

# 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



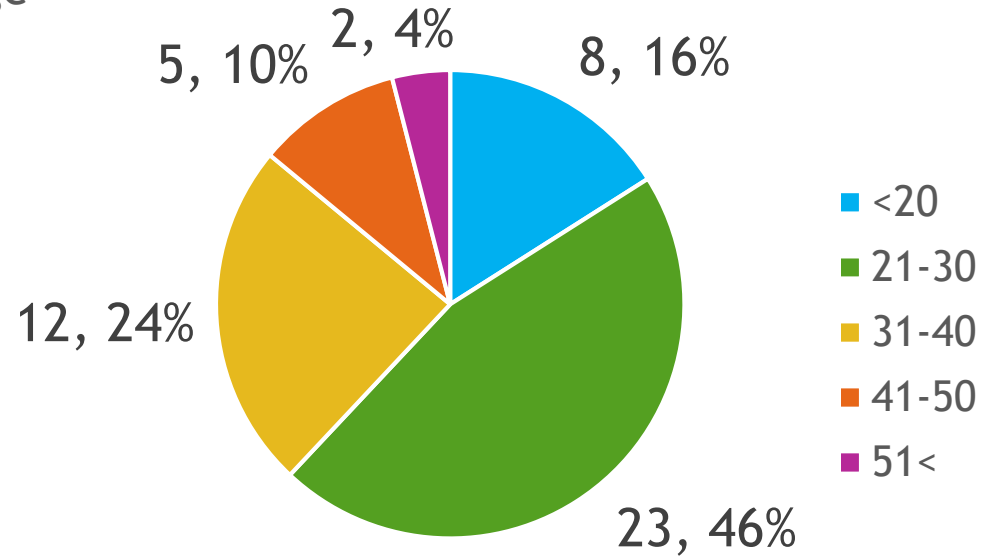
- Posters were put in public places in Kaunas (12h-14h);
- Going through Laisvės alėja with poster in hands (15h-16h).
- **Reaction:** ignoring, turning around, stopped and looked, commented.

# Questions for the interview

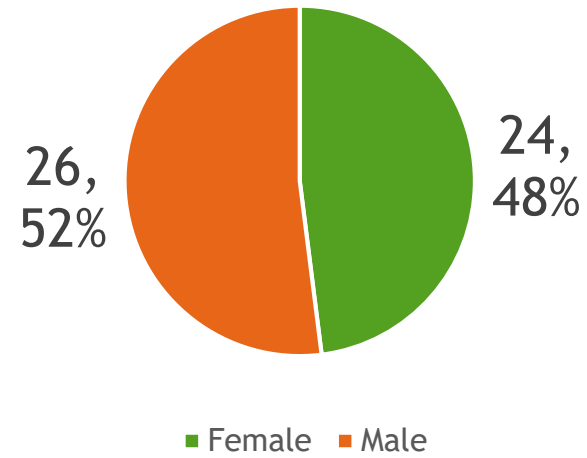
- ▶ How often do you go to the zoo?
- ▶ Why do you go to the zoo?
- ▶ What do you think about animals in the zoo?

# Features/distribution of interviews

Age

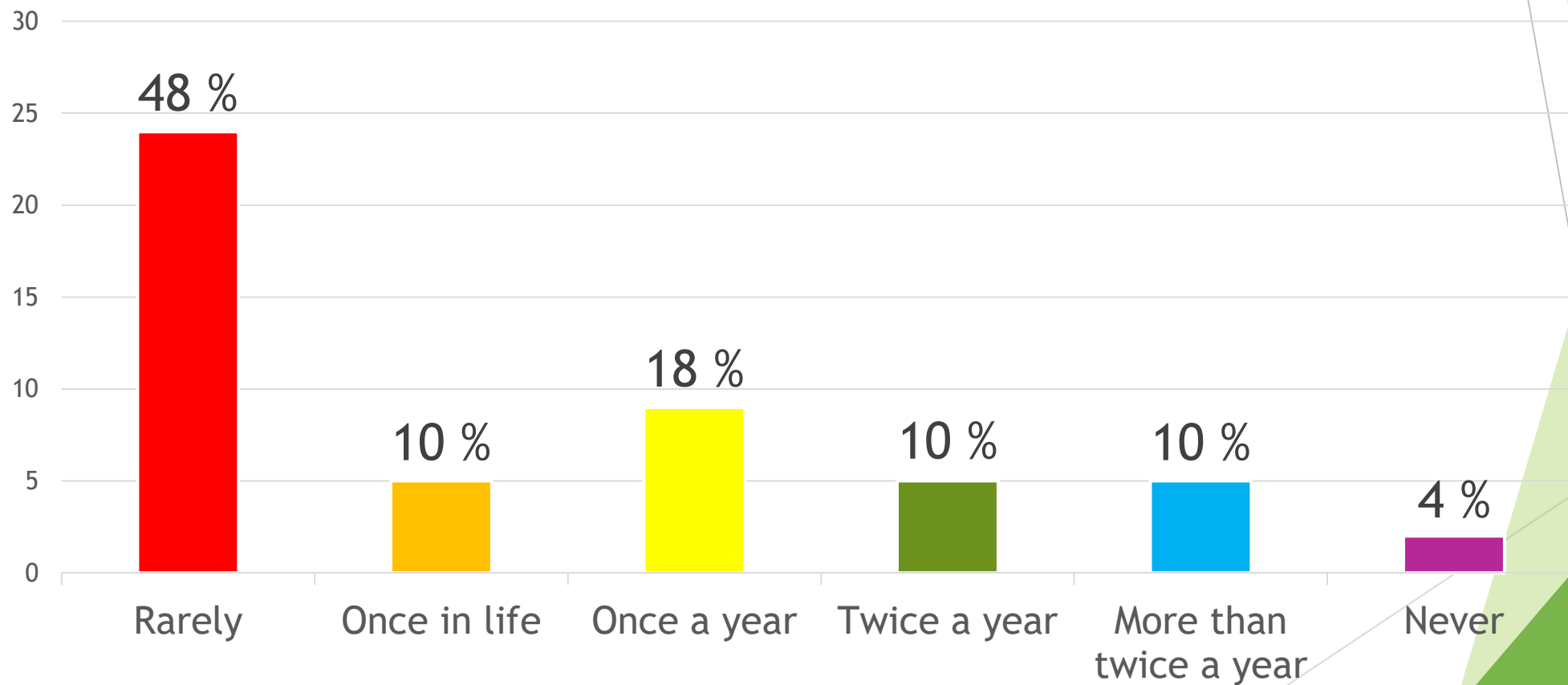


Gender



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

