

**Title:**

Animals have a life too!

**Category:**

11-14 years

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## Animals Have a Life Too!

By: Donna Deguara and Shania M Spiteri, St Francis Secondary, Sliema.

We have chosen to investigate animal abuse as we would like to raise an awareness about animal abuse in Malta, as we think it is a huge problem. In the past few months there have been many cases of animal abuse in Malta, such as the case of the dog which was shot and mutilated. This dog was finally picked up by the AAA. One of the AAA employees said:

"It took us four hours to catch him because of his terrible fear of humans."

This quote shows that the animal was being abused. Animal abuse is a huge problem, but if we all do our part we can decrease animal abuse together.



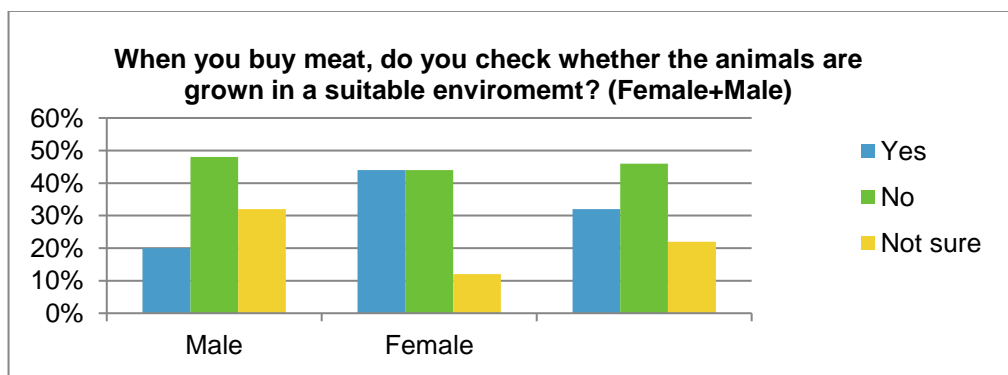
**Image 1:** The dog which was shot and abused at the beginning of this year.

Our research, which is based on questionnaires which we gave out an equal number of questionnaires to men and women of different ages, reveals that only 44% of female respondents think that animals are treated well in Malta as compared to 68% of males. In fact our female respondents (44%) are more aware that animal

abuse is a huge problem than males (20%). Many respondents said they are not sure for both questions, indicating the need for awareness.

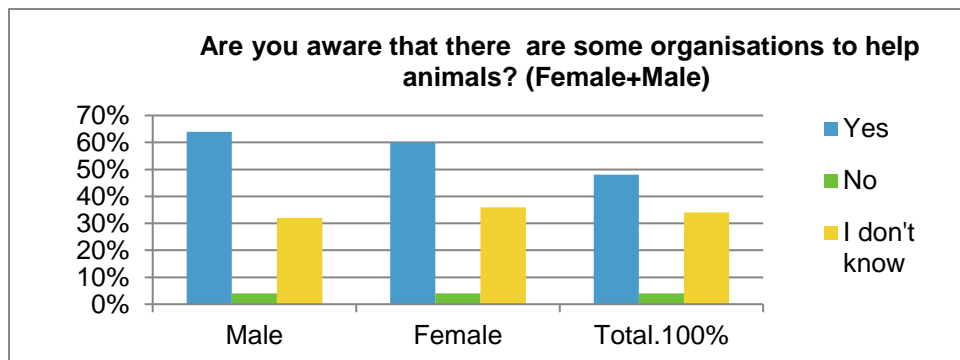
36% of male and 32% of female respondents are in favour of hunting, because it is a hobby for many people. 52% of males and 56% women also agree that circuses should feature animals and the majority of the respondents (56% males; 60% females) agree with horse riding around Malta, though many think they shouldn't be allowed where there are a lot of cars. Unfortunately, most of our respondents (60% males, 56% females) are also in favour of horse-drawn cabs for tourists, even though these horses suffer a lot. 48% of our respondents also think there are plenty of stray animals in Malta. On the other hand, only 30% think that there are quite a few accidents involving animals and only 22% admit that there is cruelty towards animals in Malta, which once more is a very low number. Very few respondents (16%) are aware that dogs and cocks are made to fight in Malta. Once more there seems to be lack of awareness regarding the Maltese reality.

This lack of education and awareness can also be seen in the fact that 44% of our respondents are not aware that many animals grown for food are kept in small cages and unhealthy environments, and 18% do not know what to think.

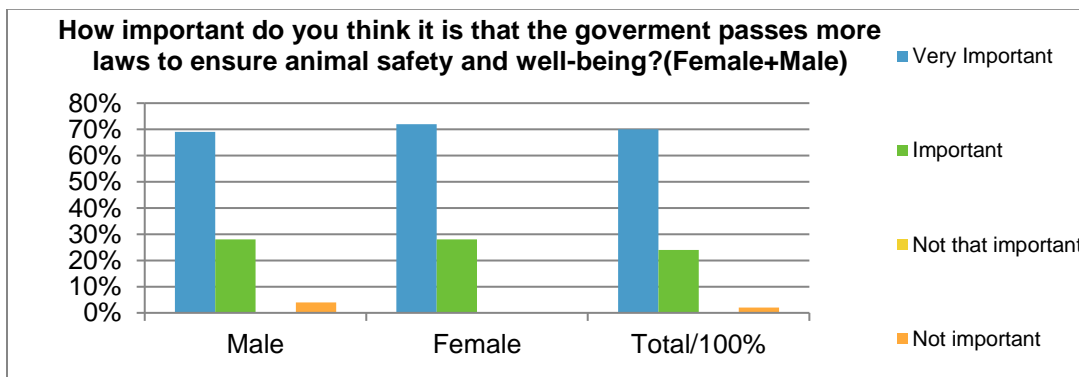


Furthermore, very few respondents check whether animals are grown in suitable environments when they buy meat (32%), check whether the products they buy have been tested on animals (32%), or check whether any animals have been killed or hunted to produce the products they buy (32%)

On the other hand, it is a great thing that more than half our respondents (68%) know that in Malta there are organisations which help animals when necessary, like, for example, in the case of animal accidents or animal abuse. The most well known are SPCA (48%) and Sptar San Frangisk (28%).



However, it is a problem that 34 % of the respondents are not aware that there are organisations which can help. On the other hand, the vast majority of respondents (70%) agreed that there should be certain rules which can help to decrease animal abuse.



To help prevent animal cruelty is not as difficult as one might think, and it is our duty to do so. As Maura Cummings, who works hard to promote animal welfare, once said

“All creatures are deserving of a life free from fear and pain.”

The first thing is to report neglect or cruelty to animals to animal welfare agencies. You can also adopt an animal and give it a loving and caring home. You can also help just by donating money to animal shelters so they can keep helping animals. However, the most important thing is to raise awareness about the plight of animals and how to help them, especially through education, which is always the key to sustainable societies. Aid agencies, local councils and, especially, schools can do a lot in this respect- teaching people how to help abused animals and, which is even more important, helping prevent abuse in the first place by teaching people how to treat animals well.

## **References and Acknowledgements:**

### **References**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cruelty\\_to\\_animals](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cruelty_to_animals)

Helena Grech, 9th January 2017, *Failure to enforce laws for pet owners will allow sadistic animal abuse to continue*, The Malta Independent

<http://www.independent.com.mt/articles/2017-01-09/local-news/Failure-to-enforce-laws-for-pet-owners-will-allow-sadistic-animal-abuse-to-continue-6736168770>

Ann Dingli, January 2017, *Another Case Of Animal Cruelty Surfaces In Malta*, Lovin Malta

<https://lovinmalta.com/news/cases-of-animal-cruelty-continue-to-surface-in-malta>

Maura Cummings quotation:

<http://www.onegreenplanet.org/animalsandnature/10-inspiring-quotes-about-animals/>

### **Acknowledgements:**

We would like to thank all the respondents that helped us carry out this research by filling in our questionnaires, as well as our families for their constant support.

## **Proof of Dissemination**

As required, our project is exhibited on the school premises and it is also accessible on the school website ([www.saintfrancisecondary.com](http://www.saintfrancisecondary.com)).

We have also sent our report to *The Sunday Times* and *The Malta Independent on Sunday*, though we have no guarantee that it will be published.



