



BULLDOG
BREED
COUNCIL
HEALTH
REPORT
2018

From Our Chairman

The Health Committee has assiduously ensured the administration of our Health and Conformation scheme which rewards breeders who strive to breed healthy dogs that conform to the breed standard. The take up, specifically by show going owners has increased considerably and it is also pleasing to note that more of the pet owners too are testing their dogs. The improving results are clearly demonstrated in the statistics included in this report and plain to see for all the spectators around the ring today. Most pleasing was the very positive comments from veterinarians watching the dogs ringside at Crufts.

Working closely with Cambridge University, The Kennel Club and participating as members of the Brachycephalic Working Group ensures that the interests of the Breed is maintained at the forefront of all discussions and decision taking.

All Bulldog owners are urged to participate in our schemes which are not set in stone but can be modified from time to time as new initiatives are found to enhance the health of the breed and ensure its longevity.

Anthony Darmanin.
Chairman

The Bulldog Health actions 2018

The start of the year, saw a meeting with members of the Health Committee and the Kennel Clubs Team to agree the bulldogs Health and Conservation Plans, this consisted of a big document that every health reference from surveys that had been found published in the last 20 years, in the Bulldogs name on the web.

It was brought to the table, where we went through all the conditions and the evidence and the statistics of the numbers of the samples for each condition. Many of the items were unfounded and from very small numbers, we were helped by the Vet Tom Bingham, who is a consultant on our Health committee who had real time experience of the condition's bulldogs present with. We felt we are aware of and, tackling, we were able to validate or dismiss the items. A final plan was agreed by the Kennel Club which is to be reviewed annually and progress checked.

AGREED ACTION PLAN

- The Bulldog Breed Council to consider putting the HUU DNA test as a requirement under the Assured Breeder Scheme
- The Bulldog Breed Council to continue to actively encourage uptake of the BVA/KC/ISDS Eye Scheme
- The Kennel Club to aid in health survey/health information dissemination on behalf of the breed
- The Kennel Club to explore the possibility with the University of Liverpool of a Bulldog specific body condition score
- The Kennel Club to explore the possibility of splitting population analysis data by colour
- The Kennel Club to put vets in contact with the Vet Compass project
- The Bulldog Breed Council to continue their health scheme
- The Bulldog Breed Health Representatives to continue to participate in the Brachycephalic Working Group
- The Kennel Club to explore the possibility of patellar luxation research
- The Kennel Club will review progress with the Bulldog Breed Council Health Sub-committee in January 2019

The Brachycephalic Working Group continues to meet 4 times a year and is attended by Vicky Collins-Nattrass as Co Ordinator and Lieza Handley as Health Data Administrator, this takes place at the Kennel Club who host the event which is a standalone body of stakeholders with concerns over the Brachycephalic health issues in particular Veterinary Bodies, Scientists, Charities, and Breed Representatives. It had a rocky start, but I feel that we are creating some common ground where we can all agree and work together, we are able to agree on some areas which in the beginning of the discussions were poles apart. We look forward to continuing to have a voice representing people who live with the bulldog and put across the reality of the breed rather than the preconceived ideas that are often headlines in the media with no actual facts behind them. This meeting is challenging but over the year I think we are being listened to.

The Breed Council has this year, set up a subcommittee for Breed Standards consisting of some members the Health and Education Committees and Championship Show, respected, experienced Judges to discuss the least number of changes but the most meaningful ones that have been suggested by the scientist and researcher who were allotted to undertake the task of updating the Breed Standard for Health [David Sargen and Rowena Packer are so far the only writers of changes] by the BWG. We have paperwork coming shortly to show all the clubs and to provide a starting point for changes some of which are the breeds suggestions. As the Kennel Club owns the standard, we wait to read their ideas when we submit our answers to the suggestions made by the BWG.

Then followed Crufts, where we made a concentrated effort to emphasise the improvements of the show bulldogs, it must be taken in account however that the number of bulldogs bred and exhibited is a mere 2% of all registered bulldogs but sadly the Kennel Club make an estimate that they only hold registrations of 30% of the Bulldogs actually bred so 70% of the UK's Breed population we have no idea who owns 70% of the UK's Breed population how they are being looked after or bred.

We met with the heads of the Veterinary Associations at the Health Stand at Crufts who were impressed with our plans and the results we are getting from the forms which we share with the Kennel Club, some of these are beyond what we have been asked for.

We continuously try to reach out to the puppy buying public asking them to look for puppies from health tested parents , there is a problem at the moment with colour not recognised puppies who tend to be tested by DNA for their colour genes but not for the health issues we have identified as being relevant to the breed, this however looks impressive on adverts and we urge people to ask for the Health Tests as Approved by the Bulldog Breed Council, full details of our scheme can be found on this website Bronze Silver and Gold levels explained .

