

HOGS

ON

FILM



**WHAT
HAVE WE
RECORDED
SO FAR?**



Hogs on film began its pilot study in August 2023. its aims was to gather data from the nations hedgehog feeders, in order to build up an idea of how Great Britain's population of urban Western European hedgehogs (*Erinaceus europaeus*) are getting on in our gardens.

The data contained in this report has been contributed by up to 155 participants who provided monthly or ad-hoc data between the months of August 2023-December 2024.



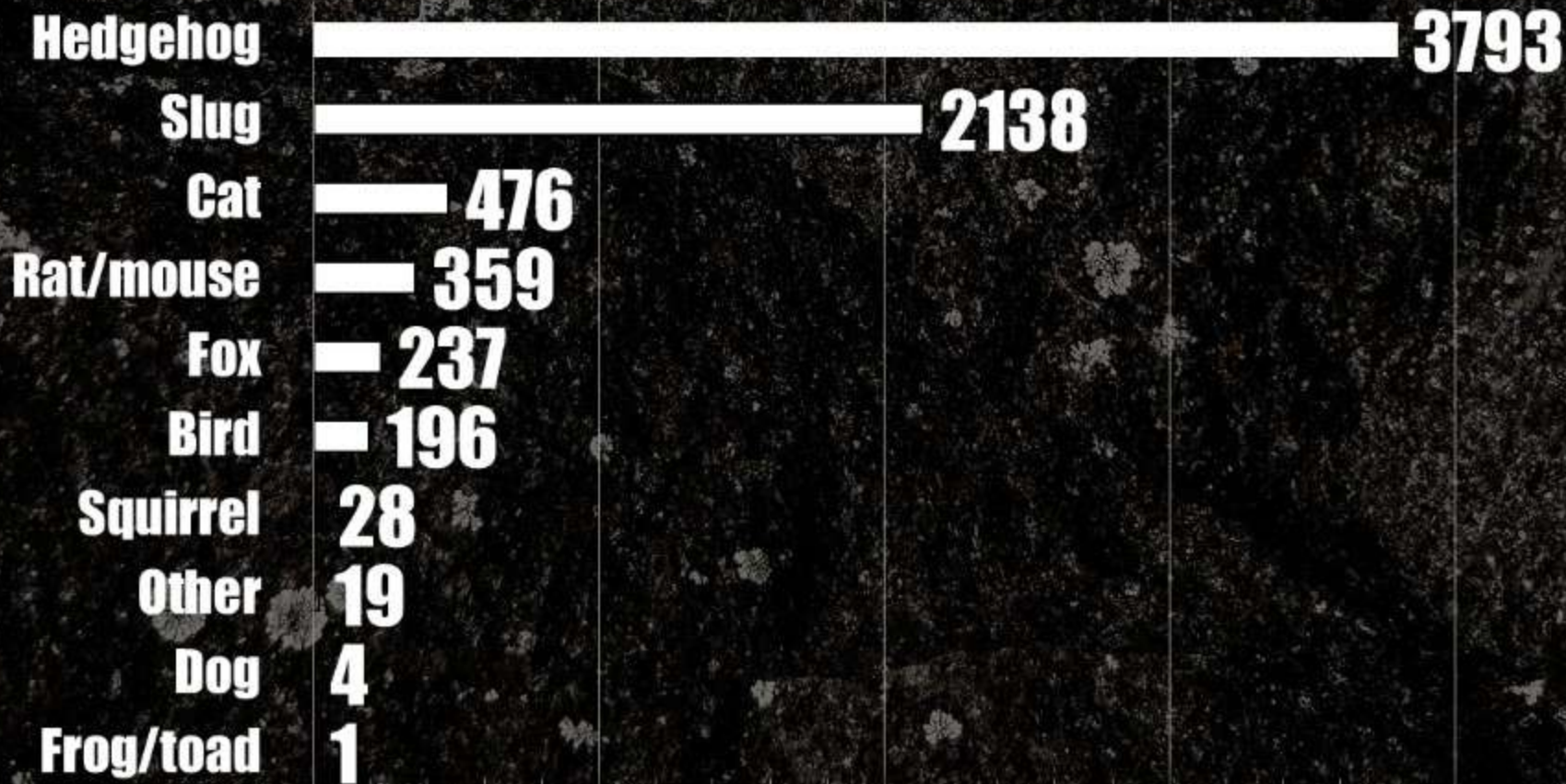
The study involves participants reviewing their home footage and completing a questionnaire, self-reporting on the behaviors and interactions witnessed.

In particular, we are looking at:

- 1. What the hedgehogs behavior is like around a garden feeding station**
- 2. What kind of species dynamics are occurring**
- 3. Understanding the types and amount of foods that are provided**
- 4. Identifying potential risk areas which may be associated with garden feeding**



A grand total of 7251 animals were reported 52% were hedgehogs and 29% were slugs!



**What the hedgehogs
behavior is like
around a garden
feeding station?**



What hedgehog behavior's did you witness?

* WE ONLY ADDED THE CATEGORIES
HUFFING/SNORTING AND
PUSHING/SHOVING IN November 2024



The most widely reported hedgehog behavior was feeding!

Multiple hedgehogs used the garden feeding stations, one participant recorded 14 individual hedgehogs using their garden!

Hedgehogs preferred to eat alone, arriving at different times of night, out of a total of 1717 surveys there was only 101 reports of hedgehogs interacting with each other!

