



Flanders
State of the art

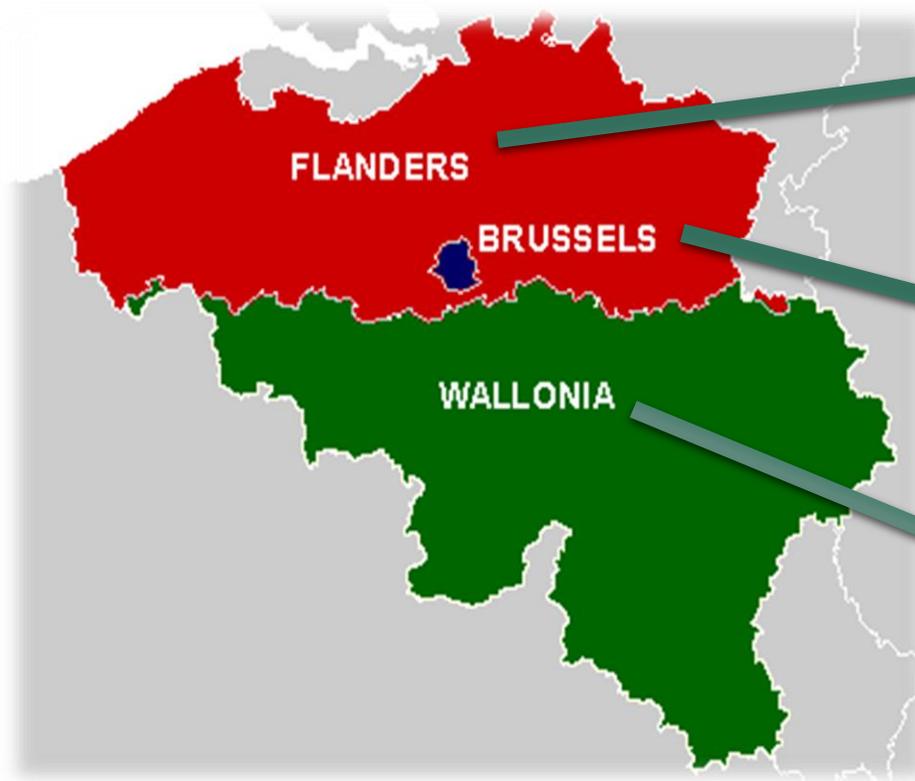
Puppy trade in Belgium

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ENERGIE

Eric Van Tilburgh

Animal welfare in Belgium

animal welfare = since 2014 July **regional competence**



6 251 983 inhabitants
→ 769 000 dogs
12,02 dogs/100 inhabitants

1 089 538 inhabitants
→ 48 000 dogs
4,21 dogs/100 inhabitants

3 498 384 inhabitants
→ 679 900 dogs
18,81 dogs/100 inhabitants

Pet Welfare legislation

Overview

- **1996**: Ban on sale of cats and dogs in public places
- **1997**: Licensing system for dog and cat breeders, shelters, kennels and petshops
- **1997**: Ban on advertisement for sale of dogs and cats
- **1998**: Mandatory identification and registration of dogs
- **2009**: Ban on sale of dogs and cats in petshops
- **2011**: Restriction on the import of cats and dogs



Breeders, traders, *shelters and kennels*

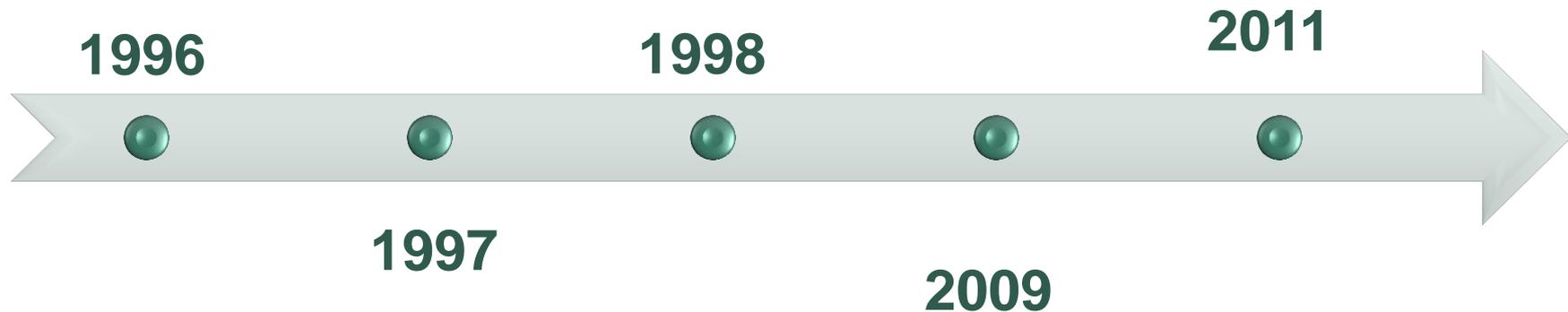
Definition: breeder = more than two litters/year

