



Massachusetts Animal Coalition

Working together to decrease the number of homeless,  
neglected, displaced and abused animals in Massachusetts.

# Shelter & Rescue Regulations Survey Results

*Sponsored by Massachusetts Animal  
Coalition*

**Presented at the MAC Annual Meeting  
September 2007**

*Generously Supported by Boston Research Group*

# Agenda

- Survey Objectives
- Methodology
- Respondent Profile
- DAR Emergency Order, Proposed Regulations
- Key Findings
  - Importation Activities
  - Attitudes & Opinions on Importation and Regulation
  - Impact of DAR Emergency Order
- Conclusions

# Survey Objectives

- To determine extent and nature of animal importation into Massachusetts
- To examine experience with and attitudes toward regulation and importation
- To determine effects of DAR emergency order on importation and adoption

# Methodology

- Web survey
- List compiled from MAC member database, orgs listed on Petfinder, ACO listings, etc
- Invitations were sent via email and mail
  - 610 contacts in total, 579 with valid email and/or mail addresses (43% with email, w/ or w/o mail)
  - 58% of total contacts were ACOs

# Response Rate

- 420 invitations sent via snail mail postcards and email
  - Limited the number sent to ACOs so they would not dominate sample (80 to ACOs with email addresses; 30% to ACOs via snail mail )
- 22% response rate = 92 completes
  - 66% response rate for Rescues
  - 19% response rate for ACOs

# Stats Refresher – Confidence Intervals

- Confidence Intervals let us know reliability of data
- Current Study Total Sample Size = 92
- For a Sample size of 100
  - confidence interval is +/- 9.8% at the 95% confidence level
  - If 20% of the sample indicate option A, we are 95% confident that the real % is between 10.2% and 29.8%
- Detecting differences between groups – ability depends on sample size
  - Although our response rate is respectable, sample sizes in segments too small to detect differences in most cases

# Key Findings

Part 1:

Organizations/Respondents Profile

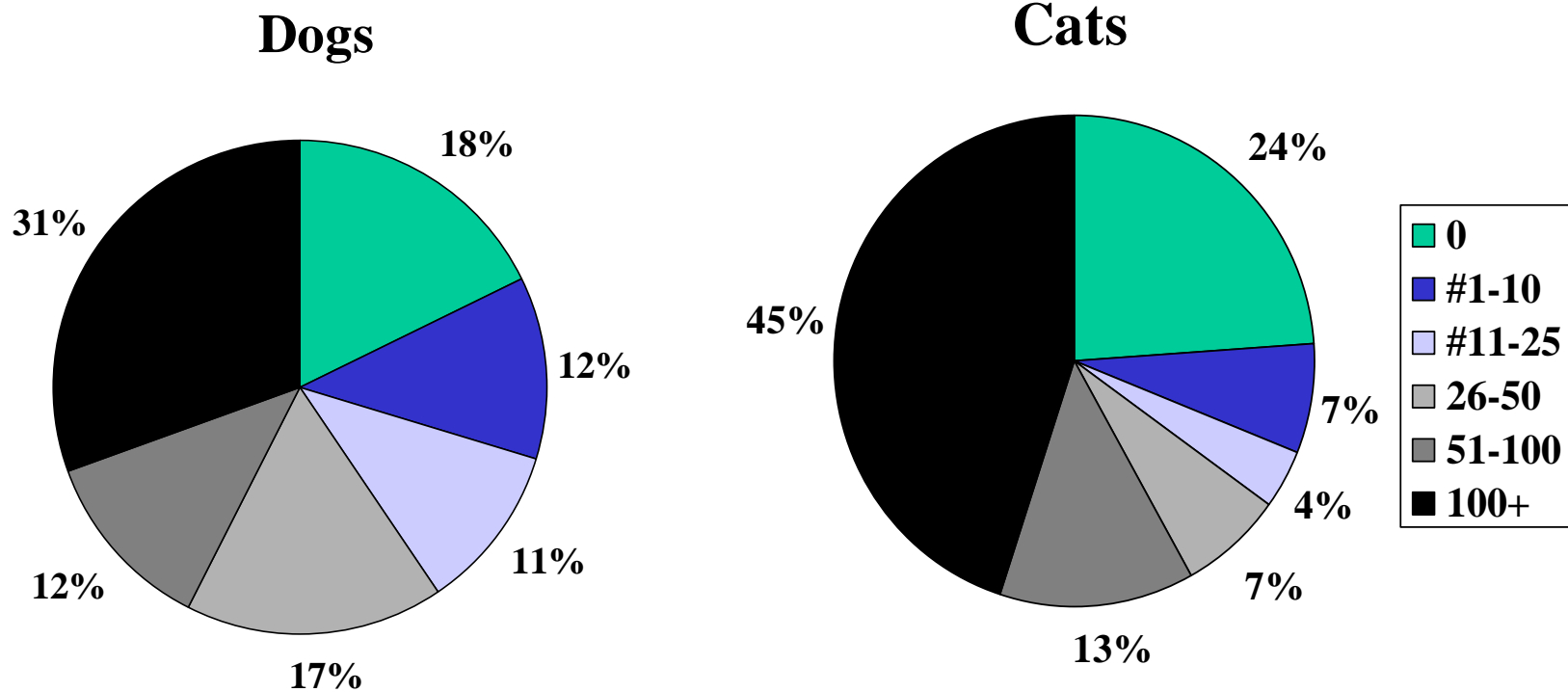
# Organization Profile

- Majority of respondents were from shelter/rescue organizations (68%) or Animal Control (19%)
- Most organizations worked with both dogs and cats
  - Only 26% worked only with dogs while 17% worked only with cats
- 65% of orgs used foster homes in MA while 50% had a shelter in MA
  - 15% had multiple facilities
- Other stats:
  - 46% of orgs had been in existence 11+ years
  - 65% volunteer-based, 35% had paid staff
  - 68% were incorporated

n=92 (varies slightly depending on question)



