relation with animals in the past and in the present, that were relevant or influenced the human-animal
relationship in other studies (PATRONEK et al., 1996; GELLER, 2005; DIGANGI; CRAWFORD; LEVY, 2006; ALHO, 2012).

The statistical analysis was performed using STATA 11.2 software (STATA Corp., TX, USA). Besides the descriptive analysis, categorical questions were examined using multiple correspondence analysis, after two questions were tested in pairs and were associated with each other. The Information score was evaluated with Wilcoxon Mann-Whitney test. Differences were considered significant at p<0.05.

### 3.3 RESULTS

Among all participants, $56 \%$ had a cat when they were answering the questionnaire, either because they were from the database of the adoption places and had adopted their cat 6 months before or because they had one or more cats and were adopting another. The majority had adopted the animals they formerly had and used to have dogs when they were kids. (Table 3.1).

Table 3.1 - Frequency of responses of three questions. In the two last questions, more than one answer was possible - São Paulo - São Paulo state - 2014/2015

| Frequency |  | Percent |
| :--- | :---: | ---: |
| Do you have a cat? |  |  |
| Yes | 63 | $56 \%$ |
| No | 49 | $44 \%$ |
| Where did you get your former animals? |  |  |
| Bought | 19 | $23 \%$ |
| Adopted | 42 | $51 \%$ |
| Gift | 9 | $11 \%$ |
| Stray | 13 | $16 \%$ |
| Did you live with animals as a child? Which? |  |  |
| Dogs | 80 | $34 \%$ |
| Cats | 56 | $24 \%$ |
| Rabbits | 21 | $9 \%$ |
| Birds | 31 | $13 \%$ |
| Fish | 32 | $14 \%$ |
| No | 12 | $5 \%$ |

Source: (REBOUÇAS, T. O. C., 2016)
In the Information score, the mean was 6.47, with a minimum of 2 and a maximum of 10. Most of the questions had more than fifty percent of right answers, except the questions "Cats and dogs will misbehave to spite their owners", "Cats don't
mind sharing a house with other cats" and "It is possible to change the behavior of cats" (Table 3.2).

Table 3.2 - Frequency of responses of the Information score. The right answers to each question are in bold - São Paulo - São Paulo state - 2014/2015

| Question | $\mathbf{1}$ | $\mathbf{2}$ | $\mathbf{3}$ | $\mathbf{4}$ | $\mathbf{5}$ | $\mathbf{6}$ | $\mathbf{7}$ | $\mathbf{8}$ | $\mathbf{9}$ | $\mathbf{1 0}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| True | 108 | 111 | 46 | 64 | 8 | 104 | 15 | 51 | 82 | 50 |
|  | $\mathbf{9 6 \%}$ | $\mathbf{9 9 \%}$ | $41 \%$ | $\mathbf{5 7 \%}$ | $7 \%$ | $\mathbf{9 4 \%}$ | $14 \%$ | $46 \%$ | $\mathbf{7 3} \%$ | $\mathbf{4 6 \%}$ |
| False | 0 | 0 | 47 | 25 | 58 | 5 | 77 | 24 | 9 | 17 |
|  | $0 \%$ | $0 \%$ | $\mathbf{4 2 \%}$ | $22 \%$ | $\mathbf{5 2 \%}$ | $5 \%$ | $\mathbf{6 9 \%}$ | $\mathbf{2 1 \%}$ | $8 \%$ | $16 \%$ |
| Don't | 4 | 1 | 19 | 23 | 45 | 2 | 19 | 37 | 21 | 42 |
| know | $4 \%$ | $1 \%$ | $17 \%$ | $21 \%$ | $41 \%$ | $2 \%$ | $17 \%$ | $33 \%$ | $19 \%$ | $39 \%$ |

Source: (REBOUÇAS, T. O. C., 2016)
The questions "Cats and dogs need vaccinations or may become ill/die", "Cats and dogs will misbehave to spite their owners", "Animals are better off having a litter before being spayed/neutered" and "It is possible to change the behavior of cats" of the Information score had interesting response patterns and were chosen to be better discussed (Figure 3.1).

Figure 3.1-Charts of frequency from questions "Cats and dogs need vaccinations or may become ill/die"
(2), "Cats and dogs will misbehave to spite their owners" (3), "Animals are better off having a litter before being spayed/neutered" (5) and "It is possible to change the behavior of cats" (10) of the Information score


Source: (REBOUÇAS, T. O. C., 2016)

The Information score was associated with the owner having or not a cat when he or she was answering the questions ( $\mathrm{p}=0.002$ ), as owners that had a cat also had higher scores than those that did not own a cat. Likewise, the score was associated with the owner knowing what feline environmental enrichment is ( $p=0.000$ ), as the owners who knew what it was reached higher scores (Figure 3.2).

Figure 3.2 - Frequency chart of Information score and the questions "Do you have a cat?" ( $p=0.002$ ) and "Do you know what 'feline environmental enrichment' is?" ( $\mathrm{p}=0.000$ ) (Yes/No). The score ranged from 0 to 10


Source: (REBOUÇAS, T. O. C., 2016)
Regarding the multiple correspondence analysis, people that lived with a cat as a child lived alone and knew what environmental enrichment was. People that lived with dogs in the childhood, have read websites or books about cats before adopting and lived with their parents. People that lived with dogs and other kind of animals when they were kids have asked other people about cats before adopting. People that lived with cats and other kinds of animals in the childhood, already had a cat and the cat was adopted, but did not asked other people about cats before adopting. Those who lived with several types of animals in the childhood, have acquired their current animals from more than one source and did not knew what environmental enrichment was (Figure 3.3).

### 3.4 DISCUSSION

Although the study was conducted with a small population, with a bias in the selection of participants, and the results cannot be generalized to the entire Brazilian population, it indicates some aspects of Brazilian owners' knowledge.

Figure 3.3 - Multiple correspondence analysis of the questions "With whom do you currently live?", "Did you live with animals as a child? Which?", "Do you have a cat?", "Where did you get your former animals?", "Did you asked other people about cats before adopting a cat?", "Did you read websites/books about cats before adopting?" and "Do you know what 'feline environmental enrichment' is?". The circles represent the categories that are associated. Total inertia=14\%


Source: (REBOUÇAS, T. O. C., 2016)
The fact that nearly all the participants answered that cats and dogs need vaccines was surprising. The high percentage of right answers might be attributed to annual campaigns, made by the government, giving free rabies vaccine in the entire country. In other studies in Brazilian cities, only 38.7\% of owners vaccinate their animals annually (SOTO et al., 2005) and 39\% had their animals rabies vaccine updated (DOMINGUES et al., 2015). This can denote that although many owners do know they have to vaccinate, that is not translated in a good immunization coverage, which might highlight that another educational approach needs to occur so more owners would take their animals to be vaccinated.

The inclusion of a question about changing the behavior of cats showed that many people still believe that there is nothing the owner can do to improve behavioral problems or issues he or she might have with the animal (MARSTON; BENNETT, 2003). This can lead to a reduction in the environment the cat has available (ALHO,
2012) or in a weaker human-animal bond (NEW et al., 2000), and the owner might not see reasons to make progresses in either of the circumstances.

Misconceptions about animal behavior are likely to leave owners unprepared for normal behavior and limit their ability to distinguish between normal and problem behavior (MONDELLI et al., 2004). The high number of participants that got wrong the question about cats and dogs misbehaving to spite their owners (58\%, adding the "true" and "don't know" answers) can lead to problems in many human-animal relationships and may end in relinquishment (NEW et al., 2000).

The question "Cats don't mind sharing a house with other cats" also had more than fifty percent of wrong answers, but this might be due to a large number of participants that did not understood the question, which could be noticed by the amount of people that asked the researches about that specific question, and for that reason we choose not to analyze it.

The number of cats neutered or the participants' opinion about neutering their cats and dogs was not asked, since all the places where the participants were contacted neuter their animals before placing them for adoption and made as their policy to encourage people not to breed their pets, as a way to control animal overpopulation.

Despite that, $7 \%$ of the participants thought that their animals needed to have a litter before being neutered and $41 \%$ did not know how to answer the question. Although the percentage of people that consider the statement true is lower than the ones found in other studies, the percentage of "I don't know" is higher (SALMAN et al., 1998; NEW et al., 2000; RAMÓN; SLATER; WARD, 2010). These people may let their cats and dogs have a litter in the same way that those who believe in the statement, and there is a need to educate both owners to prevent the litters to born (NEW et al., 2000) and eventually increase the unowned population.

Previous studies that used a similar set of knowledge questions (SALMAN et al., 1998; NEW et al., 2000; WENG et al., 2006b) did not calculate a total information score. Ramón, Slater and Ward (2010) found a mean of 4.6 for owners, but they only had eight questions in the score, being hard to make comparisons between the studies.

The relation between having previous experience with animals and a successful ownership have been researched. Kidd, Kidd and George (1992) found that people who had or previously had cats and dogs retained more newly adopted pets than those who had never had pets. Adamelli et al. (2005) found that previous
experience with animals influenced some owner's attitudes with the cat. Instead, Mondelli et al. (2004) said that previous experience of owning a dog did not influence a new adoption positively.

None of these studies associated having an animal with the level of information the owner had, as was found in this study. As the Information score was associated almost only with having a cat in the moment the owner filled the questionnaire, and not with other questions, it is possible that the basis for this information was previous experience with pets (ADAMELLI et al., 2005), which would need further studies to assert.

Environmental enrichment can lead to increases in physical and psychological health, resulting in better welfare, and improve the quality of the human-animal relationship (ROCHLITZ, 2005). In this study, the majority of the participants did not know what feline environmental enrichment was (85\%), the same found by Alho (2012). Yet, it is interesting that participants with higher Information score also knew about environmental enrichment. This could have a significant impact in the cat's life, as stress-related behaviors, which may be caused by a lack of environmental management, are vital concerns for the cat's welfare (GAZZANO et al., 2015).

Participants that lived only with dogs or with dogs and other animals as a child seemed to be interested in acquiring more knowledge about cats before adopting one, as they were more associated with reading websites or books or asking people about cats. Instead, who lived with cats did not search for other sources of information before adopting another cat. This might be something that needs to be considered when educating different publics who want to adopt a cat or when assessing the reliability of owners' knowledge, as reasons for relinquishing the pet might differ depending on the type of companion animal (NEIDHART; BOYD, 2002).

### 3.5 CONCLUSION

We were able to establish some owner characteristics that influence the knowledge level of cat adopters and owners. As the study was conducted with a small population, the results cannot be generalized to the entire Brazilian population, but indicate some aspects of responsible ownership in Brazil.

There is a necessity to inform Brazilian owners about responsible ownership, a subject that needs to be approached by veterinarians, public authorities and nongovernmental organizations in order to improve cats and dogs' health and welfare, and to better address the overpopulation problem.

## 4 IS INFORMING CAT ADOPTERS SUFFICIENT TO INCREASE THEIR ATTACHMENT TO THE ANIMAL AND IMPROVE THE CAT'S WELFARE?


#### Abstract

Most owners wants to look after their animals to the best of their abilities, but well-meaning intentions should not be confused with good welfare in reality. Education and counseling based on scientific knowledge can help decrease the number of relinquished and euthanized pets, improve the welfare and strengthen the bond between the animal and its owner. We aimed to identify if informed cat adopters had differences in the knowledge level, human-cat attachment, in providing welfare to the feline and in complying with the information provided, compared with non-informed cat adopters. There was no difference in the human-cat attachment, welfare or compliance levels among the groups, but there was a difference in the knowledge level of participants that already owned a cat and an association between some questions and the scores evaluated. The study did not define the adoption as the ideal moment to counsel owners about this. Nevertheless, we did gather preliminary knowledge about cat ownership in Brazil.


Keywords: Adoption. Animal behavior and welfare. Cat. Counseling owners. Humananimal bond.

### 4.1 INTRODUCTION

Behavior problems, as reported by owners, are one of the most important causes for the failure of the cat-human bond (ROCHLITZ, 2009). Knowledge deficits might contribute to unrealistic expectations and inappropriate actions in an attempt to solve problematic behaviors (NEW et al., 2000). A better understanding of the cat's normal behavioral repertoire and how to meet the cat's requirements should lead to a reduction in the number of relinquished and euthanized cats, improvement of welfare and a strengthening of the bond between the cat and its owner (ROCHLITZ, 2009).

According to a recent survey with cat owners in southern Brazil, the most common behavioral problem was scratching furniture, followed by aggressiveness, inappropriate elimination and excessive vocalization (PAZ, 2013). In another study,
veterinarians from the whole country answered that the most common complaints stated by owners were inappropriate elimination of urine, scratching and inappropriate elimination of feces (SOUZA-DANTAS et al., 2009). The problems can emerge from misinterpretation of cat's behavior or from a poor environment (GENARO, 2013).

The majority of owners wants to look after their animals to the best of their abilities, but well-meaning intentions should not be confused with good welfare in reality (COMPANION ANIMAL WELFARE COUNCIL, 2009). The study of animal welfare should be promoted so that decisions are made on factual rather than emotional grounds (BROOM, 1991). Yet, the study of companion animal welfare is young and has a shy development so far (MOLENTO, 2007), with still no thorough investigation of the actual welfare of companion animals. There is an even bigger lack of information about behavior and welfare issues of domestic cats in South America (SOUZA-DANTAS et al., 2009).