**Appendix 1: Sample of respondents**

100 respondents									
50 Males					50 Females				
10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
16-25	26-35	36-45	46-60	60+	16-25	26-35	36-45	46-60	60+
years	years	years	years	years	years	years	years	years	years

We started off with this sample. However, we carried out the survey online and we didn't have enough respondents, so, due to time constraints, we halved all the categories and based our research on 50 respondents.

## Appendix 2: Template for Questionnaires

Tick the appropriate answers:

	10-15	16-25	26-45	46-60	61+
Male					
Female					

**Do you think animals are treated well in Malta?**

Yes	
No	
I don't know	

**Do you think animal abuse is a huge problem in Malta?**

Yes	
No	
I don't know	

**Why?**

**Do you agree with hunting?**

Yes	
No	
I don't know	

**If no why?**

I hate animal cruelty	
They way that they are killed is cruel	
I care for animals	
There is no point in killing animals	
You shouldn't kill animals for their skin, fur etc...	
Others	

**If yes why?**

It is a hobby for many people	
No hunting, no food; if you kill animals for food you might as well kill them to make clothes and accessories	
I don't like animals	
It makes no difference to me, one way or another	
Others	

**Do you think Maltese people are aware of this problem?**

Yes	
No	
I don't know	

	Often	regularly	rarely	never	I don't know
How often do you see stray animals around Malta?					
How often do you see animal accidents around Malta?					
How often do you see animal cruelty around Malta?					
How often do you see kids horse riding with no adult supervision?					
How often are horses involved in road accidents?					
How often are dogs and cocks forced to fight?					

**Are you aware that there are a few organisations to help animals?**

Yes	
No	
I don't know	

<b>Can you mention at least 2?</b>
1.
2.
<b>Can you mention 3 ways these organisations help animals?</b>
1.
2.
3

	Yes	No	Not sure
Do you think people need more help to take care of animals ?			
Do you think that in Malta there are enough hospitals for animals?			
Do you think that in Malta we need more parks for animals?			
Do you think that there should be more animal shows?			
Do you think that in circuses animals are abused and forced to perform?			
Do you think that circuses should be banned?			

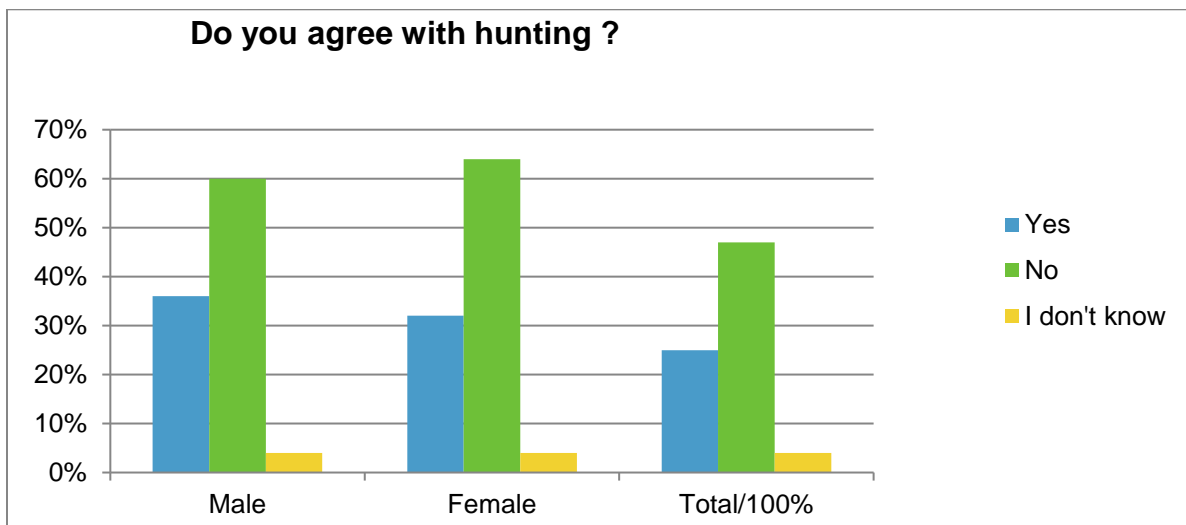
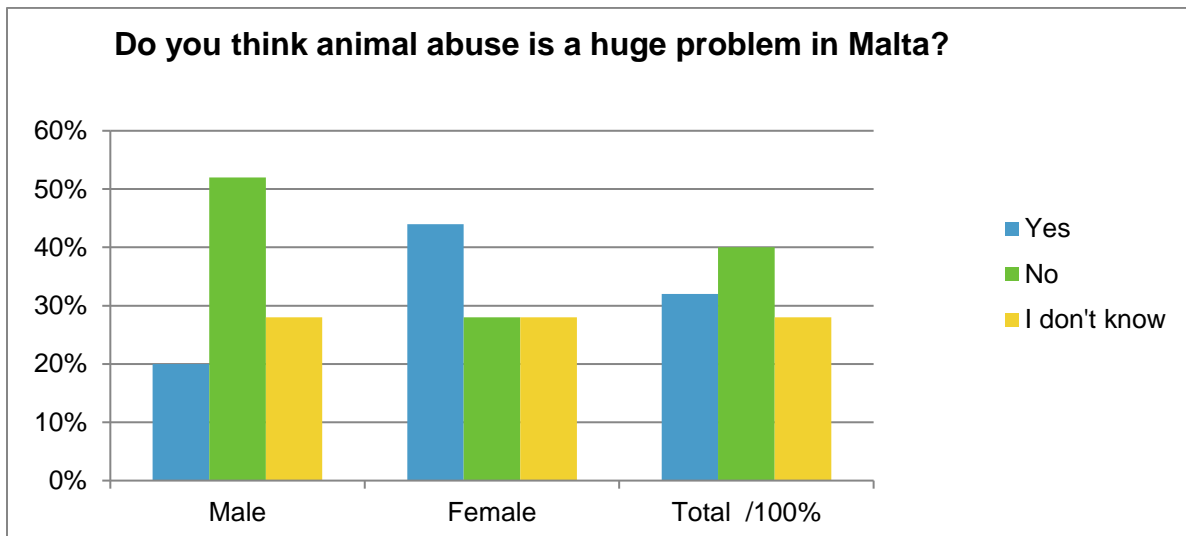
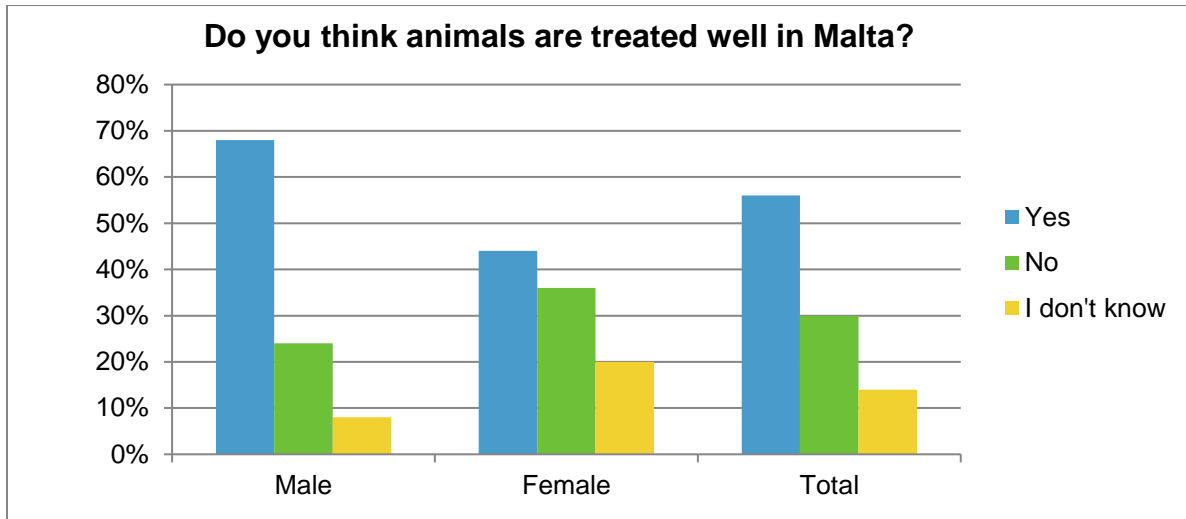
	Yes	No	Not sure
Do you agree that pets are left alone in the house?			
Do you agree that there should be certain rules and laws so animal abuse will decrease?			
Do you think that animals on farms are kept clean?			
Do you think that animals on farms are kept in small cages?			
When you buy meat, do you check whether the animals are grown in a suitable environment			
When you buy cosmetics or beauty products, do you check whether they have been tested on animals?			
When you buy clothes and accessories , do you check whether any animals have been killed or hurt to produce those items?			