# Number of Animals Helped per Year

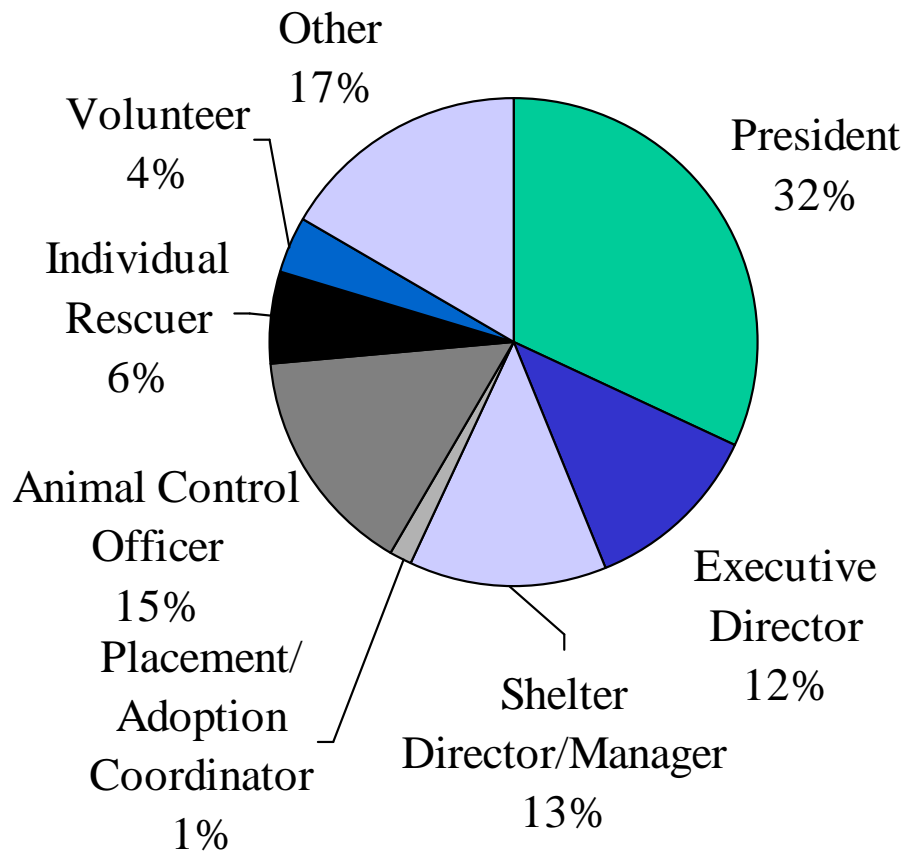


n=84

# Respondent Title

Nearly 40% had worked/volunteered with org 10+ years

14% of respondents were members of MAC



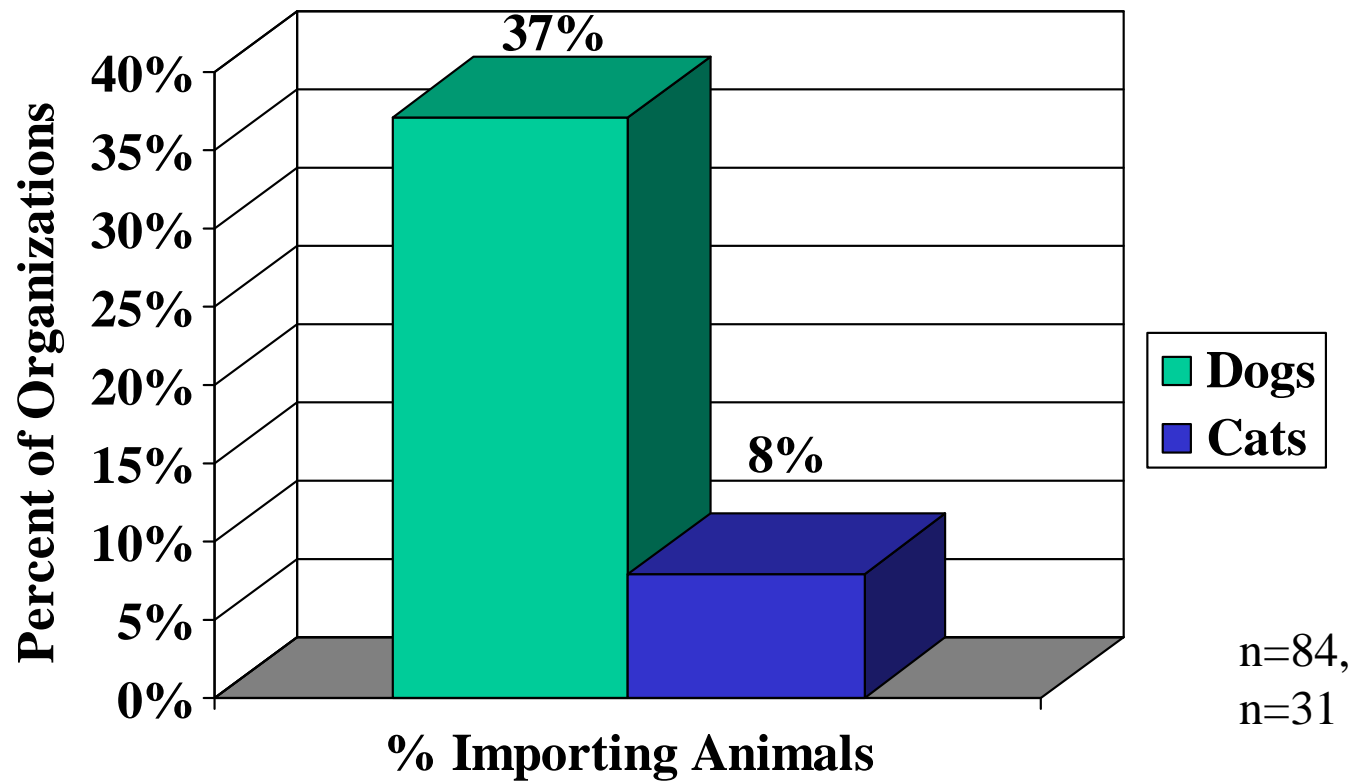
n=84

# Key Findings

## Part 2: Importation Activities

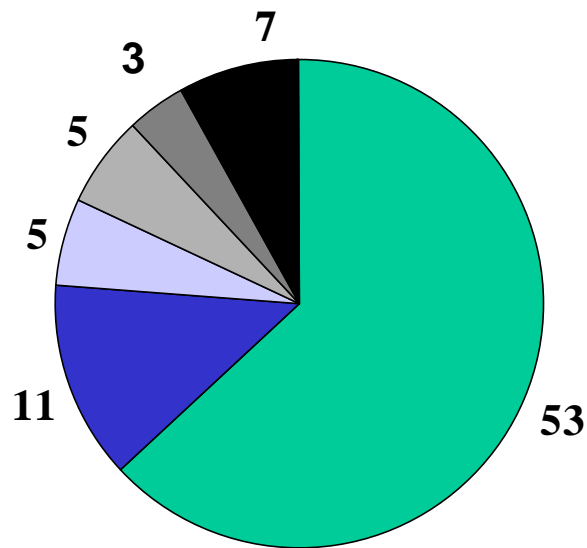
# Animal Importation

- More organizations importing dogs than cats

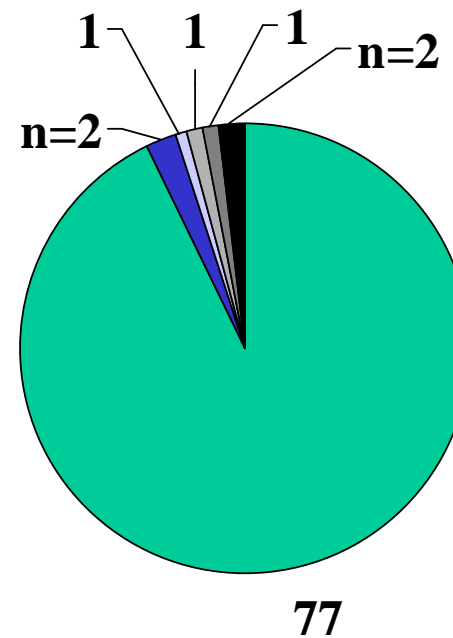


# Number of Animals Organizations Import

Dogs Imported



Cats Imported



n=84

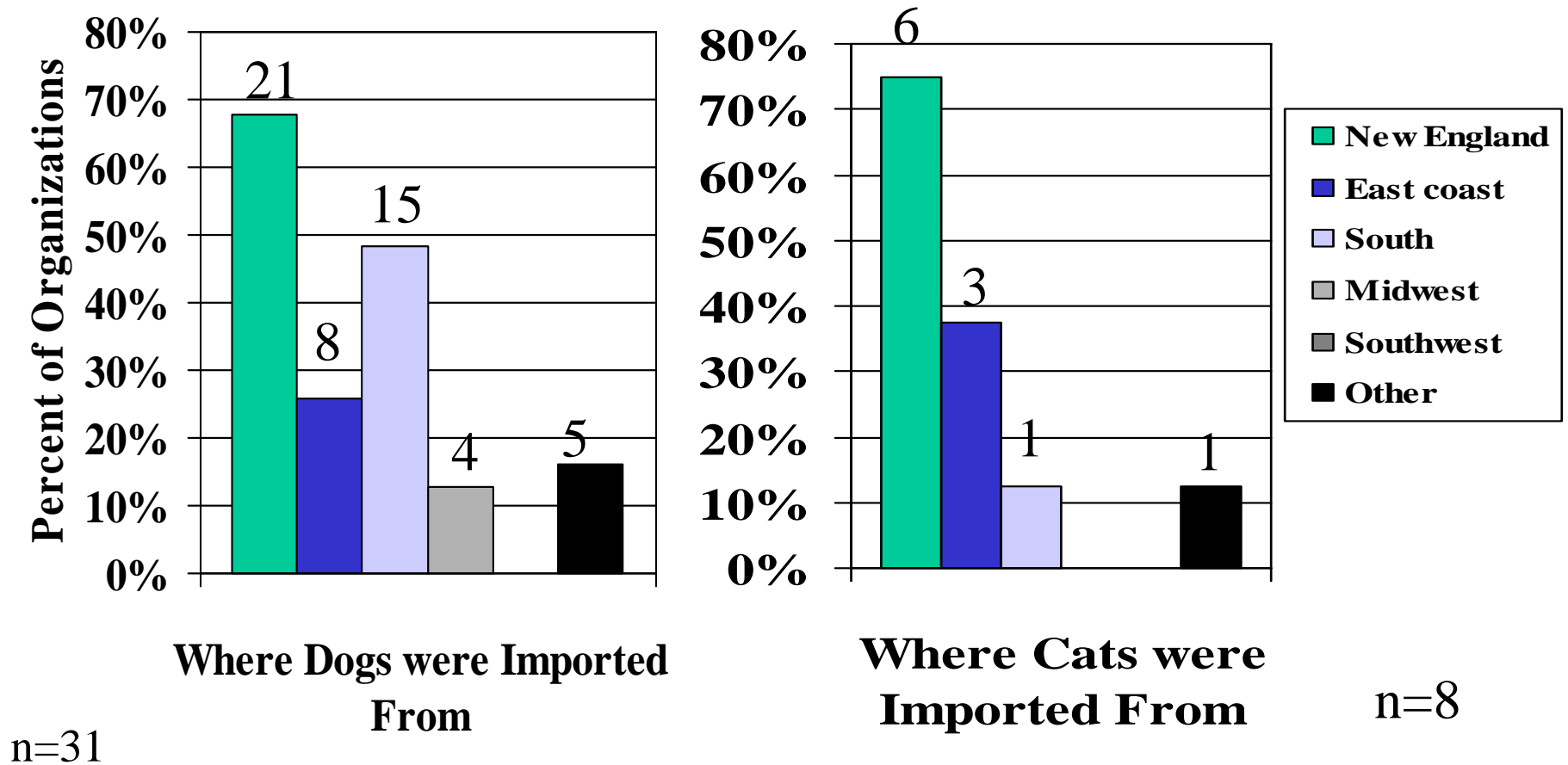


# Average Number of Animals Imported

- Four organizations reported importing more than 500 dogs in 2005
- Importing Organizations are importing an average of 24 dogs (n=24), 36 (n=5) cats a year

