



**woodgreen**

Helping pets and their people

# Cat Relinquishment

## Cognito form data

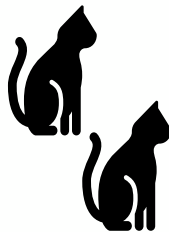


**woodgreen**  
Helping pets and their people

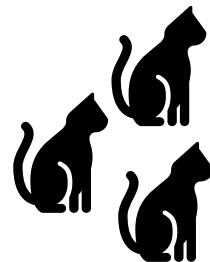
- Sample of relinquishment requests for **1158 cats** from **895 owners**
  - Approx. October 2021 – 5<sup>th</sup> September 2022 – dates not saved for first 200 entries
- 700 single cat homes
- 195 multi-cat homes
- 458 cats live in multi-cat households



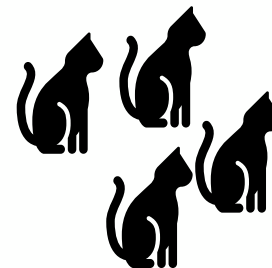
1 cat = 700  
homes



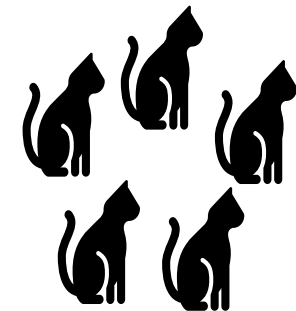
2 cats = 149  
homes



3 cats = 29  
homes



4 cats = 12  
homes



5 cats = 5  
homes



# Where are the requests coming from?



# Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD)

The IMD combines information from the seven domains to produce an overall relative measure of deprivation.

The domains are combined using the following weights:

- Income Deprivation (22.5%)
- Employment Deprivation (22.5%)
- Education, Skills and Training Deprivation (13.5%)
- Health Deprivation and Disability (13.5%)
- Crime (9.3%)
- Barriers to Housing and Services (9.3%)
- Living Environment Deprivation (9.3%)

1= 10% most deprived, 10 = 10% least deprived

Decile	% of cats
1	5.46%
2	11.48%
3	13.01%
4	9.73%
5	9.18%
6	13.22%
7	8.52%
8	10.16%
9	10.16%
10	9.07%



# Where did you hear about us?

Source	% of owners
Search engine/social media	25.70%
Previously rehomed a Wood Green pet or used other service	15.98%
Recommendation from friend/acquaintance	15.31%
Word of mouth	14.97%
Recommendation from another charity	11.96%
Referral from vet/council or agency	3.35%
Pet shop	3.13%
Wood Green charity shop	2.57%
Wood Green advertising/fundraising appeal	2.46%
TV advert	2.46%
The Dog House television programme	1.34%
Wood Green poster	0.67%
Wood Green community event, school or community talk	0.11%



# Where do you normally seek pet advice?



Source	% of owners
Vet or Nurse	43.24%
Online	25.47%
Not needed advice before	14.08%
Friend or family	9.05%
Pet shop	4.13%
Other charity	1.79%
Behaviourist or trainer	1.34%
Wood Green	0.89%



## Where do you usually seek pet advice?

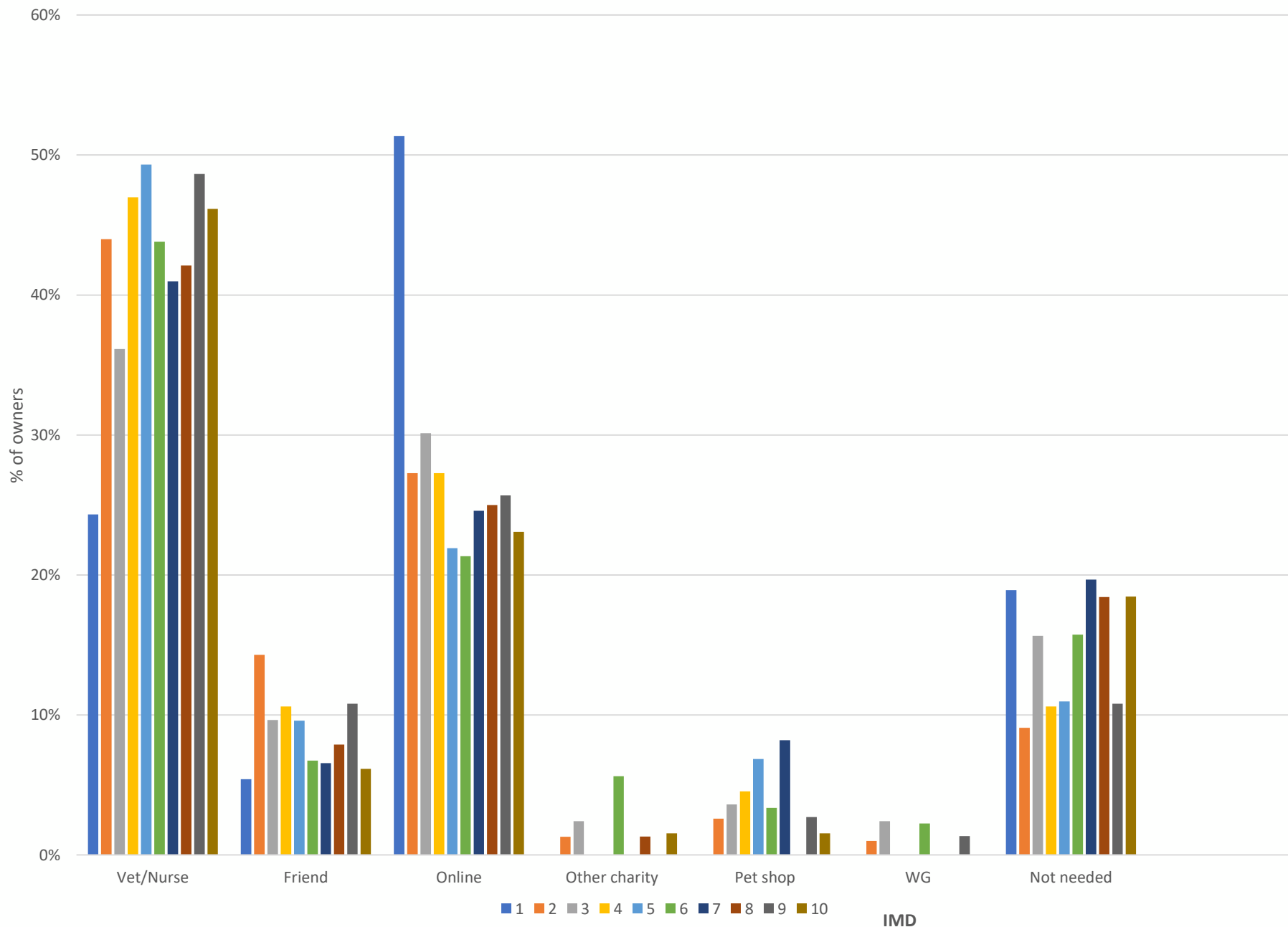
Does this differ with IMD decile?

