


All-Breed Clubs Committee Survey Summary June 2018

Legislation

Best Practices Subcommittee

Cathy Rubens (Chair), Margaret DiCorleto, Nancy Fisk, Michael Houchard, John Ronald



➤ The All-Breed Clubs committee has set a goal to establish recommended best practices for all breed clubs. In the Fall of 2014, a subcommittee consisting of Margaret DiCorleto, Nancy Fisk, John Ronald, Ann Wallin, Peggy Wampold, and Cathy Rubens, chair, began work on the first phase of the project which dealt with club membership. We want to thank Peggy Wampold for her membership and service. In 2016 Mike Houchard joined the committee.

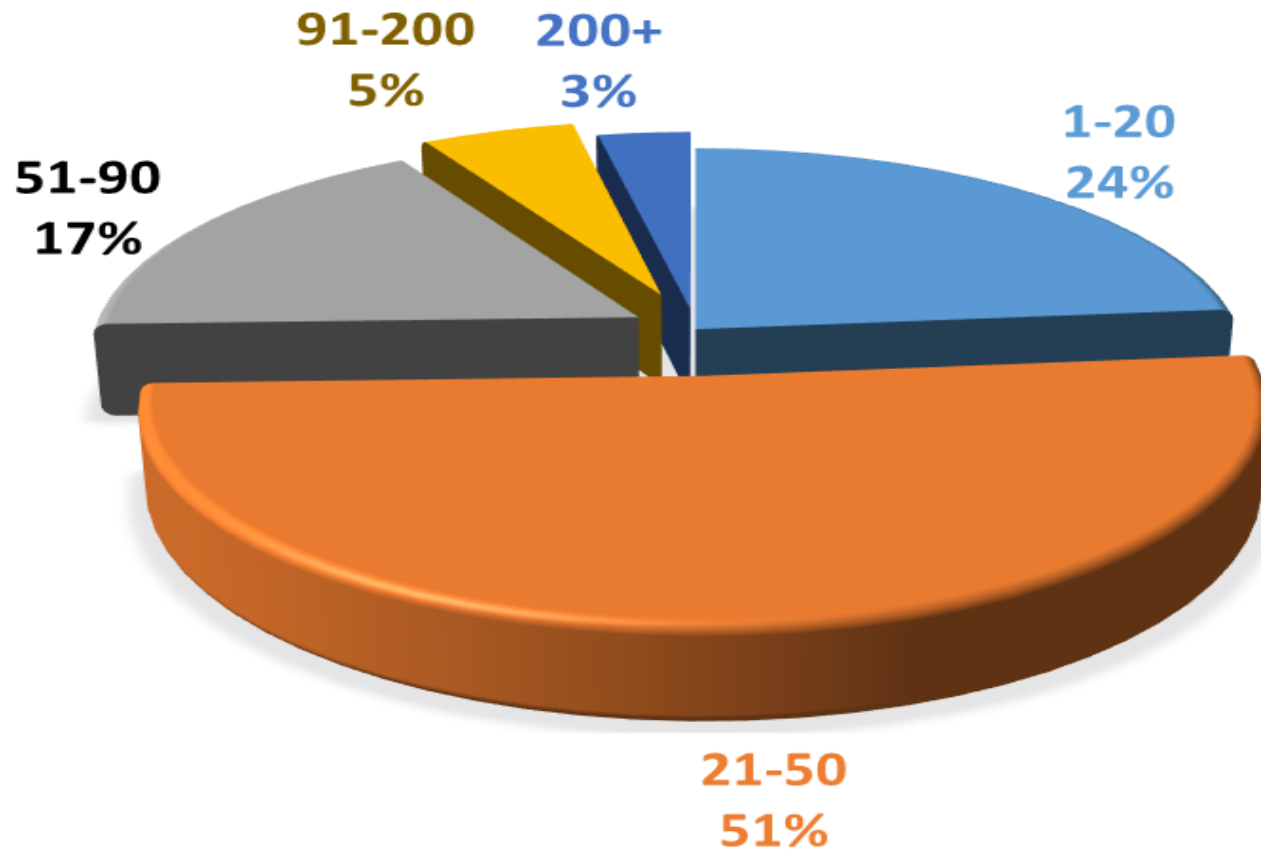
➤ The 2017 survey was our fourth survey sent to all licensed and member all-breed club presidents, secretaries and delegates resulting in 200 responses.

➤ We have prepared this summary report below and have incorporated information into the Best Practices document.

➤ Please feel free to send any comments and suggestions to Cathy.Rubens@gmail.com

How many members does your club have?

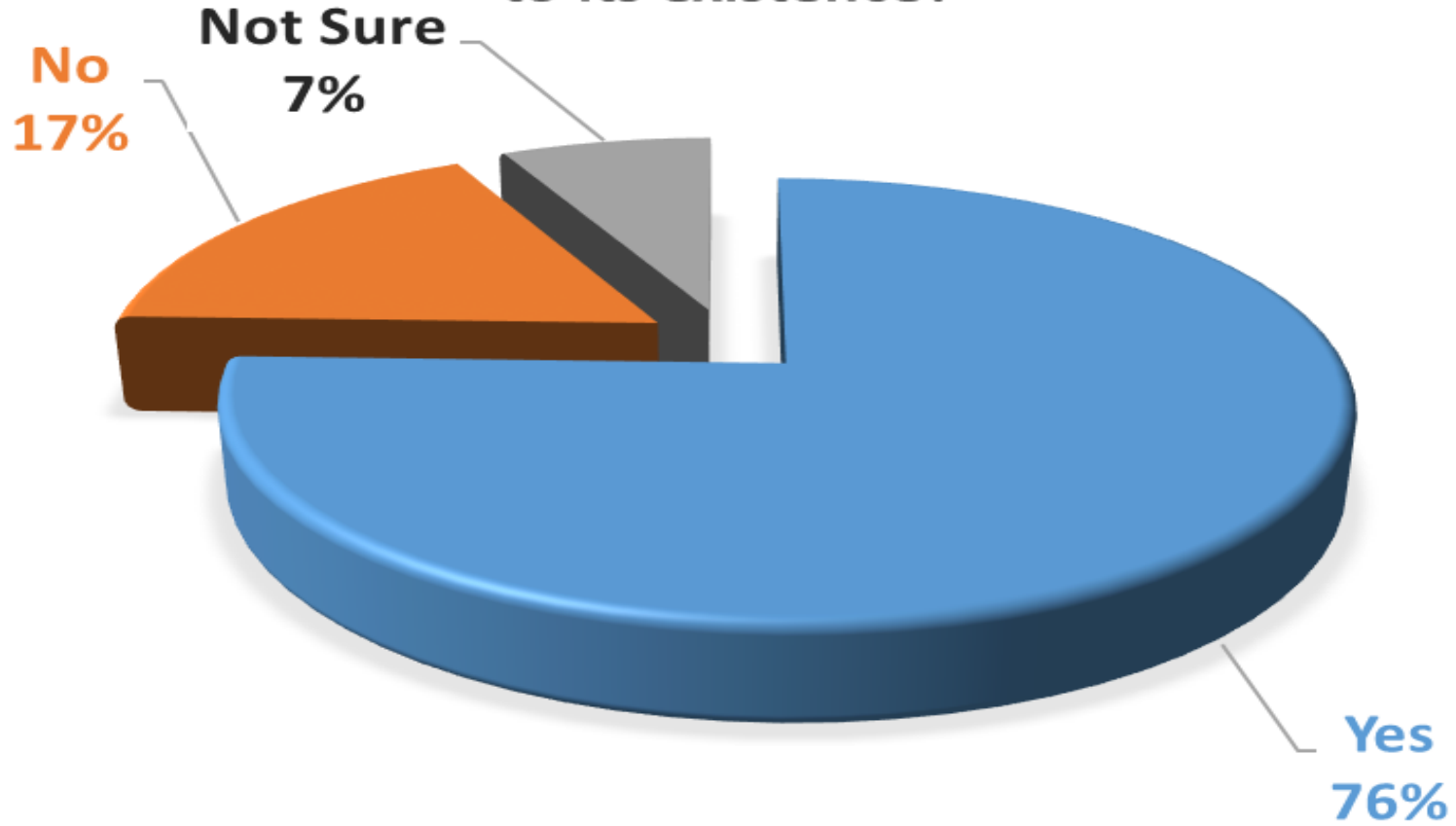
1.



Answer Choices	Responses	
1-20	23.44%	45
21-50	51.04%	98
51-90	17.19%	33
91-200	5.21%	10
200+	3.13%	6
Answered		192
Skipped		0

2.

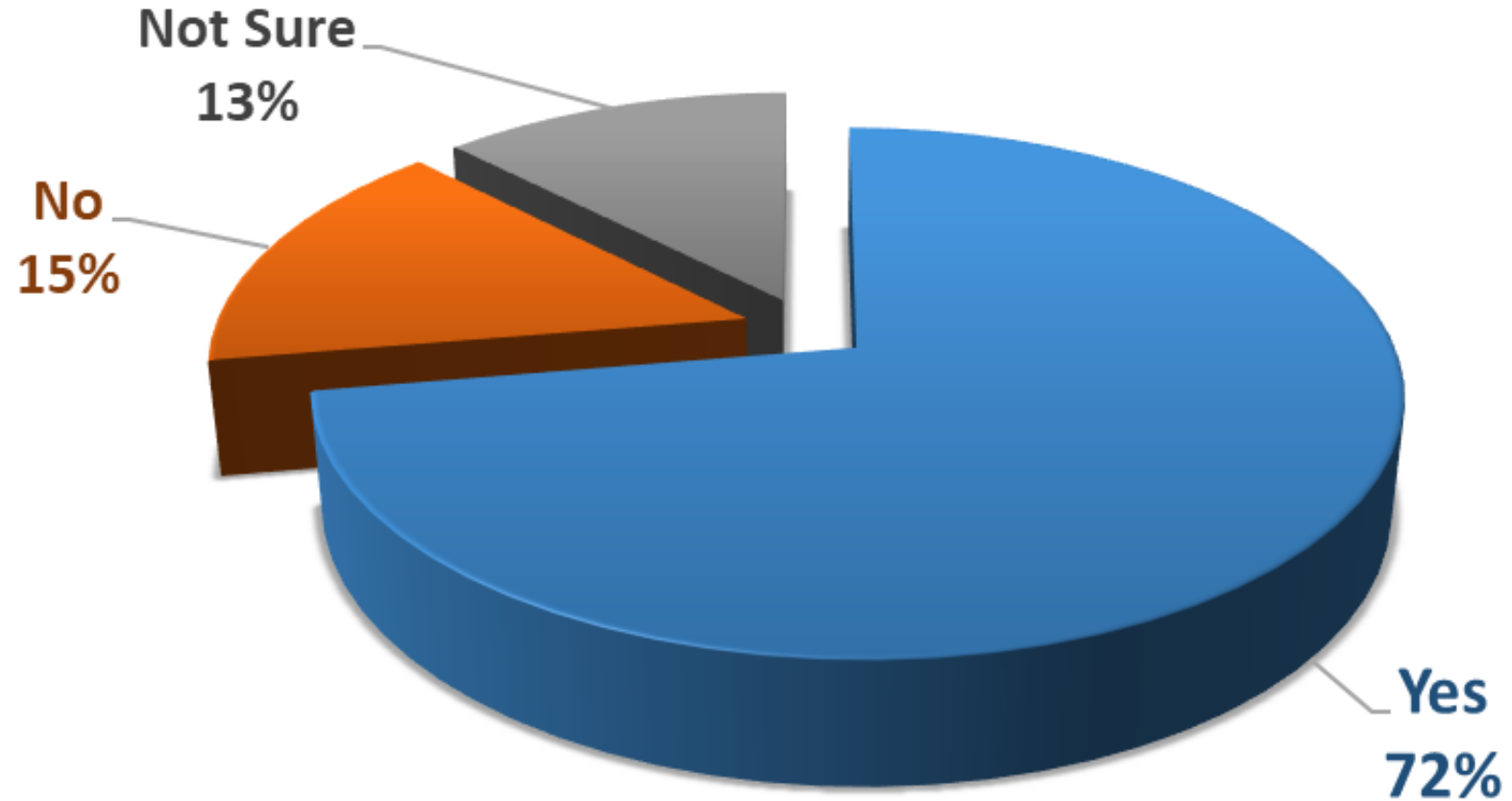
Does your club consider legislative issues vital to its existence?



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	75.52%	145
No	17.19%	33
Not Sure	7.29%	14
Answered		192
Skipped		0

3.

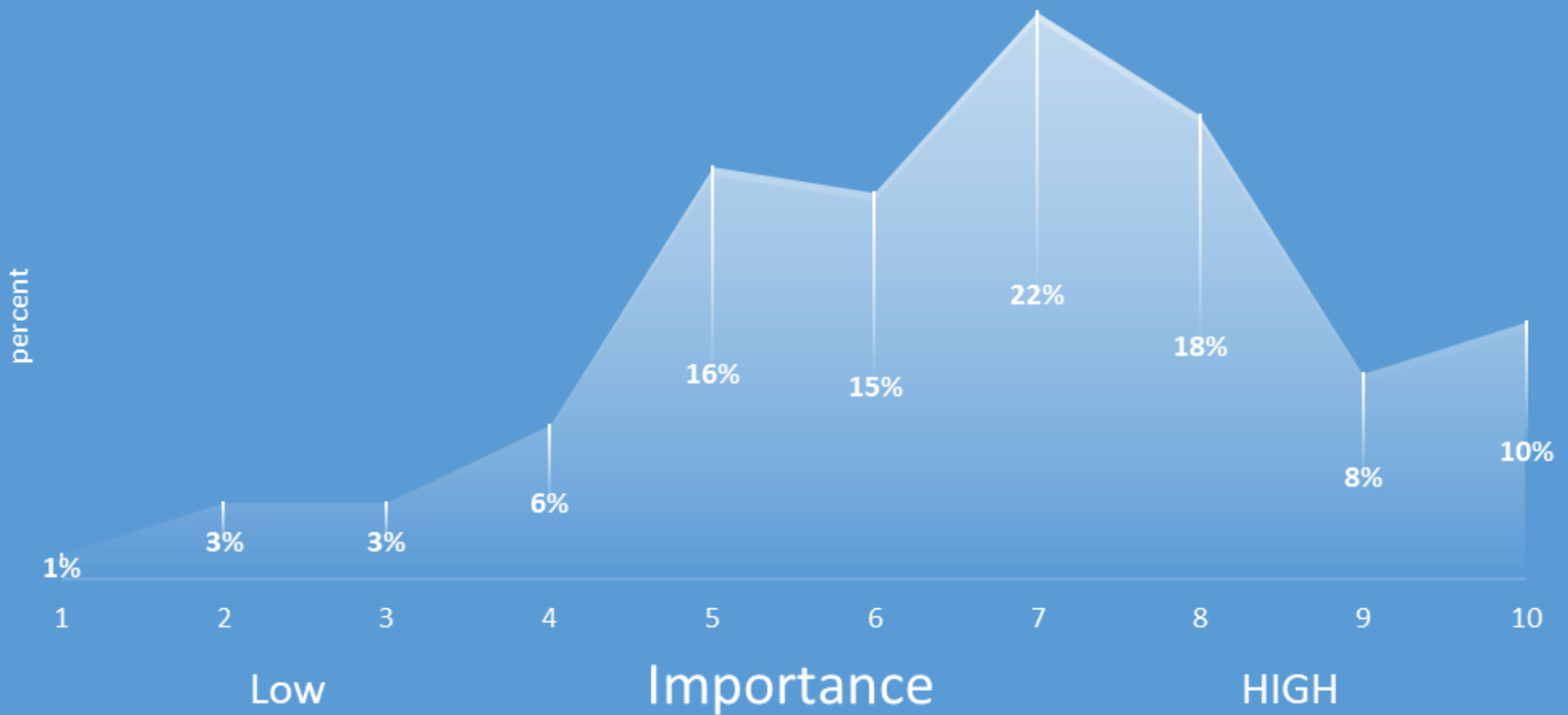
Does your club see involvement in legislative issues as part of your club's mission?



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	72.40%	139
No	15.10%	29
Not Sure	12.50%	24
	Answered	192
	Skipped	0

4.

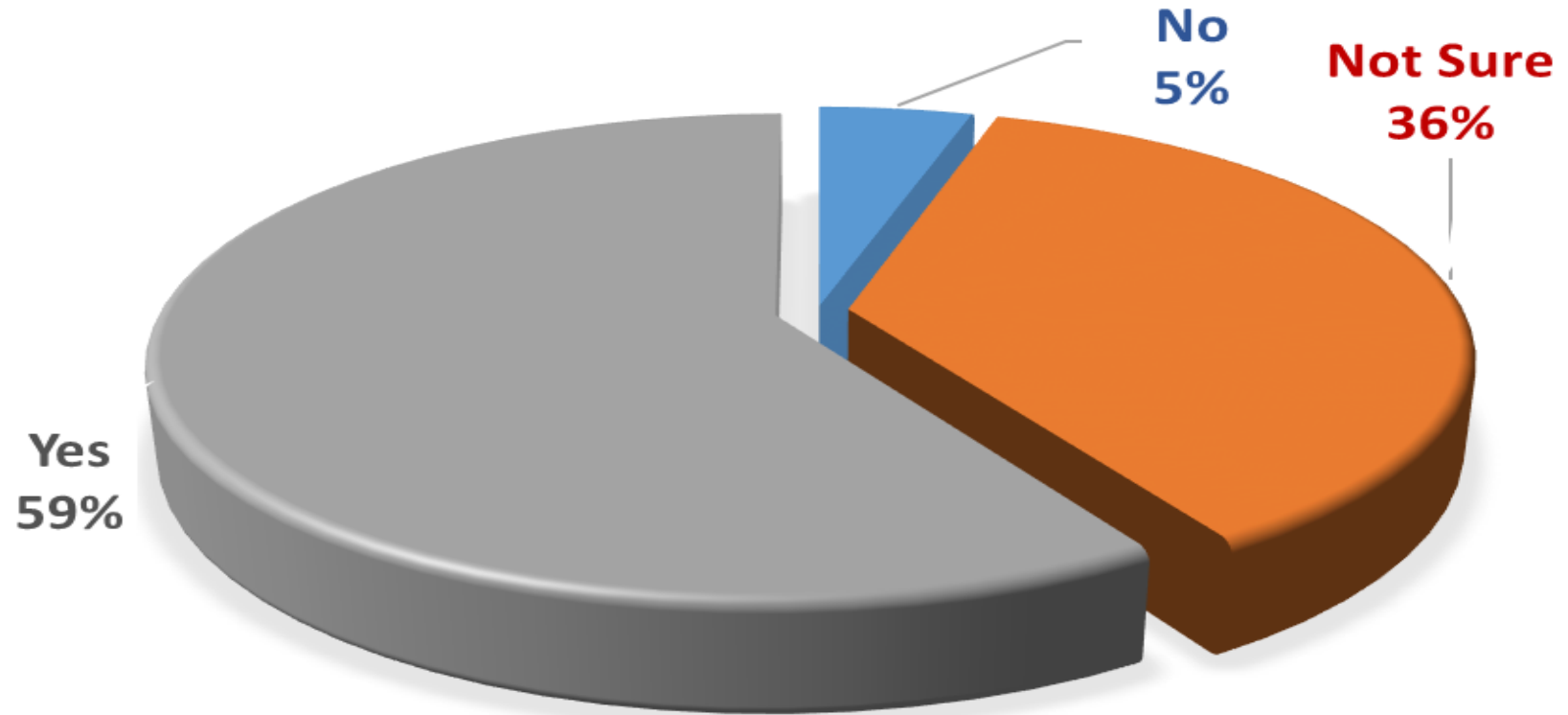
Where does your club place the importance of legislation?