Addressing environmental needs strengthens the bond between owner and cat (ELLIS et al., 2013). Attachment to a pet is correlated with commitment to them and indicates a determination to keep the cat despite challenges that require expenses of personal resources (WEISS; GRAMANN, 2009). Yet, some welfare problems persist even in the presence of a strong human-cat bond and can be the result of ignorance or the persistence of long-established practices (WENSLEY, 2008).

The recognition and appreciation of the human-animal bond is essential to an effective communication and relation with owners (WENSLEY, 2008). The veterinary profession is on a privileged place to counsel owners about cat's normal behavior, their needs, how to solve behavioral problems and the full positive aspects of living with a cat (HEIDENBERGER, 1997; ADAMELLI et al., 2005; ALVES et al., 2013), when problems appear as well as preventively.

To ensure quality of life to each cat, the owner should have some knowledge about the cat's behavioral needs (DA GRAÇA PEREIRA et al., 2014). They must understand why the cat behave in a particular way and learn how to deal with undesirable behaviors (ALVES et al., 2013). Yet, experience, anecdote and opinion form some pet care guides and the information, albeit with the best of intentions, may be unreliable and not result in good animal welfare (COMPANION ANIMAL WELFARE COUNCIL, 2009).

To act upon that, education and counseling based on scientific knowledge, before and after obtaining an animal, can help decrease the number of relinquished
pets and increase the level of care (HUNTHAUSEN; LANDSBERG; ACKERMAN, 2005). To accomplish that, it is important to conduct more researches to find an effective and non-expensive method of educating owners (O'BRIAN, 2013). Therefore, we aimed to identify if informed (by self-developed videos and pamphlets or by pamphlets only) cat adopters had differences in the knowledge level, in the human-cat attachment, in providing welfare to the feline and in complying with the information provided, compared with non-informed cat adopters.

### 4.2 METHODS

People from the informed groups were contacted when adopting cats of any age from three different places in the metropolitan area of São Paulo, São Paulo State, Brazil. One place was a cat shelter that welcomed visitors and adopters on Saturday, upon schedule; the other was a cat and dog adoption fair in the parking lot of a pet shop, every weekend; the last one was a place, managed by a non-governmental organization, where different people let their rescued animals to be adopted, opened from Thursday to Sunday.

One of the researchers was present in those places, inviting all cat adopters to join the study, from September/2014 to March/2015. The ones that agreed to be part fill up a consent form (Appendix B), a questionnaire with an Information score based on Salman et al. (1998) and questions about the adopter's relation with animals in the past and in the present (Appendix A). They were placed in one of the Informed groups, according to the study schedule. Adopters from the Informed self-developed group received five pamphlets (Appendix C) and watched two videos², developed by the researchers. Adopters from the Informed with SSPCA material group received fourteen pamphlets, a Portuguese version of a material developed by an American shelter ${ }^{3}$ (Appendix D). After six months, the adopters were contacted by email to schedule a

[^1]visit from one of the researchers. If they did not respond after two email attempts, they were contacted by phone.

The Non-informed group were contacted in retrospect, from the database of the three adoption places. The researchers contacted people that had adopted cats from those places six months before, in the same approach of the Informed groups.

The visit had the purpose to make sure that the adopter still had the cat they adopted, to explain possible doubts in the questionnaire and so that the researchers could evaluate the cat and the environment. The participants were considered to have an unsuccessful ownership when it ended for reasons other than the natural death of the animal, which include if the cat ran away, was gave away or returned to the place where the cat was adopted (WENG et al., 2006b).

The adopters filled a questionnaire (Appendix E) and the researchers assessed the environment and the cat (Appendix F), proposing a total of 107 questions, which were of multiple-choice and half-opened. The adopters were asked to answer the questions based only in the cat (or cats) they adopted during the study. The same person, who knew to which group each owner belonged, carried out all interviews (Figure 4.1).
Figure 4.1 - Map of the visits in the metropolitan area of São Paulo, São Paulo State, Brazil. Designed with Map data by Google. Informed SSPCA group: Informed with SSPCA material group


Source: (REBOUÇAS, T. O. C., 2016)
These questions then became six scores. An attachment scale, a Portuguese version of LAPS (Lexington Pet Attachment Scale) (JOHNSON; GARRITY;

STALLONES, 1992), already used in Brazil by Ramos et al. (2013); the questions rate from 0 to 3. A welfare protocol (HAMMERSCHMIDT; MOLENTO, 2014), that was transformed into 4 scores: Nutritional, Comfort, Health and Behavioral scores. Finally, a Compliance score, containing questions to verify how the adopters managed the cats and if they transformed the provided information into attitudes and behaviors.

The material developed in the study and the questionnaires undergone a pilot study with veterinarians, cat owners and lay people, to make sure that they were easy to understand and did not have errors (ALHO, 2012).

The questions and scores were analyzed using STATA 11.2 software (STATA Corp., TX, USA). It was done a factor analysis of LAPS to examine the scale's dimensionality. Categorical questions were examined in pairs using correspondence analysis and multiple correspondence analysis, when more than two questions were associated. A discriminant analysis was made with the seven scores standardized. Scores were evaluated with Wilcoxon Mann-Whitney test and with Kruskal-Wallis test, if they had more than two groups, since the scores were not normally distributed. Differences were considered significant at $\mathrm{p}<0.05$.

### 4.3 RESULTS

In all groups, 154 owners were contacted by email (Figure 4.2). Not all were located, either by email or in a posterior contact by phone. Of those that were located, not all were able to participate in the study, some because of moving away from São Paulo or the visit was not possible to schedule; others were not interested in participating and a few owners were no longer with the cat, for different reasons. The unsuccessful ownership was not different among groups ( $\mathrm{p}=0.524$ ).

Regarding the location of the cats, more animals from the Informed selfdeveloped group were returned; more cats from the Informed with SSPCA material group died; and cats that were with the owner and that were given away were equally distributed in the two Informed groups. More owners from the Non-informed group were not located, unwilling to participate or not able to participate (Figure 4.3).

Figure 4.2 - Scheme of cats and owner locations. Informed SSPCA: Informed with SSPCA material. *Unsuccessful ownership: cats that were returned, given away or run away divided by the group responses (WENG et al., 2006b), $\mathrm{p}=0.524$


Source: (REBOUÇAS, T. O. C., 2016)

Figure 4.3 - Correspondence analysis of the cats and owners locations according to groups. Informed SSPCA: Informed with SSPCA material. The circles represent the categories that are associated. $\mathrm{p}=0.000$, total inertia $=30 \%$


Source: (REBOUÇAS, T. O. C., 2016)

There is a significant difference between the number of owners visited and the groups ( $p=0.000$ ). More owners from the Informed self-developed group were visited and fewer from the Non-informed group.

The majority of the results were provided by the visits to the owners' houses. The 84 visited owners adopted 90 cats during the study, although they had 155 cats, 32 dogs, 6 other animals and three of them had fishes.

The factor analyses of LAPS, with principal components factor method of extraction and varimax rotation, showed the existence of five factors, with $p=0.000$, an explained variance of $66 \%$ and a high internal consistency (Cronbach's alpha=0.911).

The Information score was associated with the owner having or not a cat when he/she was answering the questions ( $p=0.037$ ), as owners that had a cat had higher scores than those that did not own a cat (Figure 4.4). The Nutritional score was associated with the number of times the owner needed to take the cat to a veterinarian ( $\mathrm{p}=0.019$ ), with the highest score associated with more visits at a veterinarian (Figure 4.5).

Figure 4.4 - Frequency chart of Information score and owner having or not a cat when he or she was answering the questions (Yes/No). The score ranged from 0 to 10. $\mathrm{p}=0.037$


Source: (REBOUÇAS, T. O. C., 2016)

Figure 4.5 - Frequency and mean chart of Nutritional score and number of times the owner needed to take the cat to a veterinarian. The score ranged from 0 to 20. $\mathrm{p}=0.019$


Source: (REBOUÇAS, T. O. C., 2016)

The Health score was associated with the number of hours the cat remained home without human presence ( $p=0.025$ ). The longer the cat stayed home alone, the higher was the Health score (Figure 4.6). The Compliance score was associated with type of contact the owner replied to ( $p=0.013$ ), with a higher score to the owners who responded by email than those that responded by phone (Figure 4.7).

Figure 4.6 - Frequency and mean chart of Health score and number of hours the cat remained home without human presence. The score ranged from 0 to 20. $\mathrm{p}=0.025$


Source: (REBOUÇAS, T. O. C., 2016)

Figure 4.7 - Frequency and mean chart of Compliance score and type of contact the owner replied. The score ranged from 0 to 17.5. $p=0.013$


Source: (REBOUÇAS, T. O. C., 2016)

The seven scores did not offer considerable information when the three groups were compared together, as none of the scores were significant at $\mathrm{p}<0.05$ (Figure 4.8). The discriminant analysis revealed that the observations were too overlaid to classify the different groups based on the scores (Figure 4.9). For that reason, we decided to analyze both the Informed groups against the Non-Informed group and then the Informed groups between themselves.

Figure 4.8 - Score charts: Information Score, LAPS (Lexington Pet Attachment Scale), Welfare Scores (Nutritional, Comfort, Health and Behavioral) and Compliance score from Informed selfdeveloped, Informed with SSPCA material and Non-informed groups. Mean $\pm$ standard error. $p>0.05$


Source: (REBOUÇAS, T. O. C., 2016)

Figure 4.9 - Discriminant analysis of the seven scores and three groups. Scores were standardized for analysis. Informed SSPCA: Informed with SSPCA material. p>0.05


Source: (REBOUÇAS, T. O. C., 2016)

## Informed group x Non-informed group

There is a difference in the Information score ( $\mathrm{p}=0.027$ ) and in the Nutritional score ( $\mathrm{p}=0.029$ ) when comparing the Informed group with the Non-informed group. In both cases, scores of the Non-informed group were higher than the scores of the Informed group (Figure 4.10).

In addition, there is a weak association between these groups and if owners have read websites/books before adoption ( $p=0.045$ ), with more people from the Informed group reading before the adoption than from the Non-informed group (Figure 4.11).

Figure 4.10 - Mean chart of Information and Nutritional scores of Informed and Non-informed groups. $a: p=0.027$; $b: p=0.029$


Source: (REBOUÇAS, T. O. C., 2016)

Figure 4.11 - Frequency chart of Informed and Noninformed groups and if owners have read websites/books before adoption. $p=0.045$, total inertia $=4.7 \%$


Source: (REBOUÇAS, T. O. C., 2016)

Informed self-developed x Informed with SSPCA material

The Comfort score was different between the Informed self-developed and the Informed with SSPCA material groups ( $p=0.047$ ). The Informed with SSPCA material group had higher scores than the Informed self-developed group, although there were many outliers in the groups (Figure 4.12).

Figure 4.12 - Box plot of Comfort score and Informed self-developed and Informed with SSPCA material groups. $p=0.047$


Source: (REBOUÇAS, T. O. C., 2016)

## Correspondence analysis

The owners that answered that the cat could always go to high places in the house were evaluated by researchers as having perches and hiding places available. The owners that said that the cat could often go to high places were evaluated as having only perches available. The owners that said that the cats could sometimes go to high locations were assessed as having only hiding places available. And the owners that responded that the cats could rarely or never go to high places, did not have perches or hiding places available for the cat (Figure 4.13).

Figure 4.13-Correspondence analysis of the cat being allowed to go to high places in the house and the researchers' assessment of perches and hiding places available. The circles represent the categories that are associated. $\mathrm{p}=0.005$, total inertia $=33.7 \%$


Source: (REBOUÇAS, T. O. C., 2016)
Related to the owner being attacked by the cat and the cat's attitude in the owner presence, calm cats never attack their owners, happy cats rarely attack their owners, while anxious cats always attack their owners and unsure cats sometimes attack their owners (Figure 4.14).

Figure 4.14 - Correspondence analysis of the owner being attacked by the cat and the cat's attitude in the owner presence. The circles represent the categories that are associated. $\mathrm{p}=0.010$, total inertia=31\%


Source: (REBOUÇAS, T. O. C., 2016)
Cats that behave calm in the owner's presence showed the tail swishing back and forth. Cats that were scared or shy were also unsure in the owner's presence. Cats unsure in the human presence keep their tail low and runs away or tries to hide. Cats not scared or shy were happy in the owner's and in the human presence, kept their tail high and were open willingness or hesitant to follow humans (Figure 4.15).

Figure 4.15 - Multiple correspondence analysis of if the cat is scared or shy, cats attitude to human presence, cats attitude to owner presence, tail position and proximity to humans. The circles represent the categories that are associated. Total inertia=51\%


Source: (REBOUÇAS, T. O. C., 2016)

In the Informed groups, owners who answered that the materials they received helped only a little, also said that the relationship with the cat had not improved with the information they received. Who answered that the material helped or helped a lot, also said that the relationship had improved (Figure 4.16).
Figure 4.16-Correspondence analysis of if the materials the owners received helped and if the owners' relationship with the cat has improved with the information they received. Only among the Informed groups. The circles represent the categories that are associated. $\mathrm{p}=0.049$, total inertia=23.4\%


Source: (REBOUÇAS, T. O. C., 2016)
The owners that said that the cat never plays also answered that someone plays up to 15 minutes a day with the cat. Who answered that the cat plays more than once a day, also said that someone plays between 15 and 30 minutes/day, between 30 minutes and 1 hour or more than 2 hours a day with the cat (Figure 4.17).