Procedure:

- Application for accreditation (Fee: 75 – 250 euro)
- Inspection

Now: about 2000 accreditations

- Cats and dogs are only sold by breeders.
=Ban on sale in petshops since 2009



I & R

Identification and Registration

mandatory since 1998 for:

→ every dog before it's sold and in any case before it's 8 weeks old

CENTRAL DATABASE

→ Chip

→ Temporary identification document (€ 8,39)

Campaigns: « **No dog without a passport** »

+/- 160 000 registrations every year

online registration



Import of cats and dogs

Large import of (cheap) cats and dogs

→ A lot of complaints about diseases and troubles with socialisation.

1st of February 2011:

→ **Ban on sale of imported cats and dogs**

unless the national standards are obtained in the country or breeding establishment of origin

→ Online list of authorized countries and breeders.





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Database as tool to monitor trade

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<Ras 1> <Ras 2> (4)

Vader Moeder Geboren

Titels* Kenmerken* Foto* Documenten* Rapportages Overige

In bezit
 Verkoop
 Tentoonstelling



25,00%
0,00%

... ?
... ?

... ?

... ?

... Bedrag : ...

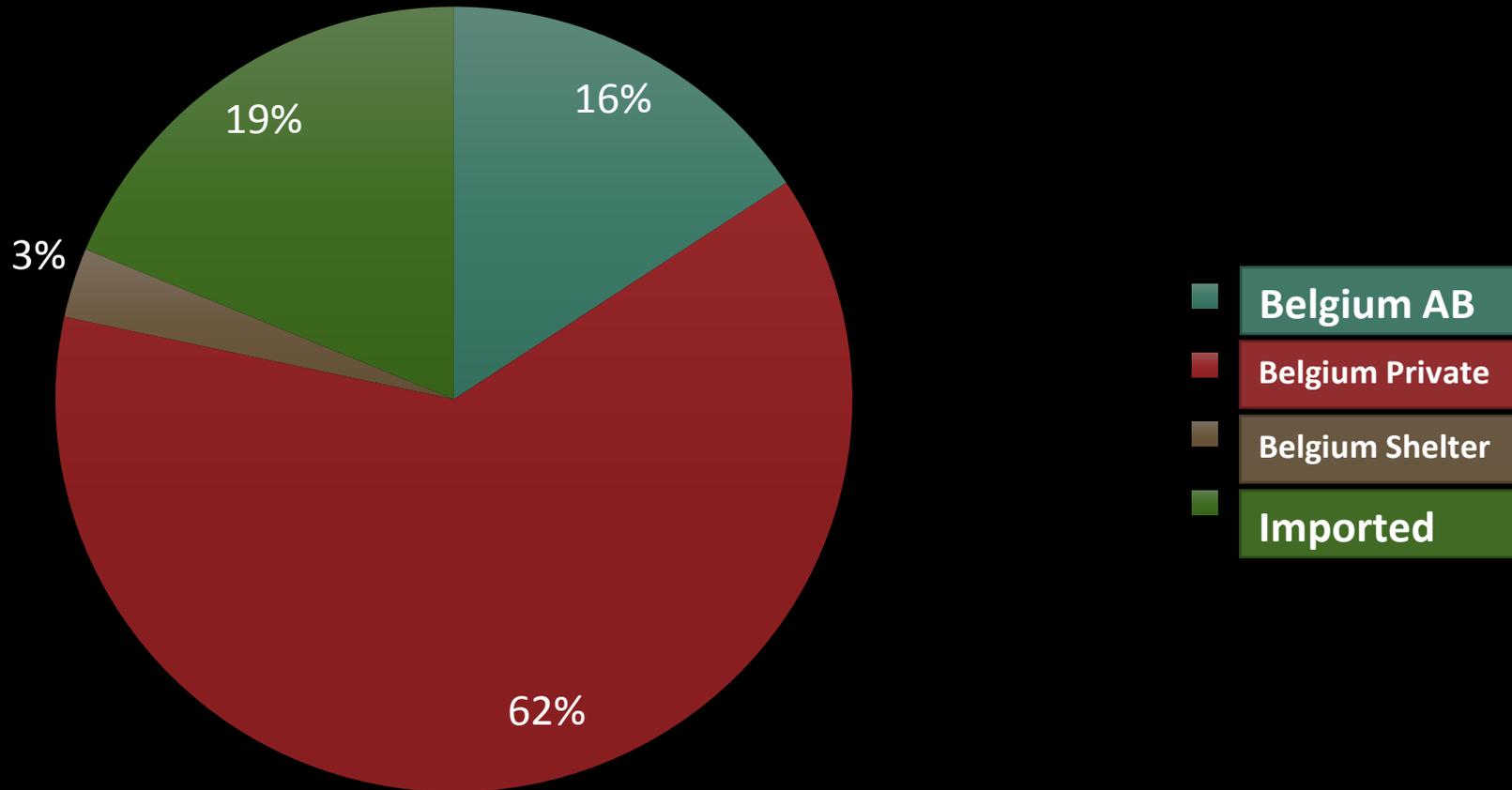
Annuleren Afsluiten Help

Afsluiten Help

DEMO 12:52 14-11-2008 CAPS NUM INS

Origin of dogs

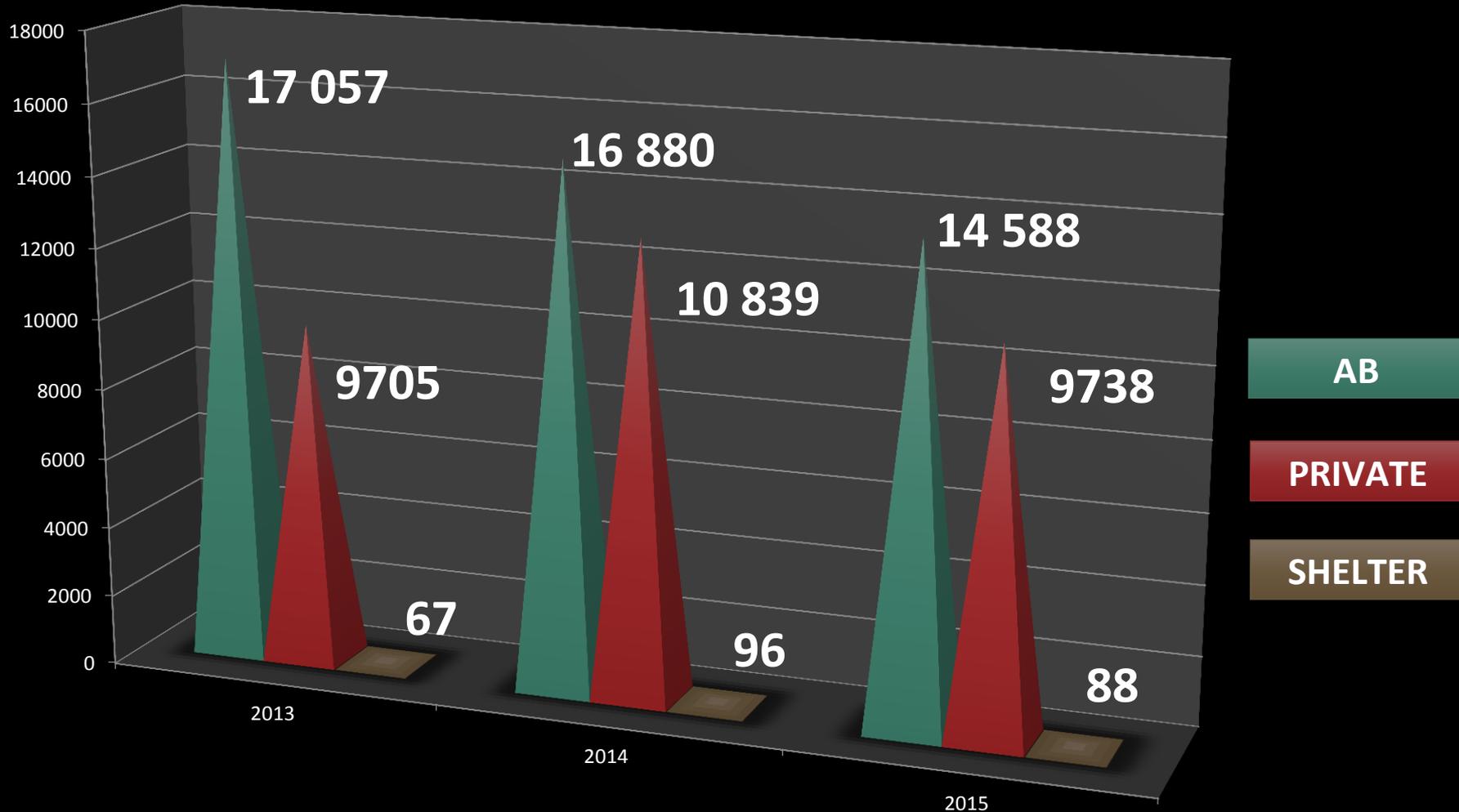
2015



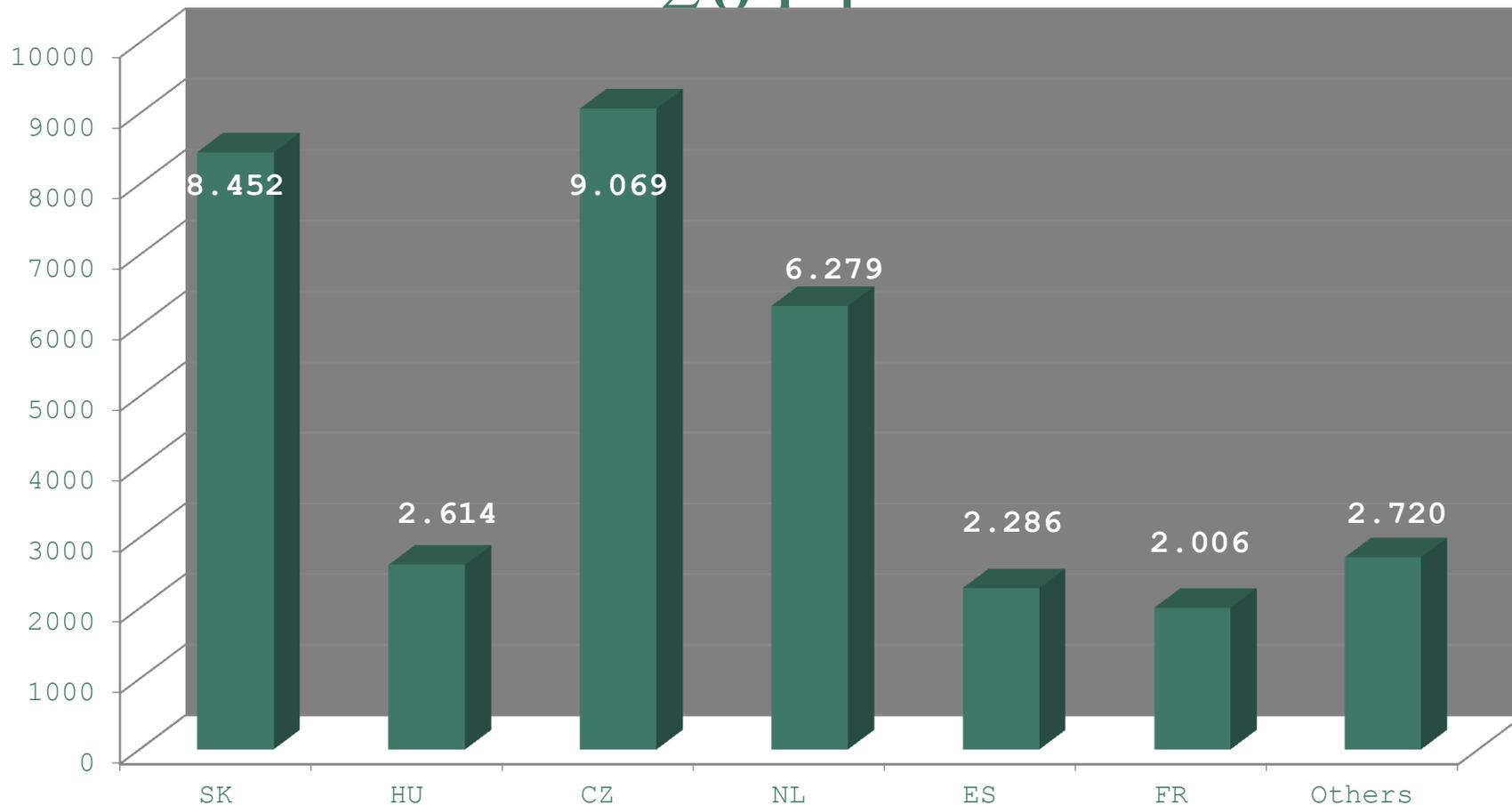
Imported dogs:

AB/private/shelter

(Data from January till October)



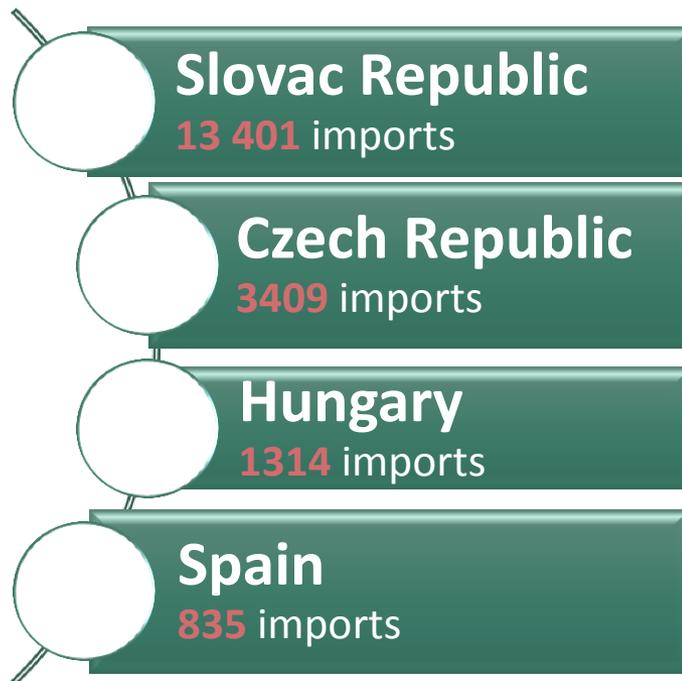
Imported dogs per country 2014



Import of dogs to Belgium

TRACES

2015

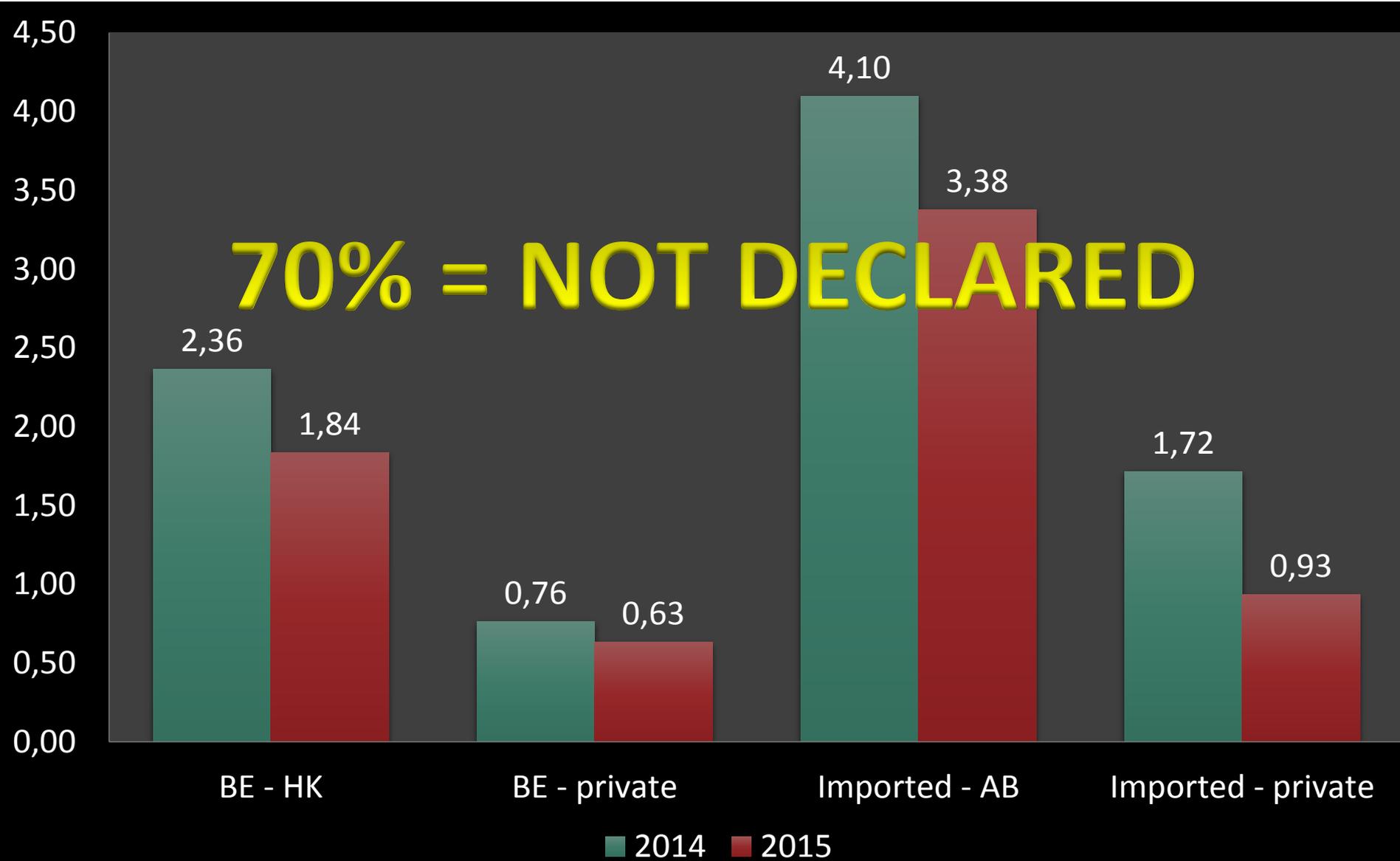


DATABASE

2015



Declared mortality





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Looking for irregularities in trade

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Animal Welfare Inspection : cases

Case H:

- Approved breeder selling
 - Own production
 - Puppies from other breeders
- Check for parents
 - Own production (V)
 - Other sources (-V)

→ 644 dogs in 2014/2015

Case PP:

- Approved breeder
 - Selling to:
 - Other breeders
 - Private persons



complaints

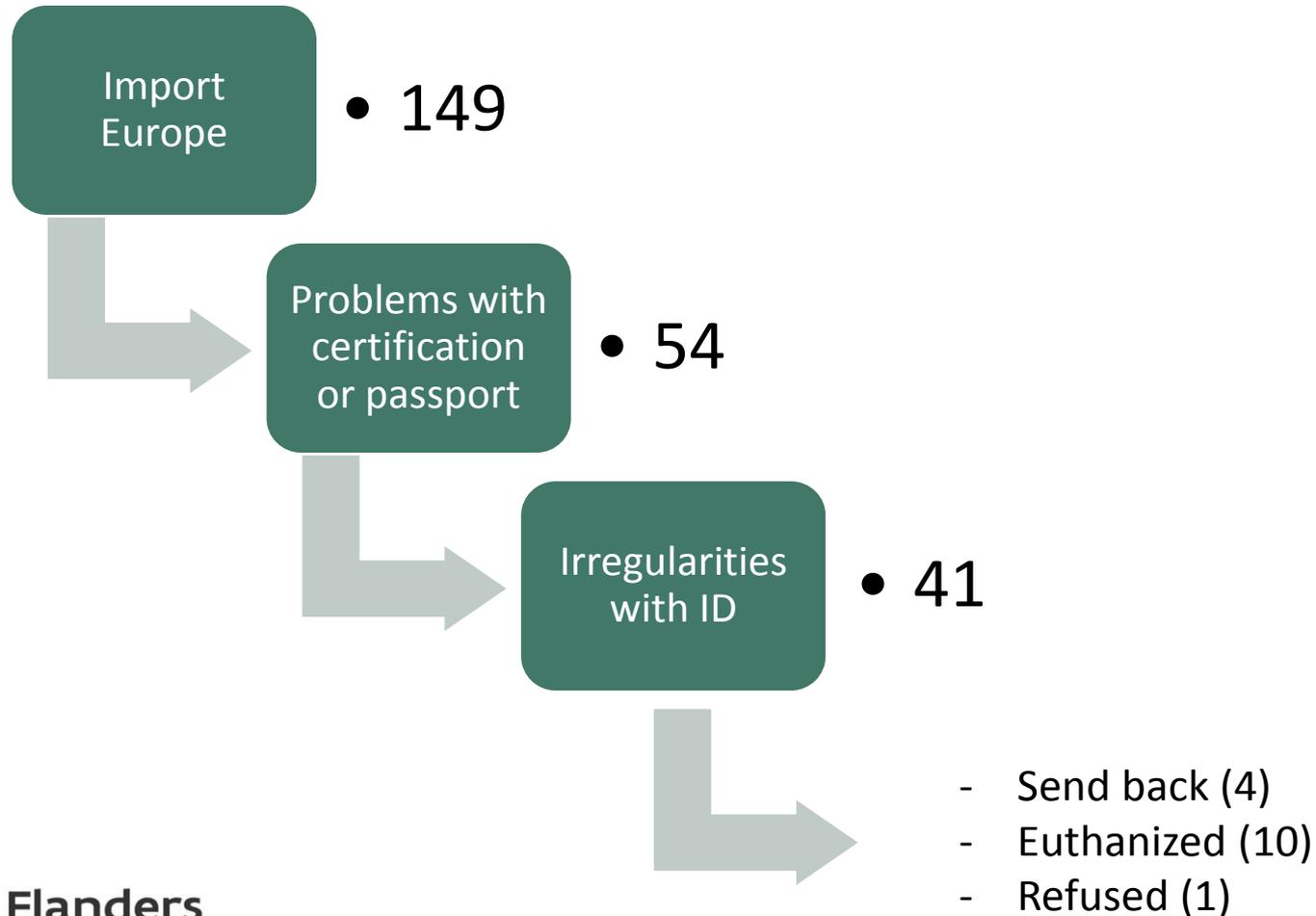
→ 80 puppies 2014/2015

Notification by veterinary practitioner

- [Food Agency](#) (imported dogs)
- [Animal Welfare Unit](#) (puppies recently traded)

Import to Belgium

ANOMALIES : cats & dogs



Veterinary contact point

Initiated on **9th of June 2015**

Objectives:

- detect potential “problem breeders”
 - gather insight into the source and causes of puppy diseases
 - create responsibility awareness among veterinarians
 - develop policy measures if necessary



The screenshot shows the Vlaanderen website header with the logo and tagline 'Vlaanderen is milieubewust'. Below the header is a navigation menu with links for 'home', 'contact', 'sitemap', 'publicaties', 'vacatures', and 'english information'. A search bar with the text 'Zoeken' is also present. The main content area features a breadcrumb trail: 'U bent hier: [www.lna.be](#) → [Thema's](#) → [Dierenwelzijn](#) → [Meldpunt voor dierenartsen: gezondheidsproblemen bij honden na aankoop](#)'. The title of the page is 'Veterinary contact point: Dog health problems after purchase'. The text below the title explains that the reporting point collects information from veterinarians about health problems in dogs shortly after purchase, with the goal of identifying causes and preventing future issues. It asks users to report one or more health problems