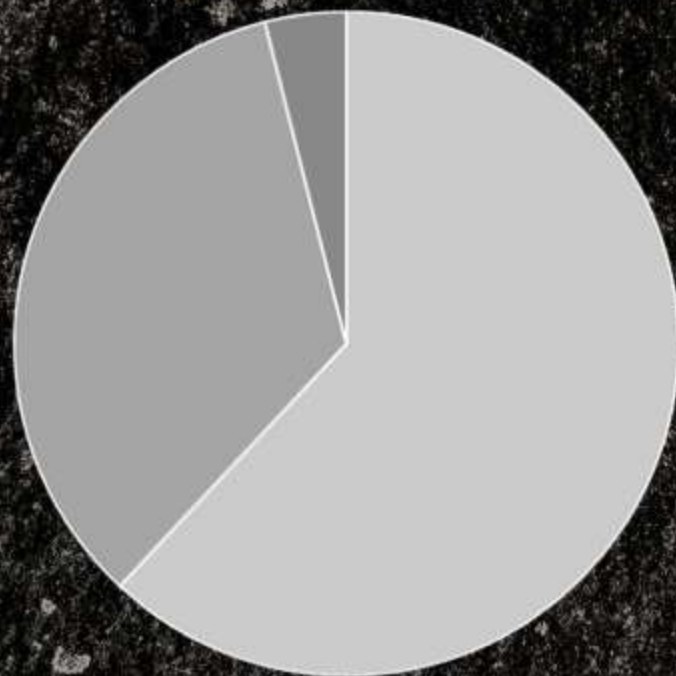
During these interactions 18 out of 101 were acts of aggression towards each other whereas 83 were passive or friendly interactions.



**What kind of
species dynamics
are happening?**



Did any other species visit your feeding station?

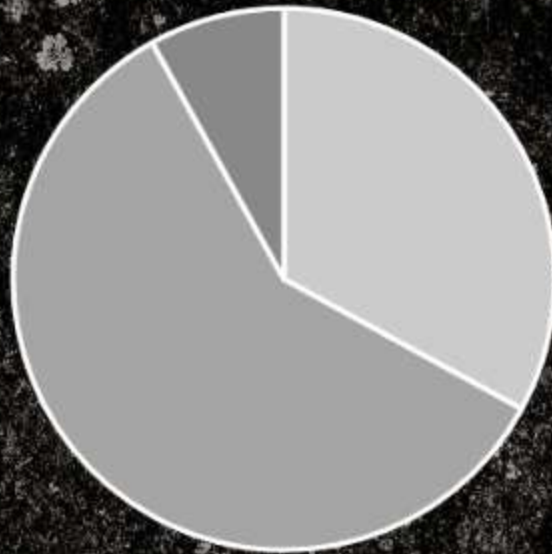


- YES
- NO
- MAYBE

Your hedgehogs shared their dining space 45% of the time!



