

Kaunas public opinion about animals in the zoo

SPIRIT OF RESEARCH

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Research steps

- ▶ Topic: Animal rights
- ▶ Problem: What people think about animals in the zoo?
- ▶ Target group: people in Kaunas
- ▶ Object: animals in Kaunas zoo
- ▶ Research tools: interview and observation

Observation



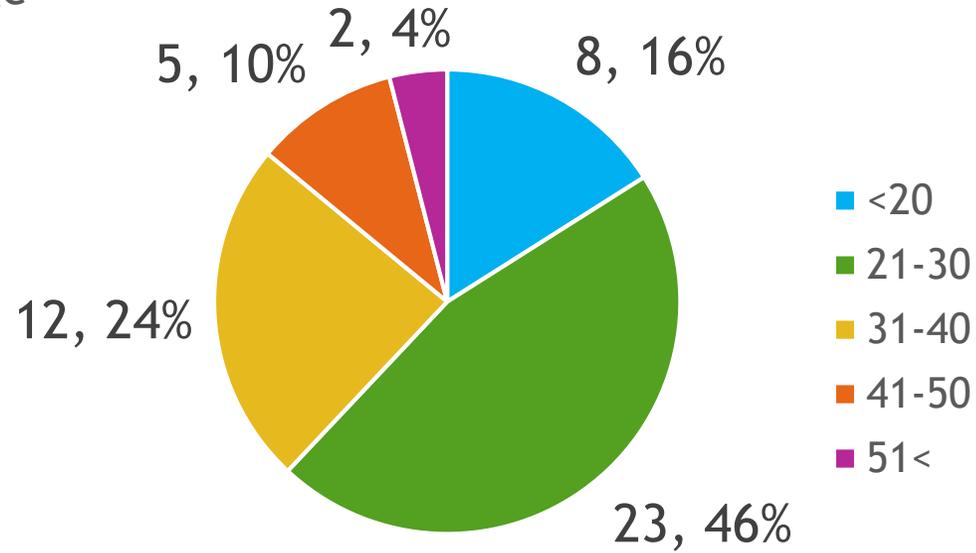
- Posters were put in public places in Kaunas (12h-14h);
- Going through Laisvės alėja with poster in hands (15h-16h).
- **Reaction:** ignoring, turning around, stopped and looked, commented.

Questions for the interview

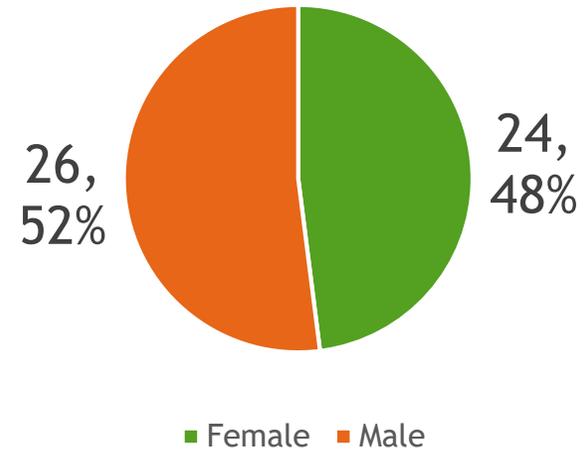
- ▶ How often do you go to the zoo?
- ▶ Why do you go to the zoo?
- ▶ What do you think about animals in the zoo?

