

A Study on Pet Owners' Attitudes Toward Pet Sterilization

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Abstract: This research aims to investigate pet owners' attitudes toward pet sterilization and the factors influencing their decisions. Data were collected from 150 respondents who owned at least one pet. Descriptive statistics and Chi-square tests were used to analyze relationships between education level, pet ownership experience, and income with attitudes toward sterilization. The findings indicate that most respondents hold positive attitudes toward sterilization, recognizing its importance in reducing stray populations and improving animal welfare. Educational level and experience showed a significant relationship with attitude ($p < 0.05$), whereas income did not. These findings highlight the role of education and experience in shaping responsible pet ownership and support the promotion of sterilization awareness campaigns.

Keywords: Animal Welfare; Responsible Pet Ownership; Pet Sterilization; Attitude; Pet Owners; Neutering; Spaying

1. INTRODUCTION

Pet sterilization plays a vital role in animal welfare and the reduction of stray animal populations. Despite well-documented benefits such as preventing unwanted litters and reproductive diseases, emotional concerns and misconceptions often hinder pet owners' willingness to sterilize their animals. Thailand, like many countries, faces challenges related to stray animal management. Understanding public attitudes toward sterilization provides essential insight for policymakers, veterinarians, and animal welfare organizations. This study seeks to identify pet owners' attitudes and the demographic factors influencing their perspectives.

2. HYPOTHESIS

There is a significant relationship between demographic factors (education, income, and experience) and pet owners' attitudes toward pet sterilization.

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Design: This study adopted a quantitative survey design.

3.2 Population and Sample: The sample consisted of 150 pet owners residing in urban and suburban areas of Phuket Province. Convenience sampling was employed.

3.3 Research Instrument: A structured questionnaire comprising demographic items and 10 attitude items on a 5-point Likert scale.

3.4 Instrument Validation: Content validity by three experts; Cronbach's alpha = 0.84.

3.5 Data Analysis: Data analyzed using SPSS; descriptive statistics and Chi-square tests applied.

4. RESULTS

Table 1: Gender Distribution of Respondents (n = 150)

Gender	Number	Percentage
Female	88	58.7%
Male	55	36.7%
LGBTQ+	7	4.6%

Table 2: Age Distribution of Respondents (n = 150)

Age Group	Number	Percentage
18–25 years	27	18.0%
26–40 years	69	46.0%
41–65 years	54	36.0%

Table 3: Type of Pet Owned (n = 150)

Pet Type	Number	Percentage
Dog	83	55.3%
Cat	57	38.0%
Other (Rabbit/Bird)	10	6.7%

Table 4: Attitudes Toward Pet Sterilization

Statement	Mean	S.D.
Sterilization helps reduce stray animal problems	4.52	0.57
Sterilization helps prevent reproductive diseases	4.40	0.63
Sterilization does not affect animal nature	4.10	0.69
Cost is an obstacle to sterilization	3.90	0.78
Owners should be educated before deciding	4.48	0.55

Overall Mean = 4.28 (S.D. = 0.64) — Indicates a high level of positive attitude.

Table 5: Chi-square Test Results

Variable	χ^2	df	p-value	Relationship
Education level × Attitude	8.32	3	0.04	Significant
Experience × Attitude	6.71	2	0.03	Significant
Income × Attitude	3.45	3	0.18	Not significant

5. DISCUSSION

The findings reveal that education and pet ownership experience significantly influence attitudes toward sterilization. Owners with higher education and longer experience tend to show more positive perceptions. Financial concerns remain a secondary barrier; therefore, education-focused interventions are recommended.

6. CONCLUSION

Pet owners generally hold positive attitudes toward sterilization, particularly those with higher education and longer ownership experience. Educational outreach programs and collaboration between veterinary authorities and local communities can further promote sterilization awareness.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Implement community-based sterilization campaigns with educational components.
2. Develop partnerships between local governments, animal shelters, and veterinary schools.
3. Future research should explore psychological and cultural factors influencing pet owners' attitudes in different regions.

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