Figure 4.17 - Correspondence analysis of how often the cat plays and how much time someone plays with the cat daily. The circles represent the categories that are associated. $\mathrm{p}=0.000$, total inertia=55\%


Source: (REBOUÇAS, T. O. C., 2016)

The owners that answered that the cat's nails were always or sometimes clipped had scratchers at home and the cat uses it. Who said that the nails were rarely clipped has a scratcher but the cat does not use it. The owners that said that the cat's nails were never clipped do not had scratchers (Figure 4.18).
Figure 4.18 - Correspondence analysis of how frequently the cat's nails are clipped and if there were scratches in the house and whether the cat used it or not. The circles represent the categories that are associated. $\mathrm{p}=0.012$, total inertia $=24 \%$


Source: (REBOUÇAS, T. O. C., 2016)
Cats with body condition score three had someone at home that plays with them 15 to 30 minutes, 30 minutes to 1 hour or more than 2 hours a day. Cats with body condition score four had someone at the house that spend up to 15 minutes a day playing with them (Figure 4.19).
Figure 4.19 - Correspondence analysis of the cat's body condition score (from 1 to 5) and how much time someone plays with the cat daily. The circles represent the categories that are associated. $p=0.022$, total inertia $=28 \%$


Source: (REBOUÇAS, T. O. C., 2016)

### 4.4 DISCUSSION

Informing owners is a complex process. In addition of having to deal with their previous perceptions, it is important to consider the way the information is being transmitted and in if the receiver can understand what is being said (COLEMAN, 2010). As we are dealing with knowledge that have to be put in practice by the owner to actually make a difference in cat's welfare, there is another challenge: convincing the owner to make those changes, to really implement what he/she learned (MERTENS; COPPOLA, 2012).

As a pioneer study informing cat adopters in Brazil, it might be hard to compare this data with the literature. Many aspects of the human-animal relationship can be similar between other studies and in Brazil, but attitudes toward animals are social constructions, varying with time and place (BLOUIN, 2012), and can be different between countries, as found by Weng et al. (2006b) in Taiwan.

There are no guarantee that the adoption is the best moment to inform owners. It could be a time of enthusiasm with the new pet, making the owners more interested in the advice (GAZZANO et al., 2015), or it could be a time of overwhelming amount of novelty, and the owner would not be capable to take in that much information (O'BRIAN, 2013).

Although most people who adopted cats in the time of the study agreed to participate, the small number of adopters might have hampered the statistical analysis. There is also the fact that this study did not limited the cat's age as an exclusion criteria, either because it would lower the number of participants or because adult cats can have bigger problems to adapt to a new environment (GOURKOW; FRASER, 2006). Yet, this could be a source of variability, as adequate socialization is likely to be an element in the retention of cats (CASEY; BRADSHAW, 2008b) and we cannot tell about the socialization of the adult cats that came from the shelters.

Even though both materials handed to owners were developed to be easy to read and understand, it is difficult to measure if the owners comprehend and put in practice all they read (HERRON; LORD; HUSSEINI, 2014). For that reason, we developed compliance questions to measure it. As there was no difference between the groups, including the Non-informed group, there is no way to know if the owners did not pay attention to the material, have not made any changes in the way they
manage the cat or it was influenced by other factors, unrelated to compliance (CASEY; BRADSHAW, 2008a).

The number of owners who were not located in the Non-informed group could be a source of bias to the study, as we do not know for sure if those owners did not received or were not interested in responding the email, or if a percentage of these cats were no longer with the owner, being relinquished or having died, for example (GAZZANO et al., 2015). In this way, the association in the number of cats who died and the Informed with SSPCA material group, or the number of cats that were returned and the Informed self-develop group may not be accurate, as these numbers were probably underestimated in the Non-informed group.

This could have also affected the scores of the Non-informed group, as "those not choosing to participate in a study may have in common a bias, perhaps a less positive attitude about pets" (WILSON; BARKER, 2003, p. 22), influencing the scores to be, in general, higher in this group. It could also have affected the scores in the Informed with SSPCA materials group, as the number of non-responses in this group was higher than in the Informed self-developed group, as were the scores.

The widespread availability of the Internet is a possible explanation for the unclarity of differences among groups (HERRON et al., 2007). Although it can be a good tool to search for more knowledge, the information on Internet is not always accurate (ROCHLITZ, 2005). As there are no base line for the majority of the scores in the study, it is not possible to say if these owners are getting accurate information in order to reach the basic level of welfare for the cats (GAZZANO et al., 2015).

LAPS had a high internal consistency (0.911), similar to the one from the original study ( 0.928 , from Johnson, Garrity and Stallones (1992)). The median for this study (53) was higher than the one found by Ramos et al. (2013) for owners with one or two cats (46.5), and closer to the one found for owners with more than 20 cats (56). This could be due to differences in the enrollment of participants, as in Ramos et al. (2013) they were recruited from general population, or because people that adopt kittens between 7th and 10th week were more attached to the cat (ADAMELLI et al., 2005), and many of the cats adopted during the study were kittens. Another variable that could influence the median, and was not measured, is that people with few emotional bonds to other people seems to be more attached to their cat, as found by Johnson, Garrity and Stallones (1992) and Adamelli et al. (2005).

In the original study, LAPS had no relationship between pet care and attachment and was more successful in measuring strong than weak attachment (JOHNSON; GARRITY; STALLONES, 1992), which might have influenced the scores not being different between the groups, since the means shows strong attachment. Another study found that attachment scales are related to owner behaviors, but the relationship was limited (SHORE; DOUGLAS; RILEY, 2005).

The fact that owners who had a cat in the moment they were filling the questionnaire is associated with the Information score was unexpected, but consistent with recent results from Da Graça Pereira et al. (2014), who found that veterinarians and veterinary nurses that own or owned a cat understood better the cat's behavior than those professionals that had never owned a cat.

The Information score was designed to measure "owner's general animal behavior knowledge and her/his attitude toward animals" (SALMAN et al., 1998, p. 211) and was asked as a way to measure how previous knowledge about animal behavior might affect other scores. It was not foreseen that having a cat would influence the Information score. As the study was not designed to differentiate owners who already had a cat or not, it was not possible to divide the groups in this manner, which would result in too small groups for analysis.

What might have happened is that the level of information owners have when they own a cat is higher than the average (ADAMELLI et al., 2005), which will have impact in the way these owners gain new knowledge. Perhaps it would take a nonuniform material, designed specifically to these owners, focusing first on persuading the person's trust and then informing aspects they do not know (HERRON; LORD; HUSSEINI, 2014), as a way to make owners implement changes that could be measured in the human-cat bond and in the cat's welfare (GAZZANO et al., 2008).

The association between the Nutritional score and the number of times the owner needed to take the cat to a veterinarian could be explained by the fact that owners that are more concerned with the way food and water is provided to the cat, also take them to a veterinarian sooner and for more subtle symptoms. Alternatively, it could be that the greater the number of times the owners goes to a clinic, more chances the veterinarian has to talk to them about food and water management, subjects that veterinarians are familiar with (ELLIS et al., 2013). This explanation also highlight that if the veterinarians can increase the owners' knowledge about food and water management, they have not done that regarding cats' general welfare, as only
the Nutritional score was associated with the number of times the owner took the cat to a veterinarian.

The fact that owners of cats with higher condition body score played less time with them is the same found by Kienzle and Bergler (2006). They also noticed that owners of normal cats used extra playtime as a reward more often than owners of overweight cats did. Although often overlooked, food and water management and weight out of the ideal can have severe impacts on the cat's welfare (WENSLEY, 2008) and, especially with cats, involves improving owner understanding of natural feline behavior (HEATH, 2010).

The owner paying more attention to the cat when he or she is at home, as a way to compensate the hours away, could explain the association between the Health score and the number of hours the cat remained home without human presence, and this could influence the human-cat relationship (ADAMELLI et al., 2005). An alternative explanation could be the cat is not being stressed in the hours that no one is at home, which would result in a healthier cat (ELLIS et al., 2013).

The association between the Compliance score and the type of contact the owner replied to, whether by email or phone, could be explained as owners who responded by email were more willing to be visited, because they read the material and implement a larger number of measures. Casey and Bradshaw (2008a) mention that the time owner has available and the degree the owner feels involved in the process affects the compliance with a behavior therapy program. Nonetheless, it could also be related to time the owners had to respond emails or the frequency they access their emails, among other reasons.

Besides the bias in the non-responses, the higher Nutritional score from the Non-informed group when compared to the Informed group can be attributed to a broader access owners can have to food and water handling. This information can reach the owner through the veterinarian or through campaigns promoted by food brands, widely publicized in mass media (SLATER et al., 2008). This can be verified by the higher number of owners that give commercial foods in this study than in other Brazilian studies (SOUZA et al., 2002; LANGONI et al., 2011; PAZ, 2013). Adamelli et al. (2005) mention that people who declared to have fewer bonds with other people fed correctly their cat, because they were less exposed to receive advices from inexpert people.

Although fairly weak, the association between those groups and if owners have read websites or books before adoption can confirm that the Non-informed groups did not get the information from websites or books, and that this knowledge probably came from their experience with the cat they owned.

Regarding the Informed groups, the difference in the Comfort score between the groups could be due to some owners in the Informed self-developed group that had environments that were not ideals but hard to change, like tiles as contact surfaces. A few owners also had a regular environment cleanliness, rather than more good and excellent environments in the Informed with SSPCA material group. Despite these considerations, the Informed with SSPCA material group had a higher score, indicating that the SSPCA material might provide clearer advice in this particular topic, as found by Herron, Lord and Husseini (2014) that the type of counseling and handout may have been too basic and/or not specific enough to address the needs of a dog.

Since cats need safety and control over their territory, it is important to provide them with a 3-dimensional space (GAZZANO et al., 2015). The association between the owners answers about perches where the cat is allowed to go and researchers' evaluation about perches and hiding places available for the cat evidence agreement between the two measures and that the combination of owners' answers and researchers' assessment to compose the scores can be used (ROCHLITZ, 2005).

The more the owner does not understand how he/she should approach the cat, more aggressive they might be (GARCIA, 2001). This could be demonstrated by the association of the frequency in which the owner is attacked and the cat's attitude in the owner presence. These results are similar to Kendall and Ley (2006), who found that cats do provide social cues for owners before biting and that those owners may not have learned the more subtle cat body language. Aggression is one of the most frequent reasons for relinquishment of cats in Brazil (SOUZA-DANTAS et al., 2009) and is related to risk factors as cats allowance to roam and owners without prior experience with cats (PAZ, 2013). This shows the importance of educating owners to understand cat's language and management.

Another association related to body language is that cats that were described by the owner as scared or shy also had body language in accordance, which could be seen in the tail, the attitude at human or owner presence and the proximity to humans. Since owners can say that a cat being shy is a undesirable behavior (CASEY et al., 2009) and adopters can use shyness as reason not to adopt a cat (GOURKOW;

FRASER, 2006), it is important to make sure people are reading cat's body language appropriately.

In the Informed groups, the association between the helpfulness of handed material and the improved cat-owner relationship with the information they received indicates that those owners who read and implemented modifications probably had improvements in the relationship with the adopted cats. As pointed by the Companion Animal Welfare Council (2009), there is little reason to evaluate improvements in animal welfare if there is no evidence of owner behavior change.

In relation to how often the cat plays and how much time someone plays with the cat daily, the explanation could be that these cats are more active, thus the owner plays more with them, or that the owner attracts the cat to play more, through extra types of toys or engaging in the play more often (NEVILLE, 2004). In either cases, the longer time played will have a number of healthy consequences to the cat's life, including lowering the number of behavioral problems (STRICKLER; SHULL, 2014).

Scratching is also one of the most frequent reasons for relinquishment of cats in Brazil (SOUZA-DANTAS et al., 2009). Paz (2013) found that scratching furniture is associated with no spot to scratch. In this sense, there is an association between owners who never clip the cat's nails and do not possess scratches in the house. The lack of strategies to stop a cat from scratching, given the fact that in Brazil it is illegal for a veterinarian to declaw a cat without a medical reason, may lead the owner to choose punishment to deal with scratching. This conduct, according to Heidenberger (1997), was mostly used by owners, but without success to solve the problem.

Besides the variables already mentioned here, there could be others that influence the assessed scores in unpredicted ways, which can be seen in the wide confidence intervals that overlap among groups. These variables could be demographic ones or related to owners, which were chosen not to be part of the questionnaires to avoid them from being too long, or with the multidimensional aspects of the human-animal bond (WILSON; BARKER, 2003). They could also be related to specific circumstances in Brazilian culture, in particular our relationship with animals, and need to be further researched.

### 4.5 CONCLUSION

The information score was associated with participants that already owned a cat. Neither the LAPS, the welfare protocol nor the owner compliance score correlated with the groups. Nevertheless, we did gather preliminary knowledge about cat ownership in Brazil.

