

# Cameroon Priority Zoonotic Disease Behavioral Survey

BA CAM Research and Evaluation Team  
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# Presentation outline:

- Context
- Aim and objective of the survey
- Methods
- Characteristics of survey respondents
- Key findings
- Conclusions and recommendations

## Context:

- Developing a risk communication and preparedness plans require a wholistic understanding of the environment, including individual and social behavioral information related to priority diseases.
- NPPFZRZ will make use of this information to prepare preparedness plans and design appropriate RCCE campaigns and systems in Cameroon
- To acquire this information, Breakthrough ACTION contracted a third-party agency, Geopoll to conduct CATI based survey among relevant target populations in Cameroon

# Aim and Objectives:

## **Aim:**

Examine behaviors and social determinants of priority zoonotic diseases in Cameroon.

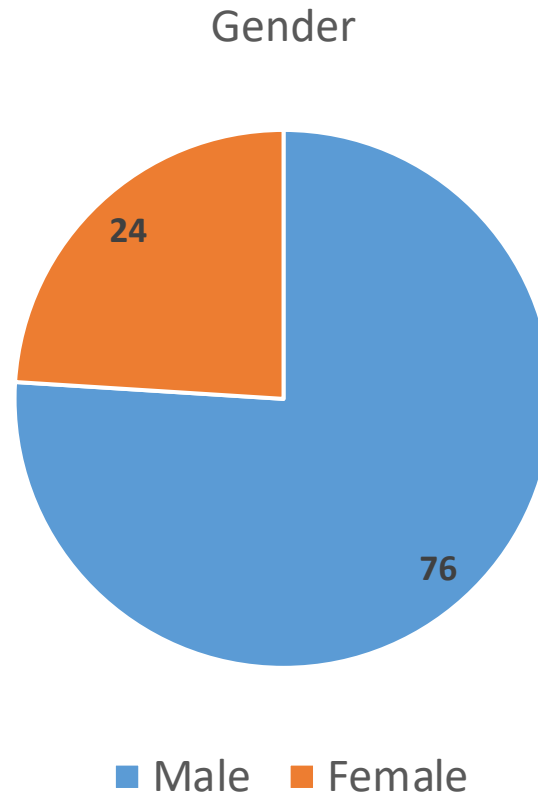
## **Specific objectives:**

- To identify individual's knowledge on zoonotic diseases in Cameroon
- To explore the behaviors and practices that put individuals at risk of zoonotic diseases
- To explore the barriers to the effective observation of preventive measures against zoonotic diseases
- To recommend interventions to reduce the risk of contracting a zoonotic disease

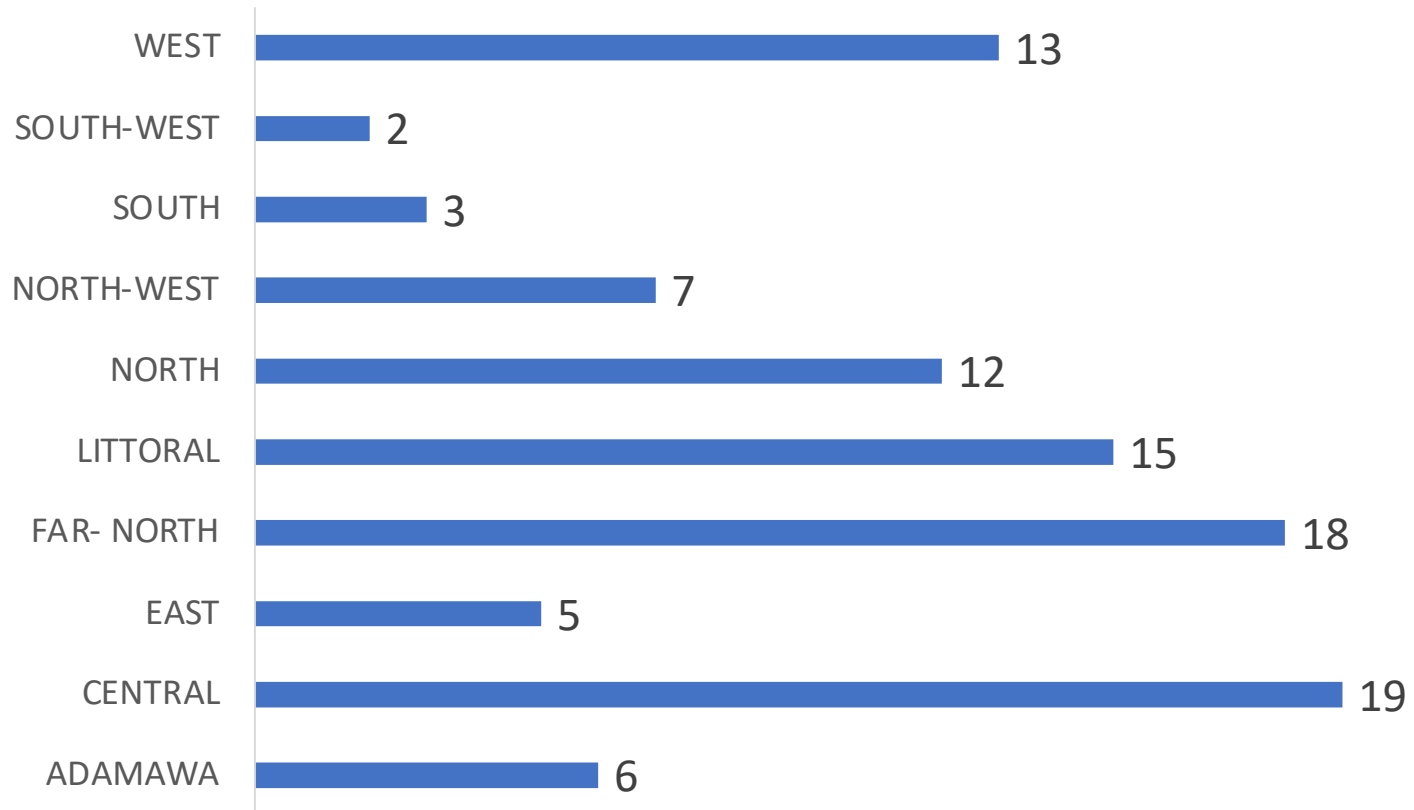
# Methods:

- Probability proportionate to size was used to allocate samples to regions in agro-ecologic zone in Cameroon; Geopoll active database of phone numbers contain information about location, age, and sex
- A total sample size of 1,000 was targeted and reached for the survey across the 10 regions
- GeoPoll's proprietary CATI Mobile Application with was used by trained interviewers
- BA CAM team participated in training of interviewers
- Interviewers operate out of GeoPoll-managed call canters
- Data collection took place in October 2021

# Distribution of respondents by gender (%)



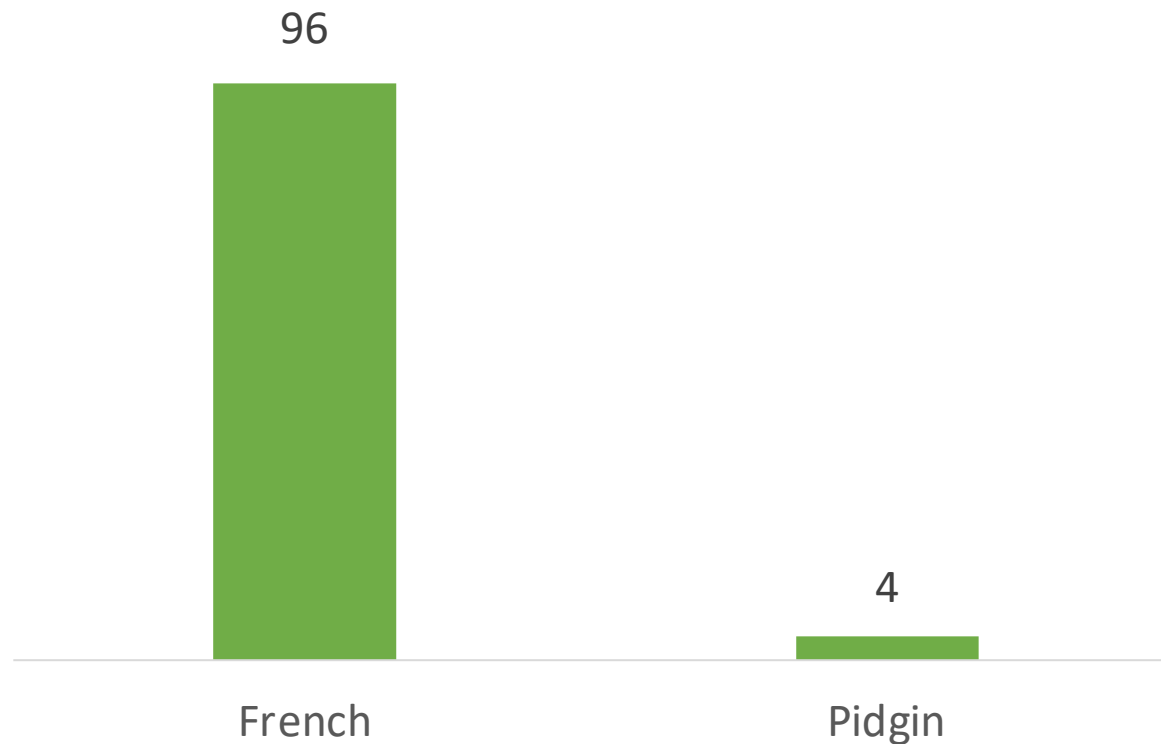
# Distribution of respondents by region (%)



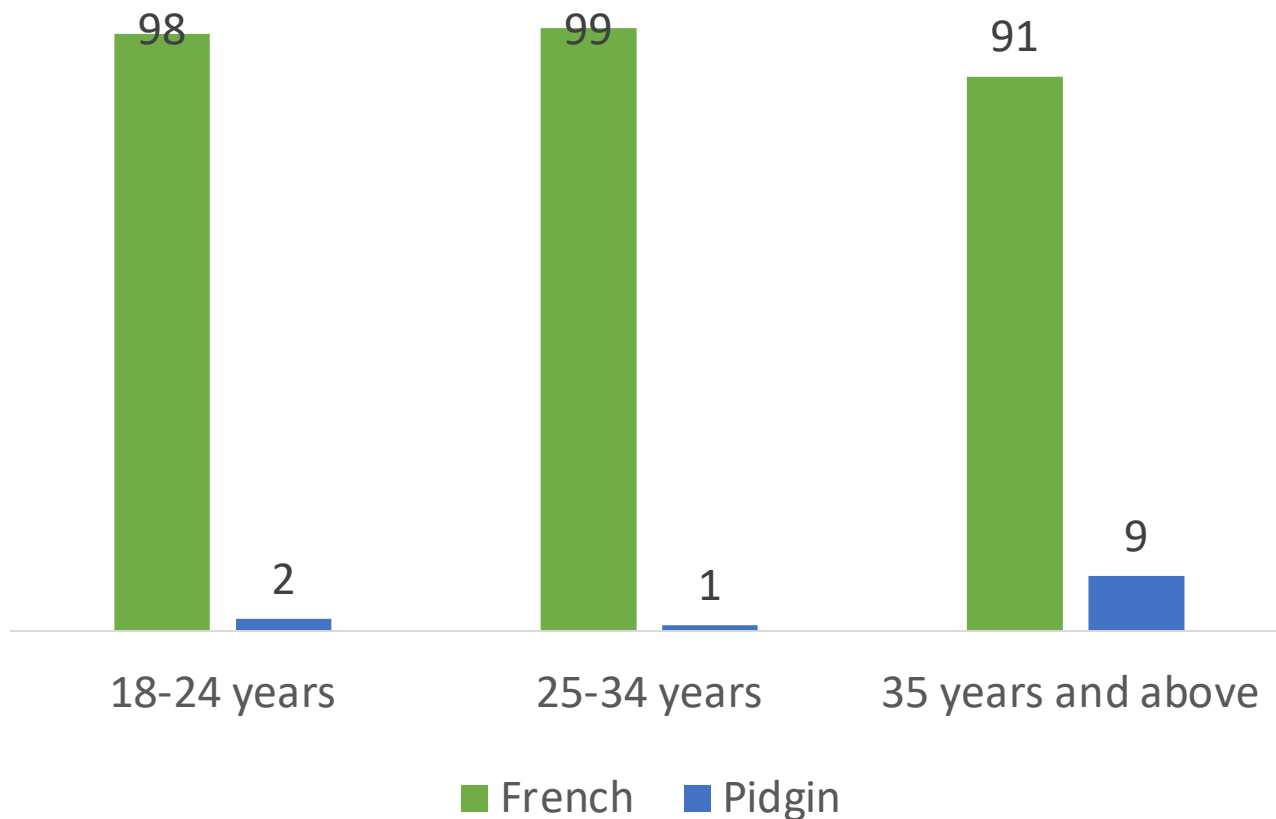
Key Findings:



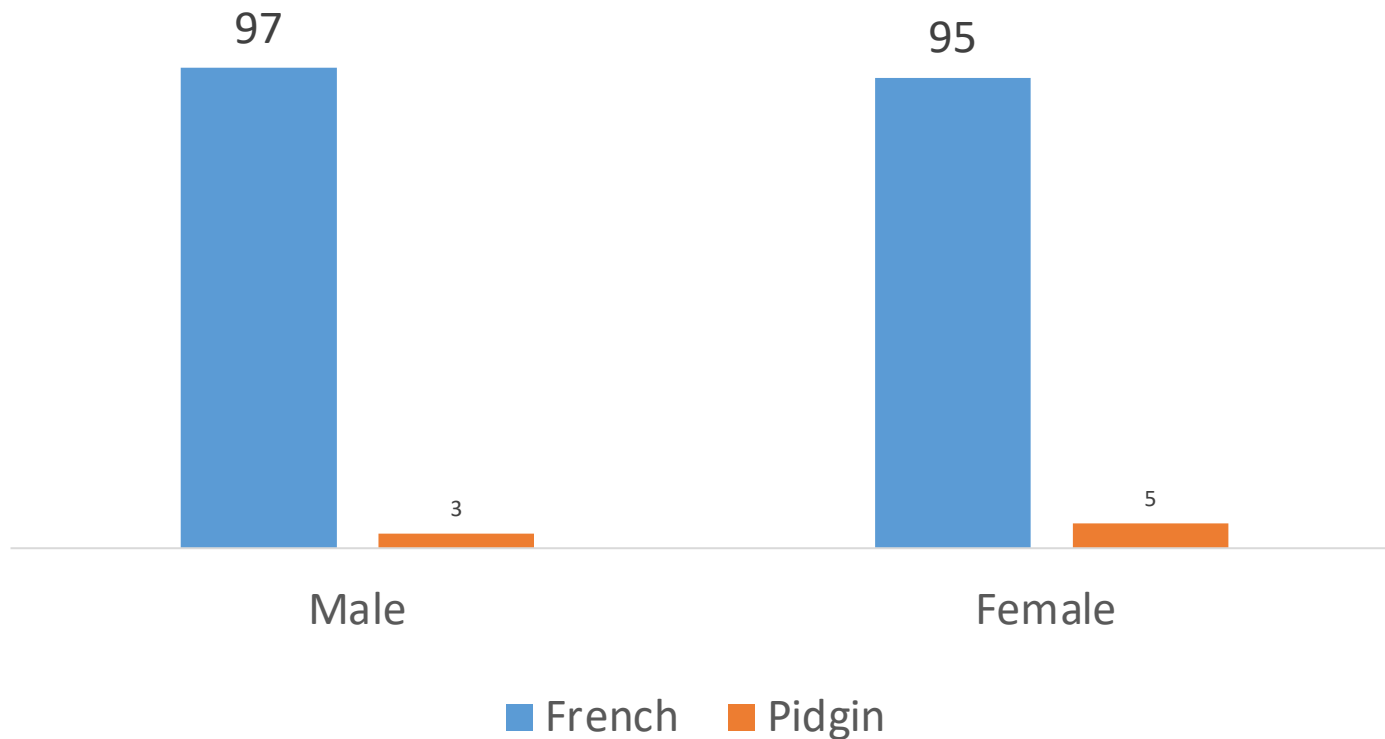
# Most of the respondents preferred to be interviewed in French(%):



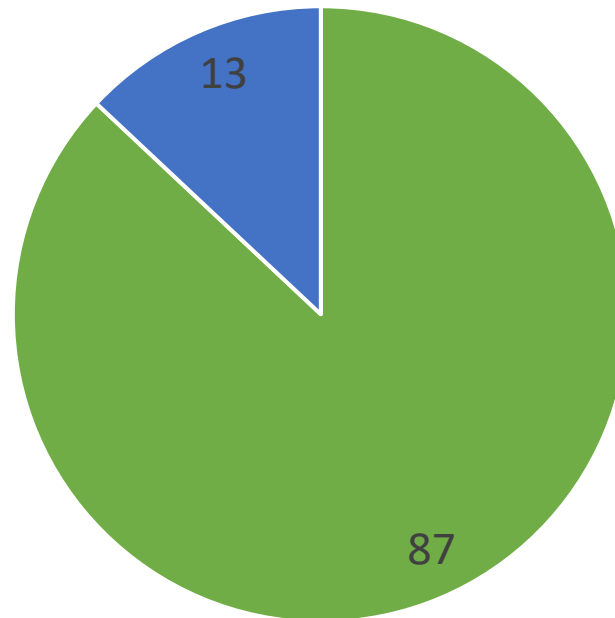
# Preferred language of interview by age group (%)



# Preferred language of interview by gender (%)

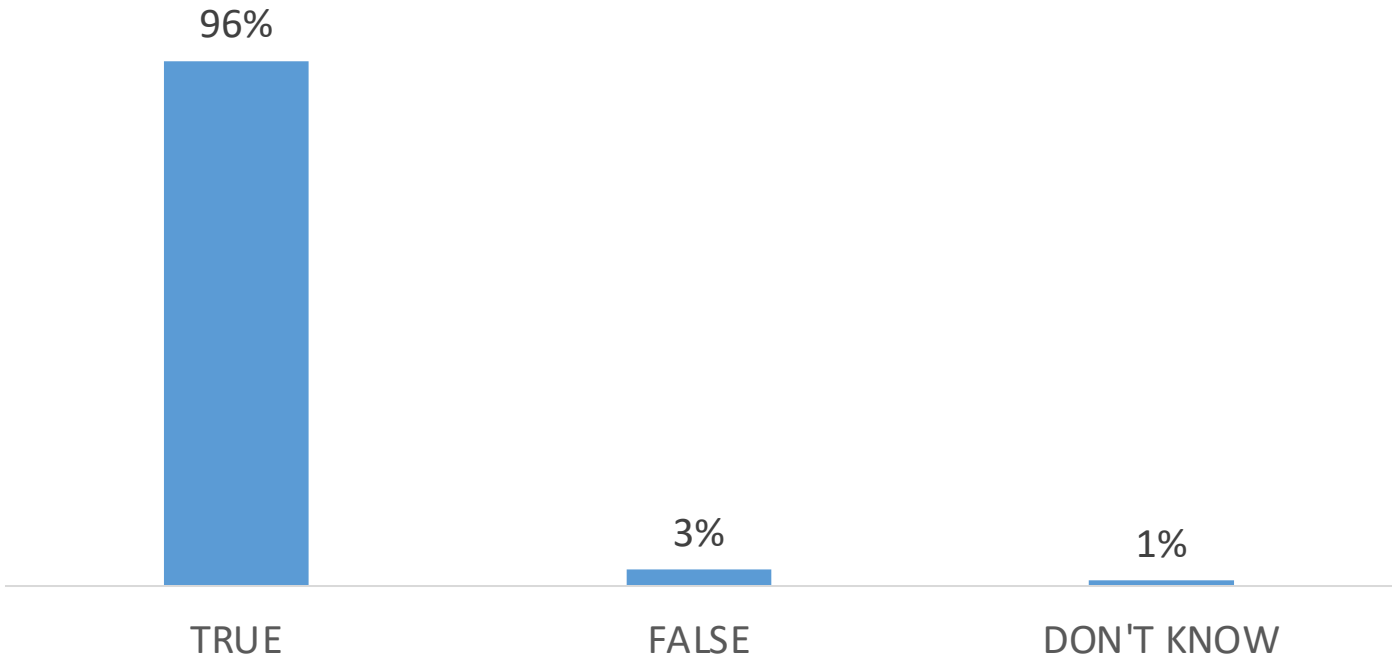


# Majority of the survey respondents live in the city (%)

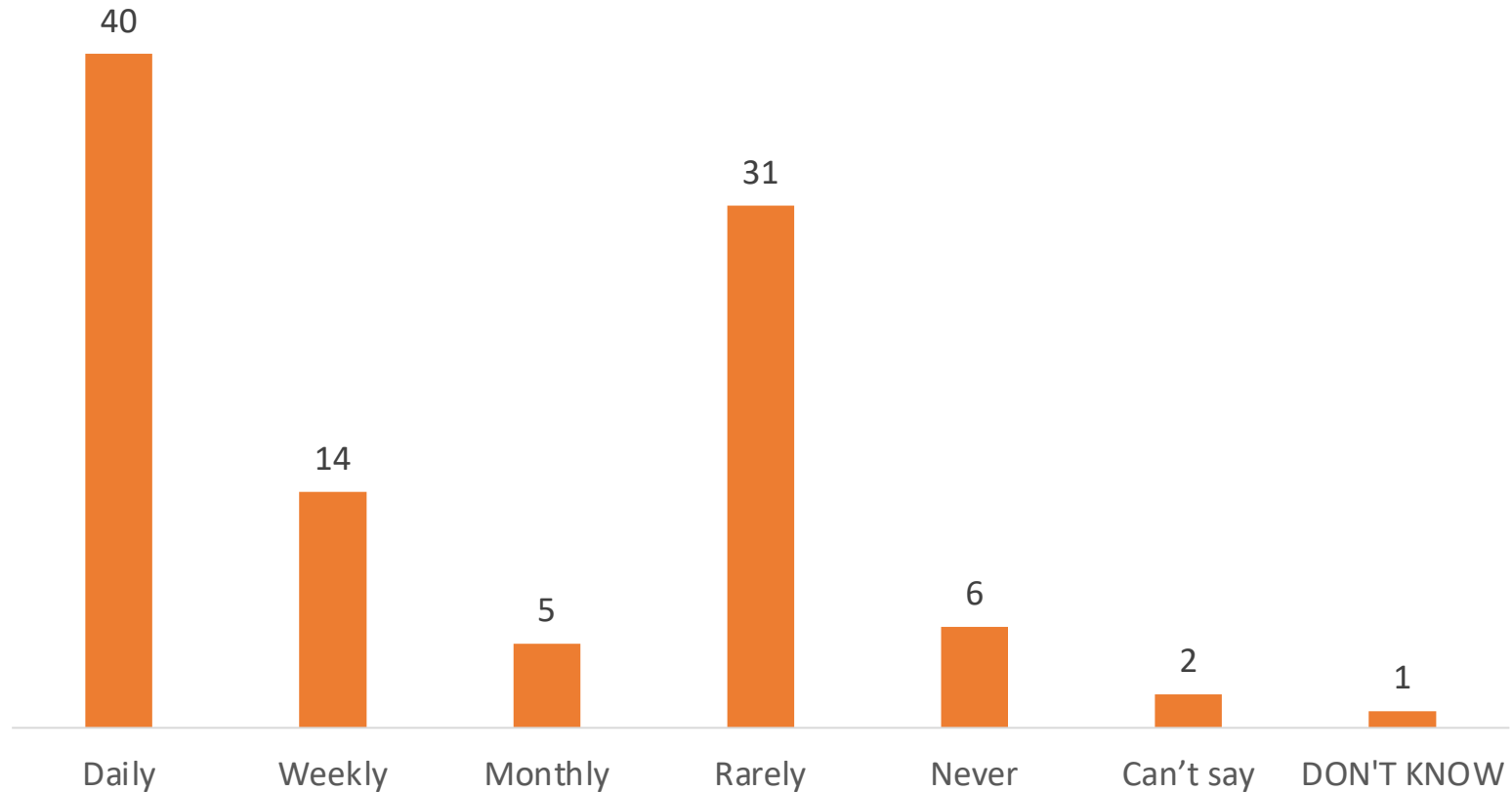


■ City or town [Urban]    ■ Village or farm [Rural]

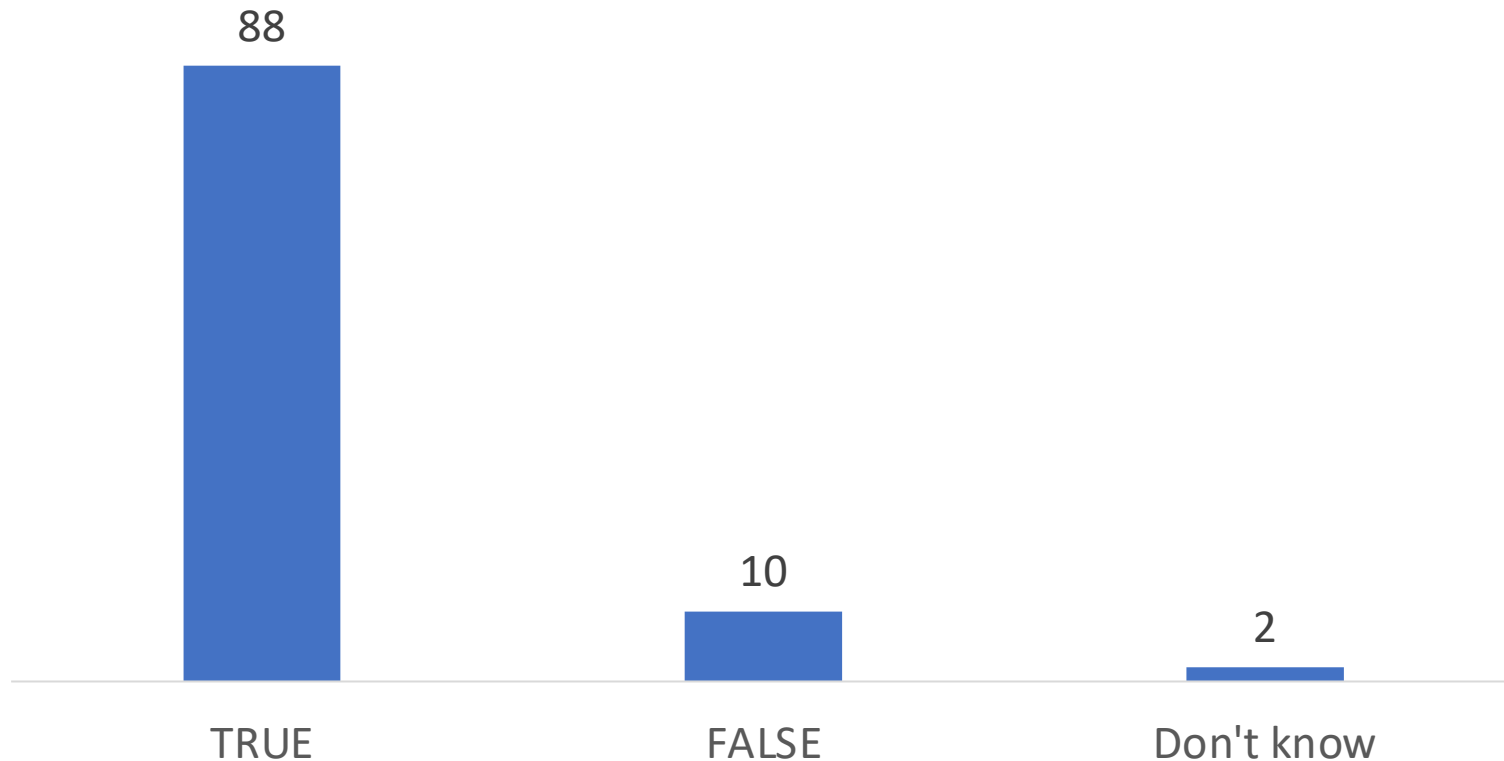
Almost all surveyed respondents agreed that some diseases can pass from animals to human