51% of owners in decile 1 (most deprived areas) seek pet advice online.

For other deciles this is 30% or less.

24% of owners in decile 1 seek pet advice through a vet/nurse.

For other deciles, this is at least 36%





Reason	% of cats
Ill health of owner/family member	18.22%
My circumstances have changed and I am unable to care for my pet/s	16.23%
I am emigrating or moving home in the next couple of months and cannot take my pet/s	13.99%
My pet has behavioural issues that I can't manage/cope with any more	8.81%
My pet isn't getting on with other pets in the home	6.30%
The pet owner is deceased	5.96%
I have too many pets and need to find new homes for a number of them – or have an unexpected litter	5.70%
My circumstances have changed and I can't feed my pet/s or pay for urgent veterinary care	4.84%
They are a stray	4.75%
My lifestyle has changed and I am unable to care for them properly	3.71%
I am homeless and cannot care for my pet/s	3.02%
I don't want the pet/s or made a mistake getting them	2.50%
My pet is aggressive to children in the home	2.07%
My pet/s no longer fits into our family	1.99%
I have an unexpected litter	0.43%
My pet is aggressive to adults in the home	0.35%
They are a pregnant stray, they are a stray litter	0.35%
My pet is aggressive to other animals outside the home	0.35%
They are a stray that appears to be seriously ill/injured	0.26%
My pet is aggressive to adults/children outside the home	0.17%

# Reasons for Relinquishment

- 1) Ill health of owner
- 2) Change of circumstances, unable to care for
- 3) Emigrating or moving home

When all behaviour related categories are combined this becomes the 2<sup>nd</sup> most frequent reason = 18.05%



# Behaviour reasons

Those stating that their pet has behavioural issues are asked what the main issue is...

- Sample of 98 cats
  
- Inappropriate toileting 40.82%
- Aggression towards people 19.39%
- Nervous/Hiding 16.33%
- Aggression towards animals 11.22%
- Causing damage through scratching 5.10%
- Middening 4.08%
  - Deliberate defecation in inappropriate places
- Scent marking 3.06%



# Reasons and IMD

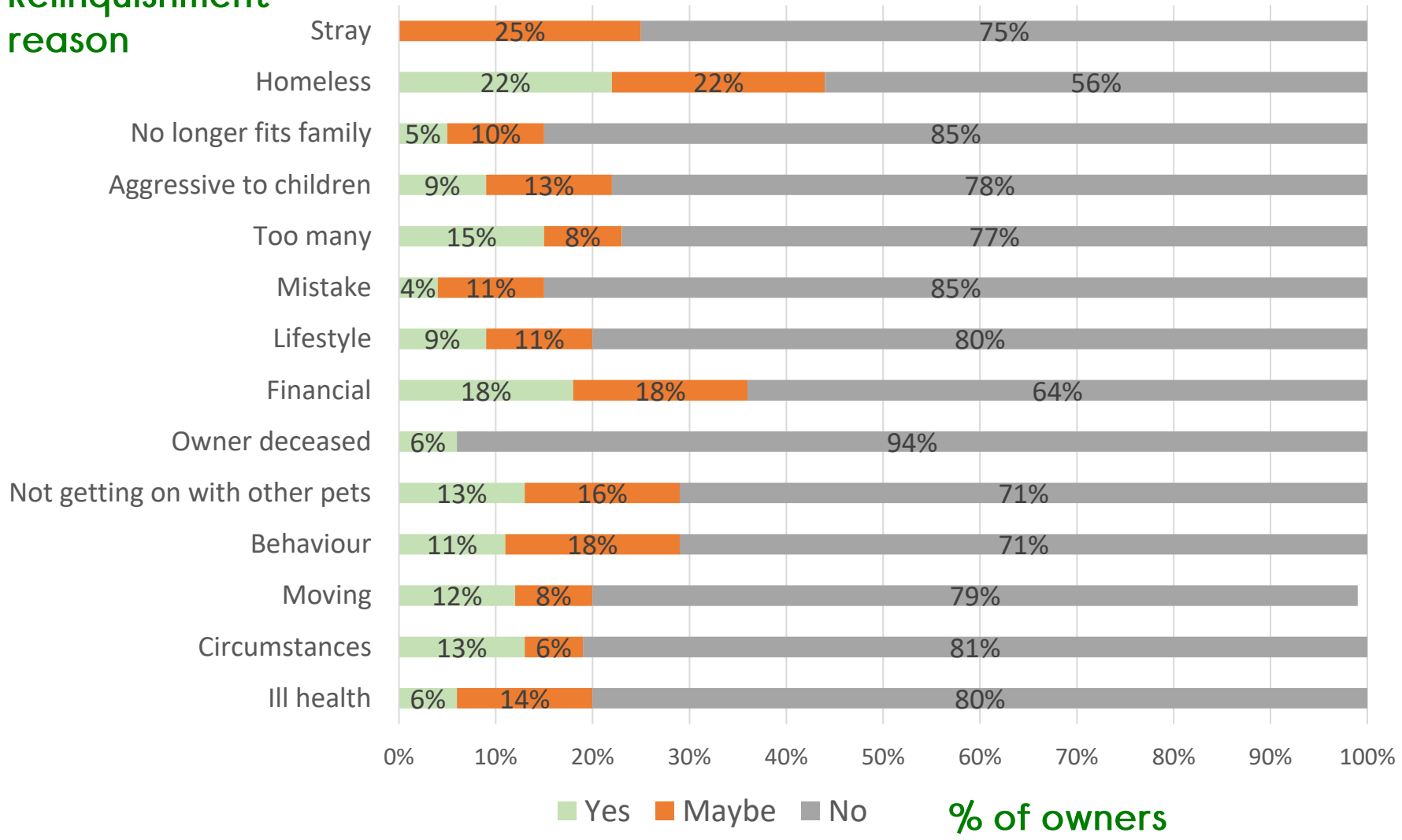
- Is there an association between IMD decile and reason for relinquishment?
- Financial reasons only feature in the top 3 reasons for relinquishment in decile 1 (most deprived area)

