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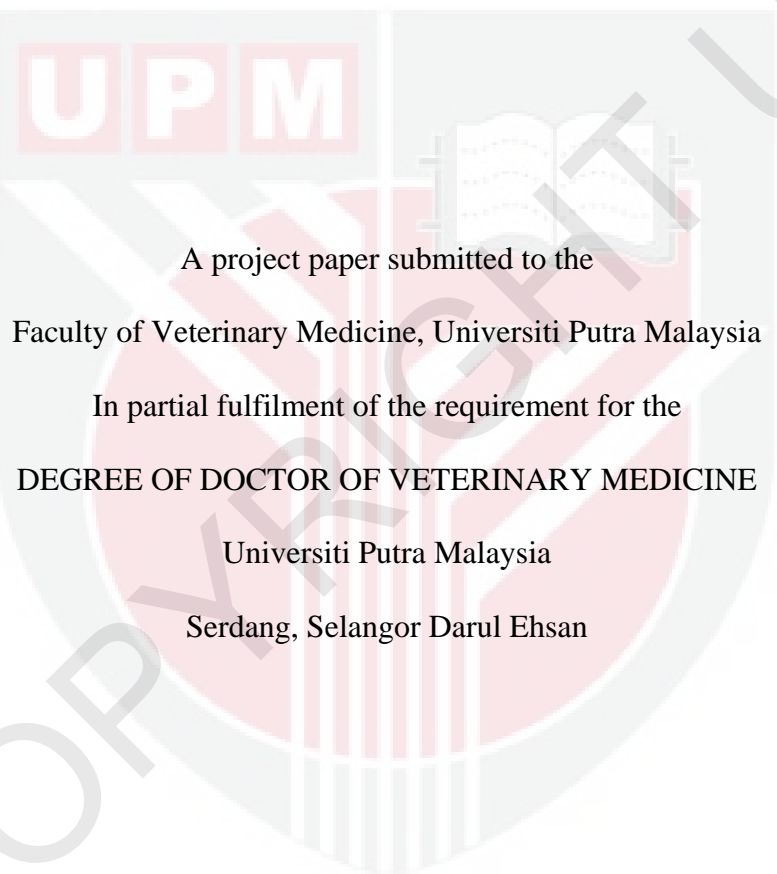
***A STUDY ON THE FACTORS THAT MOTIVATE CAT OWNERS TO  
VACCINATE THEIR CATS***

**ASHITOSH KUMAR**

**FPV 2018 9**

# **A STUDY ON THE FACTORS THAT MOTIVATE CAT OWNERS TO VACCINATE THEIR CATS**

**ASHITOSH KUMAR**



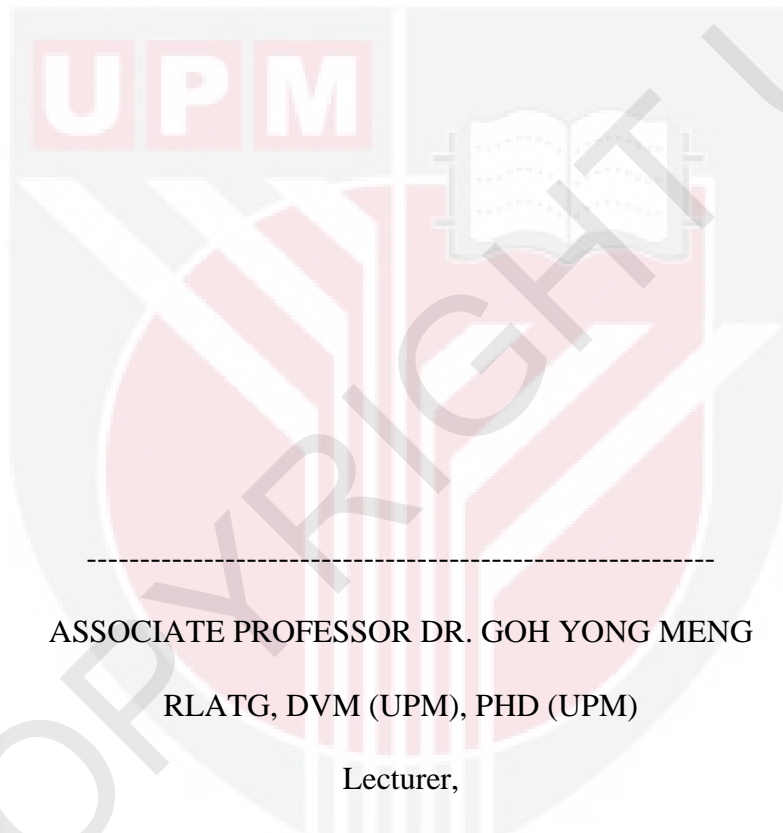
A project paper submitted to the  
Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Universiti Putra Malaysia  
In partial fulfilment of the requirement for the  
DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF VETERINARY MEDICINE  
Universiti Putra Malaysia  
Serdang, Selangor Darul Ehsan

