

# NUTRITIONAL ASSESSMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF FEEDING IMPROVEMENT STRATEGIES FOR ELDERLY COMMUNITY CATS IN A UNIVERSITY CAMPUS: A COMMUNITY CASE REPORT

## ABSTRACT

Nutritional management of domestic pet cats has been widely studied, but research on the dietary needs of community cats, especially older individuals, remains limited, mainly due to environmental and biological challenges that prevent many felines from reaching advanced age.



This case study examines the nutritional assessment and the implementation of feeding improvement strategies for a group of 13 community cats, mostly elderly (11/13)



**LOCATION:** Faculty of Philosophy and Human Sciences (FAFICH), Pampulha campus, Federal University of Minas Gerais (UFMG), Brazil



**DATA COLLECTION:** October 2022 to July 2024

## RESULTS



### SOLIDARY FOOD BANK DONATIONS RESULTS

596 kilos of dry food  
2.267 units of wet food  
R\$20.549,97 (U.S.\$3.538,6445)



**BODY CONDITION IMPROVEMENT**



**END OF FOOD INSECURITY AND STRENGTHENED HUMAN-CATS BONDS**

## METHODS



### DEMOGRAPHIC SURVEY

Identification and cataloging of the felines  
Visits, photographic records and interviews with caretakers



### WELFARE ASSESSMENT CONCERNING FOOD MANAGEMENT

Body condition score  
Cats self-weighing through positive reinforcement conditioning and gentle handling



### CREATION OF A SOLIDARITY FOOD BANK



### INSTALLATION OF FEEDING STATIONS AND LONG-LASTING FEEDERS

## RESULTS



Feeding stations were an effective, economical, and simple way to provide proper feeding spaces for community cats



The Solidarity Food Bank ensured food security for the animals by mobilizing donations beyond the university environment



More studies about food management of free-roaming senior felines are needed, but kitten dry food and dally meals of wet food successfully met the nutritional needs of FAFICH's cats



Community animal care depends on caregivers' perceptions. Universities must monitor regularly to guarantee animals' dignity and well-being throughout their lives.