% of cats			
	1	2	3
1	Emigrating/Moving (22%)	I can't feed my pet/s or pay for urgent care (16%)	My circumstances have changed and I am unable to care for my pet/s (14%)
2	Ill health of owner/family member (17%)	Emigrating/moving (16%)	My circumstances have changed and I am unable to care for my pet/s (14%)
3	Ill health of owner/family member (27%)	My circumstances have changed and I am unable to care for my pet/s (17%)	Emigrating/moving (12%)
4	My circumstances have changed and I am unable to care for my pet/s (20%)	Ill health of owner/family member (18%)	Emigrating/moving (17%)
5	My circumstances have changed and I am unable to care for my pet/s (18%)	My pet has behavioural issues that I can't manage/cope with any more (12%)	My pet isn't getting on with other pets in the home (12%)
6	Emigrating/Moving (14%)	Ill health of owner/family member (11%)	My circumstances have changed and I am unable to care for my pet/s (11%)
7	My circumstances have changed and I am unable to care for my pet/s (19%)	Ill health of owner/family member (19%)	My pet has behavioural issues that I can't manage/cope with any more (10%)
8	Ill health of owner/family member (19%)	My circumstances have changed and I am unable to care for my pet/s (14%)	Emigrating/moving (13%)
9	Ill health of owner/family member (27%)	Emigrating/moving (12%)	My circumstances have changed and I am unable to care for my pet/s (12%)
10	My circumstances have changed and I am unable to care for my pet/s (20%)	Ill health of owner/family member (17%)	Emigrating/moving (13%)



# Relinquishment reason

Cat Relinquishment



**Whole sample (owners)**

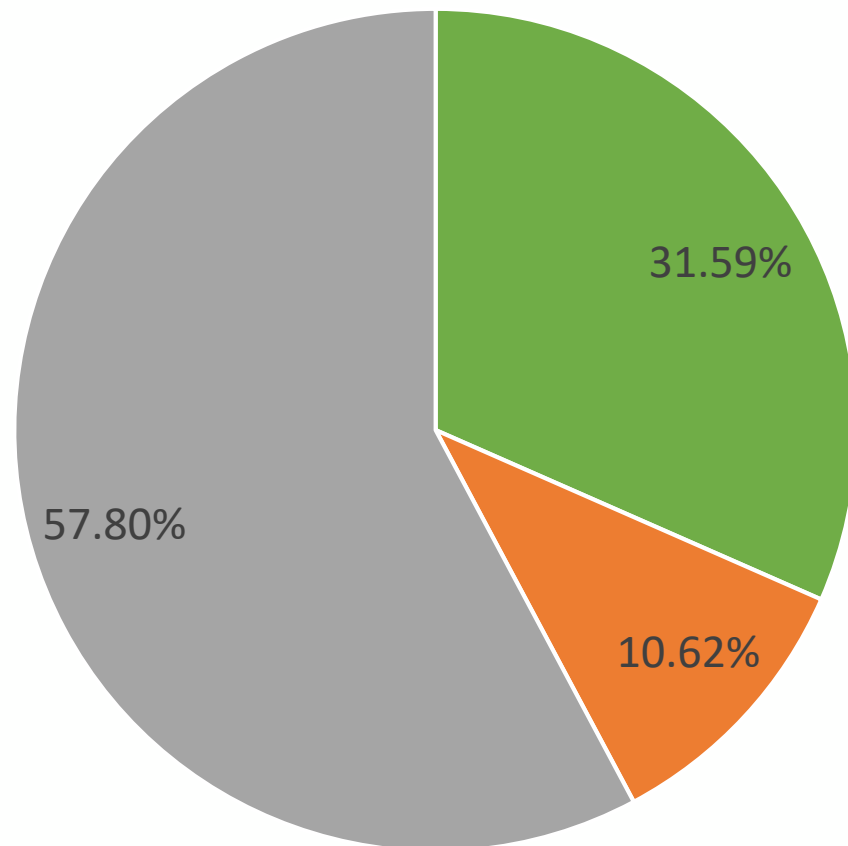
✓  
Yes = 11%

😐  
Maybe = 11%

✗  
No = 11%

If we can help you to keep your pet, would you be interested in discussing the options available?





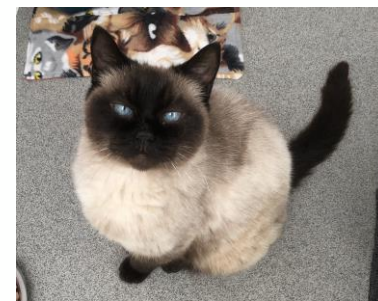
■ Yes ■ Maybe ■ No % of owners

We may be able to help your pet sooner if you are able to keep them in your home whilst we look for a new owner. Is this something you would like to know more about?



# Breed

- Difficult to accurately report due to inconsistencies in the data e.g. spelling, naming conventions
- Breed not reported or unknown in 549 (47.41%) cases
- 351 cats reported as Domestic shorthair (30.31%)
- 119 cats reported as mixed breed (10.28%)
- Top 3 named breeds
  - British Shorthair
  - Bengal
  - Ragdoll



