

Survey – organisation of Proficiency Tests (PTs)

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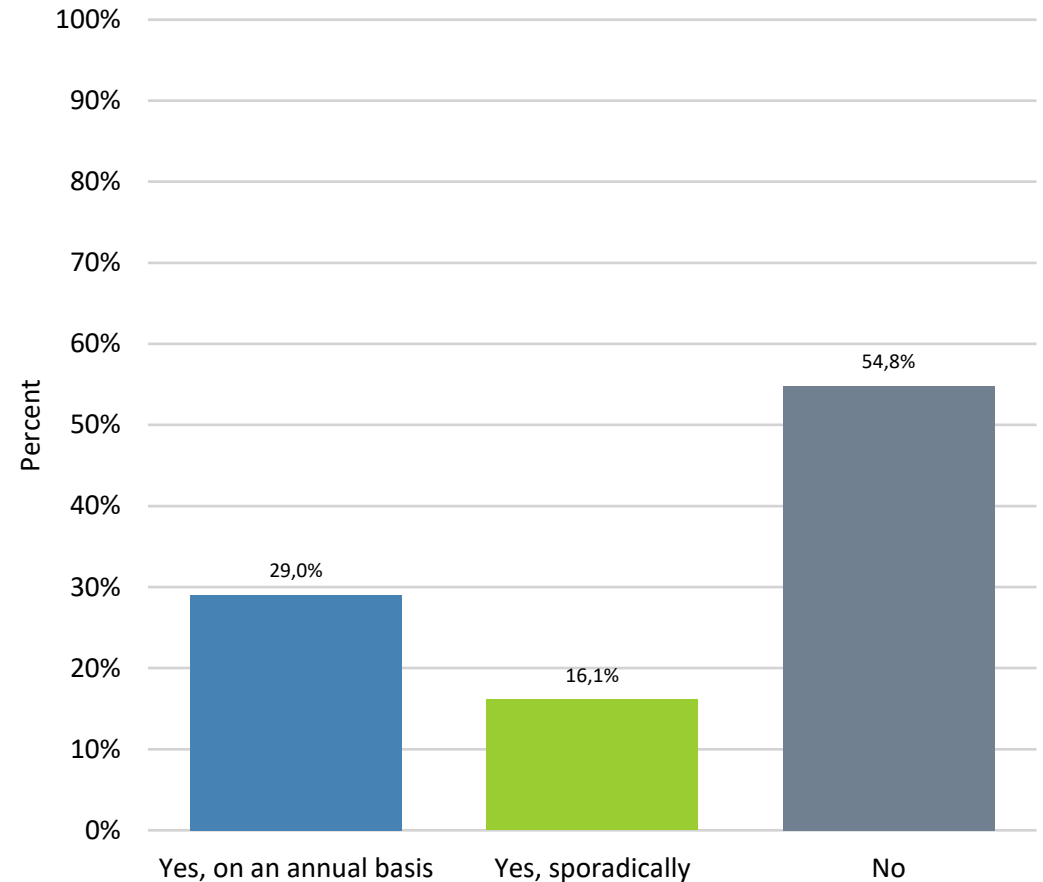
Survey questionnaire

- Electronic questionnaire sent to the NRL contacts
- Time period: September 6, closed September 22
- Responses from 30 NRLs
- Questions
 - Organisation of PTs to Official Laboratories
 - Detection of *Campylobacter*

Organisation of Proficiency Tests (PTs)

PTs organised annually or sporadically by 14 responding NRLs

A small laboratory network or no network the main reasons for not organising PTs



Organisation of PTs to Official Laboratories

- Mainly organised by the NRLs (14 respondents)
- Partial outsourcing to a commercial provider (5 respondents)
- Laboratories from other countries do not participate (except for one)
- Number of laboratories in the network
 - < 6: 8 respondents
 - 6-10: 1 respondent
 - 11-20: 5 respondents
- Guidance document on outsourcing considered useful

The scope of the PTs organised

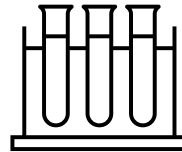
Scope	Matrices
Detection	Faeces, meat, milk, environmental samples, poultry skin, swabs, no matrix
Enumeration	Meat, milk, poultry skin, no matrix
Species identification	Faeces, meat, milk, poultry skin, no matrix

Species identification: 2 NRLs have included MALDI-TOF or PCR in the PT

Molecular methods for cluster analyses have not been targeted in the PTs organised

