

UNIVERSIDADE DO PORTO

INSTITUTO DE CIÊNCIAS BIOMÉDICAS ABEL SALAZAR

NATIONAL SURVEY OF ANIMAL SHELTERS - Preliminary results

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BACKGROUND

- Shelter Medicine is an emerging area of veterinary medicine, not yet formally established in Portugal
- In 2018 policy changed and public (municipal) animal shelters became limited admission shelters
- Private animal shelters (associations) are gaining importance in admitting stray animals from municipal shelters
- No overall information on animal shelters is publicly available

OBJECTIVES

- 1. To characterise animal shelters at national level
- 2. To compare public and private animal shelters regarding resources (installations, feed, staff), animal welfare and disease

METHODS



completed questionnaires (n= 33)

- A questionnaire was developed and approved by the Ethics Committee of ICBAS-CHUP
- The link of the questionnaire was emailed to 97 Municipal and 65 private Associations on 1st February 2021
- Preliminary results refer to the 33 completed questionnaires on 15th February 2021 (Fig. 1 and 2)

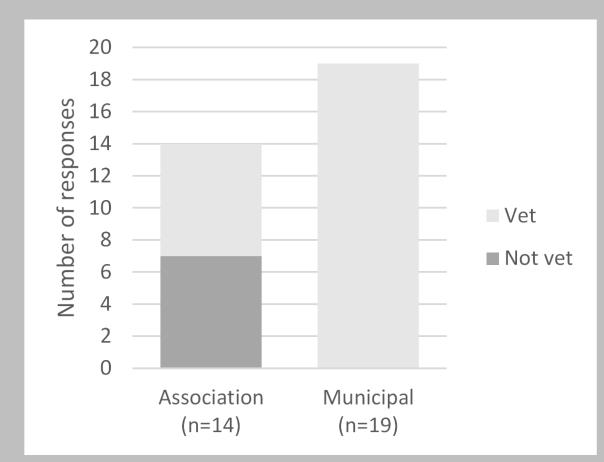


Fig. 2 Respondents of the questionnaire

RESULTS

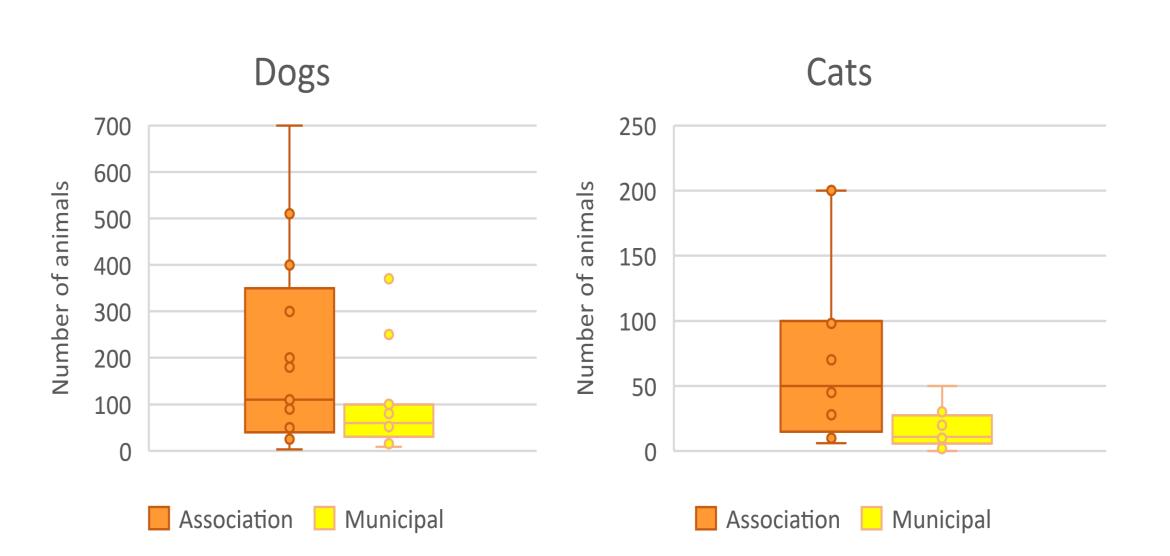


Fig. 3 Estimated number of animals currently in the shelter

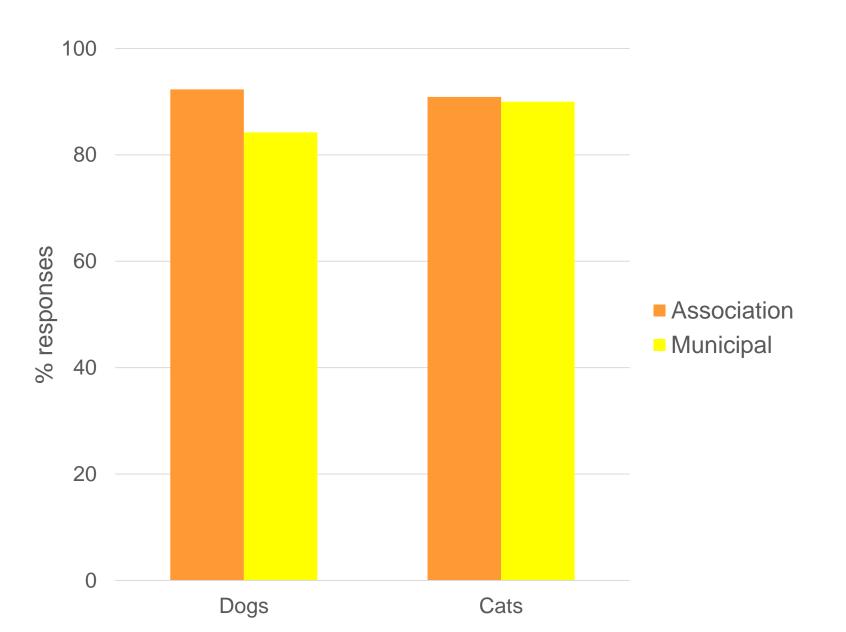


Fig. 6 High vaccination cover of animals in shelter (over 80% animals vaccinated)

