

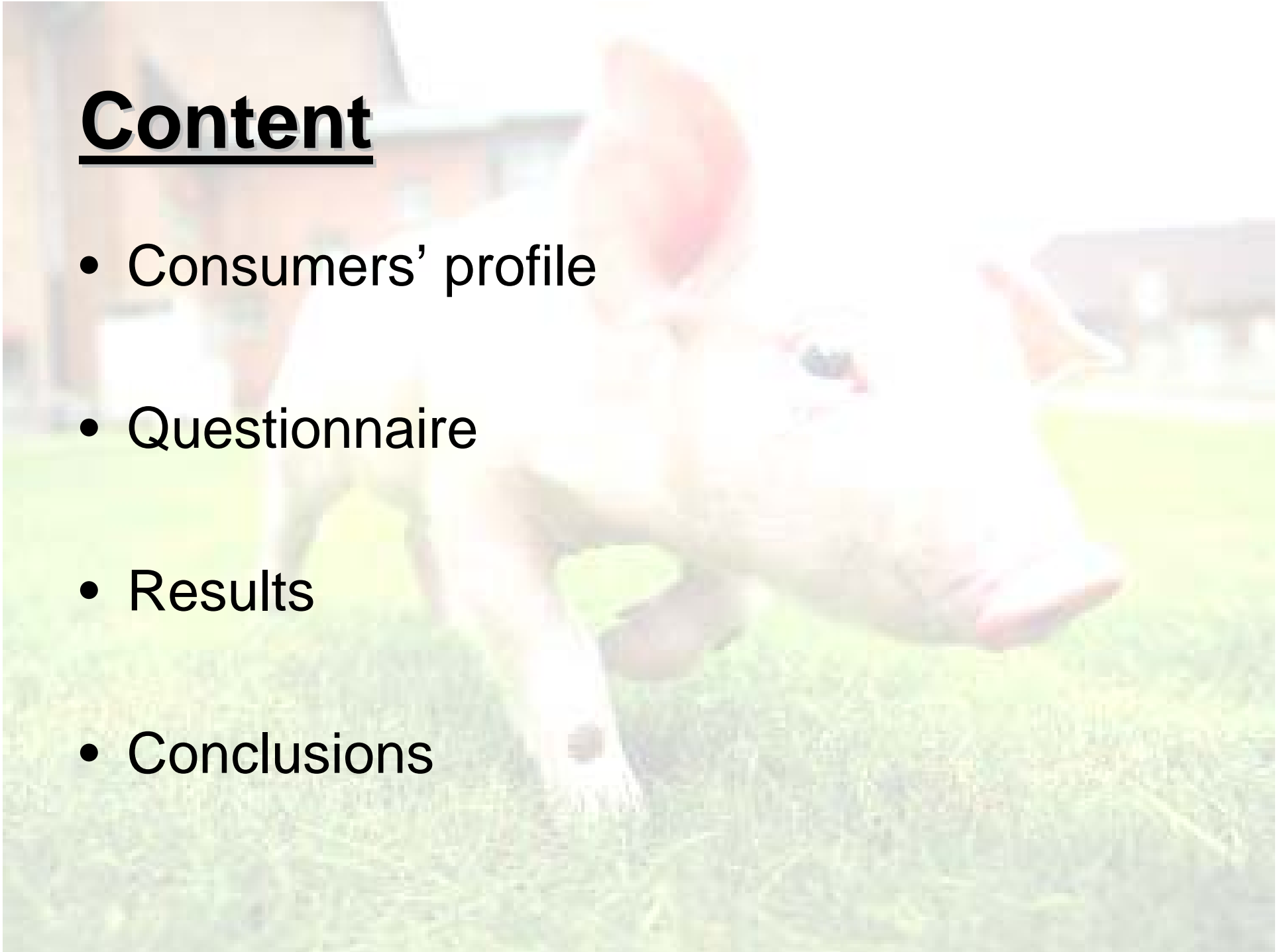
Consumers' opinion on alternatives for unanaesthetized piglet castration

