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## Who are dog breeders ?

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# Who are dog breeders?

## INTRODUCTION

Dedicated national technical institutes have made breeding practices in farm animals known and are constantly improving this field of study. In companion animals, such as dogs, the institutional support given to dog breeders is limited. The breeders' education background is most often not associated with animal breeding. In order to supply breeders with recommendations adapted to their specific kennel conditions, it is important to understand the everyday tasks of the practice.

**The aim of our study was to describe everyday practices of dog breeders in French kennels thanks to a series of surveys.**

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

Fourteen surveys covering various aspects of dog and cat breeding facilities have been conducted between September 2017 and Mars 2019 among the NeoCare group followers (dog and cat breeders, vets, and other professionals of the canine sector). This poster presents the results of four of the surveys :



**Survey 1:**  
*Characterization of the breeder*  
n=151 answers

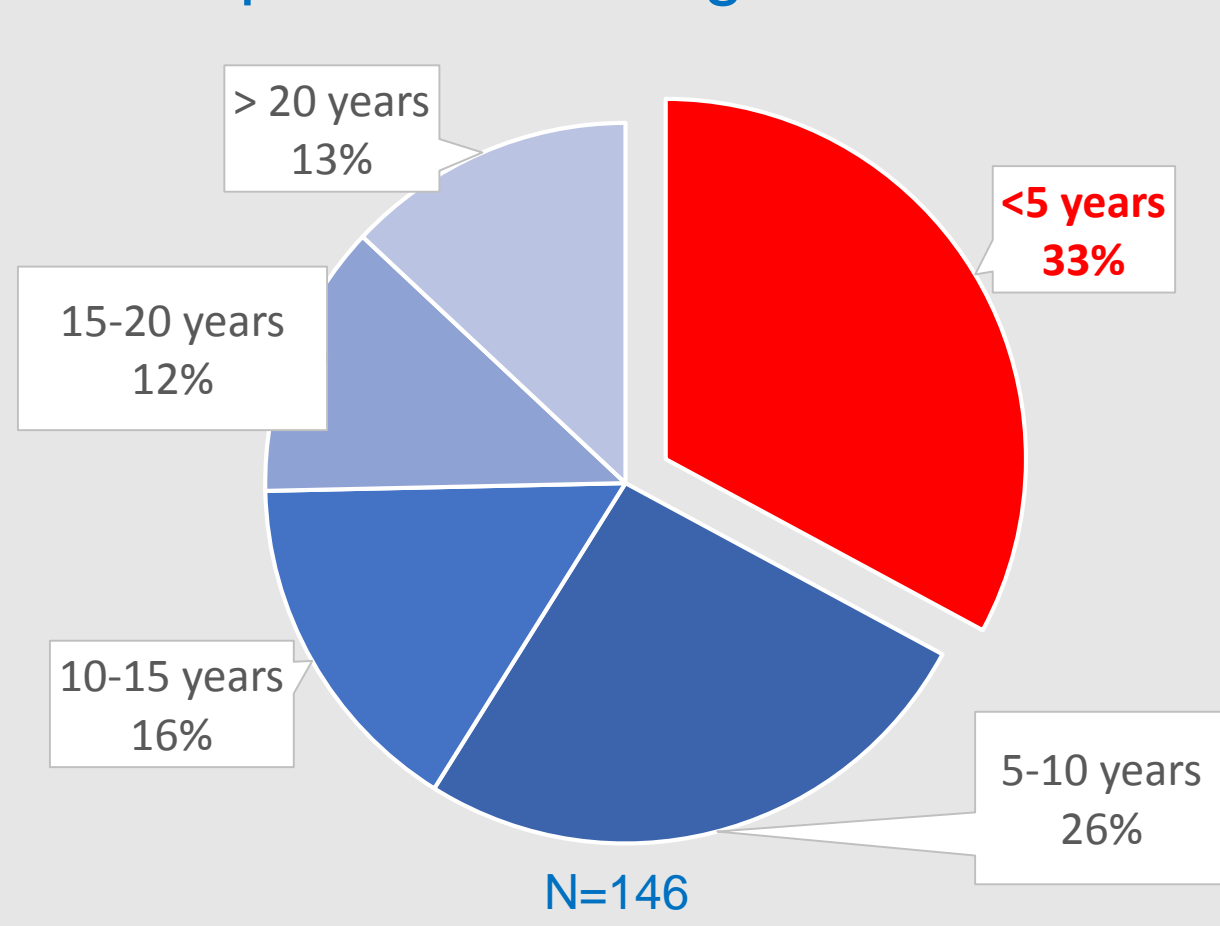
**Survey 2:**  
*Characterization of the breeding kennel*  
n=164 answers