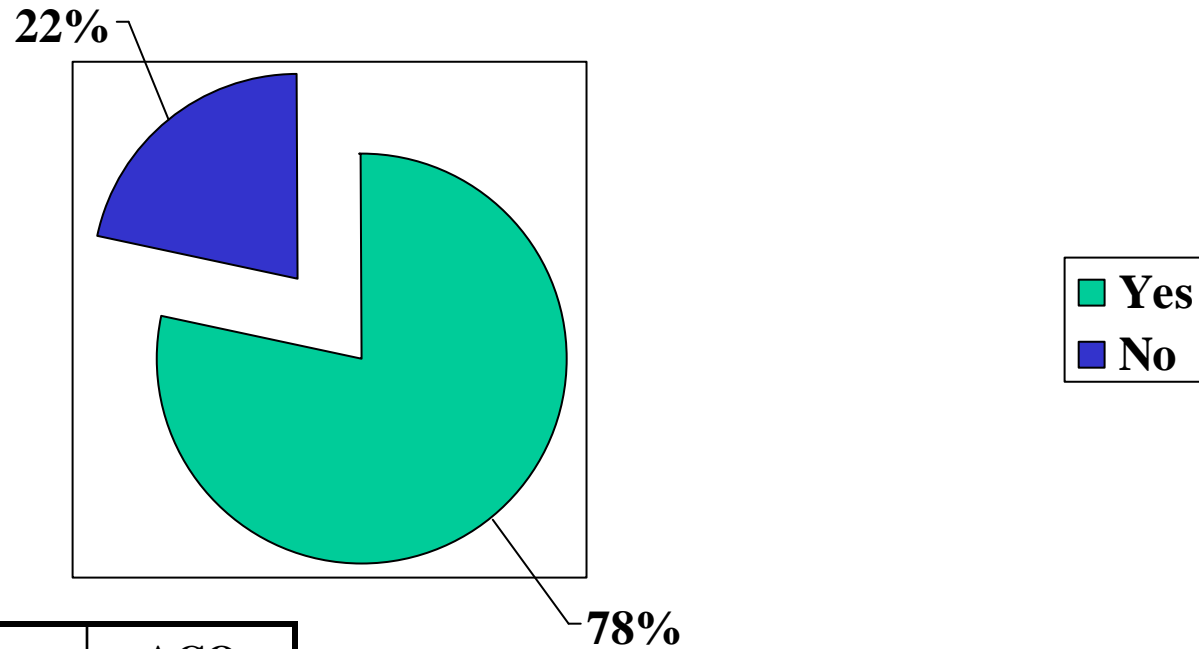
# Source of Imported Animals

- New England states primary source of both dogs & cats
  - South second most common source for dogs



# Opinion of Animal Importation

*Q1. Do you believe that groups in Massachusetts should be able to bring animals in from out of state?*

