



## **I-INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF ANIMAL SCIENCE IN SEMI-ARID REGIONS**

*Universidade Federal do Agreste de Pernambuco – UFAPE*

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### Pets and wild

#### **The main ways of acquiring dogs**

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In recent years, a growing number of people have chosen to have pets instead of children. Brazil is the fourth largest country in the world in terms of pet population, with dogs, cats and birds being the most commonly bred species. Given this demand for companion animals, there is a field of research and work that is expanding with the growth of the pet market. As is well known, today there are several ways to acquire a dog, such as adoption, rescue from the streets, or purchase from specialized kennels. Adoption and rescue are seen as acts of social responsibility and empathy, while buying animals is gradually being questioned due to concerns about their origin and breeding conditions in some establishments. The aim was to find out, through an online survey, the main way in which pet owners purchase dogs, in order to find out the main means used to acquire their pets. A survey was carried out with dog owners using a form created on Google Forms, which was sent to the owners via social networks. It included the following question: How did you acquire your dog? There were four options for answering the question: bought from a pet shop; bought from friends or acquaintances; bought from friends or acquaintances; rescued from abandonment. At the end of the survey, 77 responses were obtained, of which 45.5% were "got from friends and/or acquaintances"; 26% "bought from friends and/or acquaintances"; 26% "rescued from abandonment" and 2.6% answered that they "bought". With this data we can see that the main way of acquiring dogs was through adoption or rescue. And when we add up the options that indicated getting the animal from acquaintances or rescuing it from abandonment, we see that at least 71.6% of people acquired their animals without choosing to buy them. On the other hand, when we add the options in which the form of acquisition was buying from a pet shop and buying from friends and/or acquaintances, we see that these options represent 28.6% of people who acquired their dogs in a way that involved buying them. We can conclude that the main way of acquiring a dog as a companion animal continues to be adoption in a way that does not involve financial negotiation. This trend reflects the growing awareness of the importance of adoption and of rescuing abandoned animals from the streets.

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