**Survey 3:**  
*Breeder's education*  
n=109 answers

**Survey 4:**  
*The selling of puppies*  
n=125 answers

## BREEDERS

Experience of dog breeders



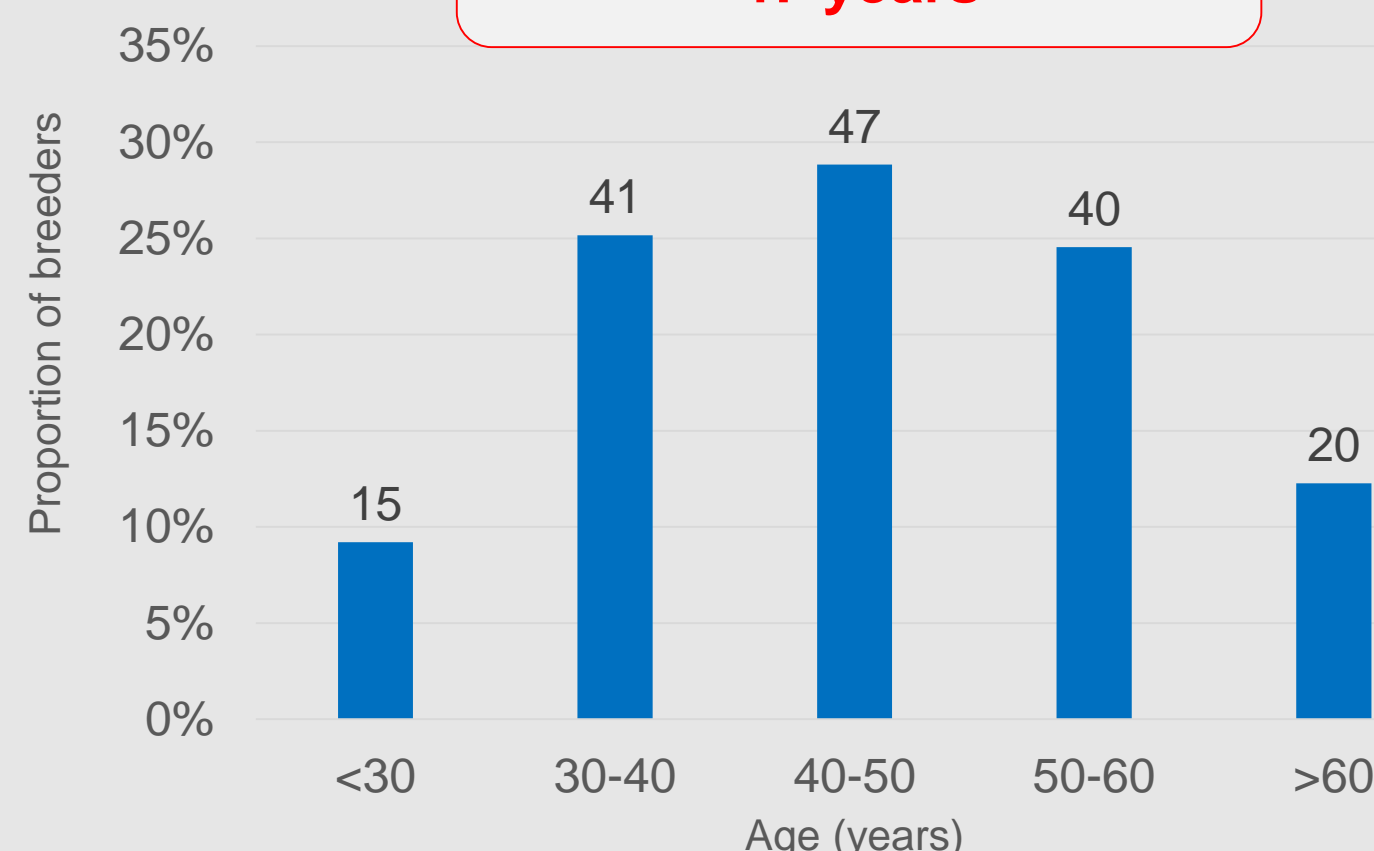
**88%**  
(144/163)  
were women