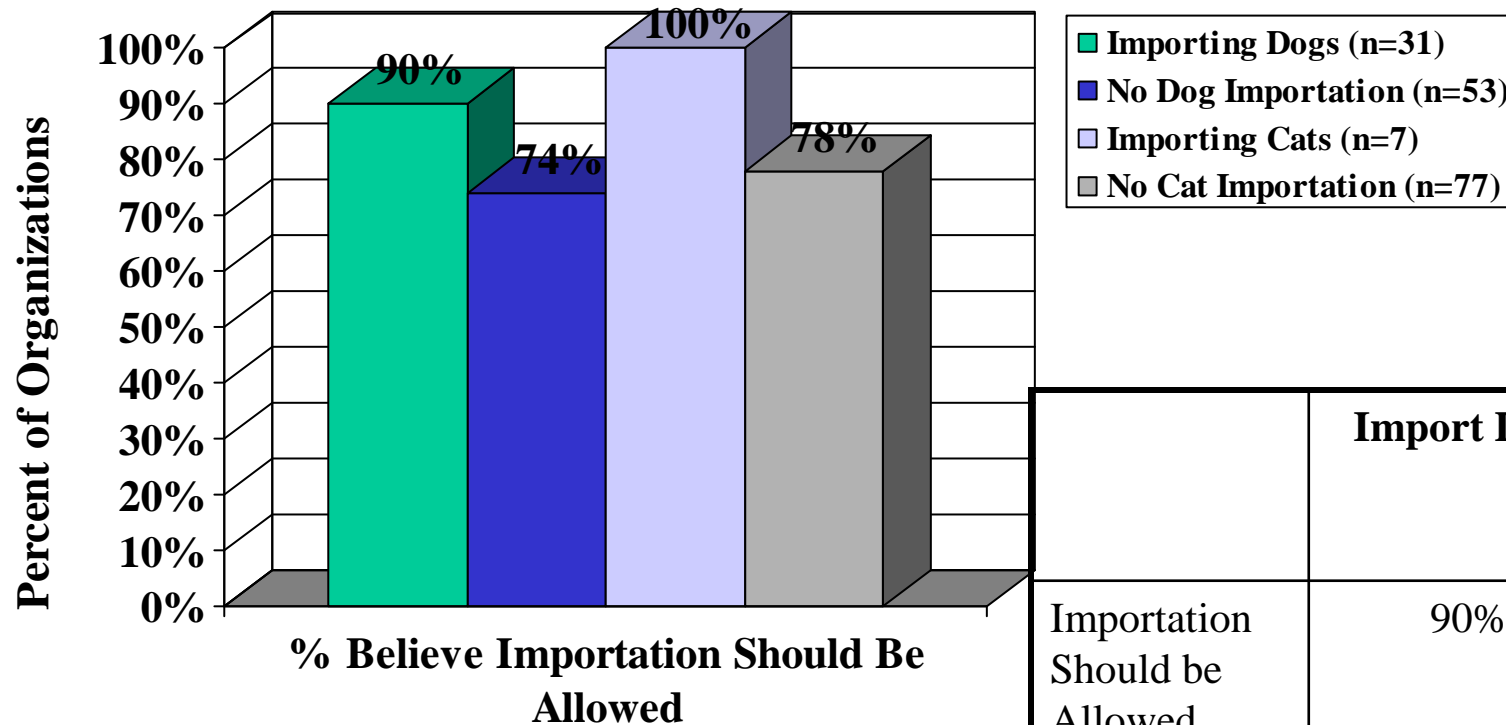


	<b>Shelter/Rescue</b>	<b>ACO</b>
% Yes	82%	65%
n=	61	17

n=92



# Opinion by Importation Activity



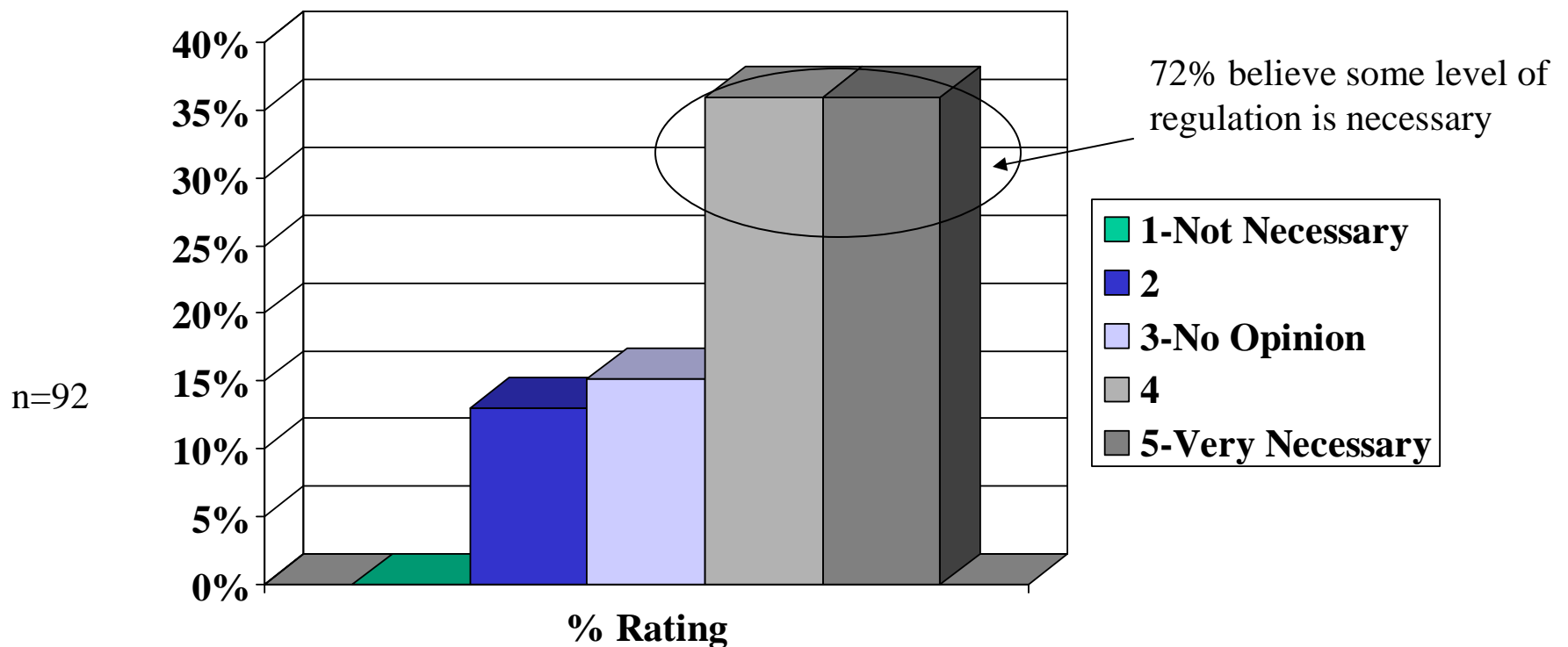
	<b>Import Dogs</b>	<b>Don't Import Dogs</b>
Importation Should be Allowed	90%	74%
n=	31	53

# Key Findings

## Part 3: Regulations and their Impact

# Necessity of Regulating Animal Importation

Q5A. How necessary do you feel is some level of regulation for shelters and rescue organizations?



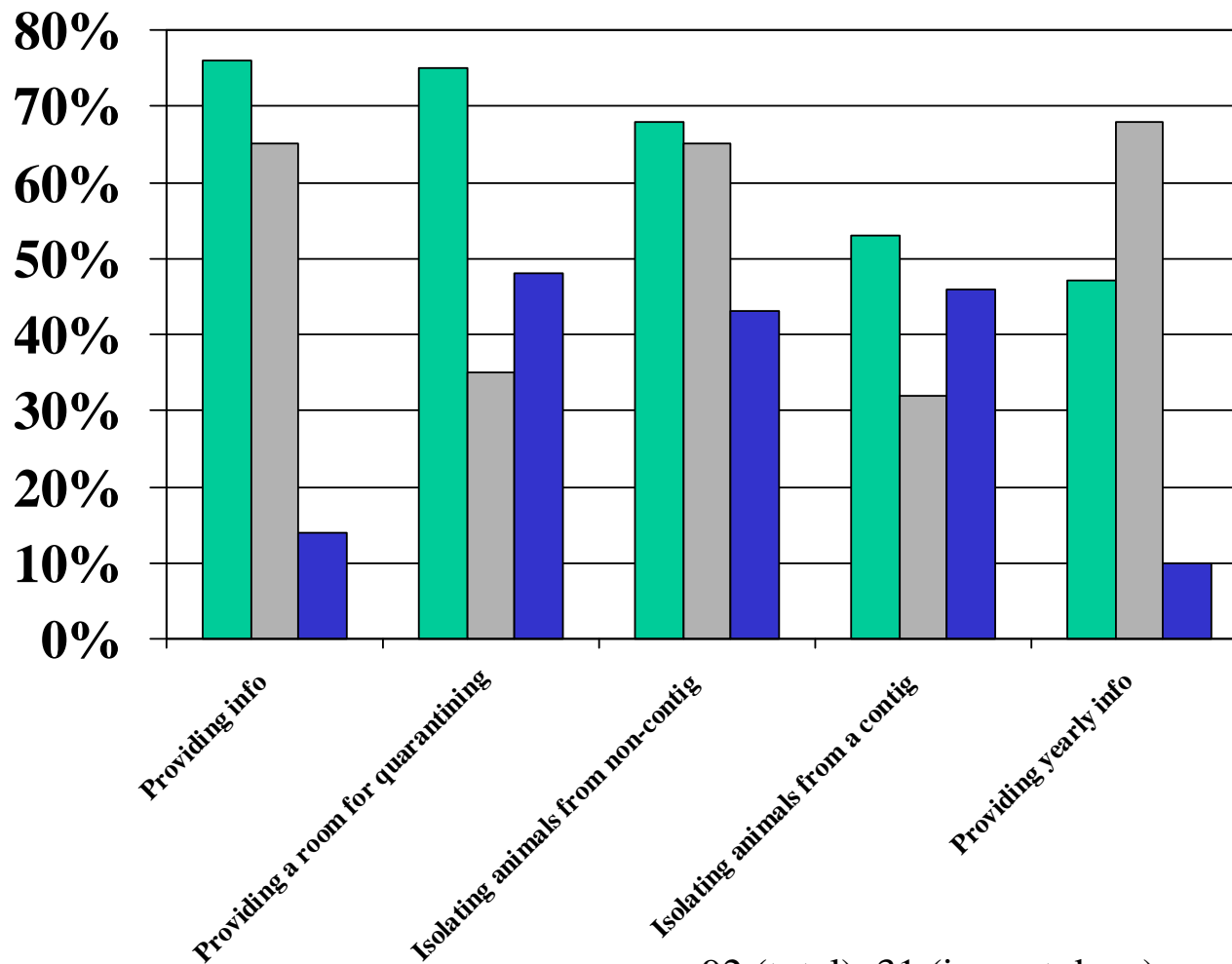
	Import	Don't Import
% Some Reg	82%	65%
n=	34	58

	Shelter/Rescue	ACO
% Some Reg	67%	82%
n=	61	17

# Activities to Regulate

- Rated Necessity of Regulating and Difficulty of Complying with 5 Key Activities
  - Providing information (health history, source, where housed & transported) to the state on animals brought in from other states/countries
  - Providing yearly information on numbers of animals adopted, euthanized, RTO, etc., to the state
  - Isolating animals upon entering the Commonwealth from a non-contiguous state/country for 48 hours
  - Isolating animals upon entering the Commonwealth from a contiguous state for 48 hours
  - Providing a room to be used for the purposes of quarantining sick or diseased animals or isolating newly acquired dogs and cats
- Scale from 1-5 on both necessity and difficulty