S. Van Beirendonck, B. Driessen, R. Geers

sanne.van.beirendonck@khk.be

Content

- Consumers' profile
- Questionnaire
- Results
- Conclusions





Materials and methods: **consumers' profile**

- Flanders (Belgium): 5 provinces (\pm 6 million people)
- Oral inquiry, autumn 2009
- Social events, markets, railway stations,...
- 1018 people (16-80 years old; societal sample)

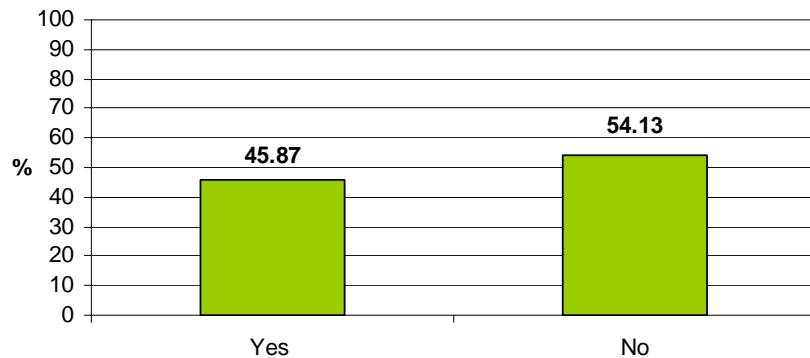
Questionnaire

- Opinion on:
 1. The issue of piglet castration
 2. Anaesthetized castration with analgesia
 3. Raising entire males
 4. Immunovaccination
 5. Acceptability of the proposed alternatives

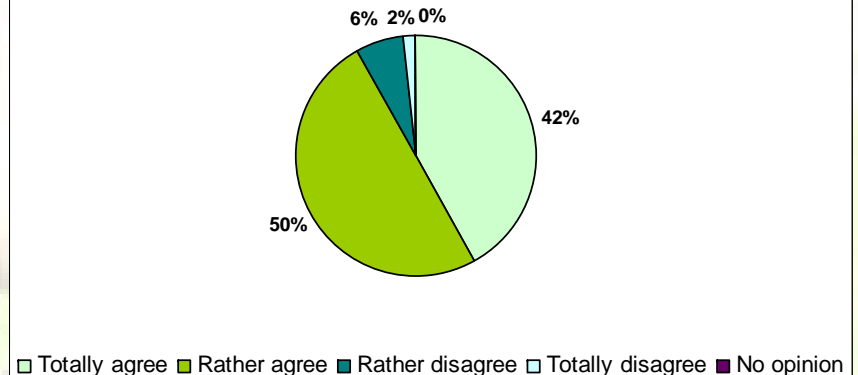
Results

1. Opinion on the issue of piglet castration

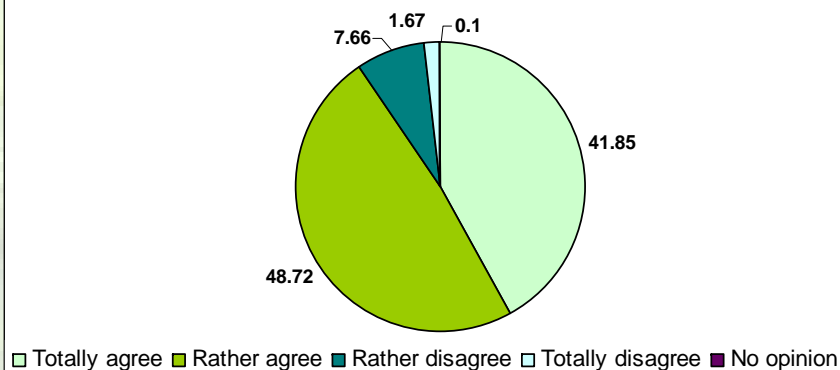
'Are you aware of unanaesthetized piglet castration?'