# Sex and Neuter Status

53.69% Female

41.70% Male

4.61% Unknown

64.40% Neutered

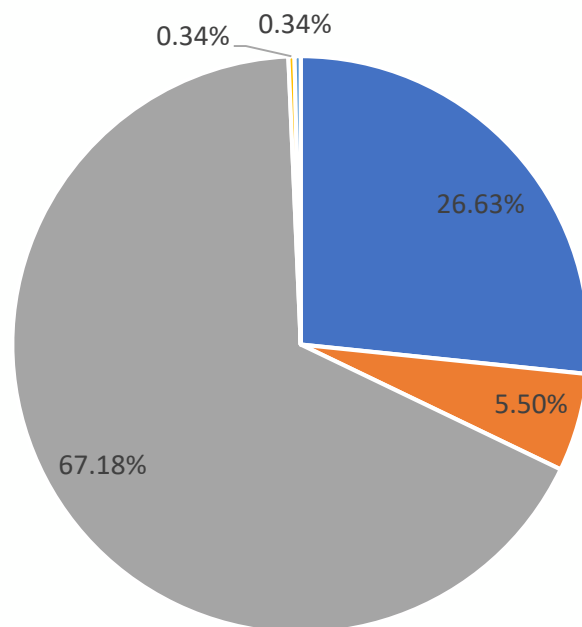
30.08% Not neutered

5.52% Unknown



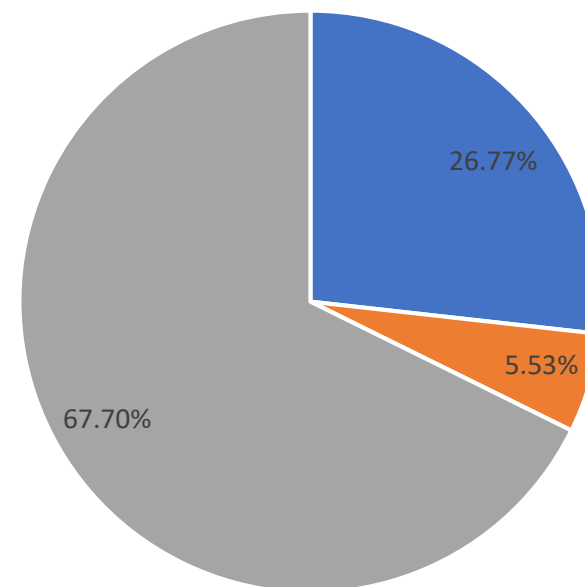
# Sex and Neuter Status

Females – Neuter status



■ No ■ Unknown ■ Yes ■ Possibly pregnant ■ Pregnant

Males – Neuter status



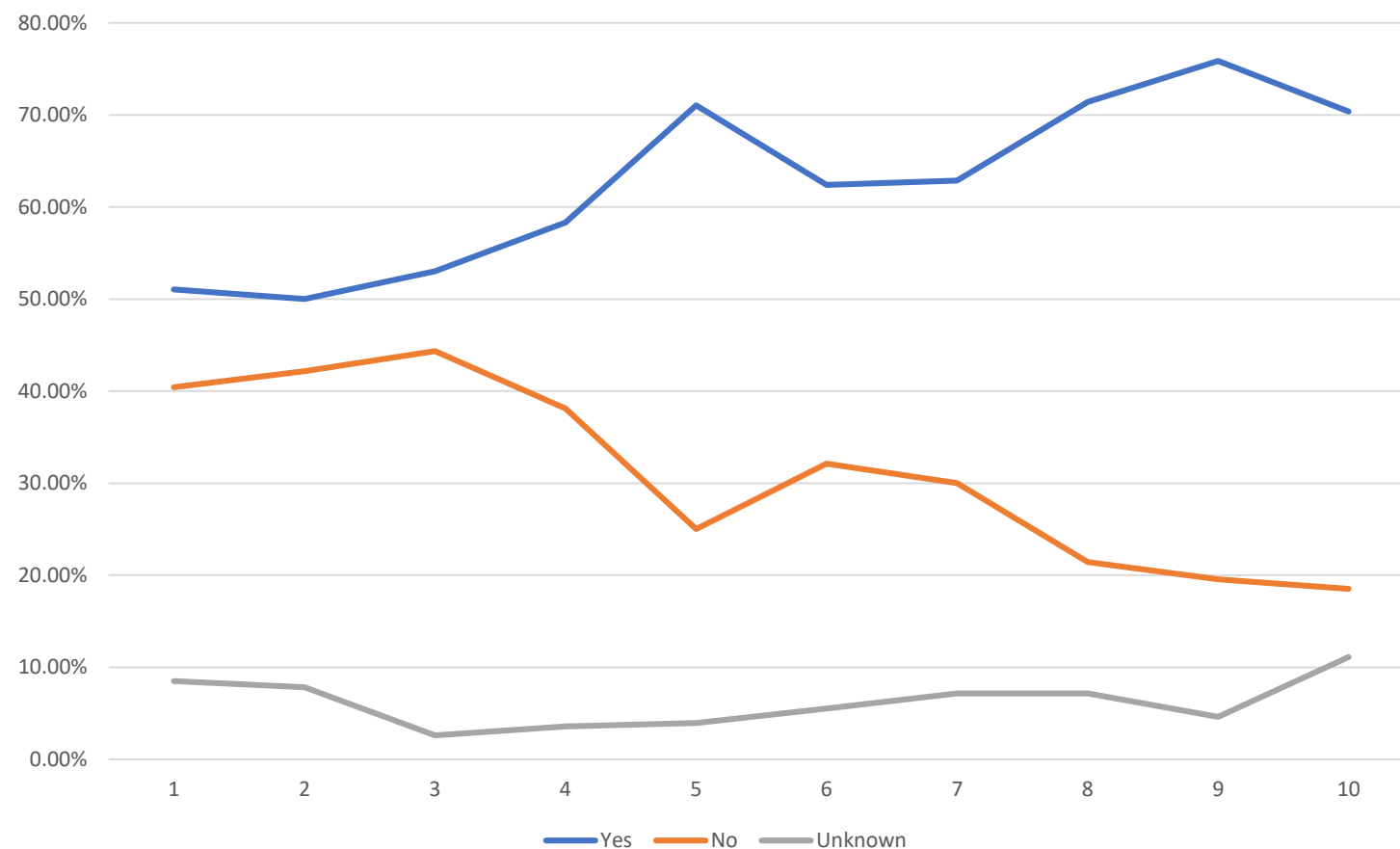
■ No ■ Unknown ■ Yes





# Is your cat neutered?

64.40% of all cats had been neutered



IMD Decile

IMD and Neutering

Decile 1

51.06% of cats had been neutered

Decile 10

70.37% of cats had been neutered



# Age

Age	N	%
12 weeks or less	82	7.83%
3-5 months	37	3.53%
6-12 months	80	7.64%
1-2 years	226	21.59%
3-6 years	290	27.70%
7-10 years	203	19.39%
11-13 years	77	7.35%
14 years+	52	4.97%

40.59% of requests are for cats 2 years old or younger

12.32% of requests are for cats over 11 years old



# Why are different ages of cat relinquished?

	1	2	3
Kitten (under 6 months)	I have too many pets and need to find new homes for a number of them – or have an unexpected litter (39.50%)	My circumstances have changed and I am unable to care for my pet/s (14.29%)	My circumstances have changed and I can't feed my pet/s or pay for urgent veterinary care (13.45%)
Adolescent (6 months to 2 years)	Ill health of owner/family member (22.5%)	My circumstances have changed and I am unable to care for my pet/s (20.92%)	I am emigrating or moving home in the next couple of months and cannot take my pet/s (12.09%)
Adult (3-10 years)	Ill health of owner/family member (21.10%)	I am emigrating or moving home in the next couple of months and cannot take my pet/s (17.44%)	My circumstances have changed and I am unable to care for my pet/s (16.23%)
Mature (11-13 years)	I am emigrating or moving home in the next couple of months and cannot take my pet/s (27.27%)	My circumstances have changed and I am unable to care for my pet/s (18.18%)	Ill health of owner/family member (16.88%)
Senior (14 years+)	Ill health of owner/family member (25.00%)	The pet owner is deceased (21.15%)	I am emigrating or moving home in the next couple of months and cannot take my pet/s (17.31%)

Unsurprisingly, too many pets or unexpected litters are the most common reason for kitten intake requests

Sadly for senior cats, owner illness or death accounts for 46.15% of relinquishment requests



# How long have you owned your cat?

Owned for	%
Less than 1 month	6.48%
1-6 months	14.11%
6-12 months	10.01%
1-5 years	36.61%
5-10 years	20.69%
10 years+	12.11%

Just over 30% of cats had been owned for a year or less

Have you had your cat since it was a kitten (around 8 weeks old)?