	1 - LEAST IMPORTANT	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10- MOST IMPORTANT	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
☆	0.52%	2.60%	2.60%	6.25%	15.63%	14.58%	21.88%	17.71%	8.33%	9.90%	192	6.7:
	1	5	5	12	30	28	42	34	16	19		

5.

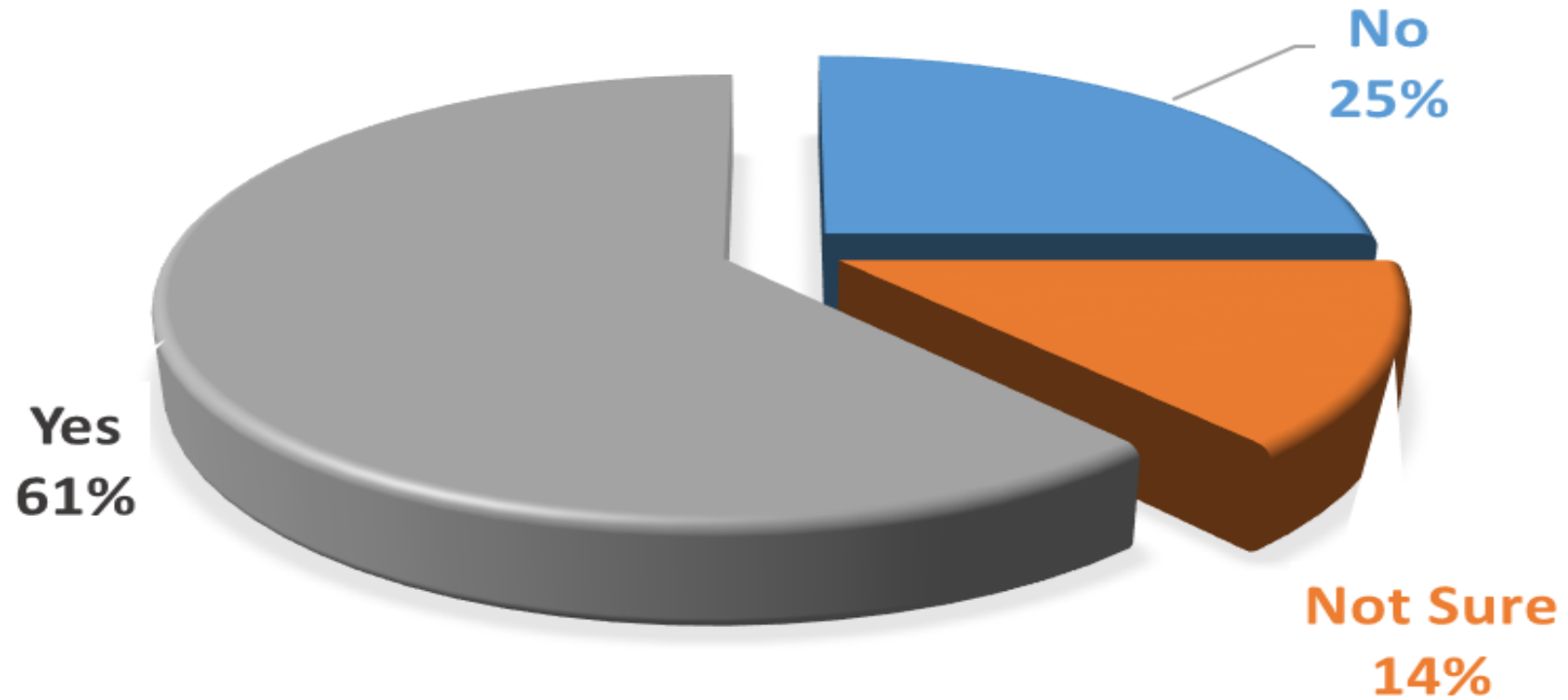
Are your club members aware of organizations supportive of purebred dogs, dog breeder rights, and the dog community in general?



Answer Choices	Responses	
No	4.69%	9
Not Sure	36.46%	70
Yes	58.85%	113
Answered		192
Skipped		0

6.

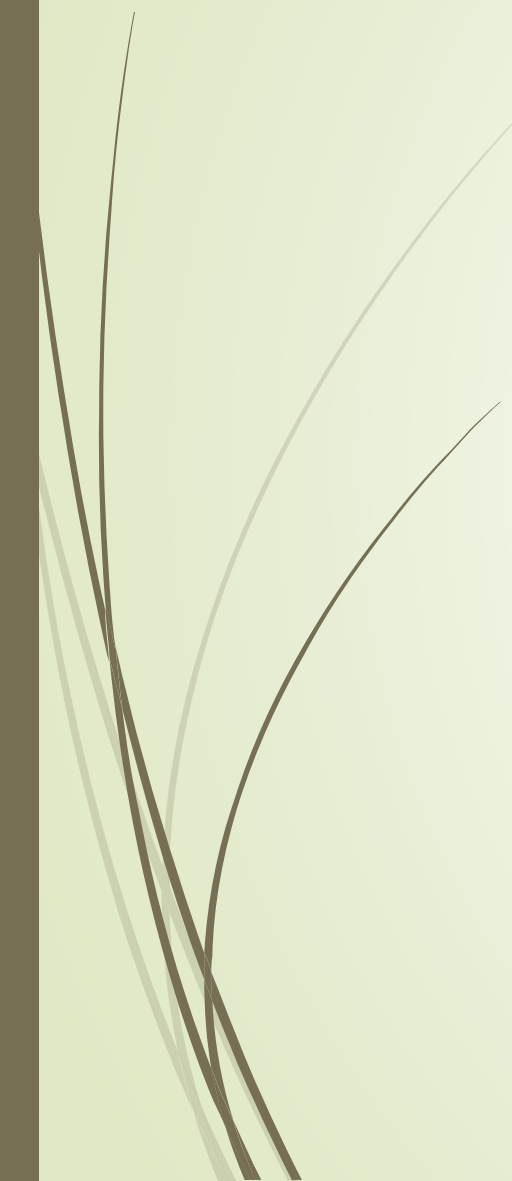
Does your club donate to any organizations supportive of purebred dogs, dog breeder rights, and the dog community in general?



Answer Choices	Responses	
No	25.00%	48
Not Sure	13.54%	26
Yes (please list)	61.46%	118
Answered		192
Skipped		0

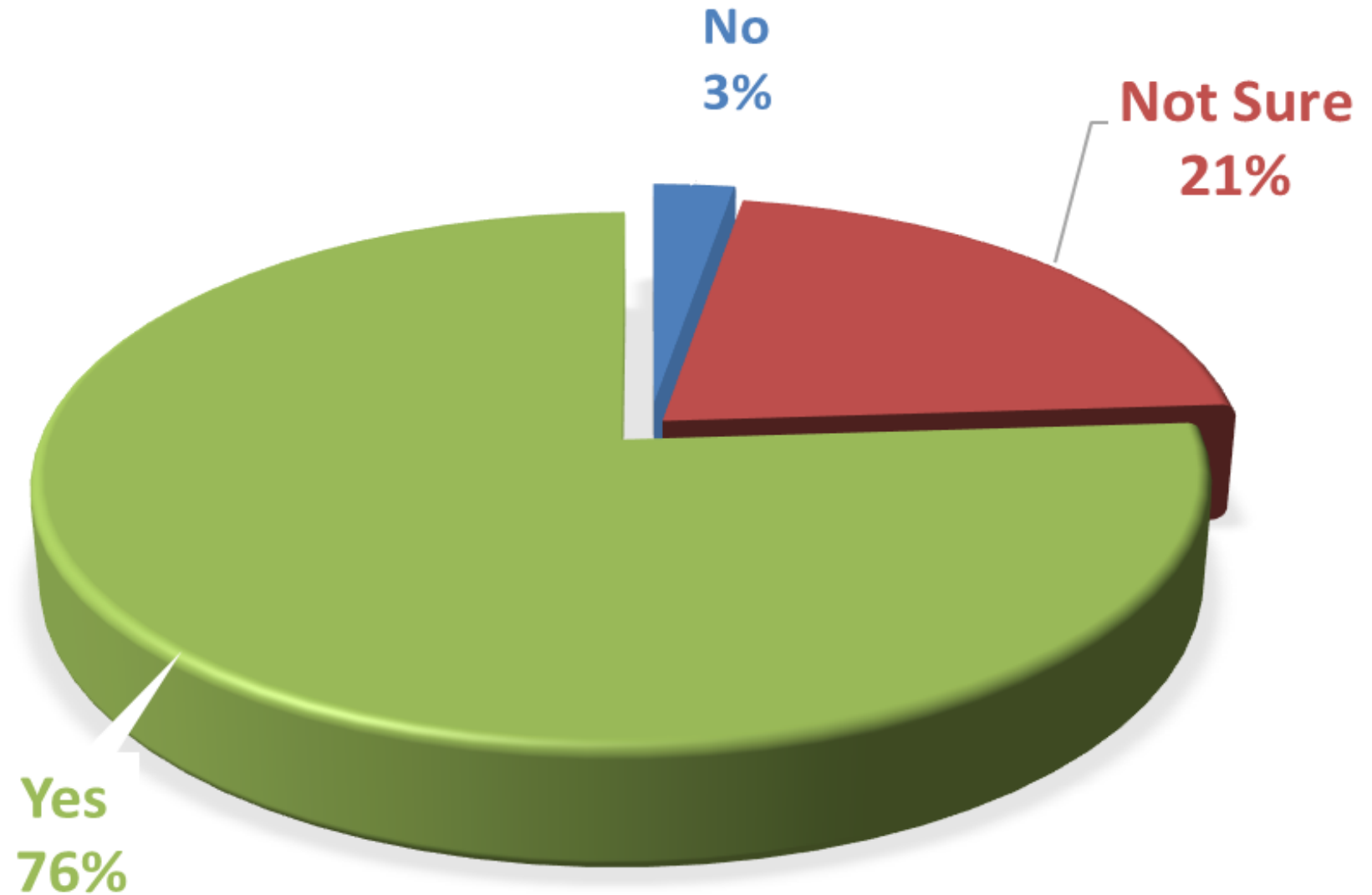


Organizations identified:

- AKC
 - NAIA
 - State coalitions
 - ADOA
 - Local Shelters
 - Canine Defense Fund
 - Breed specific rescue organizations
 - Canine companions
 - Take the Lead
 - K-9 units
 - Responsible Pet Owners Alliance
 - Local 4-H projects
 - Fire Dept.
- 

7.

Are your club members aware of organizations that are adversarial to purebred dogs, dog breeders, and the dog community?



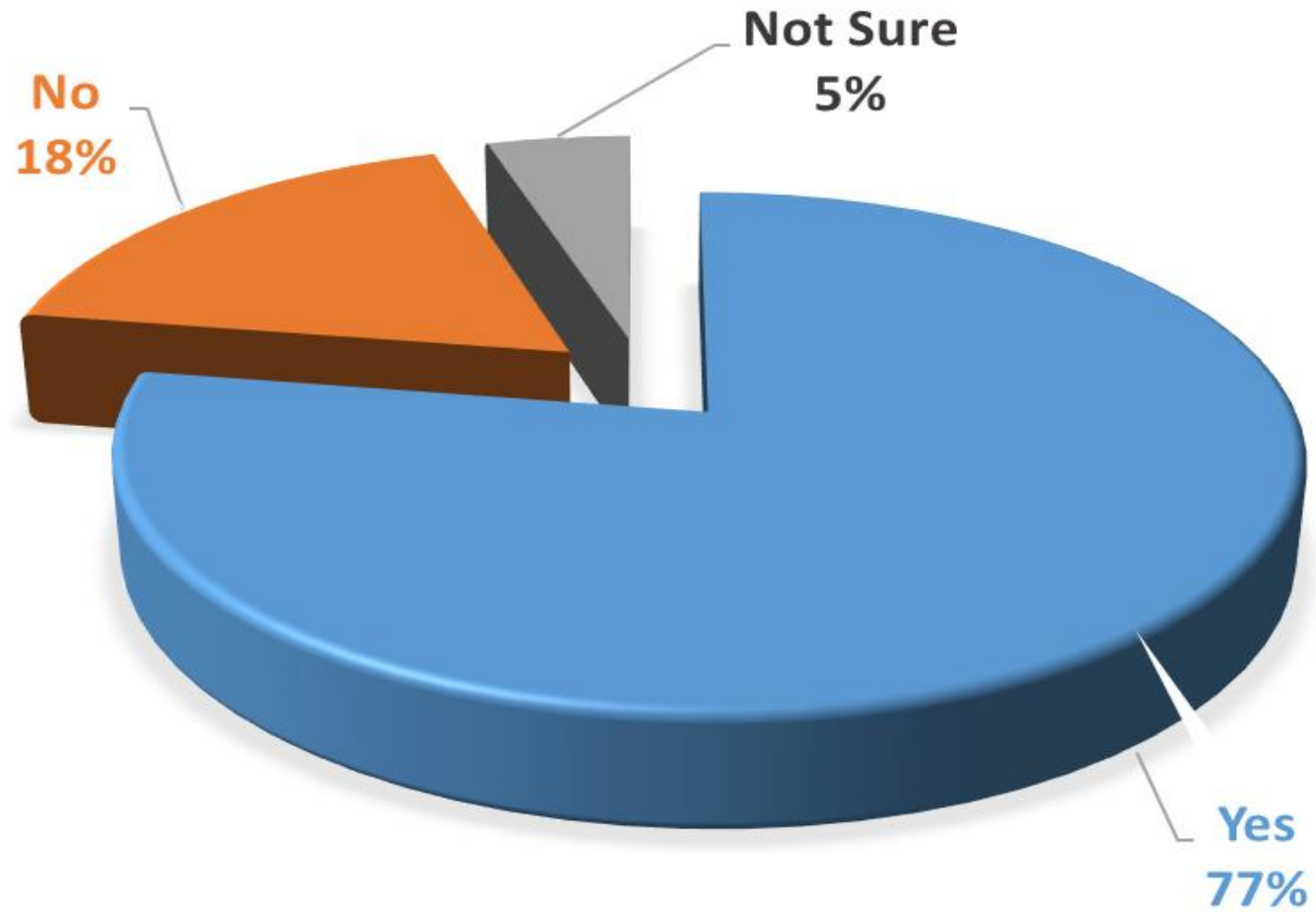
Answer Choices	Responses	
No	2.60%	5
Not Sure	21.35%	41
Yes	76.04%	146
Answered		192
Skipped		0

Organizations identified:

- PETA
- HSUS
- ALDFA
- ASPCA
- AR Organizations
- Legislature, Senator, Town council

Does your club encourage club members to vote?

8.



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	77.60%	149
No	17.71%	34
Not Sure	4.69%	9
Answered		192
Skipped		0

What does your club membership consider is the greatest threat to dog ownership?

- Adverse legislation – anti- breeder and anti-dog ownership
- Animal Rights Activists, Groups and Organizations including uncontrolled/unregulated "rescue" organizations
- Animal/pet (dog) rescue associations
- Apathy
- Bad Press
- Mandatory spay/neuter laws
- Breed specific legislation, improper information the public receives from dog activists, breed specific insurance exclusions, local ordinances; pet limit legislation
- Careless Owners
- Ignorance on the part of legislators
- Importation of dogs for "rescue"
- Poor or incorrect information regarding breeders, exhibitors, and owners of purebred dogs
(i.e. all breeding is wrong because of the number of dogs in shelters and humane centers).
- Restrictive local regulations and limit laws
- Restrictive ownership and breeding regulations
- The decline in interest in purebred dogs, and the "adopt don't shop" attitude being taught in schools.

What are the major legislative/public policy issues for your club?

- **Animal Cruelty legislation that is disguised by animal rights activists.**
- **Allowing people to own dogs without fear of visits from animal control.**
- **Trying to pass legislation that has underlining meanings against dog fanciers**
- **Banning ownership by bred type**
- **Commercial breeders with substandard facilities identified and corrected or shut down**
- **Discriminatory breed specific homeowner's insurance**
- **Docking and cropping**
- **For profit rescues, poor rescue placement, importation of rescues from other states, regulations targeting breeders**
- **Supporting inspection and education of commercial breeders**
- **Mandatory spay/neuter, anti- breeders laws/ confiscation/ dogs limits laws/ breed specific legislation**
- **Reclassification of hobby breeders as commercial breeders, mandatory spay/neuter ordinances, seizure of animals and automatic forfeiture when accusations of cruelty are made even if proven innocent**
- **Confiscation/Seizures of dogs and litters by Animal Control/AR groups**
- **Seizure and forfeiture with no guilty finding**
- **Vicious dog designation, tethering, and implementation of limits For intact dogs per household**
- **Promotion of mixed breeds and designer dog breeds**

Does your club ever discuss legislative issues?