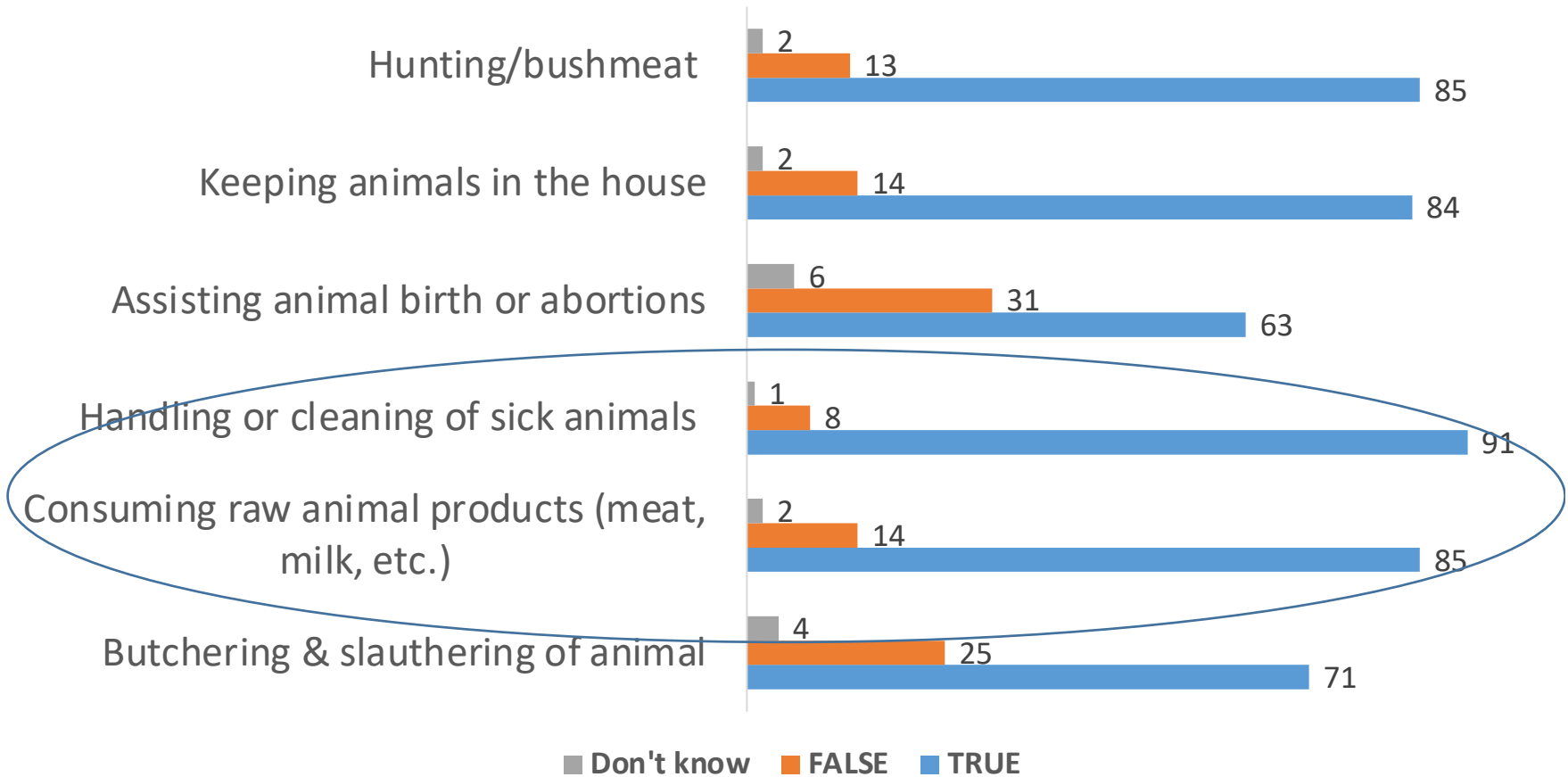
2 out of every 5 of the survey respondents feel that people in their area have contact “daily” with animals (livestock, domestic or wild animals) (%)



Majority (9 out of 10) of respondents agrees that a person's profession can put them at risk of contracting diseases from animals