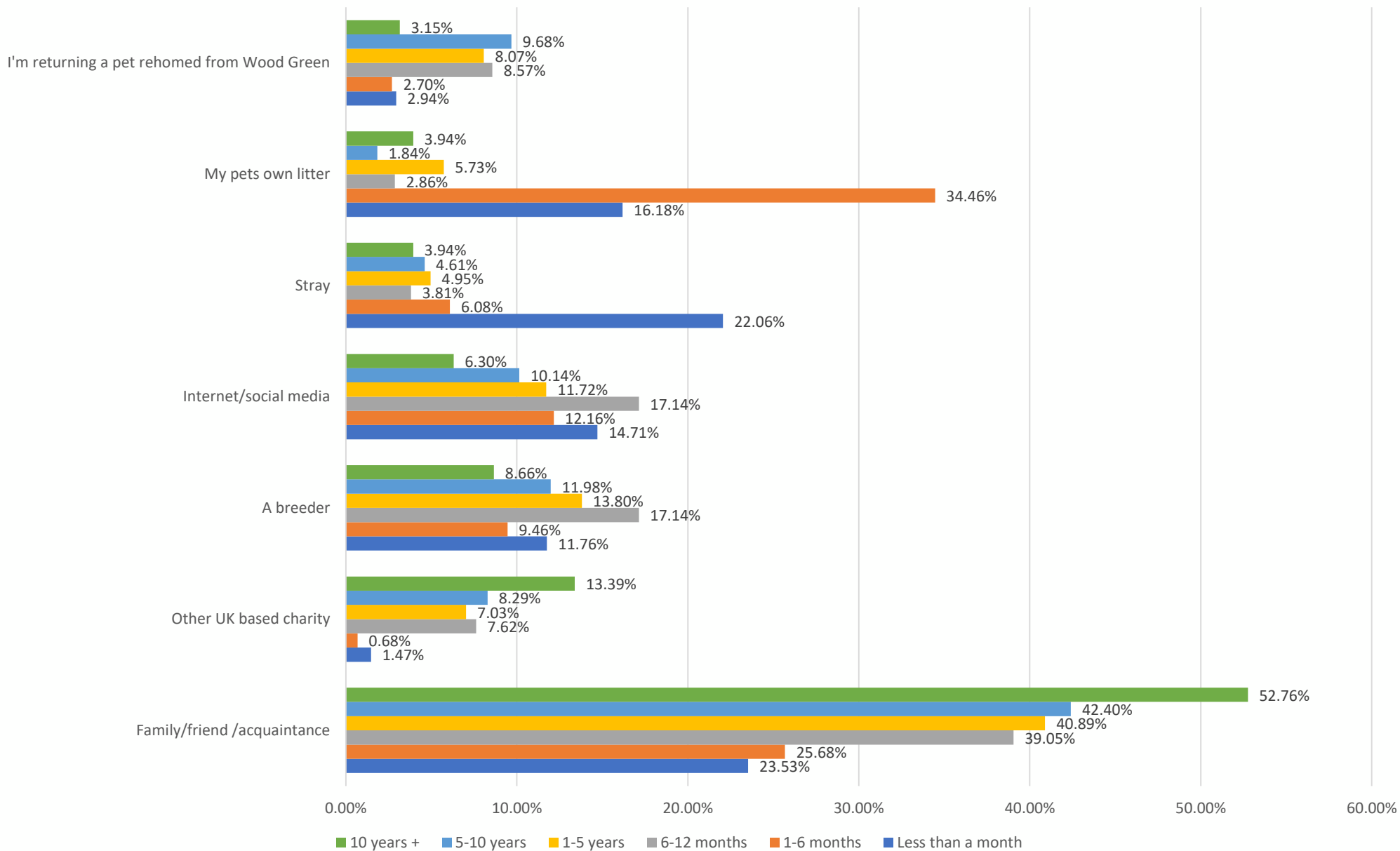


65.74%  
of cats



34.26%  
of cats





22.06% of cats owned for less than a month were acquired as strays

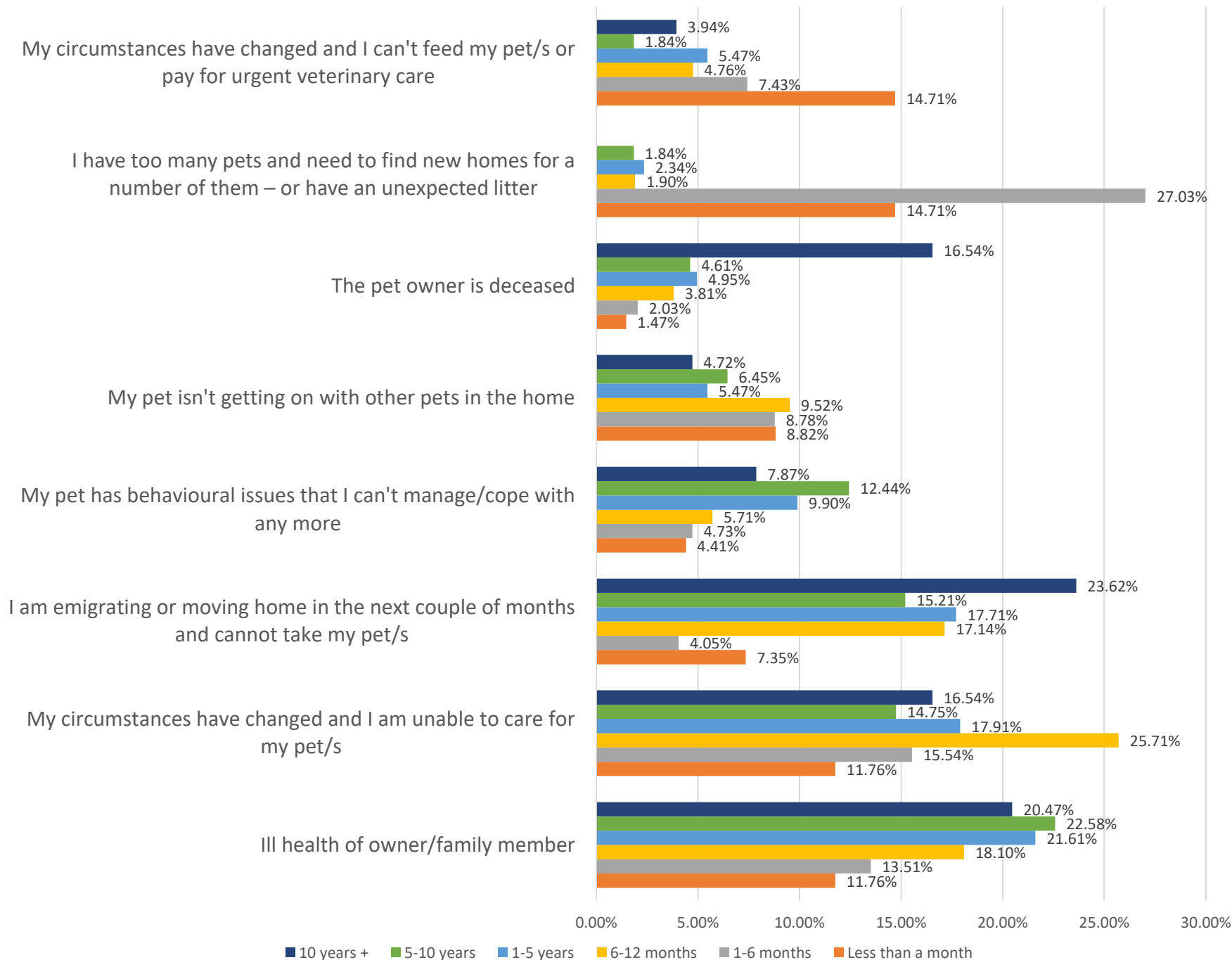
34.46% of cats owned for 1-6 months were part of their pets own litter

