

**ANALYTICAL STUDY ON CAT- OWNER RELATIONSHIPS AND THE
MOST COMMON BEHAVIOR PROBLEMS OF CATS
(FELIS CATUS) IN EGYPT**

By

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ABSTRACT

The objective of this study was to analyze the cat-owner relationship owner characteristics including gender- age-social status and job also animal characteristics including (breeds- age-sex-neuter state- size) and management factors(housing -animal social status- feeding schedule - vaccination and availability of litter box) and 2 - to record the most common behavioral problems of pet cats (felis catus) in Egypt. Thirty-seven (37) cats and their owners was the subject of this study which was conducted during the period of November 2014 to September 2016 in pet clinic of Directorate of Veterinary Medicine at Giza Governorate. Four methods of collecting data were used (Questionnaire, owner interview, clinical examination and video tape analysis). Obtained results revealed that in Egypt 24.3% of cat owners were males while the majority 75.7% of cat owners were females.43.24% of cat owners age were <25 years, 32.43% of cat owners aged between 25-40 years while 24.32% the owner aged between 41 - 60 years. Concerning the owner's life style 97.29% of the cat owners were families while 2.7% of cat owner were of couple type. With the owner jobs 35.13% of cat owner were student type, 35.13% of owner were of housewife type, 27% were employers and 2.7% were of a business man. Concerning the animals breed 78.37% of cats reared by Egyptian were of Persian type, 5.4% were of Siamese type and 16.21% were of mixed breed's type. The majority of Persian cats 68.96% were male's type while 31.03% were of females types, with Siamese type males represented 66.66% while females represented 33.33% while mixed breed males and females represent 50% for each of them. Concerning the cat management and animal care 94.6% of cats was kept indoor while 5.4% were kept outdoor. With the animals social status56.75% of cats was kept alone, 40.54% were reared with others cats and 2.7% were kept with others pets. 54.1% of cats were vaccinated and 45.9% were unvaccinated. With food types 24.32% of cats received dry food, 62.16%

received soft food, while 13.5% received mixed food types. Most cats 91.89 % fed in an ad libitum basis, 5.4 % received food three times a day while 2.7% received food twice a day. Litter box was available for 67.56 % of the cats, while 32.43% of cats have no litter box. Abnormal behavior was recorded only for 24 cats. Four major abnormal behavioral traits were recorded (scratching furniture 45.83 %, aggression 25%, inappropriate elimination 25% and cannibalism of kitten 4.16 %). Four types of aggression were recorded (pain, fear, maternal and sexual aggression in percentage of 50% for the first and 16.66 % for the second and 16.66% for the third and 16.66% for the forth. Results recorded a positive correlation between the cat breeds and abnormal behavior pattern at $P < .005$. For examples Persian cat recorded the highest percentage 72.7% for scratch furniture meanwhile mixed cats' recorded 18.18 % and Siamese cat recorded the least percentage 9% for the trait. For aggression Persian cat also recorded the highest percentage 66.66% compared with mixed breed which recorded 33.33% for the trait. For inappropriate elimination also Persian cat recorded the highest percentage 83.3% compared with the mixed breed which recorded 16.66% and this was attributed to the highest incidence of Persian cats specially males to renal stones and urine retention (i.e. Presence of genetic predisposition of Persian to this trait) Strategies of treatments comprises 1-behavioral modification (proper training and learning) 2-environmental modification (environmental enrichments) 3-drug therapy (sedative and hormone) and 4-surgical interference (castration and declawing).

Keywords:

Cats, cat- owner relationship- abnormal behavior- scratch furniture-aggression- inappropriate elimination- cannibalism.

INTRODUCTION

Down through the age's man's relationship with the cats has been a curious one. This relation more inconsistent than that between man and any other domestic animals has nurtured the behavior of the modern cat (**Beaver, 1980**). The relationship between cats and the human race goes back at least 4000 years and although this partnership has had its ups and downs over the course of history it has never been stronger than it is today (**Pollard, 2001**). It is not known when the cat was first domesticated or exactly which of the wild cats are its ancestors, what is recorded is that by 1600 BC cats were domesticated in Egypt (**Beaver, 2003**). In Ancient Egypt cat progressed from a useful destroyer of vermin to a religious icon. it was also a well-respected and even venerated in the ancient civilizations of Greece, Roma, China and

Japan, but evidently these peoples took to cats with less enthusiasm than the Egyptians. cat also came to be valued household possessions in Egypt so much so that when the family's cats died the entire household went into mourning and the head of the house shaved off his eyebrows as a mark of grief if an Egyptian house caught fire the cat was the first thing to be saved from the flames farther up to the social scale were the temple and royal cats, which were pampered in life and honoured in death by mummified burial **(Pollard, 2001)**. Pets take on many roles in society, and these roles change as the need of civilization change. The cat still controls rodents, but closer contact with humans is now adding new dimensions of purpose **(Beaver, 1980)**. For many people, pets play a central role in their lives; pets can serve as a family member, friend, or confidant **(Humane Society of the United States, 2011)**. The cats appear to be an additional source of emotional support, especially for those participants who are strongly attached to their animals **(Stammbach and Turner, 1999)**. Pet can help Children to learn about mutual respect, kindness, humane treatment of others, giving and receiving love and affection, caretaking skills, responsibility, and pain of loss **(Melson, 2001)**. Cat can be used in psychiatric settings, animal-assisted therapy (AAT) for patients struggling with depression, loneliness, addiction, schizophrenia, and phobias **(Dimitrijevic, 2009)**. Total world populations of cats estimated 600 million small cats this include pets, stray, homeless and feral cats. The wild cats alone numbers about 100 million **(The Ecology Global Network, 2013)**. The changing role of companion animals, accompanied by changes in human lifestyle and demands, places them at risk of poor welfare. They are increasingly subjected to stressors that prevent the adequate expression of normal behavior Fear and anxiety often go unrecognized, leading to behavioral disorders that are accompanied by negative affective states and poor welfare. Irresponsible breeding practices result in increased incidences of inherited defects in pets, which adversely affect physical and mental aspects of welfare, either directly, through the anomaly itself, or indirectly, due to secondary effects. Increased urbanization has resulted in smaller living spaces, higher population densities and longer working hours, all factors that affect the well-being of pets. A better understanding of animal behavior by both pet owners and professionals, to more effectively meet the needs of cats and recognize their problems, should inform the formulation of objective welfare assessments to ensure a better quality of life for the animals **(Sonntag and Overall, 2014)**. Working with feline behavior problems is an art and science yet in its infancy. Information about specific problems is particularly difficult to obtain, much

less explain to a client. Veterinarians working in this interest area have not had a reference of origin from which they can agree and build or disagree and determine new approaches (Beaver, 2003). The work has been contacted to evaluate the cat - owner relationship in the Egyptian society and to record the most common behavioral problems of pet cats (*felis catus*).

MATERIAL AND METHODS

1-Subject:

Thirty-seven cats and their owners were the subjects of this study which was conducted during the period of November 2014 to September 2016 in pet clinic of Directorate of Veterinary Medicine at Giza Governorate.

a-Animals:

For each cat we recorded its characteristics (breeds, sex, neuter state, and age category and body size). Cats were classified according to their breed into long-haired cats (Persian breed), short-haired cat (Siamese breed) and medium-haired cat (mix breed). According to the sex cats are classified into males and females. With the neuter state animals are classified into either contact or neuter. According to the age cats are classified into four categories 1- animals less than <3 month, animals 3-12 months, animals 1-3 years and animals of 3-6 years or more. All cats using in this study were of small size group (<9k.g.).

B-Owners:

For each owner we recorded its characteristics (Gender, age, social status and jobs). The owner gender is either males or females. Owner age lay in three categories owner <25 years, owner from 25 - 40 years and owner from 41-60 years. The social status of the owner is classified into families, couple, single and elderly. The owner jobs are classified into employer, student, business-man and house-wife.

