

Overview

Middleburg Humane Foundation (MHF) is a private animal shelter located in northern Virginia. Due to the high demand in the area for adoptable dogs, MHF brings in dogs from under resourced shelters in rural Georgia. MHF was having reoccurring disease outbreaks and was looking for why outbreaks were occurring and what changes could be made to prevent future outbreaks.

Objectives

- Increase knowledge of dog transportation protocols, vaccination requirements, and disease transmission in animal shelter settings.
- Identify sources of disease outbreaks and what steps could be taken to reduce the spread of disease.
- Create vaccination protocols and record keeping systems for both the receiving and relinquishing organizations.

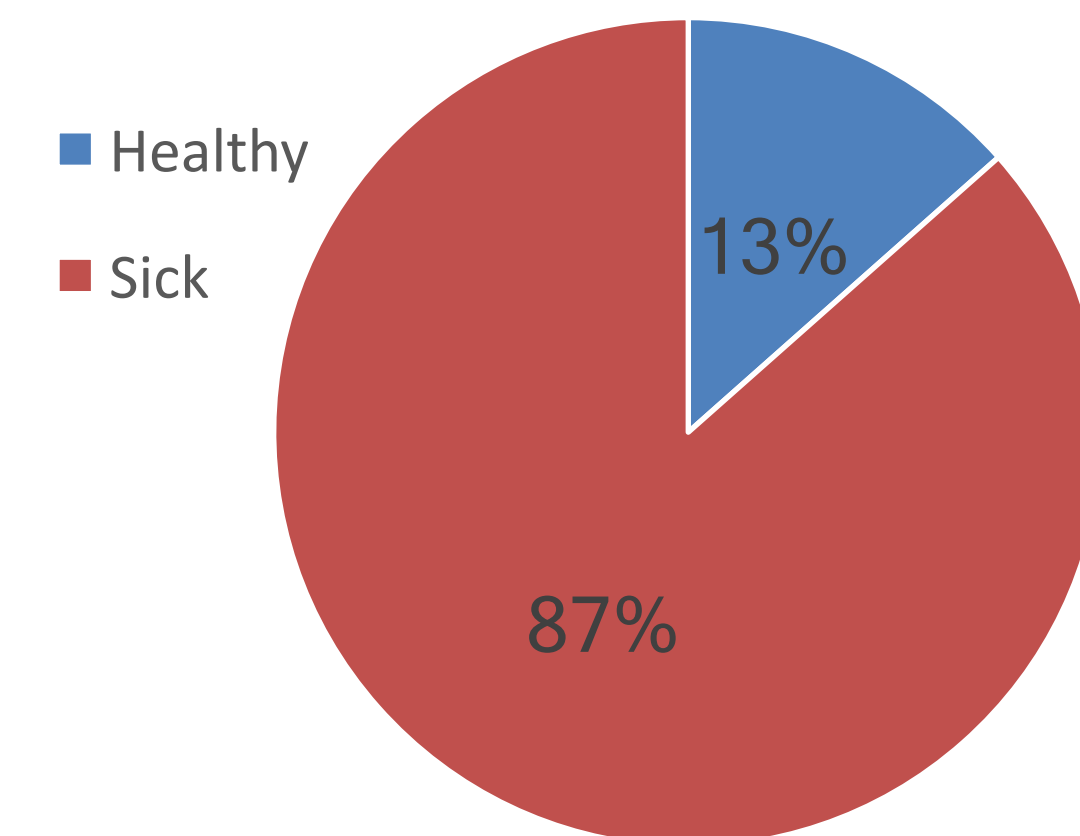
Methods

- Determine “best practice” protocols for pre-conditioning, shipping and post arrival handling of shelter dogs.
- Determine percentage of transported population that was sick and with which diseases.
- Create pre-shipment and general manuals for shelter workers on transportation and vaccination protocol, diseases of concern, pre-transfer and intake health forms, biosecurity and quarantine protocols and common disinfectants.