Therefore, inform owners with pamphlets or with pamphlets and videos at the adoption of a new cat might not build a stronger attachment between the owner and the cat and might not increase the cat's welfare level, but may influence others variables in the owner-cat relationship.

## 5 CONCLUSION

As the study was conducted with a small population, the results cannot be generalized to the entire Brazilian population, but we did gather preliminary knowledge about cat ownership in Brazil.

There is a necessity to inform Brazilian owners about responsible ownership and about animals' handling, behaviors and needs, subjects that requires to be approached by veterinarians, public authorities and non-governmental organizations in order to allow owners to build a stronger and more satisfying bond with their animals and improve cats and dogs' welfare. Informing owners about these subjects might also help to better address the overpopulation problem.

Inform owners with pamphlets or with pamphlets and videos at the adoption of a new cat might not build a stronger attachment between the owner and the cat and might not increase the cat's welfare level, but may influence others variables in the owner-cat relationship.

## REFERENCES

ADAMELLI, S.; MARINELLI, L.; NORMANDO, S.; BONO, G. Owner and cat features influence the quality of life of the cat. Applied Animal Behaviour Science, v. 94, n. 1-2, p. 89-98, 2005.

ALHO, A. M. P. V. D. A. O enriquecimento ambiental como estratégia de tratamento e prevenção da cistite idiopática felina. 2012. Dissertação (Mestrado Integrado em Medicina Veterinária) - Faculdade de Medicina Veterinária, Universidade Técnica de Lisboa, Lisboa, 2012.

ALVES, A. J. S.; GUILOUX, A. G. A.; ZETUN, C. B.; POLO, G.; BRAGA, G. B.; PANACHÃO, L. I.; SANTOS, O.; DIAS, R. A. Abandono de cães na América Latina: revisão de literatura. Revista de Educação Continuada em Medicina Veterinária e Zootecnia do CRMV-SP, v. 11, n. 2, p. 34-41, 2013.

AMERICAN PET PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION, T. 2013-2014 National Pet Owners Survey, 2013. Disponível em:
[http://media.americanpetproducts.org/press.php?include=144262](http://media.americanpetproducts.org/press.php?include=144262). Acesso em: 8 ago. 2015.

BLOUIN, D. D. Understanding Relations between People and their Pets. Sociology Compass, v. 6, n. 11, p. 856-869, 2012.

BRAGA, R. S.; FERREIRA, G. M. Esterilização cirúrgica de cães e gatos no município de Anápolis, Goiás, no período de 2010 a 2012. Revista CFMVBrasília/DF, v. 19, n. 58, p. 52-57, 2013.

BROOM, D. M. Animal welfare: concepts and measurement. Journal of Animal Science, v. 69, n. 10, p. 4167-4175, 1991.

CASEY, R. A.; BRADSHAW, J. W. S. Owner compliance and clinical outcome measures for domestic cats undergoing clinical behavior therapy. Journal of Veterinary Behavior: Clinical Applications and Research, v. 3, n. 3, p. 114-124, 2008a.

CASEY, R. A.; BRADSHAW, J. W. S. The effects of additional socialisation for kittens in a rescue centre on their behaviour and suitability as a pet. Applied Animal
Behaviour Science, v. 114, n. 1-2, p. 196-205, 2008 b.
CASEY, R. A.; VANDENBUSSCHE, S.; BRADSHAW, J. W. S.; ROBERTS, M. A. Reasons for relinquishment and return of domestic cats (felis silvestris catus) to rescue shelters in the UK. Anthrozoos, v. 22, n. 4, p. 347-358, 2009.

COLEMAN, G. J. Educating the public: information or persuasion? Journal of Veterinary Medical Education, v. 37, n. 1, p. 74-82, 2010.

COMPANION ANIMAL WELFARE COUNCIL. Companion Animal Welfare Assessment, 2009. Disponível em: [http://www.cawc.org.uk/reports](http://www.cawc.org.uk/reports).

CONSTANTINO, C.; BAUDISCH, A. H.; GRAVINATTI, M. L.; BIONDO, A. W. Perfil dos adotantes dos cães inseridos no projeto de extensão "Adote os cães da UFPR".
Revista de Educação Continuada em Medicina Veterinária e Zootecnia do CRMV-SP, v. 13, n. 2, p. 83-83, 2015.

DA GRAÇA PEREIRA, G.; FRAGOSO, S.; MORAIS, D.; VILLA DE BRITO, M. T.; DE SOUSA, L. Comparison of interpretation of cat's behavioral needs between veterinarians, veterinary nurses and cat owners. Journal of Veterinary Behavior: Clinical Applications and Research, v. 9, n. 6, p. 324-328, 2014.

DALLA VILLA, P.; KAHN, S.; STUARDO, L.; IANNETTI, L.; DI NARDO, A.; SERPELL, J. a. Free-roaming dog control among OIE-member countries. Preventive Veterinary Medicine, v. 97, n. 1, p. 58-63, 2010.

DIGANGI, B. A.; CRAWFORD, P. C.; LEVY, J. K. Outcome of Cats Adopted From a Biomedical Research Program. Journal of Applied Animal Welfare Science, v. 9, n. 2, p. 143-163, 2006.

DOMINGUES, L. R.; CESAR, J. A.; FASSA, A. G.; DOMINGUES, M. R. Guarda responsável de animais de estimação na área urbana do município de Pelotas, RS, Brasil. Ciência \& Saúde Coletiva, v. 20, n. 1, p. 185-192, 2015.

DOUGLAS, D. K. Benefits to pets from the human-animal bond: a study of pet owner behaviors and their relation to attachment. 2005. Thesis (Doctor of Philosophy) - College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Wichita State University, 2005.

DYBDALL, K.; STRASSER, R.; KATZ, T. Behavioral differences between owner surrender and stray domestic cats after entering an animal shelter. Applied Animal Behaviour Science, v. 104, n. 1-2, p. 85-94, 2007.

ELLIS, S. L. H. Environmental enrichment. Practical strategies for improving feline welfare. Journal of Feline Medicine \& Surgery, v. 11, n. 11, p. 901-912, 2009.

ELLIS, S. L. H.; RODAN, I.; CARNEY, H. C.; HEATH, S. E.; ROCHLITZ, I.; SHEARBURN, L. D.; SUNDAHL, E.; WESTROPP, J. L. AAFP and ISFM feline environmental needs guidelines. Journal of Feline Medicine \& Surgery, v. 15, n. 3, p. 219-30, 2013.

GARCIA, R.; CALDERÓN, N. M.; FERREIRA, F. Consolidação de diretrizes internacionais de manejo de populações caninas em áreas urbanas e proposta de indicadores para seu gerenciamento. Rev Panam Salud Publica, v. 32, n. 2, p. 140-144, 2012.

GARCIA, R. D. C. Introdução ao Programa de Controle Animal. (M. Ciampi, A. M. L. Vieira, Eds.) In: ANAIS DO SIMPÓSIO INTERNACIONAL PROGRAMA DE TREINAMENTO "CONTROLE DE ZOONOSES E AS INTERAÇÕES HOMEMANIMAL", São Paulo, SP. Anais... São Paulo, SP: ARCA Brasil, 2001.

GARCIA, R. D. C. Controle de populações de cães e gatos em área urbana: uma experiência inovadora na Grande São Paulo. Saúde Coletiva, v. 2, n. 5, p. 24-28, 2005.

GAZZANO, A.; BIANCHI, L.; CAMPA, S.; MARITI, C. The prevention of undesirable behaviors in cats: Effectiveness of veterinary behaviorists' advice given to kitten owners. Journal of Veterinary Behavior: Clinical Applications and Research, v. 10, n. 6, p. 535-542, nov. 2015.

GAZZANO, A.; MARITI, C.; ALVARES, S.; COZZI, A.; TOGNETTI, R.; SIGHIERI, C. The prevention of undesirable behaviors in dogs: effectiveness of veterinary behaviorists' advice given to puppy owners. Journal of Veterinary Behavior:
Clinical Applications and Research, v. 3, n. 3, p. 125-133, 2008.
GELLER, K. S. Quantifying the power of pets: the development of an assessment device to measure attachment between humans and companion animals. 2005. Thesis (Doctor of Philosophy) - Department of Human Development, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, 2005.

GENARO, G. Aplicação de conceitos básicos em etologia na clínica médica veterinária felina. Revista de Educação Continuada em Medicina Veterinária e Zootecnia do CRMV-SP, v. 11, n. 1, p. 32-37, 2013.

GOURKOW, N.; FRASER, D. The effect of housing and handling practices on the welfare, behaviour, and selection of domestic cats (Felis sylvestris catus) by adopters in an animal shelter. Animal Welfare, v. 15, n. 15, p. 371-377, 2006.

GUEDES, G. N. F. Formulação, aplicação e avaliação de programa de educação em saúde em escola de visconde de mauá, distrito de resende, rio de janeiro, rj. 2011. Dissertação (Mestrado em Ciências) - Faculdade de Medicina Veterinária e Zootecnia, Universidade de São Paulo, São Paulo, 2011.

HAMMERSCHMIDT, J. Desenvolvimento e aplicação de perícia em bem estar animal. 2012. Dissertação (Mestrado em Ciências Veterinárias) - Ciências Veterinárias, Universidade Federal do Paraná, Curitiba, 2012.

HAMMERSCHMIDT, J.; MOLENTO, C. F. M. Protocol for expert report on animal welfare in case of companion animal cruelty suspicion. Braz. J. Vet. Res. Anim. Sci., São Paulo, v. 51, n. 4, p. 282-296, 2014.

HEATH, S. Understanding Normal Feline Communication: The Foundation for a Fulfilling Cat-Owner Relationship. In: AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF FELINE PRACTITIONERS 2010 SPRING CONFERENCE, San Diego, CA. Anais... San Diego, CA: 2010.

HEIDENBERGER, E. Housing conditions and behavioural problems of indoor cats as assessed by their owners. Applied Animal Behaviour Science, v. 52, n. 3-4, p. 345-364, 1997.

HERRON, M. E.; LORD, L. K.; HILL, L. N.; REISNER, I. R. Effects of preadoption counseling for owners on house-training success among dogs acquired from shelters. Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association, v. 231, n. 4, p. 558-562, 2007.

HERRON, M. E.; LORD, L. K.; HUSSEINI, S. E. Effects of preadoption counseling on the prevention of separation anxiety in newly adopted shelter dogs. Journal of
Veterinary Behavior: Clinical Applications and Research, v. 9, n. 1, p. 13-21, 2014.

HUNTHAUSEN, W.; LANDSBERG, G. M.; ACKERMAN, L. J. (ed.). Problemas comportamentais do cão e do gato. 2a Ed. ed.São Paulo, SP: Editora Roca, 2005.

IBGE. Pesquisa Nacional de Saúde 2013. Rio de Janeiro, 2015.
IRVINE, L. Animal Problems/People Skills: Emotional and Interactional Strategies in Humane Education. Society \& Animals, v. 10, n. 1, p. 63-91, 2002.

IRVINE, L. The Problem of Unwanted Pets: A Case Study in How Institutions "Think" about Clients' Needs. Social Problems, v. 50, n. 4, p. 550-566, 2003.

JOHNSON, T. P.; GARRITY, T. F.; STALLONES, L. Psychometric Evaluation of the Lexington Attachment to Pets Scale (LAPS). Anthrozoos, v. V, n. 3, p. 160-175, 1992.

JONGMAN, E. C. Adaptation of domestic cats to confinement. Journal of Veterinary Behavior: Clinical Applications and Research, v. 2, n. 6, p. 193-196, 2007.

KENDALL, K.; LEY, J. Cat ownership in Australia: Barriers to ownership and behavior. Journal of Veterinary Behavior: Clinical Applications and Research, v. 1, n. 1, p. 5-16, 2006.

KIDD, A. H.; KIDD, R. M.; GEORGE, C. C. Successful and Unsuccessful Pet Adoptions. Psychological Reports, v. 70, n. 2, p. 547-561, 1992.

KIENZLE, E.; BERGLER, R. Human-Animal Relationship of Owners of Normal and Overweight Cats. In: THE WALTHAM INTERNATIONAL NUTRITIONAL SCIENCES SYMPOSIA, Washington, DC. Anais... Washington, DC: The WALTHAM Centre for Pet Nutrition, 2006.

LAGES, S. Avaliação da população de cães e gatos com proprietário, e do nível de conhecimento sobre a raiva e posse responsável em duas áreas contrastantes da cidade de jaboticabal, são paulo. 2009. Dissertação (Mestrado em Medicina Veterinária) - Faculdade de Ciências Agrárias e Veterinárias, Universidade Estadual Paulista, Jaboticabal, 2009.

LANGONI, H.; TRONCARELLI, MARCELLA ZAMPOLI RODRIGUES, E. C.; NUNES, H. R. de C.; HARUMI, V.; HENRIQUES, M. V.; DA SILVA, K. M.; SHIMONO, J. Y. Conhecimento da população de Botucatu-SP sobre guarda responsável de cães e gatos. Veterinária e Zootecnia, v. 18, n. 2, p. 297-305, 2011.

LESNAU, G. G. Correlação dos parâmetros endócrinos e comportamentais em cadelas abandonadas em programa de ressocialização. 2014. Tese (Doutorado em Ciências) - Faculdade de Medicina Veterinária e Zootecnia, Universidade de São Paulo, São Paulo, 2014.

