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## Background

- Uganda is endemic for canine rabies, with nearly 90% of the human population at risk (1).
- Rabies is among the prioritized zoonotic diseases.
- Uganda has committed to the global “Zero-by-30” goal to eliminate dog-mediated human rabies deaths by 2030.
- A National Rabies Elimination Strategy (NRES) has been validated in 2022 with WOA’s support (2).
- A workshop (March 2024), in collaboration with SEEG, GIZ (Germany), conducted a SWOT analysis on NRES. Under the theme of "Training and Operational Research," weaknesses identified included the lack of a focused rabies research agenda and insufficient advocacy for research funding.
- This scoping review aims to map and summarize existing rabies research in Uganda, identify knowledge gaps, and guide future research to support evidence-based rabies interventions.

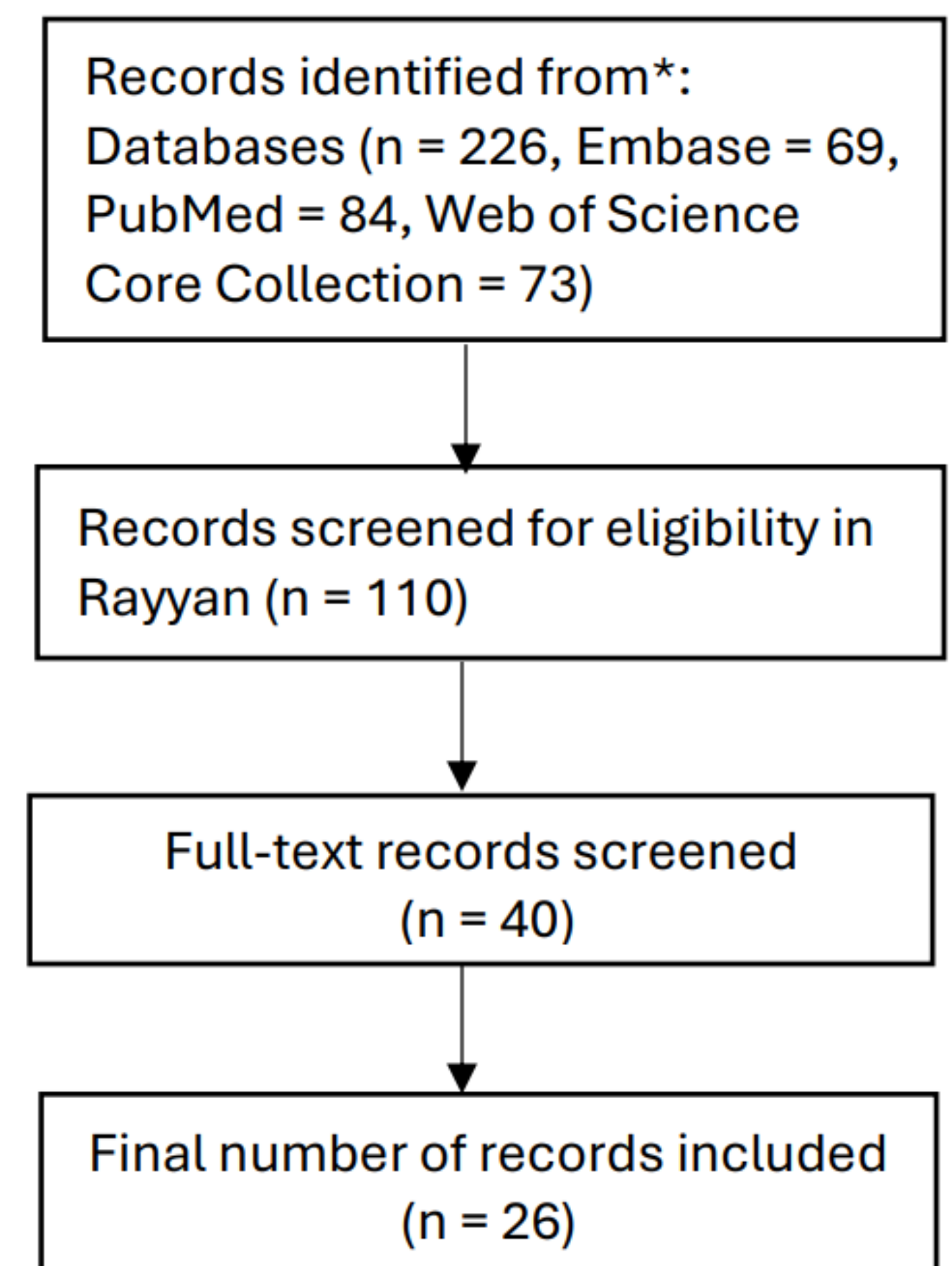
## Methods

- PRISMA-ScR guidelines
- Protocol registered with OSF

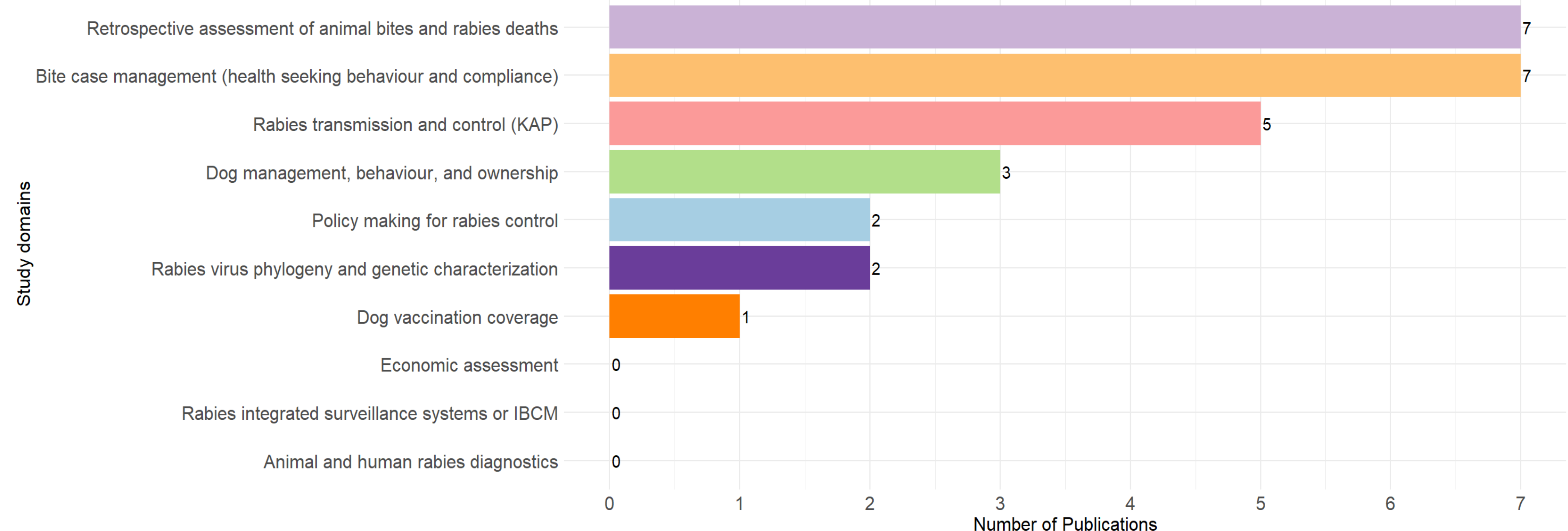
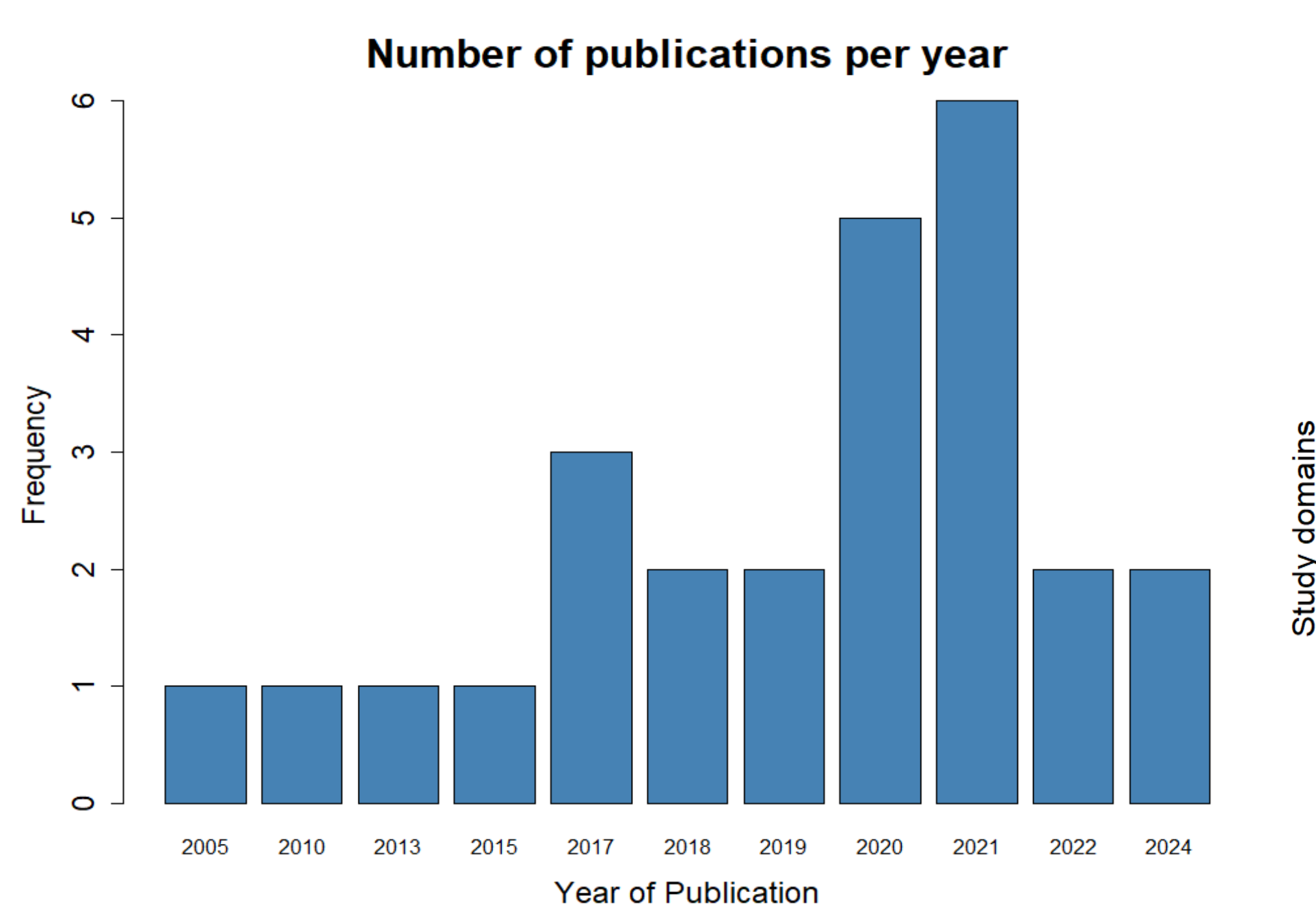
## What was investigated?