**Was this at the same time or a
different time?**



■ Same time ■ different time ■ not sure

... Although they preferred to dine at different times

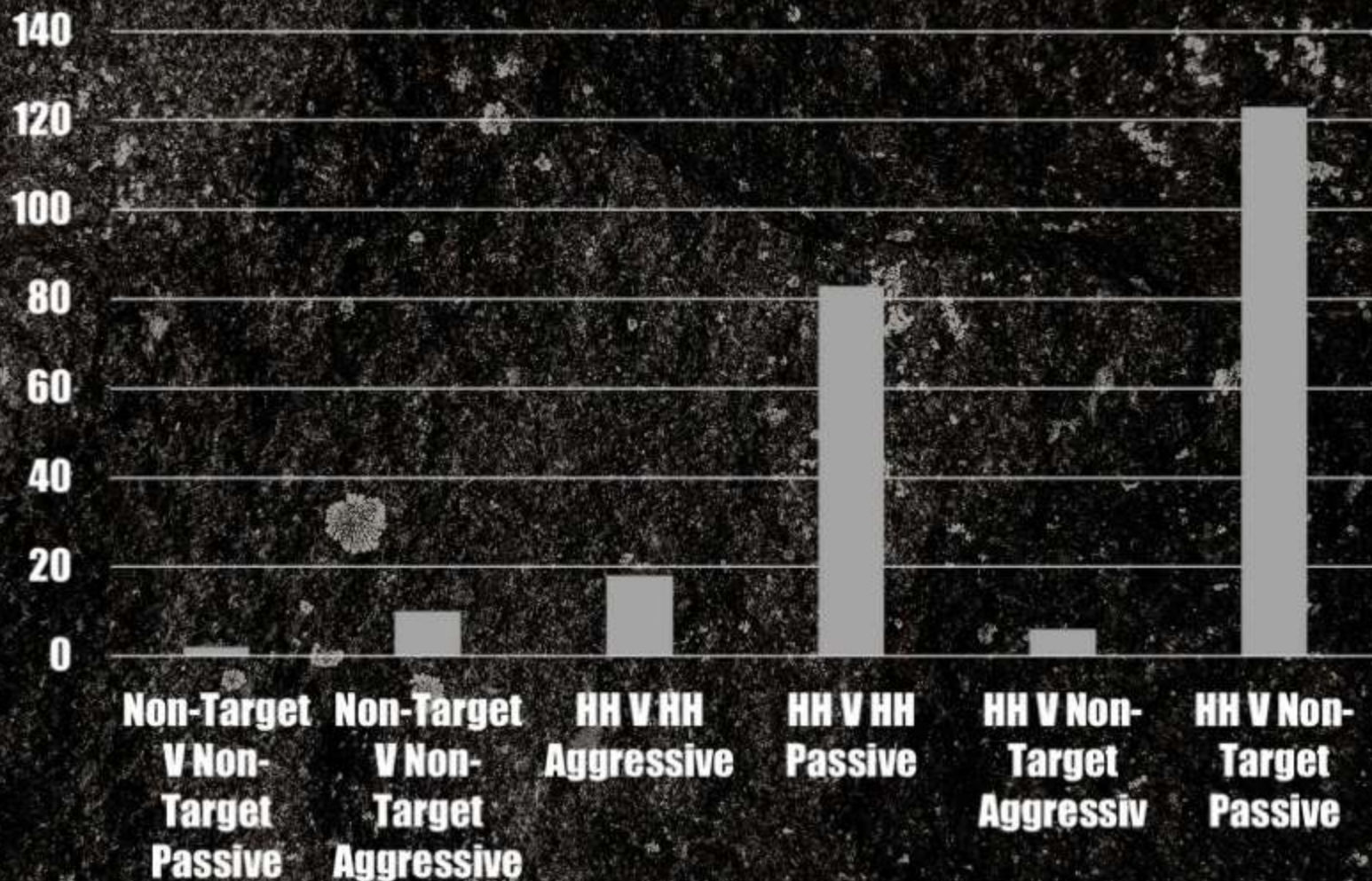


Despite the wide range of non-target species visiting the feeding station, interactions between species was low.

We analyzed comments provided for a total of 241 interactions, only 34 were considered aggressive interactions!



**Most aggressive interactions were between cats and fox's
whereas most interactions between hedgehogs and non-target species were passive**



There were only 6 incidents of aggression between a hedgehog and a non-target species

2 involved an over-curious rat biting a hedgehog...

1 was a hedgehog barging a rat...

1 was a hedgehog huffing and puffing as a cat and fox squabbled...

1 was a fox attack on a hedgehog...

and 1 was a hedgehog eating a slug!



**That's 1 fox attack out of 41 Hedgehog and fox encounters
(the hedgehog was safe thanks to its prickles)...**

2 attacks from rats out of 19 rat and hedgehog encounters,

1 attack from a hedgehog on a rat...

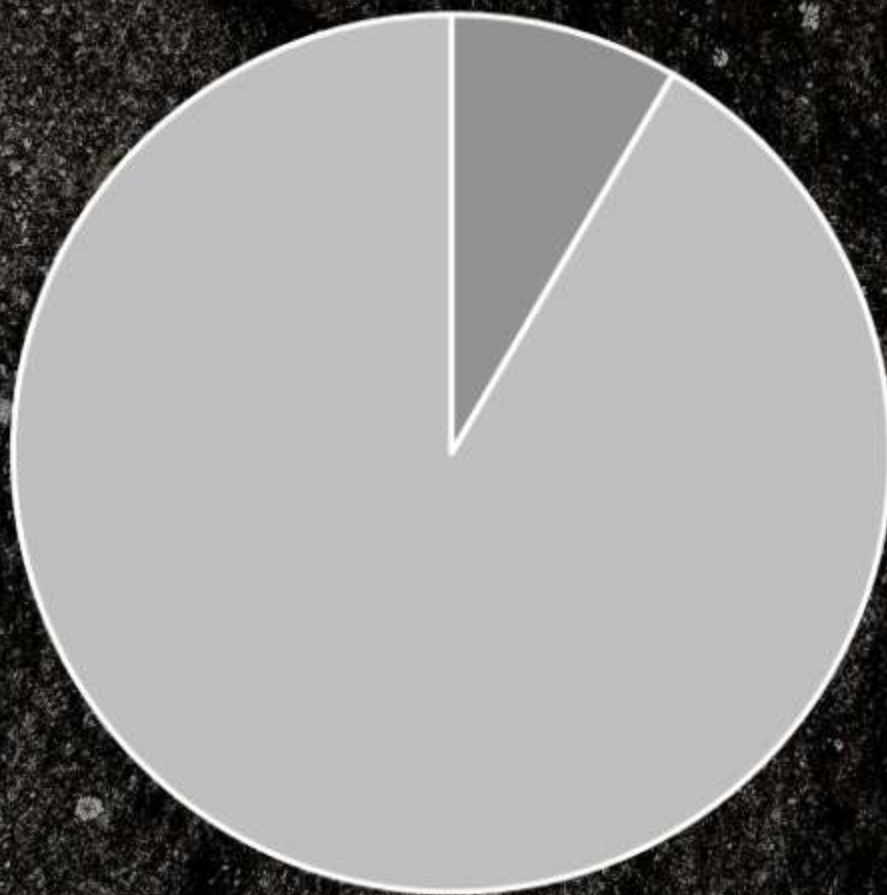
**whereas there were 0 reported attacks from
badgers, cats or any other species!**



**What types
of food are
being provided?**



Wet or Dry food?