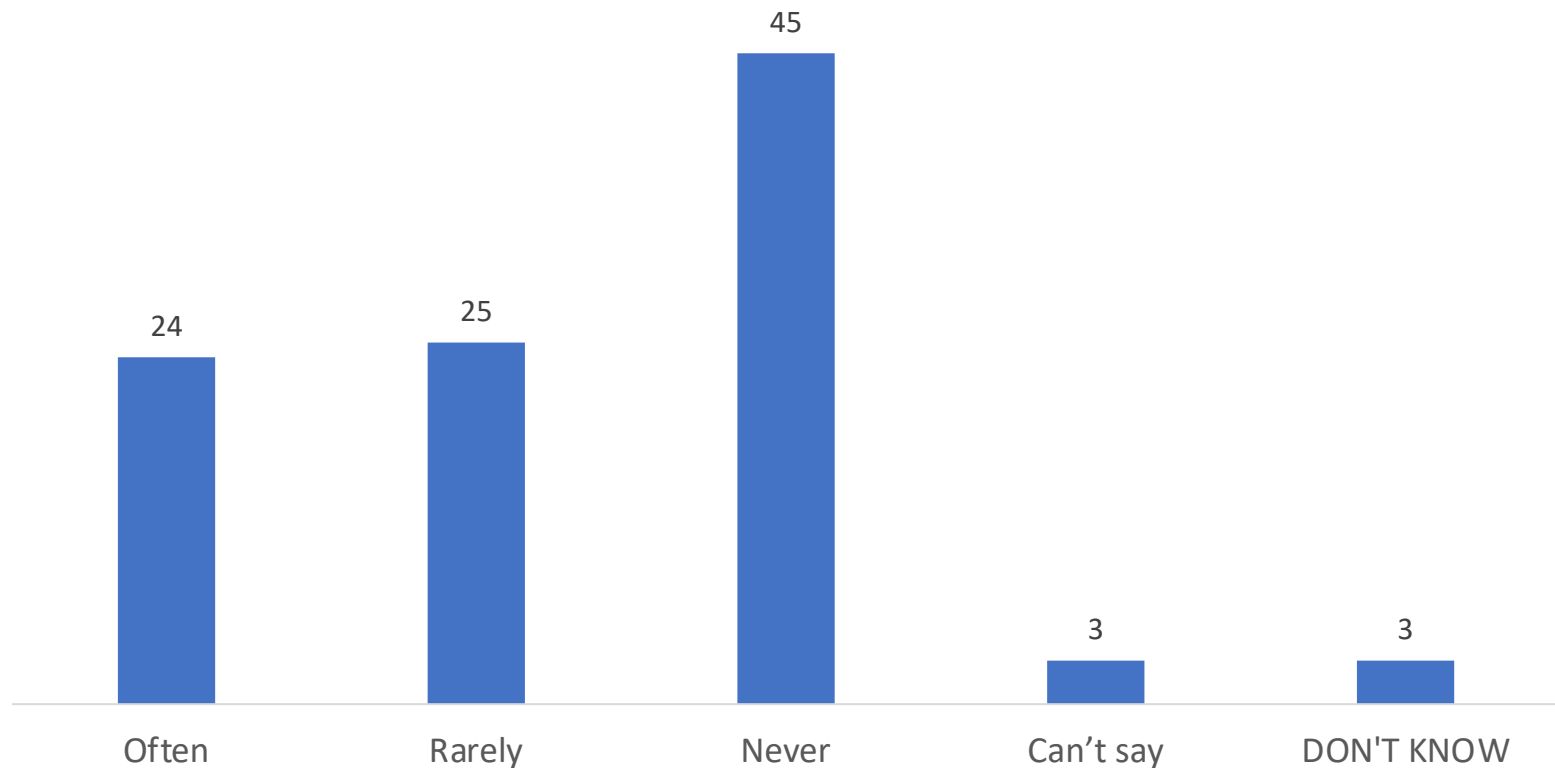


# Most respondents knew practices that could increase chance of contracting diseases from animals (%)

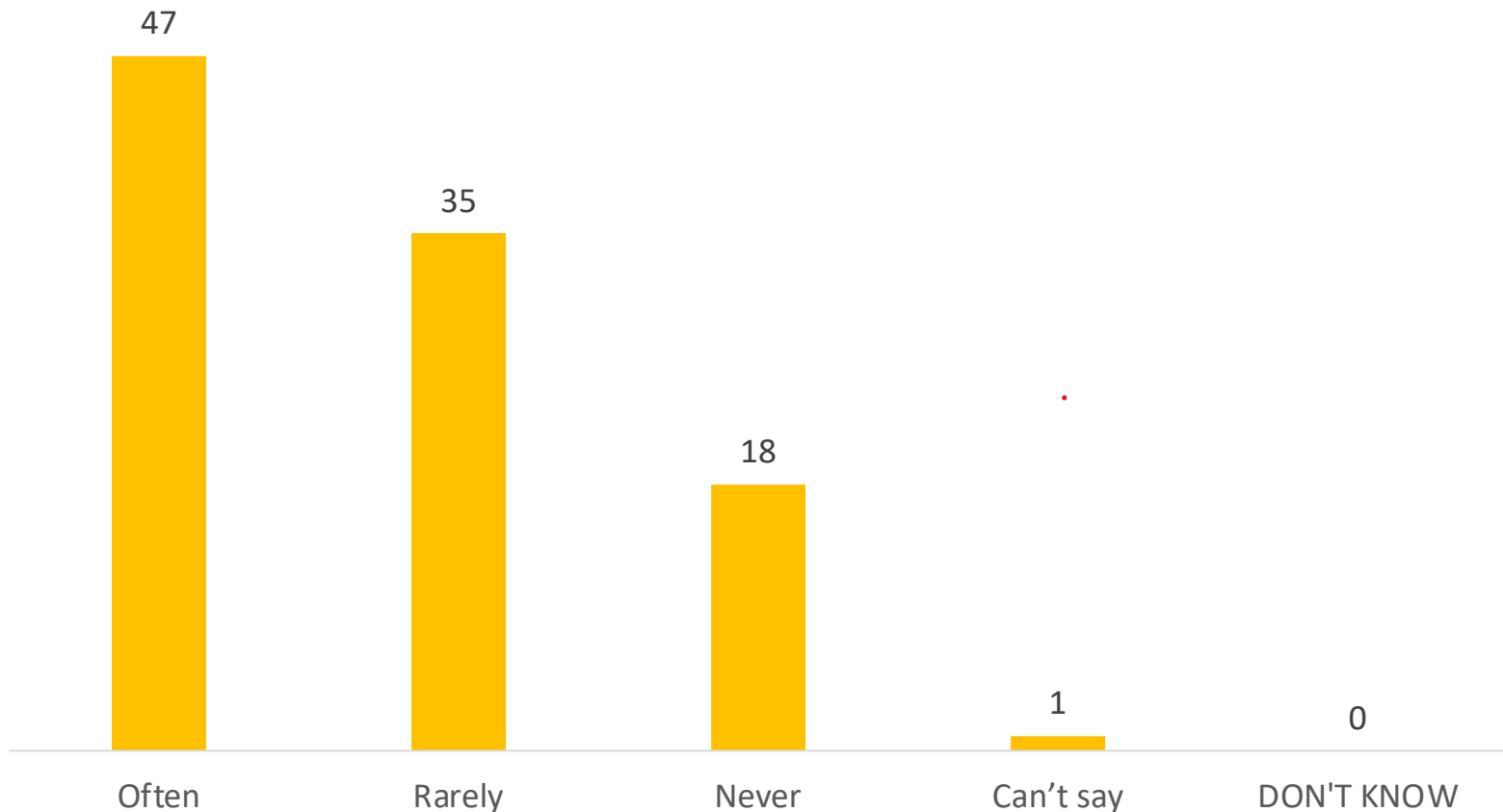




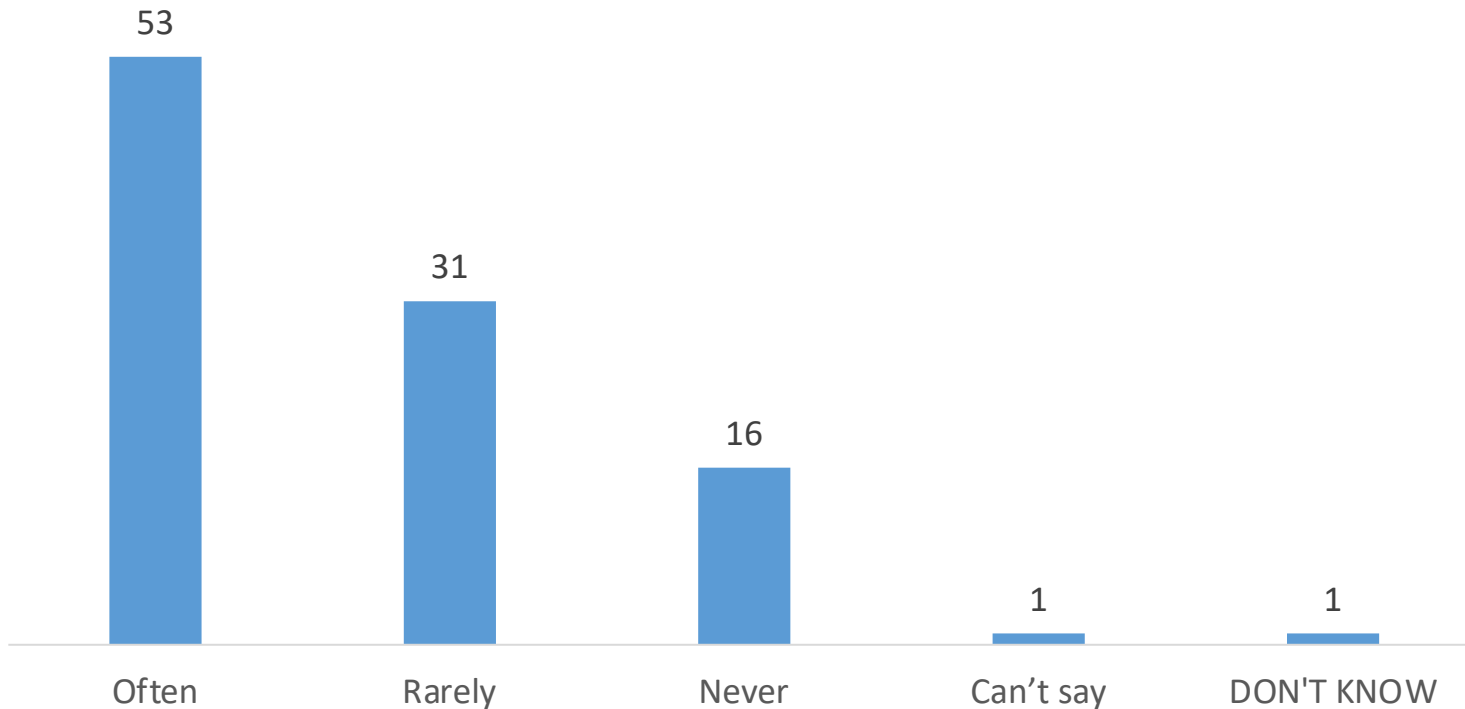
About a quarter of respondents reported that people in their area **often** eat or sell dead animals for livelihood, income or food (%)



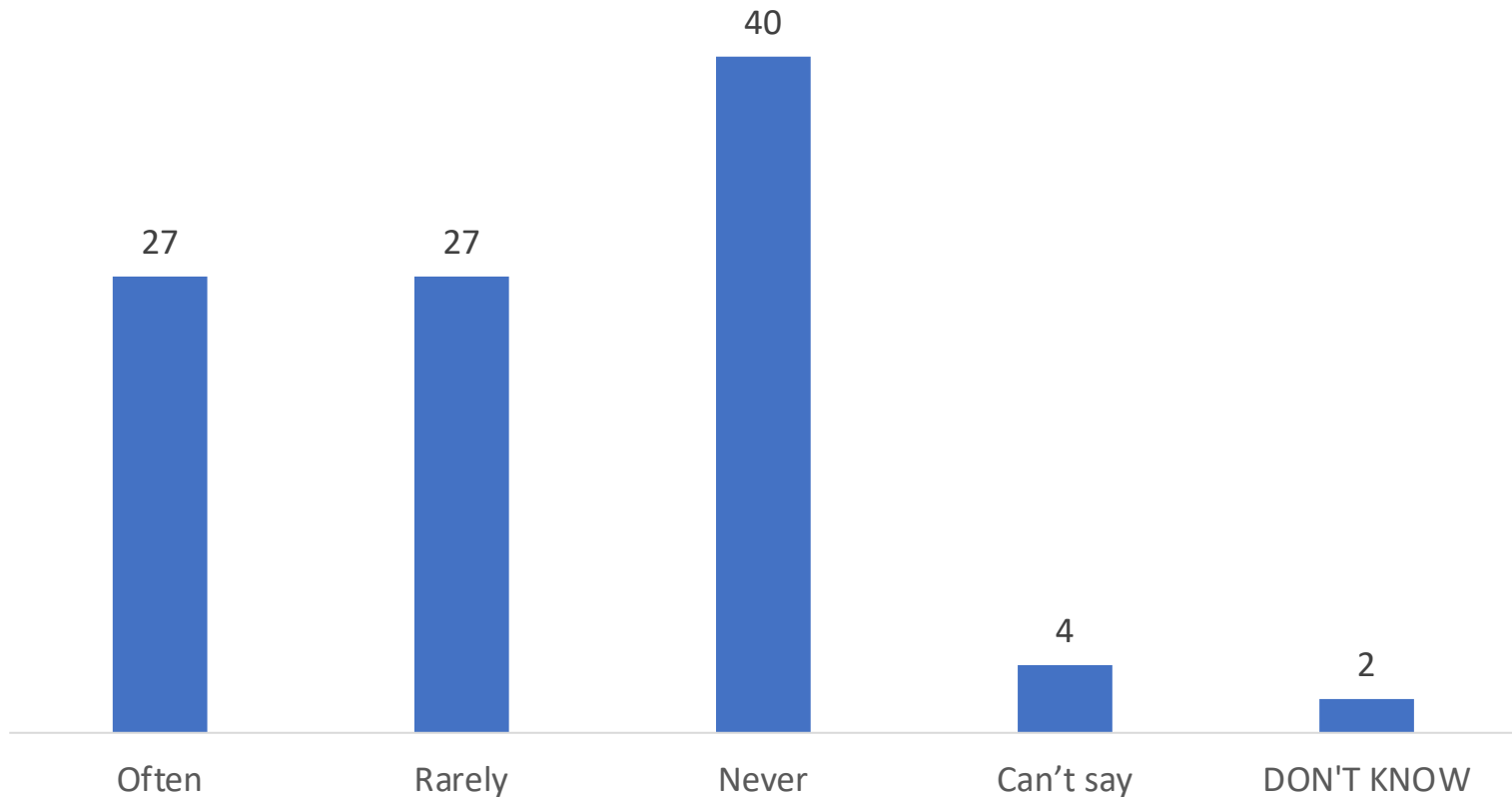
# Almost half of respondents reported that people in their area **often** Slaughter animals at home (%)



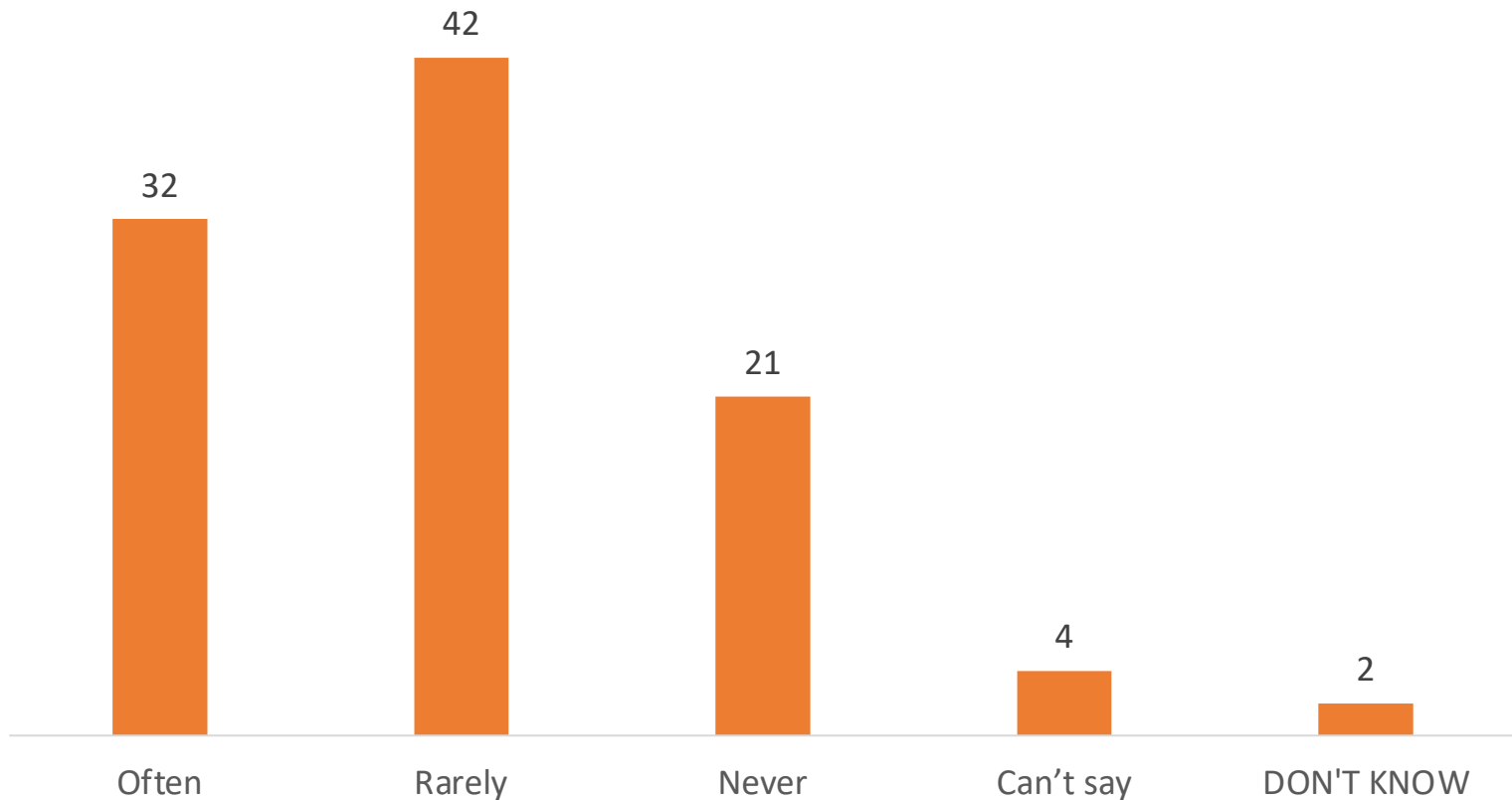
# About half of respondents reported that people in their area **often keep** animals in the house/home (%)



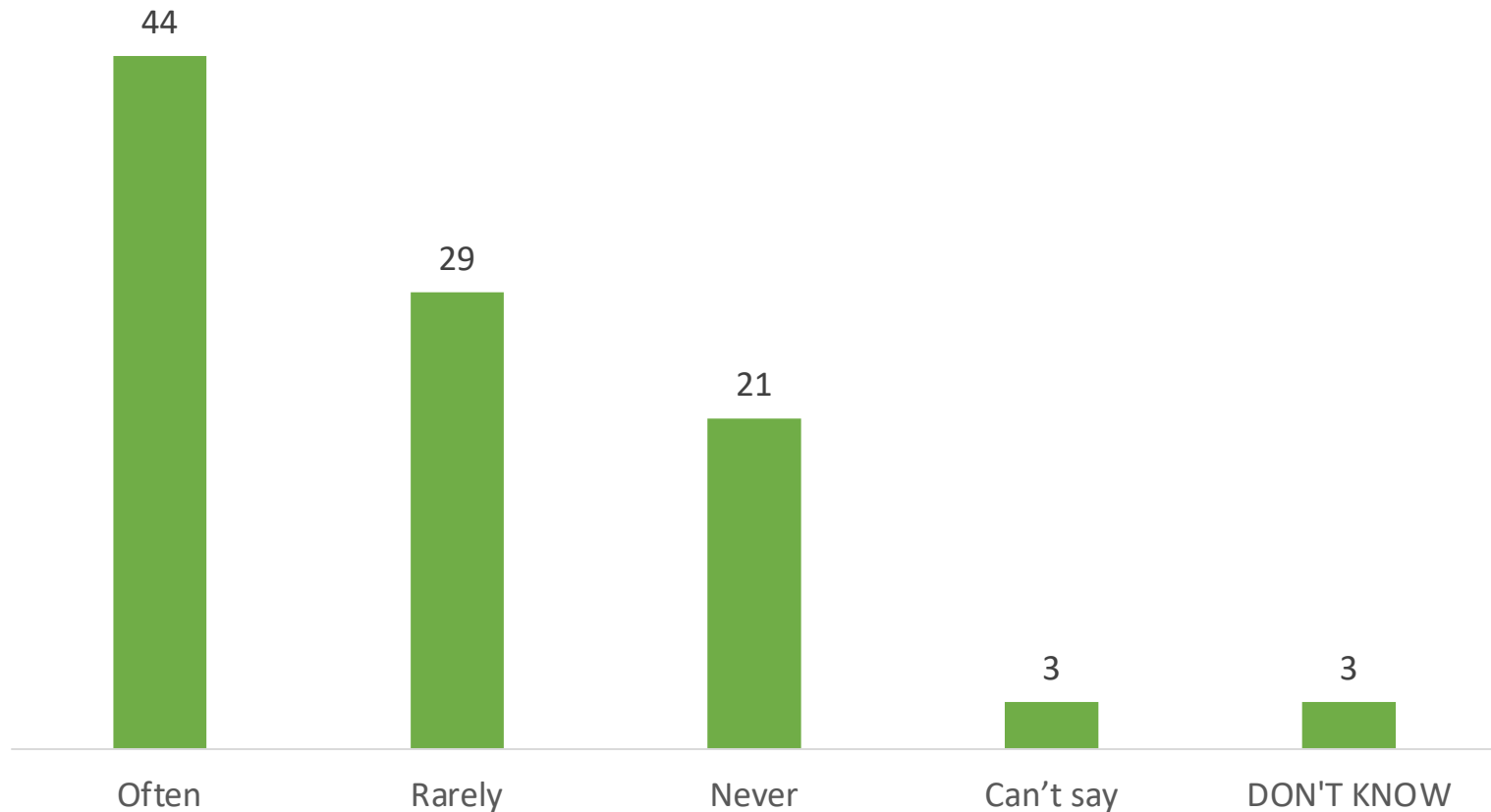
# About a quarter of respondents reported that people in their area **often** use of traditional medicines for sick animals (%)