Animal Housing and Management:

1-House:

Cats were accommodated either in-door house or outdoor house (e.g. in Balcony or another apartment away from the family). The Social life of cats were classified into three categories (animal were kept alone, with other member of the same species and with another pet species).

2-Management:

A-Food type and feeding schedule:

For each animal we recorded the type of food (Dry, soft and mixed food) and feeding schedule /day (once, twice, three time or in an ad libitum basis).

B-Litter box:

The availability of litter box was recorded (present or absent)

C-Vaccination:

Strategies of vaccination was recorded (vaccinated or not vaccinated) the most common vaccination program of cats is to use (Felocell4 vaccine) including (pan- leukopenia, calici virus, herpesvirus and chlamydia psittaci) at 45 days' initial dose and the second dose after 3 weeks then annually. Produced by Pfizer Company and Rabies vaccine is used at 3 months and then annually.

2- Technique of Observation and Data Collection:

The technique of observation and data collection including two methods.

1- Questionnaire: [A modified questionnaire after models of **Arbor Animal Clinic, Lincoln Land Animal Clinic and Yuying Hsu and James Serpell, 2003** were used in this study. The questionnaire was divided into four sections.

Section 1: For Animal Data Characteristics including (species-breed- age- sex-neuter status-size).

Section 2: For Owner Characteristics including (sex- age - social status and jobs).

Section 3: For Housing and Management including (housing - animal social life- vaccination- food type- feeding schedule / day and litterbox).

Section 4: For Clinical Examination and Behavioral Problems

Each cat was thoroughly examined for presence of diseases conditions or for behavioral disorders (types of abnormality, cause, incidence and signs) was recorded.

2- Owner Interview:

An interview with conducted with the owner at the clinic for about 25 mints to take complete information about the animals, behavior and environment and its animal complain.

Statistical Analysis:

Collected data were subjected to statistical analysis using SPSS statistics version 21 released 2012.

RESULTS

Table (1): Cat -Owner Characteristics (Gender, age, social status and jobs) N=37.

| Owner Characteristic | Items | Numbers N | Percentage % |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Gender | Males | 9 | 24.3 |
| | Females | 28 | 75.7 |
| Age(Years) | <25 | 16 | 43.24 |
| | 24-40 | 12 | 32.43 |
| | 41-60 | 9 | 24.32 |
| Social Status | Family | 36 | 97.29 |
| | Couple | 1 | 2.7 |
| | Single | 0 | 0 |
| | Elderly | 0 | 0 |
| Jobs | Employer | 10 | 27 |
| | Student | 13 | 35.13 |
| | Business-man | 1 | 2.7 |
| | House-wife | 13 | 35.13 |

Table (2): Cat Characteristics (breed, sex, age, neuter status and size) N=37.

| Cat Characteristics | Items | Numbers N | Percentage % |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Breeds | Persian | 29 | 78.37% |
| | Siamese | 6 | 16.21% |
| | Mix breed | 2 | 5.4% |
| Sex | Males | 25 | 67.56 |
| | females | 12 | 32.43 |
| Age | <3 months | 6 | 16.21 |
| | 3-12 m | 13 | 35.13 |
| | 1-3 years | 13 | 35.13 |
| | 3-6 years | 5 | 13.51 |
| Neuter Status | Intact | 37 | 100 |
| | Neuter | 0 | 0 |
| Size(k.g) | Small | 37 | 100 |

Table (3): Cat Housing and Management N=37.

| Characters | items | Number | percentage |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------|------------|
| | | n | % |
| Environment 1-House | Indoor | 35 | 94.6 |
| | Outdoor | 2 | 5.4 |
| | A-Balcony | 1 | 50 |
| | B-Another flat | 1 | 50 |
| 2-Social life of animals | Alone | 21 | 56.75 |
| | With other members of the same spp. | 15 | 40.54 |
| | With another pet spp. | 1 | 2.7 |
| Management Practices 1- Vaccination | yes | 20 | 54.1 |
| | No | 17 | 45.9 |
| 2-Food types | Dry | 9 | 24.32 |
| | Soft | 23 | 62.16 |
| | Mix | 5 | 13.5 |
| 3- Feeding time/day | Once | 0 | 0 |
| | Twice | 1 | 2.7 |
| | Three time | 2 | 5.4 |
| | Ad libitum | 34 | 91.89 |
| 4-Litter box | Yes | 25 | 67.56 |
| | No | 12 | 32.43 |

Table (4): Percentage of Cats elicited Abnormal Behavior Traits N=24.

| Abnormal behavior | Number N | Percentage% |
|----------------------------------|----------|-------------|
| Scratching Furniture | 11 | 45.83 |
| Aggression | | |
| a- Pain induced agg. | 3 | 50 |
| b- Fear induced agg | 1 | 16.66 |
| C-Maternal agg. | 1 | 16.66 |
| d- Sexual agg. | 1 | 16.66 |
| Total | 6 | 25 |
| Inappropriate elimination | 6 | 25 |
| Cannibalism | 1 | 4.16 |

Table (5): Influence of Cats (breeds /age/sex) on percentage of cat showing scratch

| Breeds | N=11 | Percentage of scratching furniture | Sex | | | | age |
|------------------------|------|------------------------------------|-----|------|---|------|-----------|
| | | | M | % | F | % | |
| Long hair Persian | 8 | 72.7% | 7 | 87.5 | 1 | 12.5 | mature |
| Medium hair Mix breeds | 2 | 18.18% | 1 | 50 | 1 | 50 | mature |
| Short hair Siamese | 1 | 9% | - | - | 1 | 100 | In mature |

Table (6): Influence of Cat breeds / sex/ age on percentage of cat showing Aggression.

| Breeds | N=6 | Percentage of aggression | Sex | | | | age | cause of aggression |
|-------------------------|-----|--------------------------|-----|----|---|----|--------|---------------------|
| | | | M | % | F | % | | |
| Long Hair (Persian) | 4 | 66.66% | 3 | 75 | 1 | 25 | mature | sexual/ Pain |
| Medium Hair (mix breed) | 2 | 33.33% | 1 | 50 | 1 | 50 | mature | Fear / maternal |

(Table7): Influence of Cat breeds/ sex/ age on percentage of cat showing inappropriate limination.

| Breeds | N= 6 | Percentage of inappropriate elimination | Sex | | | | Age |
|-------------------------|------|---|-----|----|---|-----|--------|
| | | | M | % | F | % | |
| Long Hair (Persian) | 5 | 83.3 | 4 | 80 | 1 | 20 | mature |
| Medium Hair (mix breed) | 1 | 16.66 | - | - | 1 | 100 | mature |

(Table 8): Correlation between Cat breeds and Abnormal Behavioral Traits expressed as mean rank and chi square $p<.005$.

| Breeds | Aggression | | Inappropriate elimination | | Scratch | | cannibalism | |
|------------|------------|---------|---------------------------|---------|-----------|--------|-------------|-----|
| | mean rank | % | mean rank | % | mean rank | % | mean rank | % |
| Persian | 4.50 | 66.66 a | 4.00 | 83.33a | 7.50 | 72.7a | 1.50 | 100 |
| Mix breed | 1.00 | 33.33 b | 1.00 | 16.66 b | 1.00 | 18.18b | | - |
| Siamese | - | - | - | - | 2.50 | 9c | | - |
| Chi square | 6.000 | | 5.000 | | 10.000 | | - | |
| Asymp. sig | .014 | | 0.025 | | 0.007 | | - | |

Difference in letter (a, b, c) either in row or columns indicated significance $P<.005$.