- Types of research conducted (study design, methods)
- Target population, outcome and risk factors
- Study domains (e.g. One Health approach to address rabies, surveillance systems and diagnostics employed)
- Challenges and gaps identified in the studies

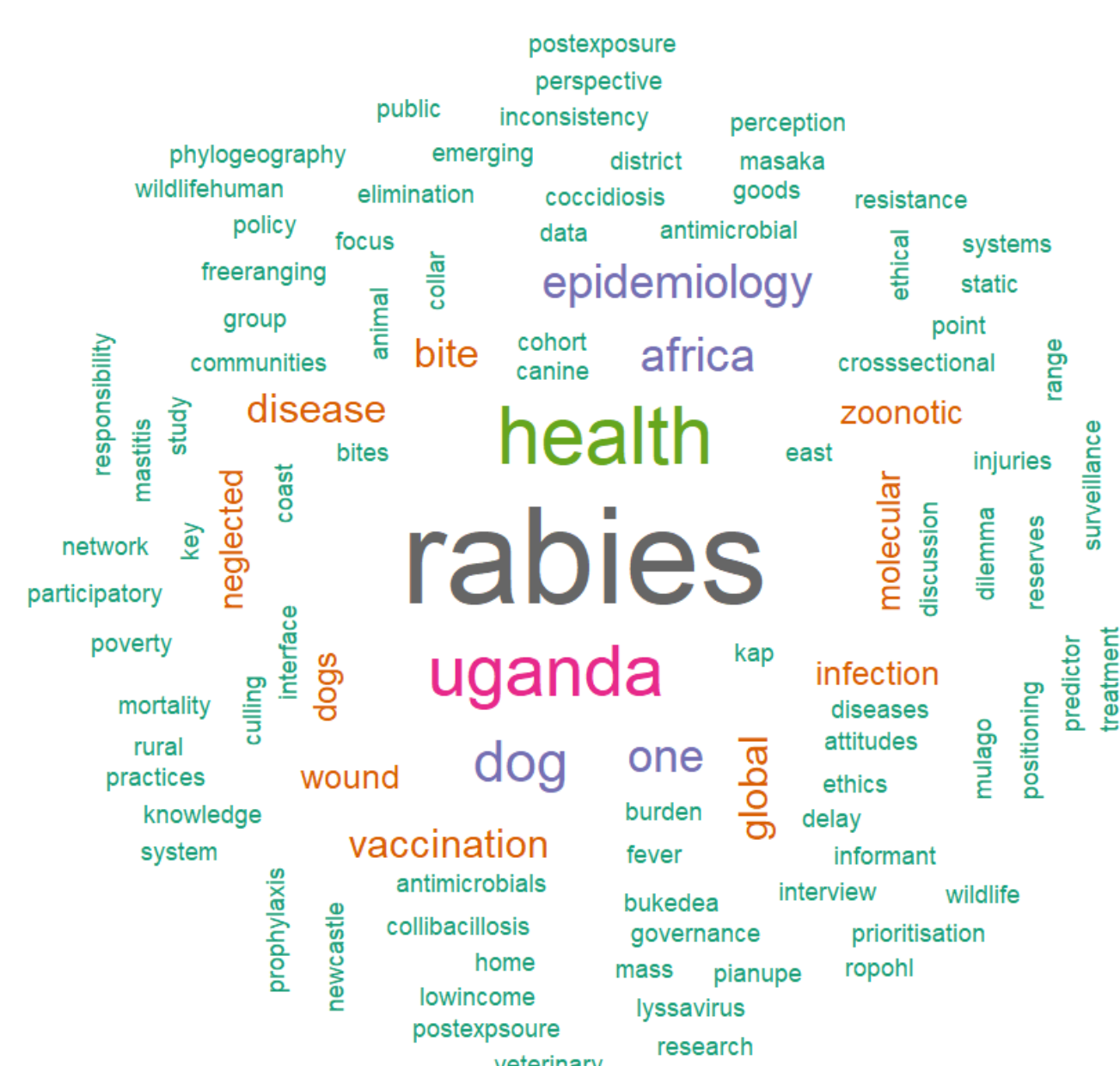
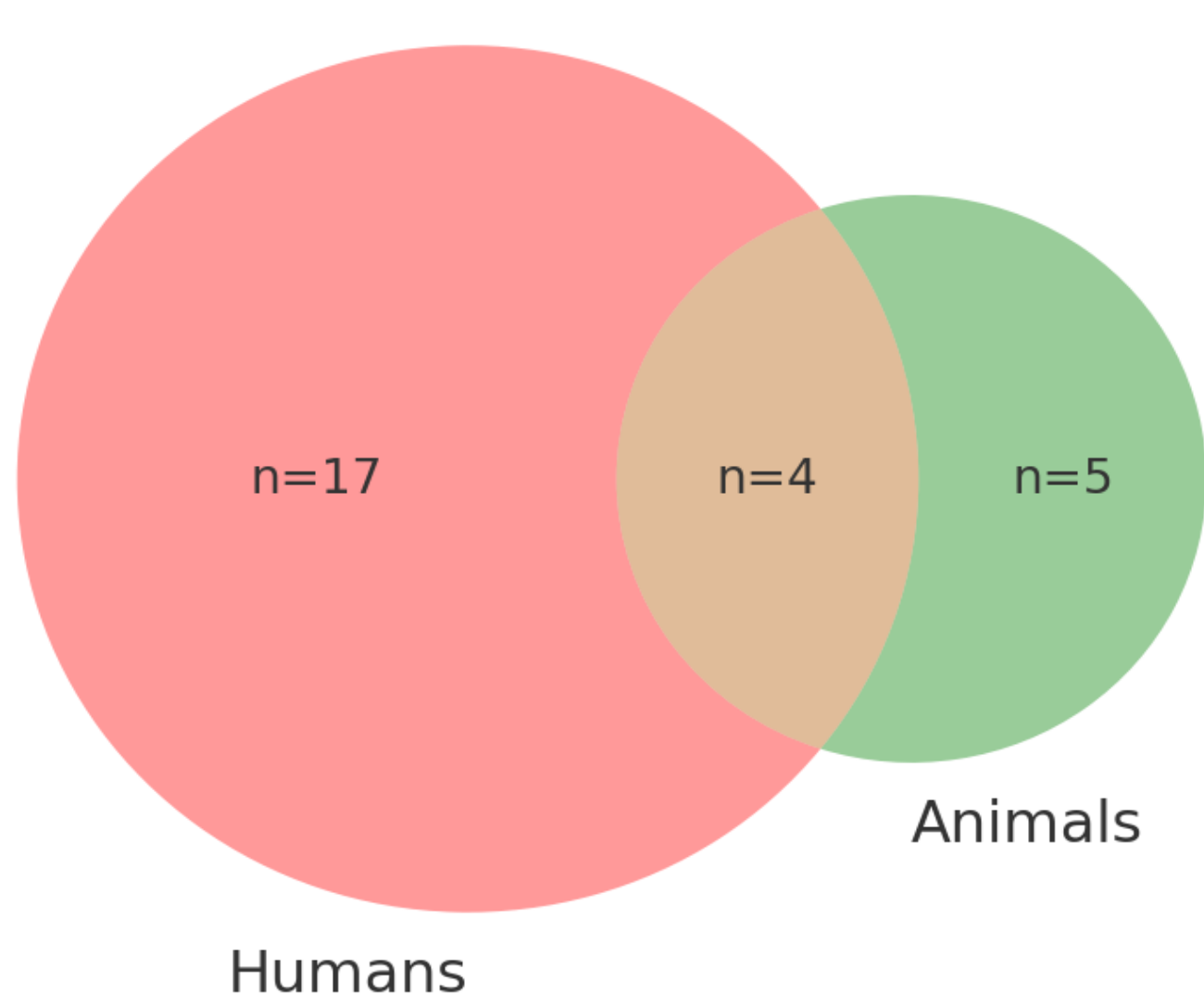
Original research regarding rabies studies that were based in Uganda were included in the review.