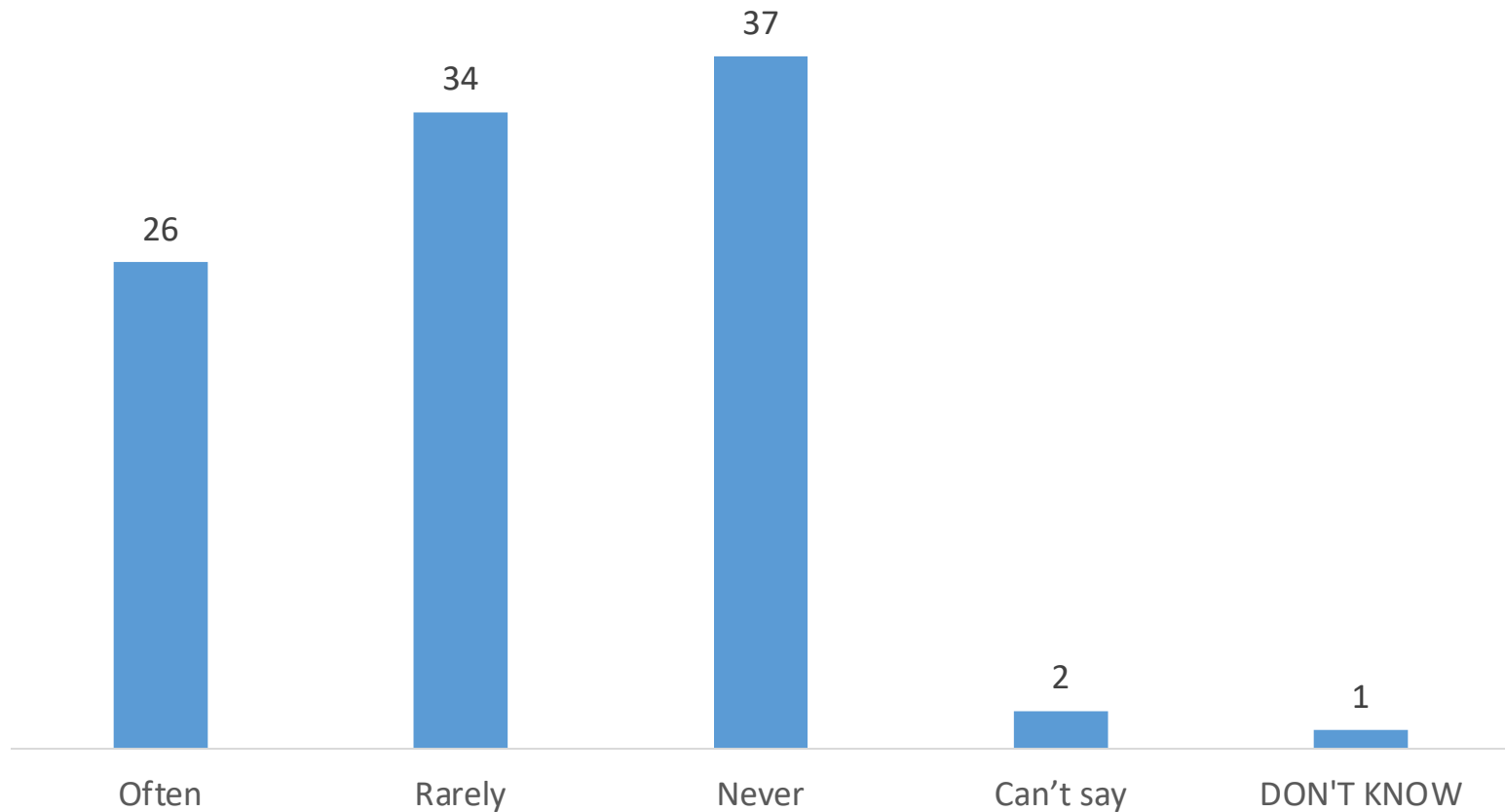
# Only about one-third of respondents reported that people in their area **often** vaccinate animals (%)



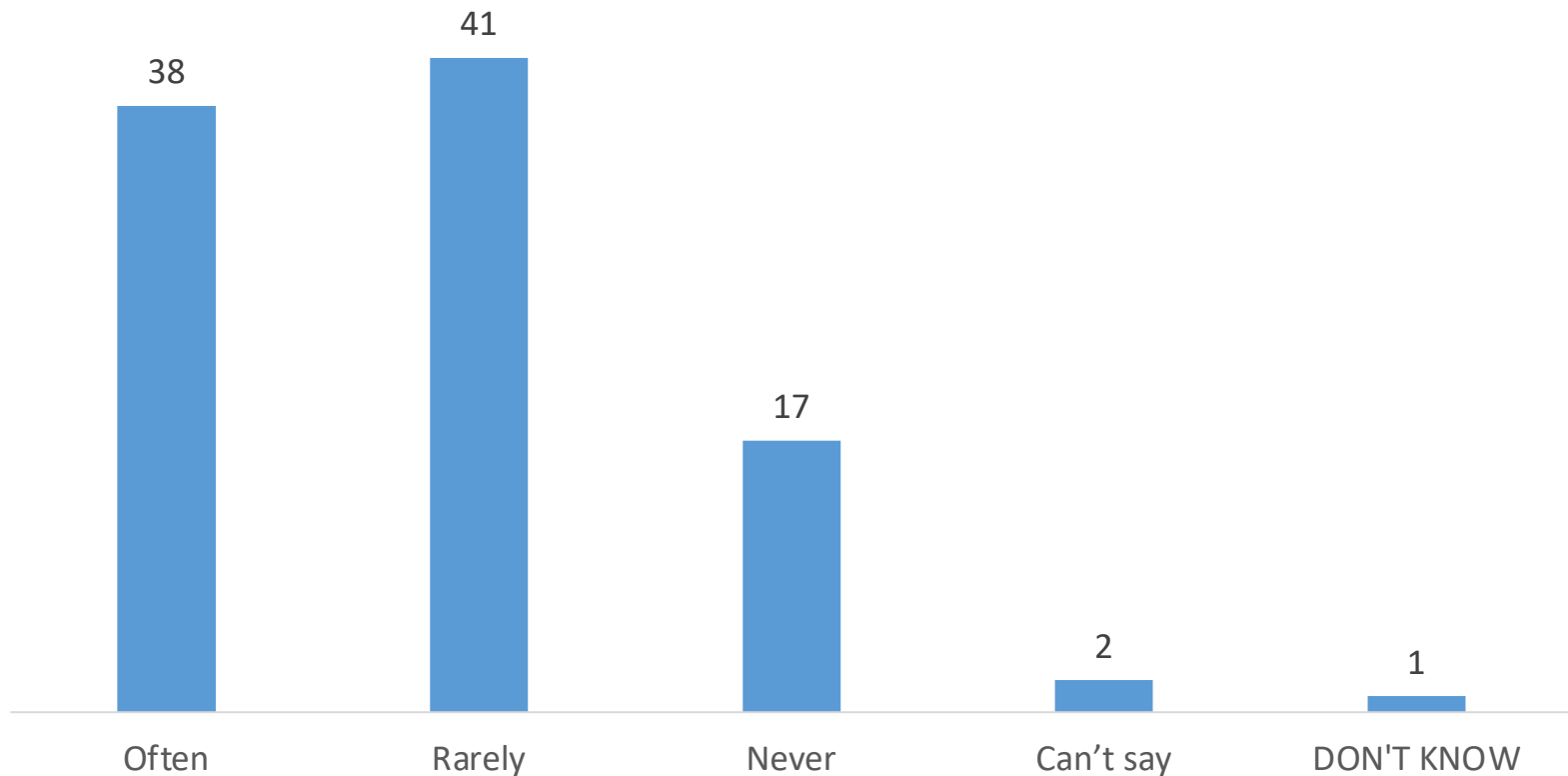
About two-fifths of respondents reported that people in their area **often** Separate sick animals from laughter animals at home (%)



Only about a quarter of respondents reported that people in their area **often** call an animal health care worker for a sick or dead animal (%)

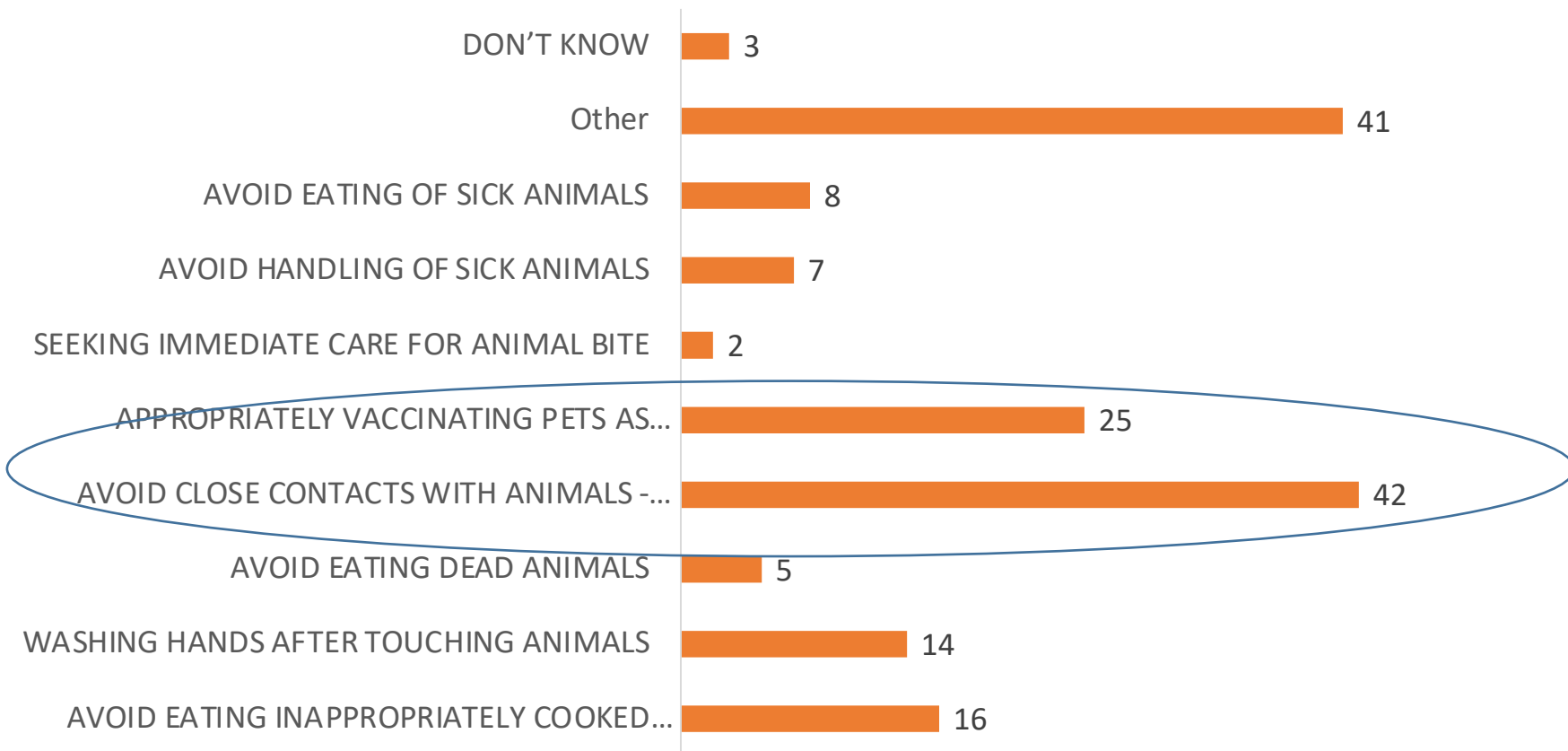


Only about one-third of respondents reported that people in their area **often** go to clinic immediately for any animal bite (%)