SOME EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STUDIES ON CANINE

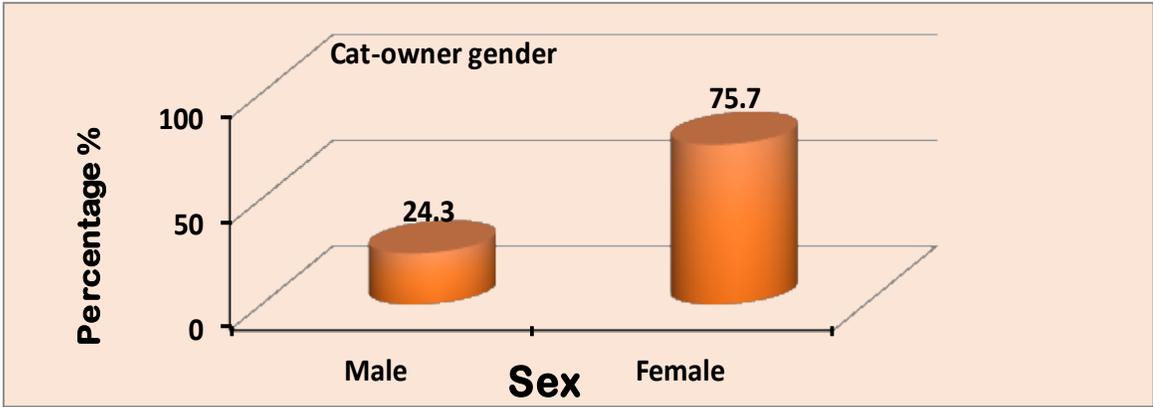


Fig. (1): Percentage of Cat- Owner’s Gender.

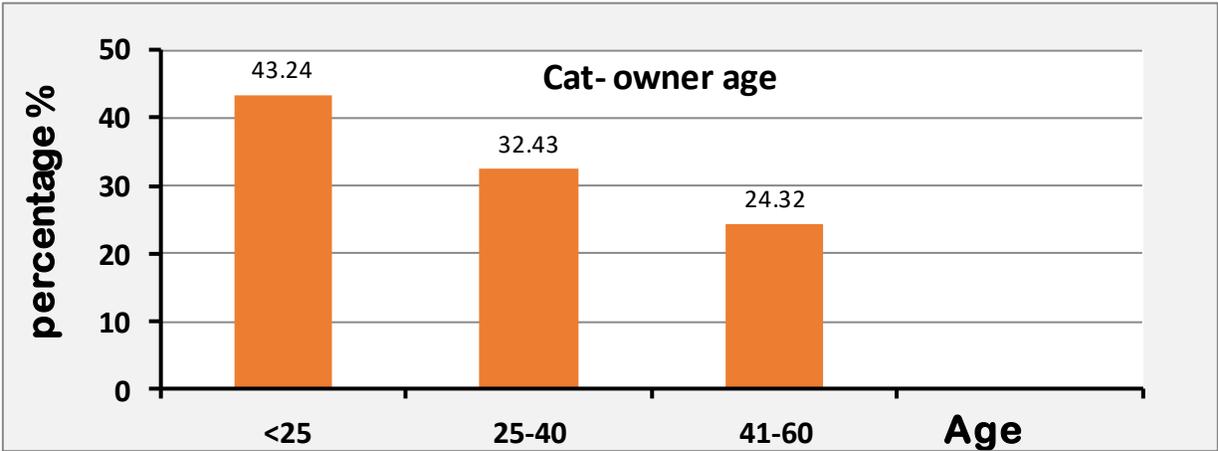


Fig. (2): Percentage of Cat-Owner age.

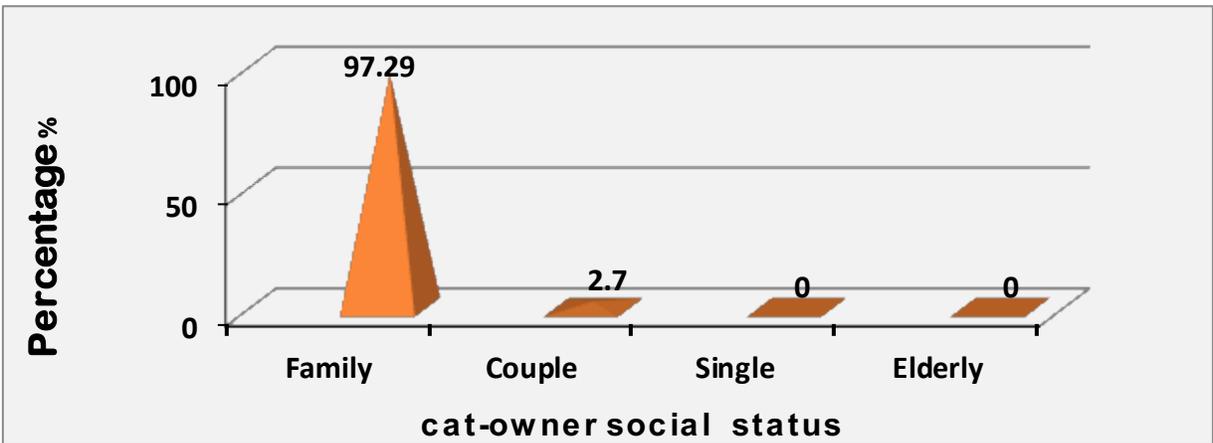


Fig. (3): Percentage of Cat-Owner social status.

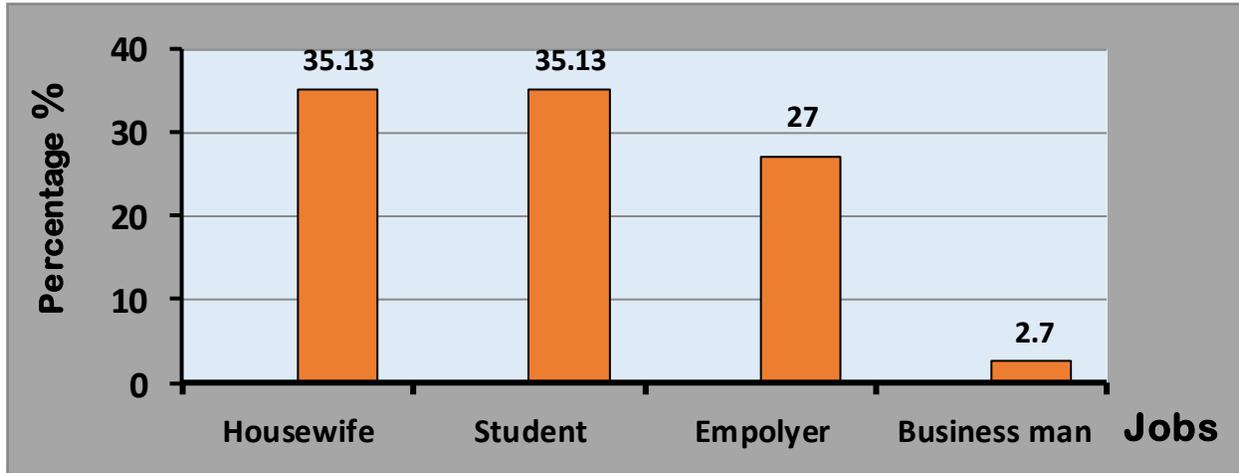


Fig. (4): Percentage of Cat-Owner jobs.