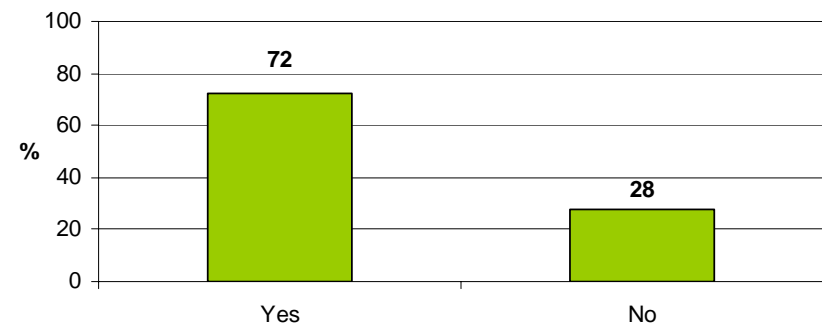
'Do you think that piglets suffer during unanaesthetized castration?'



'Do you think piglets suffer in the days after castration (no analgesia)?'



'Do you think unanaesthetized castration should be banned?'

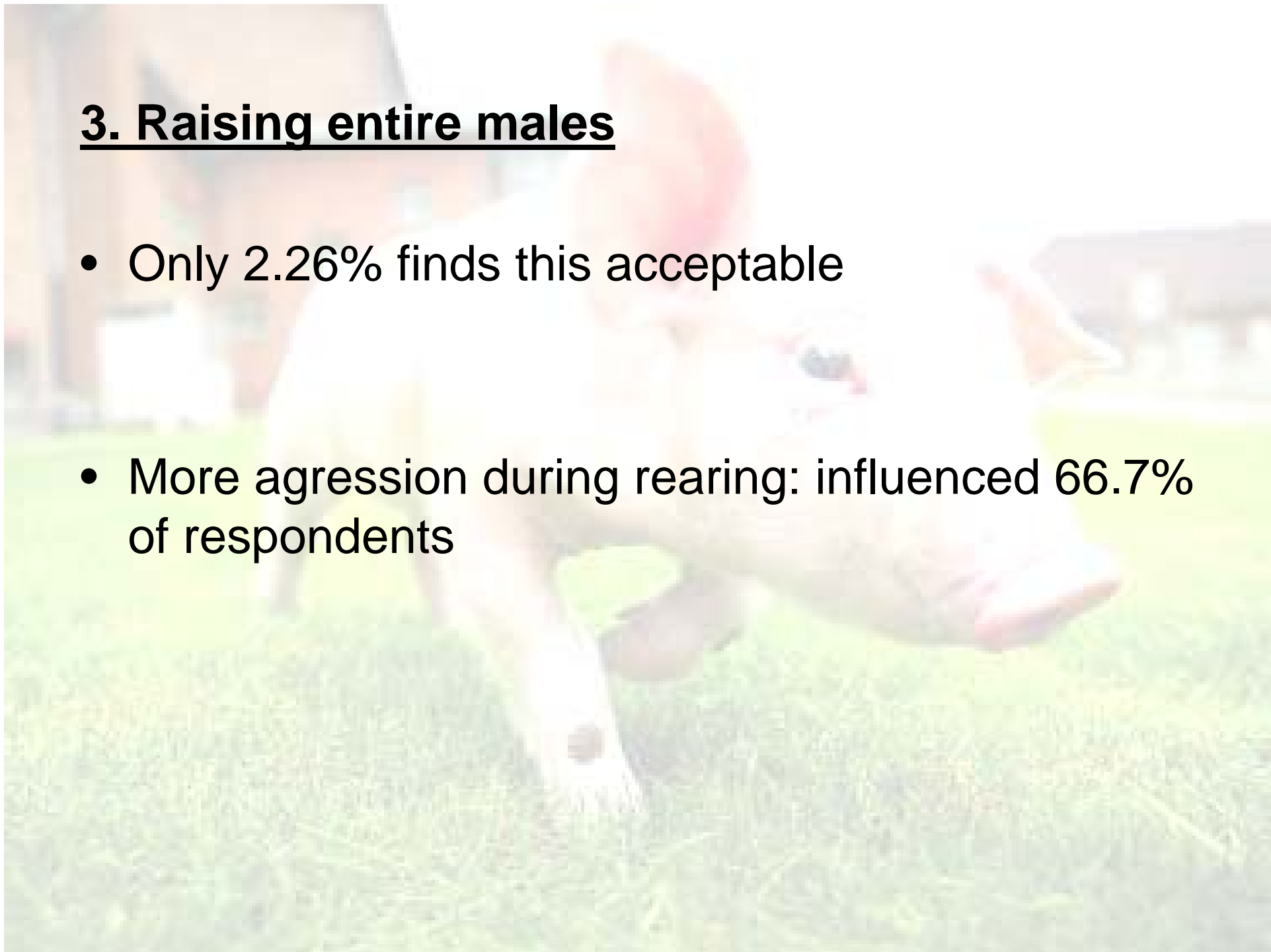


2. Anaesthetized castration with analgesia