LIMA, A. F. M.; LUNA, S. P. L. Algumas causas e consequências da superpopulação canina e felina: acaso ou descaso? Revista de Educação Continuada em
Medicina Veterinária e Zootecnia do CRMV-SP, v. 10, n. 1, p. 32-38, 2012.
MARSTON, L. C.; BENNETT, P. C. Reforging the bond-towards successful canine adoption. Applied Animal Behaviour Science, v. 83, n. 3, p. 227-245, 2003.

MENGOLI, M.; MARITI, C.; COZZI, A.; CESTAROLLO, E.; LAFONT-LECUELLE, C.; PAGEAT, P.; GAZZANO, A. Scratching behaviour and its features: a questionnairebased study in an Italian sample of domestic cats. Journal of Feline Medicine \& Surgery, v. 15, n. 10, p. 886-892, 2013.

MERTENS, P. A.; COPPOLA, C. L. Outcomes of an Animal Shelter Program for Dogs With Separation Related Behaviors. (K. Shokat, B. Schulman, G. Hart, M. Karin, J. Zhao, R. Rottapel, R. Marais, R. Tsien, M. Park, V. Dixit, Eds.) In: 2012 ACVB/AVSAB VETERINARY BEHAVIOR SYMPOSIUM, San Diego, CA. Anais... San Diego, CA: ACVB AVSAB, 2012.

MIRANDA, M. I. L. de A. R. A importância do vínculo para os donos de cães e gatos nas famílias portuguesas. 2011. Relatório Final de Estágio (Mestrado Integrado em Medicina Veterinária) - Instituto de Ciências Biomédicas Abel Salazar, Universidade do Porto, 2011.

MOLENTO, C. F. M. Bem-estar animal: qual é a novidade? Acta Scientiae Veterinariae, v. 35, n. Supl 2, p. 224-226, 2007.

MONDELLI, F.; PREVIDE, E. P.; VERGA, M.; LEVI, D.; MAGISTRELLI, S.; VALSECCHI, P. The bond that never developed: adoption and relinquishment of dogs in a rescue shelter. Journal of Applied Animal Welfare Science, v. 7, n. 4, p. 253-266, 2004.

NATIONAL COUNCIL ON PET POPULATION STUDY \& POLICY. Shelter Statistics
Survey, 2013. Disponível em: [http://www.sawanetwork.org/national-petcouncil.html/statsurvey.html](http://www.sawanetwork.org/national-petcouncil.html/statsurvey.html). Acesso em: 8 ago. 2015.

NEIDHART, L.; BOYD, R. Companion Animal Adoption Study. Journal of Applied Animal Welfare Science, v. 5, n. 3, p. 175-192, jul. 2002.

NEVILLE, P. F. An ethical viewpoint: the role of veterinarians and behaviourists in ensuring good husbandry for cats. Journal of Feline Medicine \& Surgery, v. 6, n. 1, p. 43-48, 2004.

NEW, J. C.; SALMAN, M. D.; KING, M.; SCARLETT, J. M.; KASS, P. H.; HUTCHISON, J. M. Characteristics of Shelter-Relinquished Animals and Their

Owners Compared With Animals and Their Owners in U.S. Pet-Owning Households. Journal of Applied Animal Welfare Science, v. 3, n. 3, p. 179-201, 2000.

O'BRIAN, M. L. Effects of a preadoption pamphlet on the success of canine adoption. 2013. Thesis (Major in Animal Sciences) - Department of Animal Sciences, The Ohio State University, 2013.

PATRONEK, G. J.; GLICKMAN, L. T.; BECK, A. M.; MCCABE, G. P.; ECKER, C. Risk factors for relinquishment of dogs to an animal shelter. Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association, v. 209, n. 3, p. 572-581, 1996.

PAZ, J. E. G. Fatores relacionados a distúrbios de comportamento em gatos. 2013. Monografia (Graduação em Medicina Veterinária) - Faculdade de Veterinária, Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Porto Alegre, 2013.

RAMÓN, M. E.; SLATER, M. R.; WARD, M. P. Companion animal knowledge, attachment and pet cat care and their associations with household demographics for residents of a rural Texas town. Preventive Veterinary Medicine, v. 94, n. 3-4, p. 251-263, 2010.

RAMOS, D.; DA CRUZ, N. O.; ELLIS, S. L. H.; HERNANDEZ, J. A. E.; RECHEJUNIOR, A. Early stage animal hoarders: Are these owners of large numbers of adequately cared for cats? Bulletin of Human-Animal Interaction, v. 1, n. 1, p. 5569, 2013.

ROCHLITZ, I. Recommendations for the housing of cats in the home, in catteries and animal shelters, in laboratories and in veterinary surgeries. Journal of Feline Medicine \& Surgery, v. 1, n. 3, p. 181-191, 1999.

ROCHLITZ, I. A review of the housing requirements of domestic cats (Felis silvestris catus) kept in the home. Applied Animal Behaviour Science, v. 93, n. 1-2, p. 97109, 2005.

ROCHLITZ, I. Basic requirements for good behavioural health and welfare in cats. In: HORWITZ, D.; MILLS, D. (Ed.). BSAVA manual of canine and feline behavioural medicine. Gloucester, UK: British Small Animal Veterinary Assocation, 2009. p. 3548.

SALAMANCA, C. a; POLO, L. J.; VARGAS, J. Sobrepoblación canina y felina:
tendencias y nuevas. Revista de Medicina Veterinaria y Zootecnia, v. 58, n. 1, p. 45-53, 2011.

SALMAN, M. D.; HUTCHISON, J.; RUCH-GALLIE, R.; KOGAN, L.; NEW, J. C.; KASS, P. H.; SCARLETT, J. M. Behavioral Reasons for Relinquishment of Dogs and Cats to 12 Shelters. Journal of Applied Animal Welfare Science, v. 3, n. 2, p. 93106, 2000.

SALMAN, M. D.; NEW, J. G.; SCARLETT, J. M.; KASS, P. H.; RUCH-GALLIE, R.; HETTS, S. Human and animal factors related to relinquishment of dogs and cats in

12 selected animal shelters in the United States. Journal of Applied Animal Welfare Science, v. 1, n. 3, p. 207-226, 1998.

SÃO PAULO (city). Lei municipal no 13.131, de 18 de maio de 2001. São Paulo, SP, 18 de mai. Diário Oficial [da] Cidade de São Paulo, 2001. Disponível em: <http://www3.prefeitura.sp.gov.br/cadlem/secretarias/negocios_juridicos/cadlem/inte gra.asp?alt=19052001L 131310000>.

SÃO PAULO (city). Decreto municipal n ${ }^{\circ} 49.393$ de 10 de abril de 2008. São Paulo, SP, 10 de abr. Diário Oficial [da] Cidade de São Paulo, 2008a. Disponível em: <http://www3.prefeitura.sp.gov.br/cadlem/secretarias/negocios_juridicos/cadlem/inte gra.asp?alt=11042008D 493930000>.

SÃO PAULO (state). Lei estadual no 12.916, de 16 de abril de 2008. São Paulo, Brazil, 16 de abr. Diário Oficial [do] Estado de São Paulo, 2008b. Disponível em: <http://dobuscadireta.imprensaoficial.com.br/default.aspx?DataPublicacao=2008041 7\&Caderno=DOE-I\&NumeroPagina=1>.

SHERMAN, B. L.; SERPELL, J. a. Training veterinary students in animal behavior to preserve the human-animal bond. Journal of Veterinary Medical Education, v. 35, n. 4, p. 496-502, 2008.

SHORE, E. R. Returning a recently adopted companion animal: adopters' reasons for and reactions to the failed adoption experience. Journal of Applied Animal Welfare Science, v. 8, n. 3, p. 187-198, 2005.

SHORE, E. R.; BURDSAL, C.; DOUGLAS, D. K. Pet owners' views of pet behavior problems and willingness to consult experts for assistance. Journal of Applied Animal Welfare Science, v. 11, n. 1, p. 63-73, 2008.

SHORE, E. R.; DOUGLAS, D. K.; RILEY, M. L. What's in it for the companion animal? Pet attachment and college students' behaviors toward pets. Journal of Applied Animal Welfare Science, v. 8, n. 1, p. 1-11, 2005.

SLATER, M. R.; DI NARDO, A.; PEDICONI, O.; DALLA VILLA, P.; CANDELORO, L.; ALESSANDRINI, B.; DEL PAPA, S. Cat and dog ownership and management patterns in central Italy. Preventive Veterinary Medicine, v. 85, n. 3-4, p. 267-294, 2008.

SOTO, F. R. M.; FERREIRA, F.; PINHEIRO, S. R.; NOGARI, F.; RISSETO, M. R.; DE SOUZA, O.; AMAKU, M. Adoption of shelter dogs in a Brazilian community: assessing the caretaker profile. Journal of Applied Animal Welfare Science, v. 8, n. 2, p. 105-116, 2005.

SOUZA, L. C.; MODOLO, J. R.; PADOVANI, C. R.; MENDONÇA, A. O.; LOPES, A. L. S.; SILVA, W. B. Posse responsável de cães o Município de Botucatu-SP: realidades e desafios. Revista de Educação Continuada em Medicina Veterinária e Zootecnia do CRMV-SP, v. 5, n. 2, p. 226-232, 2002.

SOUZA-DANTAS, L.; SOARES, G. M.; D'ALMEIDA, J. M.; PAIXÃO, R. L. Epidemiology of domestic cat behavioral and welfare issues: a survey of Brazilian referral animal hospitals in 2009. International Journal of Applied Research in Veterinary Medicine, v. 7, n. 3, p. 130-137, 2009.

STRICKLER, B. L.; SHULL, E. a. An owner survey of toys, activities, and behavior problems in indoor cats. Journal of Veterinary Behavior: Clinical Applications and Research, v. 9, n. 5, p. 207-214, 2014.

TURNER, D. C. Treating canine and feline behaviour problems and advising clients. Applied Animal Behaviour Science, v. 52, n. 3-4, p. 199-204, 1997.

WEISS, E.; GRAMANN, S. A comparison of attachment levels of adopters of cats: fee-based adoptions versus free adoptions. Journal of Applied Animal Welfare Science, v. 12, n. 4, p. 360-370, 2009.

WENG, H.-Y.; KASS, P. H.; CHOMEL, B. B.; HART, L. a. Educational intervention on dog sterilization and retention in Taiwan. Preventive Veterinary Medicine, v. 76, n. 3-4, p. 196-210, 2006a.

WENG, H.-Y.; KASS, P. H.; HART, L. a; CHOMEL, B. B. Risk factors for unsuccessful dog ownership: an epidemiologic study in Taiwan. Preventive Veterinary Medicine, v. 77, n. 1-2, p. 82-95, 2006b.

WENSLEY, S. P. Animal welfare and the human-animal bond: considerations for veterinary faculty, students, and practitioners. Journal of Veterinary Medical Education, v. 35, n. 4, p. 532-539, 2008.

WHO. Guidelines for Dog Population Management, 1990. .
WILSON, C. C.; BARKER, S. B. Challenges in Designing Human-Animal Interaction Research. American Behavioral Scientist, v. 47, n. 1, p. 16-28, 2003.

ZASLOFF, R. L.; KIDD, A. H. Attachment To Feline Companions. Psychological Reports, v. 74, n. 3, p. 747-752, 1994.

## APPEENDIX A - QUESTIONNAIRE TO CAT ADOPTERS AND OWNERS

## Questionário para proprietários de gatos

Este questionário é totalmente anônimo. Por favor, marque a opção desejada colocando um " X " na resposta. Não há respostas certas ou erradas, seja apenas sincero.


## APPEENDIX B - CONSENT FORM

## TERMO DE CONSENTIMENTO LIVRE E ESCLARECIDO

DADOS DE IDENTIFICAÇÃO DO PROPRIETÁRIO OU RESPONSÁVEL

1. NOME:


DADOS DE IDENTIFICAÇẢO DO ANIMAL
2. NOME DO ANIMAL EIOU NÚMERO DE REGISTRO (TATUAGEM, MICROCHIP)

ESPÉCIE: Gato RAÇA:.................................................... PELAGEM:

SEXO: M F $\square \quad$ DATA DE NASCIMENTO (aprox.): ................................
3. NOME DO ANIMAL EIOU NÚMERO DE REGISTRO (TATUAGEM, MICROCHIP)

ESPÉCIE: Gato RAÇA:
PELAGEM:

SEXO: M F $\square \quad$ DATA DE NASCIMENTO (aprox.): ...............................

DADOS SOBRE A PESQUISA
4. PESQUISADOR Tais de Oliveira Campos Rebouças

INSCRIÇÃO CONSELHO REGIONAL CRMV-SP 31.398
CONTATO DO PESQUISADOR: tais.rebouças@usp.br / (11) 3091-1315
5. AVALIAÇÃO DO RISCO DA PESQUISA: RISCO MÍNIMO
6. DURAÇÄO DA PESQUISA: 6 meses

## FACULDADE DE MEDICINA VETERINÁRIA E ZOOTECNIA

## UNIVERSIDADE DE SÃO PAULO

## TERMO DE CONSENTIMENTO LIVRE E ESCLARECIDO

Estas informações estão sendo fornecidas para a sua participação voluntária neste estudo, que visa estudar a melhor forma de informar proprietários de gatos sobre o animal que estão adotando.