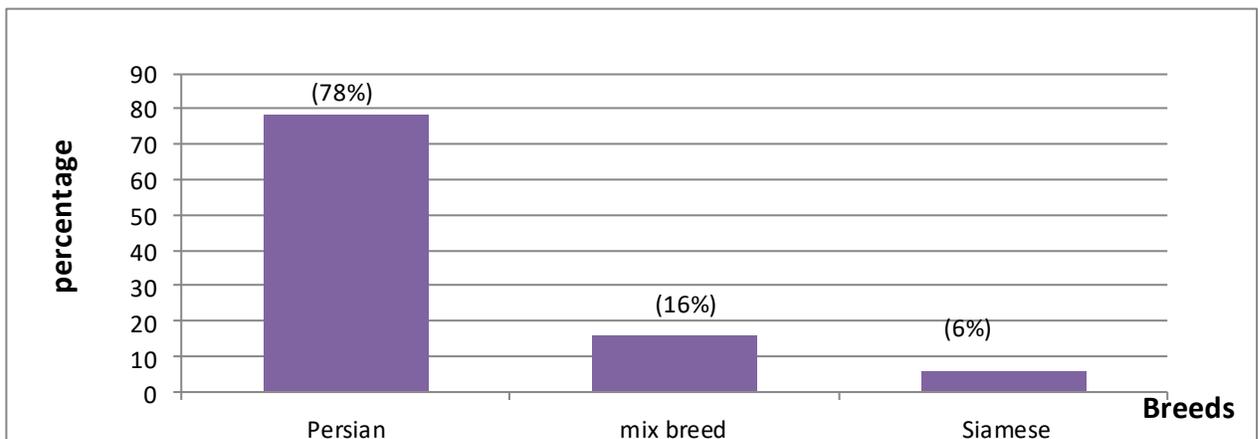


Fig. (5): Cat breeds

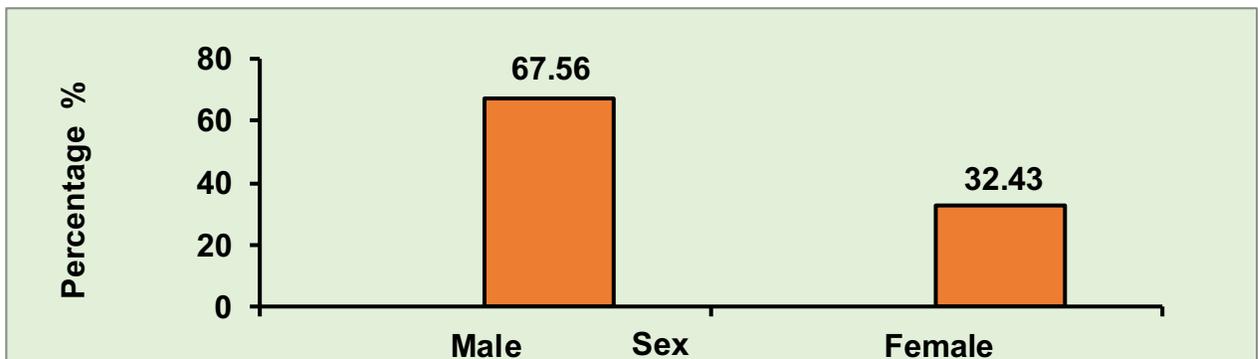


Fig. (6): Percentage of Cat Sex.

SOME EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STUDIES ON CANINE

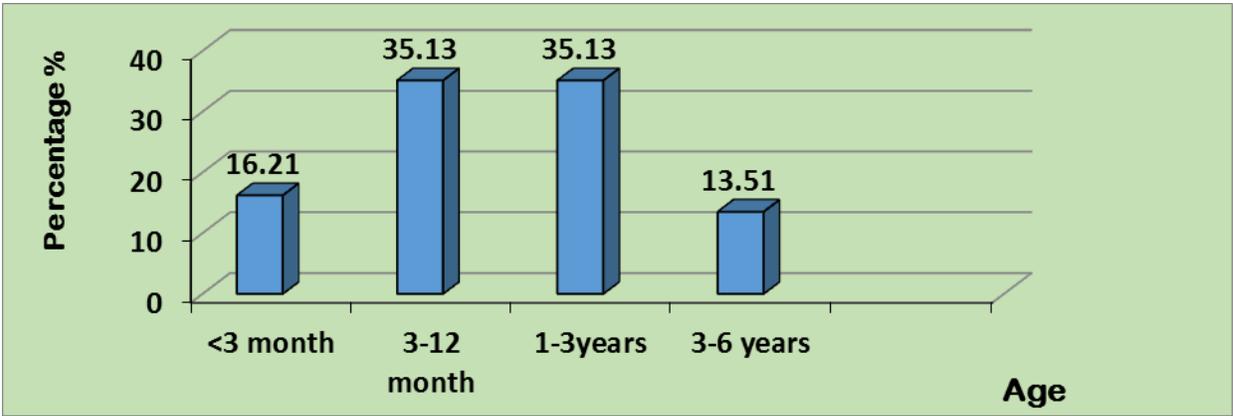


Fig. (7): Percentage of Cat Age.

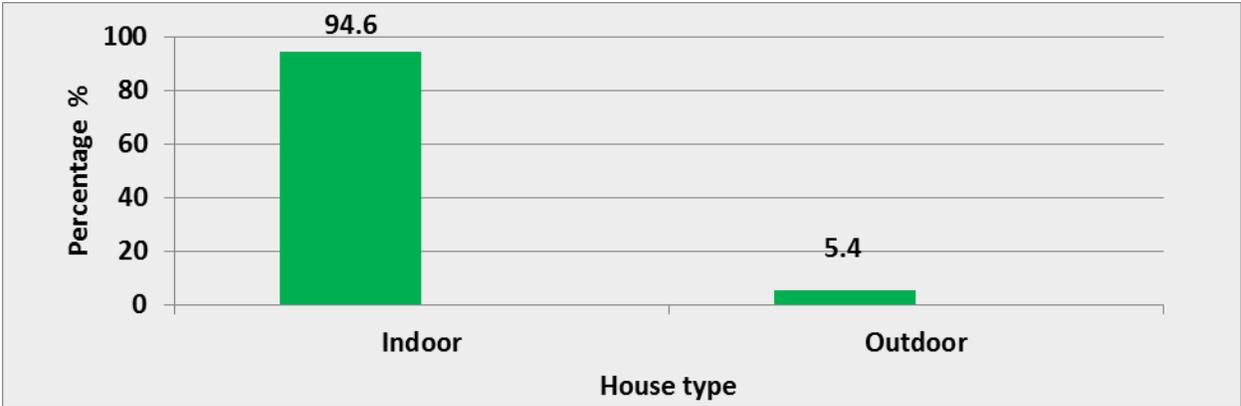


Fig. (8): Percentage of Cat House Type.

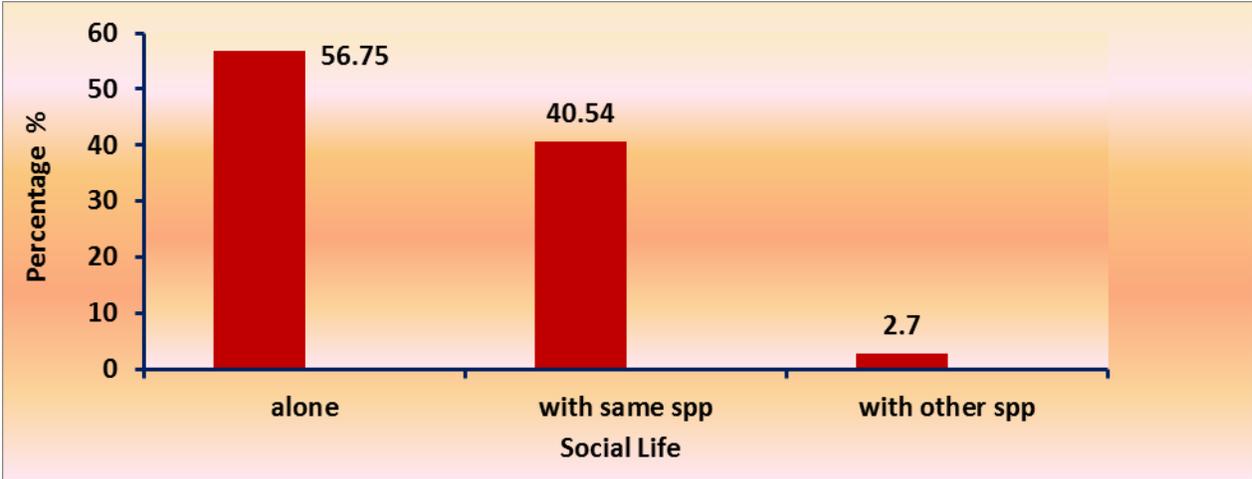


Fig. (9): Percentage of Cat Social life.