The most important value for a breeder was:

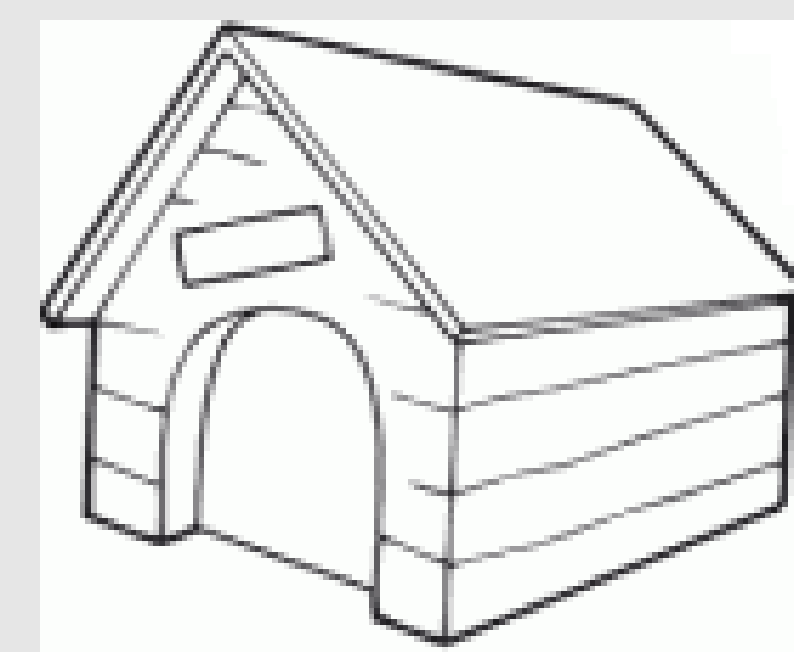


Mean age of breeders: **47 years**



## BREEDING KENNELS

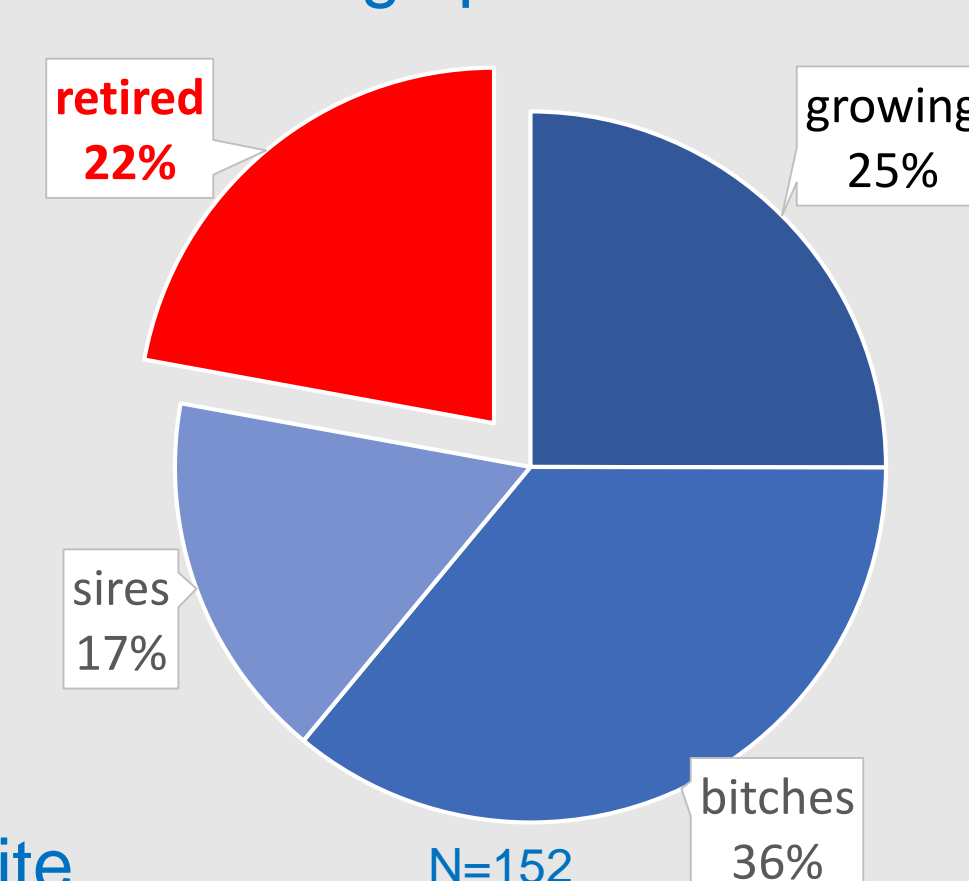
**63%**  
(94/150)  
of kennels  
were mono-breed



