



Public perception of farm animal welfare in Spain

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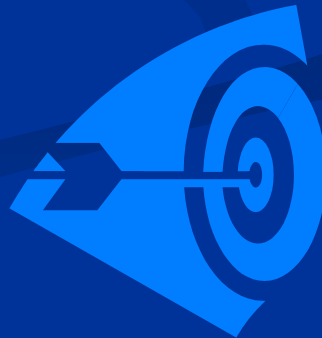
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Public perception of farm animal welfare in Spain

- The social claim in favour of animal welfare has produced changes in the European legislation controlling livestock industry.
- Modifications in production systems will be necessary for the compliance of the new requirements affecting production costs.
- The question is to determine whether people in countries such Spain will accept the increment in the price in order to improve animal welfare.



**The objective of this study was to
assess the human attitude and
perception of farm animal welfare
in Spain**



People living in the area of influence of the University of Zaragoza was surveyed (n=3978)

(Aragón, Catalonia, Vasque Country, Madrid, Valencia, Balearic Isles, Castile)

AGE class

1. < 20 years	806
2. 20-35 years	880
3. 36-50 years	1076
4. 51-64 years	626
5. > 65 years	590

SEX class

1. Male	1952
2. Female	2026

OCCUPATION class

1. Student School	364
2. Student University	586
3. Professional	292
4. Functionary	220
5. Worker	442
6. Housewife	254
7. Retired	398
8. Teacher School	294
9. Professor University	280
10. Veterinary	180
11. Farmer	184
12. Contractor	282
13. Unemployed	202

Field work realized by the First-Year student of the Vet School.
University of Saragossa. Spain
Animal Welfare & Behaviour Course. Professor Gustavo A. María

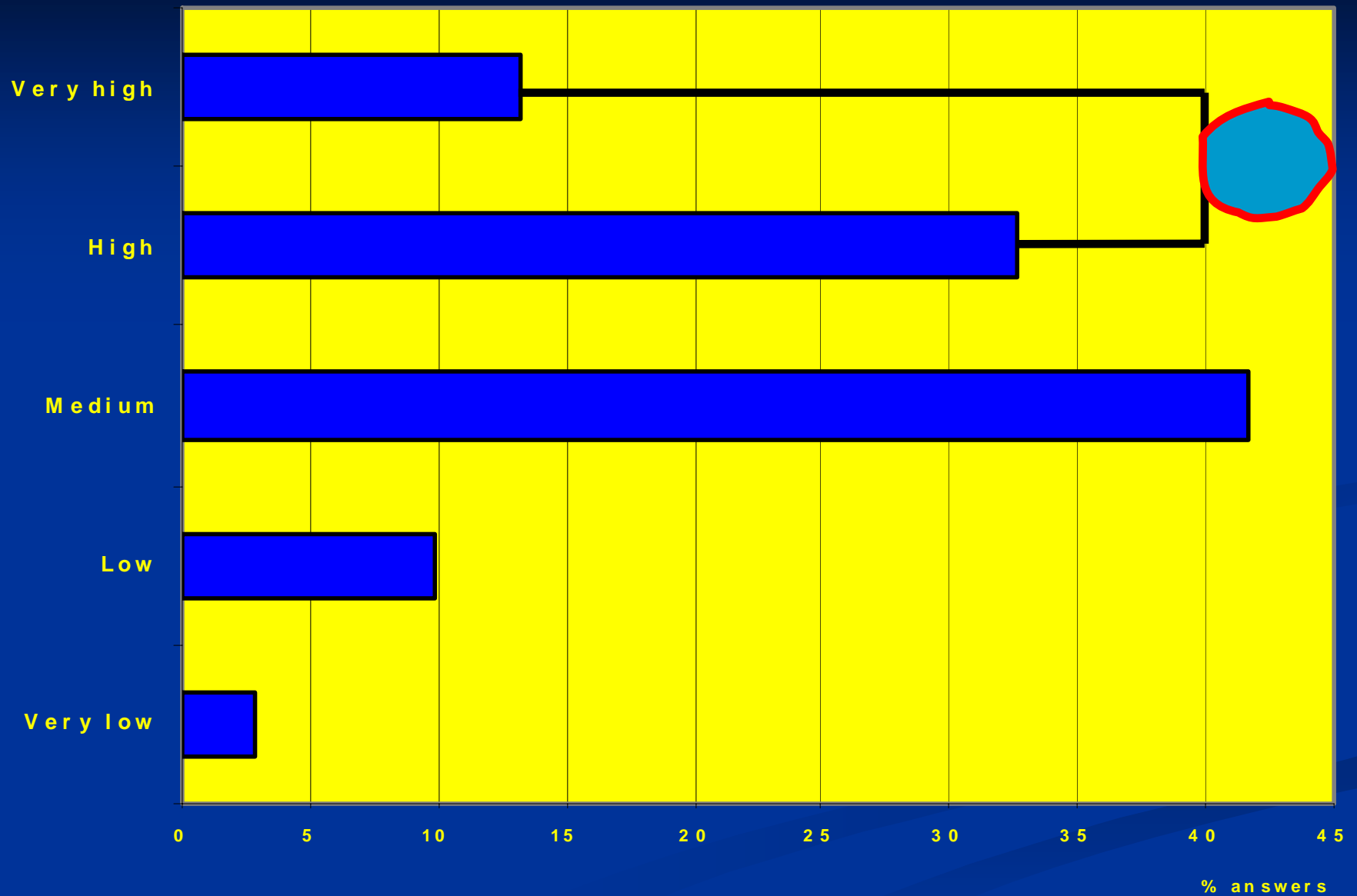
The questionnaire comprises 3 sections with a total of 12 questions:

The 1st section refers to the general attitude on animal welfare. **A**TTITUDE

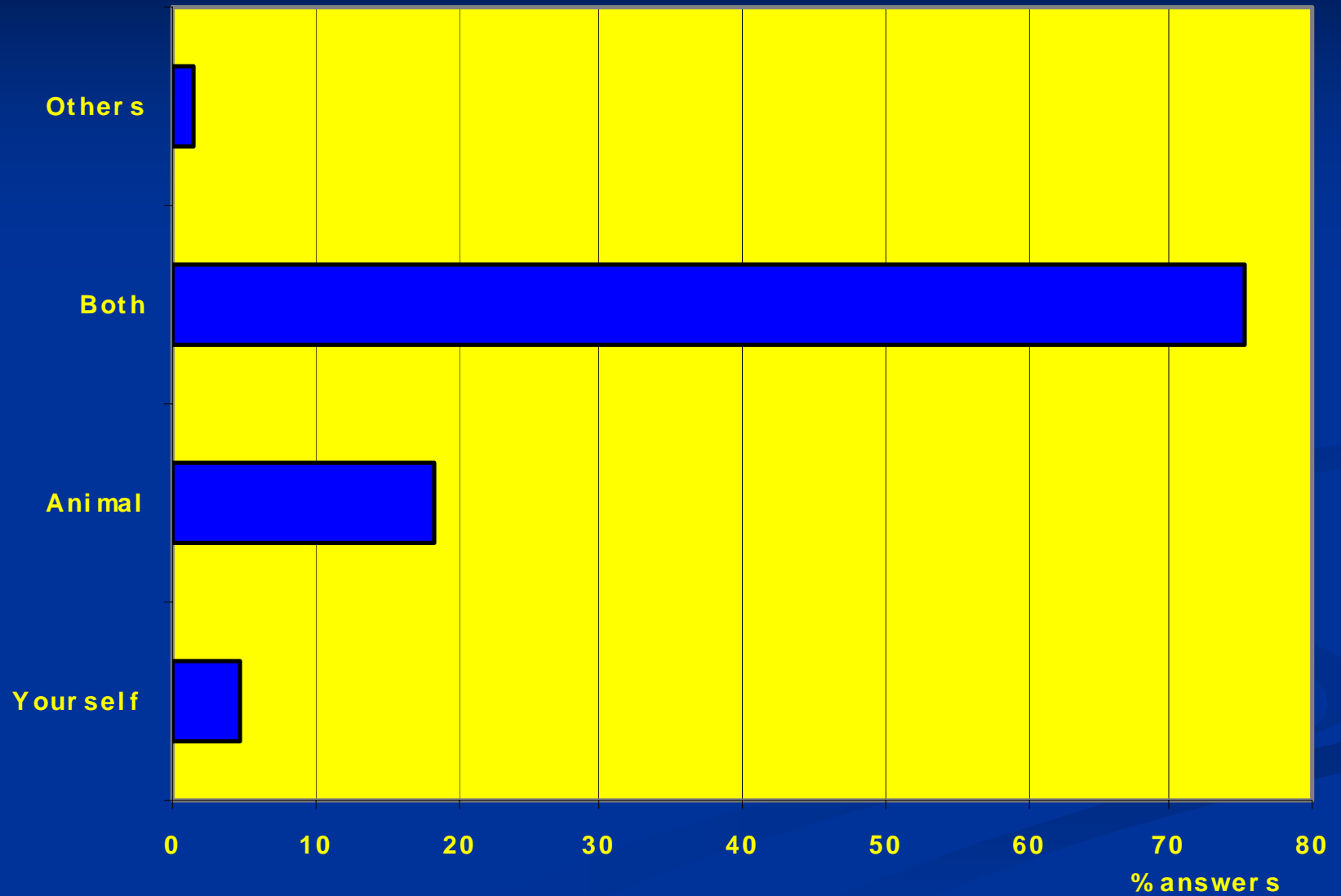
The 2nd asked to give a note about their perception about the treatments of the animals in the farm **P**ERCEPTION

The 3rd part asked about their agreement to pay more for a product to improve welfare and their actual consumption of welfare friendly products. **A**GREEMENT