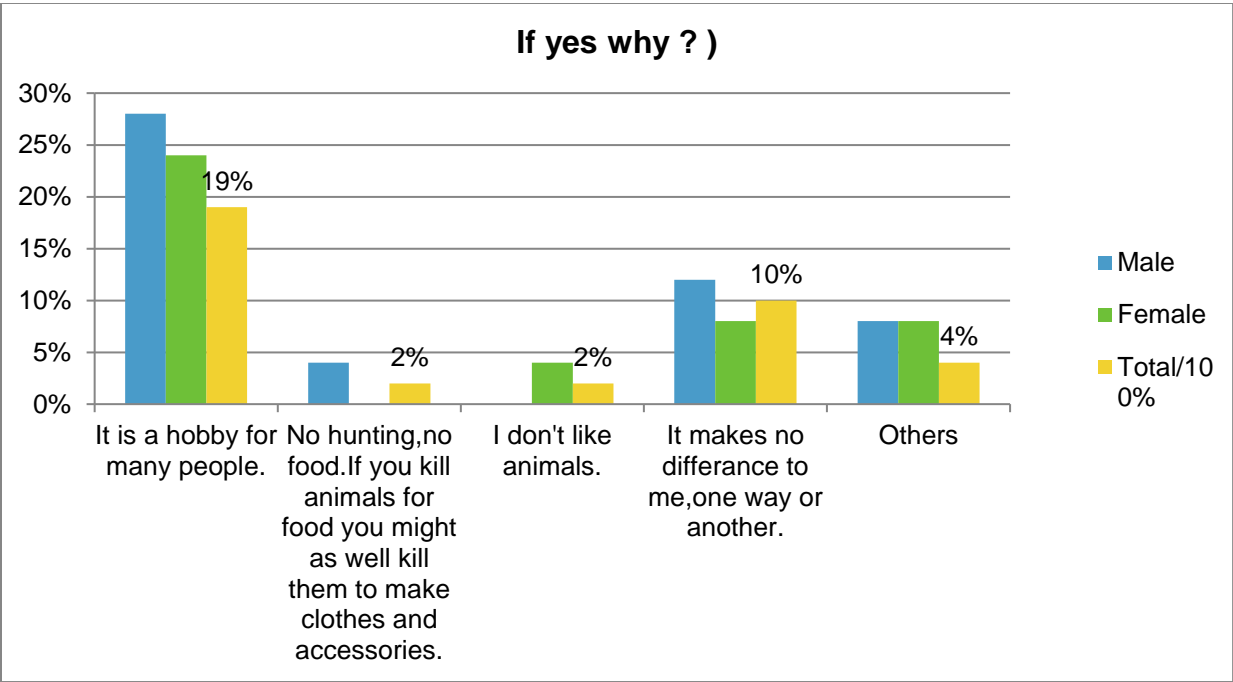
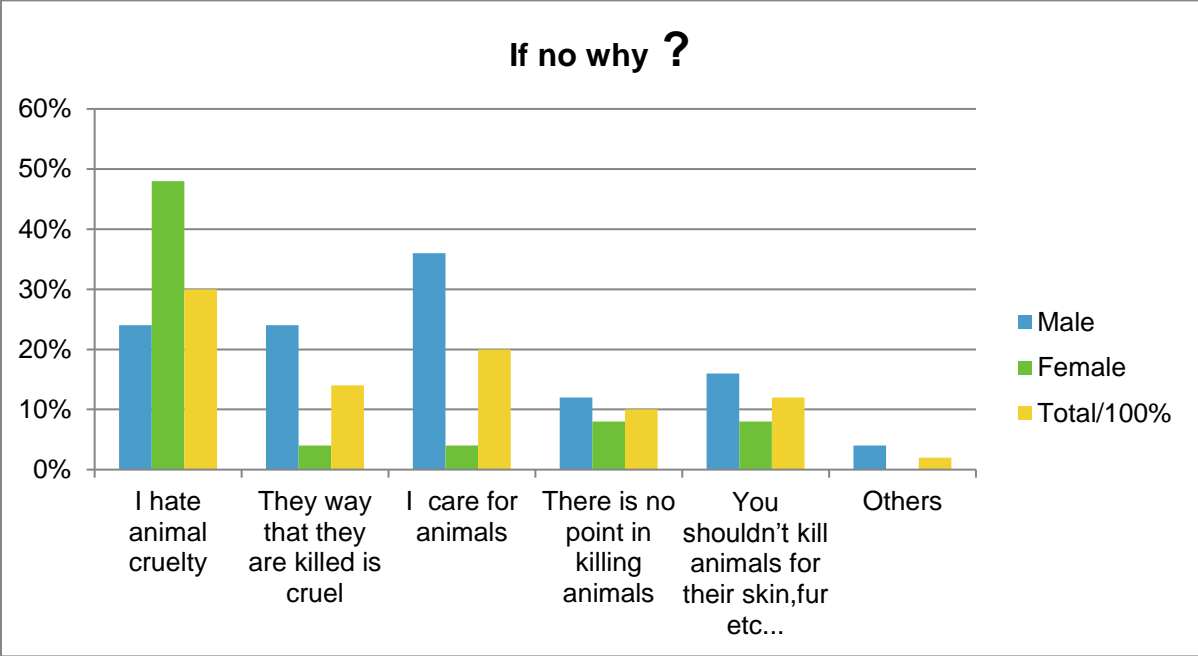
How important do you think it is that the government passes more laws to ensure animal safety and well-being?