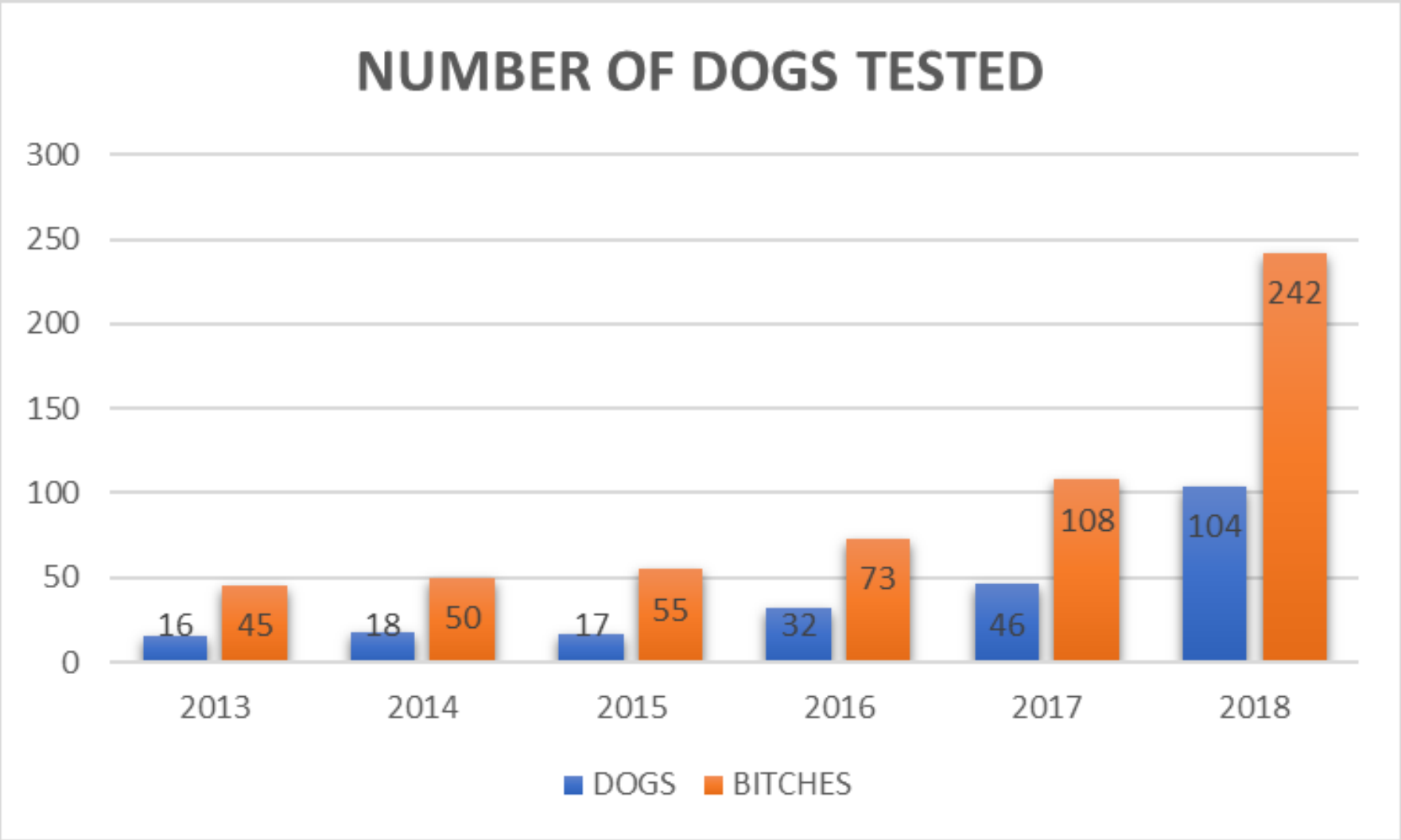
The 'Saving the Bulldog' Film with Catherine Tate as the investigating reporter did not have the desired effect for the Bulldog denigrators, instead of turning the public against the breed it has had the reverse effect , telephones and email requests asking for help to find a healthy Bulldog were asked for in their droves the day after the film, operating on a cross breed bulldog didn't really back up the old argument that possible crossing means improved health! it was a definite FAIL as far as turning the British public away from our national breed !

Many thanks to everyone who took part and allowed their dogs to be shown.