they have diagnosed in a dog. The form includes several input fields: 'Ordenummer dierenarts', 'E-mailadres dierenarts', and 'Chipnummer van de hond'. There are also radio buttons for 'Is de hond geïdentificeerd?' with options 'Ja' and 'Neen'.

Veterinary contact point

22 reports (until 31/10/15)

Common problems:

- dogs without European passport and non-registered dogs (4)
- dogs with diseases (14)
- dogs with docked tails or cropped ears (2)
- Puppies that seem to be younger than the age stated in the passport (4)



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[home](#) | [contact](#) | [sitemap](#) | [publicaties](#) |
[vacatures](#) | [english information](#)

U bent hier: [www.lna.be](#) → [Thema's](#) → [Dierenwelzijn](#) → [Meldpunt voor dierenartsen: gezondheidsproblemen bij honden na aankoop](#)

Veterinary contact point: Dog health problems after purchase

Het Meldpunt verzamelt informatie via de dierenartsen over gezondheidsproblemen bij honden vastgesteld kort na aankoop. Het doel is om aan de hand van diergeneeskundige diagnoses de oorsprong van deze aandoeningen in kaart te brengen en waar nodig en mogelijk beleidsmatig tussen te komen om deze problemen in de toekomst te voorkomen of te beperken. U kan hieronder één of meer gezondheidsproblemen die u heeft gediagnostiseerd bij de hond van uw klanten snel en eenvoudig melden aan de dienst Dierenwelzijn. Deze gegevens zullen vertrouwelijk worden behandeld.