**98%**  
(148/151)  
of breeding kennels  
were localized in  
France

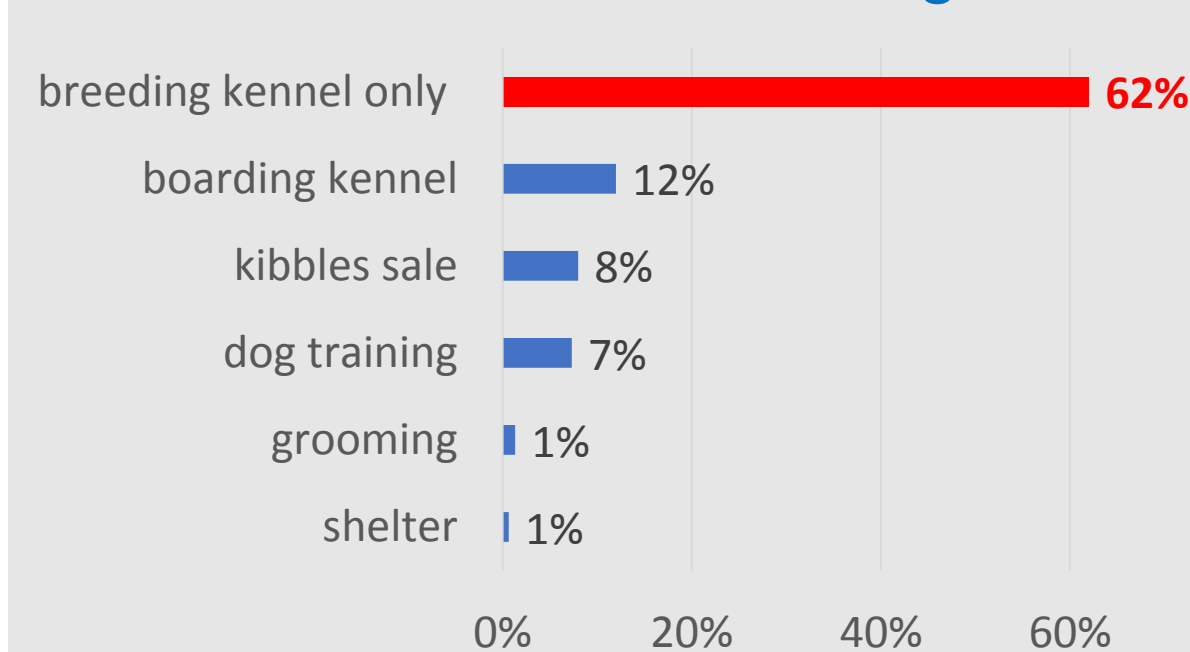
**13.4 ± 14.2**  
was the mean  
number of adult  
dogs housed per  
kennel