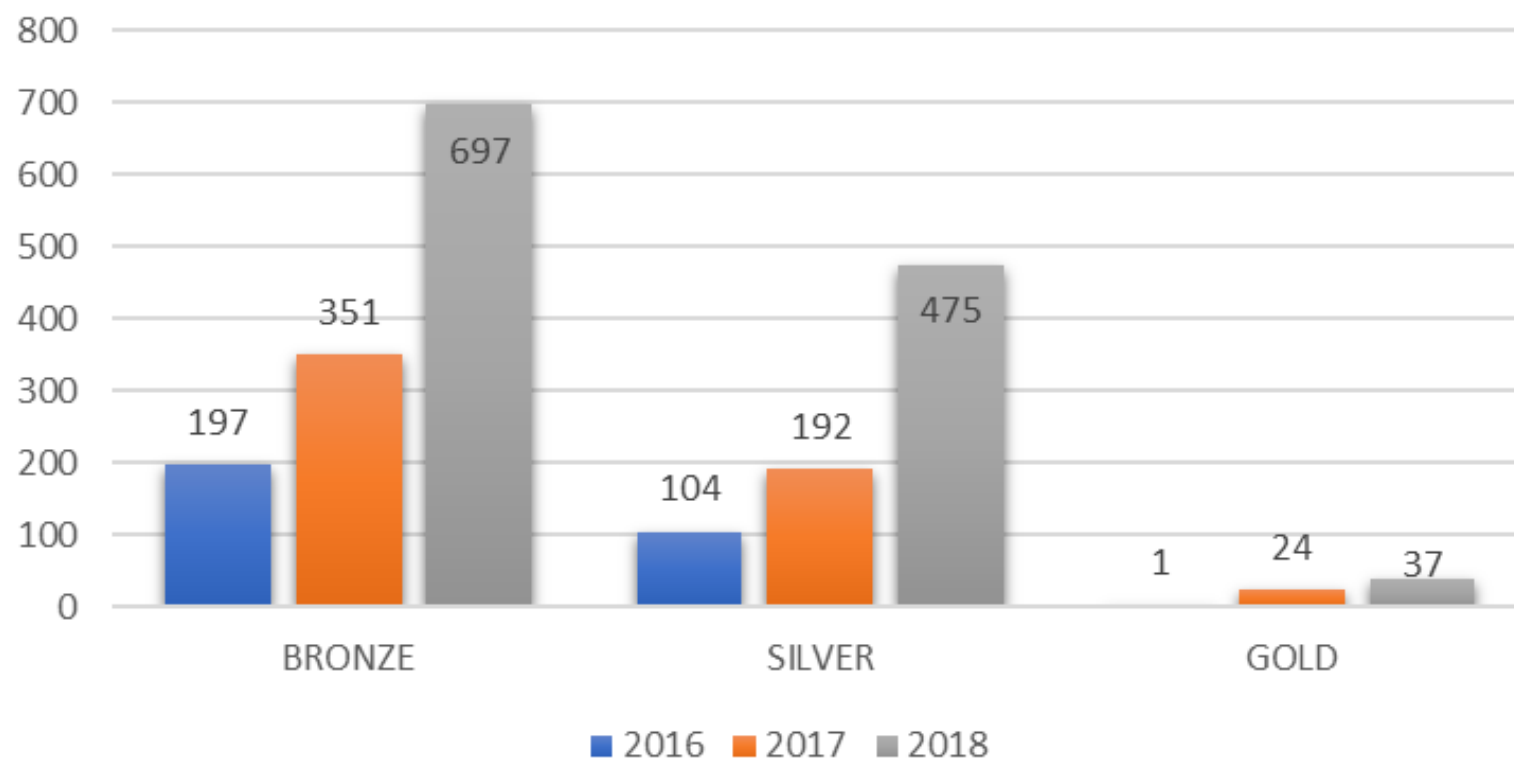
Vicky Collins-Nattrass.

Breed Health Co-Ordinator.