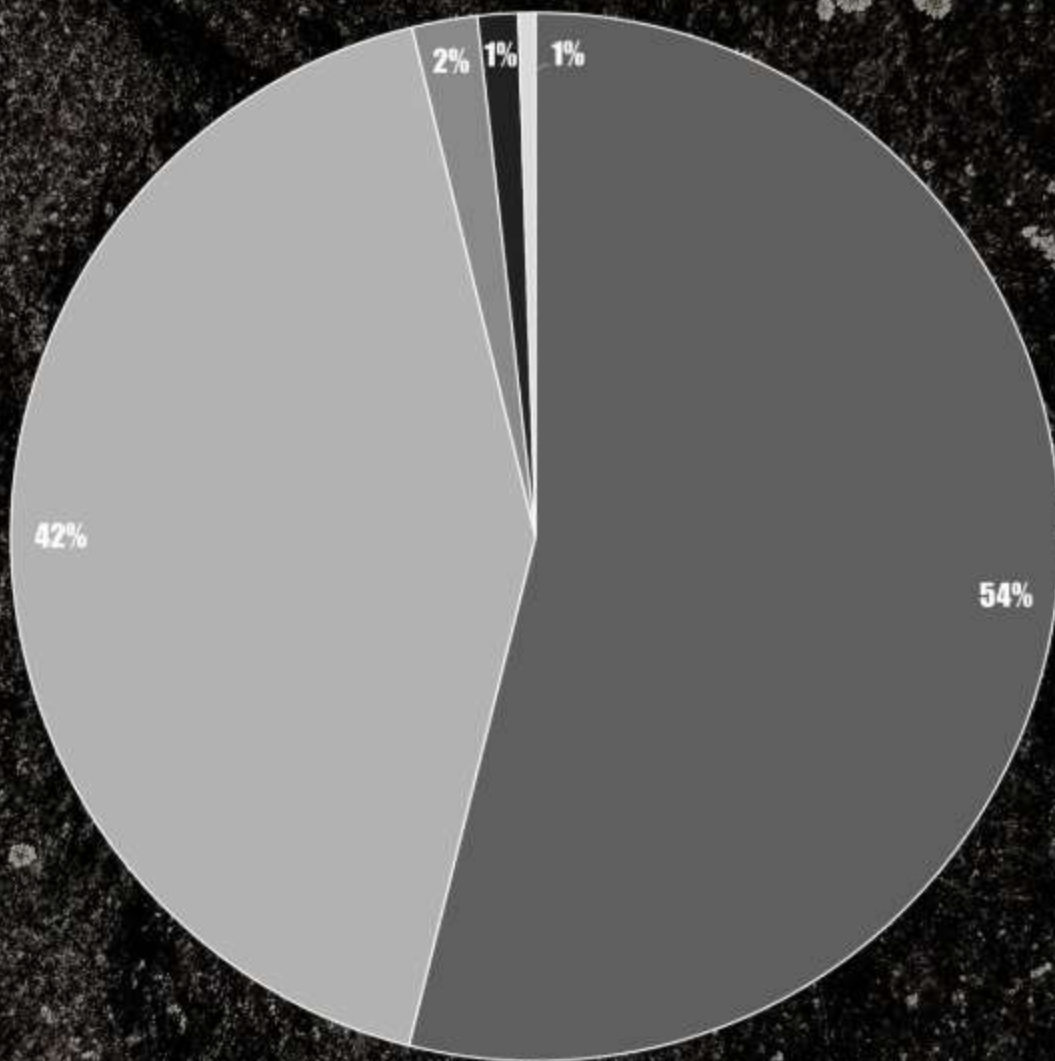


■ WET
■ DRY

Dry food was provisioned on 1555 occasions whereas wet food was supplied 143 times



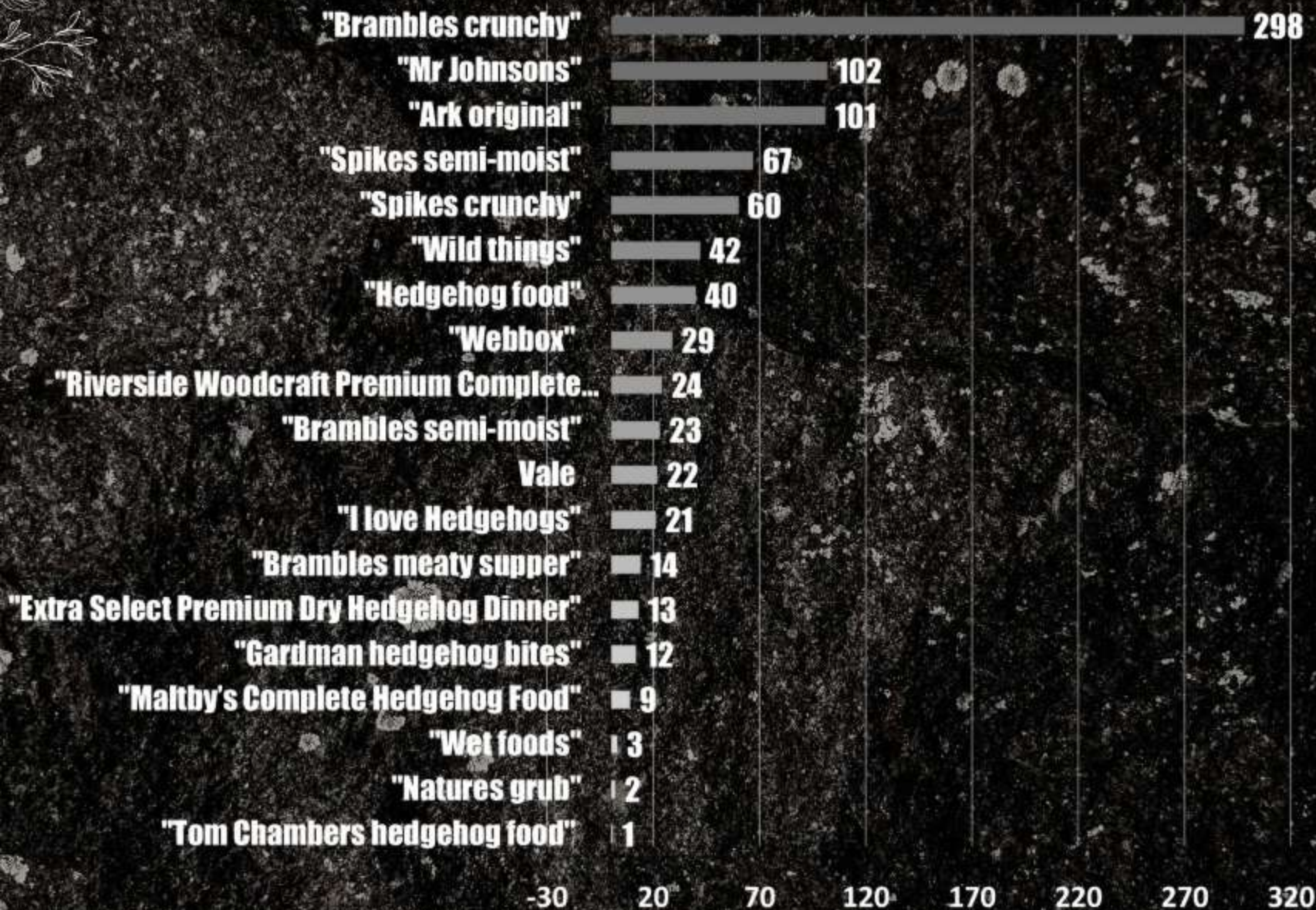
WHAT TYPE OF FOOD DO YOU FEED YOUR HEDGEHOGS?