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## CERTIFICATION

It is hereby certified that I have read this project paper entitled “A Study on the Factors That Motivate Cat Owners to Vaccinate Their Cats” by Ashitosh Kumar and in my opinion it is satisfactory in terms of scope, quality and presentation as partial fulfillment of the requirement for the course VPD 4999 – Project.



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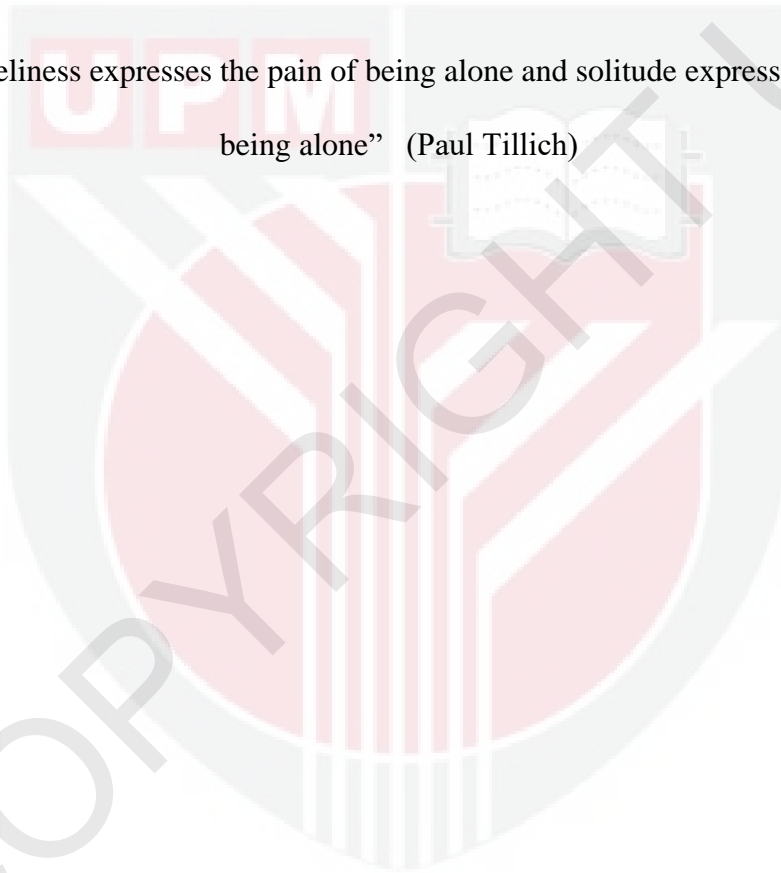
Universiti Putra Malaysia

(Supervisor)

## DEDICATION

To my parents and my supervisor for encouraging me throughout this project.

“Loneliness expresses the pain of being alone and solitude expresses the glory of  
being alone” (Paul Tillich)



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Thank you is all I can say,

For guiding me when I've lost my way,

Throughout these entire five years in school,

Especially when I was low on mental and emotional fuel.