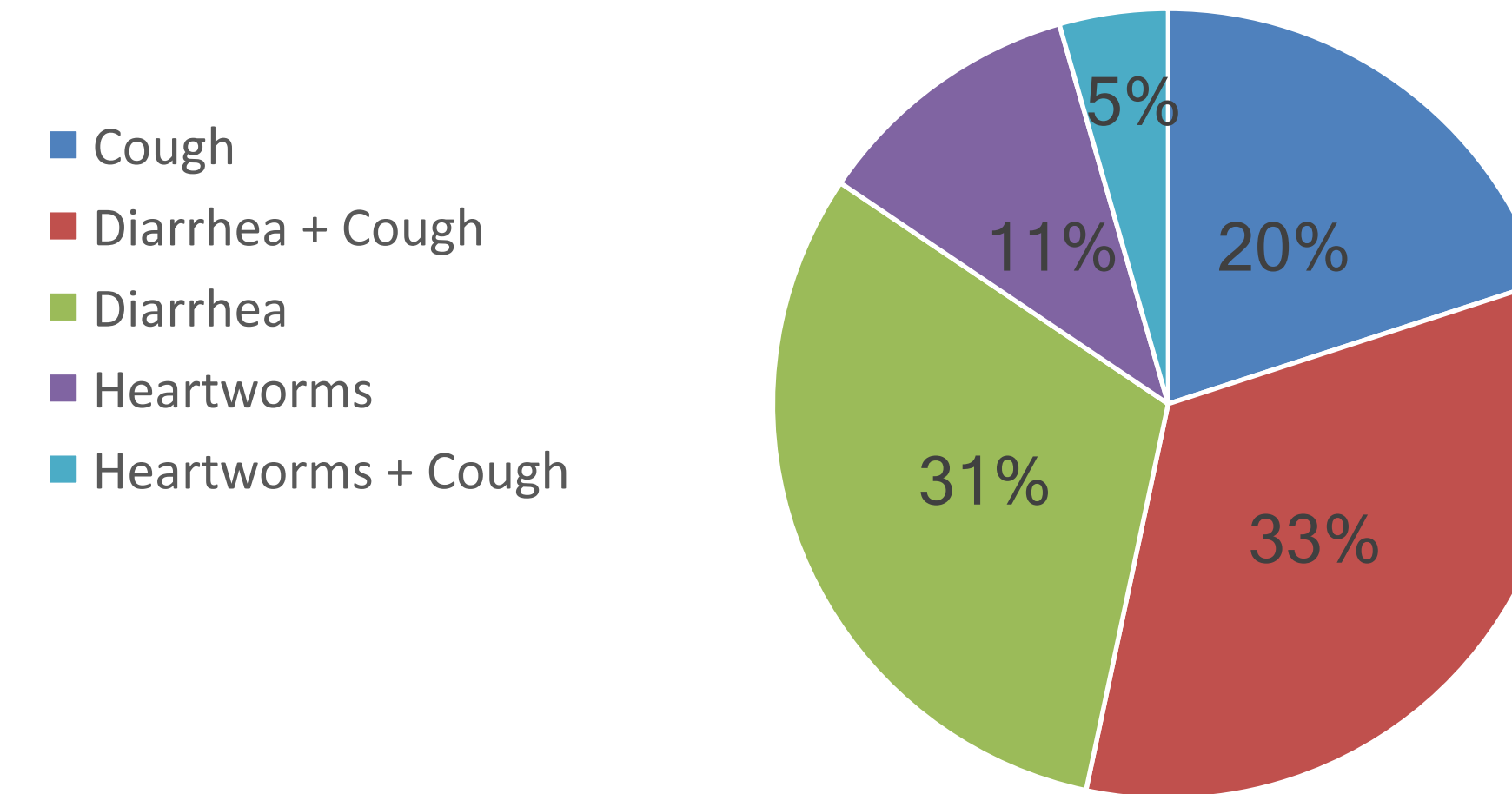
Results

Of the 53 dogs that were transferred from March 12th to August 8th, 2021 to MHF, 45 or **87%** of the dogs were not healthy upon arrival at the shelter. Among the sick dogs, the most common general symptoms were diarrhea, coughing and heartworms.