# Regulating Aspects of Animal Importation

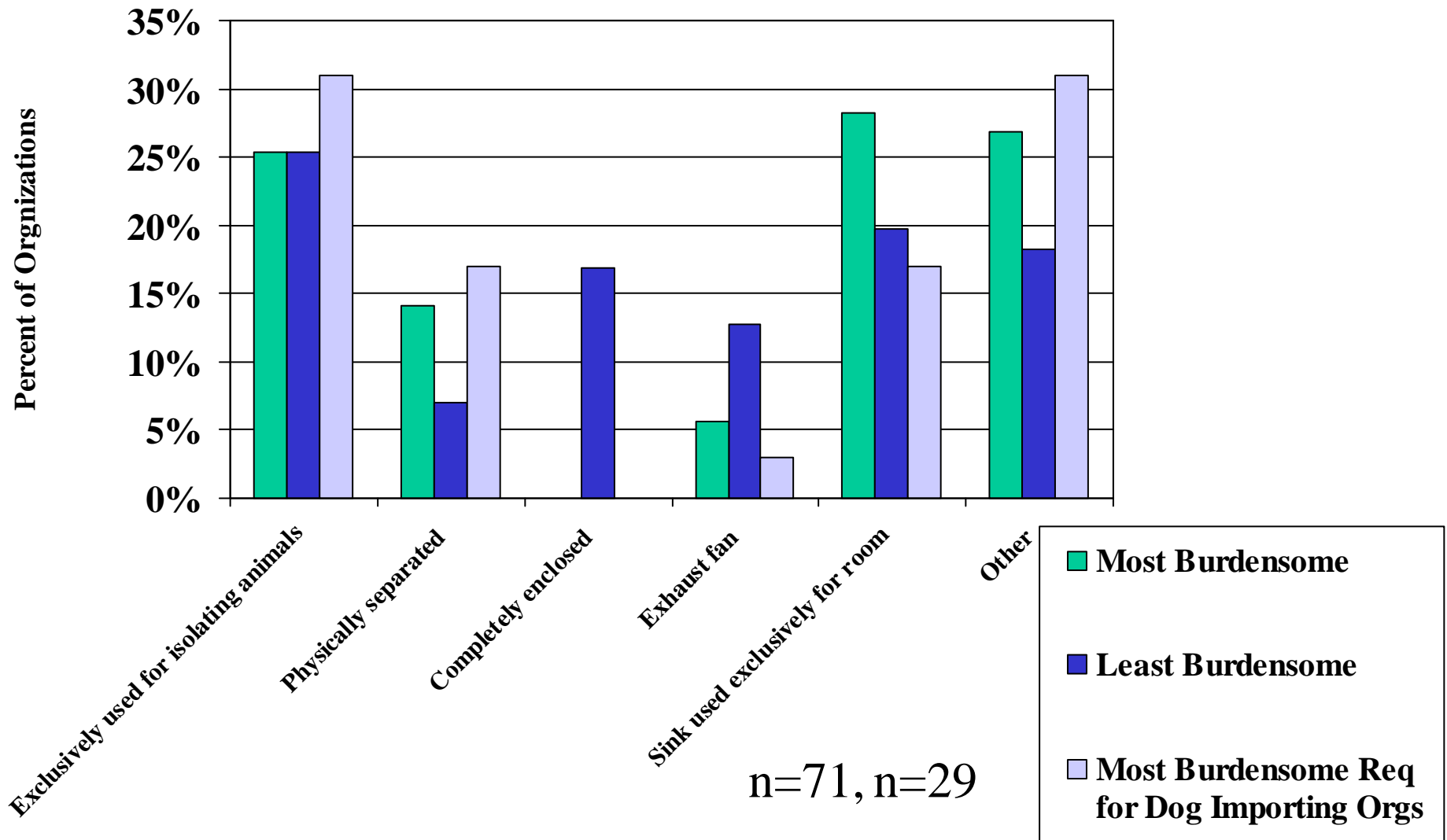


In general, those rating ind areas more necessary rated them less difficult to comply with.

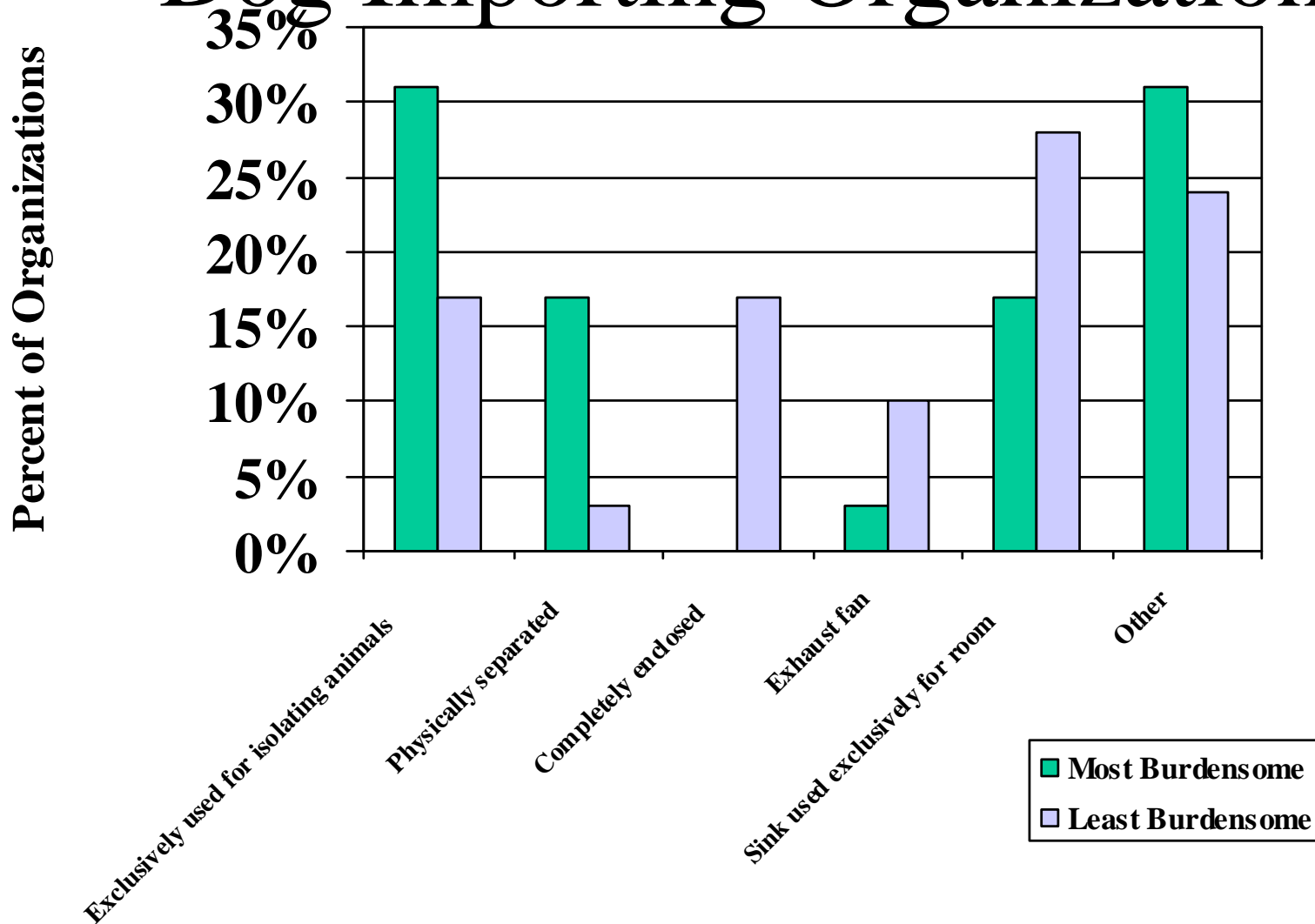
■ % Agree with Necessity of Regulating (4+5)  
■ % Agree who import dogs  
■ % Indicating Difficulty with Complying (4+5)

n=92 (total), 31 (import dogs)