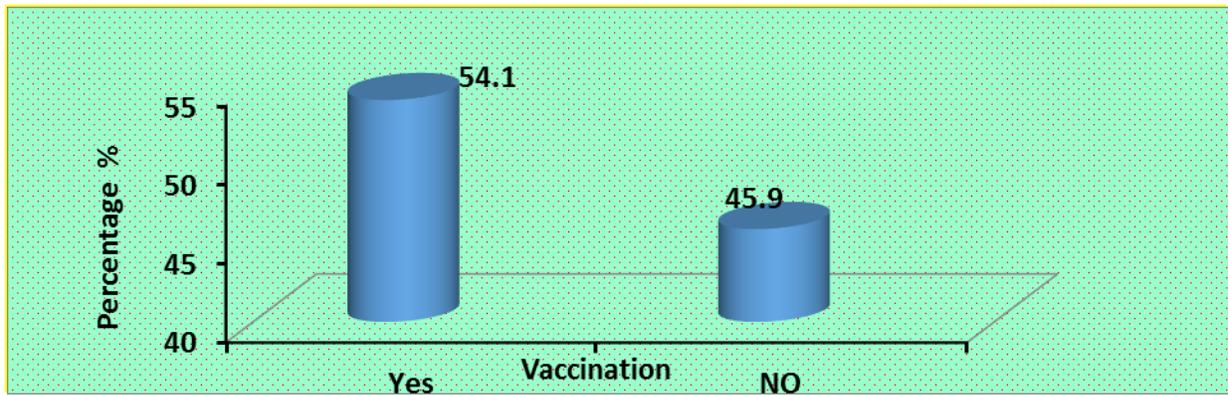


Fig. (10): Percentage of Cat Vaccination.

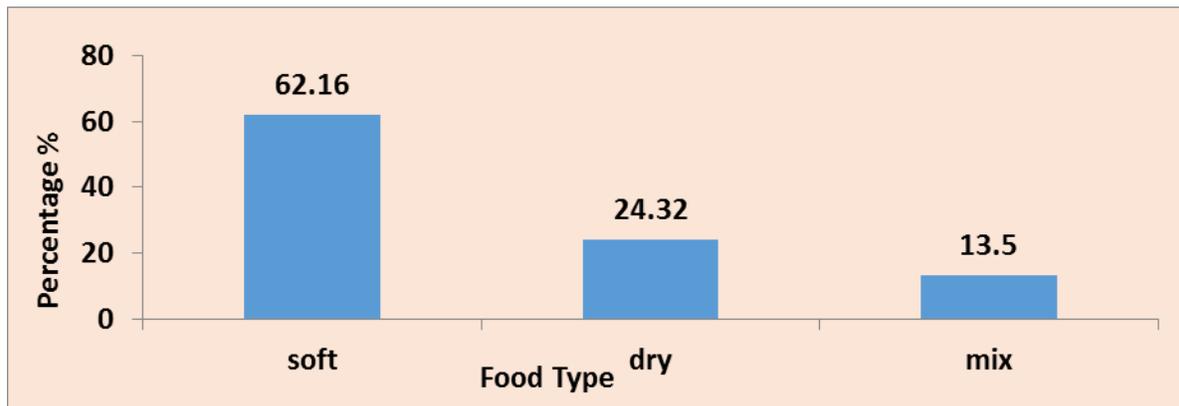


Fig. (11): Percentage of Food Types of Cats.

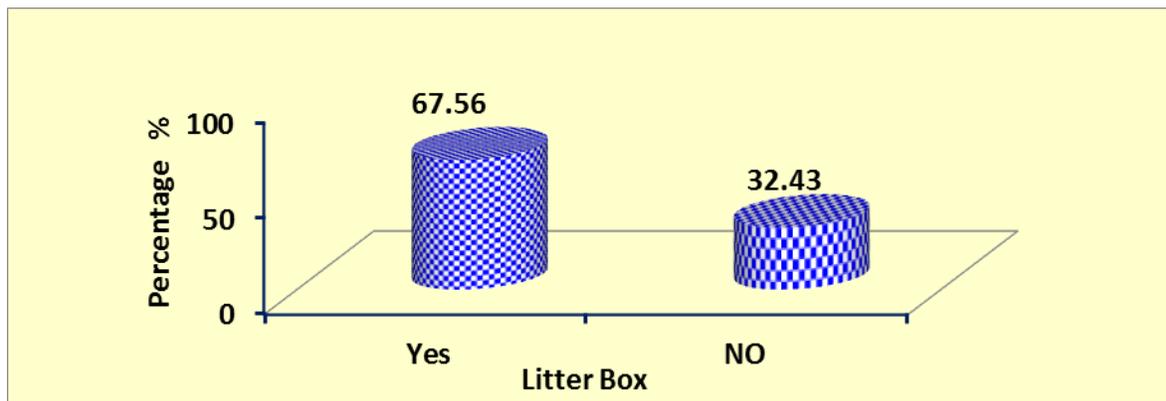


Fig. (12): Percentage of Availability of litter Box.

SOME EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STUDIES ON CANINE

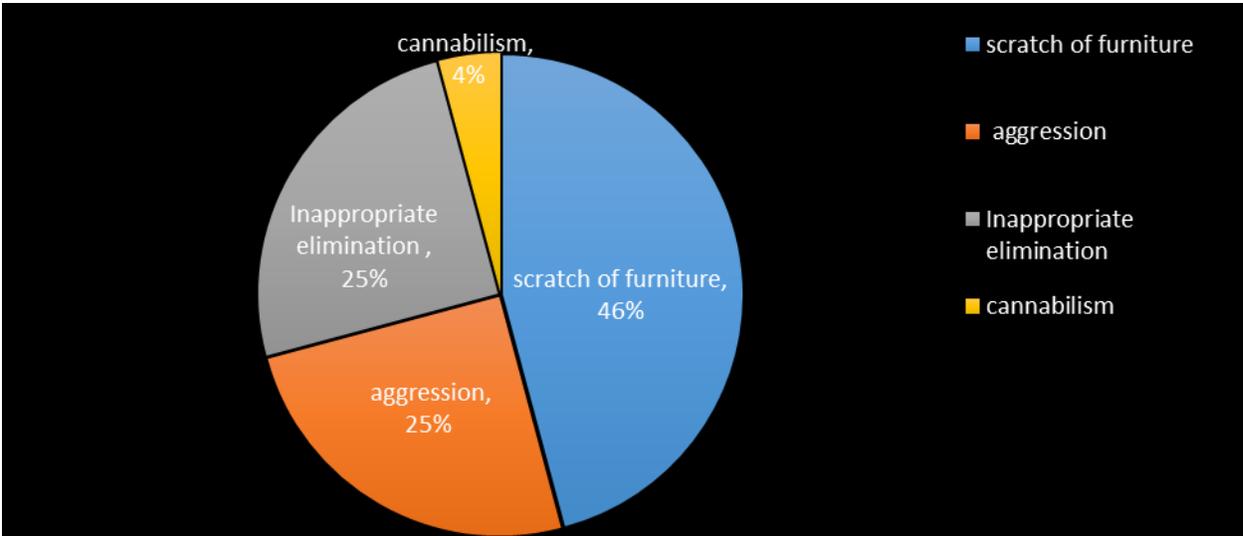


Fig. (13): Percentage of cats elicited abnormal behavior traits N=24.