Life stages of dogs per kennel



**20.0 ± 30.4**  
was the mean  
number of puppies  
sold per kennel in  
2018

Activities provided onsite in relation with the dog:

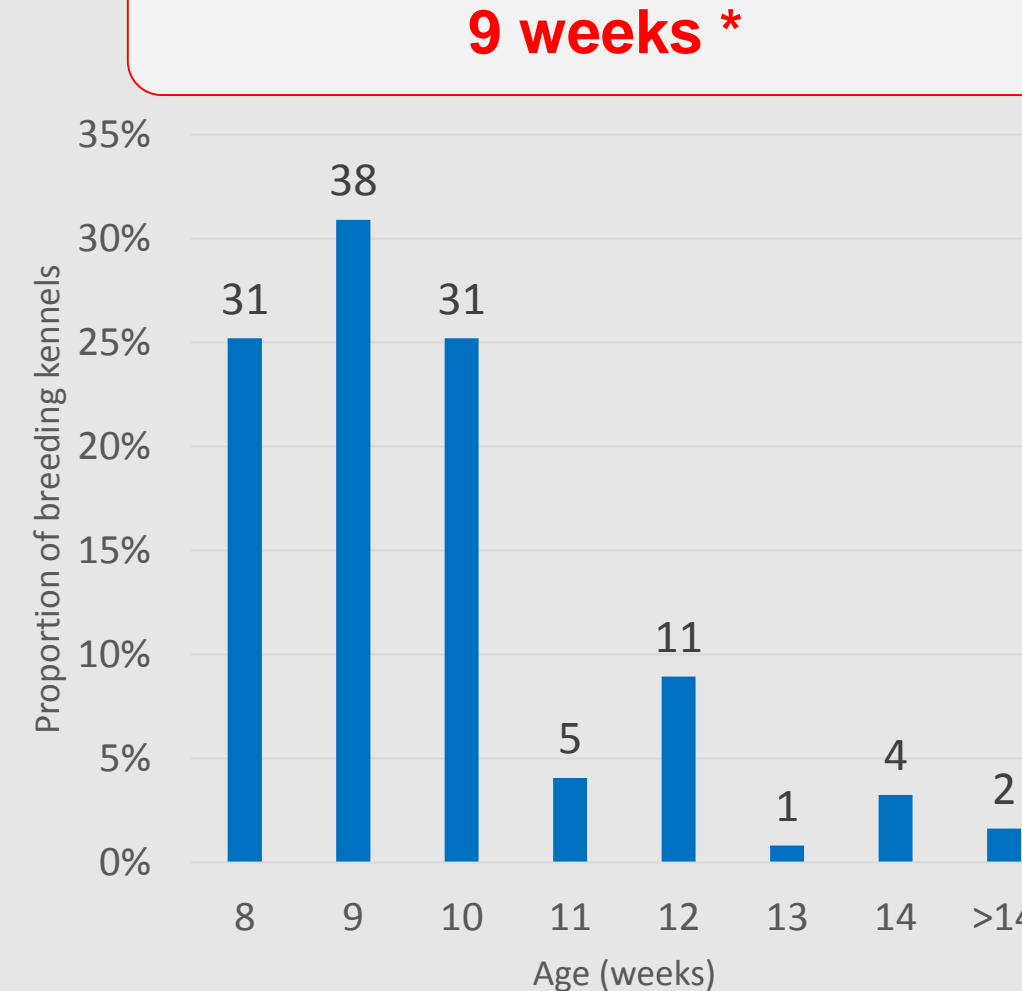


Activities outside the breeding kennel