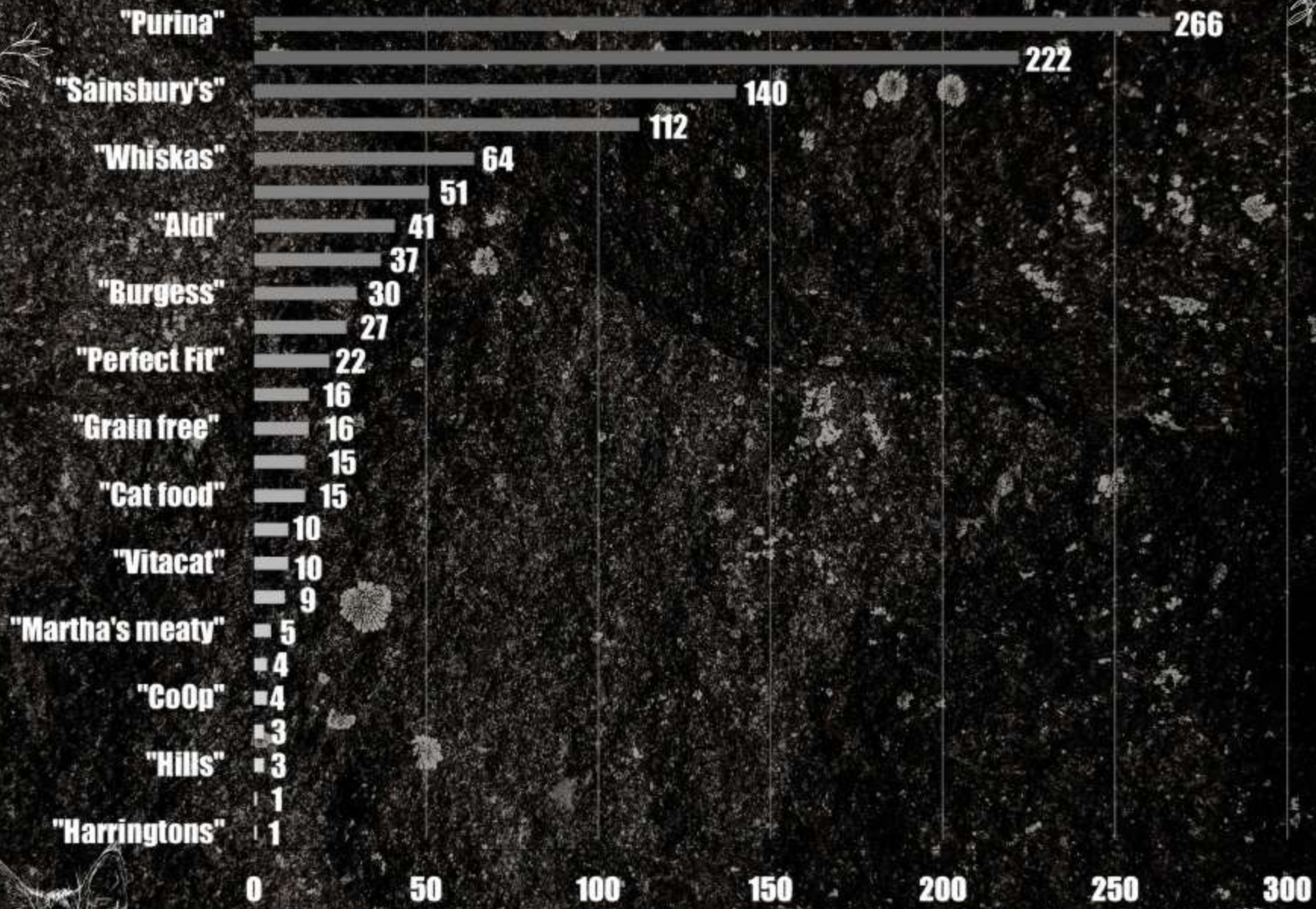
□ "Cat foods" □ "Hedgehog foods" □ "Dog food" □ "Ferret food" □ "Other"