## Results and Discussion



### Target population of the studies



This scoping review presents the first comprehensive analysis of rabies research in Uganda summarizing findings on research focus, trends, and gaps from 26 selected studies,

We identified a need for increased in-country motivation, investment, and institutional responsibility for Ugandan researchers to drive and lead research efforts within the country.

There is a need to enhance research by integrating intervention-based and longitudinal studies beyond descriptive analysis.

While 12 studies had intersectoral collaboration in research, only 6 adopted a One Health approach. Studies that focus on operationalization of One Health framework into interventions are thus crucial.

There is a lack of studies demonstrating integrated rabies surveillance systems, diagnostics, serology, and molecular epidemiology, highlighting the need for Integrated Bite Case Management (IBCM) and strengthened in-country laboratory facilities.

Study type	Study design	n
Quantitative	Descriptive (Cross sectional surveys, questionnaires and KAP studies)	15
	Observational retrospective	5
	Interventional cross-sectional	3
	Analytic laboratory (sequencing)	2
Qualitative	Descriptive (Cross-sectional interviews, KIs and FGDs)	5
	Participatory workshops	1

## References:

- Wallace et al., 2017. The impact of poverty on dog ownership and access to canine rabies vaccination: results from a knowledge, attitudes and practices survey, Uganda 2013. *Infectious Diseases of Poverty*, 6(1), 97. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40249-017-0306-2>
- Iyadi, L. (2022, March 10). Uganda validates a national strategy on rabies elimination. *WOAH - Africa*. Retrieved from <https://rr-africa.woah.org/en/news/uganda-validates-a-national-strategy-on-rabies-elimination/>