Very imporant	Important	Not that important	Not important

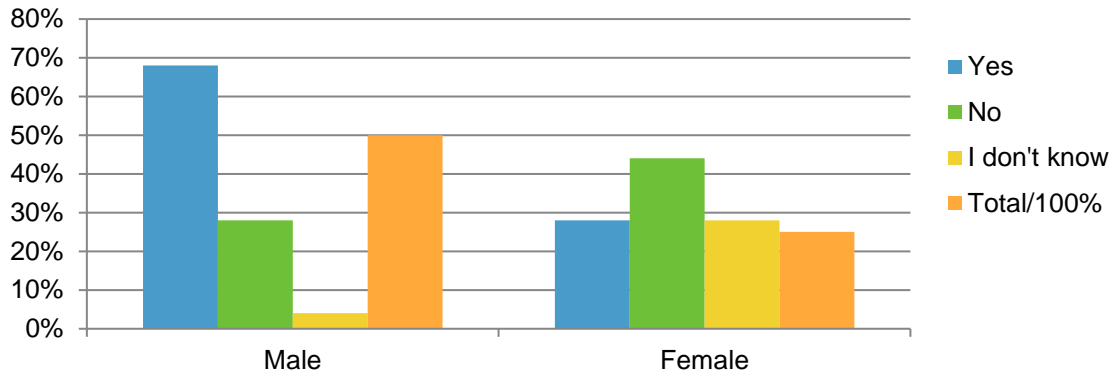
**Thanks for your time.**

### Appendix 3: Data gathered from our research

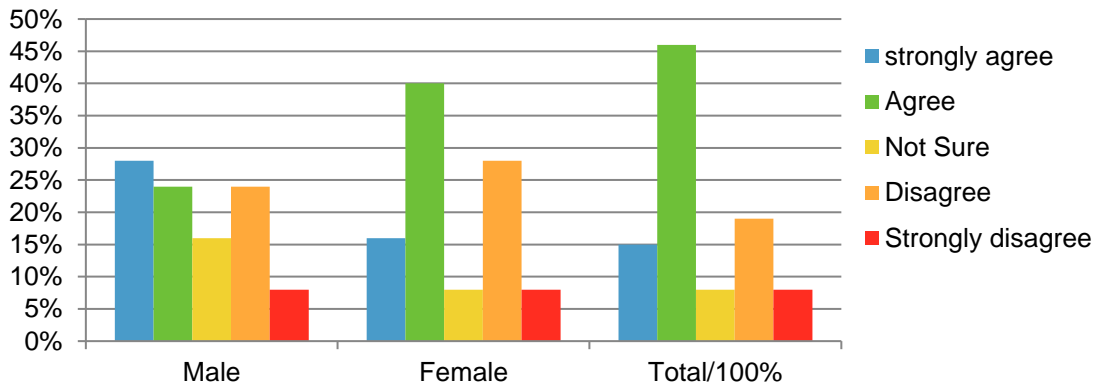




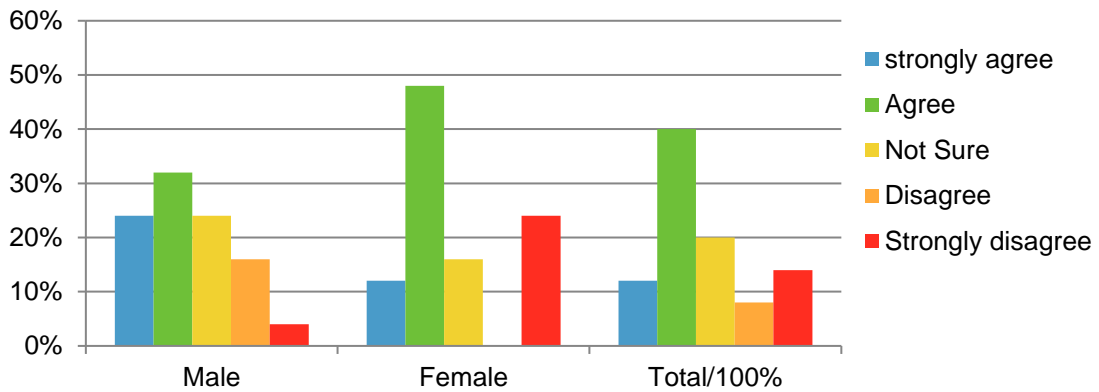
### Do you think Maltese people are aware of animal abuse?



### Do you agree with animals in circus?

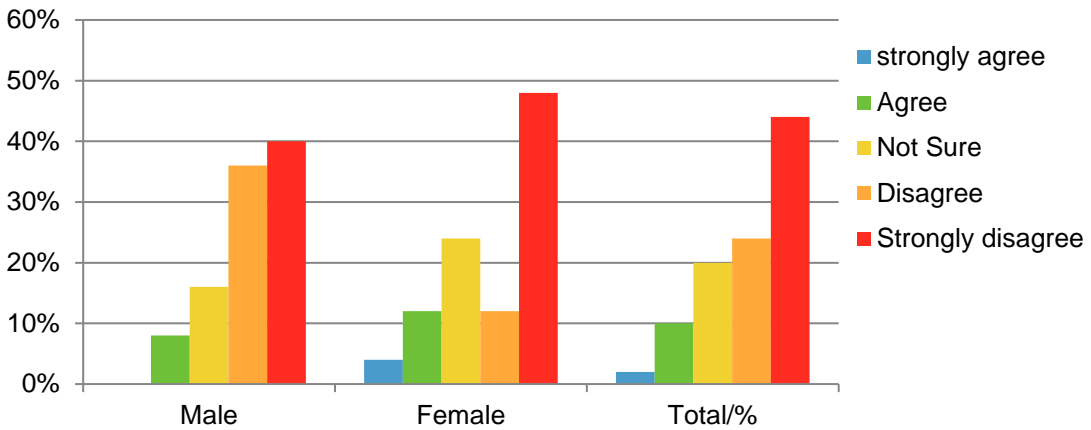


### Do you agree with horse riding around Malta?

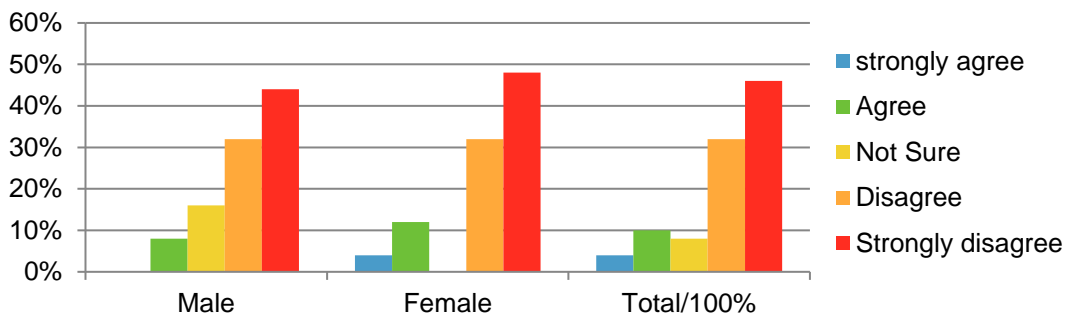




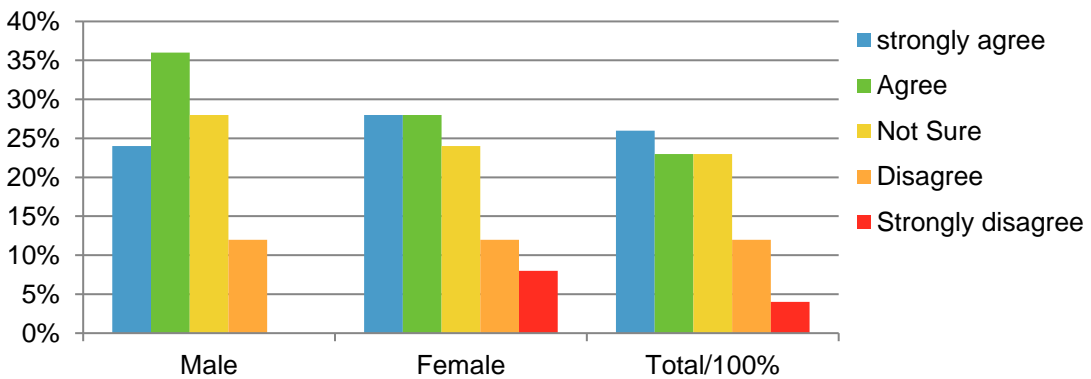
**Do you agree that horses should be allowed where there are a lot of cars?**



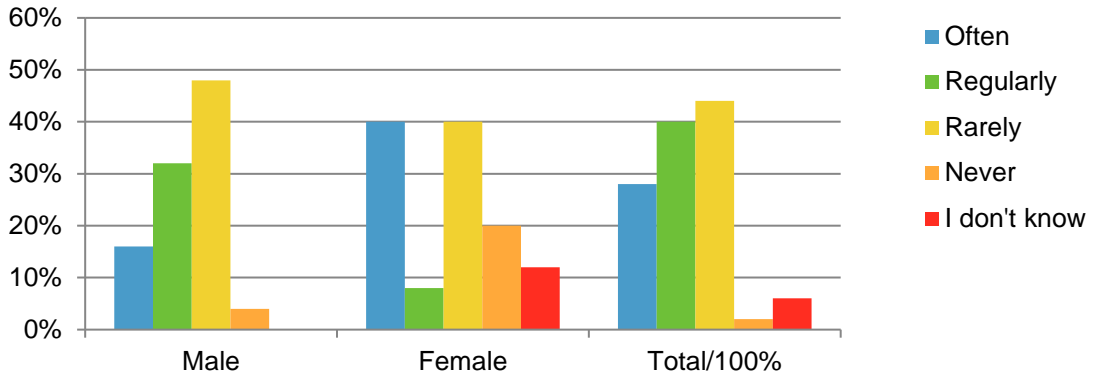
**Do you agree when an animal stays outside morning and night in cold and hot temperatures?**



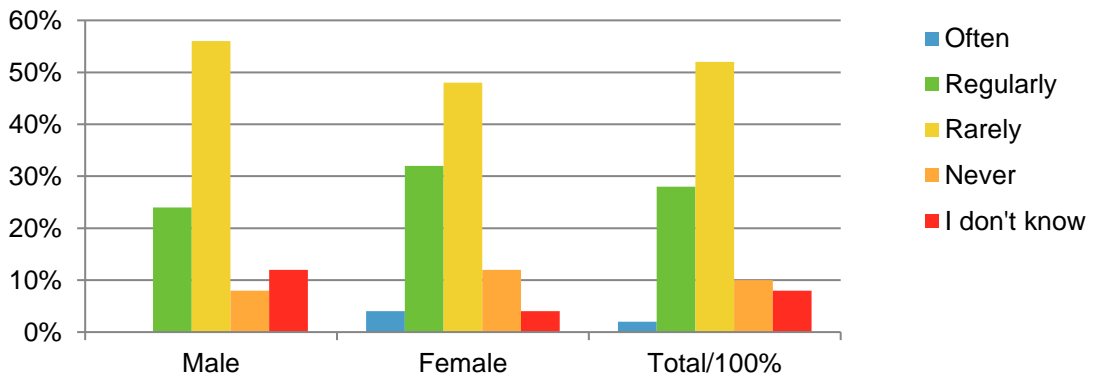
**Do you think horse - drawn cabs should be used to attract tourists?**