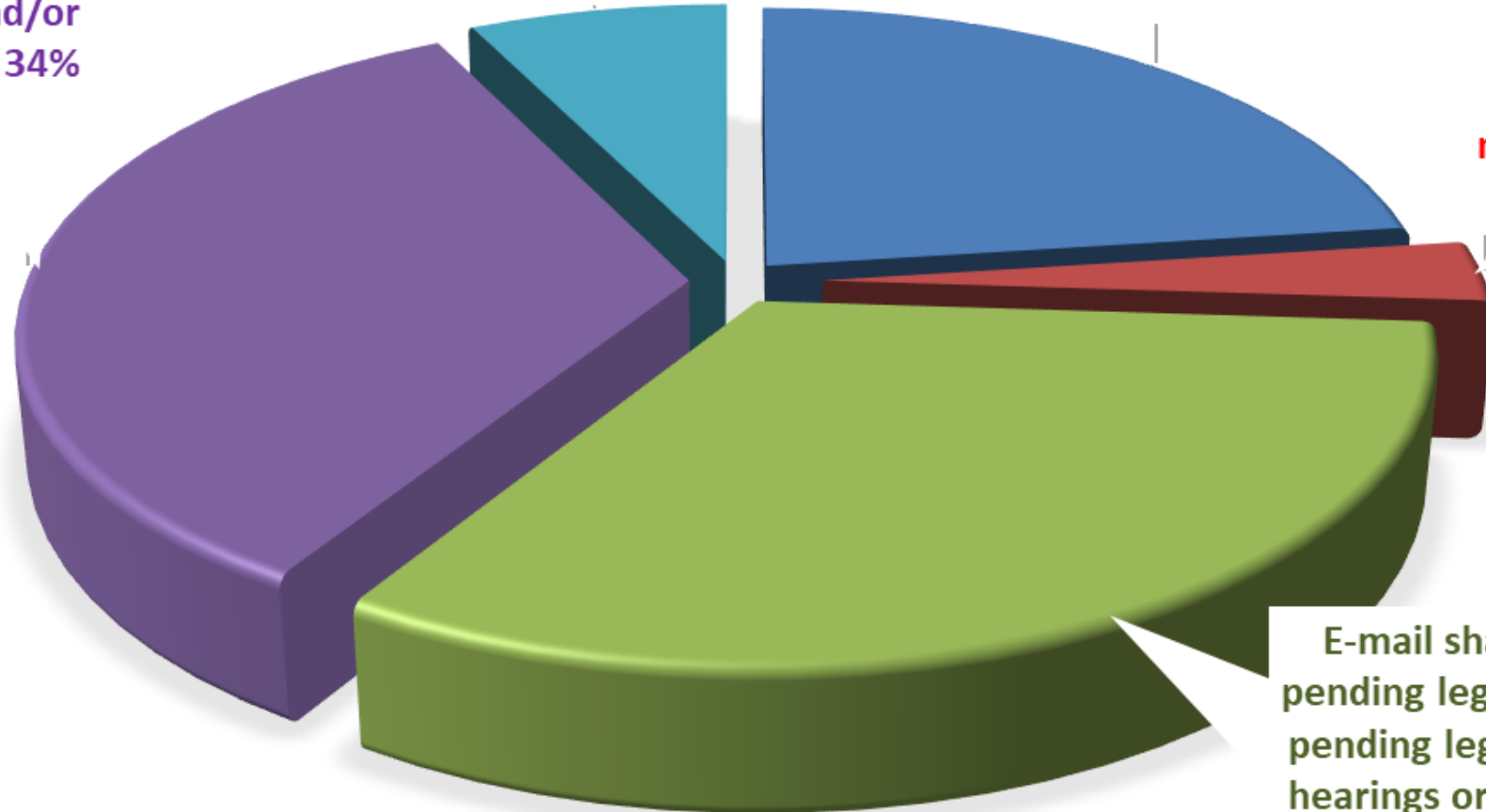
11.

Casually in conversations at meetings and/or shows, etc., 34%

Other (please specify), 7%

With programs at your club meetings 23%

In club newsletters 3%



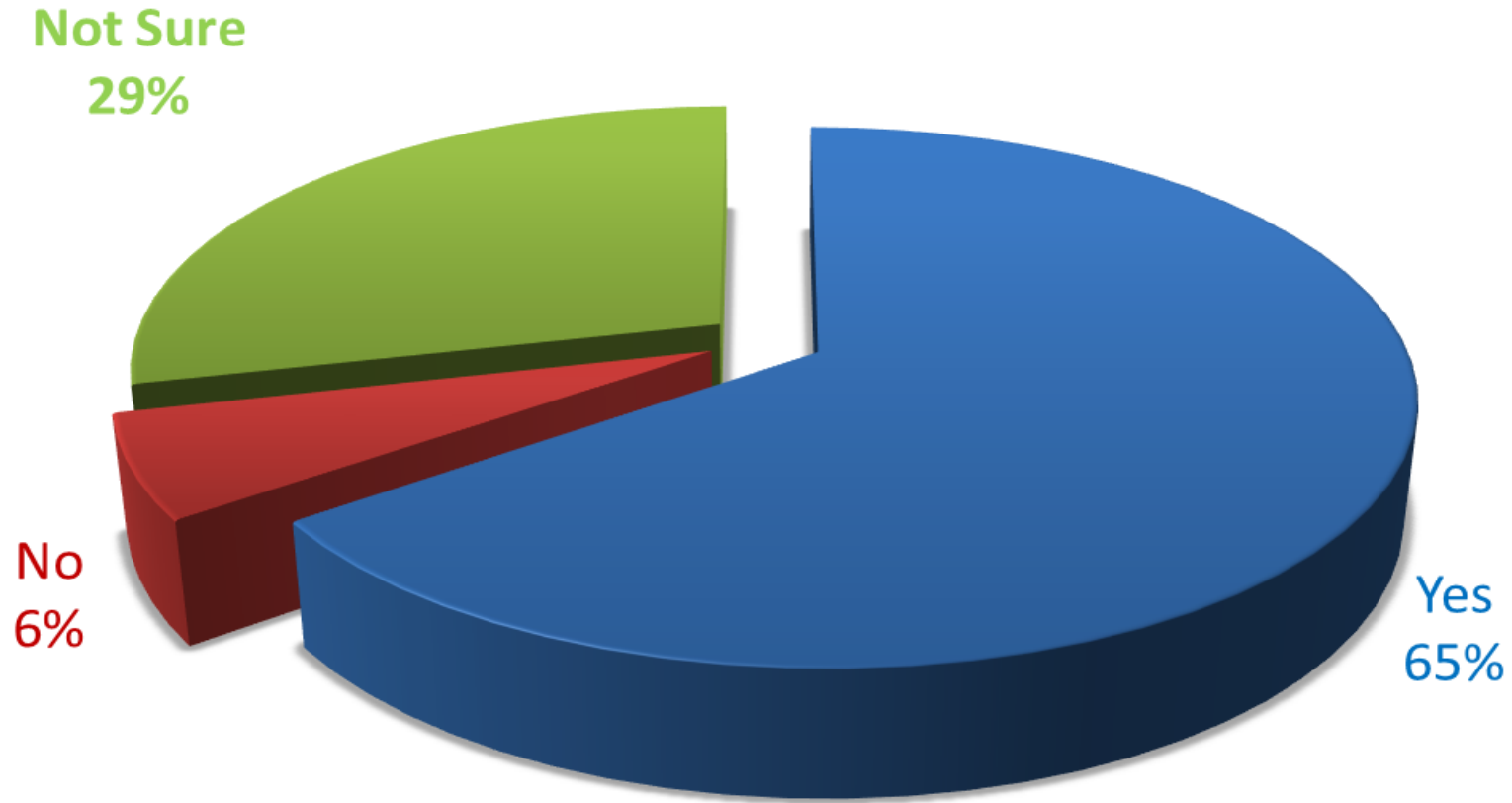
E-mail share of pending legislation, pending legislative hearings or actions suggested by AKC Government Relations alerts 33%

Answer Choices	Responses	
With programs at your club meetings	22.92%	44
In club newsletters	3.13%	6
E-mail share of pending legislation, pending legislative hearings or actions suggested by AKC Government Relations alerts	32.81%	63
Casually in conversations at meetings and/or shows, etc.	33.85%	65
Other (please specify)	7.29%	14
	Answered	192
	Skipped	0

Other option given was:

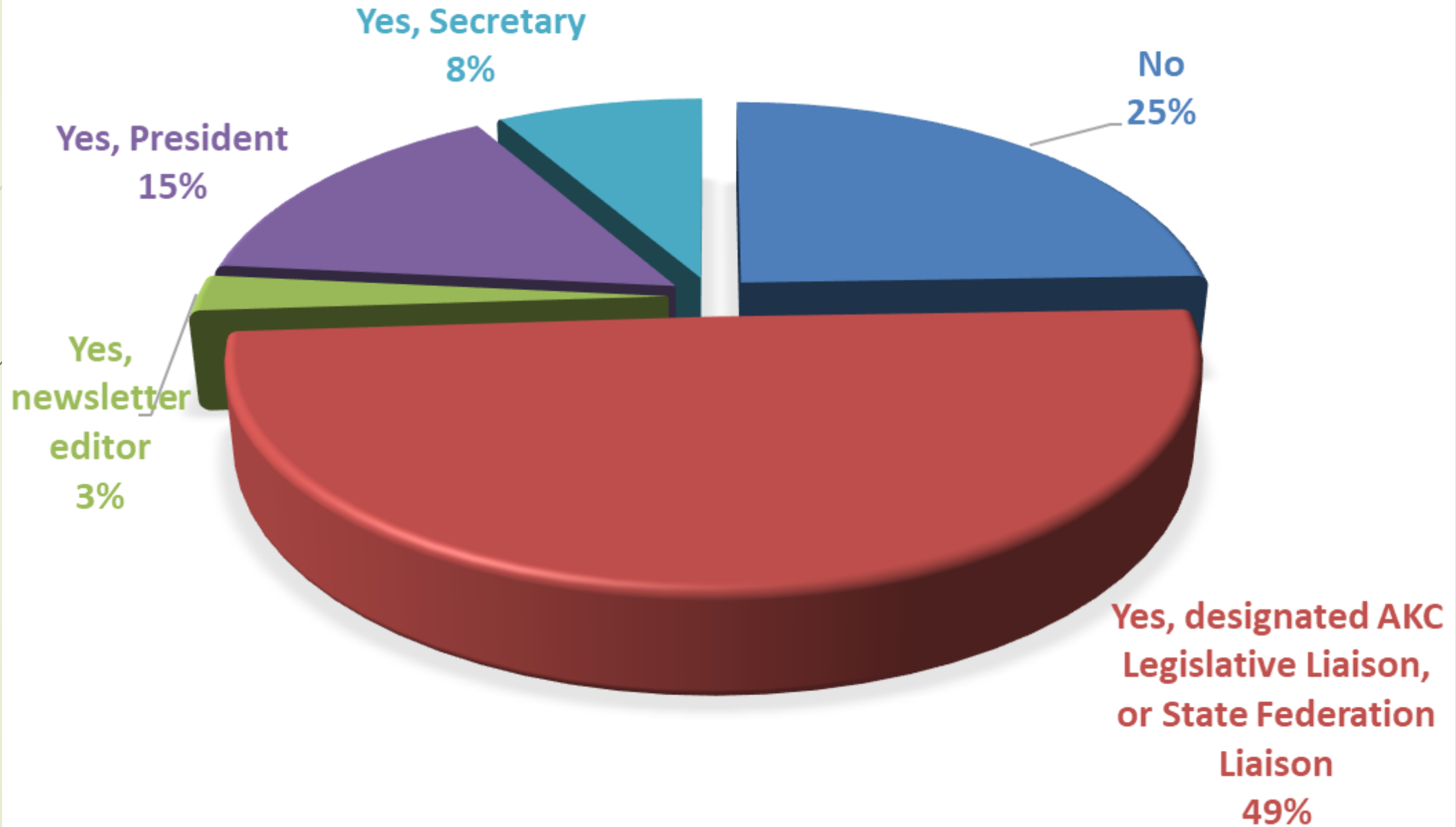
- Facebook

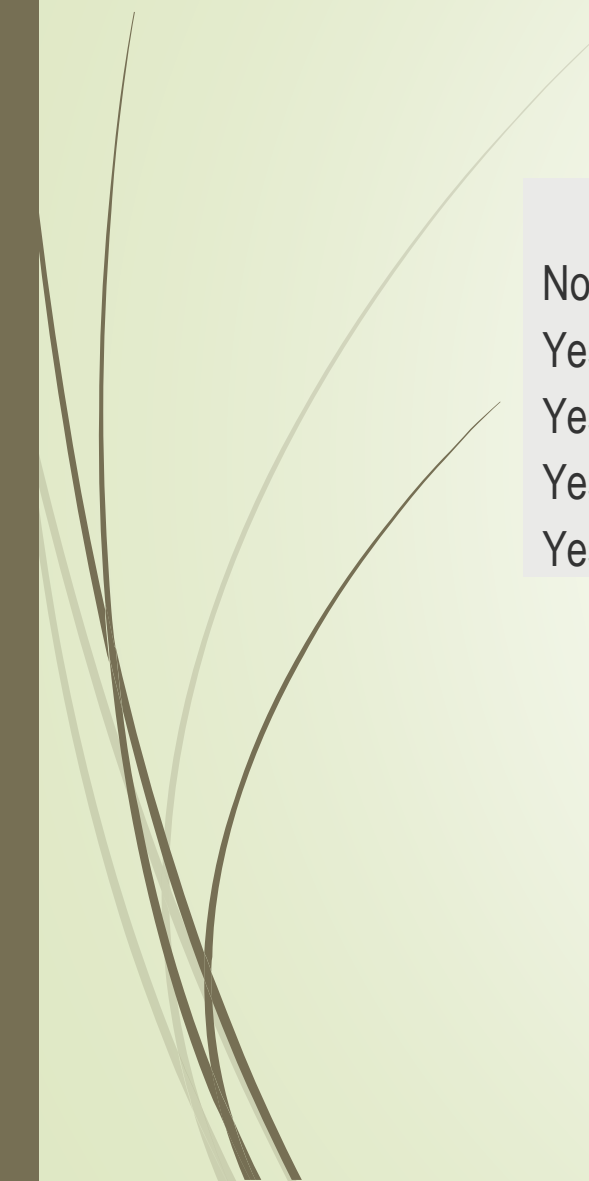
Are your club members aware of current and pending animal ordinances that affect them and the local dog community?



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	65.10%	125
No	6.25%	12
Not Sure	28.65%	55
Answered		192
Skipped		0

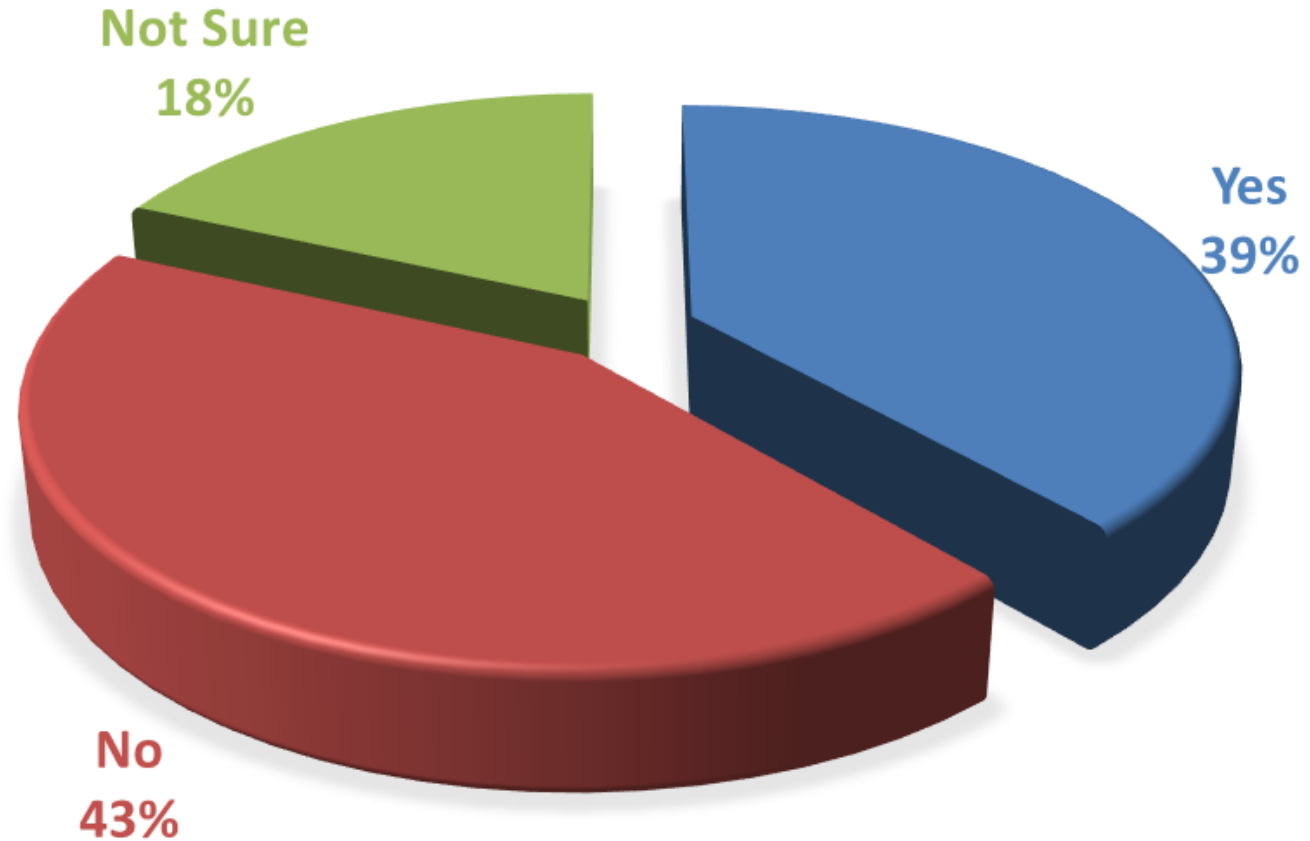
Does your club monitor state and local animal laws? If you do, who in your club is responsible for keeping the club members informed of legislation?





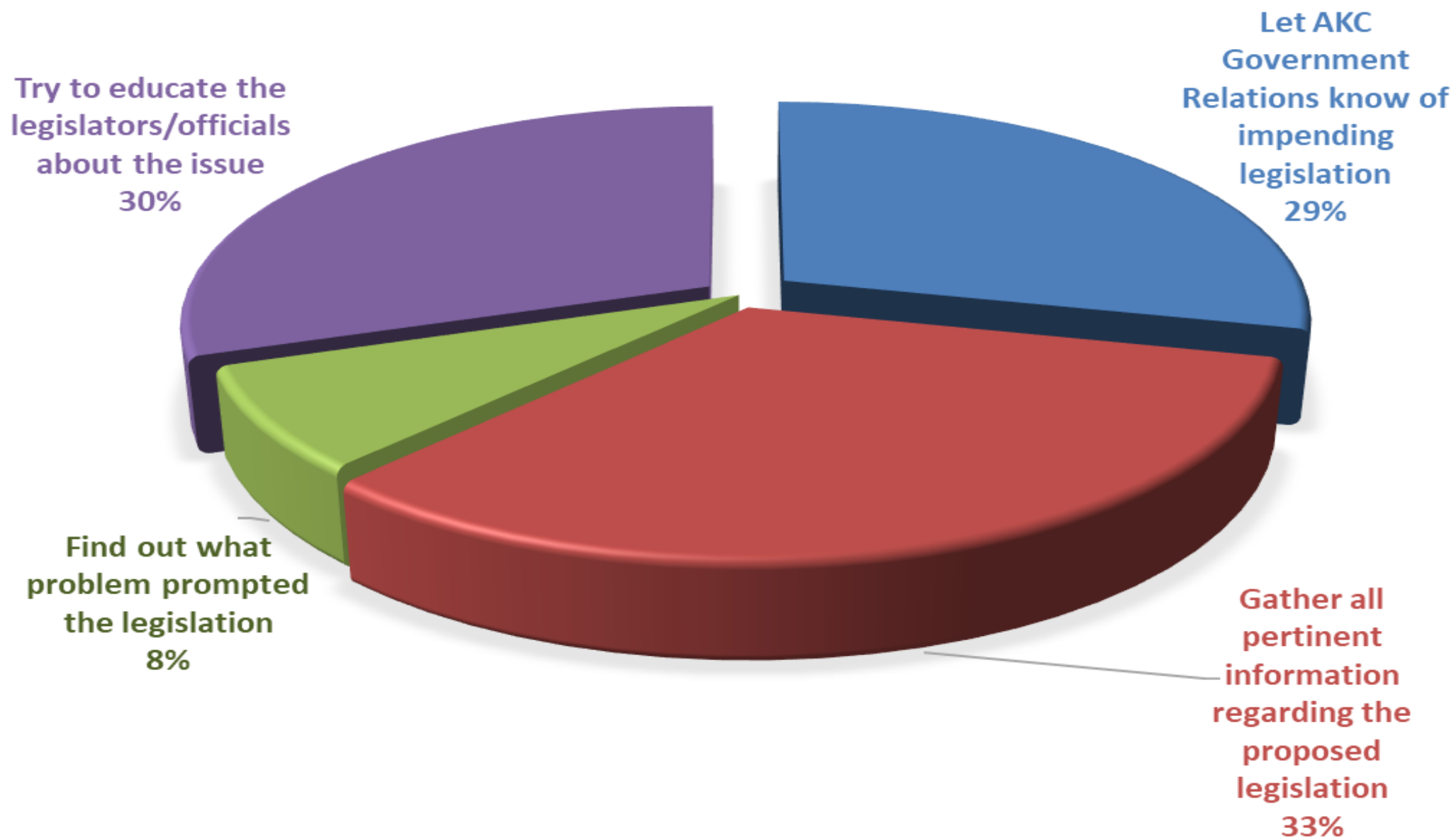
Answer Choices	Responses	
No	24.48%	47
Yes, designated AKC Legislative Liaison, or State Federation Liaison	49.48%	95
Yes, newsletter editor	2.60%	5
Yes, President	15.10%	29
Yes, Secretary	8.33%	16
	Answered	192
	Skipped	0



Have you had any ordinances, legislation or regulations in your area that have affected club members, dog breeders or dog owners?