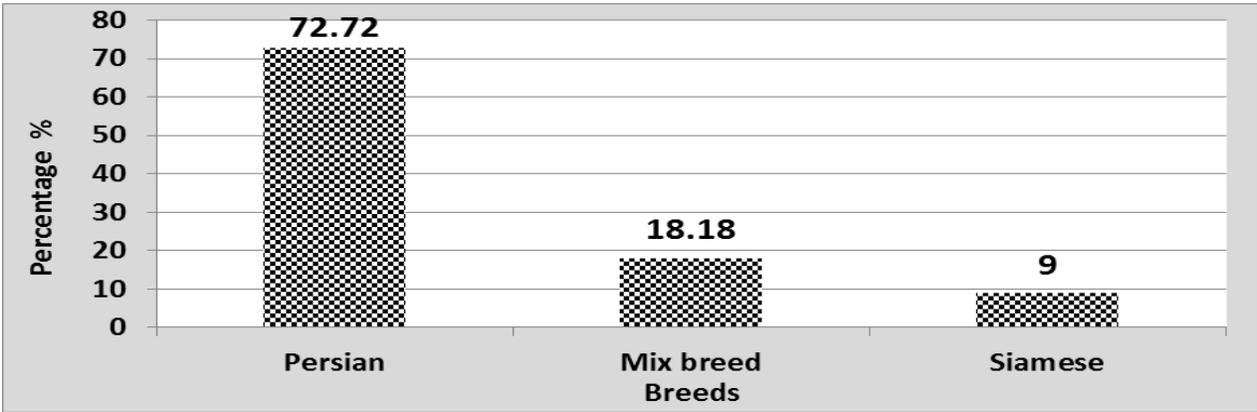


Fig. (14): Influence of cat breeds on percentage of cat showing scratch furniture.

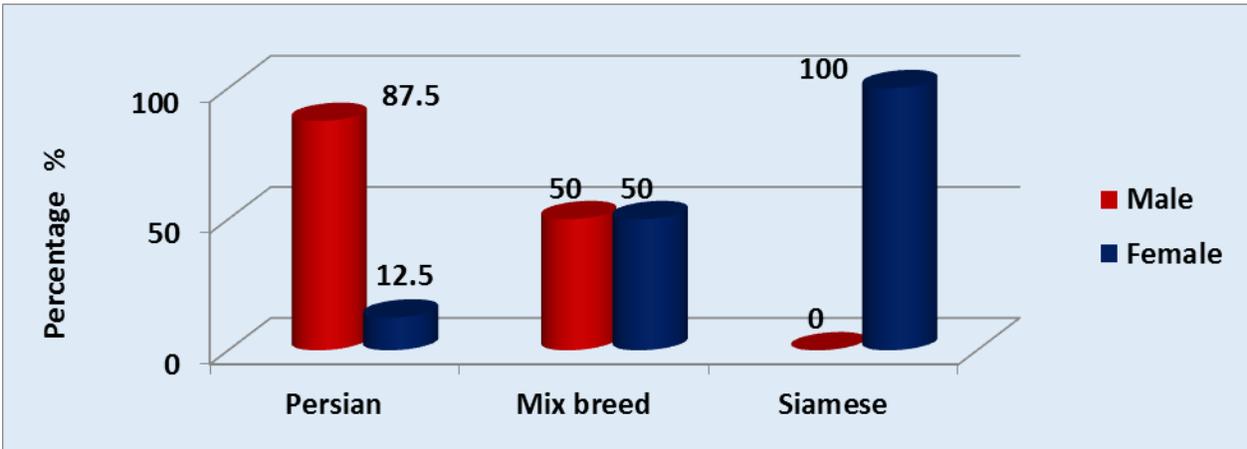


Fig. (15): Influence of cat sex on percentage of cat showing scratch furniture.

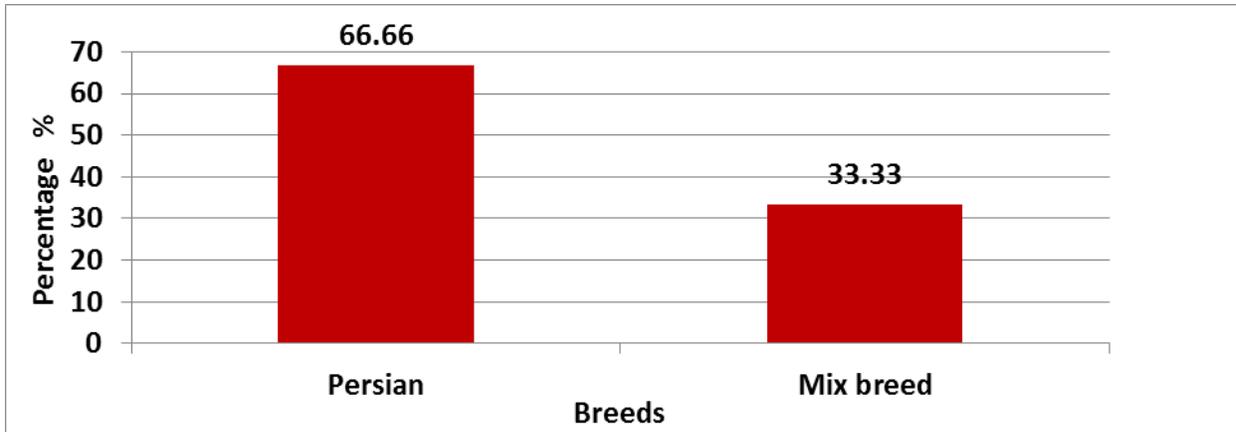


Fig. (16): Influence of cat breeds on percentage of cat showing aggression.

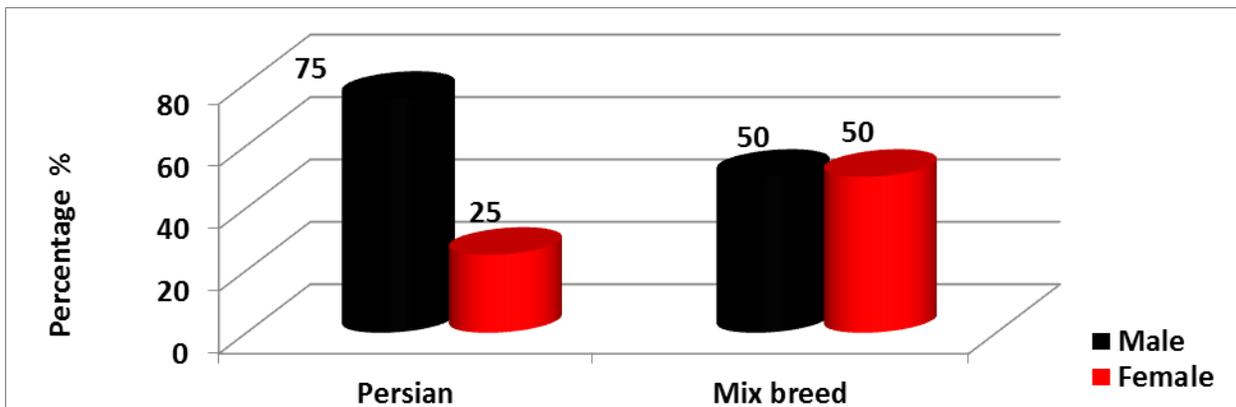


Fig. (17): Influence of cat sex on percentage of cat showing aggression.