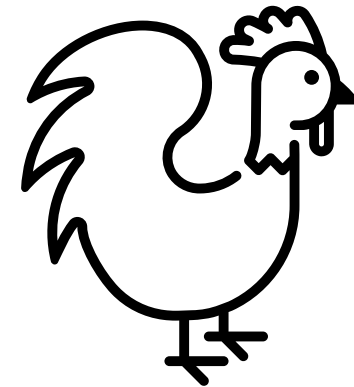
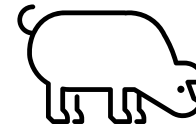
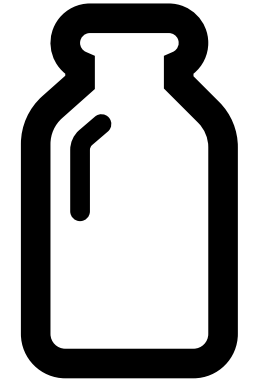
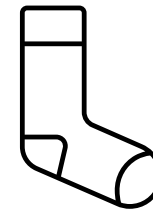
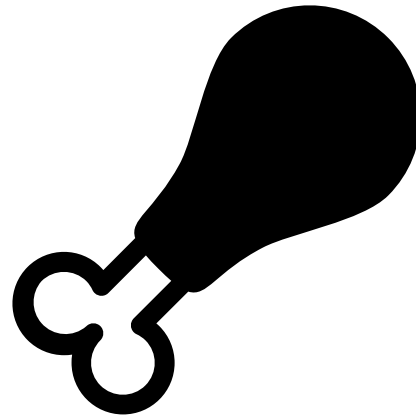
Sources of matrices