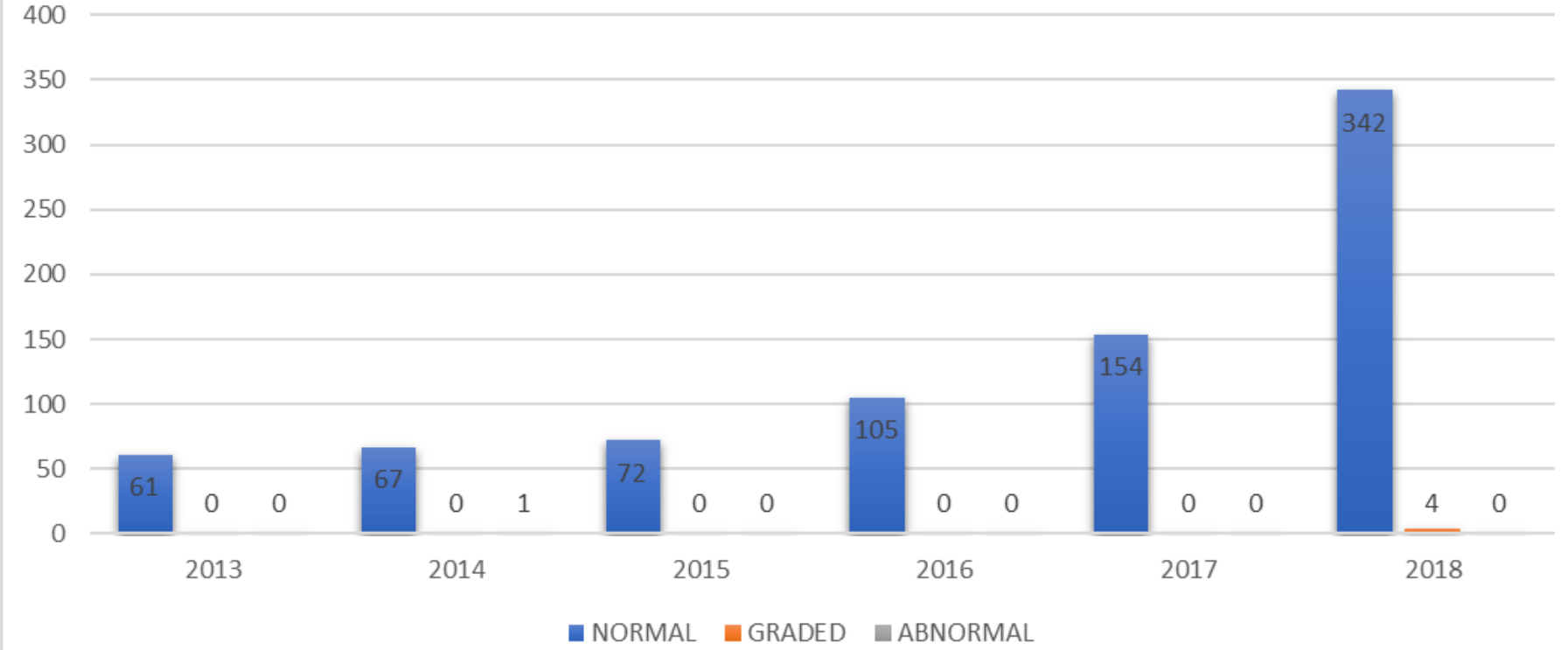
Health Form Data 2013-2018



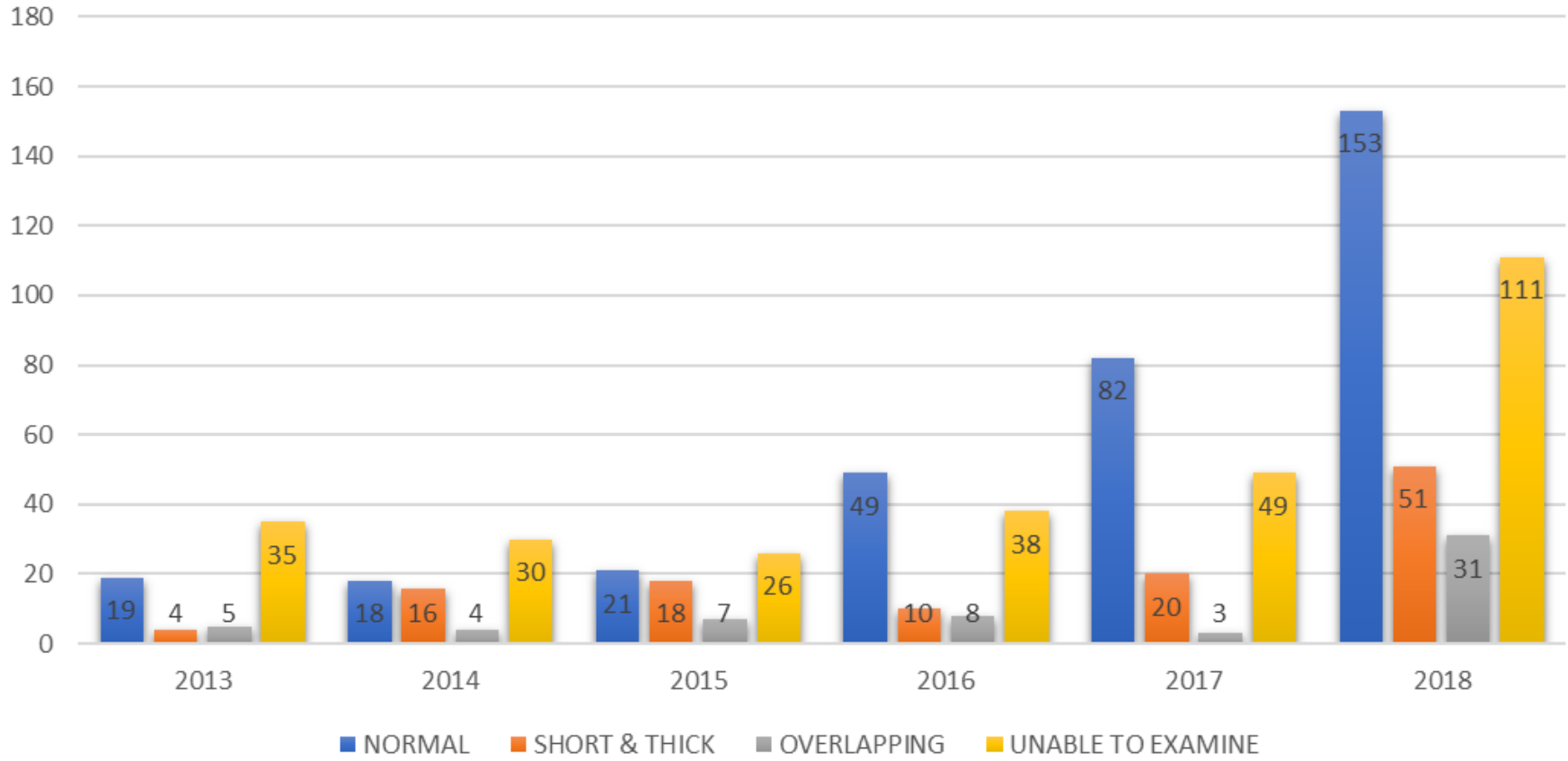