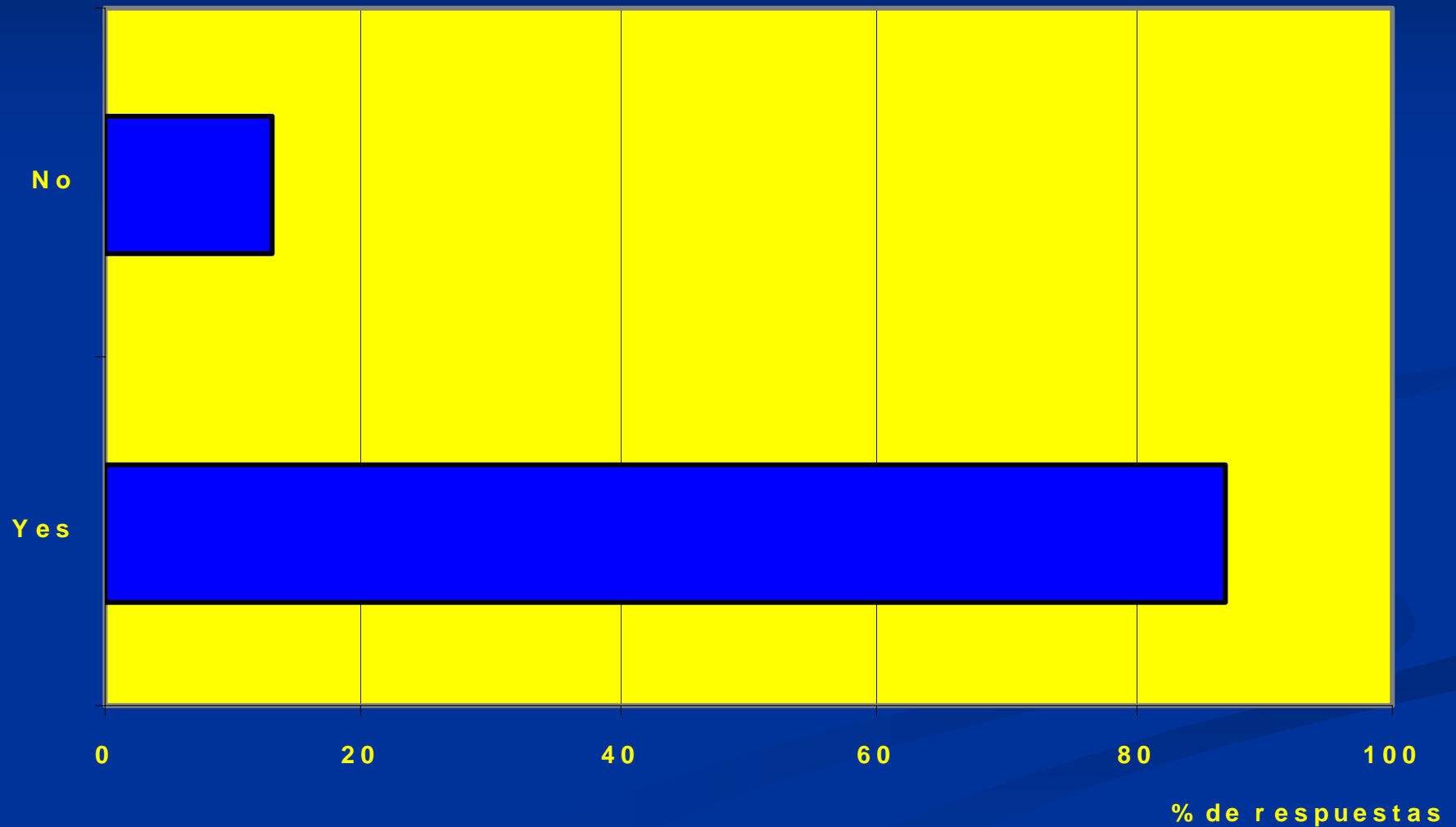
Q1. Your concern about animal welfare is:



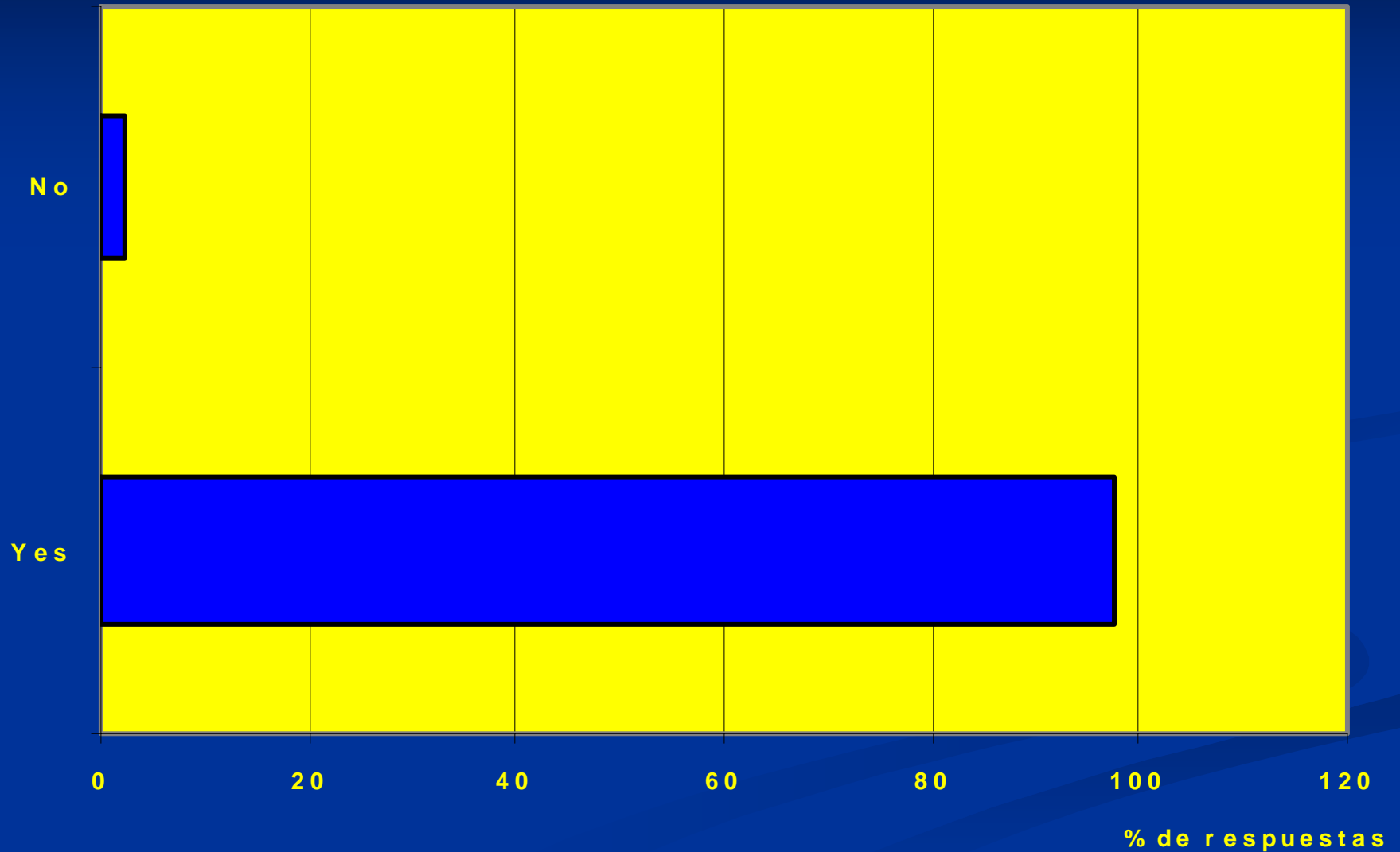
Q2. For you, animal welfare is important for...?