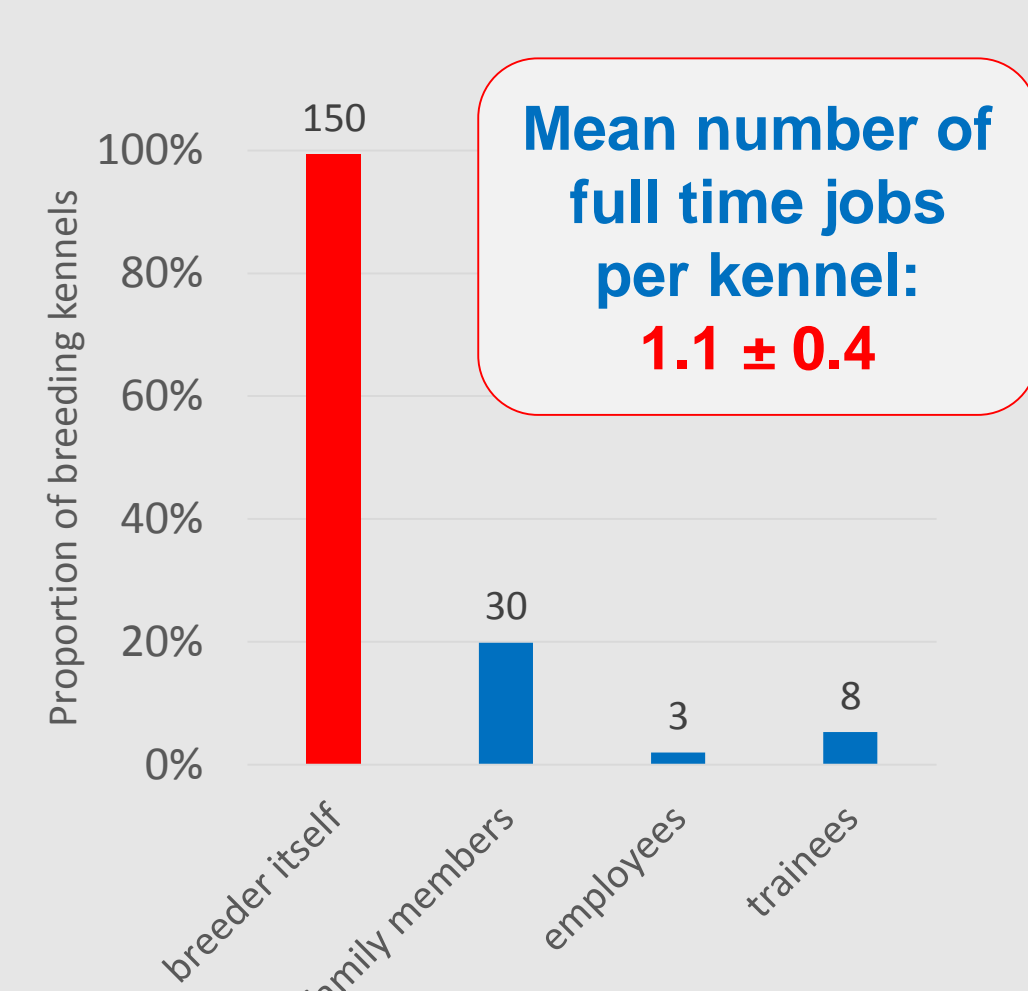
**23%**  
(29/124)  
of kennels sold  
puppies  
systematically  
insured

Mean age of puppies at sale: **9 weeks \***



**2%**  
(2/123)  
of kennels sold  
puppies  
systematically  
neutered

Who worked in the kennel?