52.76% of cats owned for 10 years + were got from family or friends

# Length of ownership and source of acquisition



## Length of ownership and reason for relinquishment



14.71% of requests to relinquish a cat after less than a month of ownership cited financial reasons

25.71% of requests to relinquish a cat owned for 6-12 months reported their circumstances had changed and they were unable to care for their pet

Cats owned for 10 years+ relinquished due to moving/emigrating (23.62%) or owner illness or death (37.01%)



# Source of acquisition

## Top 10

	% of cats
○ Family/ Friend/ Acquaintance	39.32%
○ A breeder	12.34%
○ Internet or Social Media	11.42%
○ My pets own litter	9.02%
○ I'm returning a WG pet	6.91%
○ Other UK based charity	6.91%
○ Stray	5.80%
○ A registered breeder	2.21%
○ Other	1.93%
○ A pet rescue charity abroad	0.83%

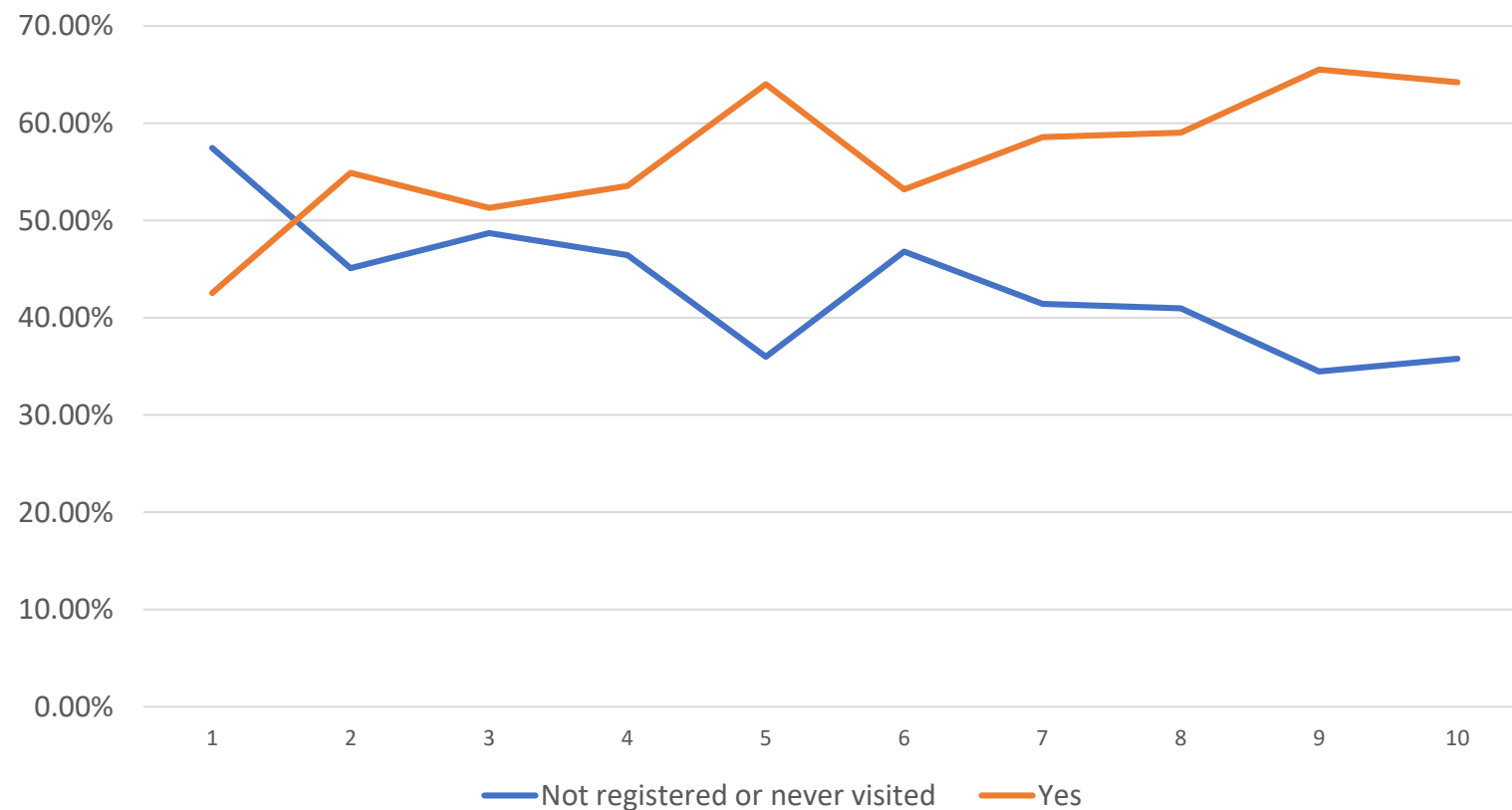
## Other sources included:

Vets                      Private rehoming  
                                  Left in home                      Pet shop  
 Owner died                      Stray pound  
 Gift                      Farm                      Found in church doorway ☹️  
                                  Found in the rubbish ☹️