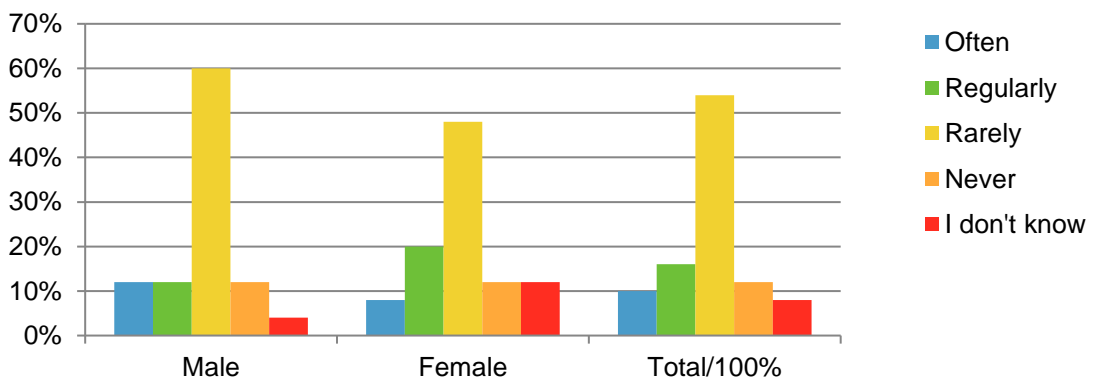
### How often do you see stray animals around Malta?



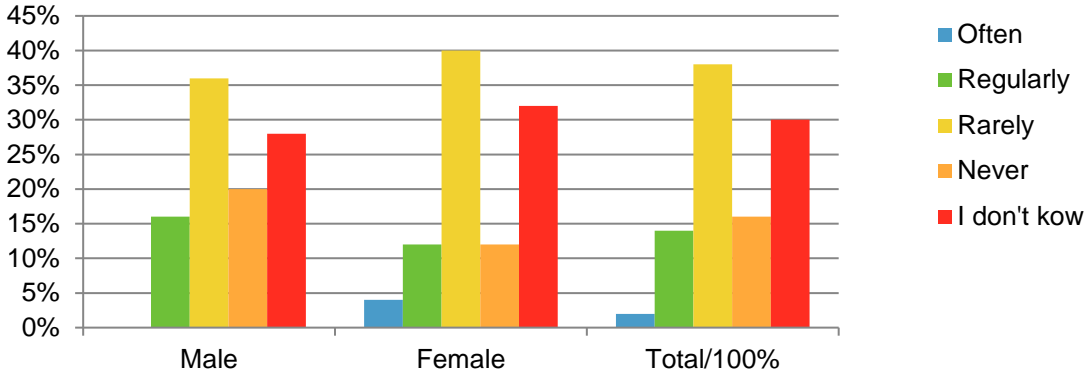
### How often do you see animal accidents around Malta?



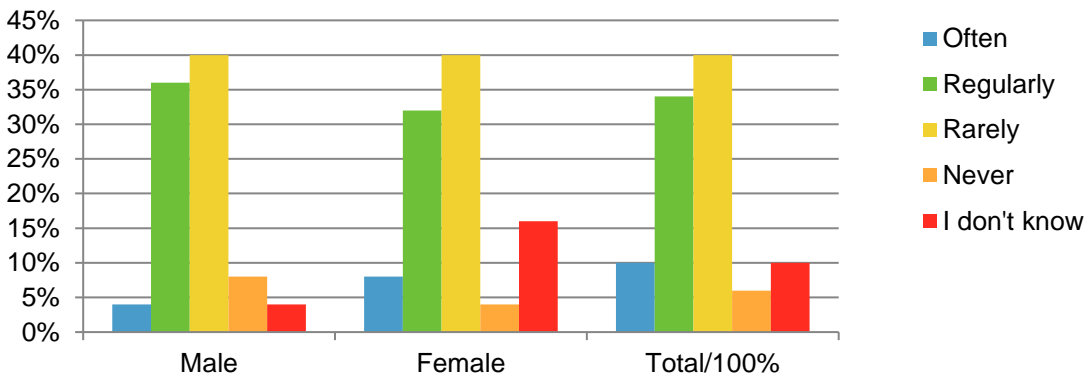
### How often do you see animal cruelty around Malta?



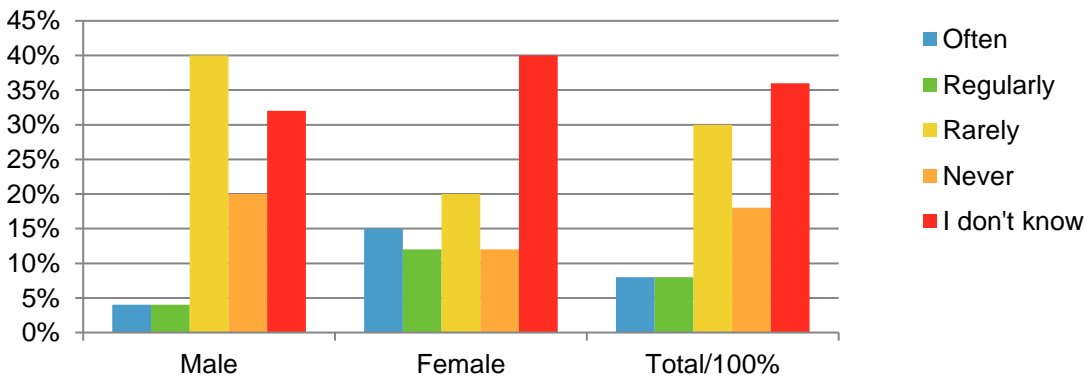
### How often do you see kids horseriding with no adult supervision?