Ordnummer dierenarts

E-mailadres dierenarts

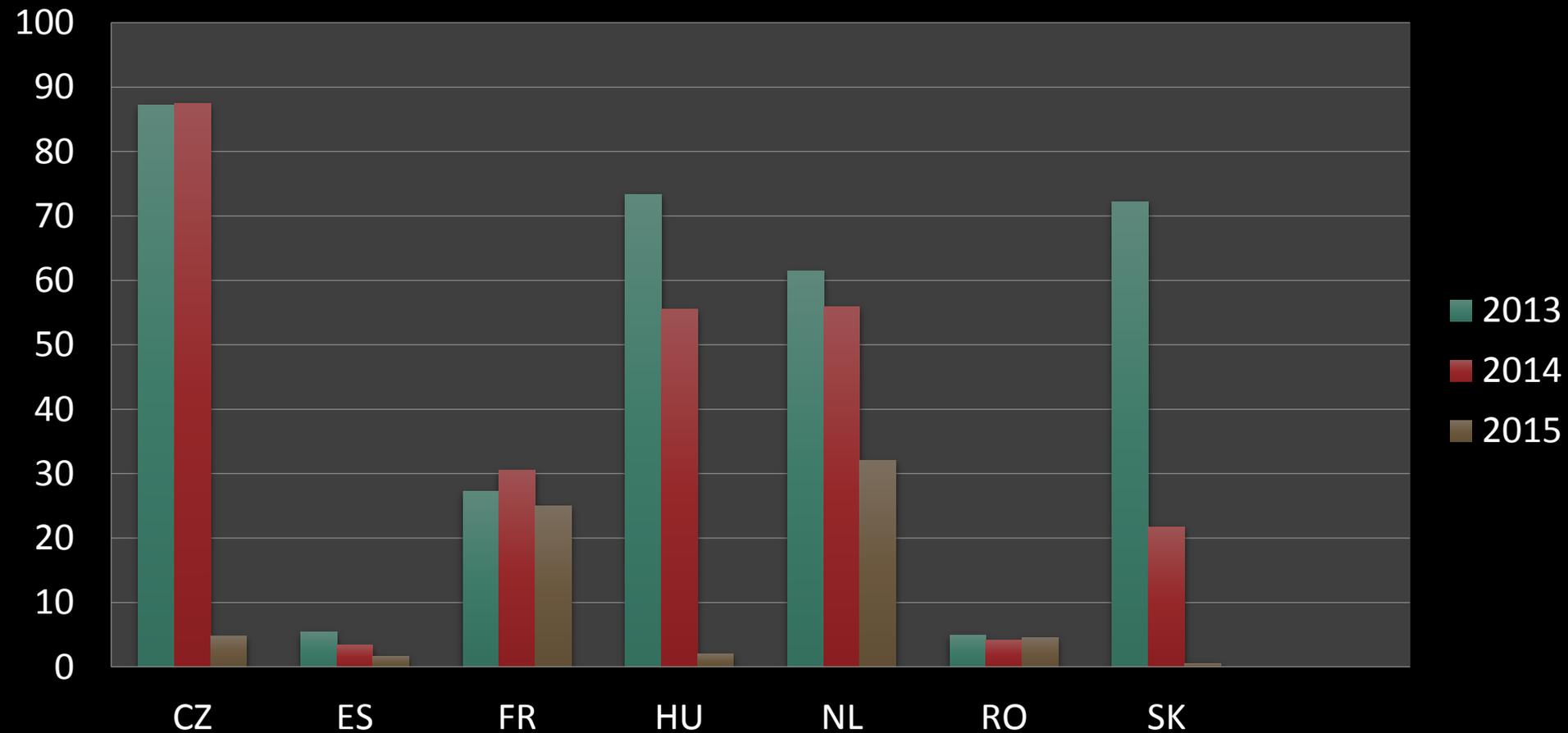
Is de hond geïdentificeerd?
 Ja
 Neen

Chipnummer van de hond

irregularities

Influence of the 15 week rule on import?

% Imported dogs registered before the age of 15 weeks



New initiatief



Hallo baasje,
vergeet je ook niet
mijn adres aan te passen?

- Online** registration for dogs
 - Eliminate mistakes
 - Keep costs low (beneficial for shelters)

Identification & Registration of cats



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