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Impact of Canine Surgical Sterilisation Programs (in Dog Population Management and Rabies Control) Priority Setting

You are invited to take part in this research study that is aiming to identify the most important research questions about the impact of canine surgical sterilisation programs on free-roaming dogs both with and without canine rabies control programs. Below we will explain more about the study, please feel free to contact us if you have any further questions.

What are we doing?

We are asking those with direct, first-hand experience of working on canine surgical sterilisation and/or canine rabies control programs to tell us what questions they have about:

- the impact of surgical sterilisation programs on a population of free-roaming dogs
- the impact of surgical sterilisation, in combination with rabies vaccination, on a canine rabies control program

These questions will then be analysed and grouped into representative questions. We will be asking respondents to choose up to twenty-five questions that they feel are the most important in a second online survey. This will create a shortlist of questions which will then be ranked in a final process in which the top 10 priorities for research will be decided.

These questions will be used to identify future research priorities and improve the effectiveness of surgical sterilisation programs by addressing the questions that are of most importance to those working in the field.

What are canine surgical sterilisation programs?

Canine surgical sterilisation programs (sometimes called spay/neuter or neutering programs) are a common intervention used to manage free-roaming dog populations in many parts of the world. The aims of such programs are varied but may include stabilising/reducing the population, improving the health and welfare of free-roaming dogs and reducing problems associated with the population e.g. dog-bites and rabies transmission. However a systematic review recently undertaken has identified a lack of evidence of the impact of sterilisation programs, particularly their role within a rabies control program.

Why is this study important?

People working in the field have the best experience to identify practical priorities regarding the impact of their programmes. These could affect how they plan, conduct

and monitor their work. These might not be the same priorities as those of researchers, leaving an information gap. For this reason many areas of potentially valuable research may be neglected. This study involves a wide range of people who have a role in working directly with free-roaming dogs and the communities that live with them. In this study we hope to identify the most important questions they have about their programmes which have not been answered yet by published research evidence. The second survey is now open and can be reached by clicking on this link:

<https://8u4o3vtp.optimalworkshop.com/optimalsort/jlasurvey2>

What will happen to the results of this survey?

The highest ranking questions from this survey will be taken forward for prioritisation, with the aim of agreeing a top 10 most important questions. The list of these questions will then be published and provided to organisations that fund research. The identities of those who submitted individual questions will NOT be published.

Confidentiality and consent

Participation in this study is entirely voluntary. By answering the questions, we understand that you are happy to participate in this project and we have your consent to use your responses in our research.

You can complete it anonymously if you wish. Any contact details you choose to provide will be kept confidentially and securely in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 and in accordance with GDPR Legislation 2018. You will only need to provide your contact details if you wish to receive the results of the study or be involved in the next steps which will follow the survey.

Who is organising this study?

This study is being led by the Centre for Evidence-based Veterinary Medicine (CEVM) at the University of Nottingham. The survey has been designed by Abi Collinson (PhD student).

This study has received approval by the ethics committee at the School of Veterinary Medicine and Science, the University of Nottingham.

Contacts

For further information or if you have any concerns or complaints, please contact us:

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