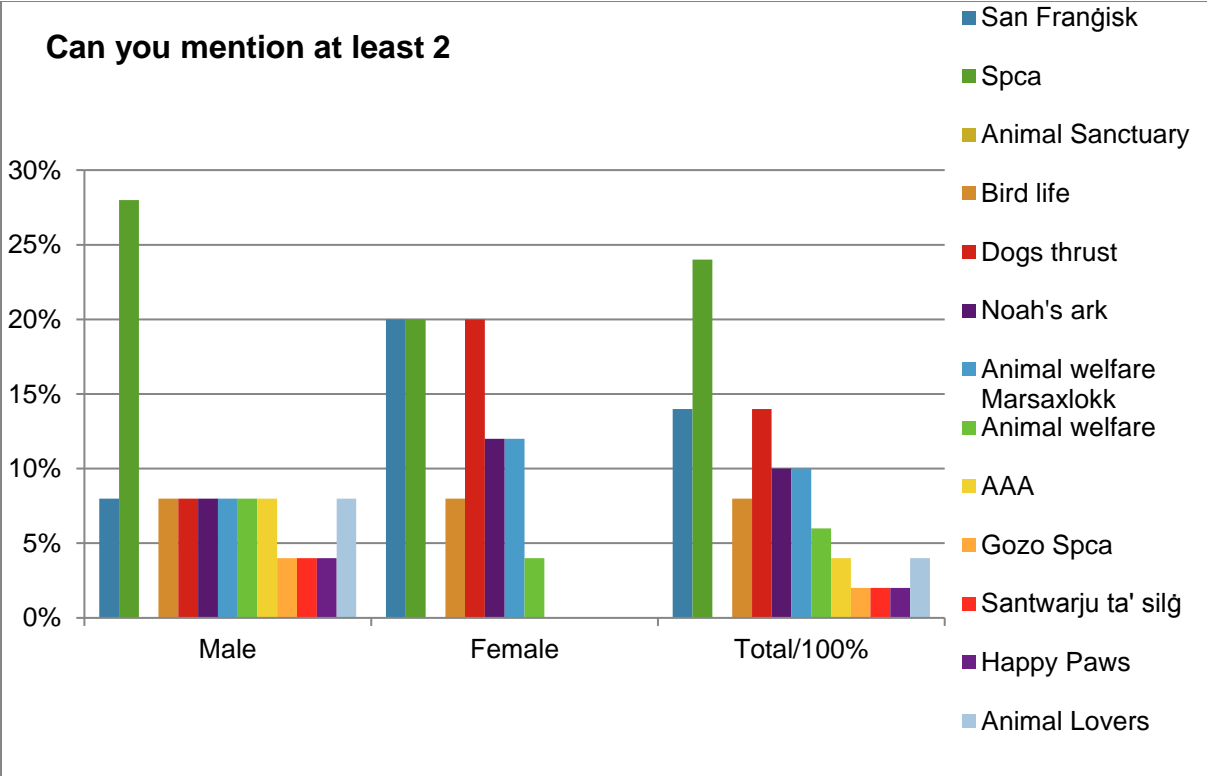
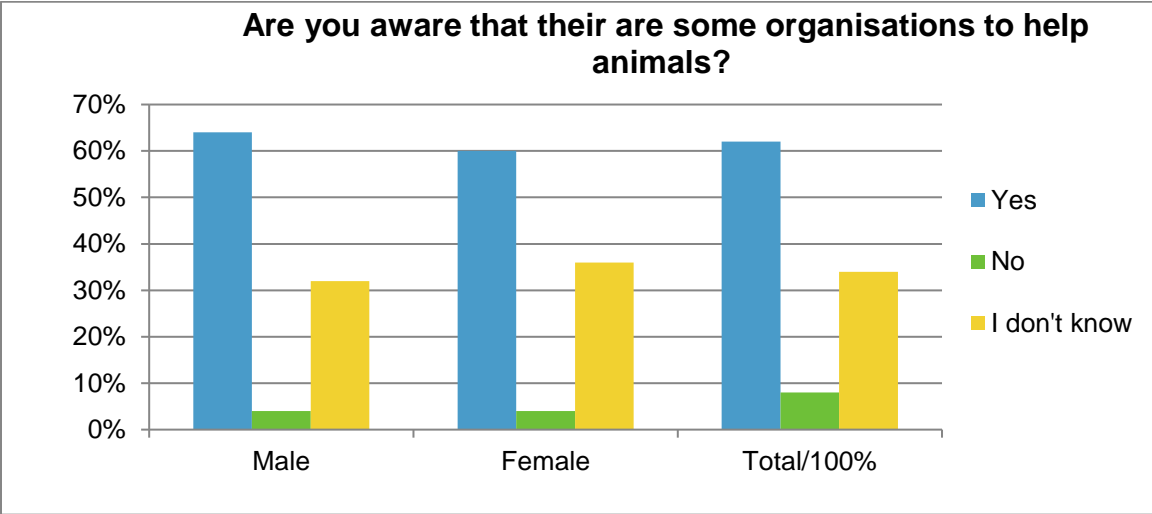


### How often are horses involved in road accidents?

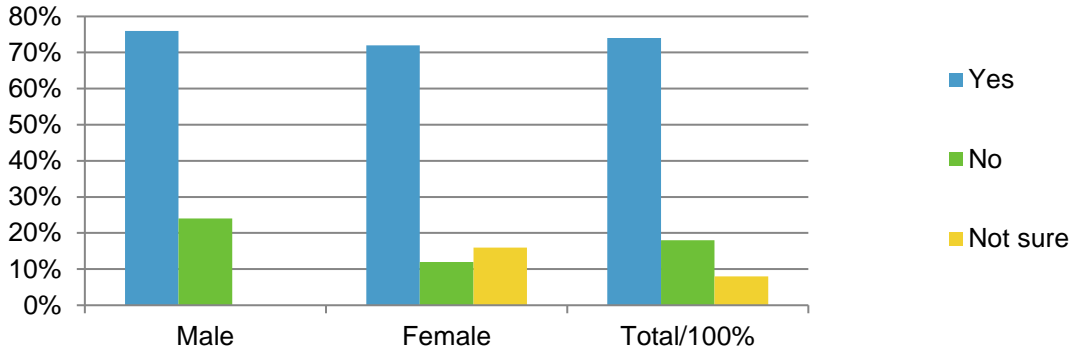


### How often are dogs and cocks forced to fight?

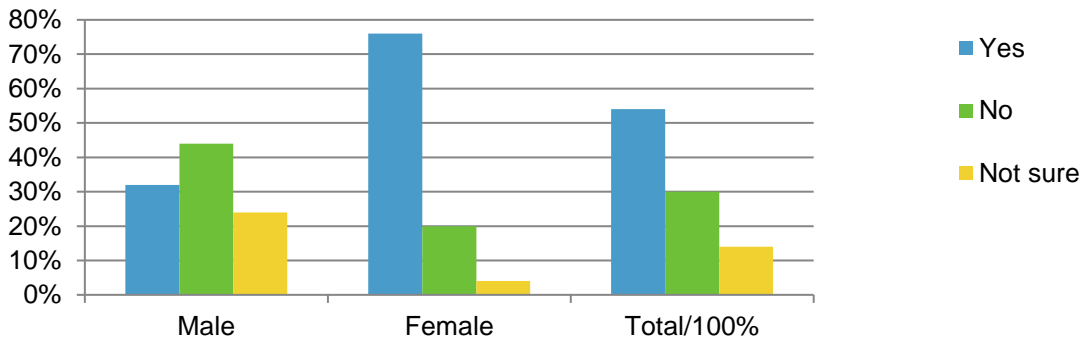




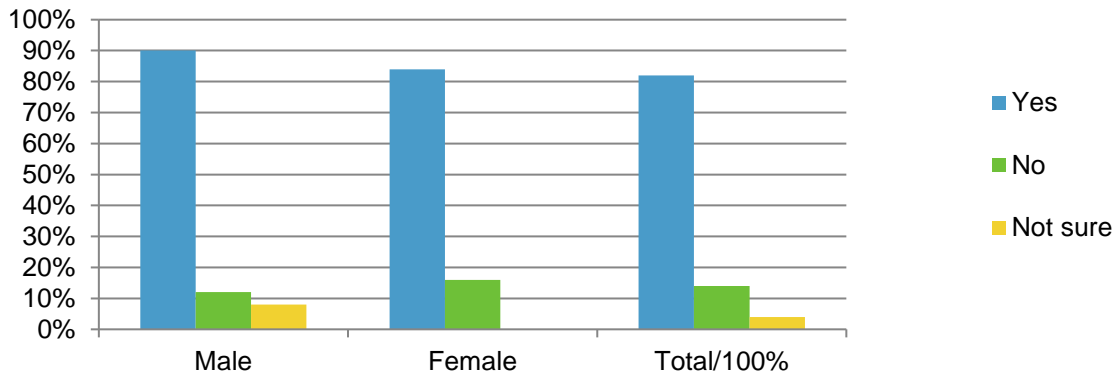
**Do you think people need more help to take care of animals ?**