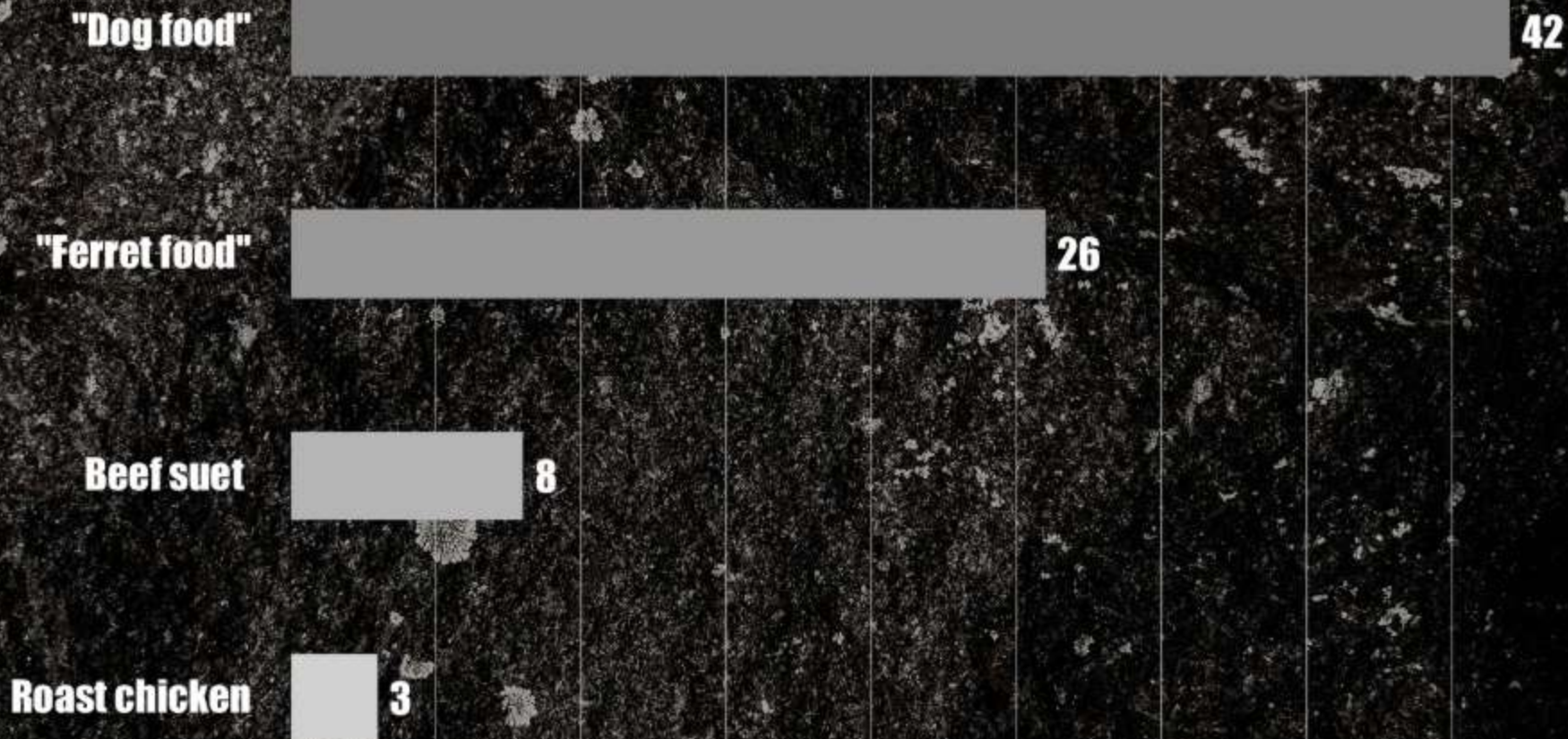
Most commonly provided hedgehog foods



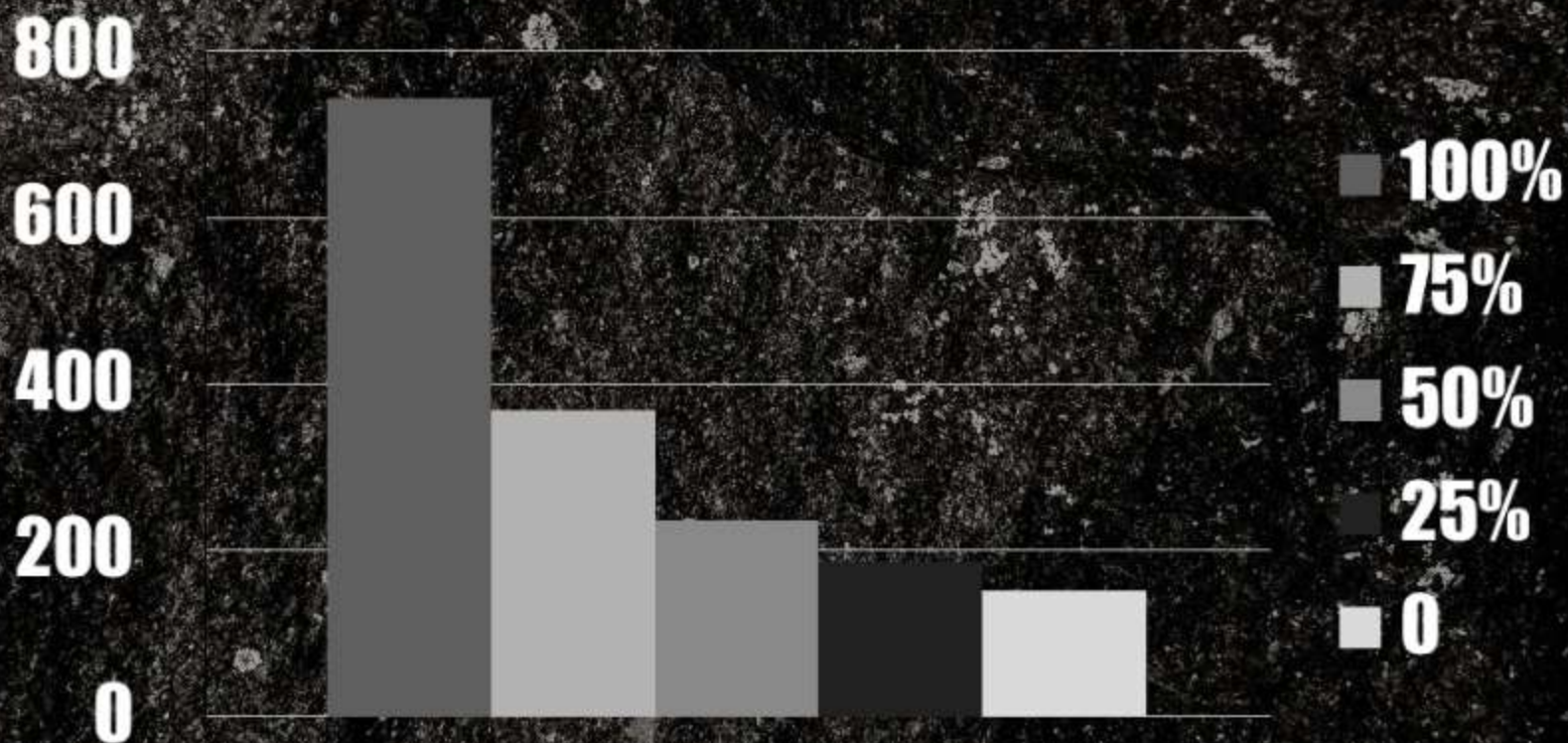
Most commonly provided cat food brands



Other foods provided



What proportion of the food was consumed?