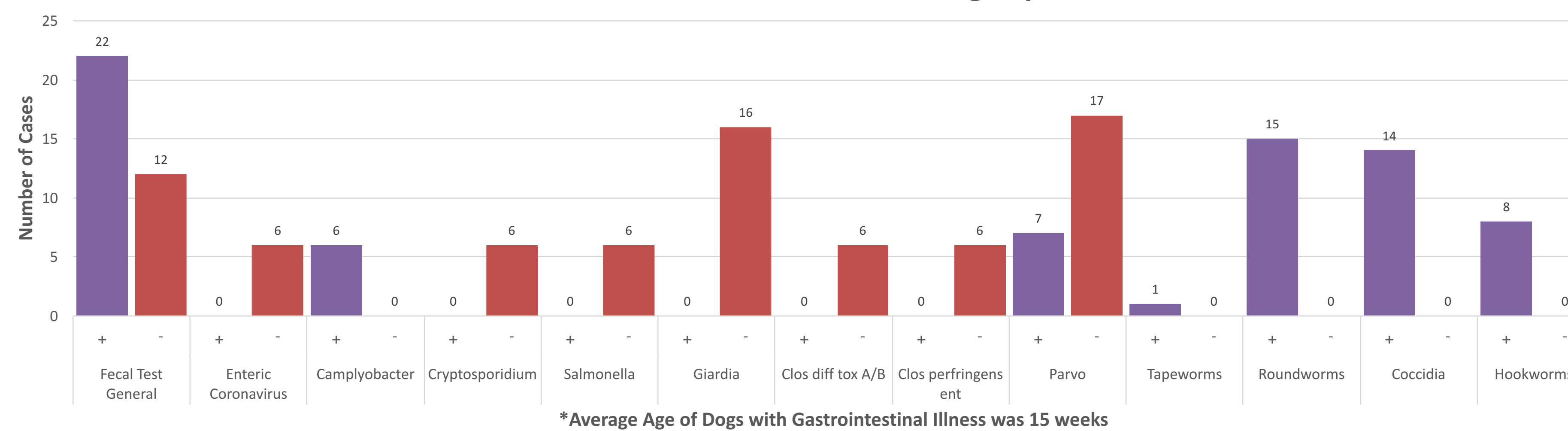
Illness within Total Imported Population



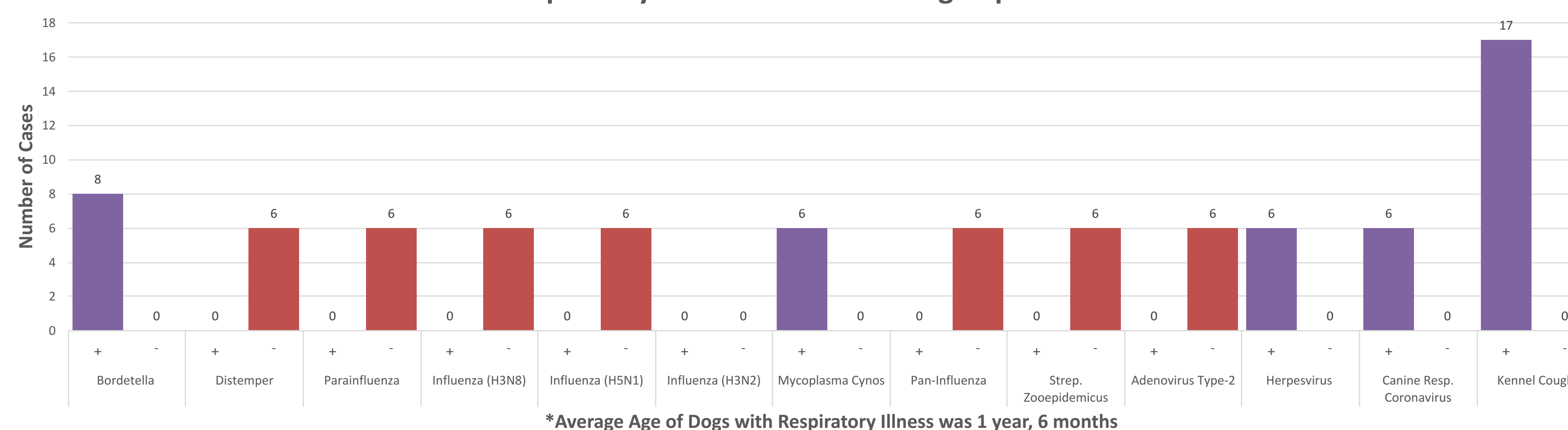
General Symptoms within Sick Dog Population