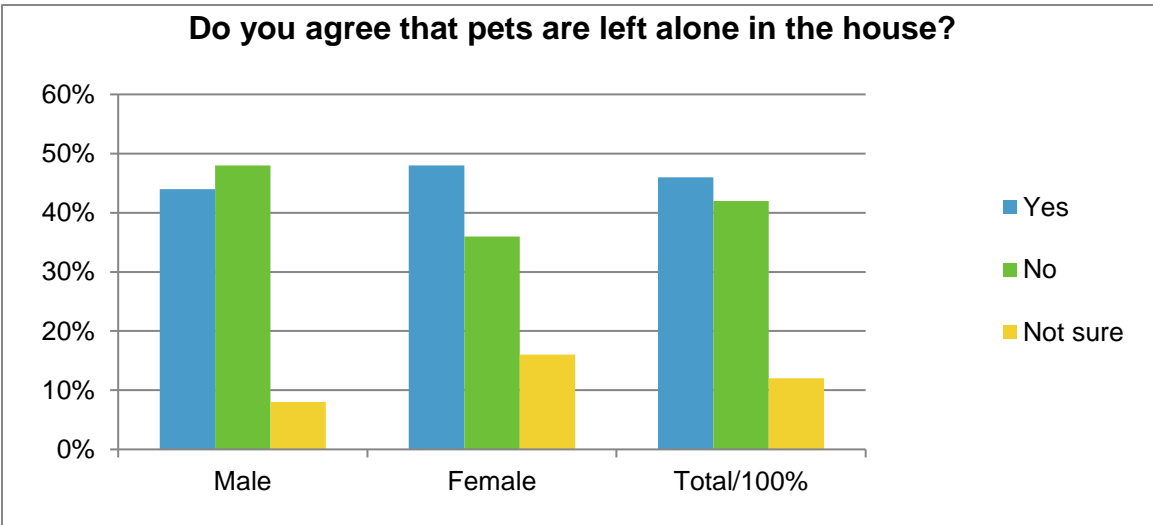
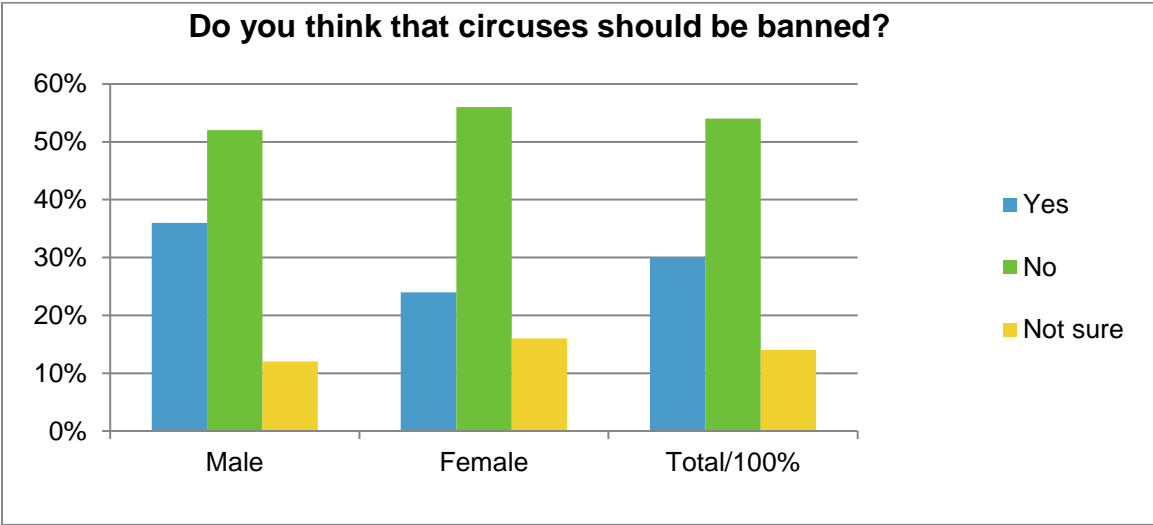
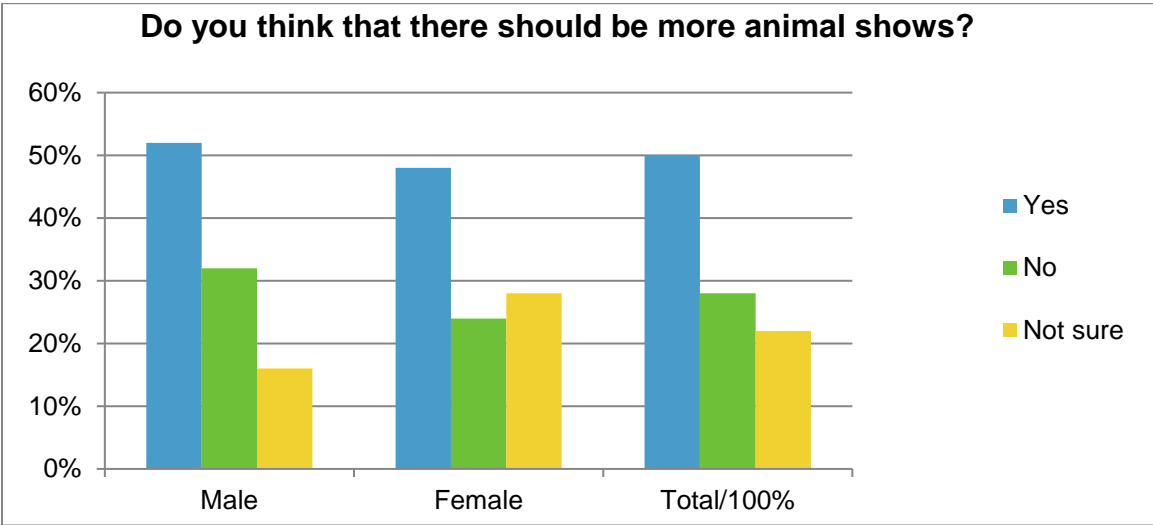


**Do you think that in Malta there are enough hospitals for animals?**

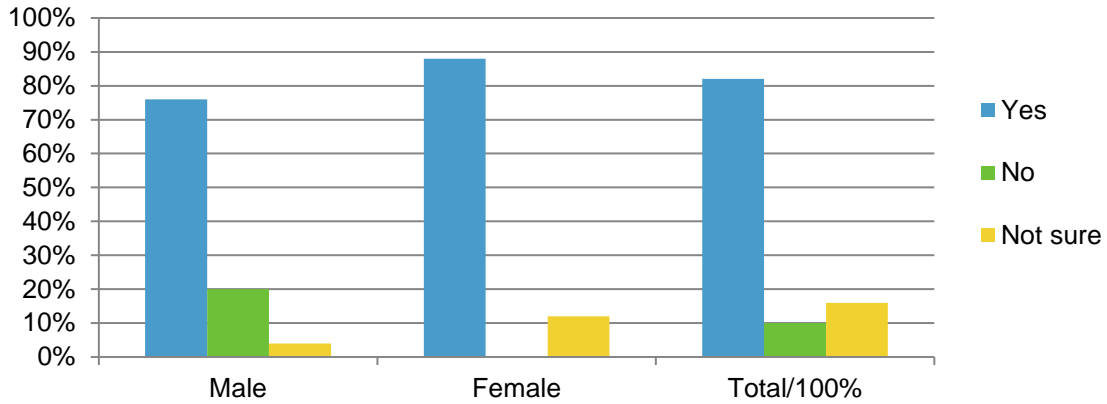


**Do you think that in Malta we need more parks for animals?**

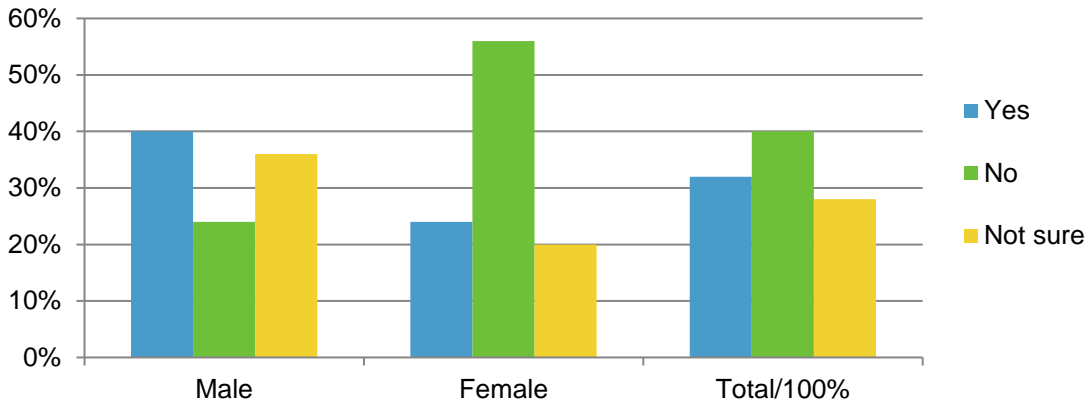




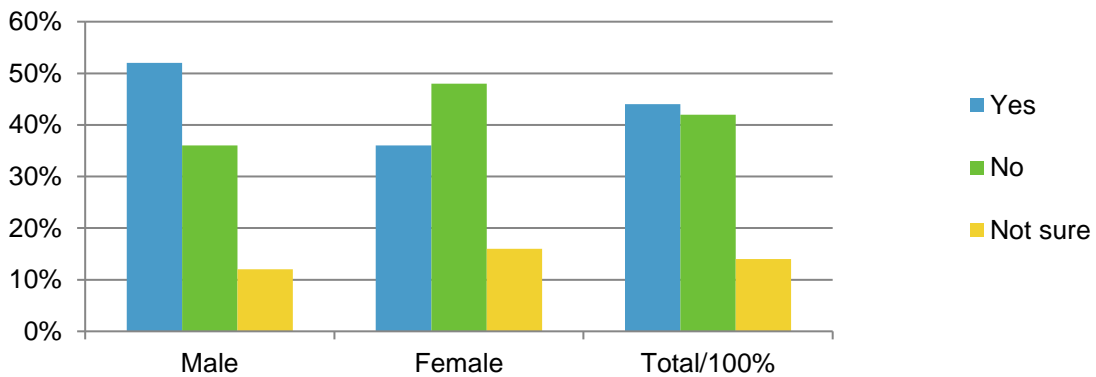
**Do you agree that there should be certain rules and laws so animal abuse will decrease?**