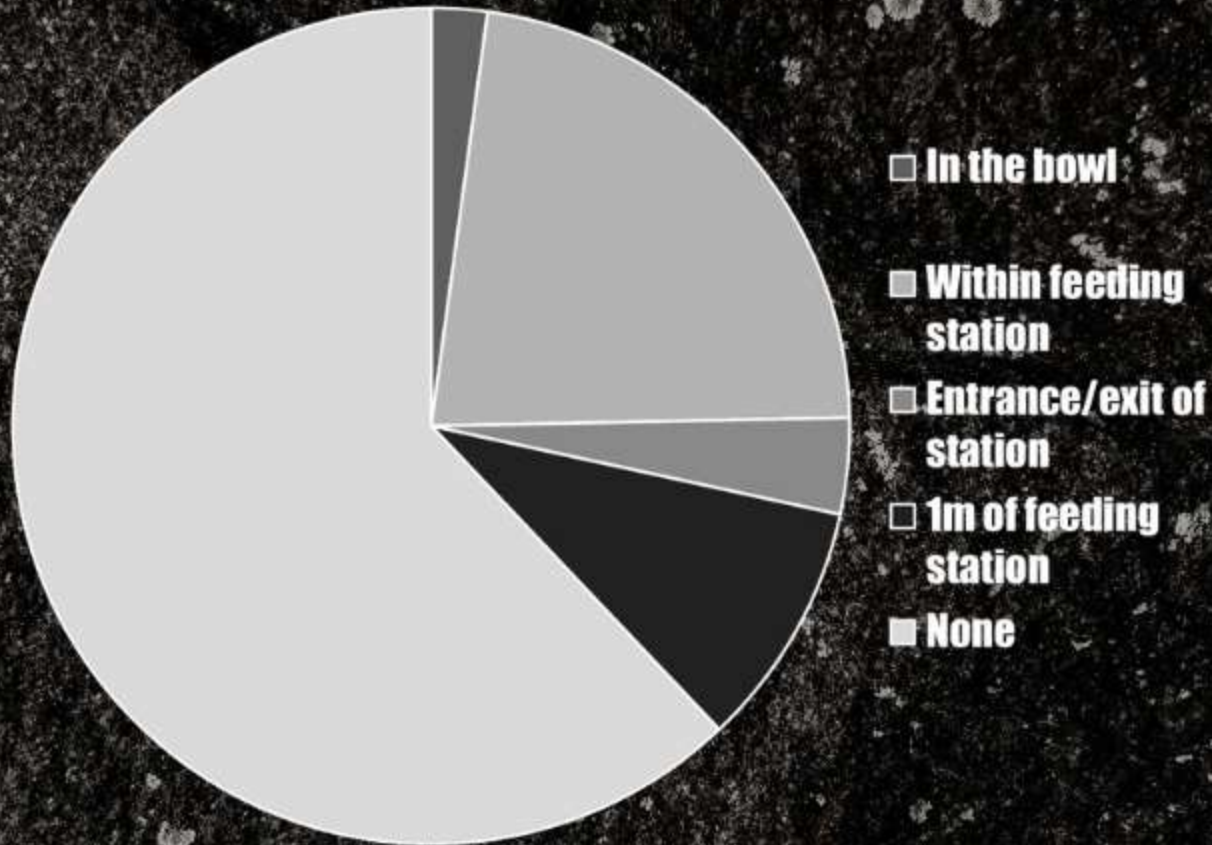
**What kind
of risks have
been identified?**



1. Poo! - Poo is an important factor in the transmission of disease we know your dinner guests are very messy! Always remember to clean and disinfect any soiled items!