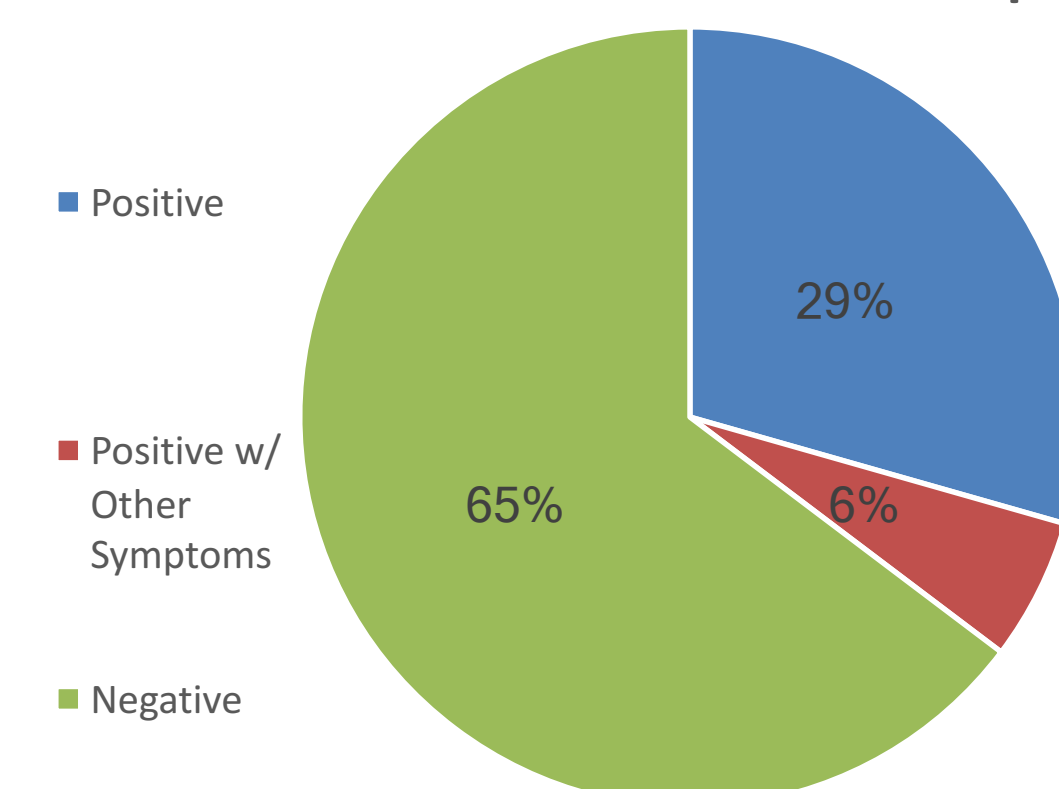
Gastrointestinal Illness within Sick Dog Population