Mean number of full time jobs per kennel: **1.1 ± 0.4**

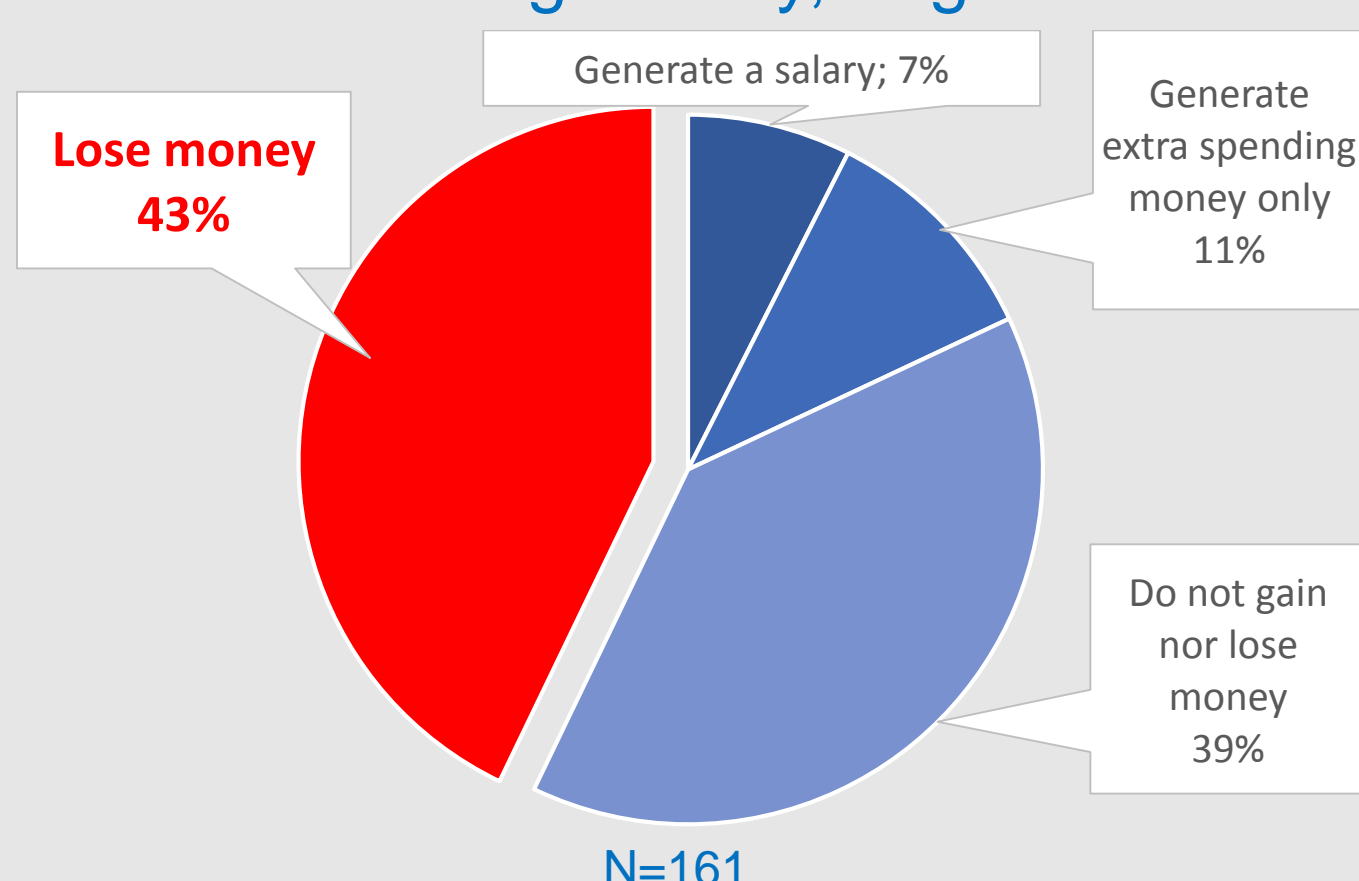
**17%**  
(28/162)  
had basic education  
in relation with  
animal breeding

**91%**  
(98/108)  
had a certificate  
allowing to breed  
dogs in France

**5.5 ± 2.2 /10**  
was the mean level  
of stress undergone  
by breeders due to  
breeding activity  
(1 - no stress; 10 - high stress)

**51%** (83/162)  
had another  
professional activity,  
51% (42/83) at full time

Due to breeding activity, dog breeders:



## DISCUSSION & CONCLUSIONS

- French dog breeders are mostly driven by passion, have small breeding facilities as well as another form of employment.
- This study allowed to better characterize French kennels and dog breeders in terms of their general profile (observed in the above study). Surveys in other fields of canine breeding, including kennel management and health issues need to be investigated further.
- Such analysis of kennels could be the first step aiming to structure the canine breeding sector, allowing the development of evidenced-based recommendations.
- Further surveys are required to compare French dog breeders, as well as cat breeders to breeding facilities from other countries.