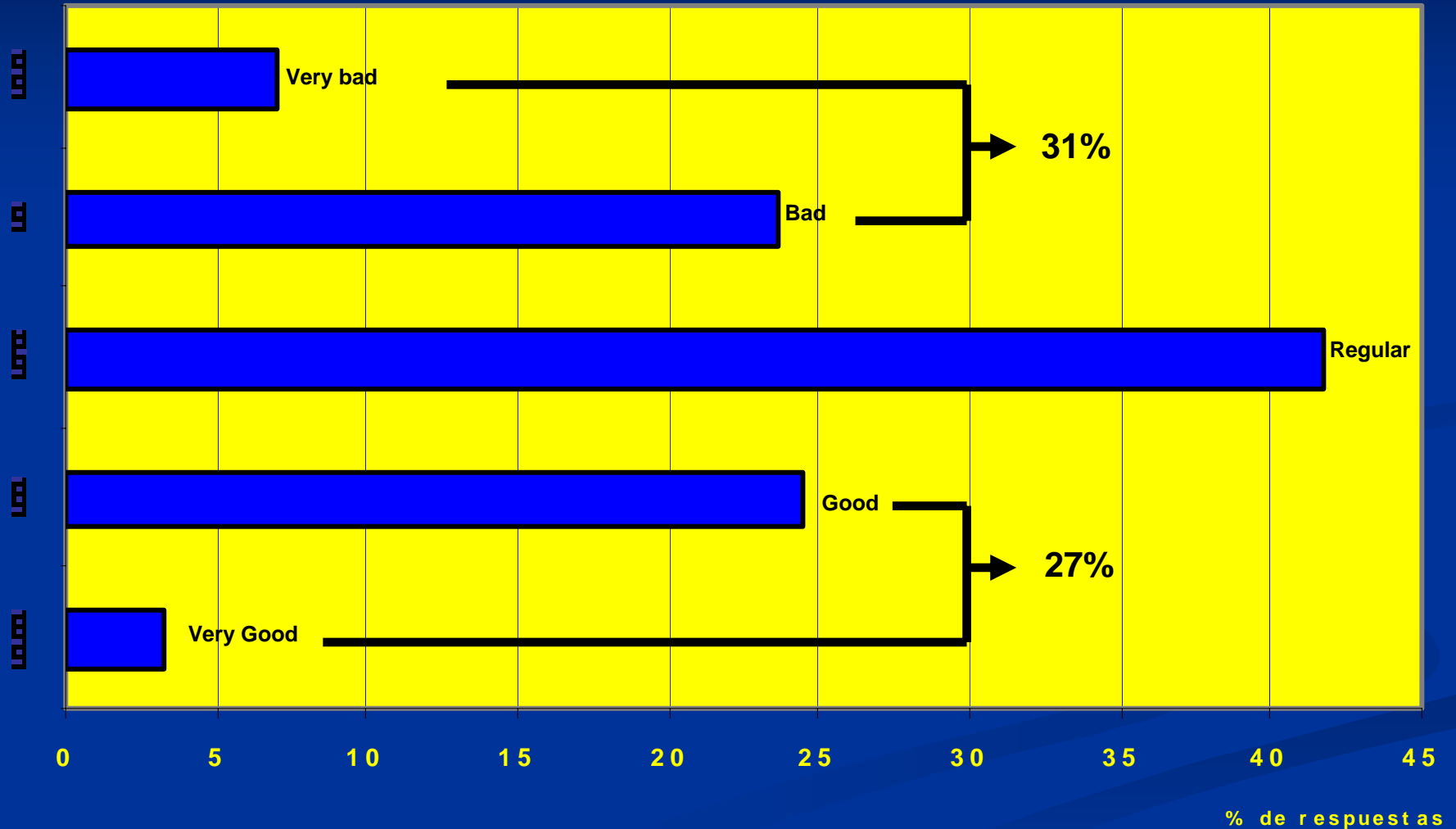
Q3. Do you think that the school have to teach about animal welfare?