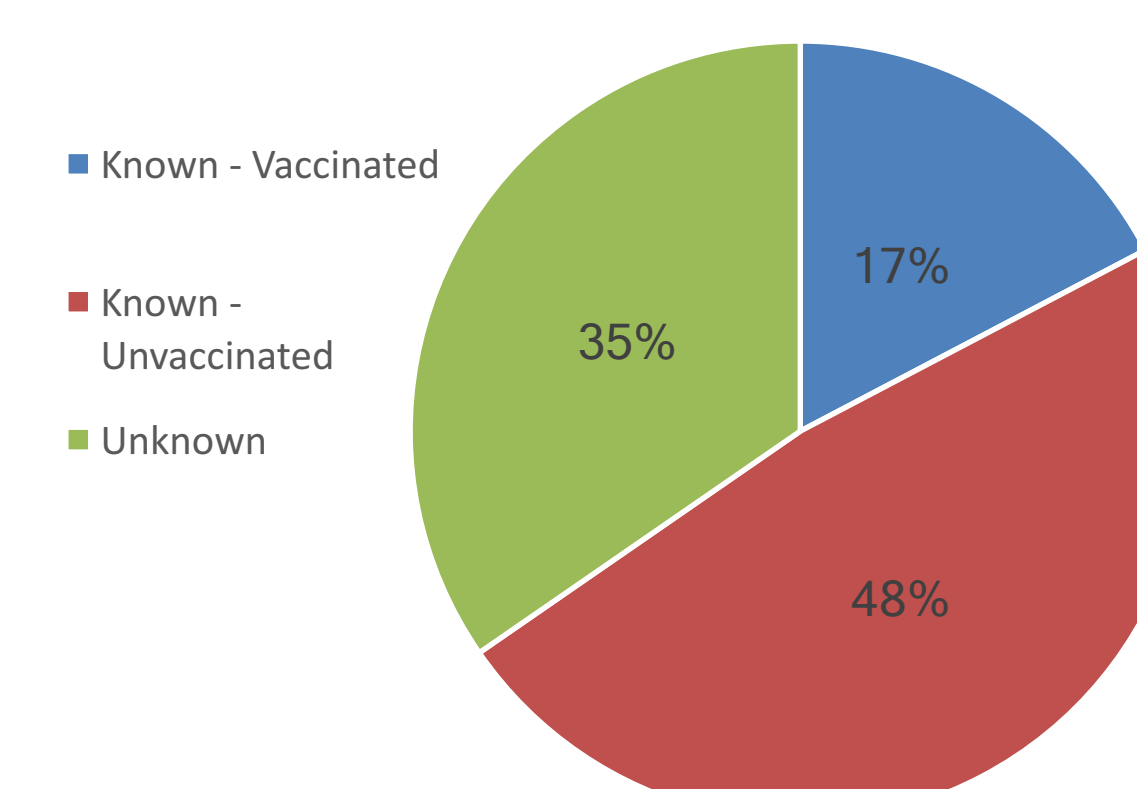
Respiratory Illness within Sick Dog Population



Heartworms within Tested Population



Vaccination Status Upon Arrival at MHF



Prevention Recommendations

- 1 Discuss transport of sick animals**
 - Most likely GA shelters do not have other resources to treat dogs, sending them to MHF is the dogs only chance at survival
- 2 Establish age requirements**
 - Puppies over 4 months of age or once fully vaccinated
- 3 Disinfection Protocols**
 - All shared materials should be cleaned between uses with an appropriate disinfectant for the disease
- 4 Clean up fecal matter frequently and with disinfectant**
- 5 When possible, vaccinate before travel and when not, upon arrival to MHF**
- 6 Deworm upon arrival**
 - MHF is currently deworming 91% of imported dogs upon arrival
- 7 Manage all imported dogs as potentially infectious**
- 8 Isolate ALL dogs**
 - Healthy Group - 10 days ; Sick Group - 14 days or until healthy; Isolate puppies until fully vaccinated
- 9 Move any dog within the shelter population with any sign of disease into isolation**

Conclusions

- Most illnesses at MHF are not due to incorrect protocols; they are simply receiving sick dogs from other shelters which can then spread..
- A transportation manual created for MHF to use with other shelters.



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