- 98.5%: acceptable when pain during and after castration can be treated
- 63.3%: farmers should be able to administer the anaesthesia themselves
- 40.4%: willing to pay extra

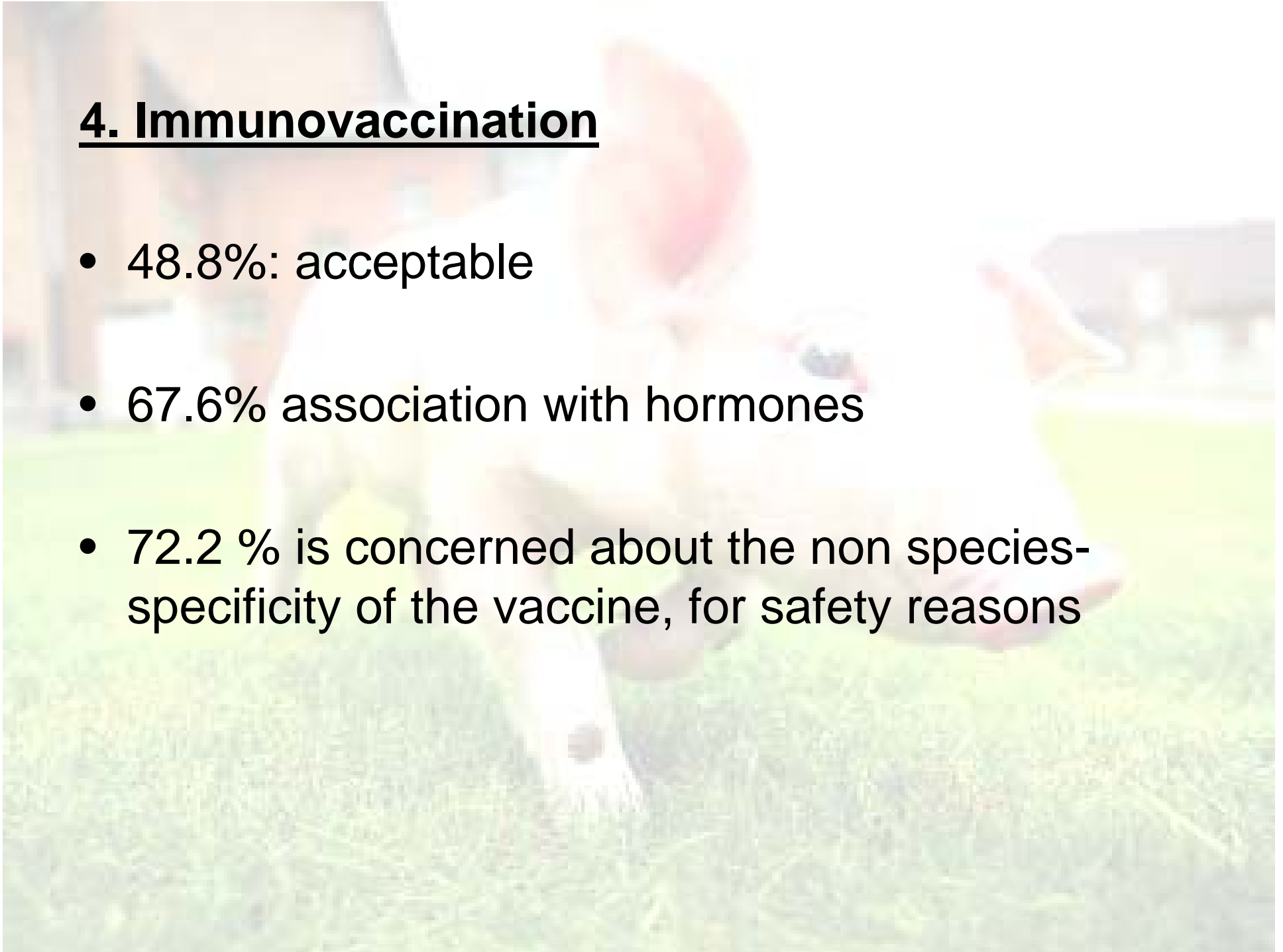
3. Raising entire males

- Only 2.26% finds this acceptable
- More aggression during rearing: influenced 66.7% of respondents