AWARDS



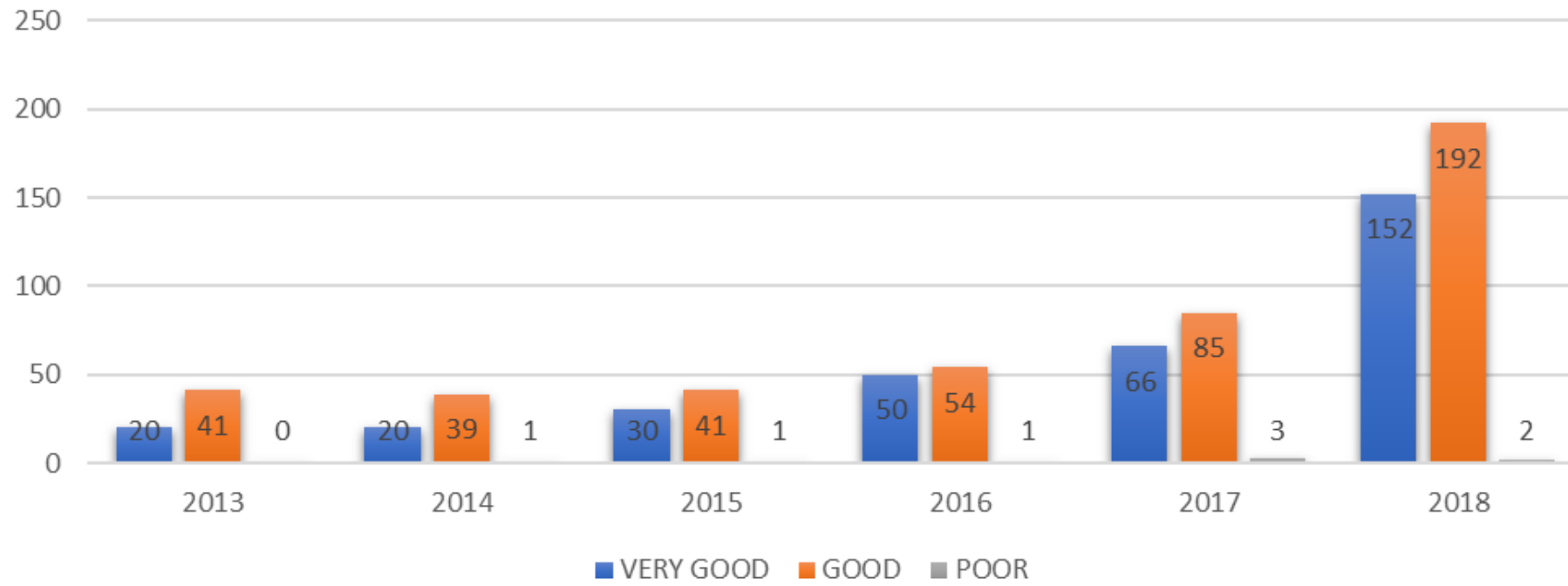
HEARTS



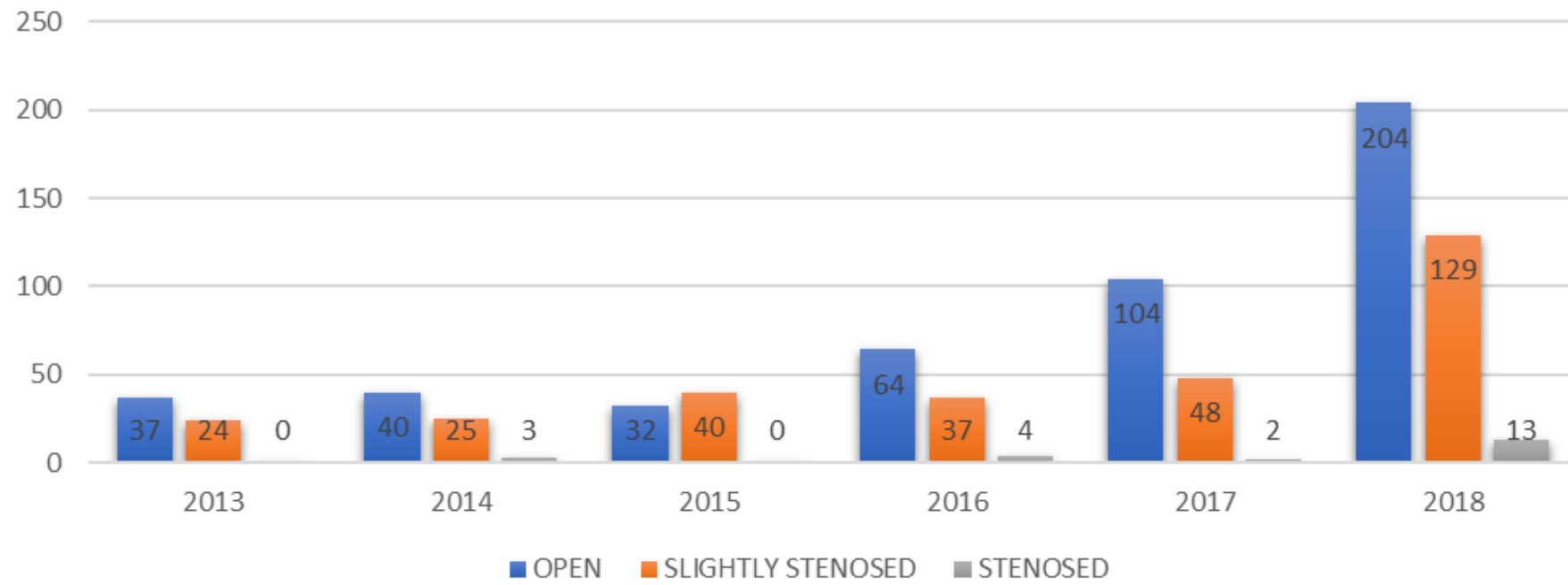