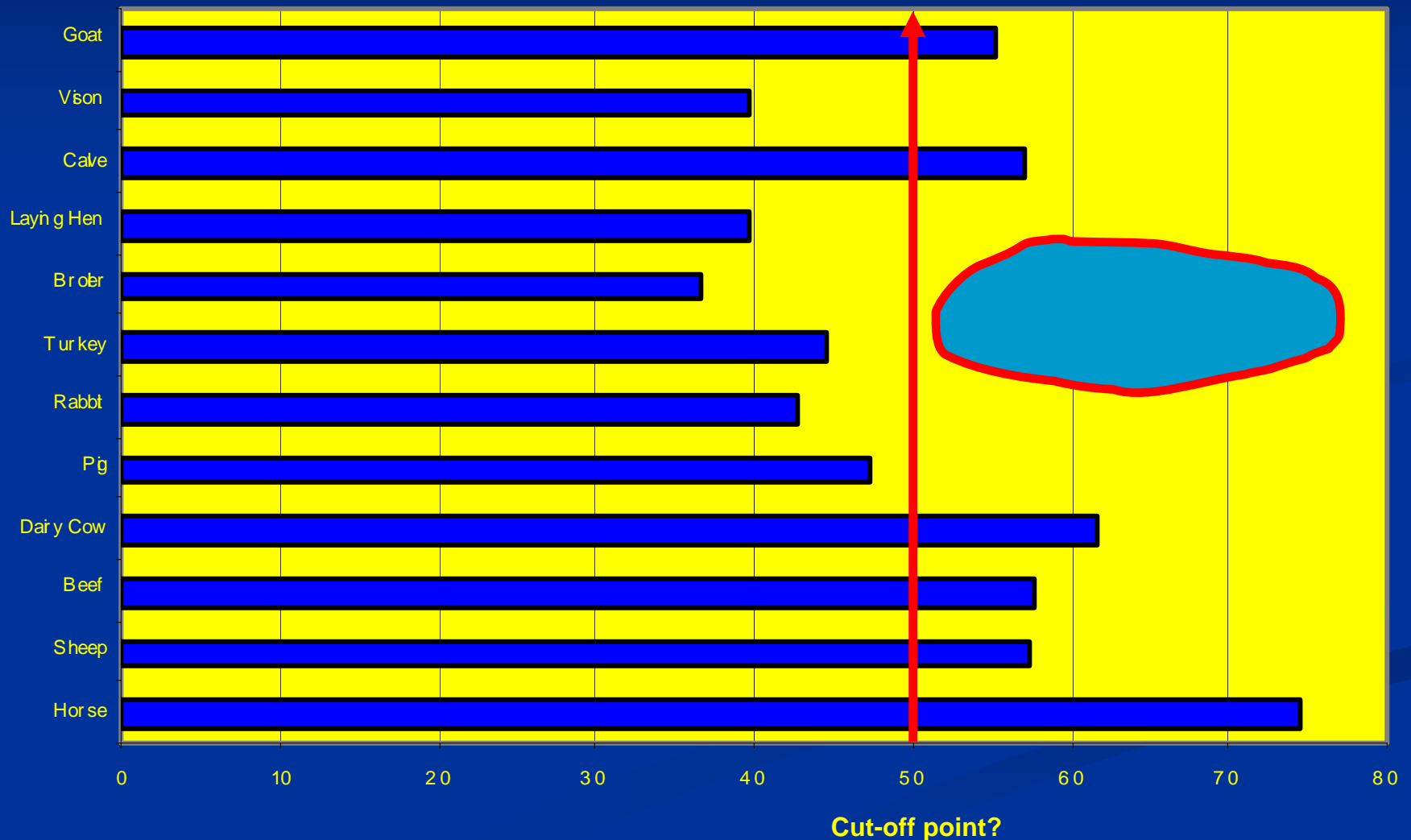
Q4. Do you eat meat or other animal products?



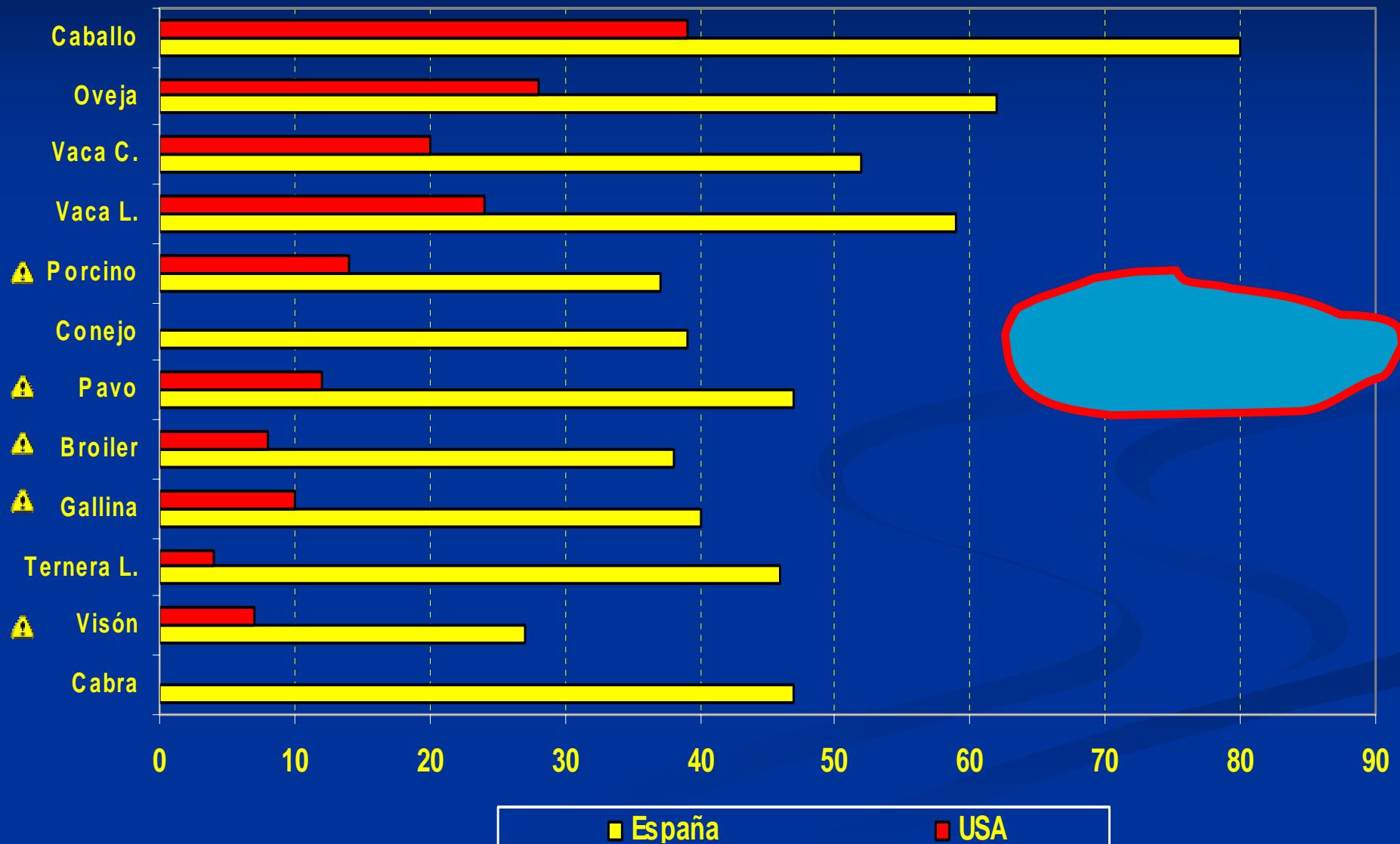
**Q5. What is your overall perception about the treatment
of farm animals?
(very good, good, regular, bad, very bad)**