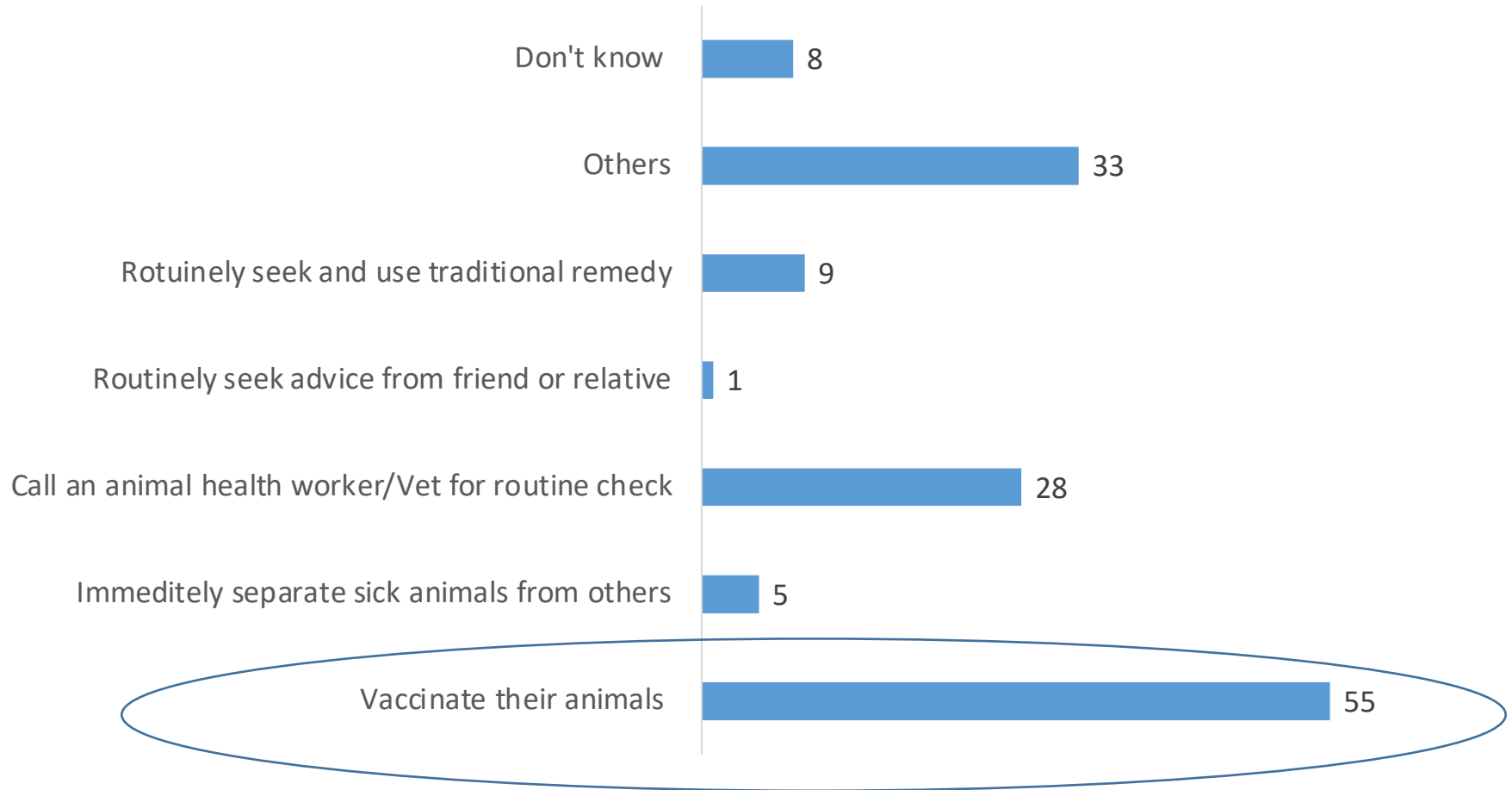




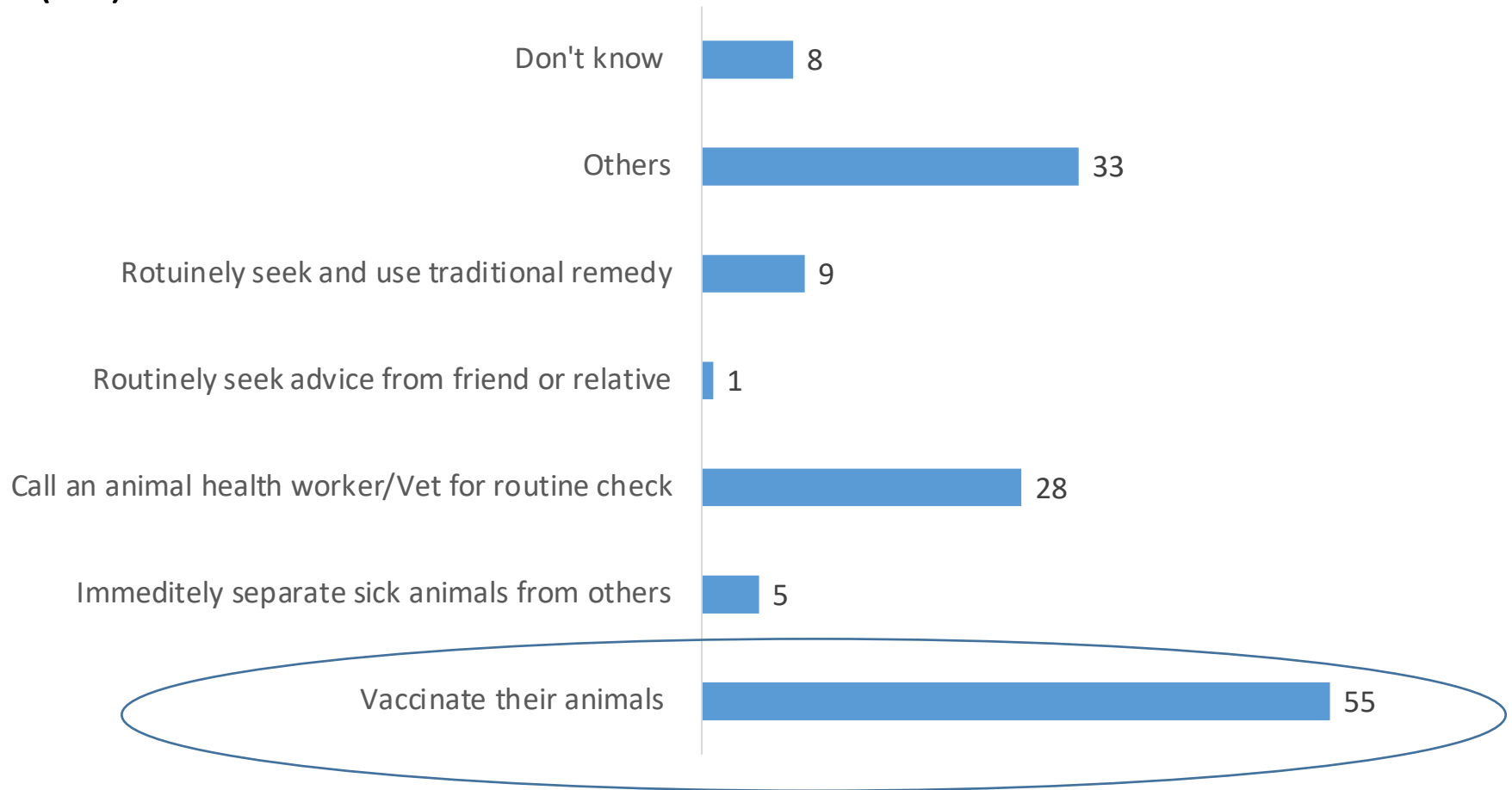
# What people can do to avoid contracting diseases from animals (%)



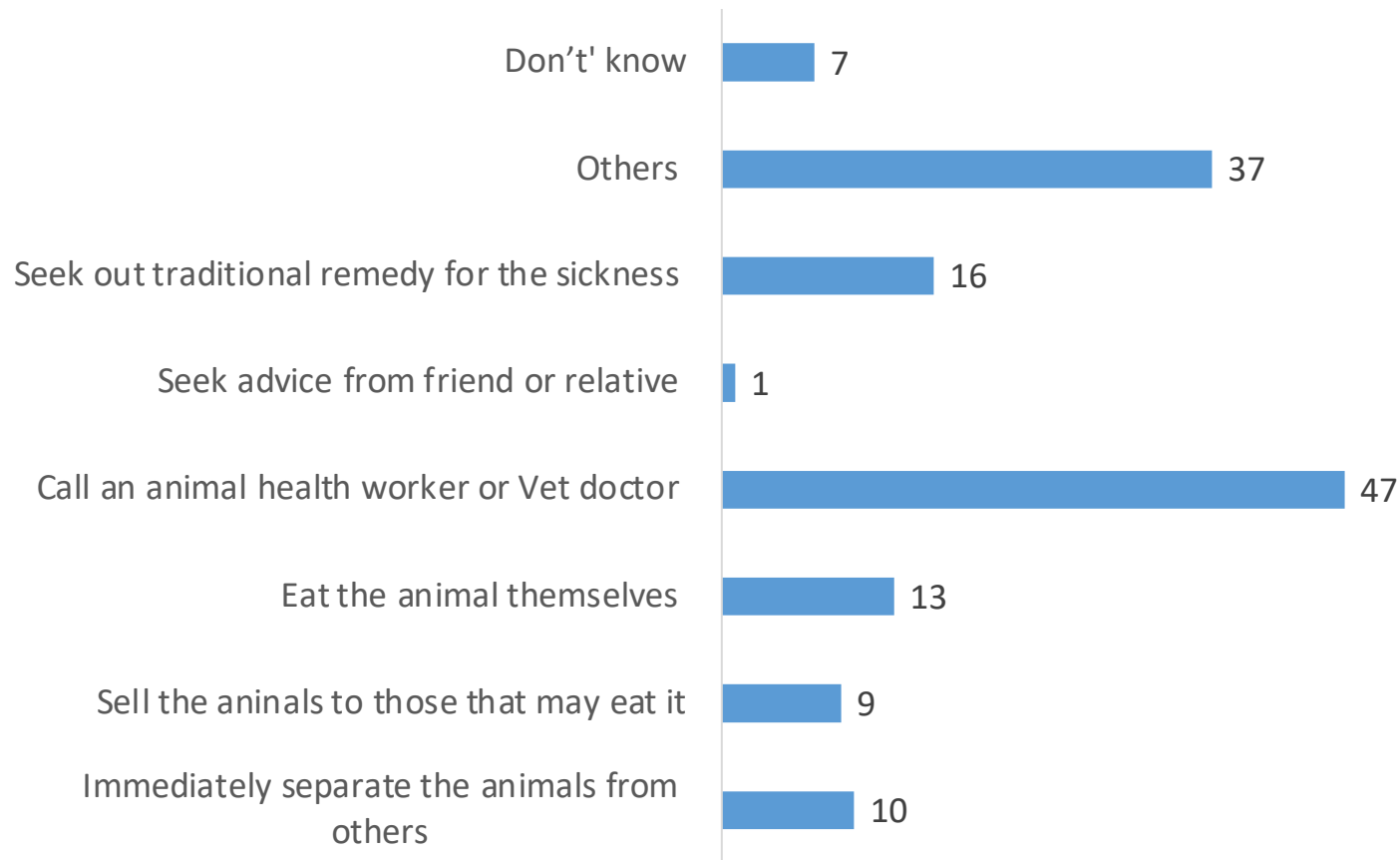
# Steps taken by people to prevent their animals from getting sick (%)



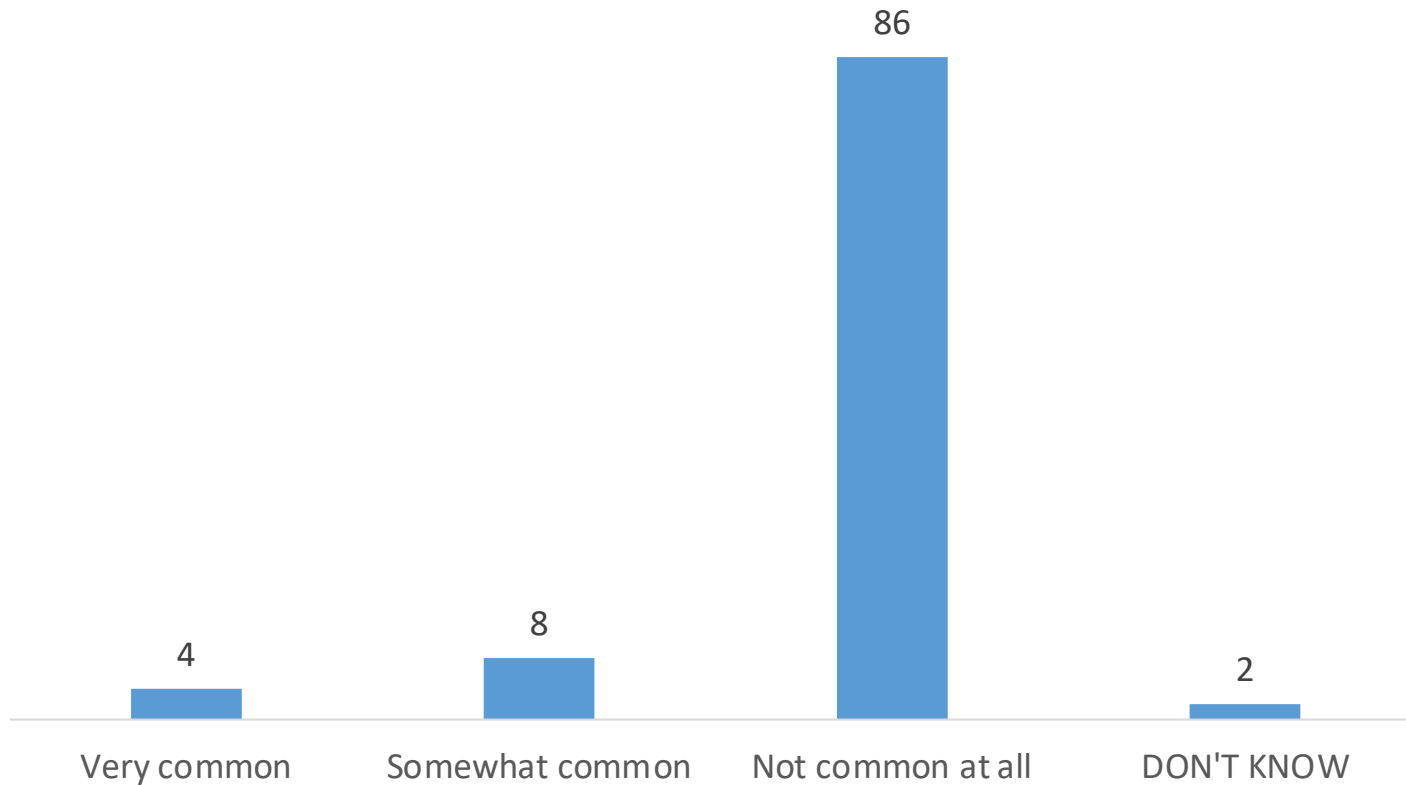
# Steps taken by people to prevent their animals from getting sick – urban and rural (%)