Todos os proprietários que concordarem em participar do estudo serão divididos em três grupos, de forma aleatória: dois grupos receberão informações sobre o comportamento e preferências de gatos no momento da adoção e um grupo será informado após seis meses da adoção.

Decorridos seis meses, os proprietários serão avaliados por meio de questionários, que serão realizados na casa de cada proprietário. O ambiente doméstico também será analisado pelo pesquisador para avaliar os itens que o proprietário disponibiliza para o gato.

O risco para o animal é mínimo, ou seja, o pesquisador não realizará nenhum procedimento diretamente com os animais. Os benefícios do estudo serão as informações que serão fornecidas, de forma que o proprietário possa compreender melhor seu animal.

Em qualquer etapa do estudo, você terá acesso aos profissionais responsáveis pela pesquisa para esclarecimento de eventuais dúvidas. O principal investigador é a mestranda Tais de O. C. Rebouças, que pode ser encontrada no email tais.reboucas@usp.br ou no telefone (11) 3091-1315.

É garantida a liberdade da retirada de consentimento a qualquer momento e deixar de participar do estudo, sem qualquer prejuizo ao animal.

As informações obtidas neste estudo (relativas tanto ao proprietário quanto ao animal) serão analisadas em conjunto com outros pacientes, não sendo divulgada a identificação de nenhum animal ou proprietário.

Acredito ter sido suficientemente informado a respeito das informações que li ou que foram lidas para mim. Ficaram claros para mim quais são os propósitos do estudo, os procedimentos a serem realizados, seus riscos, as garantias de confidencialidade e de esclarecimentos permanentes.

Concordo voluntariamente em participar deste estudo e poderei retirar o meu consentimento a qualquer momento, antes ou durante o mesmo, sem penalidades ou prejuizo ou perda de qualquer beneficio que eu ou meu(s) animal(is) possa(m) ter adquirido. Declaro que entendi e esclareci quaisquer dúvidas a respeito das informações que recebi.

Nome e assinatura do proprietário

Nome e assinatura da testemunha
(para casos de proprietários analfabetos, semi-analfabetos ou portadores de deficiência auditiva ou visual.)

## (Somente para o responsável do projeto)

Declaro que obtive de forma apropriada e voluntária o Consentimento Livre e Esclarecido deste proprietário para a participação de seu(s) animal(is) neste estudo.
$\qquad$

## APPEENDIX C - PAMPHLETS SELF-DEVELOPED

passe a fazer isso escondido.

## Corte de unhas, limpeza dos dentes $\mathbf{e}$ das orelhas

Cortar as unhas do seu gato pode diminuir os estragos feitos nos móvels, mas nâo deve ser feito por quern nảo sabe! Quando levar seu gato ao veterinário para tomar as vacinas, peça para que ele the ensine e faça as primeiras vezes corn ele. Assim como a nossa, a unha dos gatos tem muito sangue - voob pode causar muita dor ao seu gatinho se cortar errado.


Para que nossos gatos nāo tonhana problernas dentários no futuro, nós devermos escovar seus dentes todos os dias. Em pet shops sso vendidas escovas e pastas de dentes apropriadas. Nso devernos usar pastas de dentes humanas cona os animais, pois elas contion flior, que faz raal se for engolido. No comepo, 6 preciso acostums -los a escovar os dentes. O mais ff́cil 6 começar só com a escova e bem rípido. E ir aurmentando o ternpo da escovaça, sempre com muita paciéncia.

As orelhas do gato devern ser tirmpas com urn algodso secol Nuncal devernos usar cotonetes. Mas se a oref ha do seu gato estiver maito suia, se ele estiver cogando mais do que 0 normal, ele
pode estar com "doride ouvido". pode estar com "dor de owvido":
Devernos levi-to ao veteringrio para que ele diagnostique e medique seu gato.

## Por que os gatos se lambem?

Quem jí viu um gatinho sabe que eles passam boa parte do tempo se lambendo. Esse comportamento tem origem na sua caracteristica de predador, que precissva tirar o cheiro da presa do seu pelo para niso ser encontrado por outros predadores. Podera reparar, sempre depois de comer, eles se sentara e ficam lambendo as patinhas e rosto!
Além disso, lamber a pelagem tem a funçso de retirar os nós e os pelos soltos, manter a sáde da pele e para alliviar a ansiedade. Os gatos sso muito eficientes ern se limpar a podern ficar estressados se dermos banho neles, entio devernos evitar isso. Vock pode passar lenços umedecidos (desses que tetm para bebbs) para limpar seu gato.

Para evitar que eles ingiram muitos pelos (que formama as "bolas de pelos") e para manter os pelos sempre brilhantes, nós devernos escovar os gatos! Existem diversos tipos de escovas (mais macia ou mais dura, menor ou maior) e 6 importante achar a escova que seu gatinho prefere. O ideal $\dot{d}$ escoví-los rogularmente, sendo necessória umaa froquéncia maior nos


## FICOU COM DÚVIDAS?

Releia os folhetos e lembre-se das informações do video. Caso ainda restem dúvidas, procure um médico veterinário!


Ense folheto foi desenvolido como parte do traballo de mestrands Tain de O. C. Reboopas, da Fseouldade de Medicina Vetarioíriziz Oooteceiia da Univeridado de Sio Pavlo, com apoio financetro da CAPES.

Texto por Med. Vet. Tais de O. C. Rebogcavo
Arte e diagrarsapäo por Med. Vet. Andre Dechen C
gatos de pelo longo ou nos mais velhos, que j̄ nâo conseguem se limpar tio bem. Devennos escovílos gentilmente, da cabeça para a cauda.

Também dimportante acostumílos a serem escovados desde filhotes. Se voci jí adotou um gato adulto, comece bem de leve a escovi-lo, cona urna escova mais macia. Quando ele $ز$ jestiver acostumado com a escova e o gesto, vd́ aumentando a intensidade dos movimentos até achar a forma como ele prefere ser escovado.

Outras dívidas sobre as "bolas de pelos" podern ser esclarecidas com o seu veterinário.

## Curiosidade

Os gatos tifre algoes pelos maih alton na sua polagern, os chamados "palos geardas", que sarvern para dar ao gato intorna nębes do direçio do vento e do ambiente.

Como fazer para meu gato não arranhar o sofá??

Primeiro, $\epsilon$ insportante lenabrar que os gatos têm urna necessidade flsica de arranhar, ele nioo faz para estragar o seu sotá novo de propósito. Eles arranham para "licar" as unhas e se alongar. E um comportamento normal, mas que deve ser realizado no lugar certo. Por isso, 6 muito importante ter pelo menos una lu-
 gar na casa que seu gato possa arranhar serapre que quiser. Alguns gatos preferem arranhar superficies horizontais, outros preferem as verticais. No caso do arranhador na vertical, ele deve ser alto o bastante para que o gato se alonguera nelo, deve ser firme o Aso tornbatily


Alén do lugar en que o arranhador fica, o material com que ele 6 feito tamberm 6 importante. Alguns gatos preferem madeira, outros papelfo, sisal os tapetes. Se vocé perceber um lugar onde seu gato gosta de
 lugar onde seu gato gosta de arranhar, coloque o tipo de arranhador que cle preferir ali. Por exeraplo, se ele arranha o soth, coloque o arranhador ao lado do sots. Depois que o gato se acostumar a usar o arranhador, ví mudando o legar onde ele fica aos pouco, até colocar o arranhador onde voce preferir.

Para que ele nîo estrague seus móveis, precisamos incentiva-lo a usar o arranhador e tornar todos os outros móvels nifo atraentes. Podemos colocar catnip para atrair o gato ate o arranhador, um brinquedo ou petiscos no alto.


Para o gato naso arranhar o lugar errado, podemos colocar fita du-pla-face, papel alurninio ou qualquer outra coisa que incomoda no lugar que o gato arranha. E importante nío pensar "ahh essa cadeira \& velha, ele pode arranhar.." porque quando voce trocar por uma cadeira novinha, ele vai continuar achando que aquele 6 o lugar certo de arranhar!

Só brigar ou bater no gato năo funciona, porque ele precisa arranhar por natureza. O gato dove ser interrorapido de maneira sutil quando estiver arranhando o lugar errado (chams-lo para outro cormodo ou tira-lo dall sern falar nada) e deve sef recompensado quando arranhar seu arranhador. Punir seu gato so vai fazer com que ele sintá ruedo de voot e
derruba a planta, consegue sua atençio. E vai fazer de novo quando quiser "falar" cons voof. Mais urna vež' nso porque ele sabe que te irrita quando derruba a planta, rass porque ele adิo entendeu que é errado fazer isso

Outra puniç̧̃o que pode ser muito útill étirar o gato da situaçio, sem falar ou mesmo othar para ele, e se afastar. Também podemos simplesmente igno-rá-los completamente (ignorar de verdade, senšo nio funciona!). Fazer isso deixa o gato frustrado, pois ele nío consegue o que estava querendo, e a propria frustraçio age como uma puniǧo.

Alén disso, os animais guardam na mernória aquilo que deu certo, seja o carinho que ele ganhou quando usou o arranhador ou o pedacinho de carne que ele achou quando subiu na pia. Por isso, se ignorarmos ou impedirmos os comportamentos que nĩo gostamos nos nossos gatos, ele vai ser esquecido com o termpo.

E importante nunca darmos atenç̧̃o para o gato que estiver miando - estarennos prermiando (ou seja. aurnentando) um comportamento que pode ser desagradível. Ou entío ele vai miar quando quiser rapro de madrugada ou quando ele sentir o cheirinho de presunto no seu prato. Alguns gatos jé wem com esse conhecimento "de fíbrica", al temos que ser fortes: se ignorarmos o comportamento, seu gato


A ideia para educar seu gato deve ser'. premiar un comportarmento certo para que ele aconteca raais vezes e punir um cormportarnento errado, que vai ocorrer menos vezes corn o ternpo (com o tempo! O gato pode nso entender o que voce quis dizer da primeira vez, ternos que ser pacientes).
Para isso, devemos ser bern claros na mensagern: dar a recompensa logo após as coisas certas e corrigir no momento de um comportamento errado. E logo após é realmente logo após': se passarem mais de 3 segundos (segundos!), o gato nifo vai entender mais que a bronca é por causa do que ele estava fazendo.

Os prémios para os comportamentos certos, alérn do petisco (que eles adoraml), podern ser, a atençăo do dono, urna sessso de brincadeira, a entrada a urn local que ele goste muito ou a chance de explorar um objeto novo.

Outra forma de recornpensar seu gato 6 com unn barulhinho, como um estalo, que pode ser eito com a boca ou cona os dedos A ideia \& que serapre que seu gato fizer alguma coisa certa, voce farí o estalo e ele ganhará a recompensa. Com o ternpo,
voct poderí só fazer o estalo para mostrar que ele está fazendo uma coisa certa (caso ele use o arranhador e vocé nîo esteja corn um petisco, por exermplo).

As puniçbes só devern ser usadas para dirninuir urn corsportarnento errado e nunca para castigar o animal. Precisa mos sempre ter calna quando nos depararmos com algurna coisa que os anirnais fizeram de errado. Eles não entendern como nós a distinç̉o entre certo e errado e nảo fazen de propósito. Por isso, nunca devernos agredir fisicamente of gri-

## FICOU COM DUVIDAS?

Releia os folhetos e lembre-se das informações do vídeo. Caso ainda restem dúvidas, procure um médico veterinário!


Esse folheto foi desenvolvido como parte do trabalho da mestranda Tais de O. C. Rebowas, da Faculdade de Medieina Veteriníria e Zootecoia da Universidade de Š̊० Paulo, coma apoio finaneeiro da CAPES.

Texto por Med. Vet. Tais de O. C. Rebencav0
Arte e diagrarmagio por Med. Vet. Asidre Dechen©
tar com um anirnal. Ele até irá parar de fazer o que estava fazendo, mas nīo terí entendido seu "crime" e voltaría a fazei-lo.


Os gatos nío nos obedecem por medo, e se gritarmos ou batermos neles, tudo que vamos conseguir d um gato com medo da gente. Quando um animal nīo entende o que fez de errado, ele pode ficar ansioso, achando que a qualquer momento alguém pode chegar de repente, sen motivo e gritar com ele. O gato passarí a viver assustado, se escondendo, ou pode desenvolver problernas fisicos por causa do estresse.

Por isso, para cada tipo de situação existe uma forma de corrigir o gato para que ele entenda o que estamos tentando the dizer. Vamos falar de algumas aqui.

A palavra "nâo" é muito importante! A ideia é mais ou menos a mesma da recompensa com o estalo. No começo, sempre que o gato estiver fazendo alguma coisa errada, devemos fazer algum barulho alto e falar "niso" em um tom de voz diferente do que usamos normalmente, mais firme. E logo ele vai entender que o "não" tambén 6 algo a ser evitado, assim como o barulho. O barulho pode ser uma lata coni parafusos dentro que ef sacudida ou bater palmas.