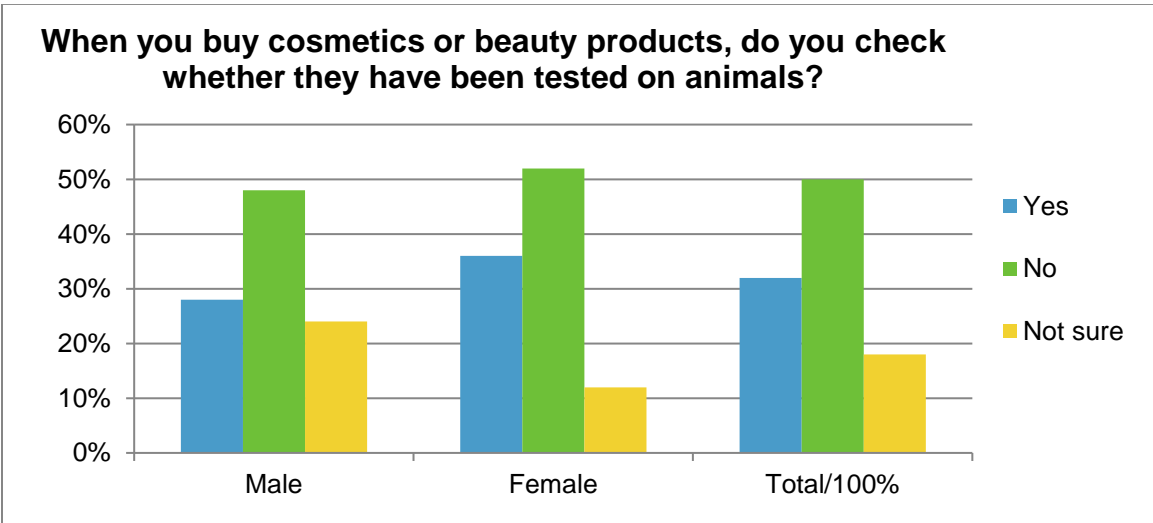
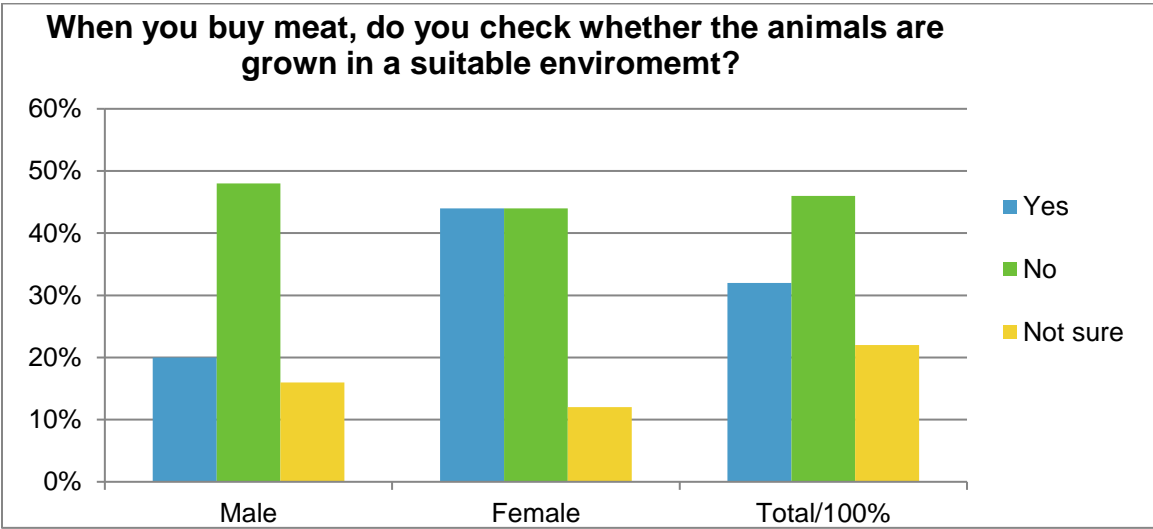
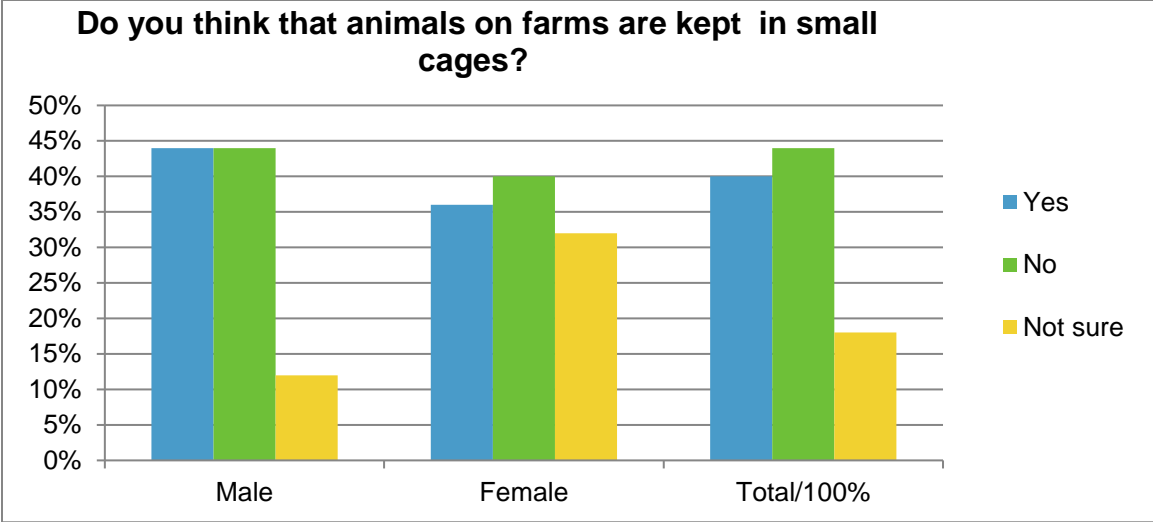


**Do you think that in circus animals are abused and forced to perform?**



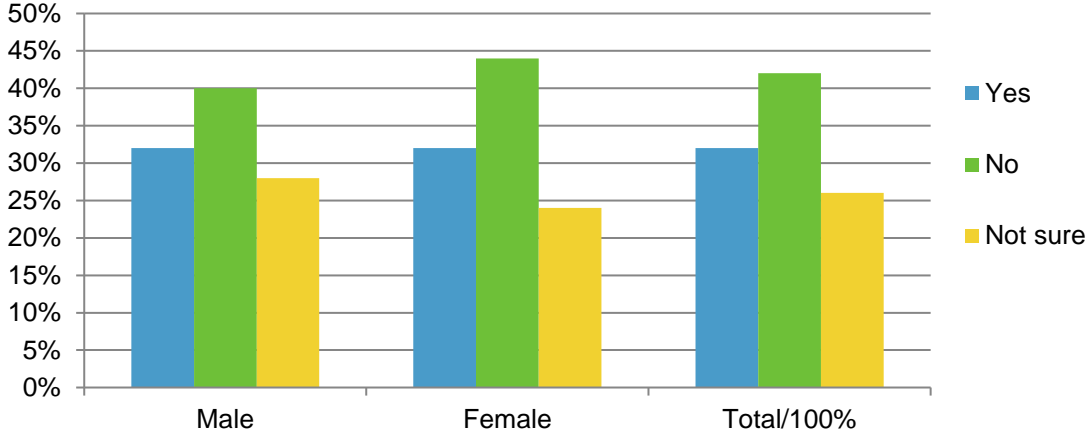
**Do you think that animals on farms are kept clean?**







**When you buy clothes and accessories , do you check whether any animals have been killed or hunt to produce those items?**



**How important do you think it is that the government passes more laws to ensure animal safety and well-being?**