Thank you to my parents for believing in me,

Thank you to my muse for teaching me valuable life lessons,

Thank you to the strangers who treated me as family.

Thank you to my thousand mile friend Prithvi for sharing my grief and joy.

And finally a big thank you to those who worked behind the scenes but still impacted  
my life.

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**Abstract**

An abstract of the project paper presented to the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in partial fulfillment of the course VPD 4999-Project

**A STUDY ON THE FACTORS THAT MOTIVATE CAT OWNERS TO  
VACCINATE THEIR CATS.**

By

Ashitosh Kumar

2018

Supervisor: Assoc. Prof Dr. Goh Yong Meng

Compliance to vaccination plays an important role in the control of infectious diseases in cats. Poor compliance to the recommended vaccination programme is among the reasons for the continual threat of preventable infectious diseases in cat populations. The benefits of routine vaccination are that the incidence of serious disease caused by highly pathogenic organisms, such as feline panleukopenia, can be reduced in populations in which widespread vaccination is practised. In developed countries it is estimated that only 30–50% of the cat population is vaccinated, and this could be significantly less in developing nations like Malaysia. Therefore, this study aimed to find out what are the factors that motivate owners to vaccinate their cats. The purpose of this study is to identify the common factors among owners that do and do not vaccinate their cats, and use this knowledge to construct a more directed and effective client education programme. 52 cat owners were sampled at the Universiti Veterinary Hospital for this study. They were interviewed using a questionnaire modified from a previous study on “pet health care”. The data was then tabulated in SPSS and analysed. Results showed that owners from the Bottom 40 % income group (B40) with household income of less than RM3900, were four times less likely (95 % CI: 0.057 – 0.980)



to vaccinate their cats than the next income groups. Another significant factor identified was that owners who had more knowledge on vaccination practices were six times more likely (95 % CI: 0.029 – 0.763) to vaccinate their cats compared to owners with lesser knowledge on vaccination practices. Other relevant factors that influence compliance to vaccination includes number of people in the household, amount spent on the cat per month and owner's perception of the cat on whether it is a pet or part of the family. In conclusion, owner's income disposition and the knowledge of when to start vaccination, as well as ancillary cat ownership determinants, are important factors that motivate owners to vaccinate their cats. These factors should be considered in designing an effective and more directed client education programme to improve vaccination compliance among cat owners.

**Keywords:** Cat, Vaccination, Factors

**Abstrak**

Abstrak kertas projek yang dibentangkan kepada Fakulti Perubatan Veterinar dalam memenuhi sebahagian daripada kursus VPD 4999-Project

**KAJIAN FAKTOR-FAKTOR MOTIVASI PEMILIK KUCING UNTUK MENGVAKSIN KUCING MEREKA.**

Oleh

**Ashitosh Kumar**

**2018**

**Penyelia: Prof. Prof Dr Goh Yong Meng**

Pematuhan kepada vaksinasi memainkan peranan penting dalam mengawal penyakit berjangkit dalam kucing. Pematuhan yang kurang baik terhadap program vaksinasi yang disyorkan adalah antara sebab ancaman berterusan penyakit berjangkit yang boleh dicegah dalam populasi kucing. Manfaat vaksinasi rutin adalah bahawa kejadian penyakit serius yang disebabkan oleh organisma yang sangat patogenik, seperti panleukopenia, dapat dikurangkan dalam populasi kucing. Di negara-negara maju, dianggarkan hanya 30-50% daripada populasi kucing yang diberi vaksin, dan ini kurang ketara di negara-negara membangun seperti Malaysia. Oleh itu, kajian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui faktor-faktor yang mendorong pemilik untuk memvaksin kucing mereka. Tujuan kajian ini adalah untuk mengenal pasti faktor-faktor yang sama di kalangan pemilik yang memvaksin dan tidak memvaksin kucing mereka, dan menggunakan pengetahuan ini untuk membina program pendidikan pelanggan yang lebih efektif dan berkesan. 52 pemilik kucing disoal selidik di Hospital Veterinar Universiti untuk kajian ini. Mereka ditemuramah menggunakan soal selidik yang diubahsuai dari kajian sebelumnya mengenai "penjagaan kesihatan haiwan kesayangan". Data tersebut kemudiannya disusun dalam SPSS dan dianalisis. Keputusan menunjukkan bahawa pemilik dari kumpulan pendapatan Bawah 40% (B40) dengan pendapatan isi rumah kurang daripada RM3900, empat kali kurang berkemungkinan (95% CI: 0.057 - 0.980) untuk memvaksin kucing mereka daripada kumpulan pendapatan yang lain. Satu faktor penting yang dikenal