# Isolation Room Requirements



# Isolation Room Requirements for Dog Importing Organizations



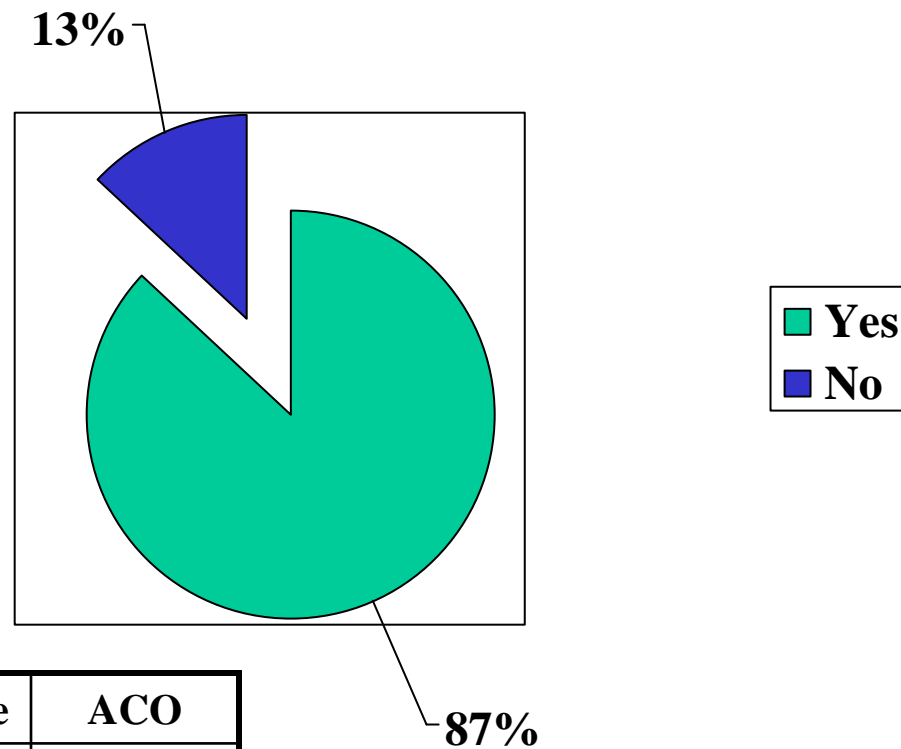
# DAR Regulations

- Emergency Order – activities regulated
- Proposed Permanent Regulations



# DAR Emergency Order

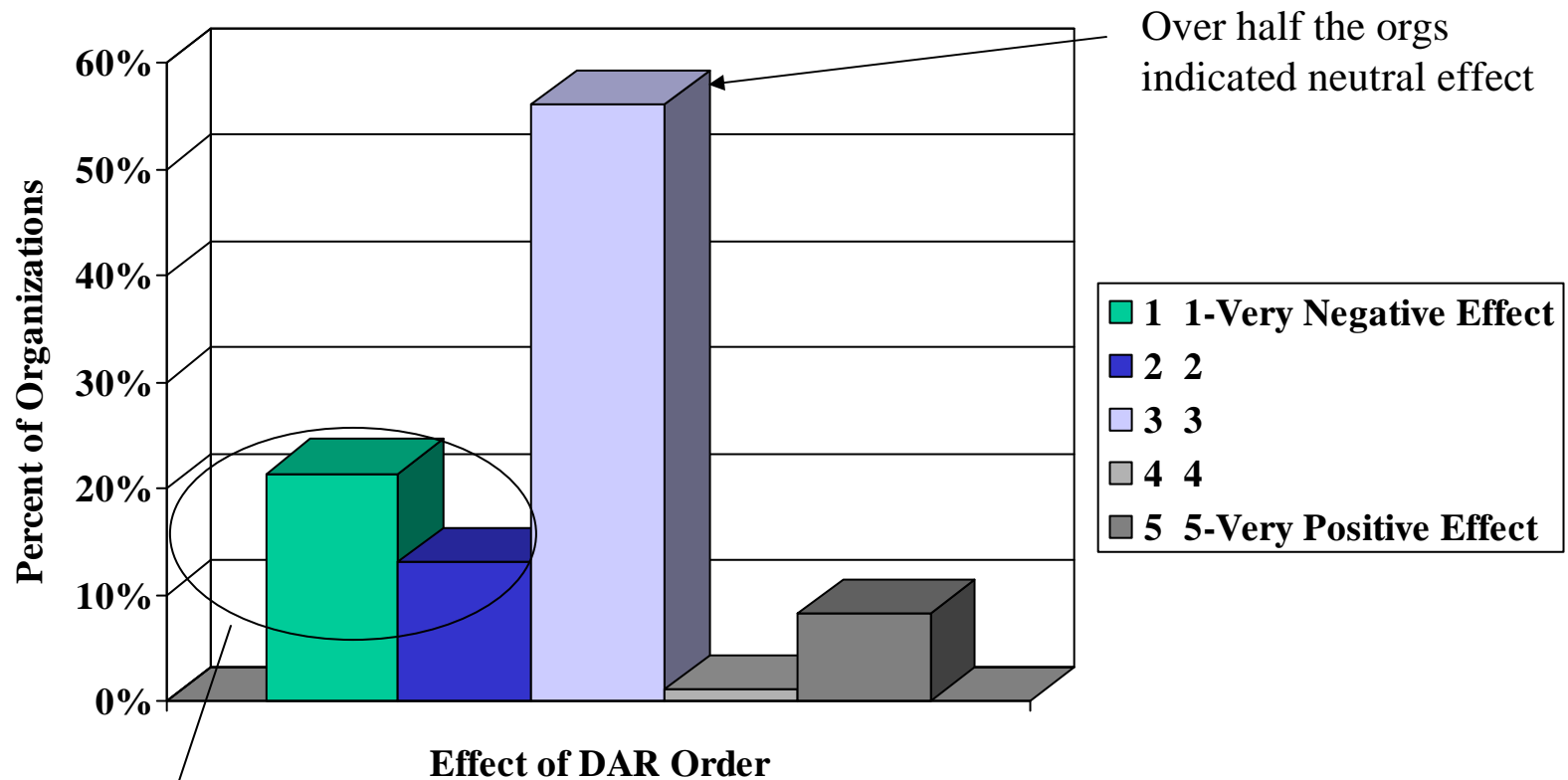
*Q9. Are you familiar with the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (DAR) Emergency Order from May 2005?*



	<b>Shelter/Rescue</b>	<b>ACO</b>
% Yes	92%	71%
n=	61	17

n=84

# Effect of DAR Order



35% indicated a negative effect

n=84

# Impact of DAR Order

## Compliance

- Registered with DAR 59%, 79%
- Received DAR approval as quarantine facility 18%, 45%
- Use quarantine facilities approved by DAR 15%, 31%

## Positive Impacts

- Improved record keeping 18%, 21%
- Applied for/became a 501(c)(3) 8%, 10%

\*\* The first percentage is everyone who responded to the question (n=71), the second percentage represents the responses of those organizations actively involved in importation (n=29)

# Impact of DAR Order

## Impacts on Importation

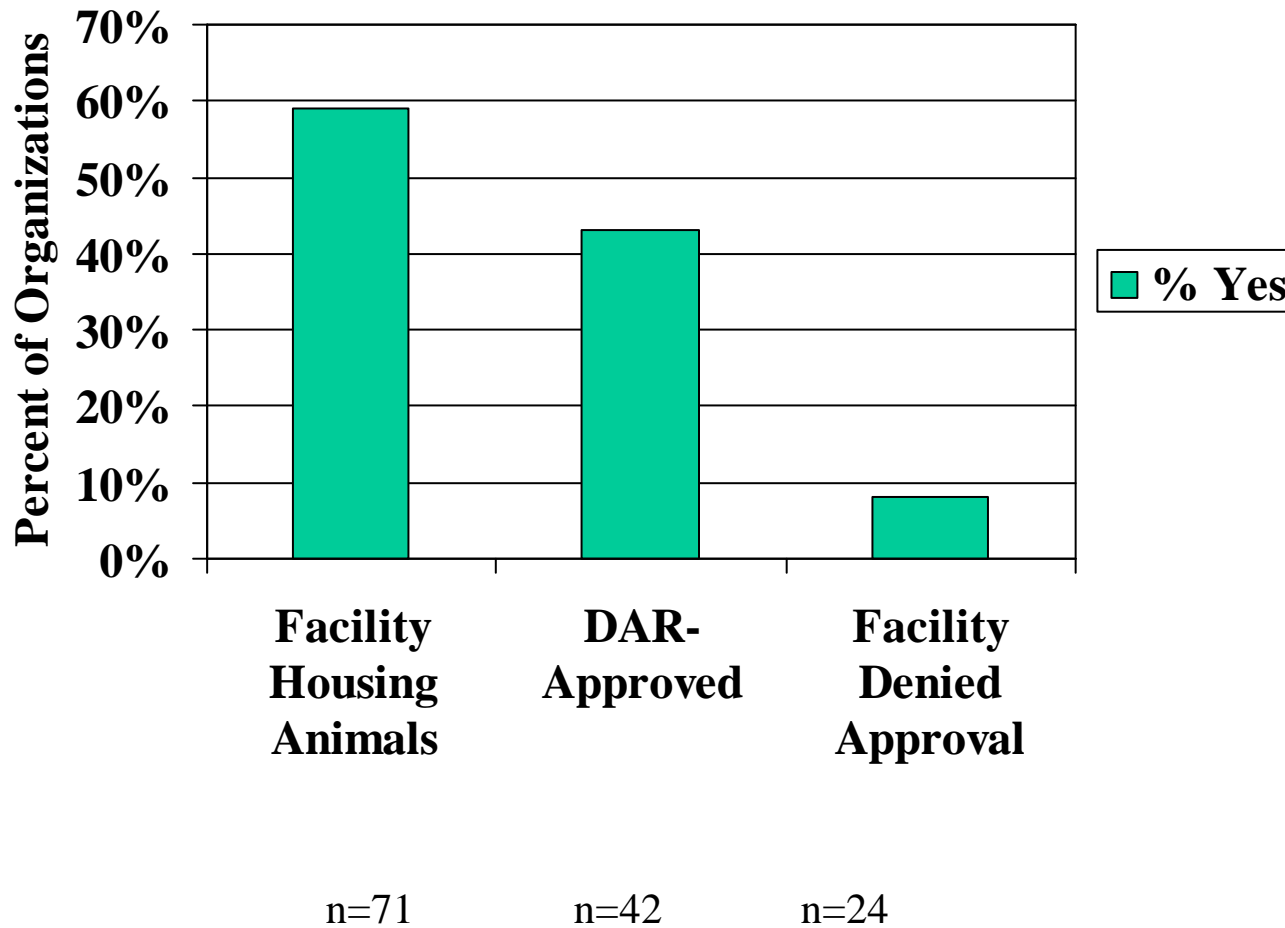
- |   |          |
|---|----------|
| • Changed process for importation           | 23%, 41% |
| • Stopped importation                       | 23%, 17% |
| • Decreased importation but haven't stopped | 15%, 31% |
| • Changed standards for importation         | 14%, 24% |
| • Changed source of animals                 | 6%, 7%   |