# Has this cat been seen by a vet?

41.01% of cats are not registered with or have never visited a vet



IMD and Vet Visits  
Decile 1

42.55% of cats have seen a vet

Decile 10

64.20% of cats have seen a vet

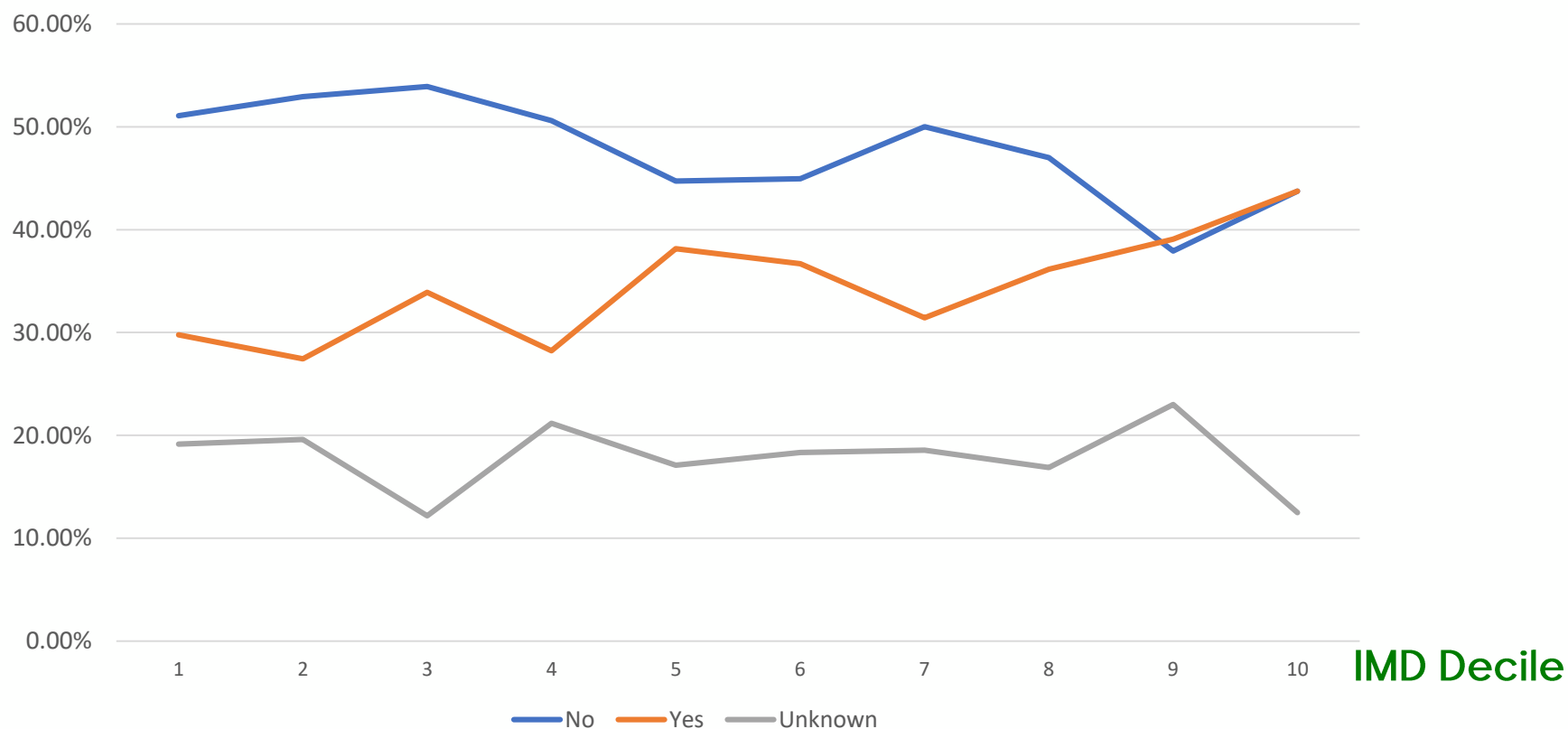
IMD Decile





# Is your cat up to date with their vaccinations?

34.93% of cats had been vaccinated in the last 12 months



## IMD and Vaccinations

### Decile 1

29.79% of cats have been vaccinated in the last 12 months

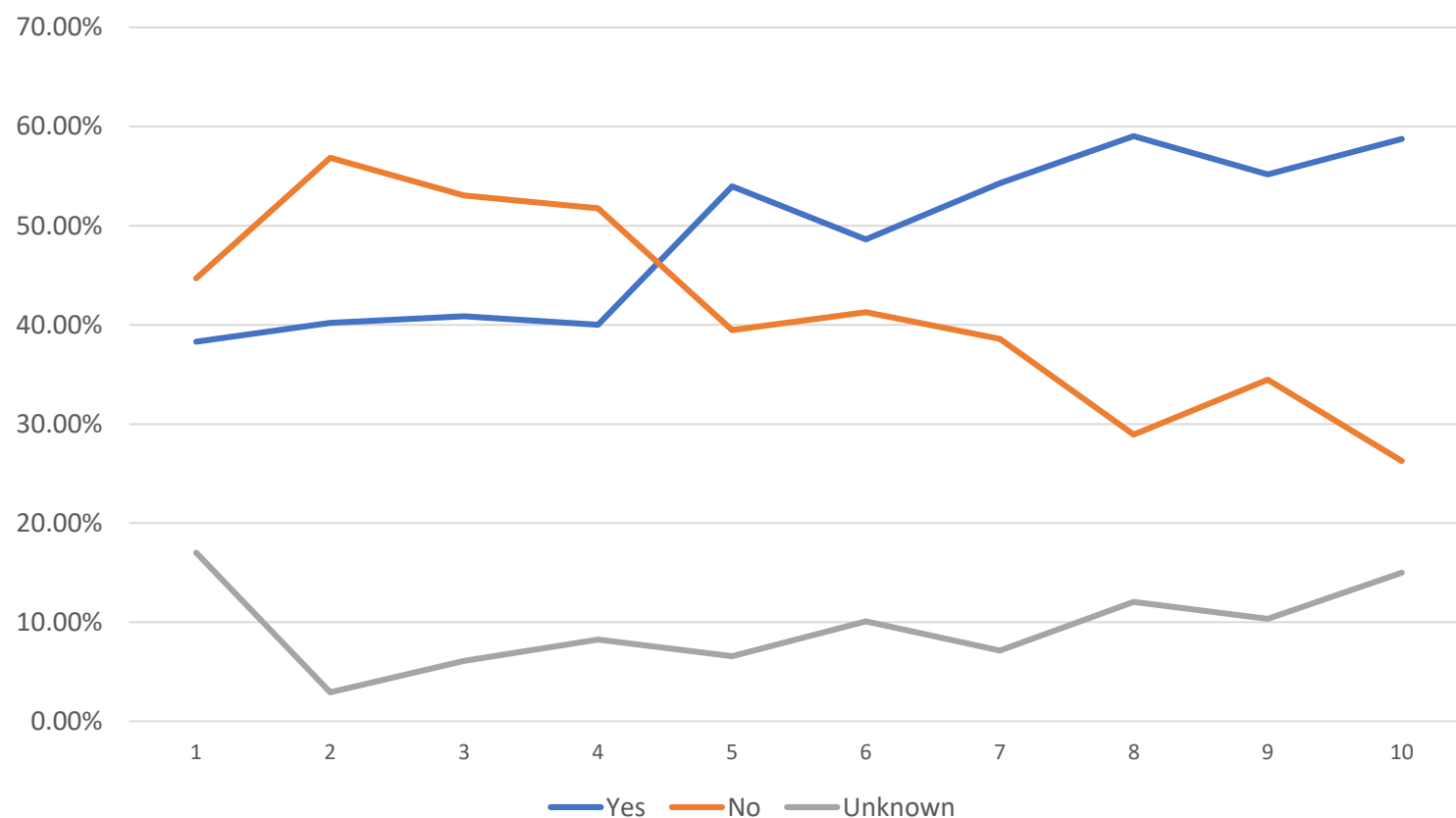
### Decile 10

43.75% of cats have been vaccinated in the last 12 months



# Is your cat microchipped?

50.55% of cats had been microchipped



IMD Decile

IMD and Vaccinations

Decile 1

38.3% of cats had been microchipped

Decile 10

58.75% of cats had been microchipped



# Vets, Vaccs, Neutering and Chips

- 51.88% of cats that have been seen by a vet are vaccinated
- 10.36% of cats that are not registered with a vet or have never visited the vets are vaccinated
  
- 82.81% of cats that have been seen by a vet are neutered