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	38.54%	74
No	43.23%	83
Not Sure	18.23%	35
	Answered	192
	Skipped	0

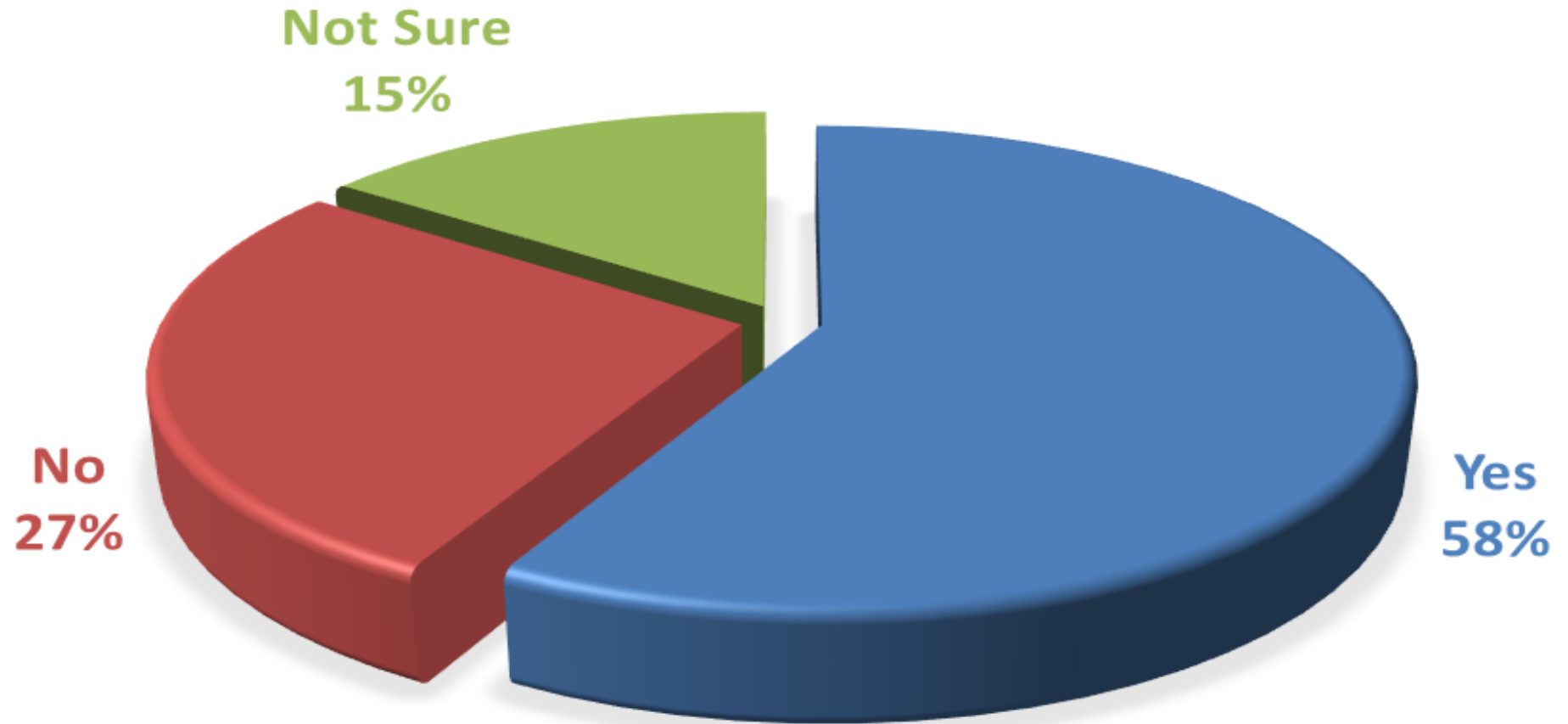
Knowing that all are important to do, what would you/your club do first if adverse legislation arose in your community?





Answer Choices	Responses	
Let AKC Government Relations know of impending legislation	28.65%	55
Gather all pertinent information regarding the proposed legislation	33.33%	64
Find out what problem prompted the legislation	7.81%	15
Try to educate the legislators/officials about the issue	30.21%	58
	Answered	192
	Skipped	0

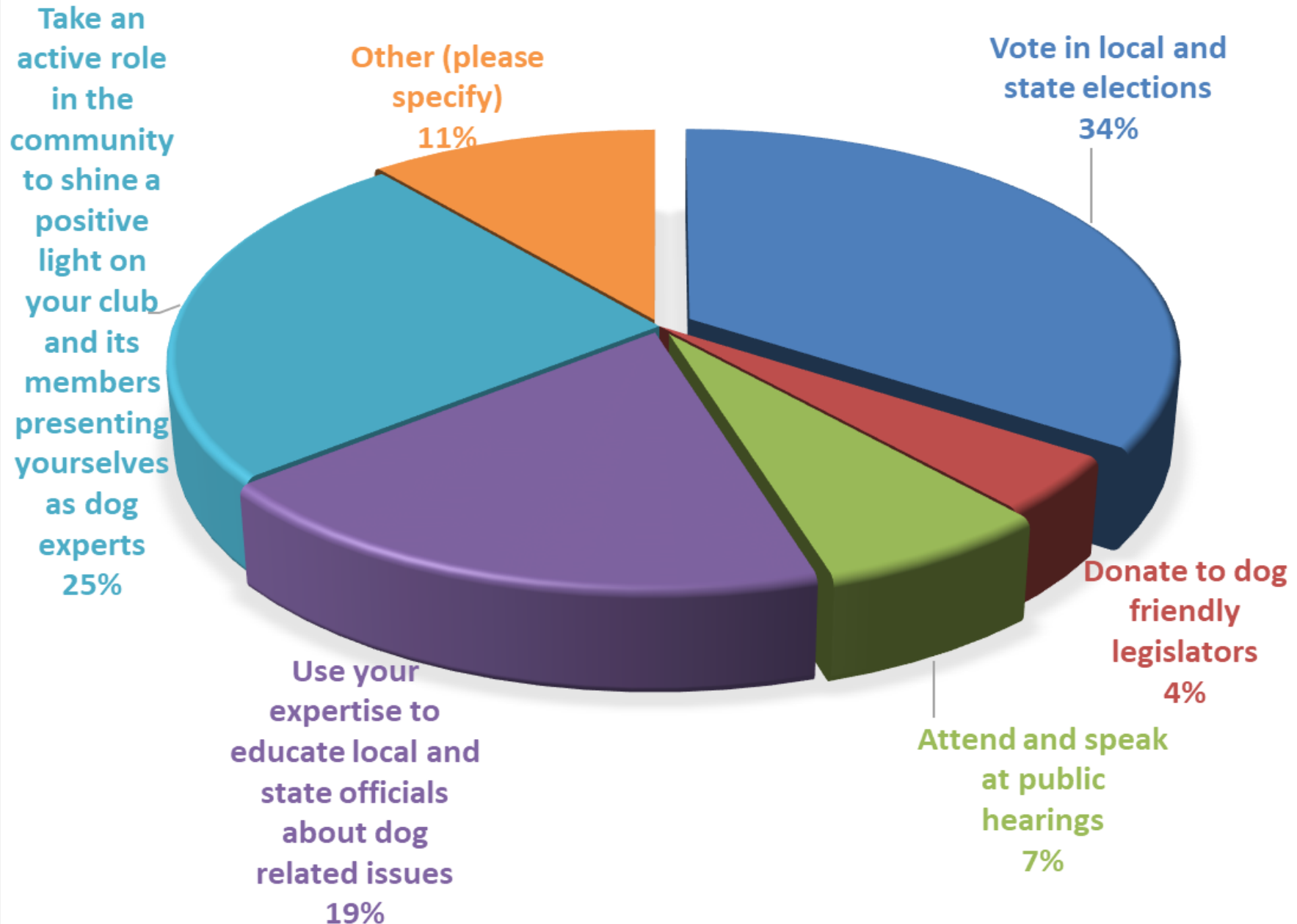
Does your club follow and work on local, state and federal dog-related issues?



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	57.81%	111
No	27.08%	52
Not Sure	15.10%	29
	Answered	192
	Skipped	0

What do you do at the club level to protect dog interests in your area?

17.



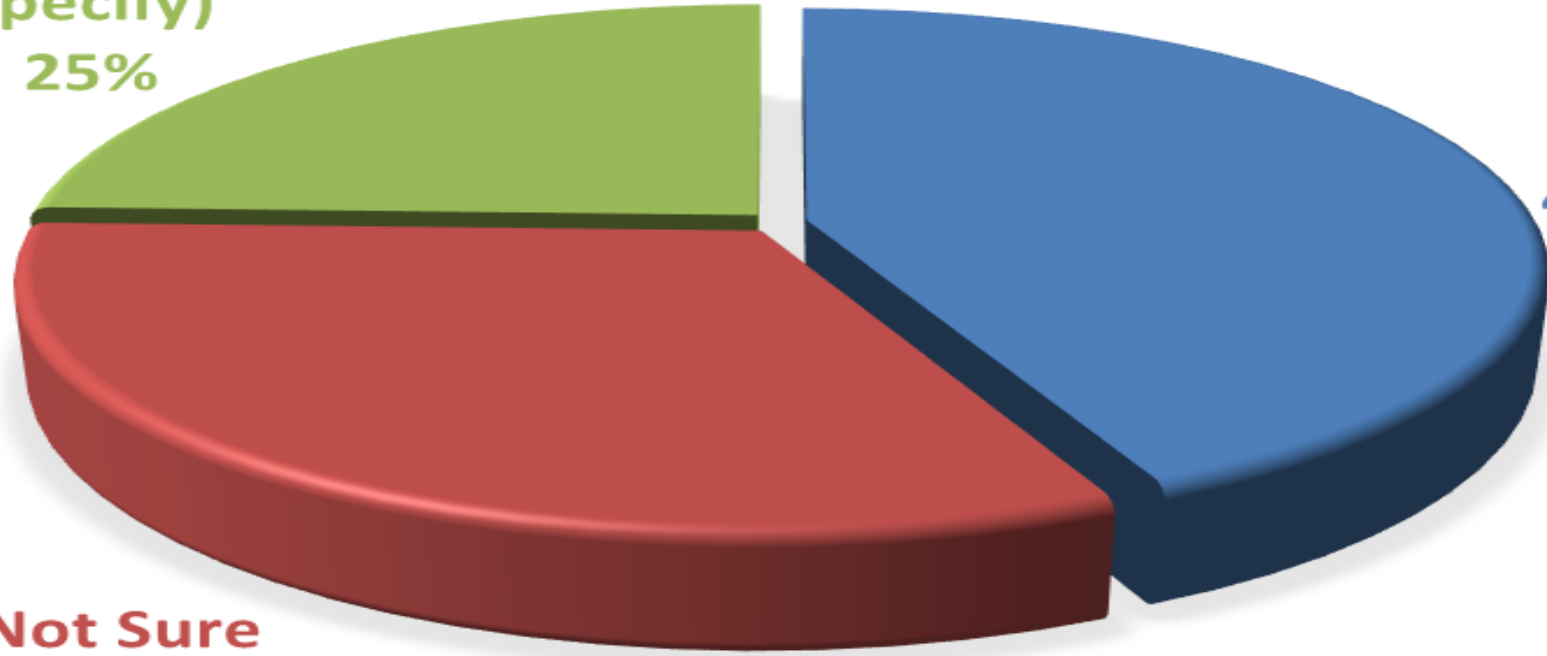
Answer Choices	Responses	
Vote in local and state elections	34.38%	66
Donate to dog friendly legislators	4.17%	8
Attend and speak at public hearings	6.77%	13
Use your expertise to educate local and state officials about dog related issues	18.75%	36
Take an active role in the community to shine a positive light on your club and its members presenting yourselves as dog experts	25.00%	48
Other (please specify)	10.94%	21
	Answered	192
	Skipped	0

Others specified:

- Vote, donate, attend AND speak...
- Offer dog training classes, host dog related events (i.e. Partner with Red Cross for K9 first aid)
- We have a lobbyist attend to all these issues
- Invite politicians to our shows and educate them about the positive value to the community
- Vote, Attend/speak public meetings, educate public, take an active role in the community

Does your club have a plan for insuring your input on legislative initiatives?


Yes (please specify)
25%



No
43%

Not Sure
32%

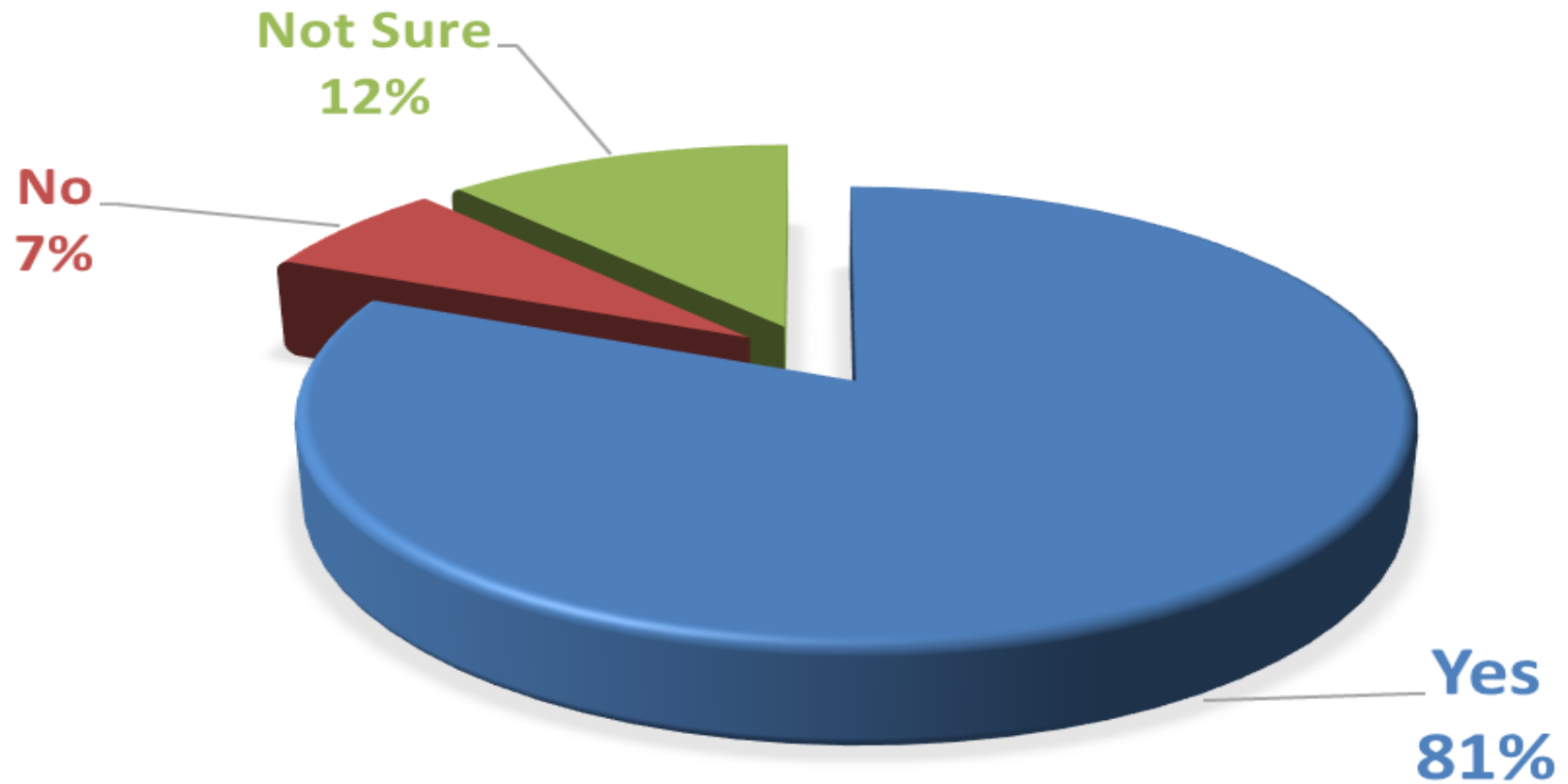
Answer Choices	Responses	
No	43.23%	83
Not Sure	32.29%	62
Yes (please specify)	24.48%	47
Answered		192
Skipped		0



Yes specifications include:

- Coalition or Federation membership
- Access to elected officials and staff and have developed positive relationships with some local & state legislator. We try to have key contacts at the city, county and state level.
- Lobbyist
- Club's legislative liaison
- Delegate
- Attend City/County hearings, local legislative meetings
- Communicate with county animal services
- Contacts have been made with district representatives in state government and the club maintains contact addresses, names, email and phone numbers for legislators
- Educate lawmakers
- Members call and write their elected representatives and senators
- President provides input as necessary
- Reports are given at our regular meetings.
- We attend regular legislative meetings
- We meet regularly with our legislators

Does your club receive legislative alerts from AKC Government Relations?