Was there any poo?



IN 1/3 OF INSTANCES POO WAS FOUND WITHIN 1 METER OF THE FEEDING STATION...



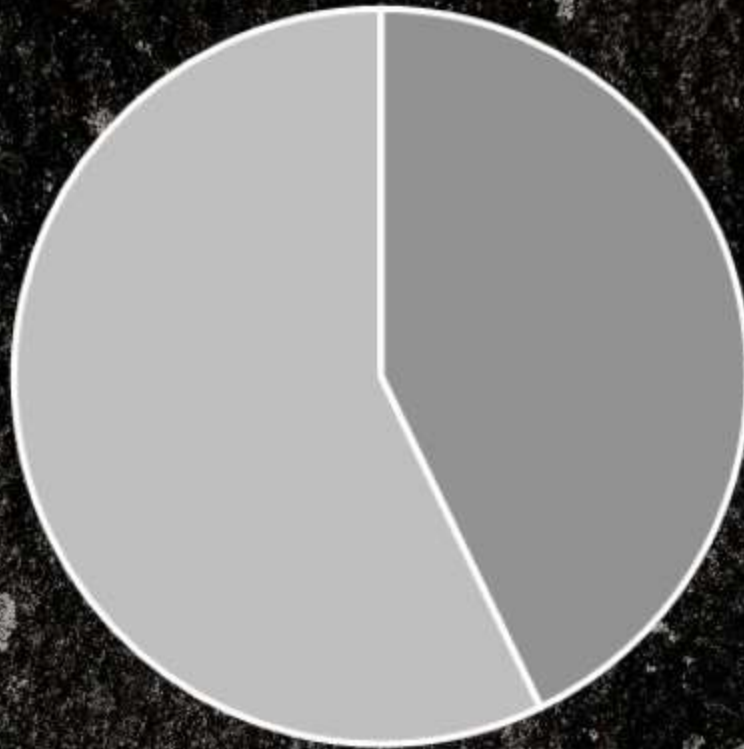
2. Slugs! - Slugs are complicated! On one hand they play an important role in the recycling of nutrients, some slugs feed on decaying matter and some even feed on poo! ... And they can be seen as a source of prey to some animals, however they also play a vital part in the transmission of diseases... In particular they can act as a host to the parasitic nematode *Crenosoma Striatum* which causes the lungworm infection.

Try using natural deterrents - Please never put poison in an outdoor space! It can be consumed by any creature!



Did you find any slugs?

52% No



42% Yes

A minimum of 2143 slugs were reported!

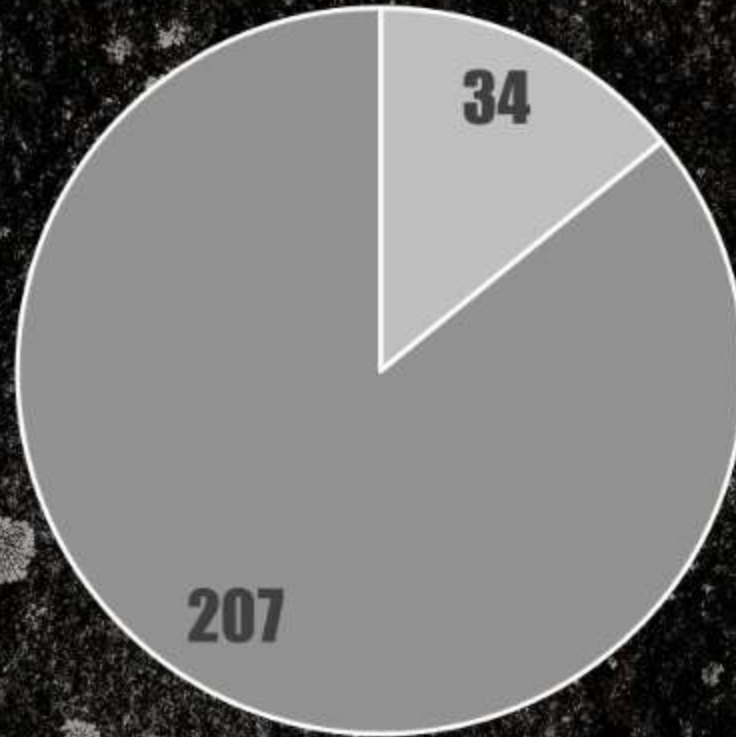


3. Aggression! During the course of our study we have seen low levels of aggression between species - most fights appear to be cats seeing off foxes!

**However hedgehogs prefer not to share their feeding space with each other!
Help them avoid bumping into a grouchy hedgehog by creating a clear feeding station or providing one which has multiple entrances/exits, or try scatter feeding!**



Total number of passive versus aggressive interactions




Only 34 out of 241 interactions witnessed were aggressive



More research is needed to continue to understand what happens at night when hogs are on film, follow us on social media to be the first to hear our new findings!

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 @hogs_on_film

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**Thank you for reading!
feel free to share and spread the news!**

Please cite as:

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available online at: www.hogsonfilm.co.uk/about**