PALATE



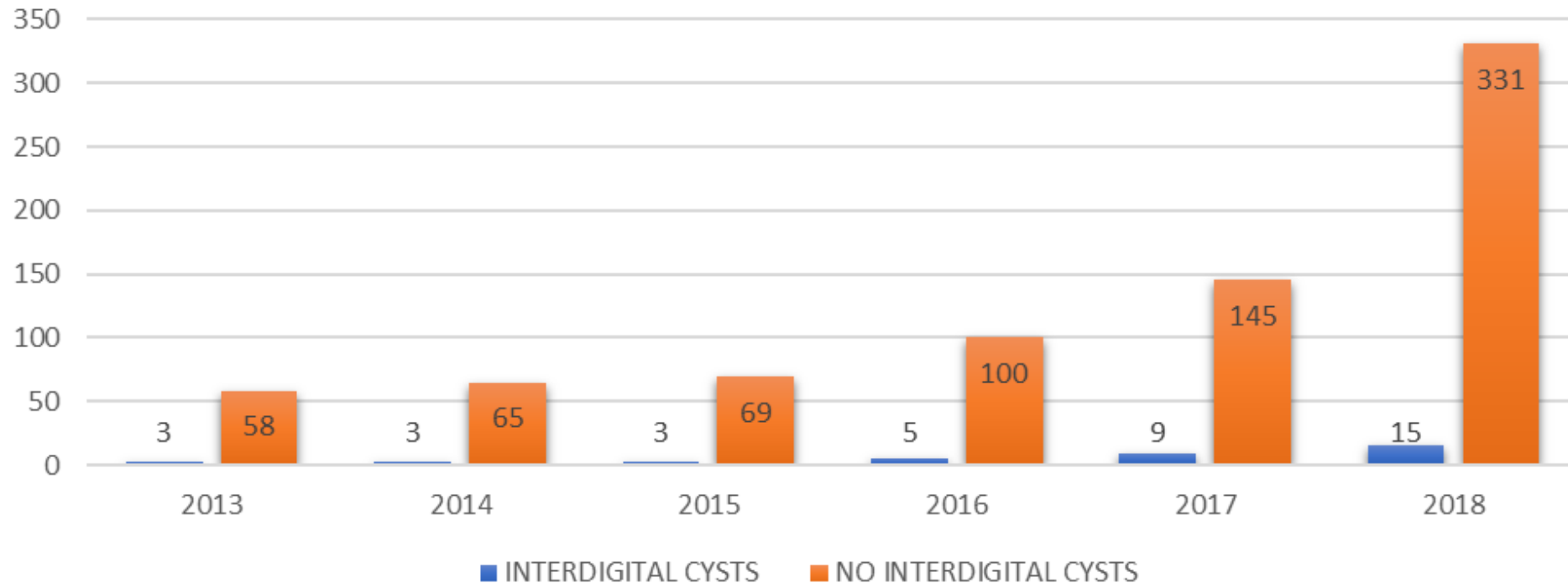
BREATHING



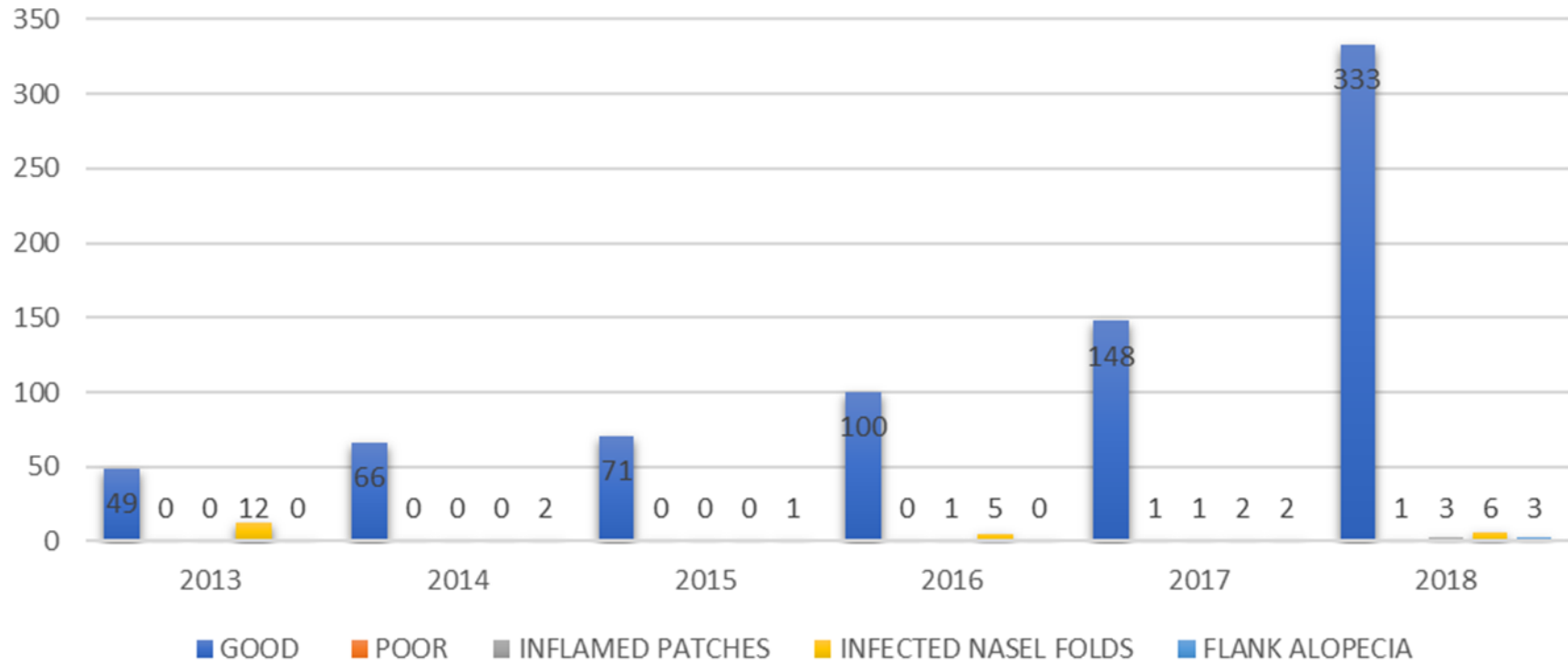