Strain collection

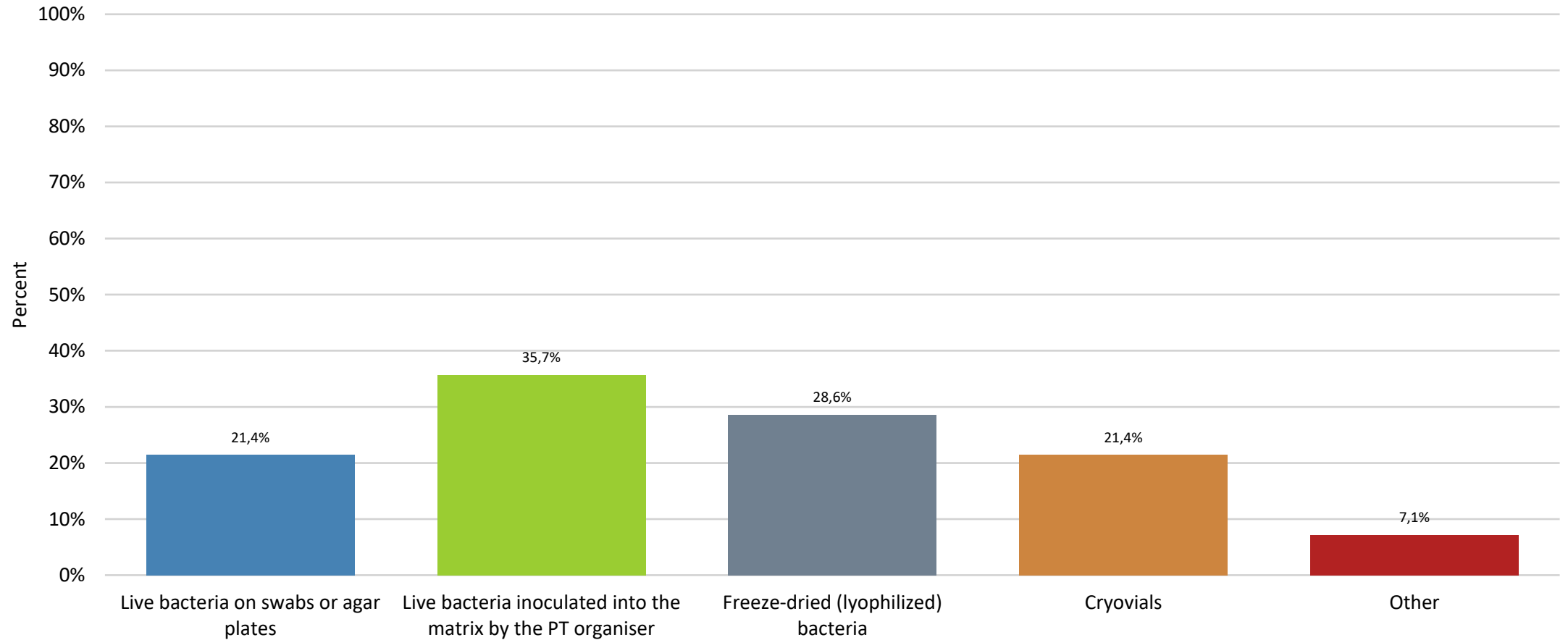


Clinical samples
Specific Pathogen Free farms
Ordinary farms

Retail



Format of microbes used in the PTs



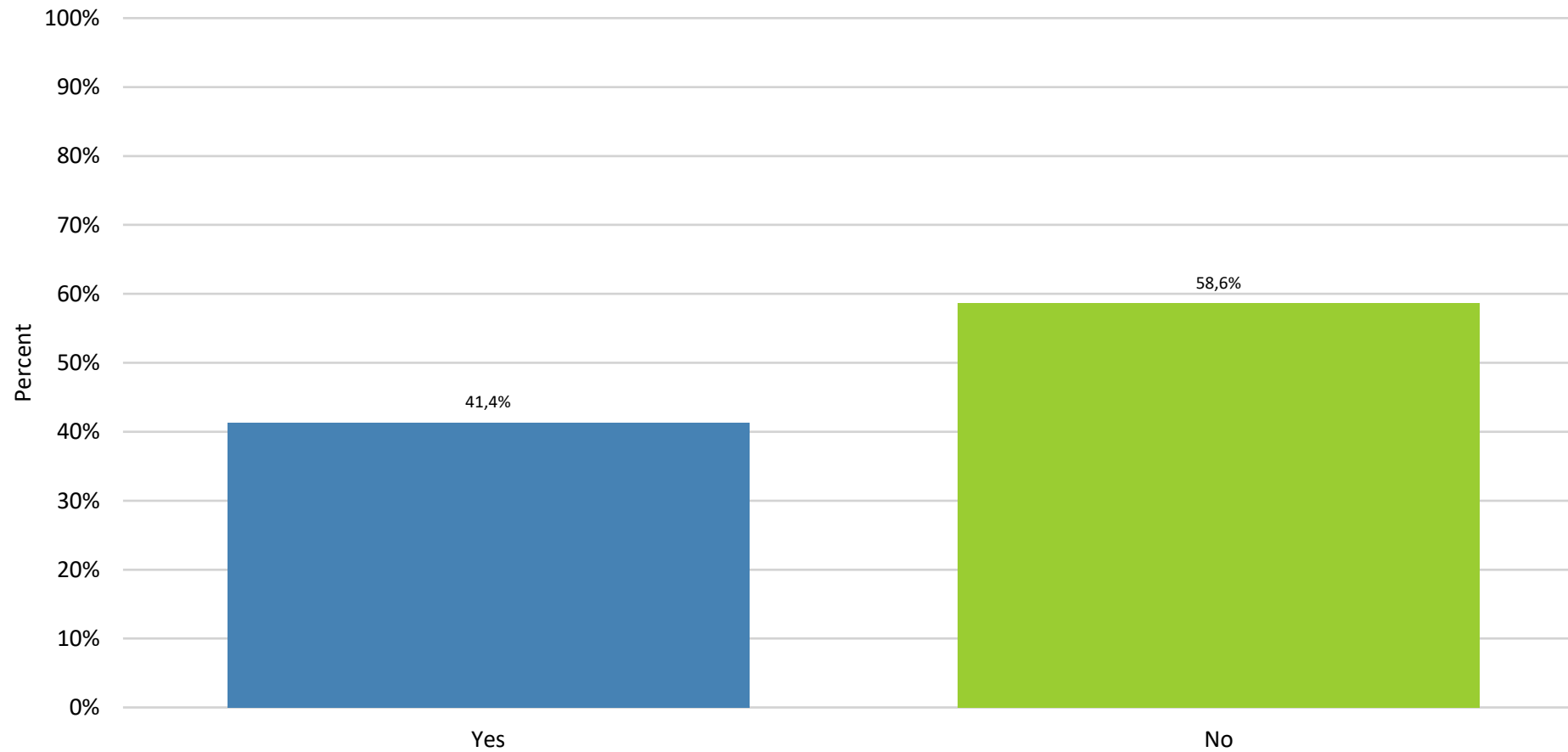
Evaluation of the performance

- According to the ISO guidelines (EN ISO 17043: 2010)
- Qualitative: number of correct responses or a beta distribution
- Quantitative: MAD or z scores
- Follow-up
 - Training
 - Contact with the laboratory
 - New PT material
 - Audit
 - Laboratory informs the NRL on the measures taken

Competent authorities - contact

- Yes – 8 respondents
- No - 2
- Do not know – 4

Overgrowth of other microbes, mould included



Overgrowth of other microbes, matrices

- Faecal, caecal or manure samples
- Environmental samples, boot swabs
- Milk

Selective media

- mCCDA (mentioned by 8 respondents)
- Karmali (mentioned by 2)
- Butzler (mentioned by 2)
- Skirrow (mentioned by one)
- Preston (mentioned by one)