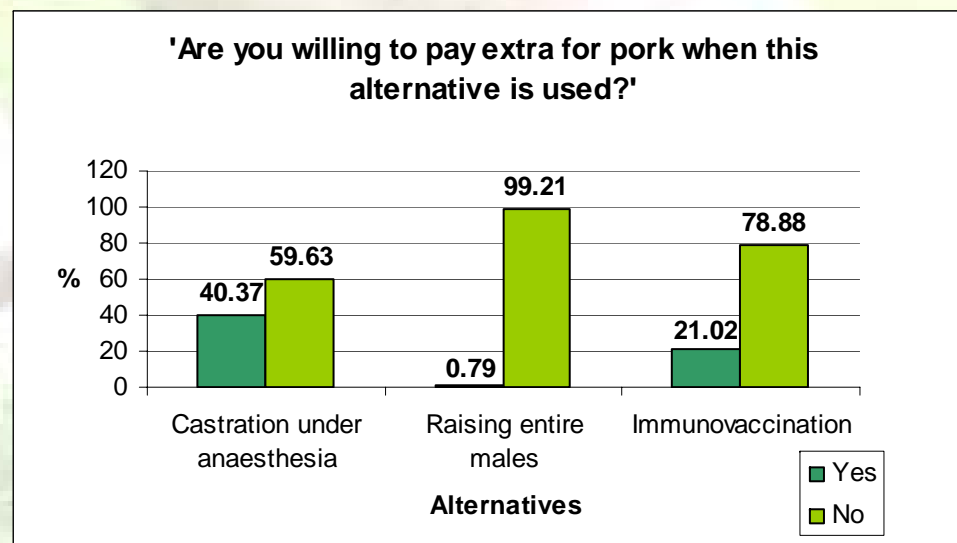
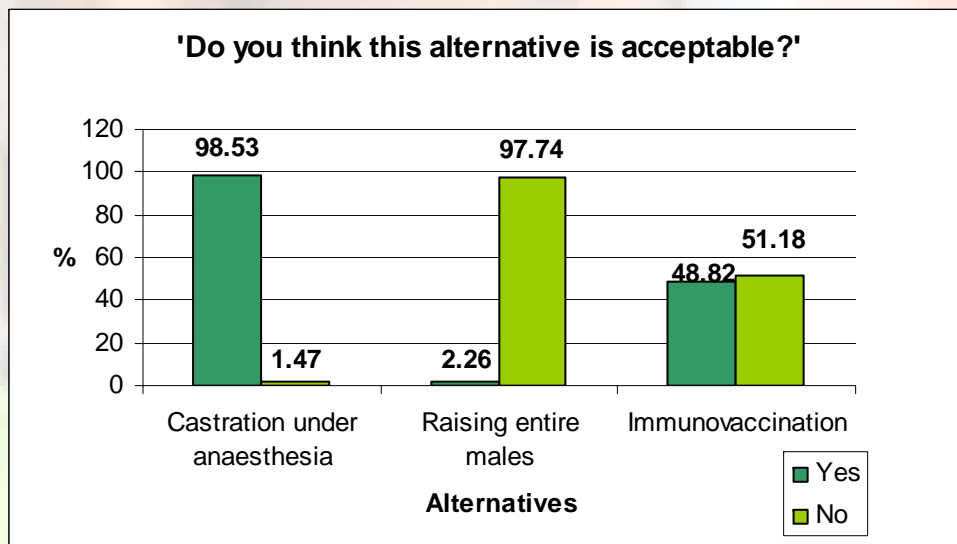