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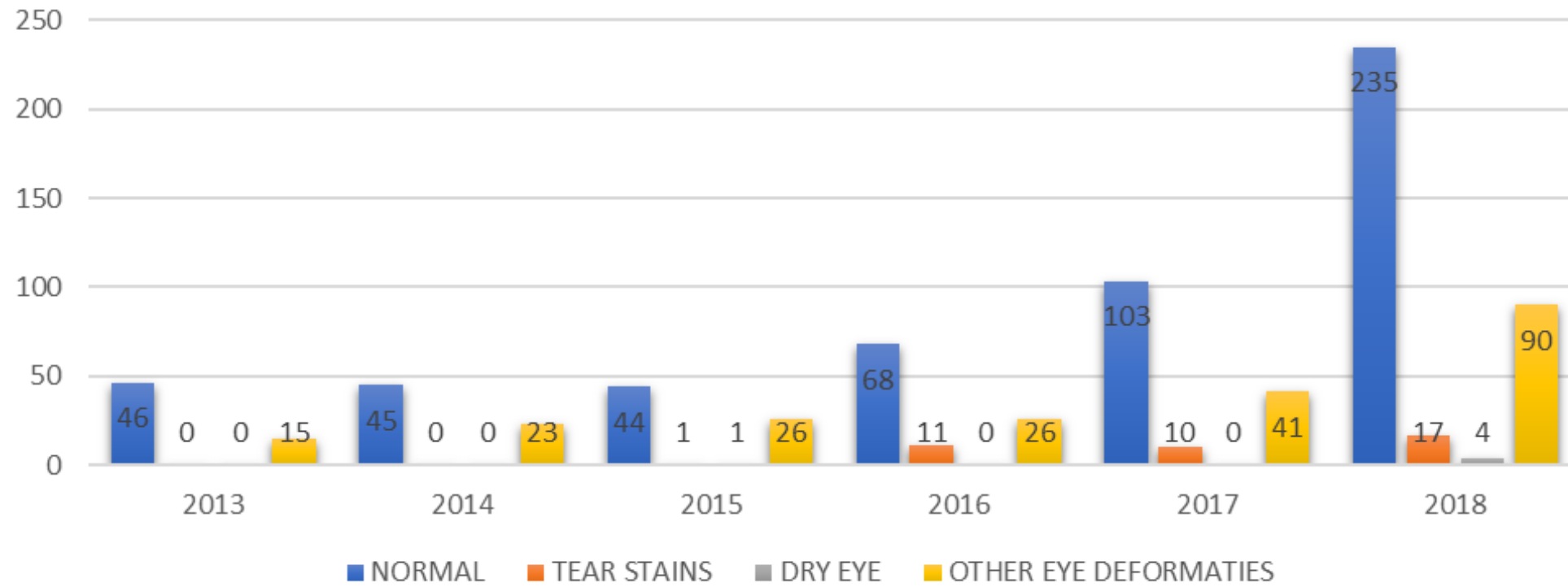
INTERDIGITAL CYSTS