pasti ialah pemilik yang mempunyai lebih banyak pengetahuan tentang amalan vaksinasi adalah enam kali lebih besar (95% CI: 0.029 - 0.763) untuk memvaksin kucing mereka berbanding pemilik yang kurang mengetahui mengenai amalan vaksinasi. Faktor lain yang mempengaruhi pematuhan terhadap pemvaksinan termasuk bilangan orang dalam rumah tangga, jumlah yang dibelanjakan untuk kucing sebulan dan persepsi pemilik terhadap kucing sama ada haiwan atau sebahagian daripada keluarga. Kesimpulannya, kadar pendapatan pemilik dan pengetahuan tentang tempoh umur untuk memulakan vaksinasi, serta faktor penentu pemilikan kucing, adalah faktor-faktor penting yang mendorong pemilik untuk memvaksin kucing mereka. Faktor-faktor ini perlu dipertimbangkan dalam merencanakan program pendidikan pelanggan yang berkesan dan efektif untuk meningkatkan pematuhan pemvaksinan di kalangan pemilik kucing.

Kata kunci: Cat, Vaksinasi, Faktor

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Vaccines are defined as preparations that resemble infectious agents like bacteria or viruses but are not pathogenic when administered to an animal. The prime function of a vaccine is to stimulate the immune system to protect the animal from infectious diseases (Kornreich, 2010). Similar to human medicine, vaccination is not only about the protection of the individual animal, but of the population as a whole. So the purpose of vaccination, as we currently practice it, is to protect individual animals and populations of animals from lethal or disease-producing infections.

Major infectious diseases of cats have been effectively controlled (but not eliminated) by vaccination programmes over the past decades. Where vaccination is widely practiced in a population, killer diseases such as feline infectious peritonitis and feline parvovirus infections are relatively rare occurrences. More than seventy percent (>70%) of the cat population should be vaccinated to achieve control of these diseases (WSAVA, 2012). Vaccination also prevents animal suffering by controlling infectious agents that do not necessarily kill the animal but do cause clinical signs (e.g. cats with feline upper respiratory tract disease). In countries where vaccination is not widely practiced (i.e. in <10% of the population), these diseases remain just as prevalent as they always have been. Vaccinating a cat therefore not only protects it from infection but is to the benefit of the entire animal population.

There has been increasing public awareness on the importance of vaccinating their cats. However, the continual occurrence of diseases that can be prevented through vaccination remained a concern. This is due to the failure of owners to vaccinate their cats. Therefore, this study was performed to investigate possible associations among various factors that could have determined the level of vaccination compliance among cat owners. These included owner demographics, knowledge on vaccination protocols, income level

along with ancillary factors, such as amount spent on cat per month, number of people in the household, and whether the cat is considered a pet or part of the family. Prior studies have shown that these are factors that demonstrated significant effect on compliance to vaccinations.

The current study is an initial exploratory study to investigate factors motivating owners to have their cats vaccinated. The results of this study would be useful in designing effective and targeted client education approach to increase vaccination compliance among cat owners. The major objectives of this study were to identify factors determining vaccination compliance rates in cats, and to study the relationship between owner demographics and vaccination status of cats. Such associations are very important for identifying and concluding on which factors are essential in determining compliance to vaccination.

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