

Received date: 12-06-2023 | Accepted Date: 16-06-2023 | Published Date: 16-10-2023

Owner status and some common welfare practices among dog owners and their social implications

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Structured interviews were used to obtain information from 258 respondents from among 625 people who were selected by stratified random sampling from villages in five of seven local governments of Nsukka cultural Zone. Information included gender and literacy status of the respondents, type of welfare practices-bathing, confinements, use of veterinary services and castration and owner sex preference of dog for keeping, cultural and religious uses of dogs were also sought. Of the respondents, 37% were literate, 40% semi-literate and 23% illiterate. Of the 367 non-respondents, 63% were not available during the time of contact and 37% resented dog keeping and therefore refused to talk. About 958 dogs were owned by respondents. 56%, 27% and 17% were females, intact males and castrates respectively. Of the common welfare management practices, 17%, 9% and 5% of the literate, semi-literate and illiterate respondents respectively give regular bath to their dogs. Similarly, 12%, 11%, and 6% of the literates, semi-literates and illiterates confine their dogs either by leashing or providing kernel. 49%, 10% and 20% of the literate, semi-literate and illiterates owners use veterinary services respectively. Castration was also popular among 58%, 84% and 65% of literates, semi-literates and illiterates owners respectively. In conclusion, there was a highly significant association between literacy status and the dog management practices.

Recent Publications:

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4. Eze, C A., Ognanya K.C., and Obiakor, KO (2022). Mitigating effects of methanolic leaf extract of *Duranta erecta* against X-ray induced oxidative stress in Wistar albino rats. *Skoto Journal of Veterinary Sciences*. <http://dx.doi.org/10.4314/sokjvs.v20i2.4> 20(2): 103-110
5. Kenneth Ogbanya, Chinedu Athanasius Eze. Theophilus Nnaji (2021). Radiographic evaluation of the lower forelimbs of Nigerian horses presenting with lower limb lameness in Obollo-Afor lairage. *Nigeria Journal of Animal Production* 48(3):41-49.

Biography

Chinedu Athanasius is a Professor of Veterinary Surgery & Radiology, in the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Nigeria, Nsukka. He holds a Ph.D from same University (2008). He is the current Dean (2022-2024), Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and a former Director, Veterinary Teaching Hospital, University of Nigeria. He was appointed Animal Welfare Link Nigeria by UFAW, UK in 2020. His current research is on food animal surgery. He has successfully supervised many graduates. He was appointed full Professor in 2013. He has taught full time for 31 years. He has published over 70 research articles in SCI(E) journals.

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