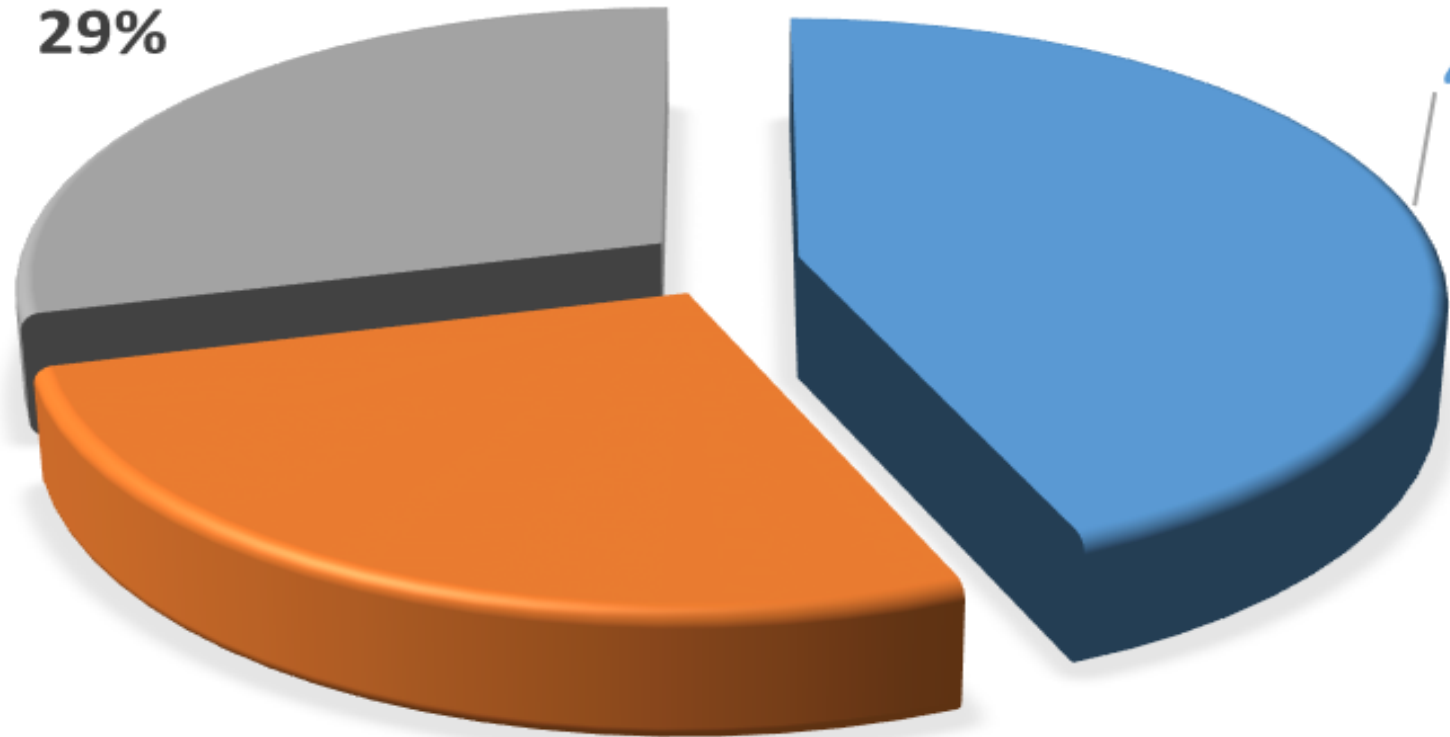


Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	81.25%	156
No	6.77%	13
Not Sure	11.98%	23
Answered		192
Skipped		0

Does your club have an AKC Government Relations Legislative Liaison?


No (please specify
why your club
doesn't have one)

29%



Yes
44%

Not Sure
27%

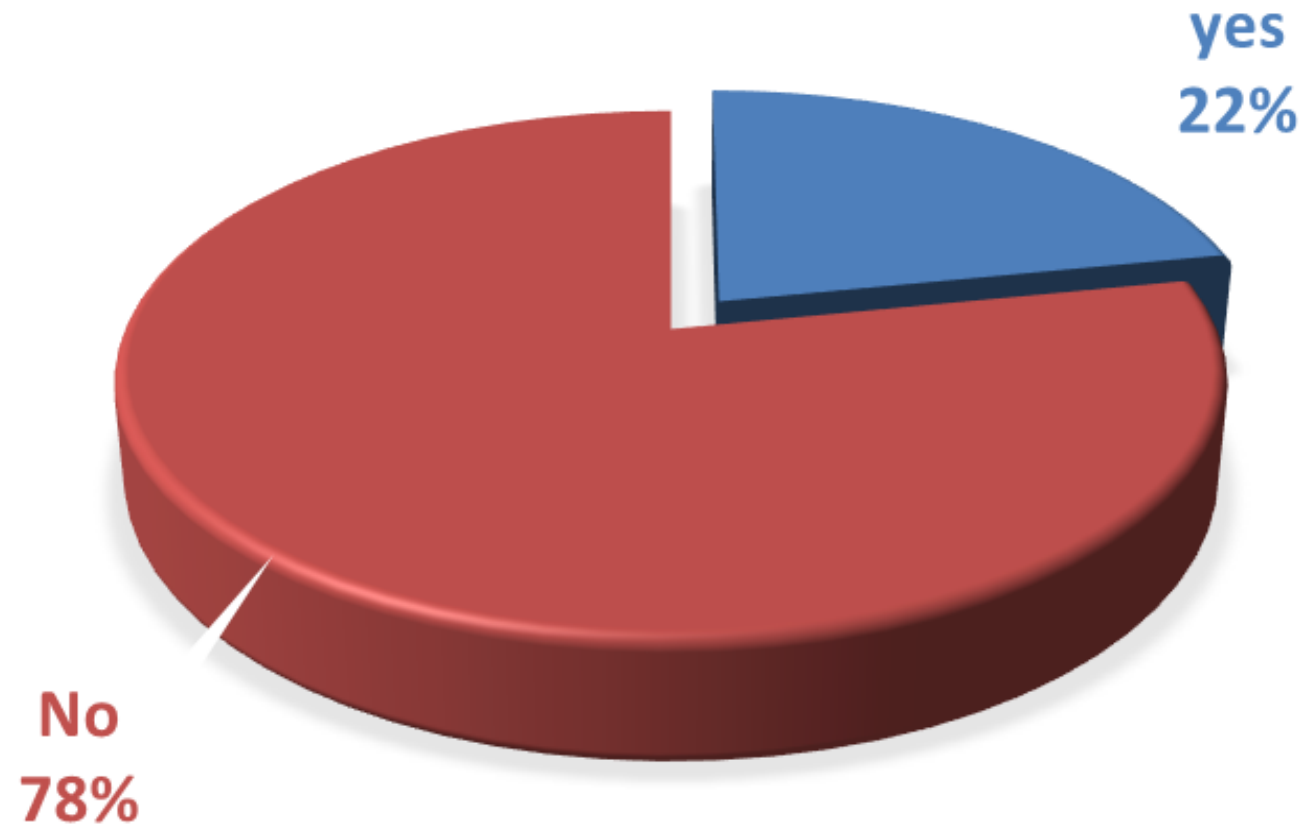


Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	43.75%	84
Not Sure	27.08%	52
No (please specify why your club doesn't have one)	29.17%	56
	Answered	192
	Skipped	0

Reasons for not having a Legislative Liaison:

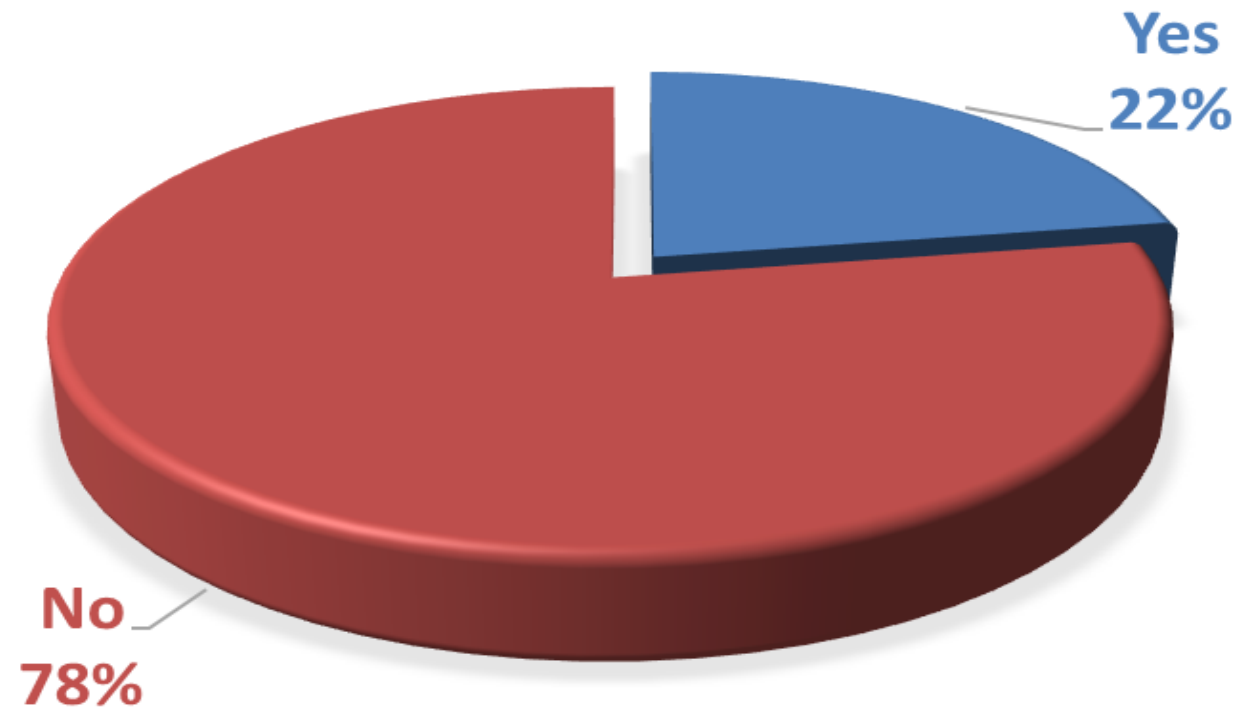
- Not aware of a need. Not sure what they do.
- No interest or volunteers
- Assigned to another: Delegate
- Small club
- Board not assigned
- Rely on the alliance

Have your members attended Government Relations Conferences?



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	21.88%	42
No	78.13%	150
Answered		192
Skipped		0

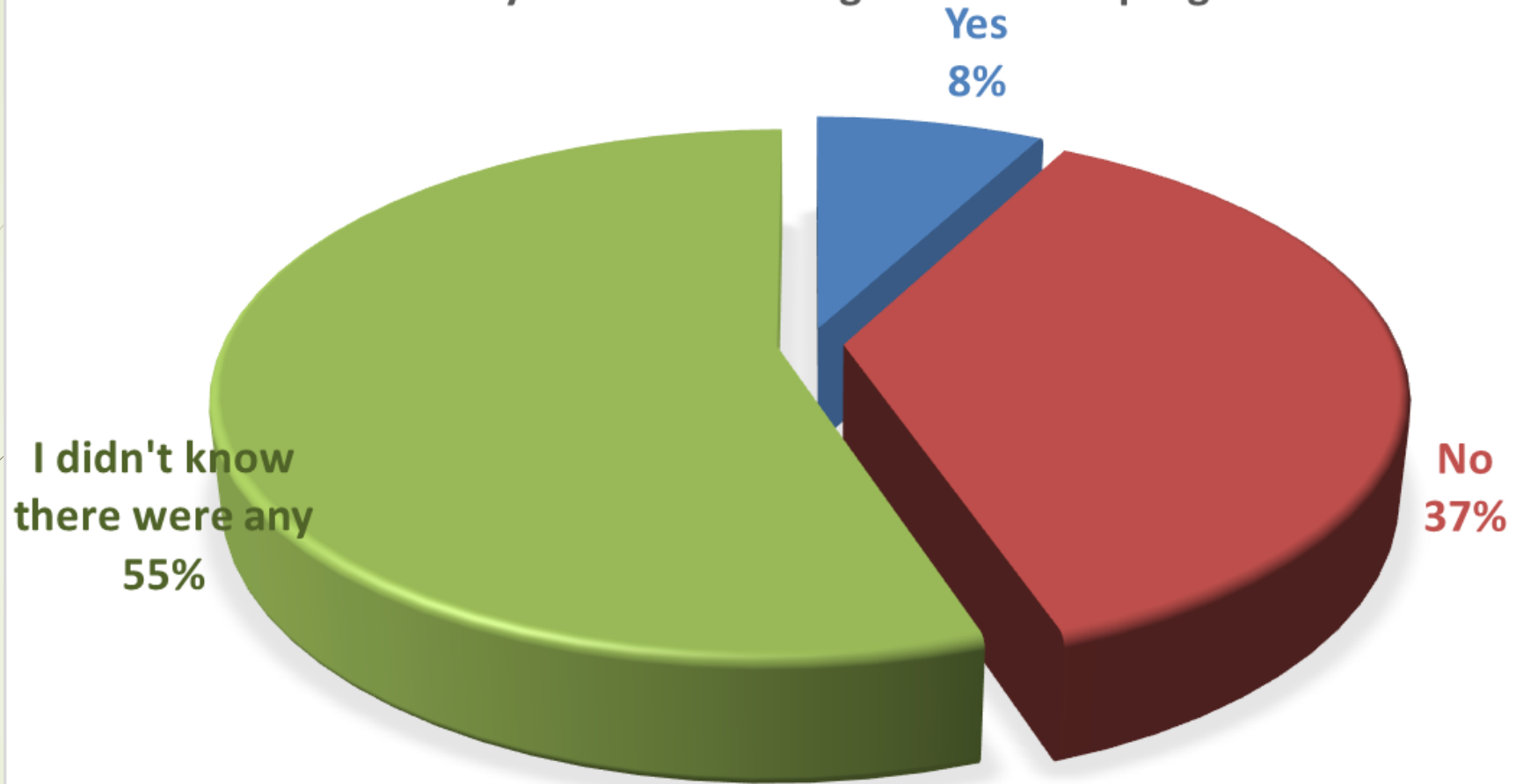
Does your club fund the legislative liaison, or other member participation to attend a legislative conference?



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	22.40%	43
No	77.60%	149
	Answered	192
	Skipped	0

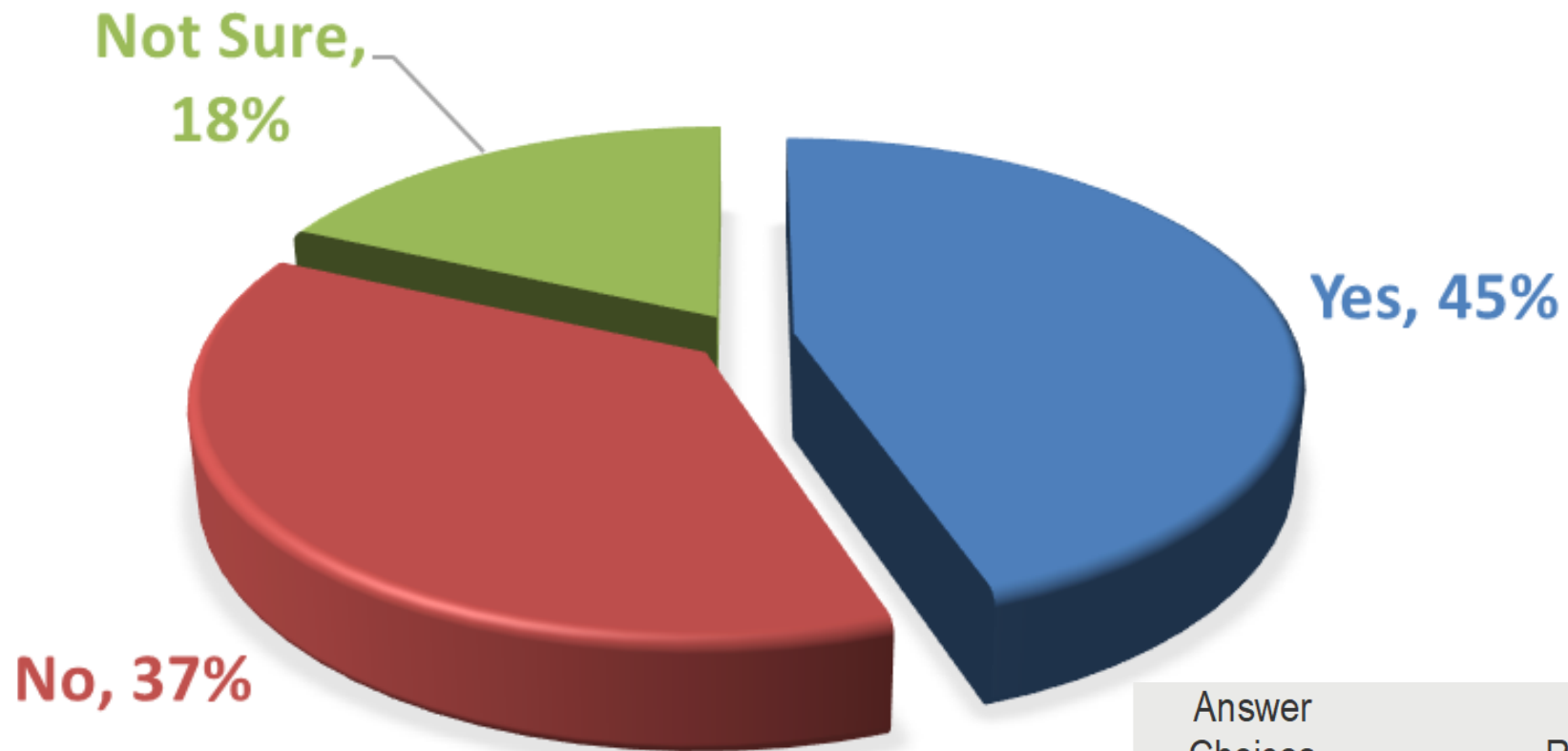
23.

Does your club utilize the Government Relations educational videos for your club meeting educational programs?