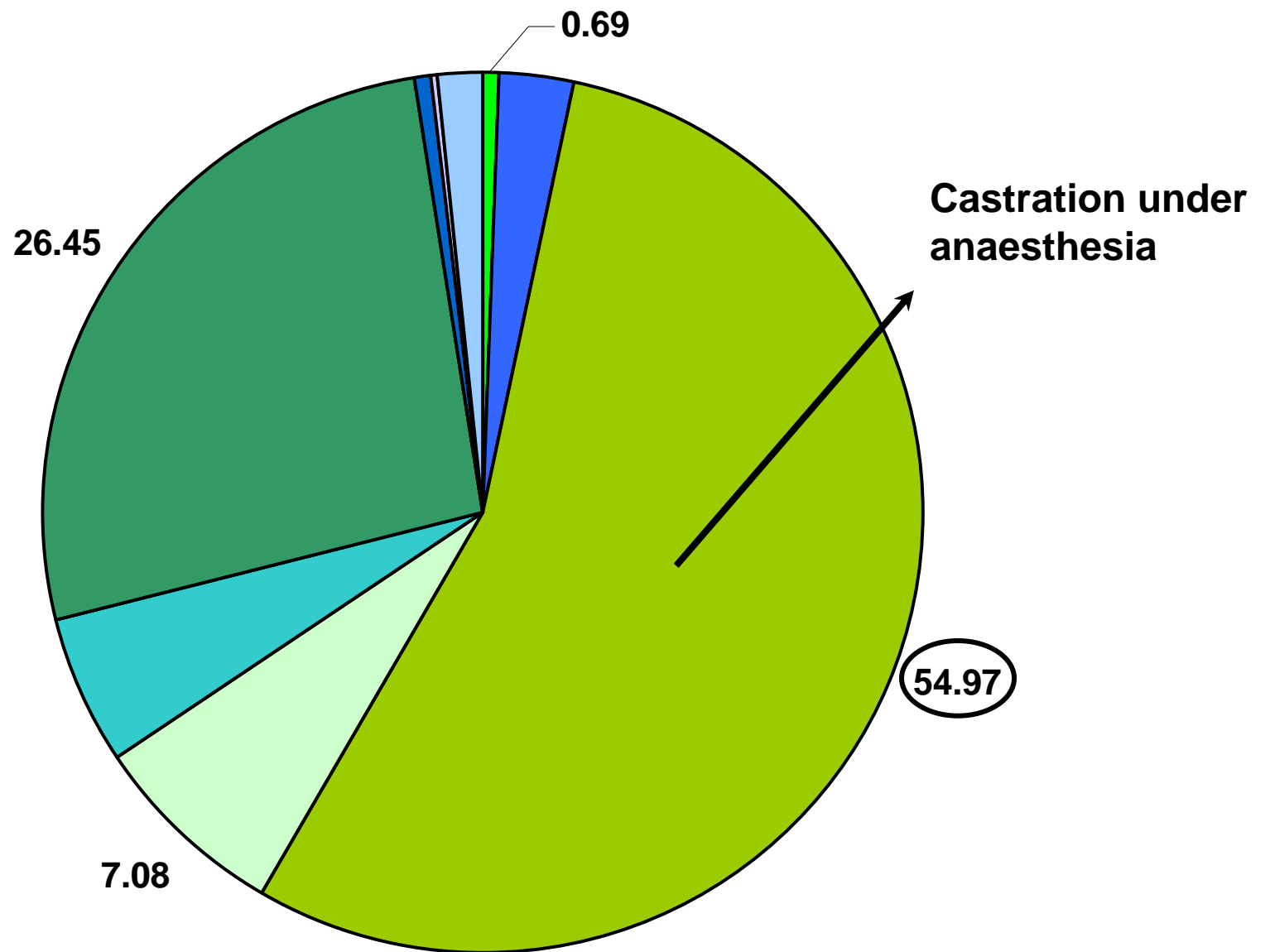
4. Immunovaccination

- 48.8%: acceptable
- 67.6% association with hormones
- 72.2 % is concerned about the non species-specificity of the vaccine, for safety reasons