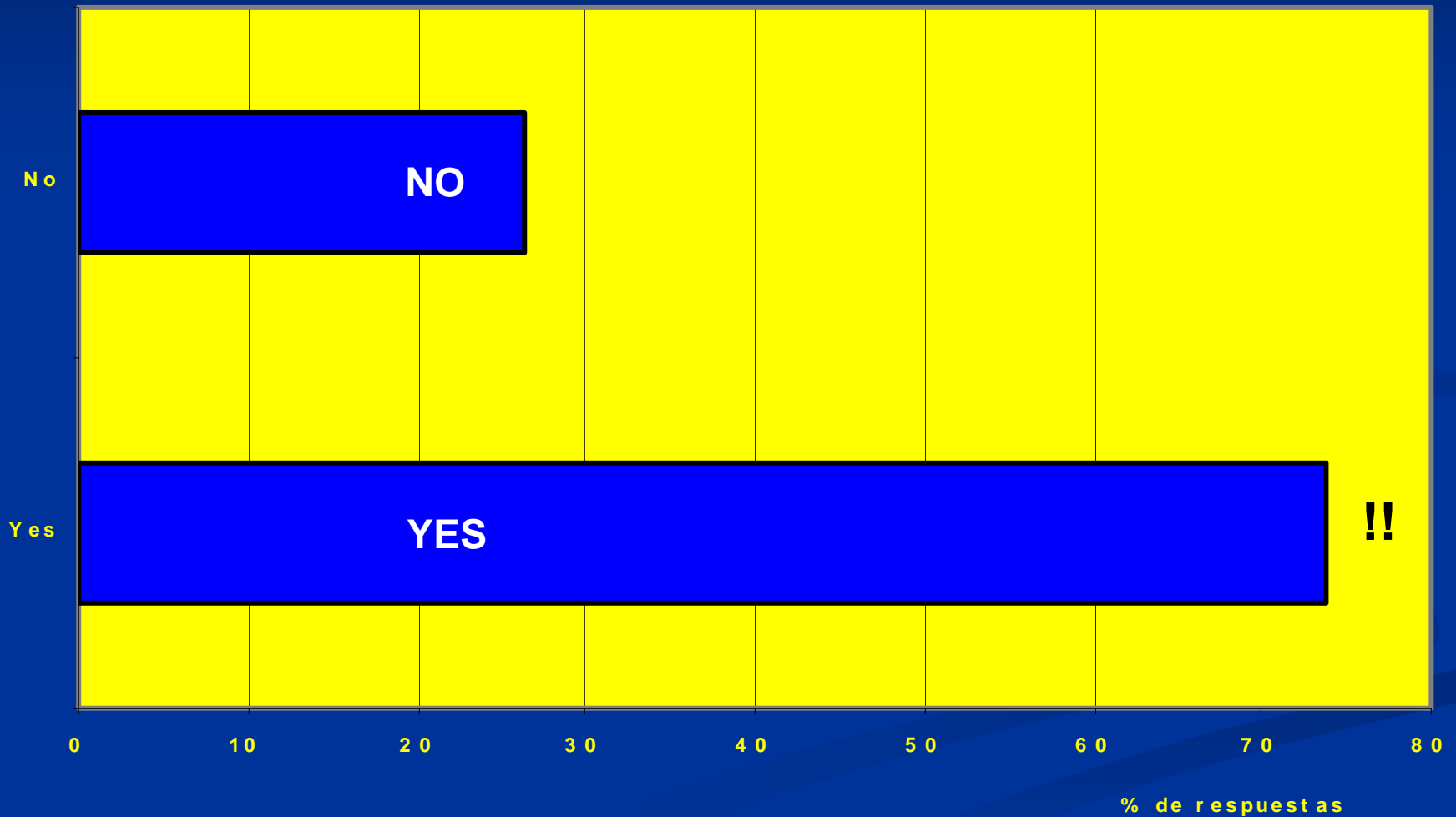
Q6. Score from 0 (very negative) to 100 (very positive) about your perception of the welfare of the following farm animals:



Notas medias asignadas por los encuestados acerca de cómo cree que son tratados los animales de granja (0=muy mal a 100=muy bien)



Q7. Do you agree to pay more for a product to improve animal welfare?



Q8. Do you consume free range eggs? (blue columns). If your answer is yes, say the reasons (welfare, quality, safety, others) (black columns)