A raelhor puniçio of aquela que ocorre todas as vezes que o gato faz o comportamento errado e que nåo seja associada a voce. Se toda vez que o gato for arranhar seu sofa ele se sentir incomodado corn ○ papel alurainio que voce colocou, ele vai achar mais agradivel usar o arranhador e vai deixar seu raóvel

Seu Gato


## em paz

Existem outros tipos de castigos: filme plistico, fita dupla-face, repelentes de animais (comprados ern pet shops), gosto amargo (como o mentol, o dleo de eucalipto ou a pimenta-de-caiena; nío use outras substíncias, pois elas podera ser tóxicas parà seu gato!). Cada uraa dessas puniçōes serve para uma situaçio. As substíncias amargas podern ser usadas caso o gato mastigue algum objeto que 6 perigoso para ele (plásticos, pedaços de roupa); o filme plástico para ele nơo tirar terra de ura vaso


Agora, se voct fez um barulho porque seu gato estava em cima da mesa e ele saiu correndo e passou o resto do dia escondido, a puniçio for muito forte o vai deixd-lo estressado. Devernos escolher una coisa mais leve - talvez $s 6$ bater o pe um pouco mais forte no ch/̌o. Pode ocorrer o contrário tarnbmi: voot fez o barulho e seu gato nerm percebeu que era com ele. Neste caso, precisamos escother outro metodo.

Se a puniçio nảo dee certo, ela não deve ser usada, pois vai ser entendida pelo seu gato como uma forma de atençăo. Se quando seu gato derrubou uma planta voct foi ate ele e falou "náo", mas aquele "nảo" sern força, sem uma postura corporal que tambéns diga "nāo", ele vai enterder que quando

E preciso usar um eliminador de odor enzimśtico (encontrado em pet shops). Mesmo assim, o gato pode ter se acostumado com aquele lugar da casa para fazer suas necessidades. Podernos colocar a caixa de areia ali e ir gradualmente mudando-a de lugar ate um ponto que nos agrade, ou podemos colocar a cama ou a tigela de raçio do gato no lugar que ele estava sujando.

Devemes lembrar que muitas coisas que nossos gatos fazern têra um motivo na própria natureza do animal, e nio adianta brigar com cles. Tennos que tentar entender esse motivo e encontrar a melhor soluçio para nós e para o gato. Se ele gosta de usar um vaso com terra como caixa de areia, devemos colocar um plístico ou palitos de sorvete no vaso e colocar terra na caixa de areia do gato. Conforme ele aprende que é na caixa de areia que tern que fazer suas necessidades, vamos colocando raenos terra e mais areia na caixa, ate que a caixa tenha so areia.


É inportante ver se o gato nso está fazendo marcaç\$o territorial, quando ele se vira para um logar e dispara um jato de urina, ens geral com o rabo levantado, para dizer a outros gatos que ele passou por all. Epreciso entender por que $\circ$ animal tem necessidade de marcar seu território e retirar a causa do problena. Alguns dos motivos podera ser brigas corn outros gatos, presenca de urna gata no cio na casa ou nas redondezas, frustraço em algum outro aspecto (mudança na raçro, falta de exeretelios), ete.

No caso de unn filhote que não usa a caika de areis devernos mantí-la proxima de onde ele conse e dorme (perto, nio lado a lado!), pois ofilhote ainda niso tem muito controle sobre o xixi e o cocb.

Os gatos em geral usarn a caixa de areia, mas precisamos ter alguns cuidados para que isso acontega sernpre.

Tersos que deídá-la sempre lirapa, retirando a sujeira pelo menos 1 wez por dia, trocando todo o seu contéfido e lavando a caixa uma vez por semana. Para a limpeza díria, podernos usar uma pazinha (comprada em pet shop) para retirar somente a sueira e manter a areia limpa na caica, oogando mo lixo o que retiramos. Devernos colocar mals areia na caixa conforme tiramos a sujeira.

Se a caica niso estiver linapa, sell gato pode escolher outro lugar (que ele considere lirmpo) para fazer suas necessidades ou nazo fazi-las, o que pode gerar diversos problernas médicos.

Por terem um olfato nuulto apurado, 6 raportante deicar a caixa de areia bern longe de onde o animal come, bebe água e dorme! De preferéncia ern outro ambiente.

Outra coisa muito importante para o gato é onde está sua caixa de areia e como ela é.

O ideal 6 manter a caixa de areia em ura local seguro, calmo, de fácil acesso e com alguma privacidade. Também d importante que o lugar tenha uma boa veatilaçăo.

Existern vírios tipos e rearcas de areias em pet shops


Releia os folhetos $\mathbf{e}$ lembre-se das informaçōes do vídeo. Caso ainda restem dúvidas, procure um médico veterinário!

Ease folheto fol dessavolido corno paste do trabalbo da raestranda Tais de O. C. Reboupas, da Faculdade de Mediciea Veteriníria e Zooteenia da Universidade de STo Paulo, cons apoio fiasanceiro da CAPES.

Texto por Med. Vet. Tais de O. C. RebouçanC Arte e diagrannagio per Med. Vet. Andre DechenO
e alguns gatos term preferincia por urn tipo, sendo importante testi-las e perceber com qual seu gato prefere. Em geral, eles gostam de arelas sem perfume, de grios finos e sem poeira.

A caixa de areia nío deve ser muito alta para os gatos filhotes, idosos ou com dificuldade de locomoçso. Ela pode ser aberta ou fechada, dependendo do que voce e seu gato preferirem, mas devernos lernbrar que as caixas fechadas acumulam mais os cheiros, e por isso devem ser limpas com maior frequéncia.


A caixa de arcia nio deve ser limpa com produtos de cheiros fortes e deve ser evitado o uso de amoniaco ou vinagre. Podemos lavar bem a caixa e depols jogar água fervendo para limpi-la. Tambern é preciso substituir a caixa de terapos ems ternpos, para evitar que o plástioo absorva o cheiro.

E se por acaso seu gato resolver usar outro lugar para fazer suas mecesslifades?

Nessas horas, 6 importante manter a calma o lembrar que eles nabo fazem isso de propósito!

Primeiro, e com urgéncia, 6 preciso procurar um veterinário para que ele avalie se náo existem cansas nédicas para o problema, como uma inflanaaç̧o na bexiga ou no intestino, que causam dor e ruita vontade de "ir ao banheiro". Quanto mais tempo olproblema persistir, malis dificil será faseriseu gato voltar a usar caixa de areia.


Descartadas essas possibilidades, vamos ver se não hi um problema com a caixa de areia. Em casas com mais de urn gato, a quantidade de caixas de areia pode nio ser suficiente para que todos usem com tranquilidade. Quando há mais de um gato na casa, a conta deve ser? número de caixas de areia $=$ número de gatos na casa +1 (se voot tem 3 gatos, deve ter 4 caixas). Se seu gato sentir o cheiro de outro gato na caixa, mesmo que ela esteja limpa, ele pode ser sentir ameaçado em uss-la. Tarabém 6 importante que a caixa de areia nso fique em um canto da casa.


Pode ter acontecido do gato estar usando a caixa de areia e cair um raio ou a máquina de lavar fazer um barulho, por exemplo. O gato val associar o susto cons a caixa de areia e nio vai mais querer usi-la. Aí ternos que mostrar para ele que a caixa é um lugar seguro, madando-a de lugar ou recompensan-do-o toda vez que ele a usar.

Tambéra devernos linapar muito bem os locais que foram sujos, para que olfato do gato nåo diga que o lugar que cheira a sujeira 60 lugar de fazer sujeira de novo. E erabora para nós um lugar esteja limpo, para seu gato ainda pode ter cheiro do xixi ali.

gatinho of ensinar truques para ele!
Vook pode segurar um petisco na frente do gato ele vai começar a dar patadas na sua mioo tentando pegar a guloseima. Quando ele fizer isso, diga "pata" e dí o petisco. Com algurnas repetiçoses, ele entenderá que aquele gesto especifico (segurar o petisco) e aquele som (pata) significam que ele deve te dar a pata. Depois voct pode passar para o senta (segurar o petisco no alto), deita (segurar o petisco no chäo), fica, etc. Podemos usar a própria ração para ensinar truques aos gatinhos que estio acima do peso. Ou entio usar outros tipos de recormpensas: carinho, brinquedos, catnip.

Existem pessoas que querem levar o gato para passear. Para fazer isso corn segurança, vocd precisa: atos.
gatos.

- Comegar o treinamento ern casa, para que seu gato se acostume a usar a coleira e a guia. Devemos recompensi-lo quando ele andar de forma calma com a coleira.
- Seguir o gato segurando a guia, ainda em casa. De tern que entender que nāo pode sair correndo, ou vai se machucar com o tranco.
- Levar o gato para um lugar aberto e calmo, como unn jardim, sem muitos barulhos para que ele nio se assuste.
- Levílo para a rua de verdade, serapre lembrando que se seu gato tiver medo, deve ser pego no colo ou colocado na caixa de transporte e levado de volta para casa.


Nossos gatinhos gostam maulto de brincar, nifo $\& ?$ Mas nem sempre eles fazem isso no momento correto ou da forma correta. Percebendo o jeito que eles gostarn de brincar, nossas brincadeiras ficario muito mais divertidas!

A primeira coisa a ter em mente d́ que a forma como cỉes e gatos brincarn é ruuito diferente! Nzo podernos simplesmente jogar uma bolinha e esperar que o gato a traga de volta ou que traga seu brinquedo ate voot quando esta do ate voce quando esta O gato 6 un caçador acima de tudo! lsso significa que quanto mais a brincadeira corn seu gato se parecer com uma caçada, mais divertida seri! Para seu gato e para voot - tem coisa melhor que eles correndo feito doidos atrás de urna bolinha?

Algurnas pessoas dizern que os gatos nunca brincarn, mas las vezes $\delta$ urna questio de achar o brinquedo certol Existem gatos que gostam de brinquedos que sio atacados no chio (como bolinhas de todo tipo: de papel, de plistico, corn guizo dentro), gatos que gostam de qualquer coisa que voa (urna mosquinha, urna fita que voce puxa no ar, urna varinha com penas na ponta). Temos que tentar vírios brinquedos e observar as reapbes dos nossos gatos' quando ele fica mais agitado, o que para ele nỉo tern graca..

Mas brinquedo precisa ser segarro! Devernos evitar:

- Brinquedos muito pequenos ou que soltera pedacos, pois o gato pode engoli-los. lsso inclui brinquedos que tenharn penas - se seu gato adora, so de o brinquedo quando voct puder supervisionar a brincadeiragato adora, so dê o brinquedo a ele quan-


## FICOU COM DUVIDAS?

Releia os folhetos e lembre-se das informaçōes do video. Caso ainda restem dúvidas, procure um médico veterinário!


Ene folheto foi desenvolide como parte do trabalho da mestrands Tais de O. C. Rebowpss, da Faculdade de Medieina Veteriníria e Zootecnia da Universidade de Sīe Paelo, coma apoio financeiro da CAPES.

Texto por Med. Vet. Tais de O. C. RebongavO
Arte e diagratnapio por Med. Vet. Andre DerhenC
do voct puder supervisionar a brincadeira.

- Fios. Os gatos cornegarn brincando e acabara engolindo-os, e seu gato precisaŕ ter o fio retirado do intestino por cirurgia.

Tambén vale usar a criatividade e fazer alguns brinquedos: bolinha de papel amassado, usar tubos do papel higiénico, urn ratinho de tecido, urna caixa de papelio com furos, etc.


Os gatos tarmbém gostam muito de brinquedos que desaparecen! Tente arrastar o brinquedo para trís de uma caixa de papelio e veja corno seu gato reage. Ou puxe o brinquedo no ar, deice ele parado e depois mova-o de novo.

E importante que o gato consiga pegar o brinquedo no final, assina corno ele pegaria a presa na natureza. Se estiver brincando com
alguma coisa que ele nifo possa pegar, corno uma ponteira a laser (aliśs, eles adoram isso!), dê a ele outro brinquedo ou um pouco de comida no final da brincadeira.

Precisarnos brincar todos os dias com nossos gatos para deixálos felizes, saudiveis e ativos! Para que seu gato gaste energa, podemos fazer mais de uma sessǐo de brincadeira por dia. Vocé pode aproveitar
um momento em que eles estio mais interessados enn correr e pular', antes de dar cornida. Desse jeito voce conseguirí cansar seu gato, que provavelmente irá tirar um bom cochilo depois.

Para evitar que seu gato se canse de um brinquedo, devernos guardá-los depois das sessbies de brincadeira e fazer um rodizio dos brinquedos que deixamos disponlveis para ele brincar quando ns̃o estamos em casa.

Sem oportunidades para brincar, o gato pode acabar destruindo algurna coisa sua para brincar, ficar com muita energia acurnulada e acabar mordendo voct ou outro animal, ou ficar miando pela casa atrás de alguma coisa para fazer. Nso precisamos passar horas brincando, ras separar alguns minutos do daa para ficarmos com o gato, escovando, acariciando e brincando.

Também precisamos ficar atentos para nió incentivarmos o gato a brincar com a nossa mĩo ou pé. Devernos ignorar o gato que tenta nos morder ou arranhar e, quando ele se acalmar, brincar corn ele com os brinquedos. O gato deve se acalrnar antes que voct comece a brincar para que ele nío ache que the morder 6 urna forma ter sua atençio. O mesmo vale para os miados: se toda vez que seu gato miar voct comegar a brincar, ele vai entender que "rriar $=$ brincar", e serí urn eseíndalo quando você estiver ocupado.

