INTRODUCTION

The stray dog population represents an issue for public health and animal wellness. Although this is a frequent situation in many urban centers, there are few researches about unowned dog estimation. The roaming dogs estimation leads to a proper intervention and population management.¹

OBJECTIVES

To estimate the unowned dog population in Pinhais, city in southern of Brazil. To create a profile of the stray dog population. To compare the map of stray dogs with human density and income level maps.

METHODS

• We chose the World Animal Protection (WAP) guideline² as methodology and the app StraysID®, developed by the platform Animal.id.info.
• The total area of the city (61km²) was split into 60 contiguous blocks within 1km² each and 15 blocks were selected by random sampling (Figure 1). All the blocks were well spread across the city and had equal chance of being selected.

The roaming dogs estimate, between 7am to 9am, by WAP methodology, was 1428 (from 388 to 2468) with 95% of confidence; 57% (n=820) were unowned, including community dogs, in an interval from 232 to 1408 dogs.

RESULTS

About 115 km of street were covered and approximately 3 dogs/km were registred, totalising 357 dogs. The map created by the app using the coordinates (Figure 2) shows that some spots of the city presents a larger density of dogs than others. Those points coincides with low income and high human concentration areas, where can be find a large amount of resources as food and shelter.

This large interval of confidence could be explained due the variation of roaming dogs between blocks, showing a very heterogeneous population. The population profile of the stray dogs shows a majority of male and normal body condition dogs (Figures 3 and 4), it was also reported by other studies.³ ⁴

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, 57% of the free roaming dogs are unowned and its population is correlated with human density and income rate. Hence, it is important to develop public polices to the dog population management direct to reduce the unowned dogs.

REFERENCES

2. WSPA. Surveying roaming dog populations: guidelines on methodology. 2007

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