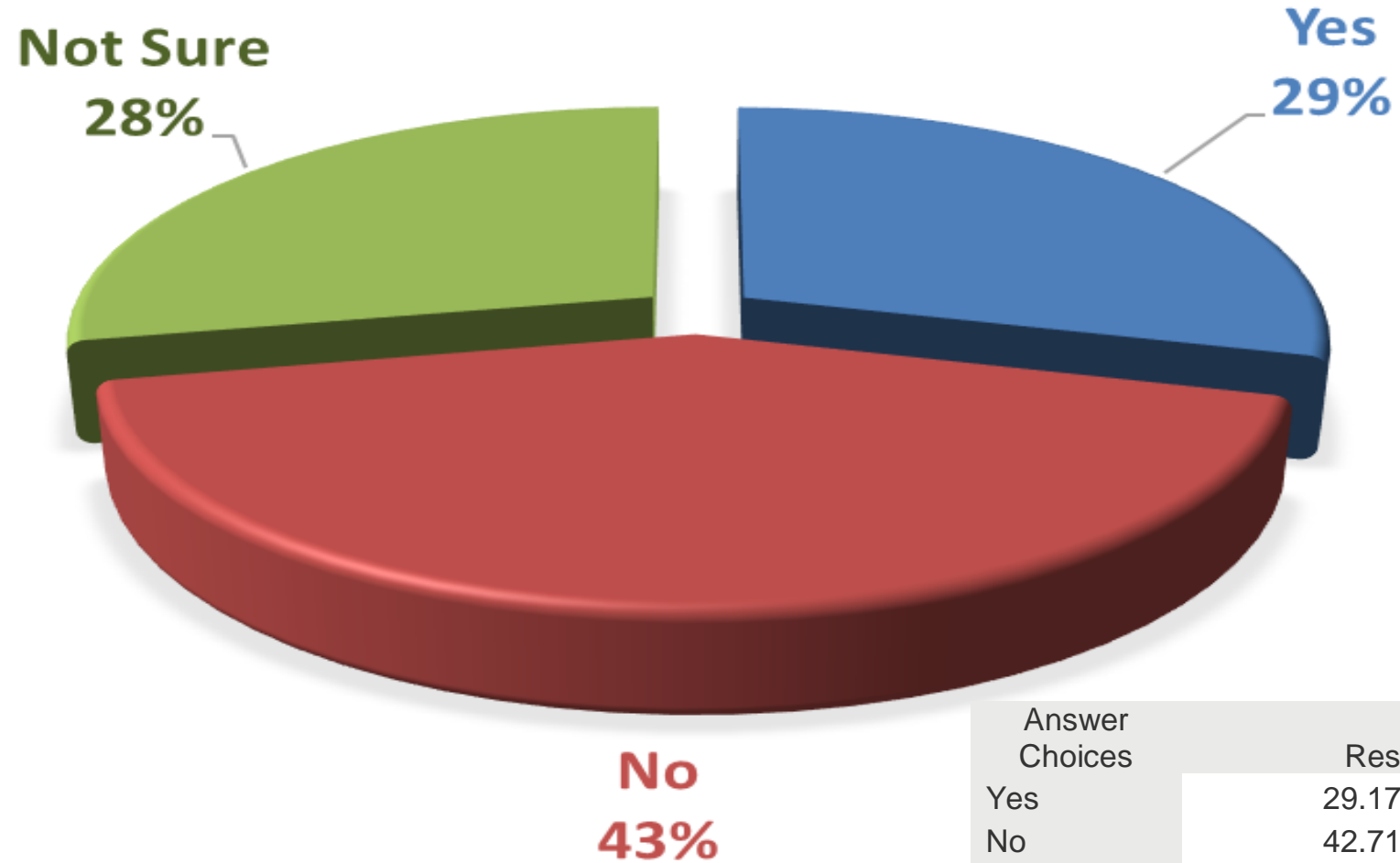
Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	7.81% 15
No	36.98% 71
I didn't know there were any	55.21% 106
Answered	192
Skipped	0

Does anyone in your club canvas the local news sources, informing your club members and local dog owners about dog related issues?



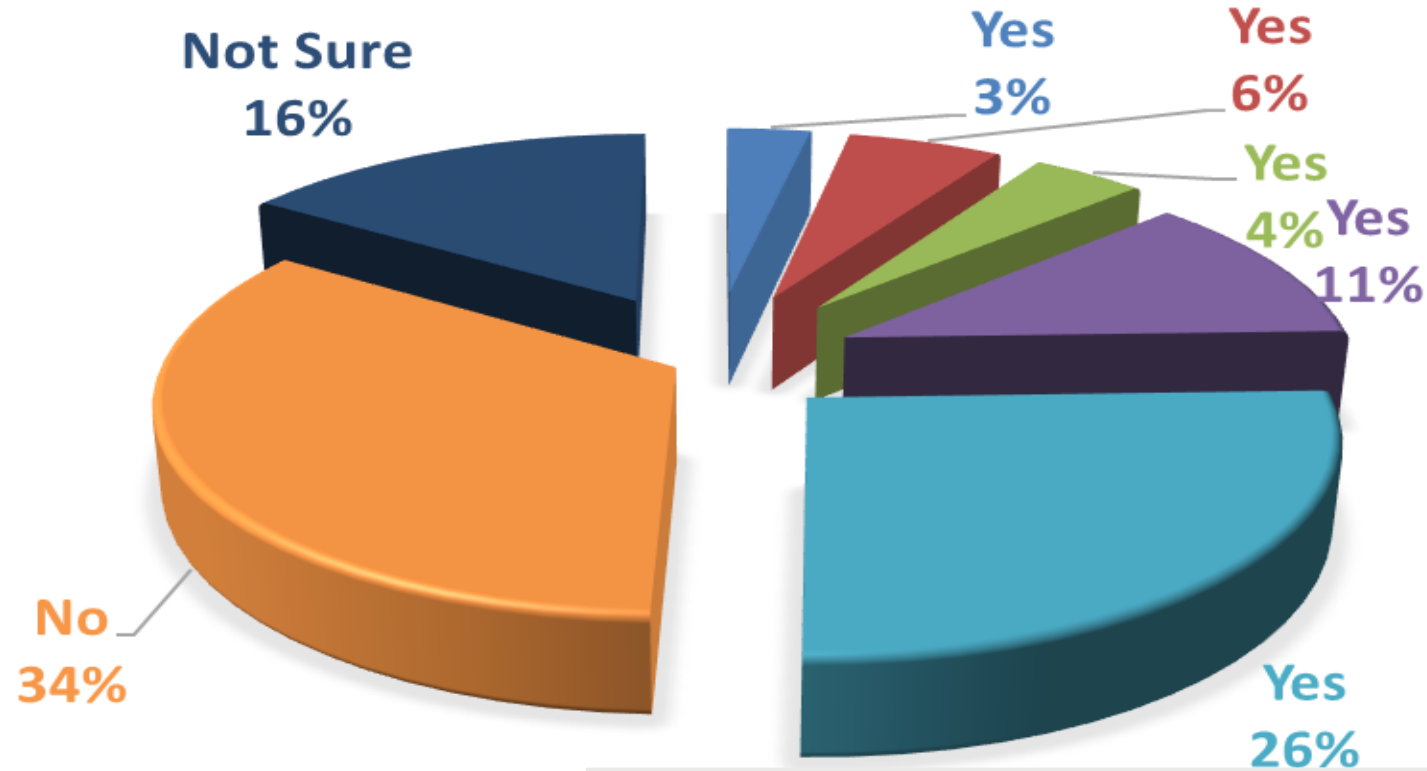
Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	44.79%	86
No	36.98%	71
Not Sure	18.23%	35
	Answered	192
	Skipped	0

If a local issue comes up in your area, does your club contact AKC Government Relations Department immediately?



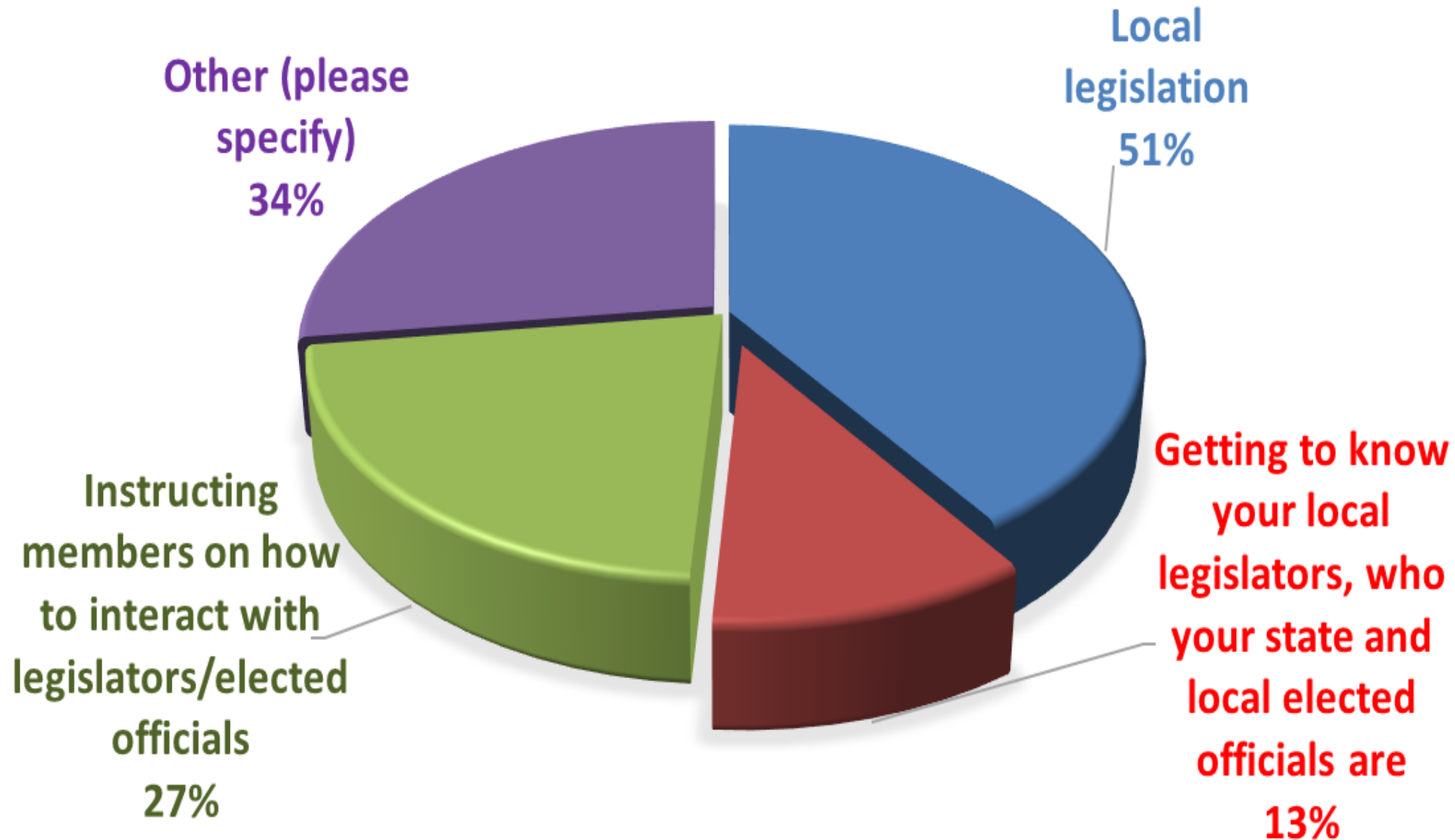
Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	29.17%	56
No	42.71%	82
Not Sure	28.13%	54
	Answered	192
	Skipped	0

Does your town have an animal control officer? If so, how does your club interact with that person?



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes, they come to our meetings occasionally (for example at Christmas to pick up our donations for the shelter).	3.13%	6
Yes, they come to meetings to give presentations.	5.73%	11
Yes, we network with them to provide foster homes, etc.	4.17%	8
Yes, we provide them with breed rescue information.	11.46%	22
Yes, we donate dog food, financial contributions and other needs to the shelter.	26.04%	50
No	33.85%	65
Not Sure	15.63%	30
Answered		192
Skipped		0

Does your club present any of the following at club meetings?
(Select all that apply)

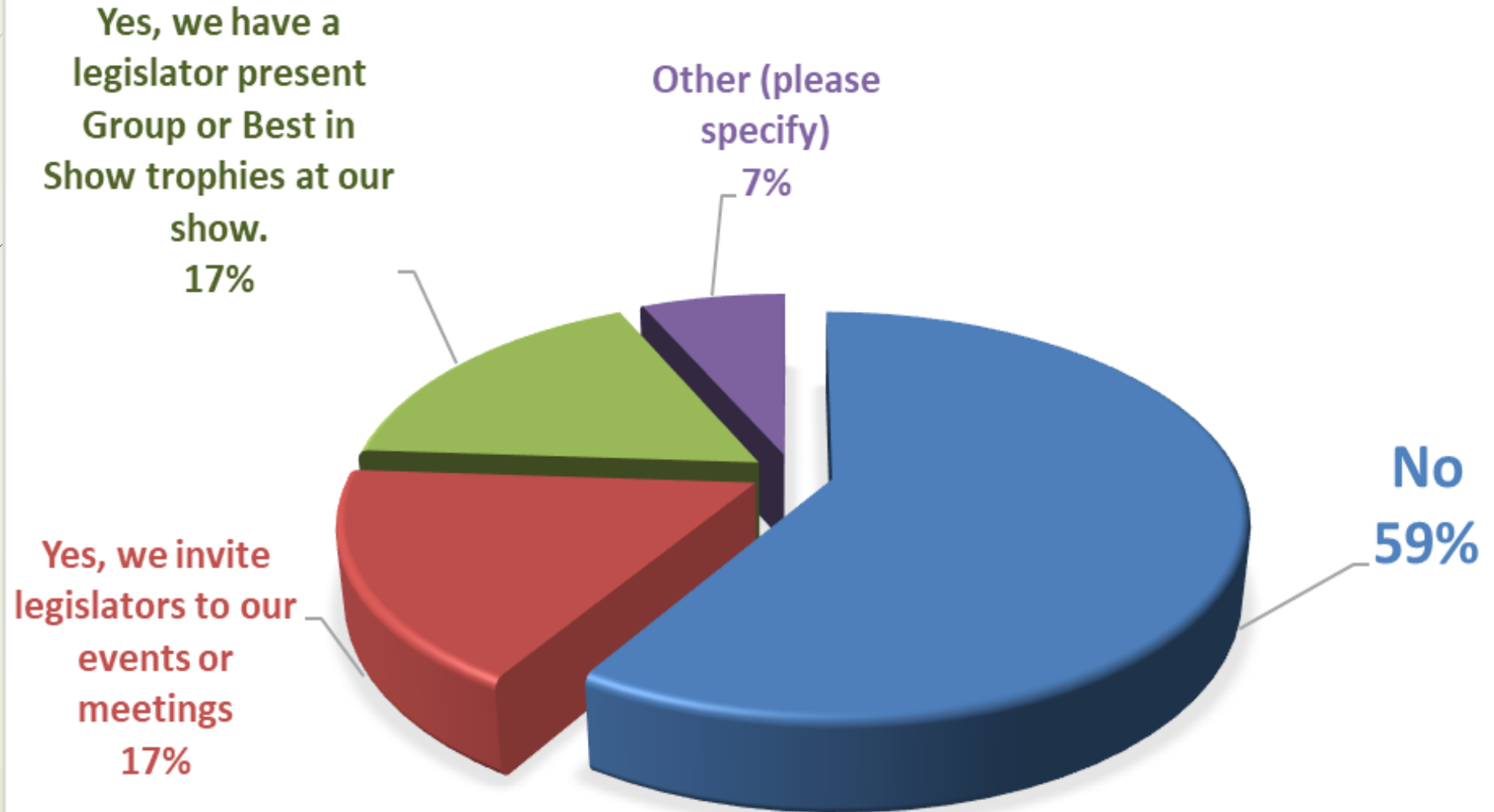


Answer Choices	Responses	
Local legislation	50.52%	97
Getting to know your local legislators, who your state and local elected officials are	13.02%	25
Instructing members on how to interact with legislators/elected officials	27.08%	52
Other (please specify)	33.85%	65
	Answered	192
	Skipped	0

Other responses included:

- We have not had these presentations
- None of the above, but that was not an option
- Not known to us
- We do not offer these programs
- We have a monthly committee report on legislation
- None but will consider as all are worthwhile
- We have had local politicians come to our show to educate them about purebred dogs and dog shows. We always have them present the trophy for Best in Show.

Does your club promote partnership at your events with local legislators?

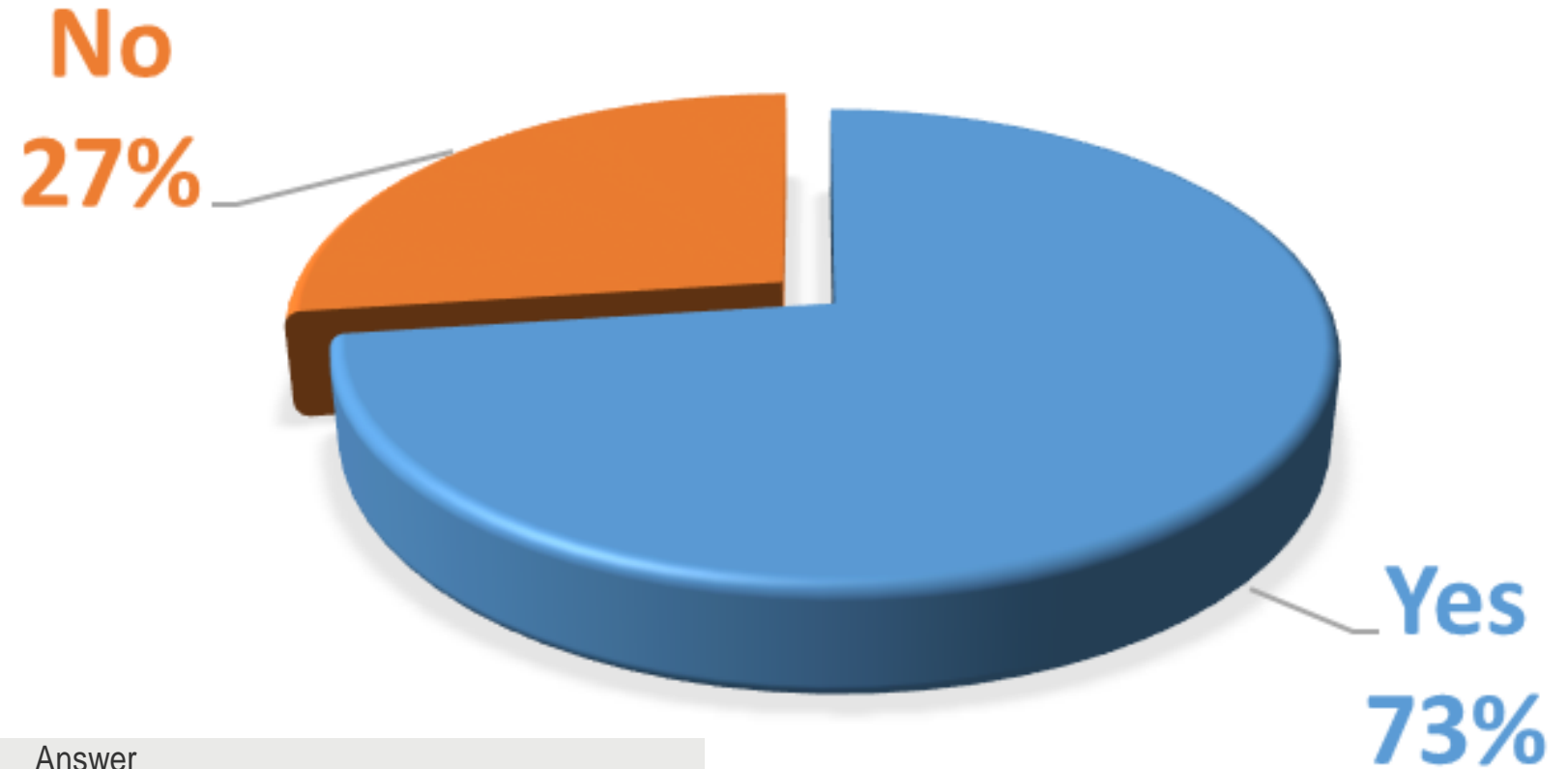


Answer Choices	Responses	
No	58.85%	113
Yes, we invite legislators to our events or meetings	17.19%	33
Yes, we have a legislator present Group or Best in Show trophies at our show.	17.19%	33
Other (please specify)	6.77%	13
	Answered	192
	Skipped	0

Other Responses included:

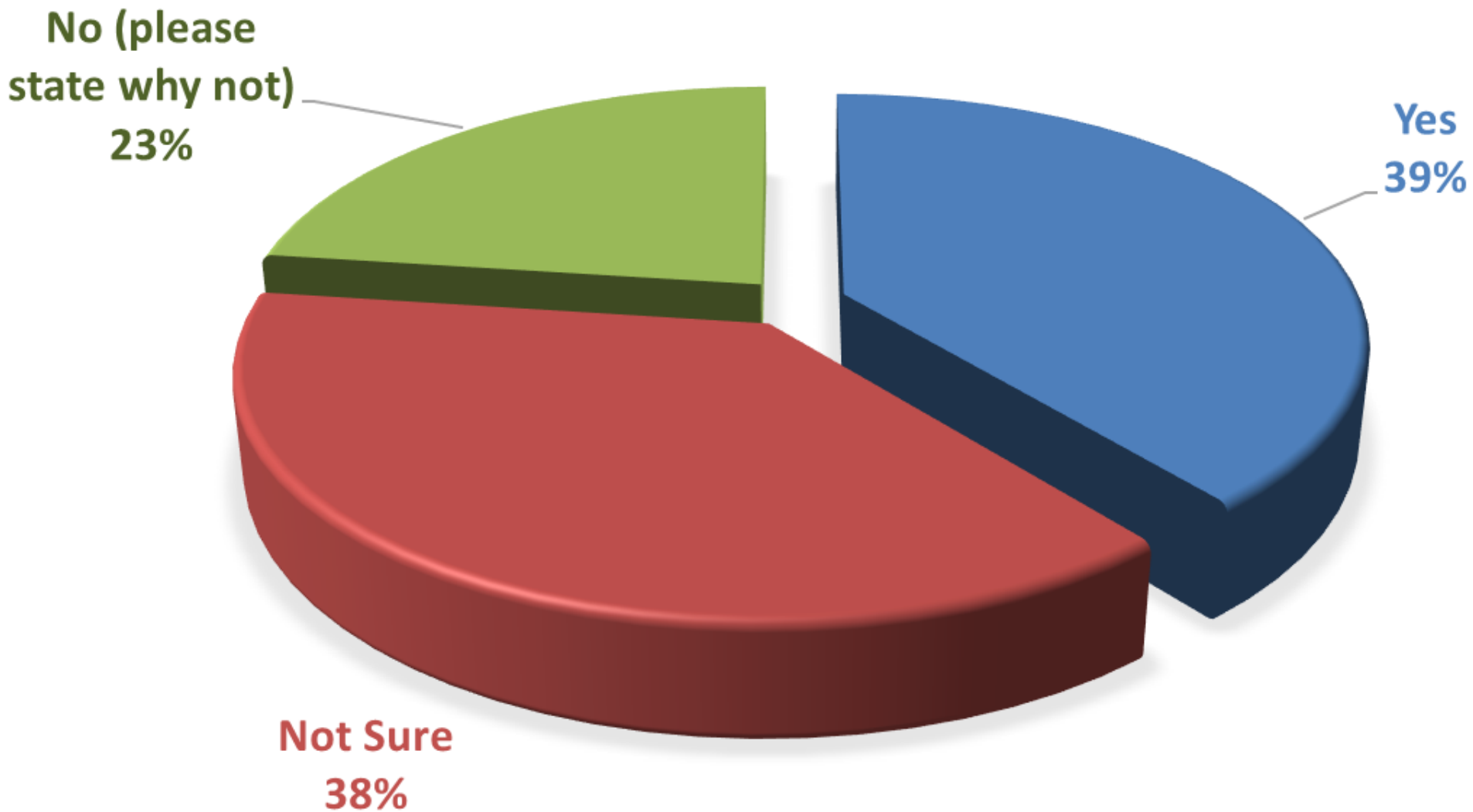
- Have invited local politicians: no shows, no success or response is low
- We give free training classes to legislators and other area officials.
- We donated a trailer and have it at our shows and other events
- Have done all when there were issues. They do so only when legislation affects them.
- We have had council members at shows, provided info packets and some members liaison with them.

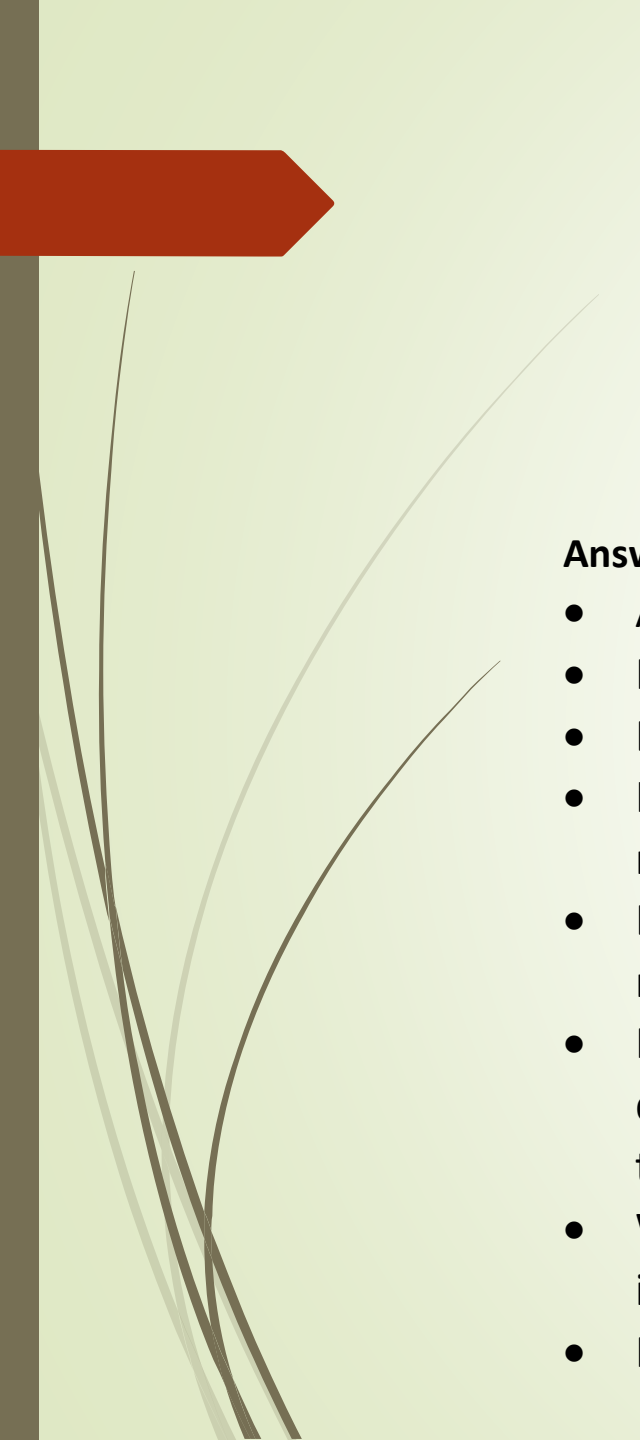
Is your club aware of the AKC Political Action Committee?



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	72.92%	140
No	27.08%	52
	Answered	192
	Skipped	0

Does your club encourage its members to contribute to the AKC PAC?





Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	39.06%	75
Not Sure	38.02%	73
No (please state why not)	22.92%	44
	Answered	192
	Skipped	0

Answers for why not include:

- Apathy, buried whenever it is brought up.
- Financial club concerns, other financial priorities.
- Did not know it existed. Never heard of the AKC PAC. Never been mentioned.
- I have raised this with the President in the past, who chose not to bring it up with the Club membership.
- Each person follows their own conscience. We do influence our members. I do keep members aware of issues.
- Not in favor of supporting candidates based on a single issue. Our members have such diverse political opinions that it might not be advisable. Politics/elections are very divisive these days - we take a stand on issues not candidates.
- We do have a committee chair to address these matters, but she has never mentioned PAC in her reports.
- Personal political views and personal finances are private.

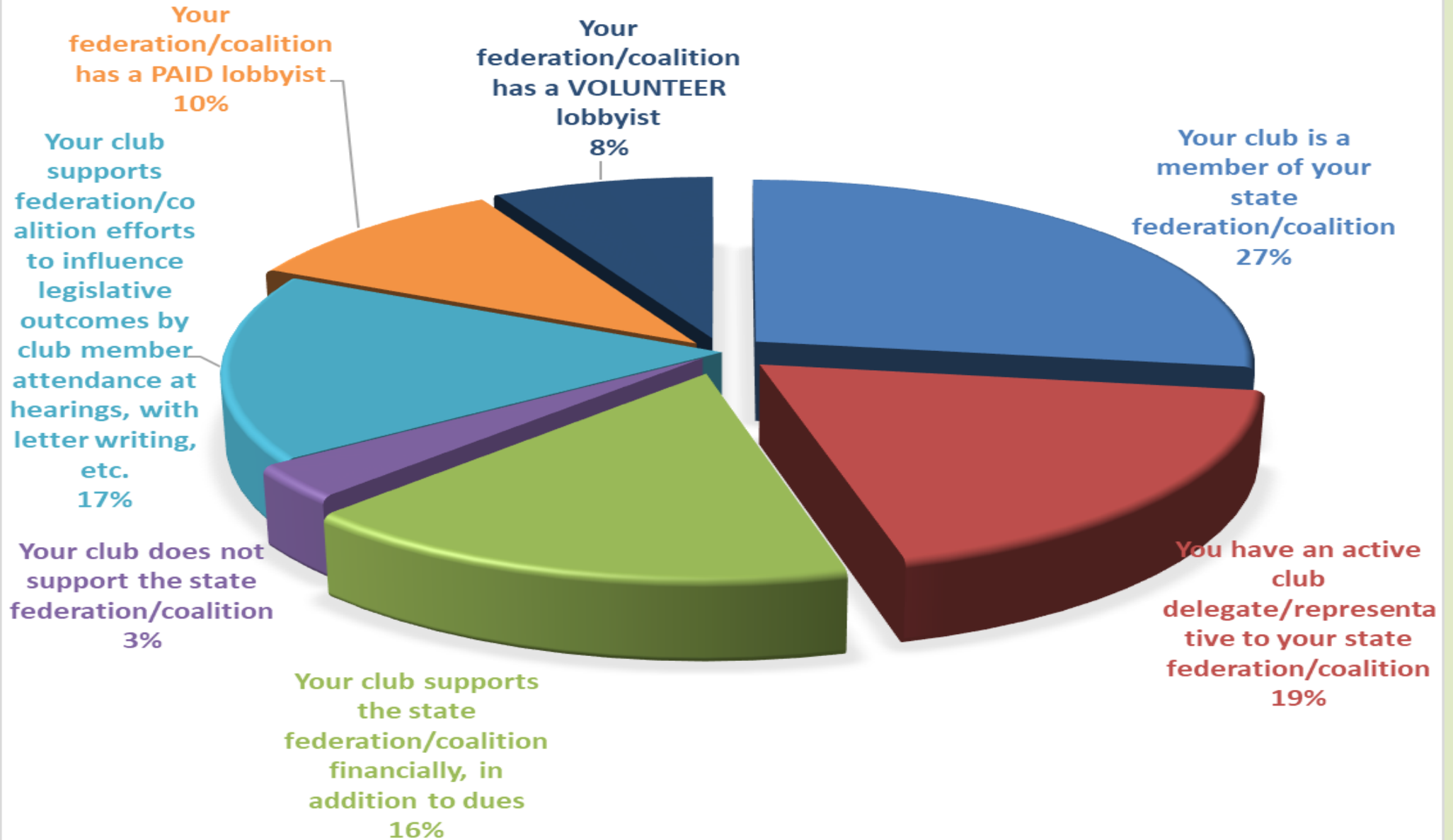
Does the State in which your club resides have a federation/coalition of dog clubs?



Answer Choices	Responses	
No	46.88%	90
Yes (please see next question)	53.13%	102
Answered		192
Skipped		0

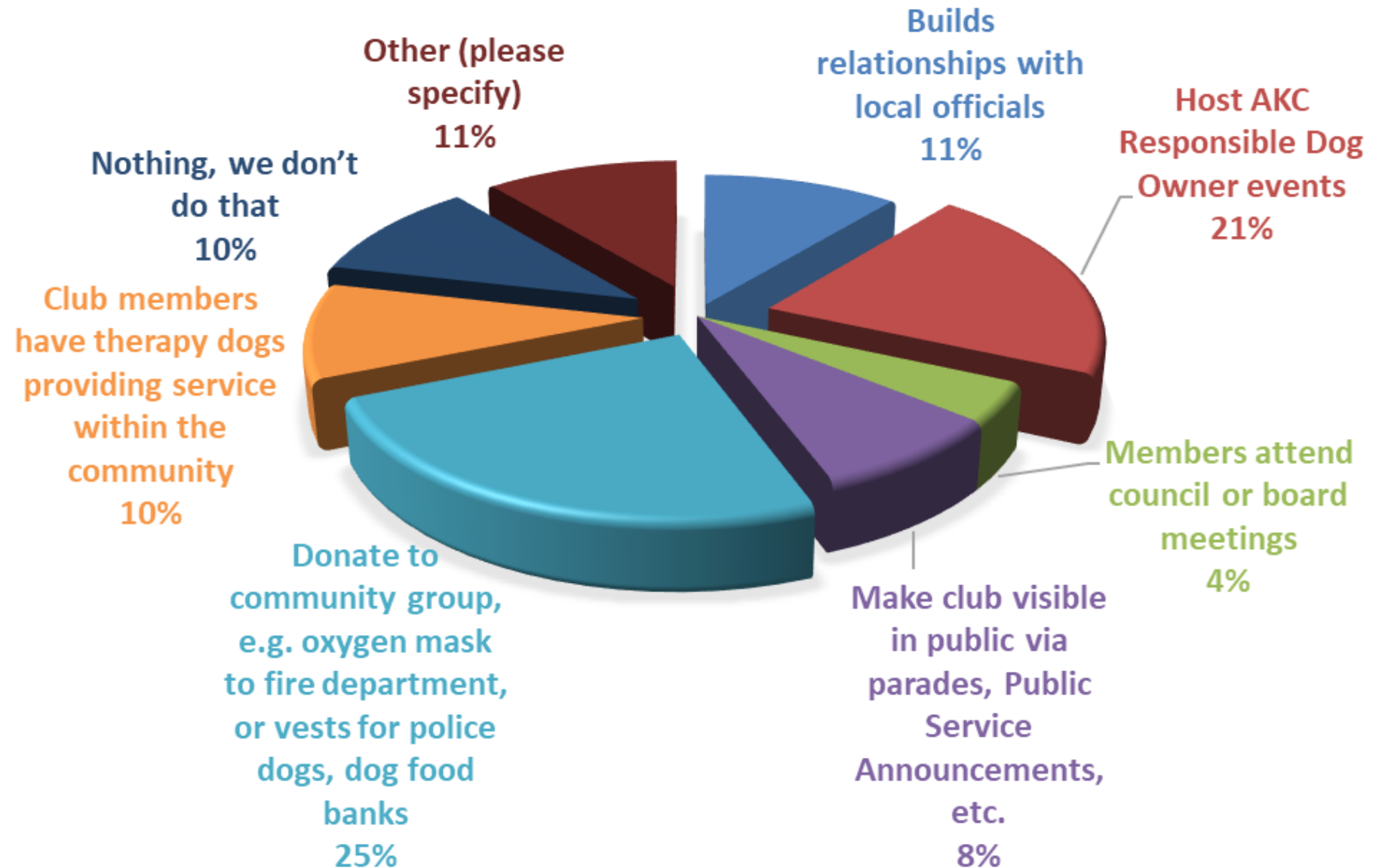
If you answered yes to #31, please select all that apply

32.



Answer Choices	Responses	
Your club is a member of your state federation/coalition	76.70%	79
You have an active club delegate/representative to your state federation/coalition	52.43%	54
Your club supports the state federation/coalition financially, in addition to dues	46.60%	48
Your club does not support the state federation/coalition	8.74%	9
Your club supports federation/coalition efforts to influence legislative outcomes by club member attendance at hearings, with letter writing, etc.	46.60%	48
Your federation/coalition has a PAID lobbyist	28.16%	29
Your federation/coalition has a VOLUNTEER lobbyist	22.33%	23
	Answered	103
	Skipped	89

What does your club do within your community to network and establish positive relationships with legislators, animal control officers/law enforcement, local shelters/rescue groups and the media?

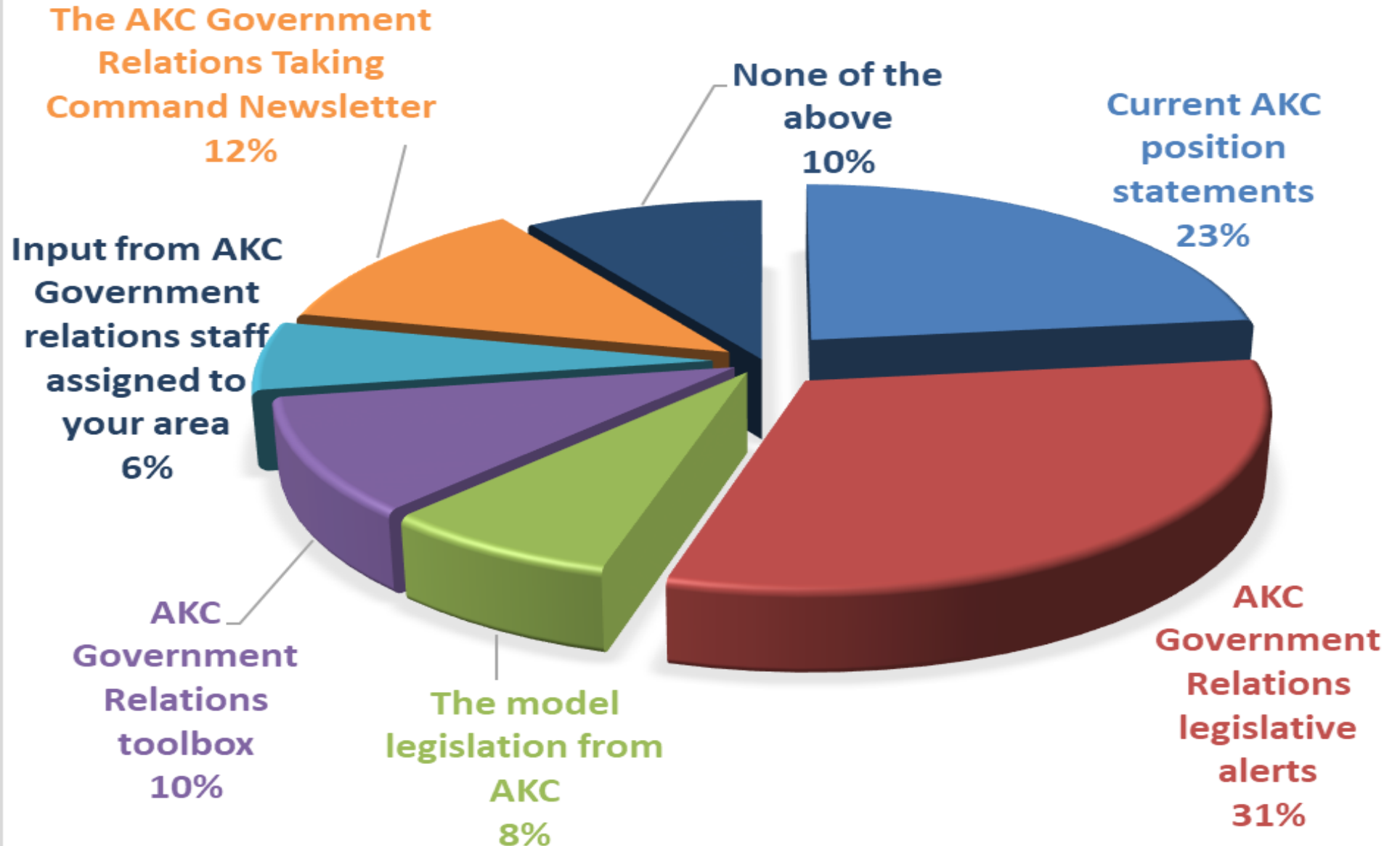


Answer Choices	Responses	
Builds relationships with local officials	10.94%	21
Host AKC Responsible Dog Owner events	20.83%	40
Members attend council or board meetings	4.17%	8
Make club visible in public via parades, Public Service Announcements, etc.	8.33%	16
Donate to community group, e.g. oxygen mask to fire department, or vests for police dogs, dog food banks	24.48%	47
Club members have therapy dogs providing service within the community	9.90%	19
Nothing, we don't do that	10.42%	20
Other (please specify)	10.94%	21
	Answered	192
	Skipped	0

Other responses include:

- A combination of more than one of the statements.
- 4H events, Guide Dog project support, behavior/training seminars
- Disaster trailer dedications
- Heavily promotes our dogs shows and responsible dog ownership with the media prior to our annual shows
- We donate to purchase police dogs for the county.