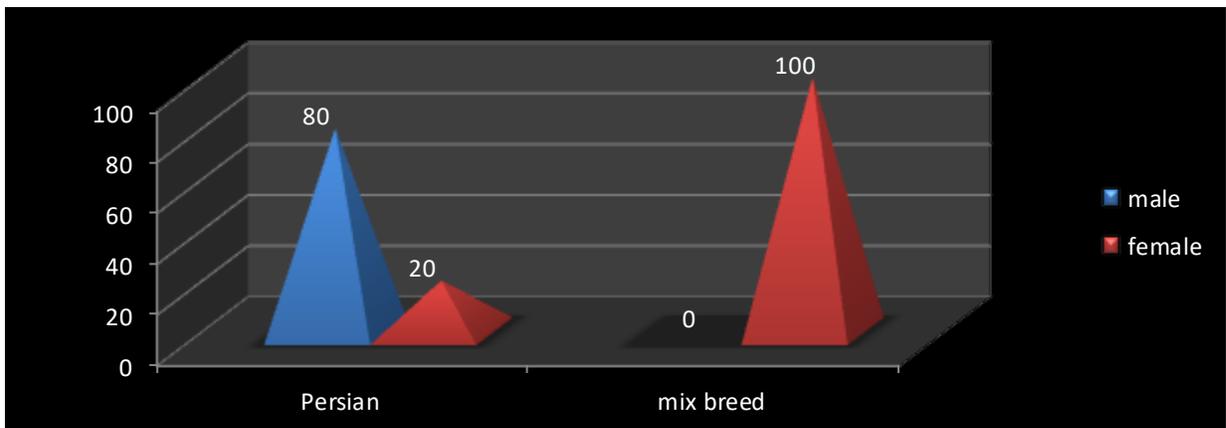


Fig. (18): Influence of cat breeds/ sex on percentage of cat showing inappropriate elimination.

DISCUSSION

Cat owner -Relationship:

Very little research has been conducted on the cat human- relationship this is because in the past, the human cat - relationship did not need a deep understanding. Times have changed and the pet now shares a very close relationship with its owners. An affinity that is causing clients to ask more about the behavior of its cats from (Table 1) and Fig. (1and2) can be mentioned that the cat - owner ship in Egypt indicate that 24.3% of the cat owner were from males while the majority 75.7 % were from females this may be attributed the nature of women to care for cats more than males. Concerning the owner age groups results indicated that 43.24% of the owners were <25 years ago while 32.43 % were from 25- 40 years ago and 24.32% were from 41-60 years ago this may reflect some of the demographic character of the Egyptian cat - owners. With the owner social status results of (Table 1) and Fig. (3 and 4) also kept that 97.29 % of cat - owner were from a family group while 2.7% were from a couple groups. The absent of cat - ownership of single or elderly group may be attributed to the fact that cat need a family member to careful and also this may reflect same pictures of the cat-owner social status in Egypt. The owner jobs result also indicated that, the majority of cat owner 35.13% were from a student, 35.13% were housewife, 27% were employers and less numbers 2.7% were a business-man (i.e. Students also housewife and employers comprises the main cat- owner relationship). The only study available cat- owner categorization was that of **Beaver (1980) and Willur (1975)** who classified cat-owners into 3 classes (1) Low involvement cat- owner representing 59% and the second class of cat owners (quality or status conscious owners 21%) of all cat owners and the third class are high involvement owners comprise of 20 % of the cat- owning population. Owner of first group devote little time to the care or company of the cat, and seen to enjoy having a cat around more than really interacting with it. Owners of second group depend on them for love, affection and care and as a result the animal is well groomed and only reluctantly left alone. Owners of third group rely on the cat to supply love and affection or to serve as an emotional crutch, such as a child-substitute. Obtained result came with agreement with that of **Vizek Vidović et al. (1999)** found higher pet attachment with girls and also **Winefield et al. (2008)** reported the women were higher attachment pets than men.

Cat characteristic:

Analysis of the cat data or information (Breed, sex, age and size) reflected the owner tendency to own some breeds over the others or prefer types of sex over the others and so on. Results of (Table 2) and Fig. (5, 6 and 7) indicated that, the Egyptian owners have three large breeds of cats Persian (long haired cat) comprises 78.3 %, Siamese (short haired cat) comprises 5.4 % of owned cat and 16.21 % mixed breeds (medium haired cat). Persian cat enjoys higher preference from Egyptian then came the mixed breed and finally Siamese cats. This may be attributed the beauty appearance of the Persian cats beside its good temperament. 67.56% of the owned cats were males while females' cat represented 32.43 % most of the Egyptian cat- owners prefer males than females this may attributed to its good appearance most cat - owners prefer to raise intact male and females (100) % (i.e. for breeding purpose]. owned cat lie on four each category 16.21% were < 3 months, 35.13% were 3-12 months and also same pictures 35.13% for 1-3 years while 13.51% of cat lie 3-6 years. All this pictures reflected that Egyptian cat-owners prefer to raise cat from 3 months till 6 years ago. Concerning the size of owned cat all studies cats 100 % were from small size breeds (<9 k.g.).

Cat housing and management:

The nature of cat owners interacting of the management (Housing- vaccination - feeding- available of litter box) is discussed in (Table 3) and Fig. (8, 9, 10, 11 and 12) obtained results revealed that 94.6% of cat are housed in-door while 5.4% housed out - door (in another apartment or away from family members) this reflect that Egyptian prefer to interact with cats in the home rather than to keep it alone in another apartment. the animal social life as mentioned in the table reveal that 56.75% of cats were kept alone while 40.54% were kept with another cat and less amount 2.7% were kept with another pets this reflect the nature of Egyptian to raise one type of pets than to raise several pet breeds. With vaccination programs 54.1% of Egyptian vaccination their cats while 45.9% kept their animals without vaccination this picture indicated that Egyptian have to be educated to care for their cats and vaccinated them more. Concerning feeding schedule and type of food used by Egyptian raise of cats' results showed that 62.16% of cat food was a soft type, 24.32 % of cat food was a dry food and 13.5% of cat received mixed food. This may reflect the economic status of Egyptian and their life style. With the feeding schedule 91.89% of cat owner feed their pets in ad-libitum basis, few of them 5.4% feed three times /day and 2.7% feed twice/ day, feeding cat once/ day is not recorded. With availability of litter box 67.56% of cat owners provide for elimination

litter box while 32.43 % of the owners not provide litter box for hygienic purpose Egyptian have to be educated to train their pets to use the litter box.

Abnormal behavior of cats:

From (Table 4) and Fig. (13) can be mentioned that, the cat abnormalities lies in four categories scratch furniture comprises 45.83% of the abnormality 25% comprises aggression, 25% inappropriate elimination and 4.16% comprises young cannibalism.

Cannibalism:

Cannibalism is rare in cats but usually accompanied by a perfectly reasonable explanation. There are a number of possible reasons why a queen (female) may kill her own kittens. Malnourished particularly in feral colonies, litters resulting from the second pregnancy in a year are more prone to being cannibalized. Larger litters are more likely to be cannibalized as the mother dedicates her limited resources to a few kittens that have a better chance at surviving. From (Table 4) obtained results 4.16% cannibalism may be attributed to stress and hormonal disturbance of the queen. The only one recorded case was recorded on Persian cat.

in appropriate elimination:

From Table (7) and Fig. (18) Illustrated that 25% of the cat recorded inappropriate toileting (urination/defecation). Positive correlation was recorded between cat breeds and inappropriate elimination at $P = .025$ and 83.33 % of the Persian cat recorded inappropriate elimination while 16.66% for mixed breed. Concerning the sex of cats performed inappropriate elimination results in (Table 7) indicate 80 % of Persian cat were males and 20% were females this may attributed was genetic susceptibility of Persian males to (urolithiasis , renal disorders) from obtained result in appropriate elimination cat may attributed to several causes including (litter box training , genetic factors and diseases susceptibility). Obtained result come agreement with (Health, 2001) founded that, the incidence of house soiling problems to be 32% in France, 35% in Germany and 35% in the UK.