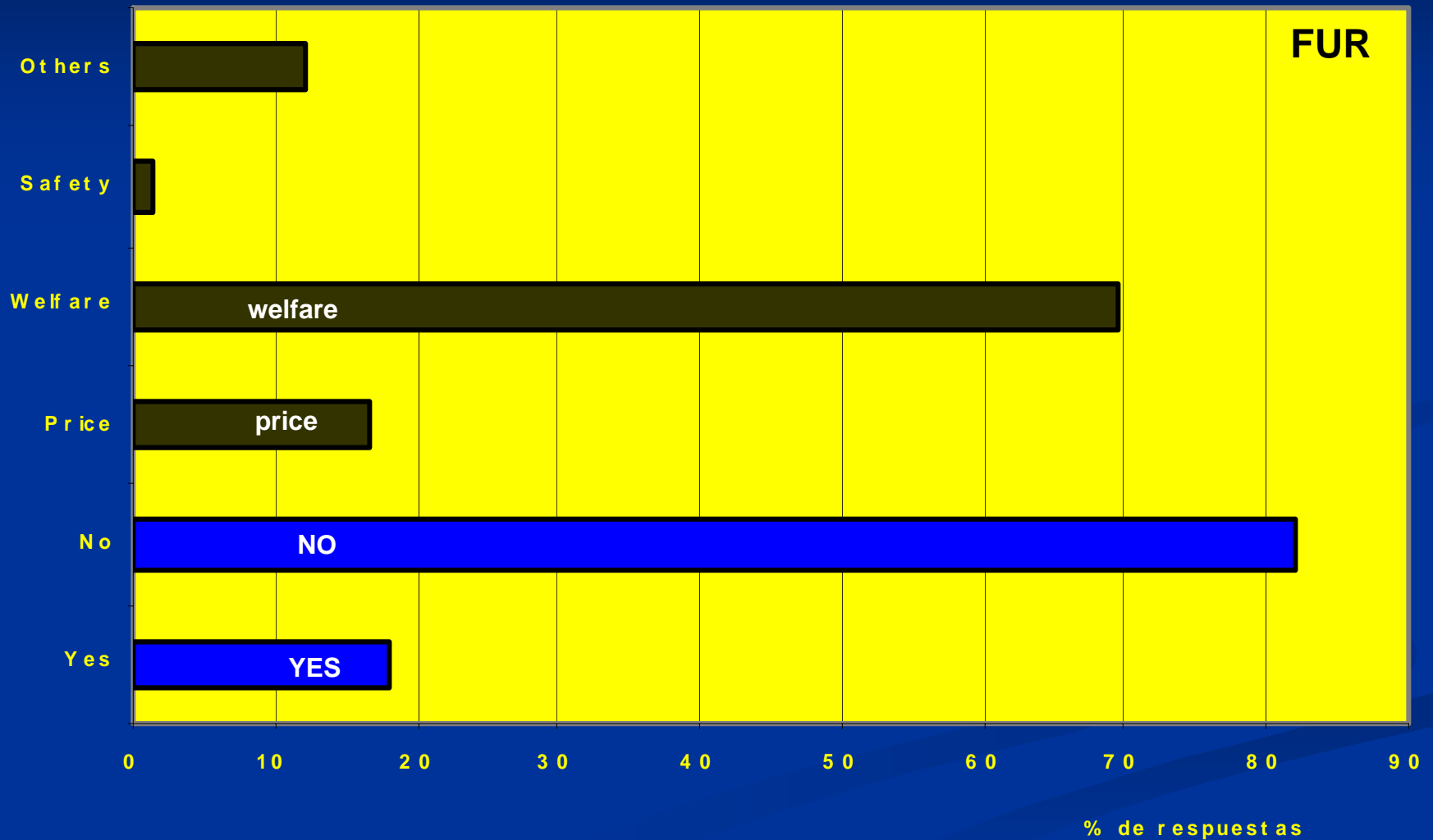
Q9. Do you consume free range chicken?. If your answer is yes, say the reasons (welfare, quality, safety, others)



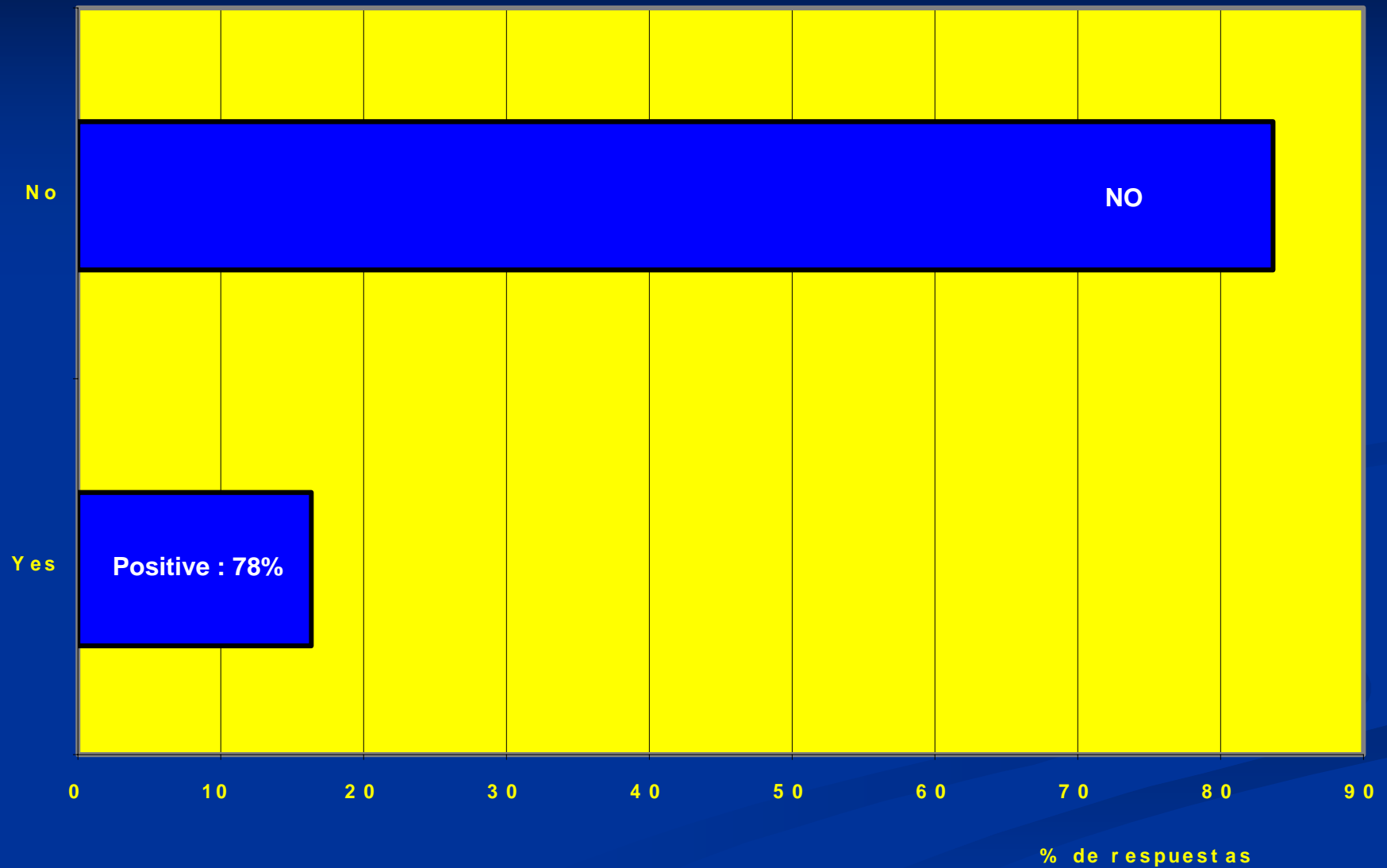
Q10. Do you consume free range pig? If you answer is yes, say the reasons (welfare, quality, safety, others)