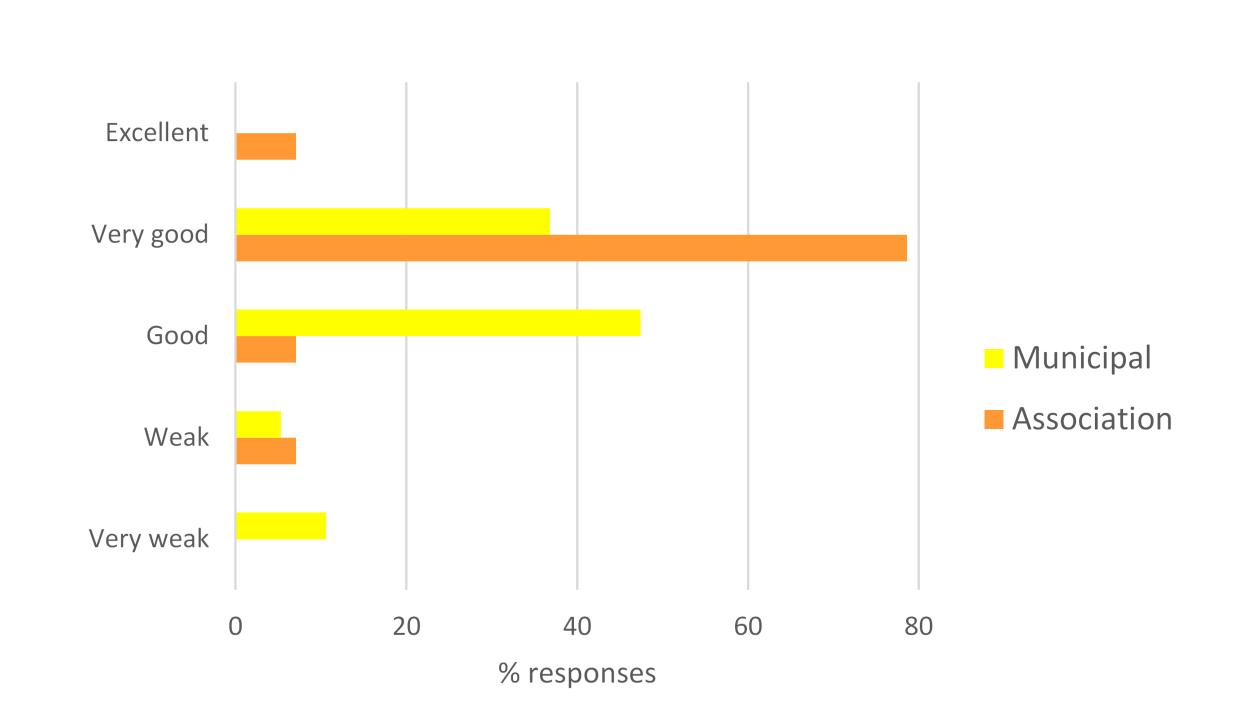


Fig. 9 Overall quality rating of the animal shelter by the respondent

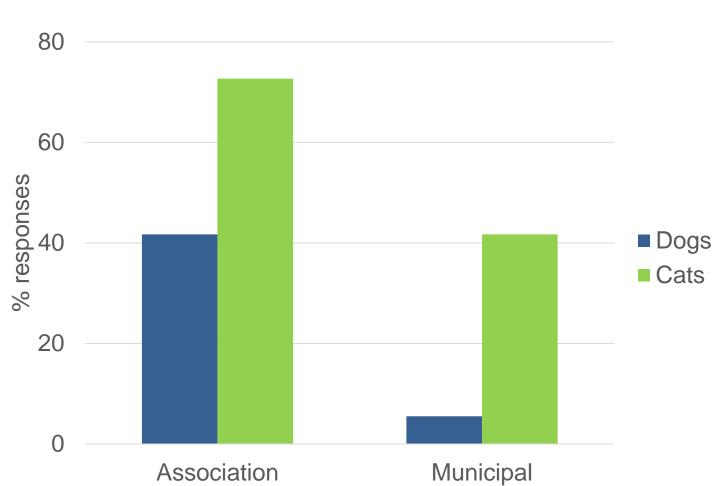


Fig. 4 Environmental enrichment in cages/animal areas

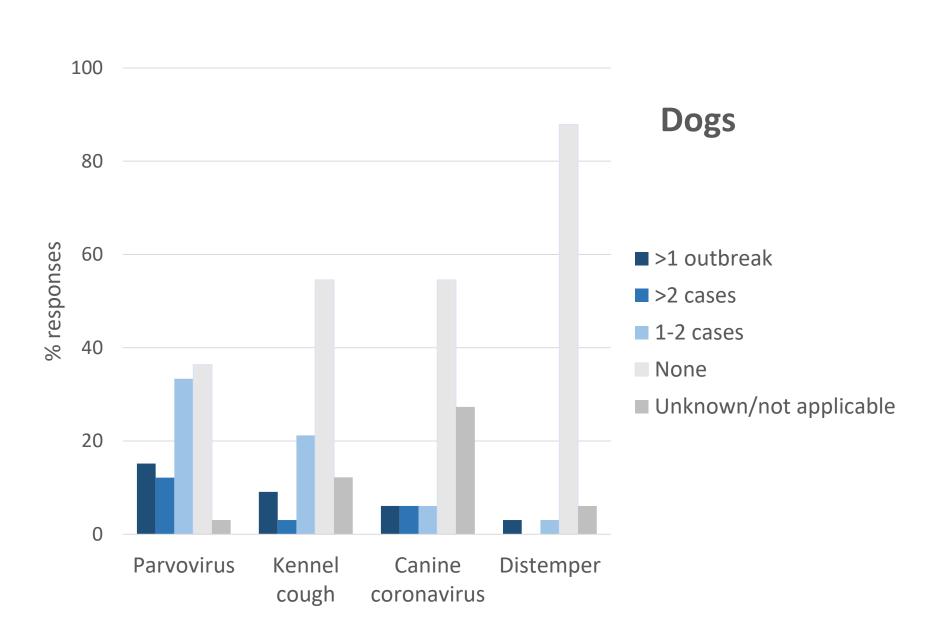


Fig. 7 Occurrence of canine infectious diseases in the past 12 months

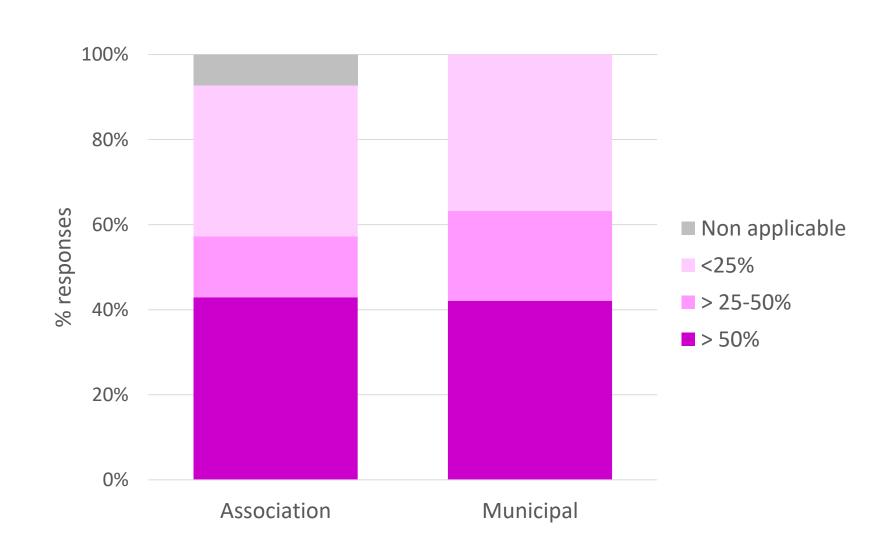