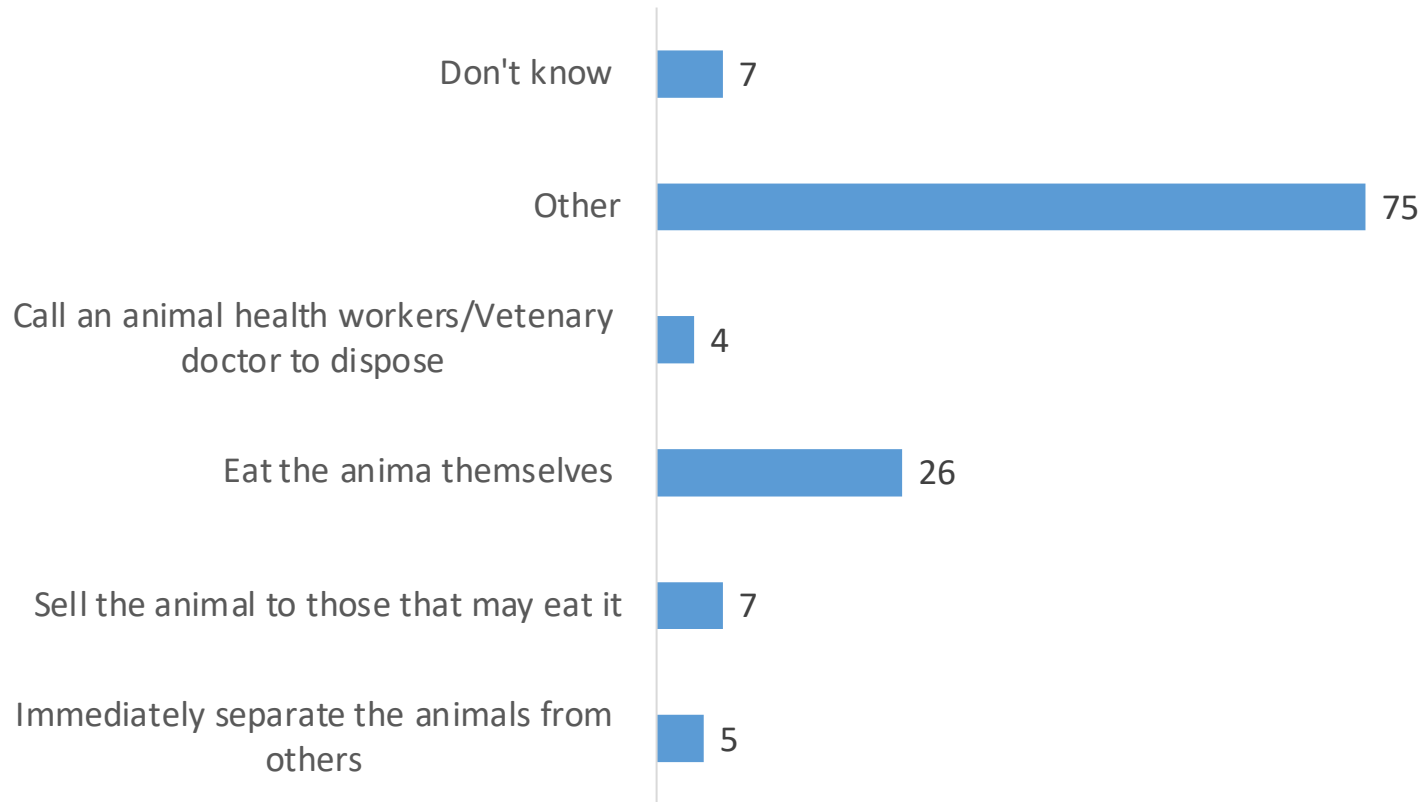
# Actions people take in the community once their animal is sick (%)



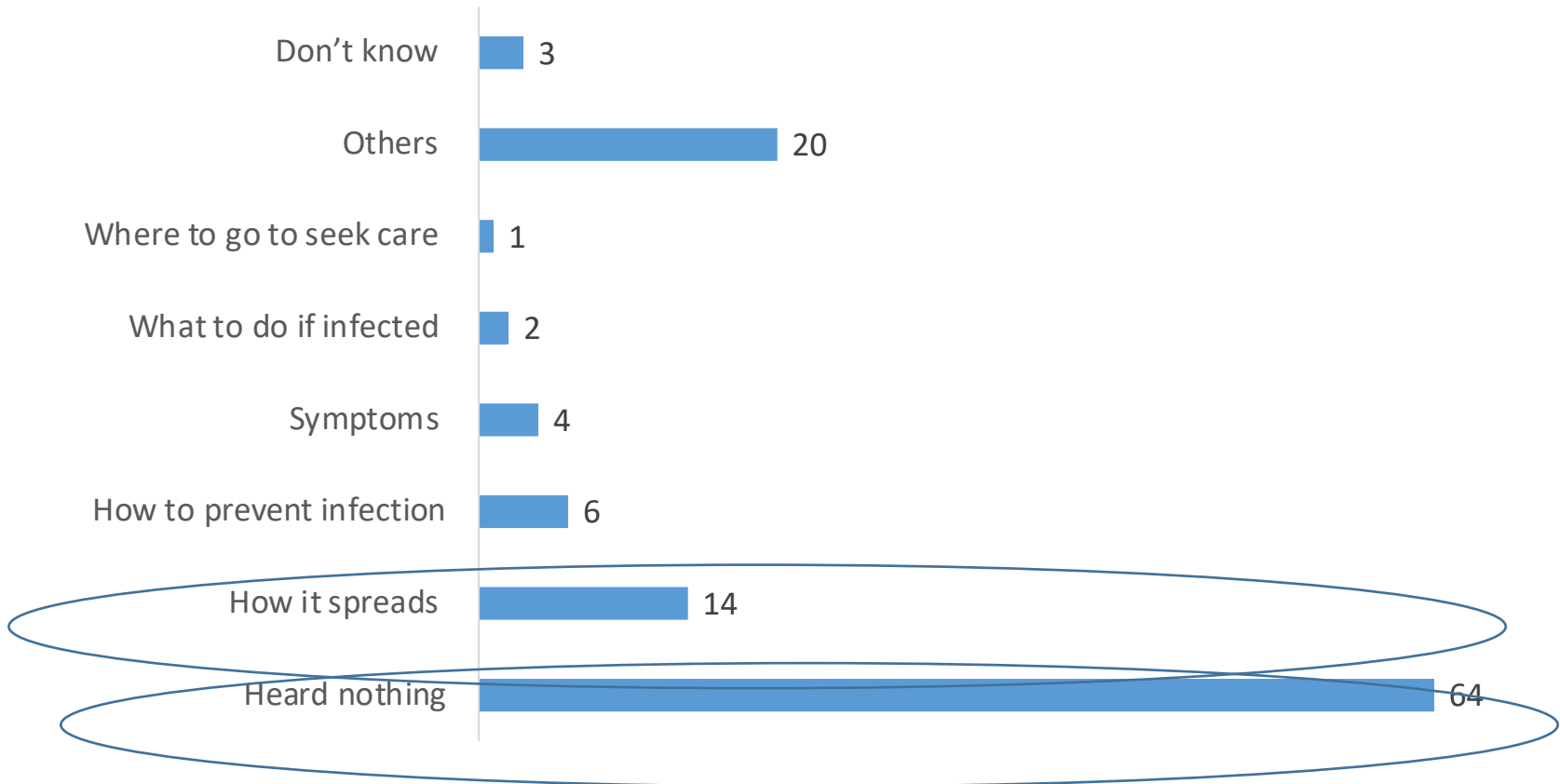
About 1/10 believe it is very common/somewhat common to hear of someone dying from diseases from animals (%)



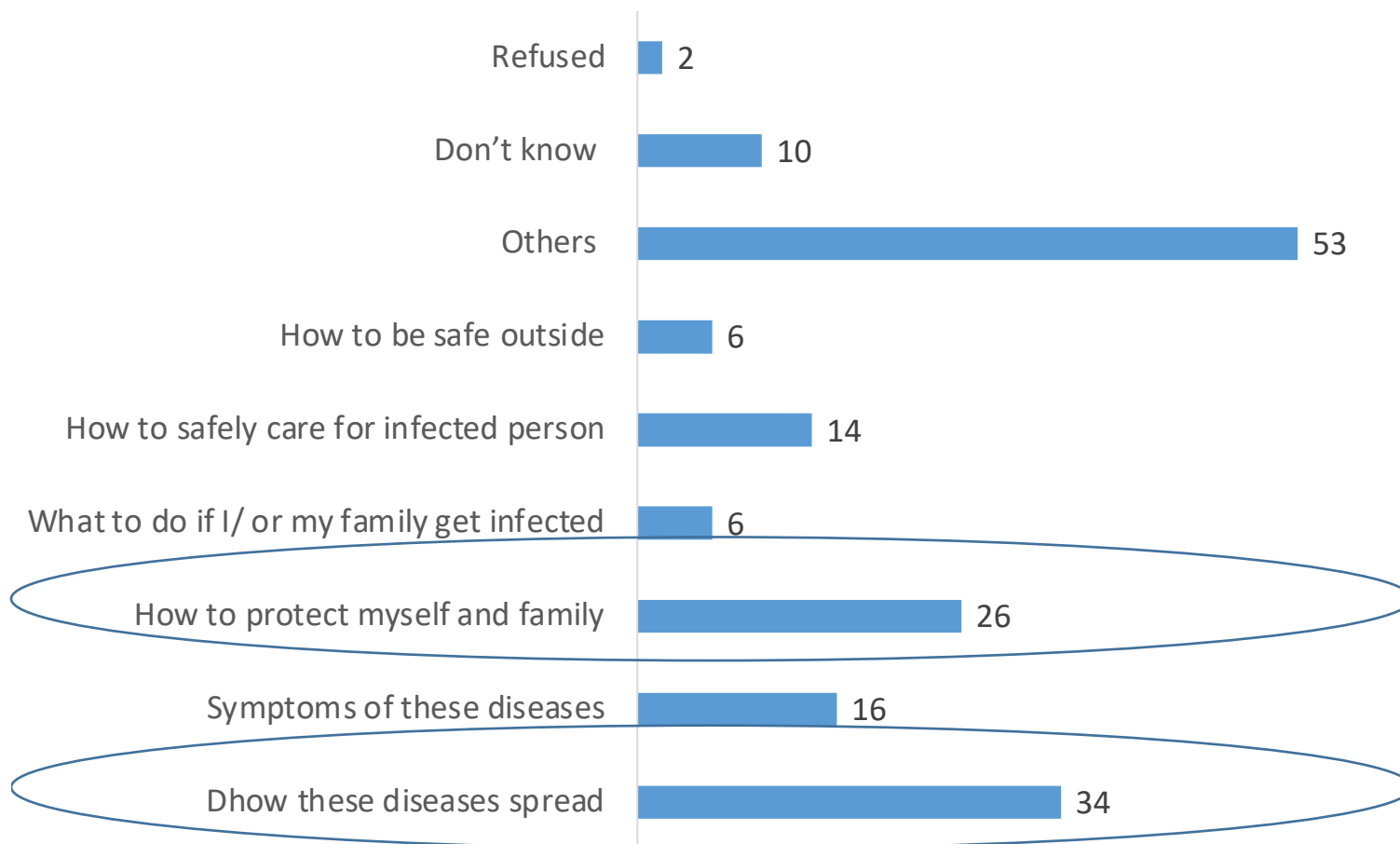
# Actions taken when animals die or when wild animals are encountered dead (%)