## Other Impacts

- |                                   |          |
|-----------------------------------|----------|
| • Experienced financial hardships | 15%, 24% |
| • Built or Adapted Facilities     | 14%, 24% |
| • Changed our mission             | 4%, 3%   |
| • Terminated our operations       | 3%, 7%   |

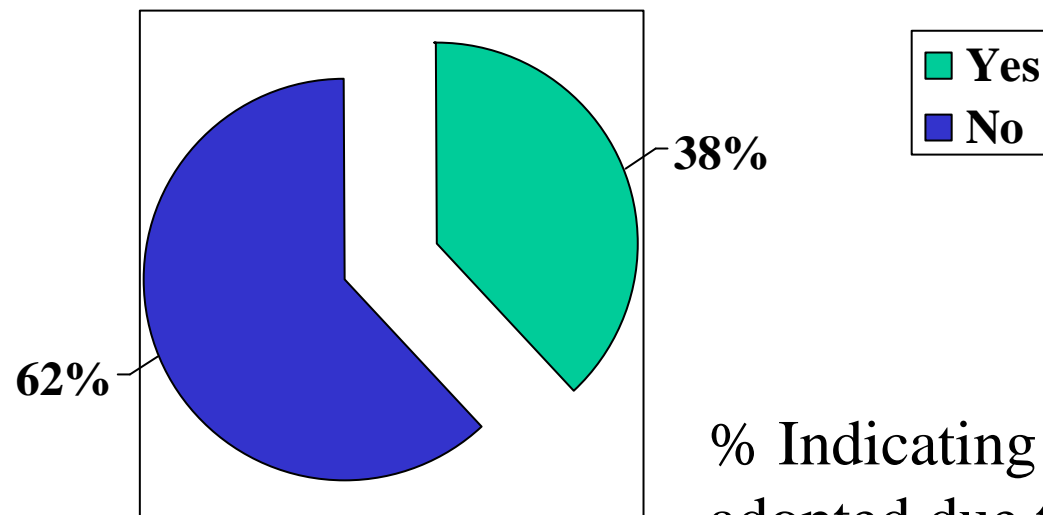
\*\* The first percentage is everyone who responded to the question (n=71), the second percentage represents the responses of those organizations actively involved in importation (n=29)

# DAR-Approved Shelters



# Impact of DAR Order on Adoptions

Q12. Have the DAR regulations impacted your ability to conduct adoptions in any way?



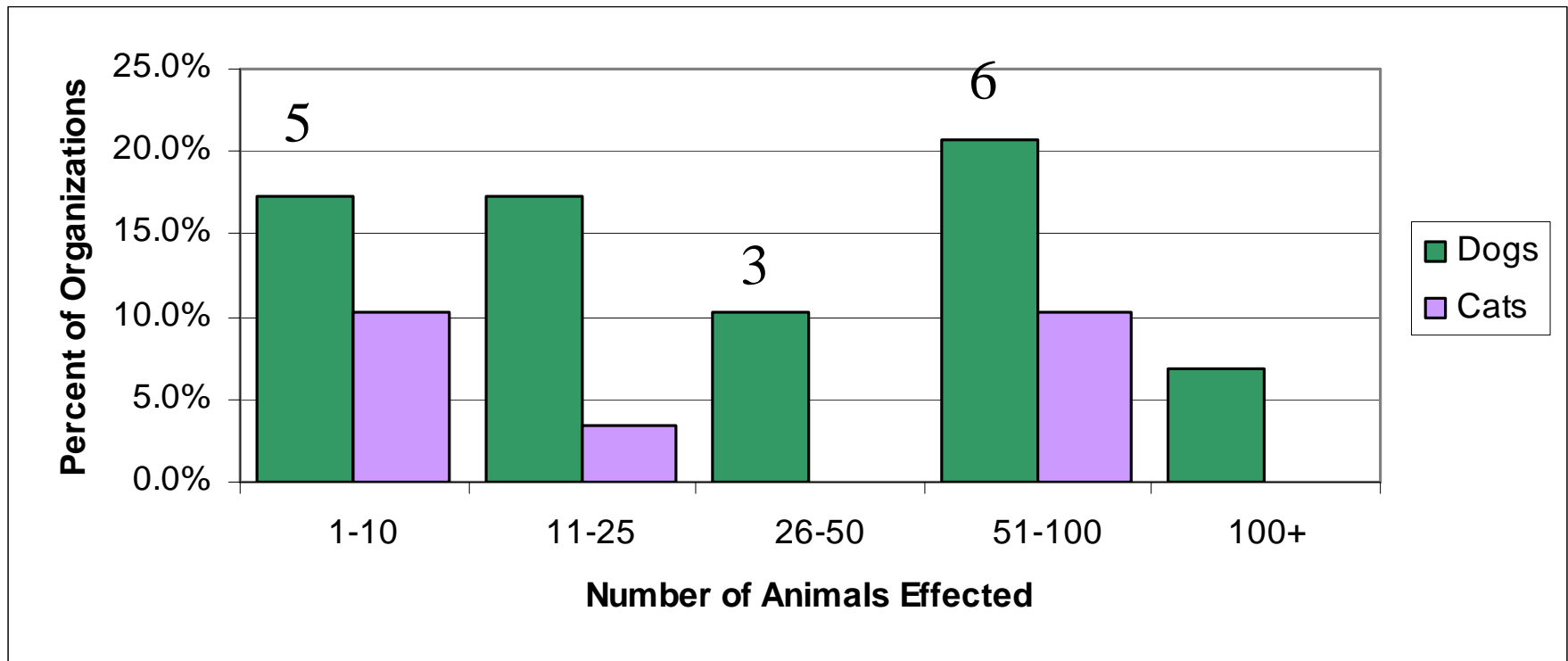
% Indicating 1+ animal not adopted due to DAR restrictions