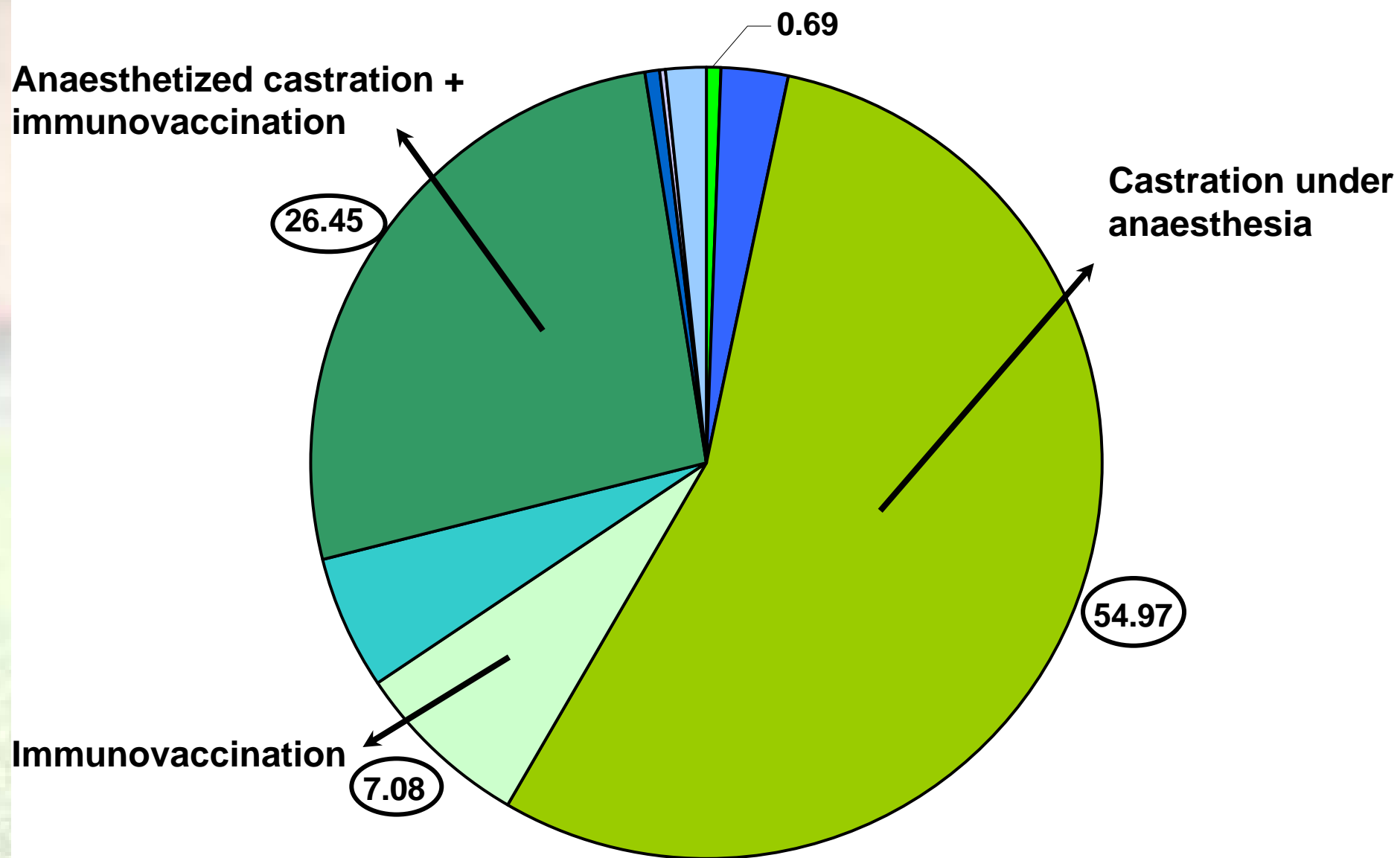


5. Acceptability of the proposed alternatives

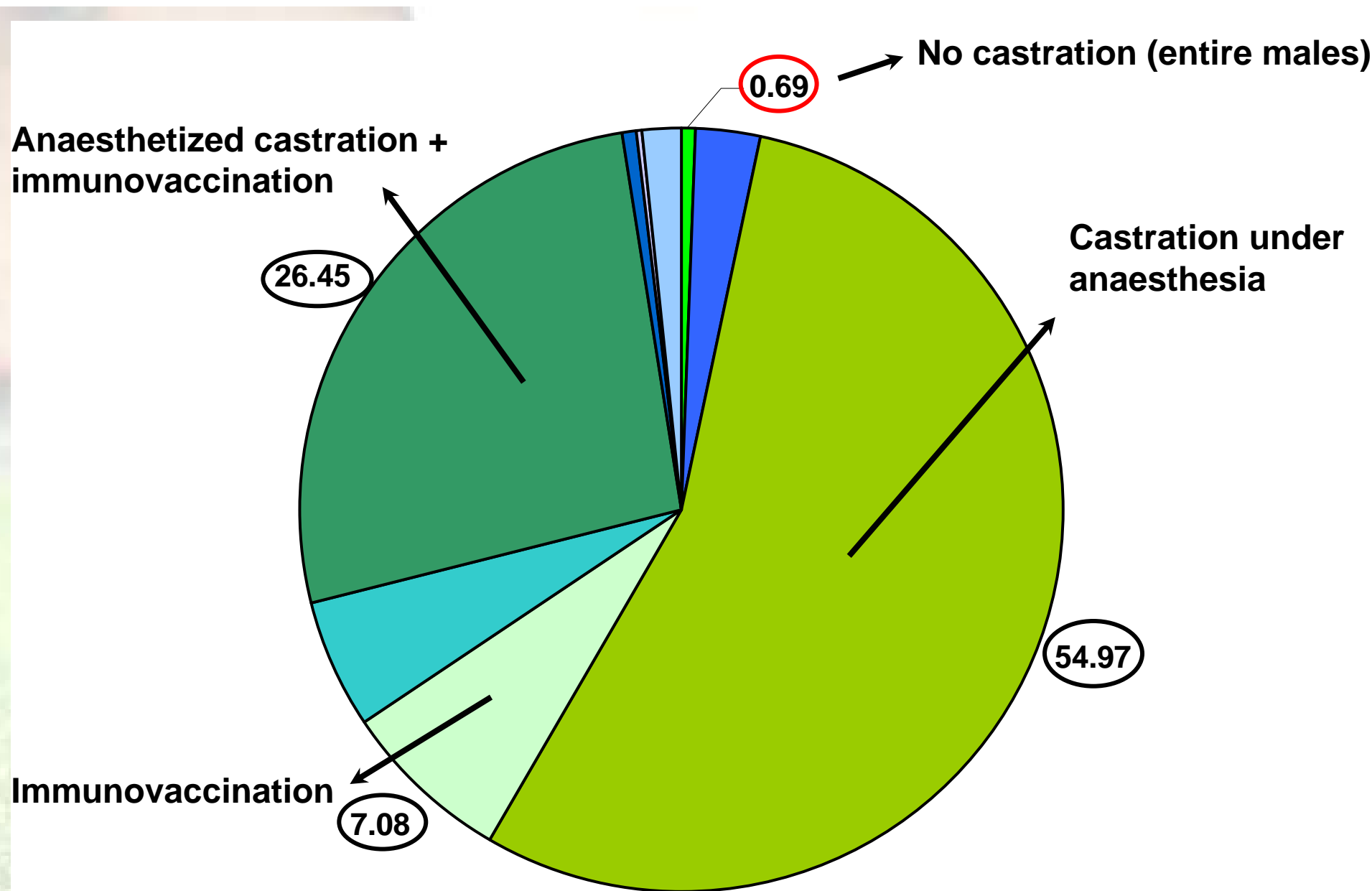




Preference (%) on alternatives for unanaesthetized piglet castration



Preference (%) on alternatives for unanaesthetized piglet castration



Preference (%) on alternatives for unanaesthetized piglet castration

Conclusions

- Half of the respondents are not aware of the problem
- The majority wants unanaesthetized castration to be banned
- The willingness to pay extra for alternatives is low (method specific)



Thank you for your attention!

sanne.van.beirendonck@khk.be