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Feline vaccination rate at teaching veterinary hospital, VCRI, Namakkal

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Abstract

The data on the vaccination of cats at the Teaching Veterinary Hospital, Veterinary College and Research Institute, Namakkal, from 2019 to 2023 were collected and analyzed in this study. Details on ARV (Anti-Rabies Vaccination) and CRP (Calicivirus, Herpesvirus-Rhinotracheitis and Parvovirus) vaccinations were categorized year-wise, breed-wise, district-wise, and age-wise for analysis. The study revealed a steady increase in ARV vaccinations throughout the study period, as well as a significant rise in CRP vaccinations from 2022 to 2023. A higher number of descriptive breed cats, particularly in the age group of 0-6 months, from Namakkal district were vaccinated at the Veterinary Clinical Complex (VCC), VCRI, Namakkal.

Keywords: CRP, Namakkal, vaccination, anti-rabies vaccine, cats, parvovirus

Introduction

Cats are susceptible to infectious diseases that can seriously affect their health and welfare. Vaccination plays a crucial role in protecting cats from several of the most serious feline infectious diseases. According to international vaccination guidelines, all cats, regardless of circumstances or geographical location, should be vaccinated against feline parvovirus (FPV), feline calicivirus (FCV), and feline herpesvirus-1 (FHV-1). These vaccines are classified as “core vaccines.” Vaccination against rabies virus infection is also considered core in regions where rabies is endemic (Filipe *et al.*, 2021) [5].

As per Day *et al.*, (2016) [2], all core vaccines, a vaccination coverage of 75% is recommended. Adherence by cat owners to vaccination recommendations is essential for achieving the desired level of coverage (Eschle *et al.*, 2020) [1]. This study explored the vaccination trends of cats at the Teaching Veterinary Hospital, Veterinary College and Research Institute, Namakkal.

Materials and Methods

The study was conducted at the Teaching Veterinary Hospital, Veterinary College and Research Institute, Namakkal. Data on the number of CRP and ARV vaccinations were collected from case sheets between 2019 and 2023. Additional data on breed-wise vaccinations (descriptive and non-descriptive breeds), region-based vaccinations (Namakkal and nearby districts, including Trichy, Salem, Karur, and Erode), and age-wise vaccinations (0-6 months, 7-12 months, and >1 year) were also collected. The type of vaccination data was represented graphically, while breed-wise, district-wise, and age-wise data were tabulated to identify vaccination trends.

Results and Discussion

Year-wise Vaccination Trends

The year-wise data on CRP and ARV vaccinations in cats are presented in Figure 1. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there was a slight decrease in ARV vaccinations in 2020 compared to 2019.

However, from 2021 onwards, a steady increase in ARV vaccinations was observed. CRP vaccinations began in 2022, with 15 cats vaccinated that year. This number rose significantly to 58 in 2023, marking a 3.8-fold increase compared to the previous year.

Breed-wise, District-wise, and Age-wise Vaccination Trends

The breed-wise, district-wise, and age-wise data for CRP and ARV vaccinations are summarized in Tables 1 and 2.

- **Breed-wise Data:** Until 2021, there was no significant difference in the number of descriptive and non-descriptive breeds brought for vaccination. From 2022 onwards, the number of descriptive breeds vaccinated surpassed non-descriptive breeds, reflecting a growing

preference for specific breeds among pet owners (McConnell and Rani, 2022) [3].

- **District-wise Data:** Cats from Namakkal district constituted the highest number of vaccinations compared to other districts in Tamil Nadu.
- **Age-wise Data:** Cats aged 0-6 months were the most vaccinated, followed by cats older than one year and then those aged 7-12 months. This trend aligns with the recommended vaccination schedule, which begins at six weeks of age and concludes by 12 weeks for both CRP and ARV vaccinations. Annual booster vaccinations account for the higher vaccination rates in cats older than one year. The recommendations made by veterinarians play a crucial role in influencing age-wise vaccination trends (Eschle *et al.*, 2020) [1].

Table 1: Breed-wise, district-wise and age-wise CRP vaccination in cats from the year 2019 to 2023

Year	Breed-wise		District-wise		Age-wise		
	Non-Descript	Descript Breeds	Namakkal	Other Districts	0-6 Months	6-12 Months	> 1 Year
2022	2	12	15	0	13	1	1
2023	18	40	58	0	45	8	5

Table 2: Breed-wise, district-wise and age-wise Arv Vaccination in cats from the year 2019 to 2023

Year	Breed-wise		District-wise		Age-wise		
	Non-Descript	Descript Breeds	Namakkal	Other Districts	0-6 Months	6-12 Months	> 1 Year
2019	4	3	7	0	4	0	3
2020	2	2	4	0	2	1	1
2021	10	16	26	0	13	6	7
2022	9	33	37	0	24	7	9
2023	11	37	40	8	32	7	9

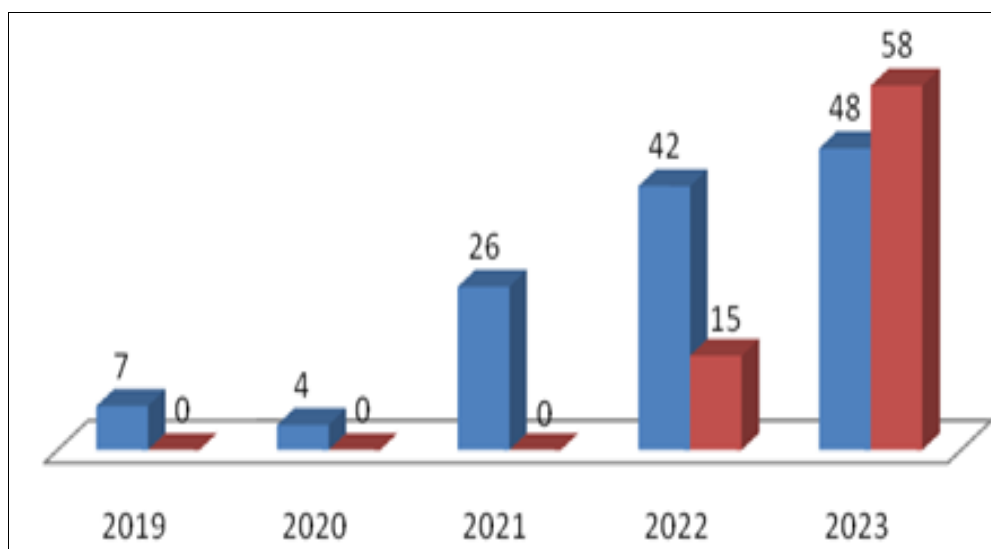


Fig 1: Vaccination data of cats from the year 2019-2023

Conclusion

Immunization data for ARV and CRP vaccinations were collected from the case sheets of cats brought to the Teaching Veterinary Hospital, Veterinary College and Research Institute, Namakkal, between 2019 and 2023. The study revealed a year-on-year increase in the number of cats vaccinated for both ARV and CRP. Descriptive breed cats, particularly those aged 0-6 months from Namakkal district, were vaccinated more frequently than non-descriptive breeds and cats from other districts.

Conflict of Interest

Not available

Financial Support

Not available

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