	Shelter/Rescue	ACO	Importing
% Yes	44%	12%	52%
n=	61	17	31

n=84

# Impact of DAR Order on Numbers Adopted

- 38% of organizations say the regulations have affected their ability to adopt



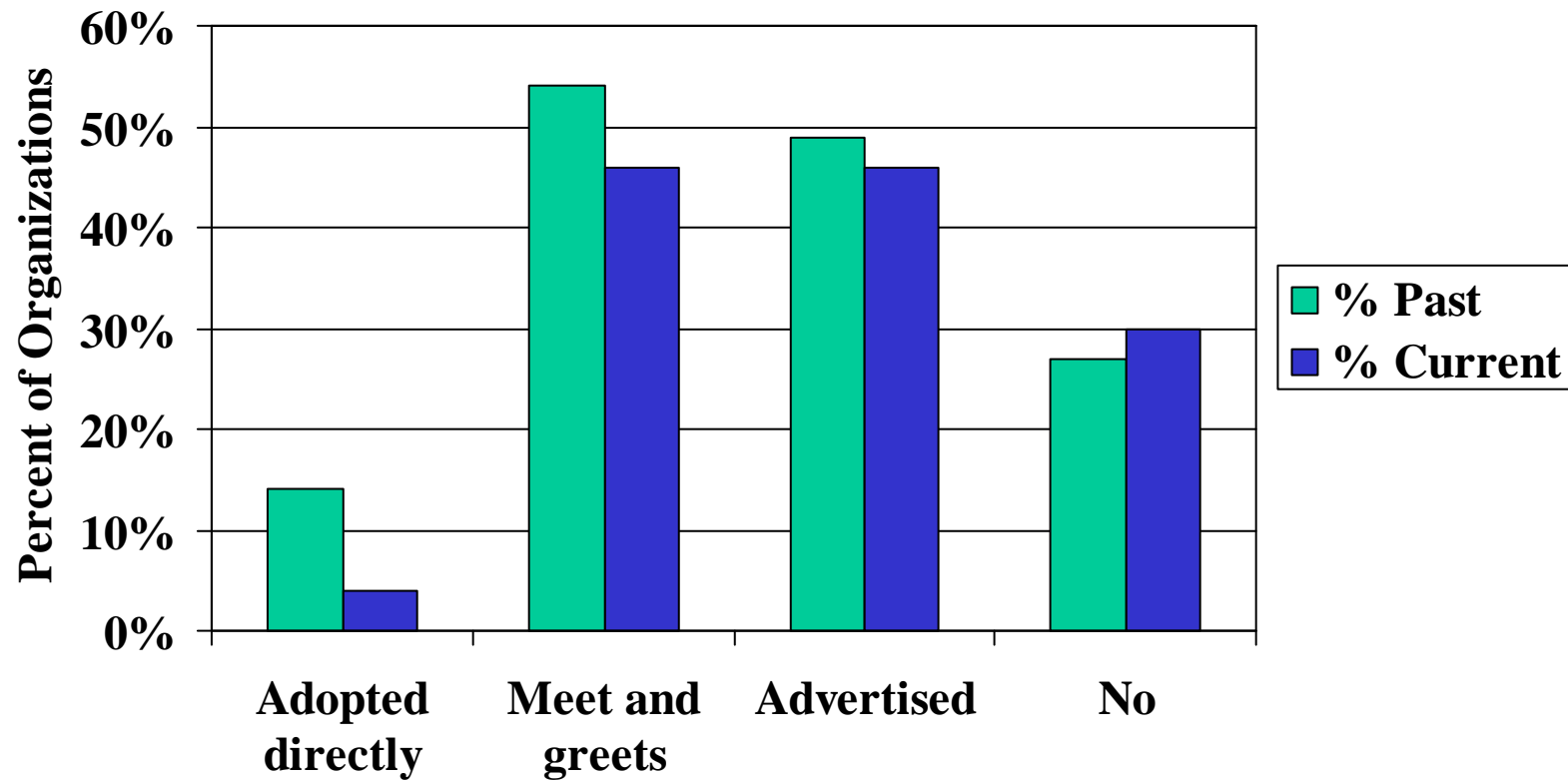
n=29

# Number Dogs not adopted b/c of DAR order

	DOGS
1 0	7%
2 1-10	13%
3 11-25	27%
4 26-50	13%
5 51-100	27%
6 100+	13%
n=	15



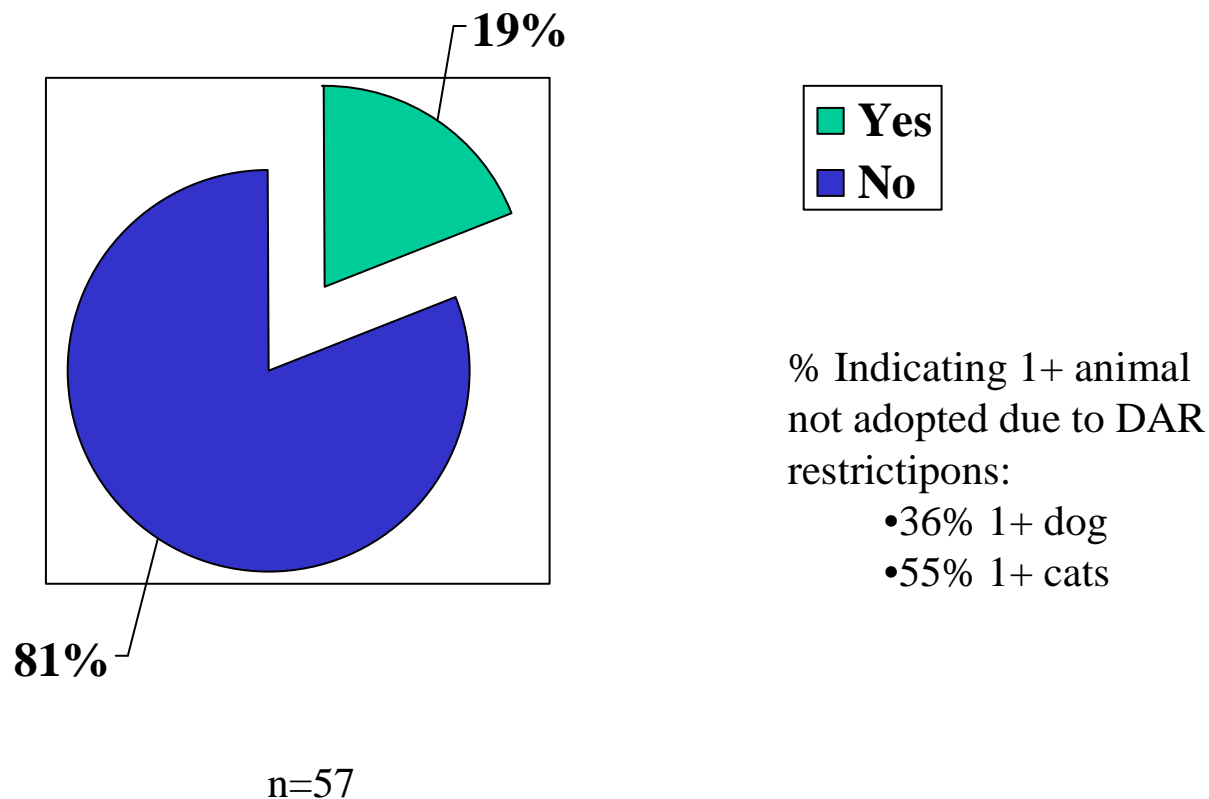
# Pet Supply Store Adoption Activities



n=70

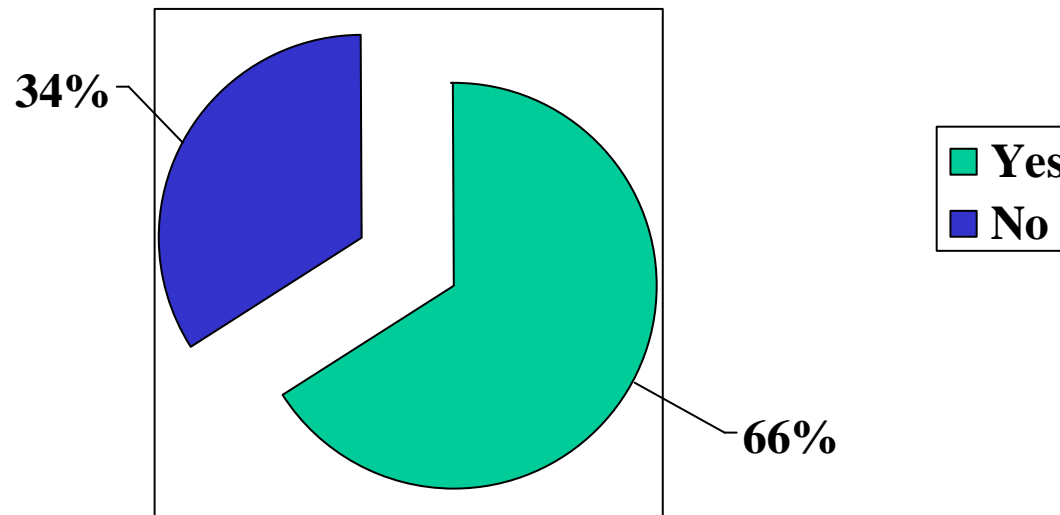
# Impact of DAR Pet Store Orders on Adoptions

*Q29. Has the DAR's limitation on the ability to adopt animals directly from a pet supply store that doesn't have a pet shop license impacted your ability to conduct adoptions?*



# Impact of Hearing

*Q24. Would you be more likely to comply with regulatory standards that are set by the state if there was a right for you to have a hearing against any alleged violations?*



n=70

# Summary

- Importation is happening in Massachusetts
- Majority (78%) believe shelters and rescues should have ability to import animals
- Current regulations are having a negative impact on organizations ability to adopt (38% of all surveyed, 52% of organizations who are importing)
- Isolation and Quarantine Rooms are the most difficult regulations to comply with
- Despite difficulty, majority of organizations (72%) believe some level of regulation is necessary
- Key moving forward may be to look for ways to minimize negative impacts experienced by 35% of responding organizations