Q11. Do you dress fur coats (i.e. vison)??. If your answer is No, say the reasons (Price, welfare, safety, others)



Q12. Do you wish to make any comments?



MAIN EFFECTS

Class	Attitude	Perception	Agreement
SEX			
Male	++	++	++
	+++	+++	+++
AGE			
<20	+++	+++	++
	+++	+++	++
35-50	+	+	++
51-64	+	+	+
>64	++	+	+

MAIN EFFECTS

Main Effect	Class	Attitude	Perception	Agreement
Occupation	Student school	+++	+++	++
	Student univer.	+++	+++	+
		+++	+++	+++
	Functionary	++	++	+
	Worker	+	++	+
	Housewife	+++	++	+++
	Retired	+	++	-
	Teacher School	++	++	++
	Profesor Univ.	++	+++	+++
	Veterinary	++++	--	+++
	Farmer	++++	--	+++
	Contractor	+++	++	+
	Unemployed	+	-	

More Sensitive

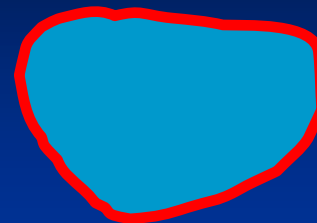
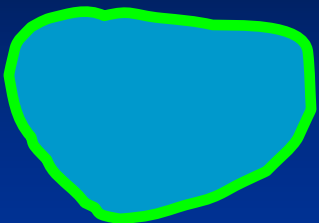


“Identity Kit”

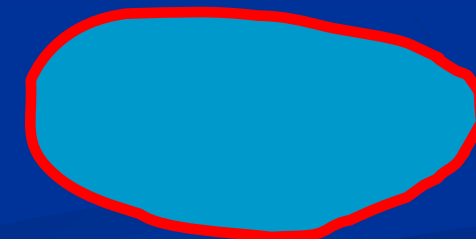
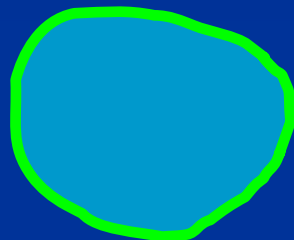


Less Sensitive

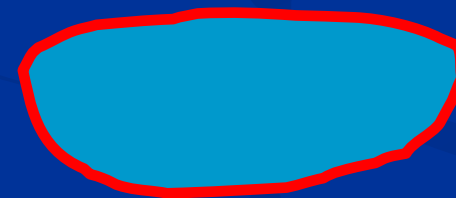
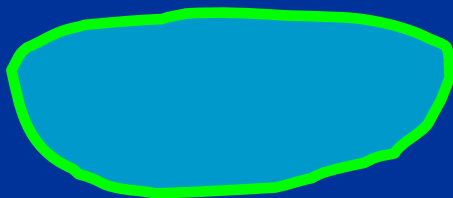
Sex class



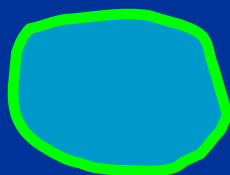
Age class



Occupation



Living at



“THE VET/FARMER PARADOX”

Main Effect	Class	Attitude	Perception	Agreement
	Veterinary	++++	--	+++
	Farmer	++++	--	+++

1. Apparently very in favour of animal welfare



2. But they think that the actual welfare status is very good

3. They strongly wish to increase the price of the products



SUMMARY

- The level of concern about animal welfare in Spain is important (and growing), but so far from the observed in North Europe or USA.
- The results indicate a low level of information about the effective treatment of the animals at the farm.
- As more intensive is the production (i.e. broiler, laying hens, pig) more negative is the perception.
- A very high proportion of the people surveyed think that welfare is important for both animals & humans.
- The majority of the people surveyed think that the school have to teach about animal welfare.

SUMMARY

- More than 75% of the people agree to pay more for a product to improve animal welfare.
- This fact do not agree with the consumption rate of welfare friendly products (WFP) probably due to the low average incomes in Spain.
- The reason to consume WFP is: 1st, quality & 2nd, welfare.
- A majority of the people do not use fur clothes, the main reason is welfare.
- The main effects analyzed were significant with a major welfare sensibility in young, women, students and professionals.

LONG TERM STRATEGY

To inform & to educate about animal welfare.

To investigate how to adapt the animal production systems to a modern concept of animal welfare (based on the *Five Freedoms*), developing a new concept of quality which involves the ethical aspects of the process.

It is important to recognize that this new situation will involve additional costs that must be borne by the market .

Veterinary Medicine Students (1st Course) University of Zaragoza



Thanks!