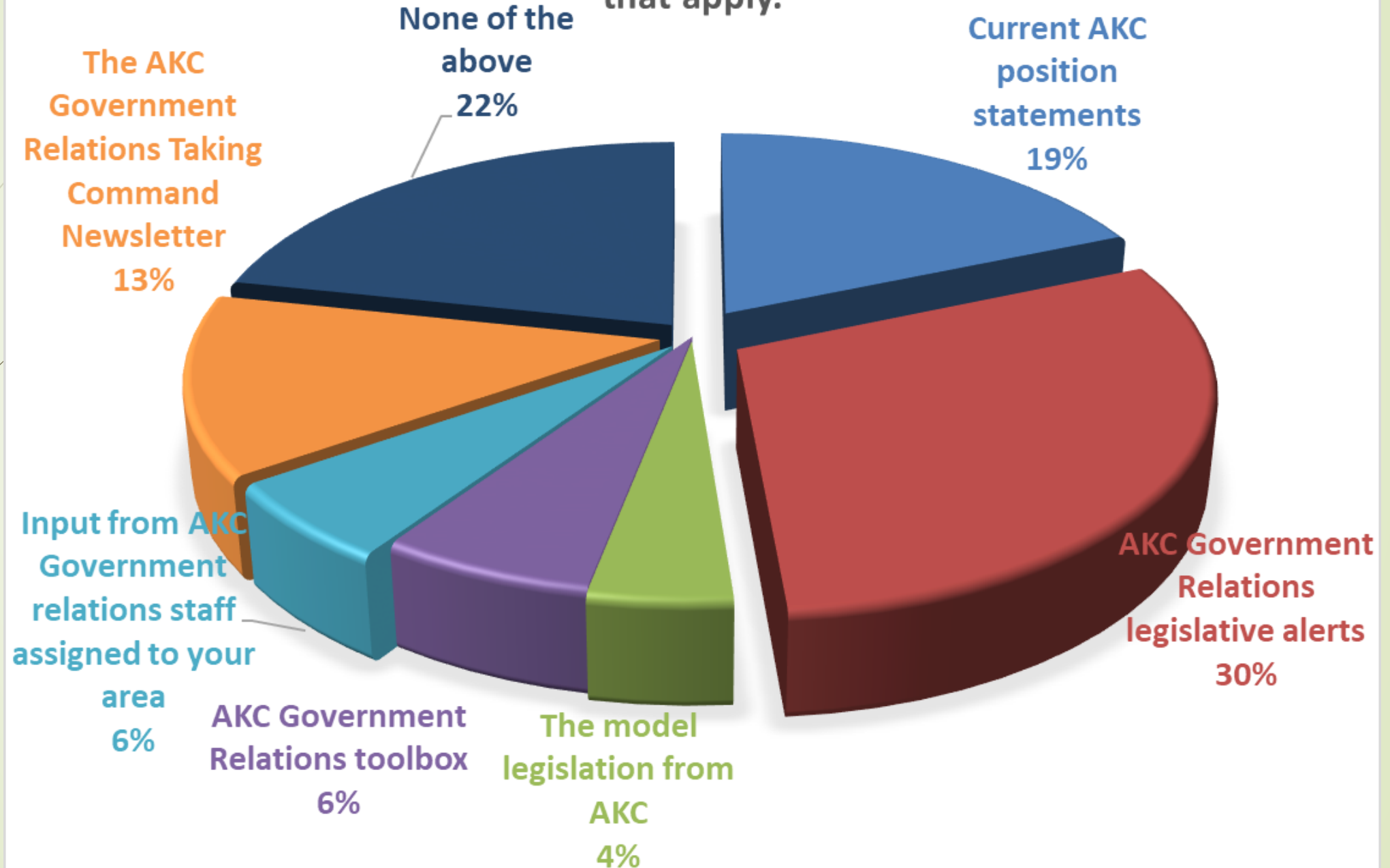
Is your club aware of any of the following? Select all that apply.

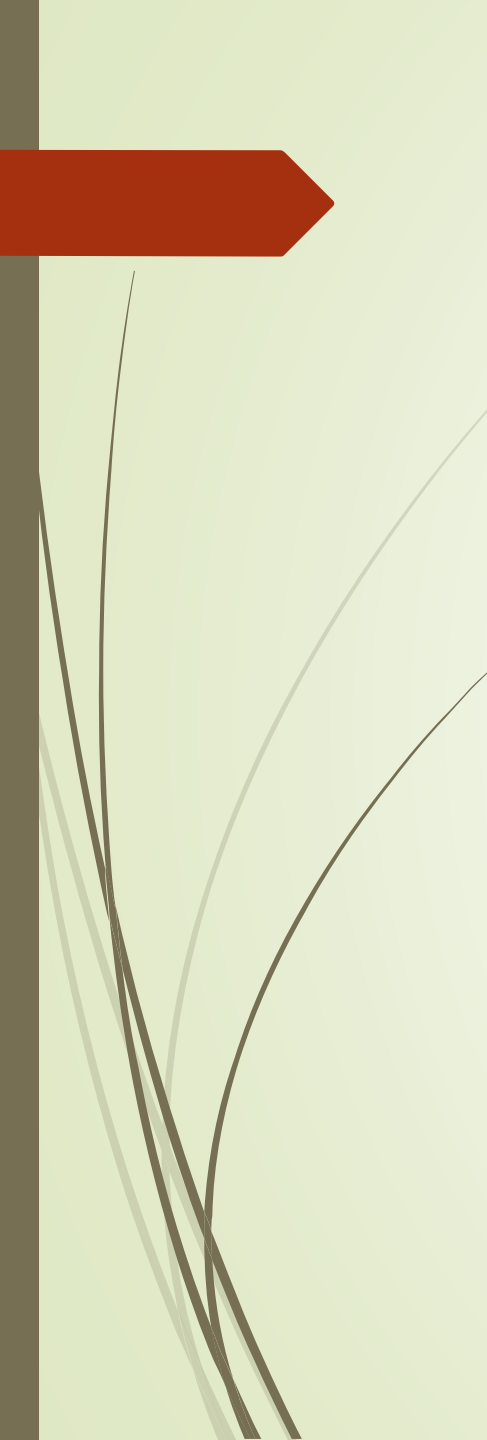




Answer Choices	Responses	
Current AKC position statements	51.04%	98
AKC Government Relations legislative alerts	69.27%	133
The model legislation from AKC	16.67%	32
AKC Government Relations toolbox	22.92%	44
Input from AKC Government relations staff assigned to your area	13.54%	26
The AKC Government Relations Taking Command Newsletter	26.56%	51
None of the above	20.83%	40
	Answered	192
	Skipped	0

Does your club access and make use of the following? Select all that apply.

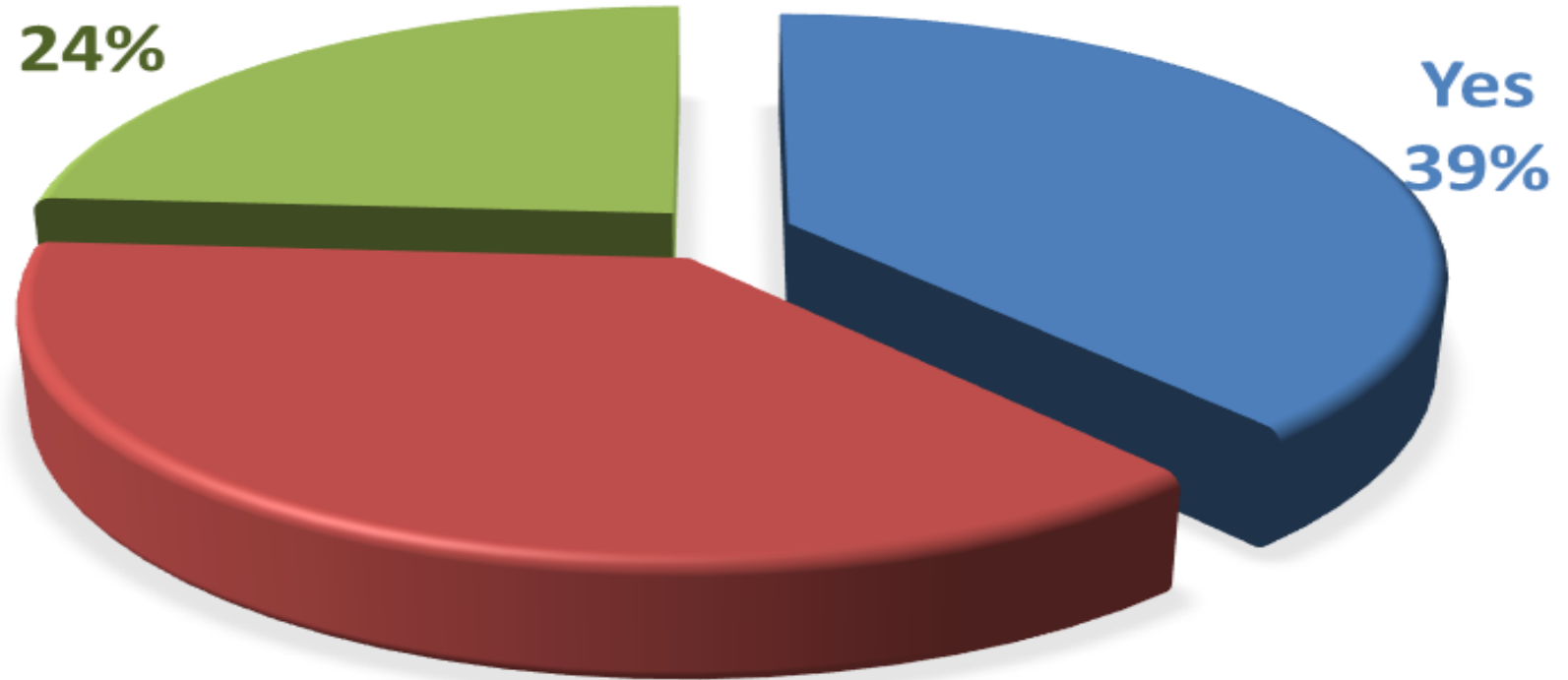




Answer Choices	Responses	
Current AKC position statements	31.77%	61
AKC Government Relations legislative alerts	51.56%	99
The model legislation from AKC	7.29%	14
AKC Government Relations toolbox	10.94%	21
Input from AKC Government relations staff assigned to your area	9.90%	19
The AKC Government Relations Taking Command Newsletter	22.40%	43
None of the above	36.98%	71
	Answered	192
	Skipped	0

Has anyone from your club participated in the discussion about the drafting of dog related rules/regulations or legislation?

Not Sure
24%

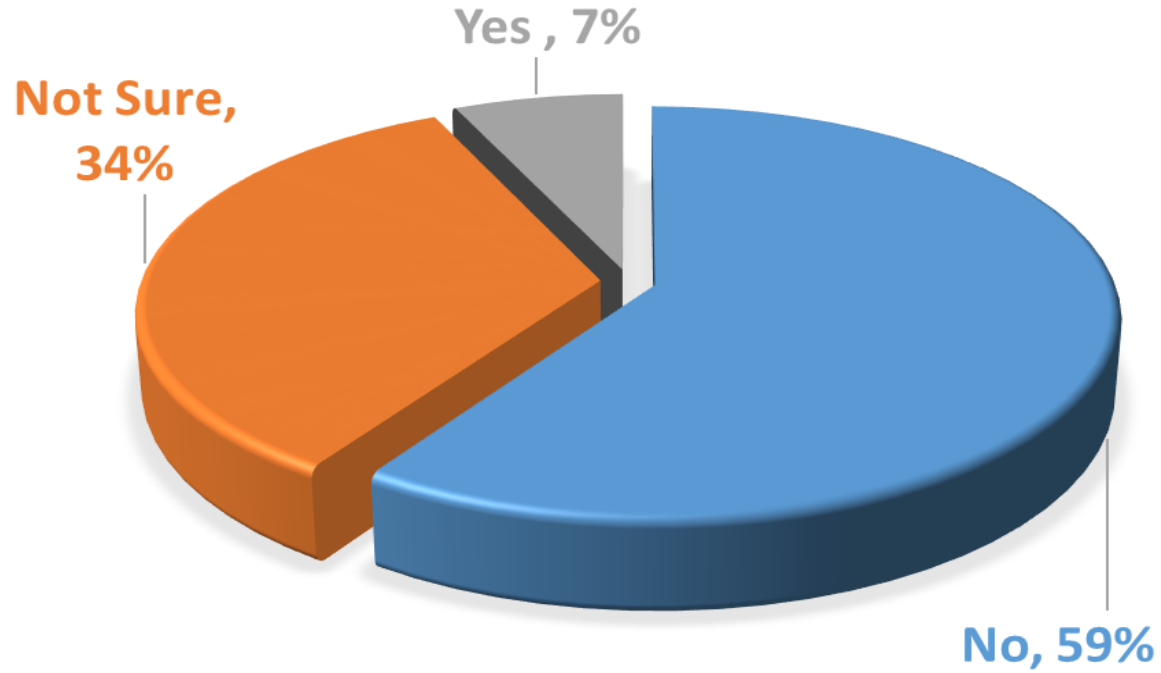


No
37%

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	38.54%	74
No	37.50%	72
Not Sure	23.96%	46
	Answered	192
	Skipped	0

37.

Do any of your club members sit on commissions or boards dealing with any dog relate issues?

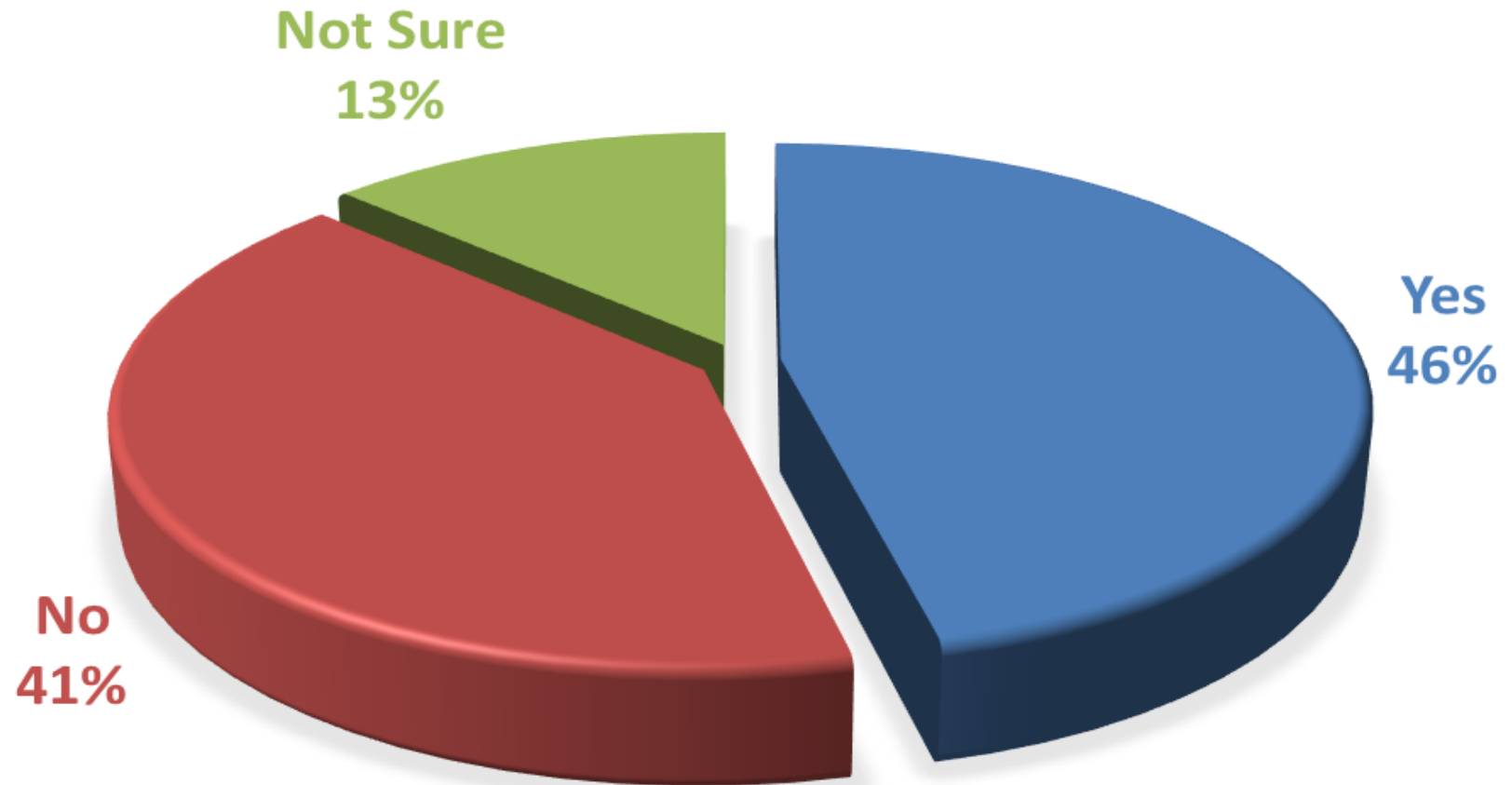


Answer Choices	Responses	
No	59.38%	114
Not Sure	33.85%	65
Yes (please specify the name of the board or commission)	6.77%	13
Answered		192
Skipped		0

Boards and commissions identified were:

- City or county commission
- City or county boards
- State federations
- Advisory committees
- Animal control board
- Breed club committees

Does your club provide legislative information at your educational table at your shows?



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	46.35%	89
No	40.63%	78
Not Sure	13.02%	25
	Answered	192
	Skipped	0

What is your position in your club? Select all that apply.