- 37.75% of cats that are not registered with a vet or have never visited the vets are neutered
  
- 70.33% of cats that have been seen by a vet are microchipped
- 22.07% of cats that are not registered with a vet or have never visited the vets are microchipped



# Neutering, Vaccinations and Microchipping

- 43.27% of neutered cats are vaccinated
- 20.55% of unneutered cats are vaccinated
  
- 72.60% of neutered cats are microchipped
- 10.12% of unneutered cats are microchipped



# Where has the cat had access to?

Data not including kittens under 6 months



Indoor only = 32.90%  
58.36% neutered



Indoor and Outdoor = 65.91%  
80.36% neutered

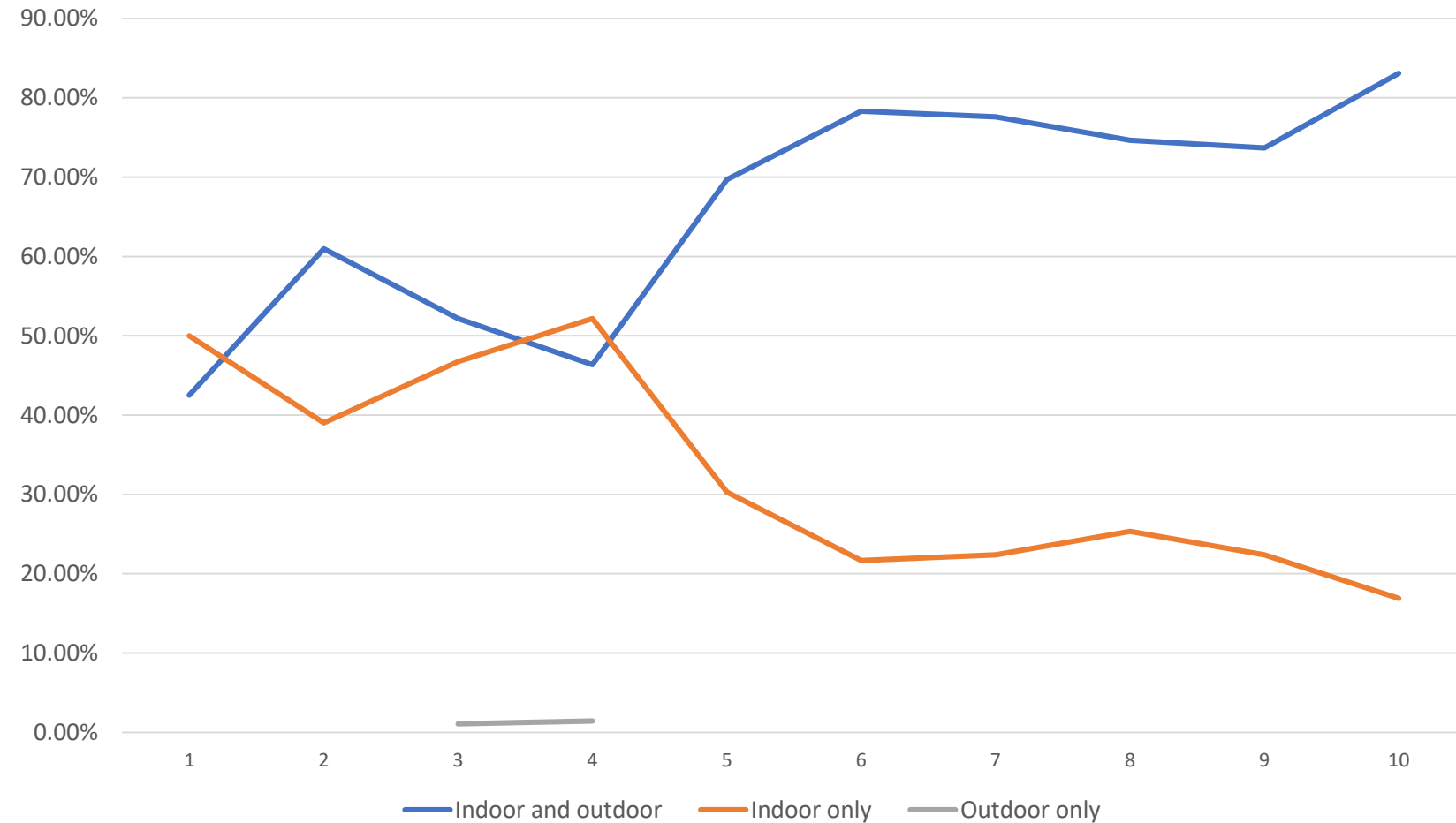


Outdoor only = 1.19%  
72.73% neutered



# Where does your cat have access to?

Does this differ with IMD decile?



IMD and Access

Decile 1

50% of cats were indoor only

42.50% of cats had both indoor and outdoor access

Decile 10

16.90% of cats were indoor only

83.10% of cats had both indoor and outdoor access