# What respondents have heard in the last month about zoonotic diseases (%)

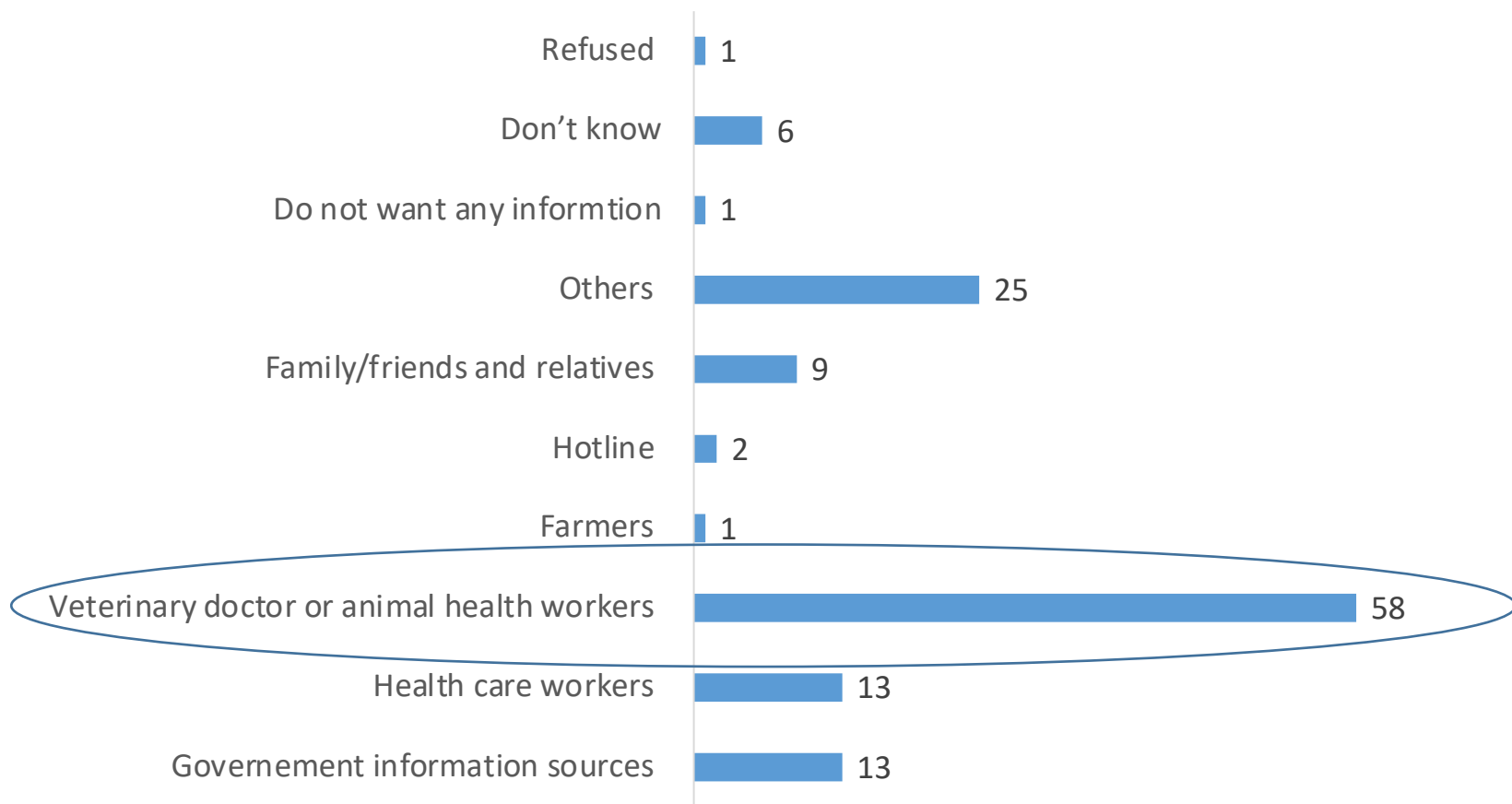


# What respondents would like to learn about zoonotic diseases (%)

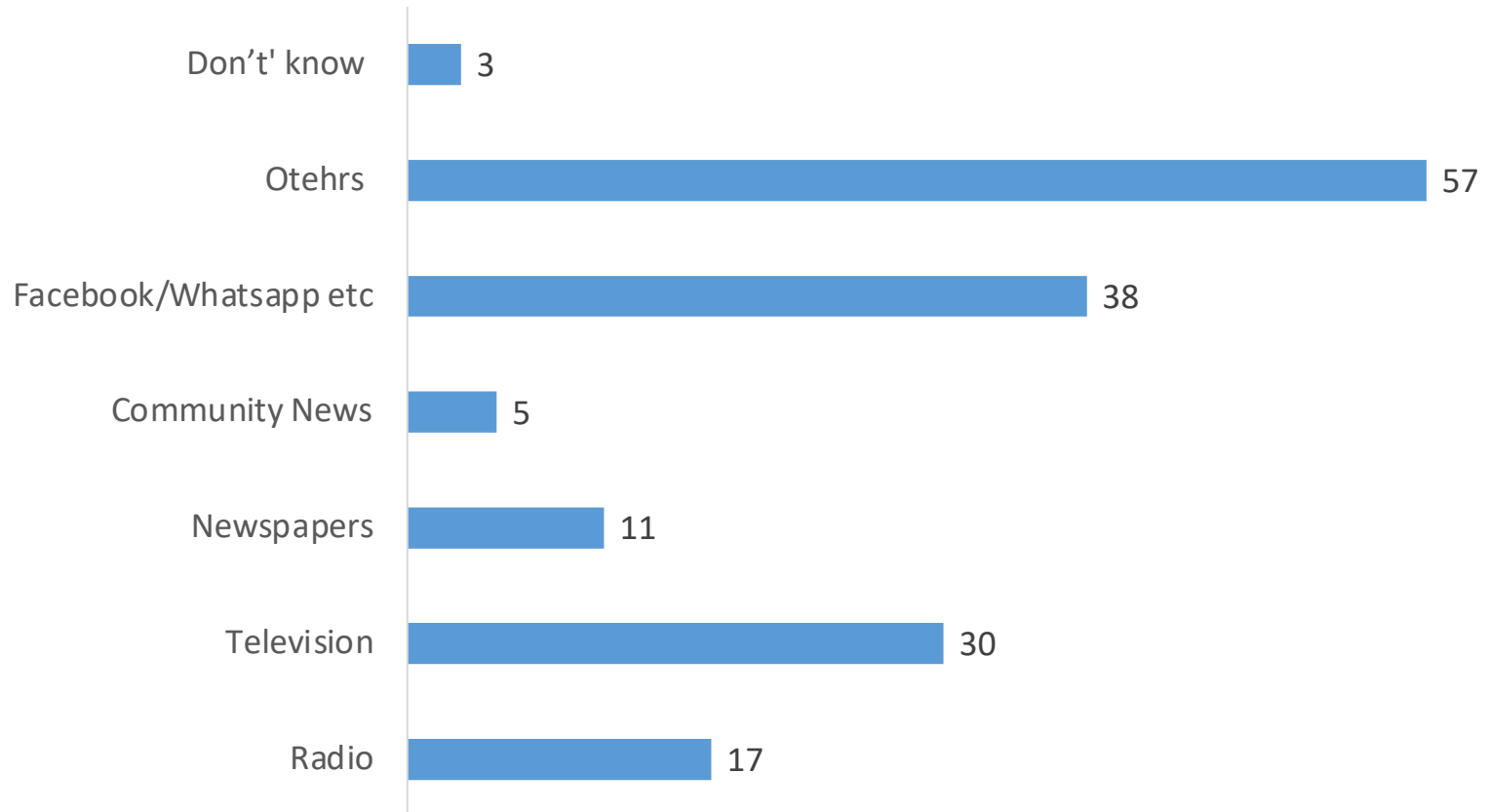




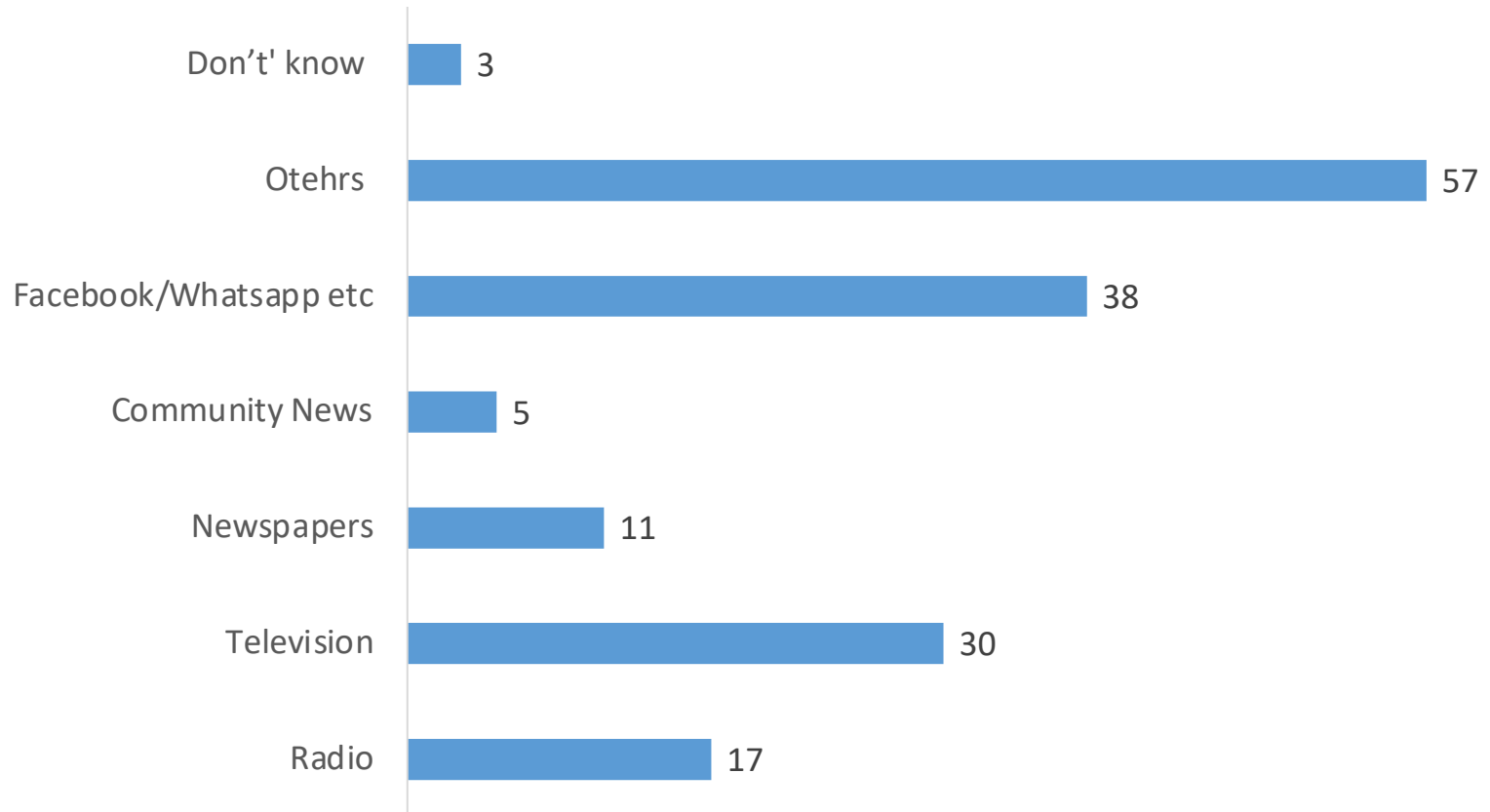
# Sources of information respondents will trust for zoonotic diseases (%)



# Most preferred sources of information about zoonotic diseases (%)



# Most preferred sources of information about zoonotic diseases – by urban and rerral (%)



# Reasons people do not practice safe behaviors when living/working with animals (%)



# Conclusions and recommendations, 1:

- Majority of respondents agreed that there are diseases that are transmitted from animals to humans. This awareness level suggest the need to approach achieving behavior change from a more strategic approach among the population, since the knowledge is not translating into priority behaviors
- There seems to be some degree of understanding of some of the protective behaviors (animal vaccination) and risky behaviors (eating dead animals), however the reported practice of protective behaviors is low and that of risky behaviors is high.
- Avoiding contacts with animals especially those not vaccinated were the most reported means of protection. Communicating this at scale is very important at this point in Cameroon.

## Conclusions and recommendations, 2

- There seems to be less awareness of some other risky behaviors and protective practices- especially the importance of going to the clinic after a bite and eating and selling sick (in addition to dead animals), and isolating and handling sick animals safely.
- Safe slaughter, birth, and burial of animals are other areas that depend on the audience/disease burden in a particular area, it may be important to strengthen knowledge in this.
- Understanding barriers to animal vaccination would be helpful to help promote uptake.

## Conclusions and recommendations, 3

- Interventions that help raise awareness/understanding of specific behaviors (risks and benefits) can help address perceived low levels of knowledge and risk perception
- Animal health workers and vets seem to be trusted for advice and treatment and will be important to consider working with for interventions that utilized mass and social media

## Conclusions and recommendations 4:

- Majority know that people who work with animals could be more at risk of zoonosis, this data could be used to guide the concept of “contact” among the population.
- Working with livestock farmers in hotspot areas and highlighting steps to take to protect yourself and other animals when assisting birth may be an area to consider to address. More generally, it seems that the slaughter and handling of animals and the consumption of raw dairy and meat are important areas to address in terms of risks and protective behaviors
- Up to half of the respondents reported that people in their area engage in risky household practices (such as eating of dead animals, poor animal vaccination practices among others). This calls for a need to develop SBCC interventions that call for behavior change



# Conclusions and recommendations, 5

- Vaccination practice is low. Some of the results suggest that it is less about access or convenience or knowledge of the vaccines but could have to do with cost and low perceived risk (and /or recognition) of disease. Amplifying the target issues such as risk perception continue to be key and connected with other preventive priority behaviors
- Separating sick animals from the lots is another protective behavior that a majority rarely or never practice, despite that it stops disease from spreading among animals. In addition to health, it protects investment in livelihood that depends on the sale or consumption of animals. In some cases, this could be a bigger motivator for uptake of safe behaviors than the point around health.

## Conclusions and recommendations, 6:

- Half of the respondents believe that vaccinating animals can prevent them from getting sick. Improving mechanisms that strengthen animal vaccination may improve the practice animal vaccination in Cameroon.
- Knowing about someone that died from zoonosis is uncommon. Only 1 in 10 felt it is common or somewhat common to hear of someone die of zoonosis. This may not be unrelated to perception of severity of zoonosis
- Up to two-thirds of the respondents said they have not heard anything about zoonosis in the last month, a similar proportion said they would like to learn how to protect themselves. Info on how zoonosis spread needs to be part of the information to share

# Conclusions and recommendations, 7

- About one-third preferred TV as source of info, about proportion also mentioned Facebook and WhatsApp – Messaging should be placed on these platforms for efficiency
- Most respondents feel that people practice risky behavior mostly because of low-risk perception, and lack of knowledge in the area severity of zoonosis. Programs need to explore further analysis of this issues
- Moving sick animals to market is one way outbreaks spread and depending on the disease can be equally dangerous if consumed and during preparation. Taken together, avoiding selling and consumption of sick and dead animals seems like a priority behavior/s to consider.

# Thank You

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