

KNOWLEDGE OF PET OWNERS ABOUT RESPONSIBLE OWNERSHIP IN SANTO ANTÔNIO DE GOIÁS- GO

*(CONHECIMENTO DOS PROPRIETÁRIOS DE ANIMAIS DE COMPANHIA NO MUNICÍPIO DE
SANTO ANTÔNIO DE GOIÁS-GO SOBRE GUARDA RESPONSÁVEL)*

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This study aims to assess the knowledge of students and the general public about responsible pet ownership, and how the information is converted into precautionary measures. Through home visits, we interviewed 83 people, divided into two groups: Group I (GI) which included the illiterate or elementary school; and Group II (GII) with those owners with secondary or higher education. We visited a public school to apply 159 questionnaires, and the students were also divided into two groups, Group III (GIII) students in elementary level and Group IV (GIV) students in high school level, in convenience sampling. Among the interviewed population, 37.14% (13/83) of respondents of GI and 59.52% (25/83) of the GII did not know the meaning of responsible ownership. Furthermore, among the students 38.99% (62/159) of the respondents of GIII and 5.66% (9/159) of GIV were also unaware of the term. Regarding primary care given to pets, cited by the general population and by the students interviewed were: 33.73% (28/83) and 27.04% (43/159), respectively, said their pet has free access to the street; 59.04% (49/83) and 37.74% (60/159), do not administer anthelmintics regularly; but, 83/83 (100%) and 91.92% (146/159) have vaccinated their pets. We conclude that the term responsible ownership is little known by the respondents of the municipality, and this fact is reflected on the number of animals that were not dewormed regularly and had free access to the street.

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