Scratch furniture:

From (Table 5) and Fig. (14 and 15) Persian cat recorded 72.7% scratching furniture while mixed breed recorded 18.18 % and Siamese recorded 9%. Positive correlation at $P = .007$ with the breed difference.

Aggression:

From (Table 4) 25 % of cats recorded aggression higher of cat aggression were recorded for Persian breed 66.66 % while mixed breed recorded percentage of 33.33 % Significant

difference recorded between breeds $P=0.014$. Successful cat management is necessary to achieve the welfare of cat which will be reflected in human welfare through achieving the animal's need and reducing the incidence of abnormal behavior of cats.

Strategies of treatments include:

- 1- Behavior modification through proper training of cats on litter box and reducing the incidence of renal stones and scratch bars.
- 2- Surgical intervention in some cases through declawing of cat or castration to reduce sex hormones which are necessary for scratching and cat aggression.
- 3- Environmental enrichment with toys, litter box and scratch bars.
- 4- Hormonal treatments or medical therapy.

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دراسة تحليلية عن علاقة القطط باصحابها واهم المشاكل السلوكية في القطط المستأنسة

(فيلس كاتس) في مصر

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ملخص عربى

استهدفت هذه الدراسة: 1- تحليل العلاقة بين القطط ومربيها وتشمل (جنس المربي - عمره-حالاته الاجتماعية - وظيفته) وكذلك خصائص القطط وتشمل (السلالة - العمر-الجنس- الحجم - حالة الاخصاء) وتحليل بعض عوامل الرعاية مثل ذلك (نوع المسكن للقط- تربيته القط بمفرده او مع حيوانات اليه اخرى من نفس فصيلة او فصائل اخرى- نوع الطعام المقدم ومواعيد تقديمه - التحصينات- وجود صندوق للاخراج) 2- تسجيل اشهر المشاكل السلوكية التي تصيب القطط المستأنسة في مصر. اجريت الدراسة على عدد سبعة وثلاثون (37) قطه ومربيها في الفترة من نوفمبر 2014 الى سبتمبر 2016 في عاده الحيوانات الاليفة بمديرية الطب البيطرى بالجيزة. ولقد استخدمت اربع طرق لجمع المعلومات عن الحالات-1 استبيان (Questionnaire) 2- مقابلة (interview) مع المربي 3- الفحص الاكلينيكي للحاله clinical examination 4- استخدام التسجيل بواسطة الفيديو (video tape analysis) . وقد جاءت نتائج الدراسة كالآتى :

اولا: كان 24.3% من مربي القطط في مصر من الذكور بينما كان العدد الاكبر 75.7% من الاناث تراوحت اعمار مربي القطط كالآتى 43.24% اقل من 25سنة , 32.43% تتراوح اعمارهم ما بين 25-40 سنة و 24.32% ما بين 41-60 سنة كانت الغالبية العظمى من المربين 97.29% من العائلات بينما 2.7% كانوا من حديثى الزواج . سجلت كل من ربان البيوت والطلاب اكبر النسب في تربيته القطط بنسبه 35.13% لكل منهم على حدى ثم تلتها فئه الموظفين بنسبه 27% وكانت اقل نسبة لرجال الاعمال بنسبه 2.7%. وقد سجلت الدراسة ان اكثر سلالات القطط لدى المصريين هي القط الشيرازى (الفارسى) فجاءت نسبته 78.37% تلتها السلالات الهجينة في المرتبه الثانيه بنسبه 16.21% وكانت اقل الانواع السلالة السيامى بنسبه قليله 5.4%. سجلت نسب تربيته الذكور من القطط الشيرازى (الفارسيه) 68.96% بينما فى الاناث 31.03%. وفى السيامى سجلت الذكور 66.66% والاناث 33.33% اما بالنسبه للسلالات الهجينه تساوت نسب تربيته الذكور والاناث 50% لكل منهم.

ثانيا: اوضحت الدراسة ان 94.6% من القطط المستأنسة فى مصر تربي داخل المنازل بينما 5.4% تربي فى خارج المنزل (فى البلوكات او فى مسكن بعيد عن الاسرة). وبالنسبه لطبيعه المصريين فقد سجلت الدراسة ان 56.75% من القطط تربي بمفردها بينما 40.54% منها كانت تربي مع قطط اخرى و 2.7% منها كانت تربي مع فصائل اخرى من الحيوانات الاليفه .سجلت النتائج ان 54.1% من القطط يحرص اصحابها على تحصيلها بينما 45.9% منها لا تتلقى اى تحصيل.سجلت 24.32% من القطط استخدامها للطعام الجاف فى حين ان 62.16% منها كانت بتعتمد على طعام المنزل فى حين 13.5% منها كانت تتناول خليط من الطعام الجاف والطعام المنزلى.وقد سجلت نتائج الدراسة ان 91.89% من القطط يقدم لها الطعام طوال اليوم (تغذيه حرة) بينما 5.4% منها يقدم لها الطعام ثلاث مرات فى اليوم و 2.7% منها يقدم لها الطعام مرتين يوميا . كما سجلت النتائج ان 67.56% من القطط يحرص اصحابها على توفير صندوق للاخراج فى حين ان 32.43% لايتوفر لديها ذلك.

ثالثا: سجلت السلوكيات الشاذة فى القطط فى عدد 24 قطه من اجمالى 37 قطه استخدمت فى الدراسة.كان هناك اربع سلوكيات شاذة وهى كالآتى (خربشه الاثاث سجلت بنسبه 45.83%, ثم العدوانيه سجلت بنسبه 25% , مشاكل الاخراج (تواليت) بنسبه 25% كما سجل اقتراس الصغار 4.16%). بتحليل العدوانيه سجلت النتائج اربع انواع منها 1-عدوانيه بسبب الالم 50% 2- عدوانيه بسبب الخوف 16.66% 3 -عدوانيه بسبب غريزة الامومه بنسبه 16.66% واخيرا 4- عدوانيه بسبب النشاط الجنسى بنسبه 16.66%. سجلت النتائج وجود ارتباط بين نوع السلالة وبعض المشاكل السلوكيه عند $P < 0.005$ فقد سجلت القطط الشيرازى اعلى نسبة لخربشه الاثاث 72.7% فى حين سجلت القطط الخليطه 18.18% اما القطط السيامى فقد سجلت اقل النسب 9% لخربشه الاثاث. وبالنسبه للعدوانيه سجلت القطط الشيرازى اعلى نسبة للعدوانيه بنسبه 66.66% مقارنة بالنوع الخليط الذى سجل 33.33% لهذه الظاهره . وبالنسبه لمشاكل الاخراج سجلت القطط الشيرازى اعلى النسب 83.3% مقارنة بالسلالات الخليطه الذى سجل 16.66% وقد ارتبط ذلك بوجود ارتفاع فى نسب اصابه القطط الشيرازى وخصوصا الذكور منها بحصوات المثانه واحتباس البول لوجود استعداد وراثى لهذا النوع. ولقد اوصت الدراسة استخدام عده طرق لعلاج وتقليل تلك المشاكل السلوكيه مثل 1- تعديل السلوك للحيوان عن طريق التدريب والتعلم الجيد .2- تحسين البيئه الخاصه بالحيوان. 3- استخدام التدخل الدوائى مثل المهدئات والهرمونات 4- التدخل الجراحي مثل عمليات الاخصاء وازاله الاظافر .

الكلمات الداله: القطط- علاقته القطط والمربي - السلوكيات الشاذة فى القطط (خربشه الاثاث- العدوانيه- المشاكل الاخراجيه - الاقتراس للصغار) المسكن- ديموجرافيا القطط ومربيها