

**EVALUATION OF PARTICIPATION AND POPULATION RELIABILITY
REGARDING ANNUAL RABIES VACCINATION CAMPAIGN OF DOGS AND CATS IN
BOTUCATU, SÃO PAULO, BRAZIL)**

*(AVALIAÇÃO DA PARTICIPAÇÃO E CONFIABILIDADE DA POPULAÇÃO EM RELAÇÃO À
CAMPANHA DE VACINAÇÃO ANUAL CONTRA A RAIVA DE CÃES E GATOS NO MUNICÍPIO DE
BOTUCATU, SÃO PAULO, BRASIL)*

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The annual vaccination campaign against rabies is the most effective prevention procedure for this disease in dogs and cats and hence for human protection also. However, in 2010 and 2011, this activity was interrupted in Brazil due to the occurrence of adverse events associated with vaccination. Even though cases of canine rabies have been decreasing in the last two decades, vigilance must be strengthened in order to maintain pet owners trust in the vaccines provided in public services. This study aimed to determine pet owners participation in the annual vaccination campaign carried out in Botucatu. During March and April 2012, the period before the 42nd campaign, 312 pet owners, dogs and cats, were interviewed. The homes were randomly drawn in blocks from different sectors of the city; all houses on the same block over the 120 km² of urban area participated in the sampling process. Statistical analysis was performed descriptively. The results showed that the owners main motivation to vaccinate their pets during the campaigns is rabies prevention (36%), followed by the proximity of the vaccination station to the house (20.7%), zero cost (10.9%), and the combination of all three factors (16.1%). When asked if they would take their animals back to be vaccinated in another campaign, 60.1% answered yes, 13.5% would go to a private clinic, 2.2% would not take because they do not trust the vaccine and 1.6% had not decided yet. We conclude that the respondents have realized how dangerous Rabies is, because even after the break period, they still utilized the vaccination campaign demonstrating confidence in its effectiveness, while knowing the campaign goals facilitates understanding and participation.

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