Outra coisa que devernos estar atentos é para năo confundir o gato. Se ele achou divertido brincar com algum objeto e voce incentivou a brincadeira, depois nato dis para brigar com ele se ele destruir o "brinquedo" - seu gato vai ficar confuso coni o que pode e o que nīo pode brincar.

Alf́rm disso, uma forma de passar o termpo com seu

Não se pode ter gatos perto de bebes.

Os dois podern sim conviver muito bern, sem perigo para nenhum deles!

Por serem animais metodicos, quanto menos coisas mudarem na rotina do gato, mais ffacil seŕs sua adaptação. Enquanto o bebe nolo chega, é inpportante acostumar o gato com as coksas novas, treinando-o a năo chegar perto de berços e carrinhos (podemos colocar latas ou bexigas no berço, qualquer coisa barulhenta ou incomoda para - gato). Para se acostumar aos novos cheiros, seu gato deve ser convidado a cheirar as coisas novas (brinquedos do bebé, talcos e pomadas) eo bebé, com supervisso dos pais.

Depois do nascimento, a atençio do dono deve ocorrer principalmente quando o bebe estiver junto, para que - gato se acostume cona a ideia de que "quando o bebe está aquí 6 muito legal, pois eu recebo carinho/brinquedos/petiscos". Mas 6 preciso continuar a dar atençso todos es dilas para o gato.


Quando o bebé corsegar a engatinhar, todos os ofmodor devern ter esconderioes para os gatos, de proteríncia em locals altos. Quando- gato nso quiser ficar perto daquela malozinha quee puxa tudo, ele iŕá para o seu refugio.

As crianças tambén devern ser ensinadas como se aproximar, brincar e fazer carinho no gatinho, para evitar que machuquem ou irritem o gato.

Gatos não gostam do dono, só gostam da casa.

Os gatos sto sim territorialistas, ou seja, eles se sentern inseguros em estar ern um logar que nso conhecem. Mas isso nâo quer dizer que seu gato náo goste de voot e da sua farnilia, só que ele năo se sentirá seguro se voci leví-lo para urn ambiente novo. Cabe a nós tentar tornar a casa nova o mais convidativa posslvel para nossos gatos.

Tambén precisamos lembrar que os gatos nāo sso pequenos ches. No espere que sell gato o receba pulando na porta todos os dias. Os gatos gostan nauito da nossa presença, mas o pensamento deles d "nĭo vale a pena levantar da sonequinha da tarde porque voof chegoun... Nos vernos mais tarde!".


Tersos que nos acostumar corn urn animal diferente, mas se souberrnos nos comunicar corn os nossos gatos, eles irIo demonstrar ruuito amor e carinho por nos.

Gatos sâo animais traicoeiros.
Essa historia anda junto com o mito de que os gatos só gostarn da casa. Voce sabia que os pescadores do Japåo acreditam que a relaçlo corn os gatos traz boa sorte efortuna?

## FICOU COM DÚVIDAS?

Releia os folhetos e lembre-se das informaçōes do vídeo. Caso ainda restem dúvidas, procure um médico veterinário!

Ense folheto foi denenvolvido corso parte do trabulho da mentranda Tais de O. C. Reboagas, da Fasuldade de Medieina Veteriaíria e Zootecnia da Univerridade de Sío Paulo, corn apoio financeiro da CAPES.

Texto por Med. Vet. Tais de O. C. RebongavC
Arte e diagrarnagio per Med. Vet. Andre Decheno

## Seu andar silencioso e olhar observador ssio marcas de suas habilidades como caçador, nilo significam que ele vai te atacar ou nảo gosta de voot. <br> 

Os gatos também nǐo sio vingativos. Os animais nảo ttém a noçio de passado, presente e futuro como nós. Eles fazem aquilo que estio com vontade no momento. Cabe a nós ensinar o que d errado, e dizer as coisas certas tamberm.

Todo gato transmite a toxoplasmose.


O gato é relevante para a transmisslio da toxoplasmose, mas nǎo 6 por isso que todo gato irá transmitir a doença e que nós iremos nos contaminar se fizermos carinho em urn gato. Ou que as grávidas precisam dar seus gatos - alijs, esse 6 um nito que contribui muito para o abandono de gatos e que devernos lutar para que acabe!

O gato é capaz de transmitir a toxoplasmose, raas so nas primeiras sernanas após ser contaminado. De pois desse periodo, ele adquire imunidade contra a doença (da mesma forma corso acontece conosco quando tomamos uma vacina) e nīo infecta mais ninguém. Além disso, o gato só adquire a doença comendo carne crua contarninada, entio um gato que só come raçāo dosde filhote ns̊o corre perigo!

Também precisamos lembrar que 6 necessírio ter contato direto com o toxoplasma, que fica nas fezes do gato (mào no seu pelo), para pegar a doença. Recolher as fezes todos os dias e lavar benn a māe depois evimelhor forma de nos protegermos!

E muito importante notarnos que a toxoplasmose tambén pode ser adquirida ao comer carne mal cozida ou alimentos crus (verduras) mal lavados.

Gatos são necessariamente noturnos.


Eles tim periodos mais ativos, mas olgato doméstico se acostumou com os notsos horírios. Na verdade, eles slo mais atvos no nascer do dia e no eatardecer.

Para evitar que o gato fique agitado de raadrugada, a primeira coisa 6 gastar a energia dele! Uraa sessio de brincadeira bem divertida (com muitas corridas e pulos!), seguida do "jantar" do seu gato, pode ser o bastante para que ele ví dormir, junto
 que faca com que ele fique mais termpo tentando tirar a comida de K de dentro para comer a noite.

Outra coisa assportante e nāo ceder à vontades do gato. Se ele vier para sua cama querendo brincar, igaore-o. Quando ole se acalnar, faça carinho nele. Ele vai percober que é este tipo de atençjo consegue quando voce estí na sua cama. lsso também vale quando sea gato vier to acordar, pedindo cornida: se voof levantan, ele vai entender que essa 6 uma forma de pedir matr racāo e farí isso todo dia, n5̄o importa se $\dot{6}$ feriado ou suas férias.

Resista a tentaçio de atender aos pedidos $(\mathrm{do} / \mathrm{seu}$ gato quando ele miar!

## APPEENDIX D - PAMPHLETS FROM SSPCA

| 1 | Cat toys: Choosing and using them |
| :--- | :--- |
| 2 | The vocal cat |
| 3 | Up all night: The cat who wakes you |
| 4 | Aggression between family cats |
| 5 | Aversives and deterrents for cats |
| 6 | Cat aggression toward people |
| 7 | Cats and scratching |
| 8 | Cleaning pet stains and odors |
| 9 | Dealing with litter box issues |
| 10 | Introducing cats and dogs |
| 11 | Introducing cats |
| 12 | Pets and your new baby |
| 13 | The fearful cat |
| 14 | When your kitten or cat plays rough |

## APPEENDIX E - QUESTIONNAIRE TO CAT OWNERS

## Questionário para proprietários de gatos

As questões são para caracterizar o ambiente do seu gato, não havendo respostas certas ou erradas. O questionário é totalmente anônimo. Por favor, marque a opção desejada com um "X" na resposta.
$\left.\begin{array}{l}\begin{array}{l}\text { As perguntas são SOMENTE sobre o gato adotado }\end{array} \\ \begin{array}{l}\text { Discordo } \\ \text { muito }\end{array} \\ \begin{array}{l}\text { 1. Meu animal de estimação vale mais do que alguns de } \\ \text { meus amigos }\end{array} \\ \end{array}\right)$

| 6. O gato tem acesso à rua sozinho? |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Nunca | Às vezes | Frequentemente | e Quase sempre | Sempre |  |
| 7. Foi preciso levar o gato ao veterinário no tempo em que está com você? |  |  |  |  |  |
| Não | 1 vez | 2 vezes | 3 vezes | Mais de 3 |  |
| Qual o motivo? |  |  |  |  |  |
| 8. O gato recebeu antipulgas e/ou vermífugo no tempo em que está com você? |  |  |  |  |  |
| Sim-quando? |  |  |  |  |  |
| 9. O gato foi vacinado no tempo que está com você? (É possível assinalar mais de uma opção) |  |  |  |  |  |
| Vacina para raiva | Vacina polivalente | (V3, V4 ou V5) Já havia sido vacinado quando adotei |  |  | Não |
| 10. Com que frequência o gato brinca? |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 1x por semana | 2xpor semana | Nunca |  |
| 11. Quantos brinquedos o gato têm? (Comprados ou feitos em casa) |  |  |  |  |  |
| 0 | $1 \mathrm{a}^{3}$ | 4a6 | 7a9 | Mais de 9 |  |
| 12. Os brinquedos ficam o tempo todo disponiveis para o gato? |  |  |  |  |  |
| Nunca | As vezes | Frequentemente | e Quase sempre | Sempre |  |
| 13.0 gato brinca sozinho? |  |  |  |  |  |
| Nunca | Às vezes | Frequentemente | e Quase sempre | Sempre |  |
| 14. Quanto tempo por dia você ou alguém da casa passa brincando com seu gato? |  |  |  |  |  |
| Até 15 min | $15-30 \mathrm{~min}$ | 30min-1h | 1-2h | Mais de 2 |  |
| 15. Com que frequência você ou alguém da casa limpa a caixa de areia do seu gato? |  |  |  |  |  |
| Mais 1x por dia | 1x por dia | 3 x por semana | 1x por semana | A cada 15 |  |
| 16. Houve problemas com urina ou fezes fora da caixa de areia? |  |  |  |  |  |
| Nunca | Às vezes | Frequentemente | e Quase sempre | Sempre |  |
| 17. Quantas horas por dia o gato fica sozinho em casa (sem presença humana), em média? |  |  |  |  |  |
| 0 | 1-4h | 4-8h | 8-12h | 12-16h |  |
| 18.É permitido que o seu gato vá a pontos elevados da casa (como prateleiras e topos de armários)? |  |  |  |  |  |
| Nunca | As vezes | Frequentemente | e Quase sempre | Sempre |  |
| 19.As unhas do gato são cortadas? |  |  |  |  |  |
| Nunca | Às vezes | Frequentemente | e Quase sempre | Sempre |  |
| 20.0 gato é escovado? |  |  |  |  |  |
| Nunca | Às vezes | Frequentemente | e Quase sempre | Sempre |  |
| 21. Você ou alguém da casa usa recompensas quando o gato faz coisas corretas? |  |  |  |  |  |
| Nunca | Às vezes | Frequentemente | e Quase sempre | Sempre |  |
| 22.Você ou alguém da casa já foi agredido (arranhado ou mordido) pelo gato? |  |  |  |  |  |
| Nunca | As vezes | Frequentemente | e Quase sempre | Sempre |  |
| 23. A agressão ocorreu durante sessões de brincadeira? |  |  |  |  |  |
| Nunca | As vezes | Frequentemente | e Quase sempre | Sempre |  |
| 24.0 gato atrapalha seu sono ou te acorda no meio da noite? |  |  |  |  |  |
| Nunca | As vezes | Frequentemente | - Quase sempre | Sempre |  |
| 25.0 gato é medroso ou timido? |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 26.Você já buscou outras informações sobre gatos (além dos folhetos/videos que recebeu)?* (É possivel assinalar mais de uma opção) |  |  |  |  |  |
| Não Amigos/Famil | liares Internet | Televisão Veteriná | nário Outros - quais |  |  |
| 27. Os folhetos/videos ajudaram você de alguma forma?* |  |  |  |  |  |
| Não ajudou em nada Como? | Ajudou pouco | Ajudou | Ajudou de alguma fo | Ajudo | muito |
| 28.Acredita que o seu relacionamento com o animal melhorou com as informações que recebeu?* |  |  |  |  |  |
| Sim | Não |  | Não sei |  |  |
| 29.Quantas informações contidas nos folhetos/vídeos você (ou alguém da casa) acha que implementou?* |  |  |  |  |  |
| 0-5 | 6-10 | 11-15 | 16-20 | 21-25 |  |
| 30.0 conhecimento dos folhetos/videos ajudou a apresentar o gato adotado aos outros animais da casa?* |  |  |  |  |  |
| Não ajudou em nada | Ajudou pouco | Ajudou | Ajudou de alguma fo | Ajudo | nuito |

[^2]
## APPEENDIX F - ASSESSMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE CAT

## Para o avaliador





Fonte: The Ameriran Society for the Prevention of Couelty to Anmals, 2001


[^0]:    ${ }^{1}$ Podberscek, A.L., 1997. Illuminating issues of companion animal welfare through research into human-animal interactions. Anim. Welf. 6, 365-372.

[^1]:    2 The videos are available, in Portuguese, at https://youtu.be/_ssfXVEENFw and https://youtu.be/Y4012BzNW5o.
    ${ }^{3}$ The authors received authorization from SSPCA to reproduce the material with authorship. The pamphlets are available at http://www.sspca.org/pet-carebehavior/behaviorresourcelibrary/\#CatAnchor.

[^2]:    * Perguntas respondidas somente pelos grupos Informed self-developed and Informed with SSPCA