Fig. 5 Long-term housing: Dogs in shelter over 1 yr

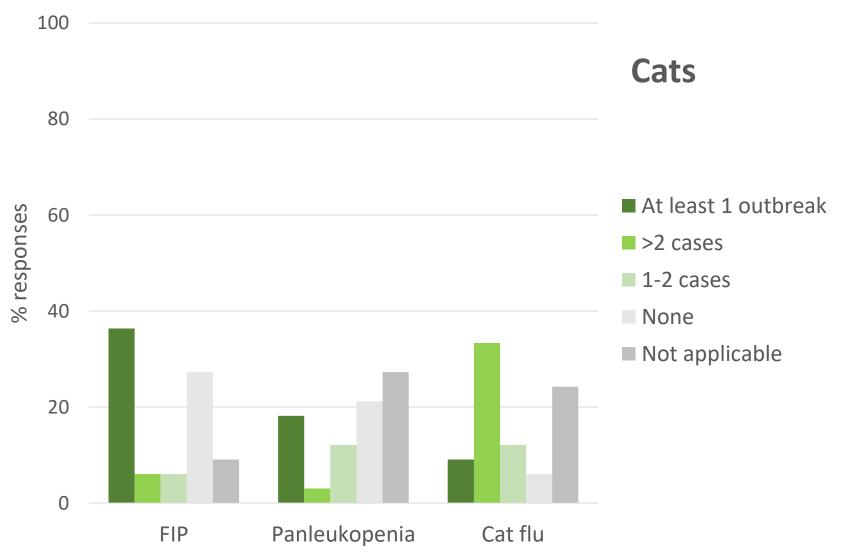


Fig. 8 Occurrence of feline infectious disease in the past 12 months

CONCLUSIONS

1. Differences between shelter types

- * SIZE -> Associations host more animals than Municipal shelters
- * WELFARE -> Associations offer more enriched housing
- * QUALITY -> Associations rated better than Municipal shelters

2. Similarities between shelter types

- * VACCINATION -> Very high vaccination cover
- * INFECTIOUS DISEASES -> Low/sporadic occurrence
- * WELFARE -> Excessive length of stay (longterm-housing)

3. Limitations of study

- * Response bias Voluntary participation
- * Difficult to reach target audience, especially Associations

4. Next steps

- * Increase response rate -> Send reminder
- * Analyse results