Features/distribution of interviews

Age

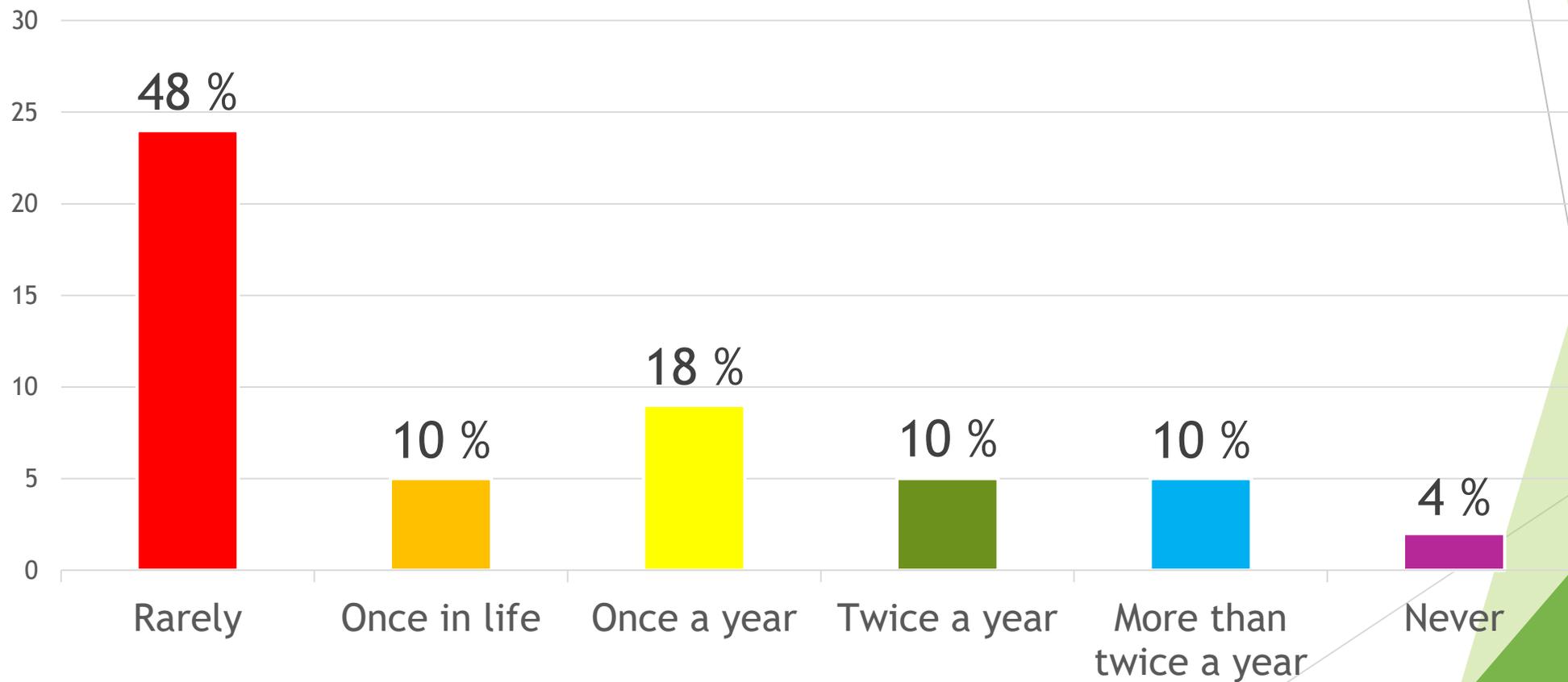


Gender



Totally: 50 people

How often do people go to the zoo



Reasons for going to the zoo

► Leisure

“For a date, To meet friends”

“School Excursion”

“For fun”

► Education & Interest

“To see rare animals which aren’t in Lithuania”

“To show animals to the child”

“It’s interesting”

Opinion about animals in zoo: in favor

“I wouldn’t go to the zoo by myself, but I came because I wanted to show animals to my child.” (Mother’s opinion)

“It’s not so good but it’s important for children.”



Neutral position

- ▶ Depends on the zoo:

“I don’t like Kaunas zoo, conditions aren’t good, in Latvia it was better.”

- ▶ *Animal rights trend*

“I am not into new people thinking” (vegan, animal rights)

- ▶ *Born in cage animals should stay in cage*

“What animals can do? You can not let them to the freedom. Maybe it is better.”

► *Importance of conditions:*

“It’s a hard topic; animals are kept in captivity but as long as they are fed and exercised, zoos are okay.

“It’s good but they are not in the wild so it’s not the same.”

“For some animals it’s good for example for rare species for polar bears not so good.”

“It’s a pity that they living in a captivity, I don’t like it, but a zoo is a zoo.”

“Maybe people as well will be put into Cages. Hahahah”



Public opinion about animals in the zoo: against

- ▶ Need of natural environment

“They shouldn’t live in these conditions. They should live in reservoirs where is their natural habitat.” (Person connected with Tušti Narvai)

- ▶ Need of better conditions:

“It’s a dirty place and cages are small”

No activities for animals:

▶ Sad animals

“It’s not fun for animals“

“Sad animals it’s a shame”

▶ Cruel treatment “I don’t agree with animal abuse”

▶ Animals not adapted to the local climate

▶ Animals are in captivity



People in the public vs. people in the zoo

- ▶ In the zoo people point out that *“it is fine”* that animals are in the zoo;
- ▶ In the zoo people analyze conditions:
 - “They turned them backs, seem to be sad. It is sad”*
 - “Yes, when you see them in bad shape you think, that it is not good for animals”*

Solutions

- ▶ To make better conditions in the zoo
 - “small cages”*
 - “dirty places”*
- ▶ To free animals
 - “It shouldn’t be castrated, they should do what they want”*
- ▶ Selection of animals according to the climate (Climate in Lithuania)

Thank you for attention