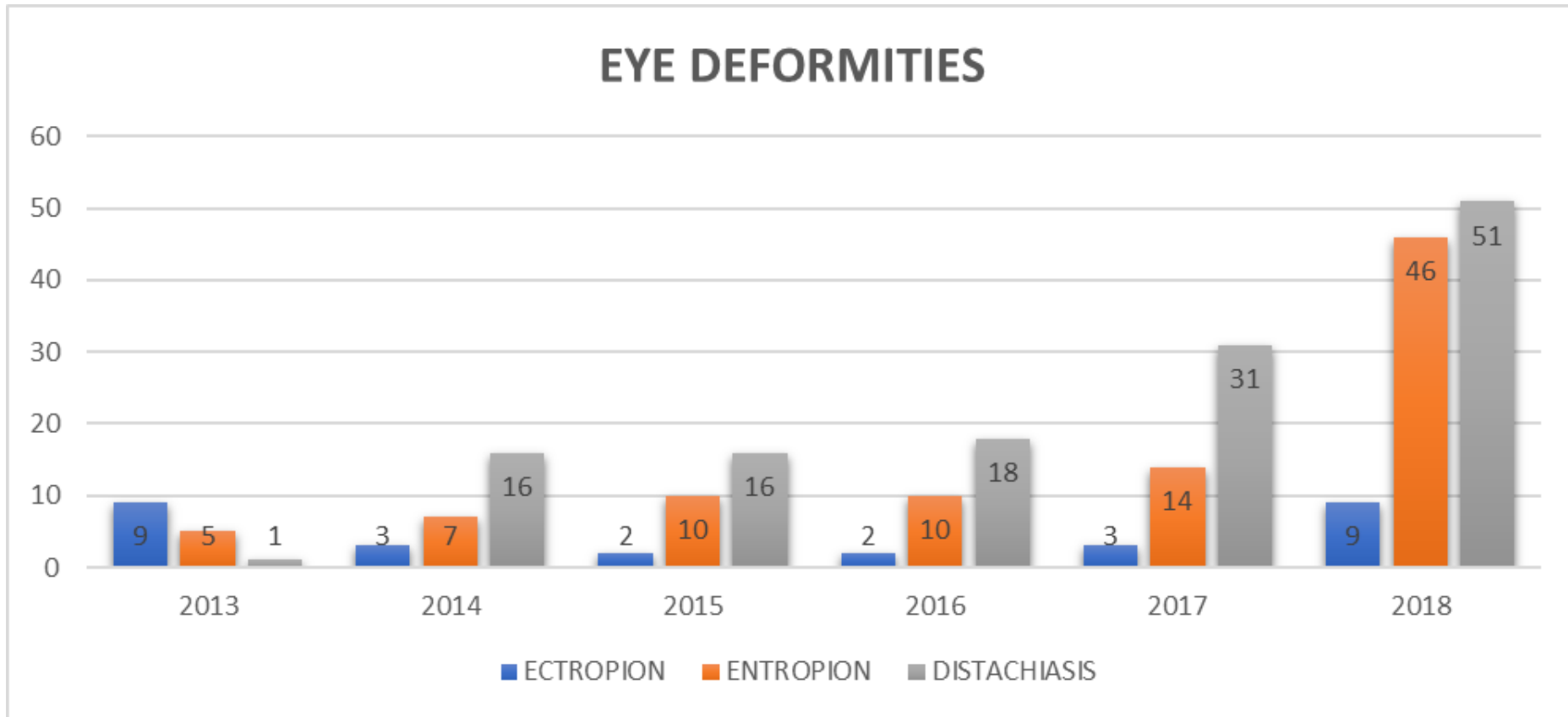


SKIN



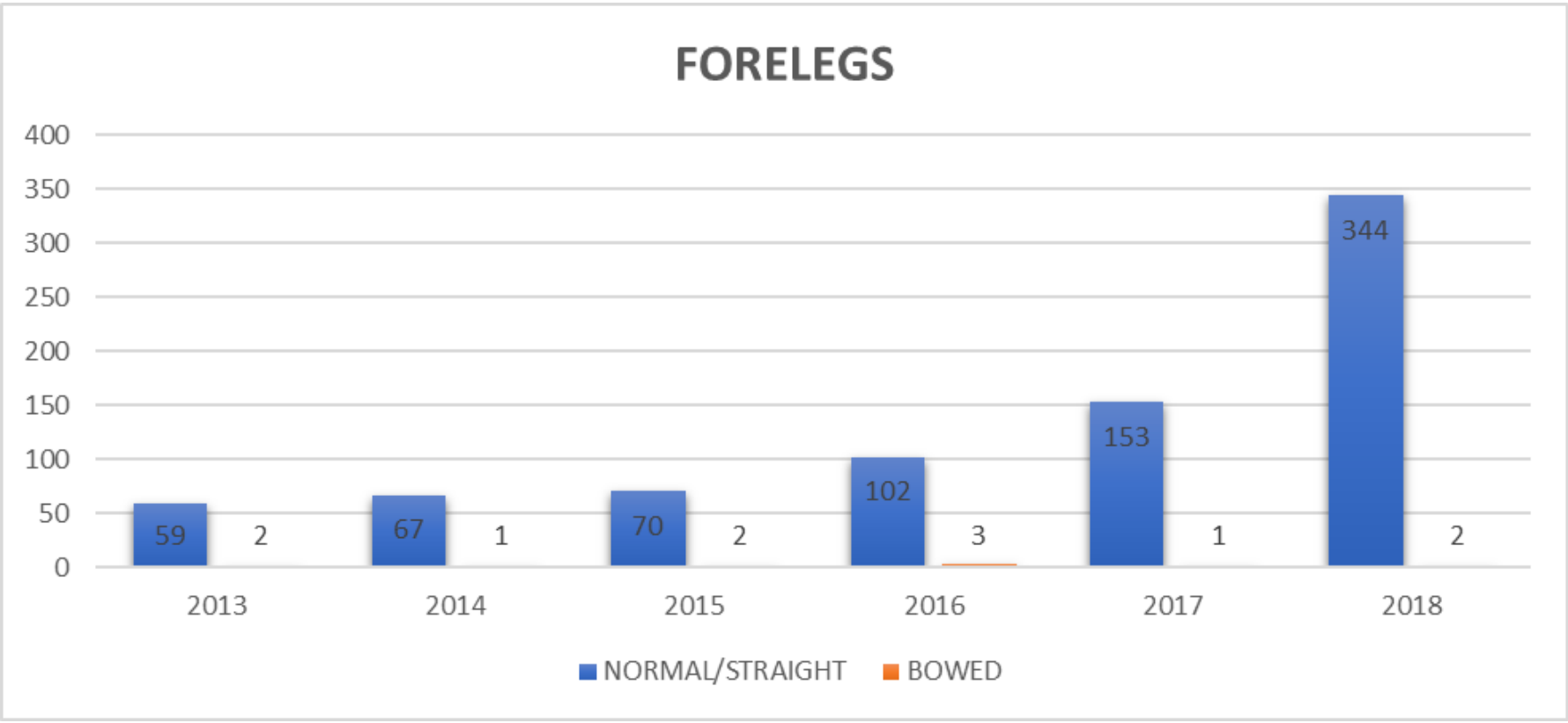
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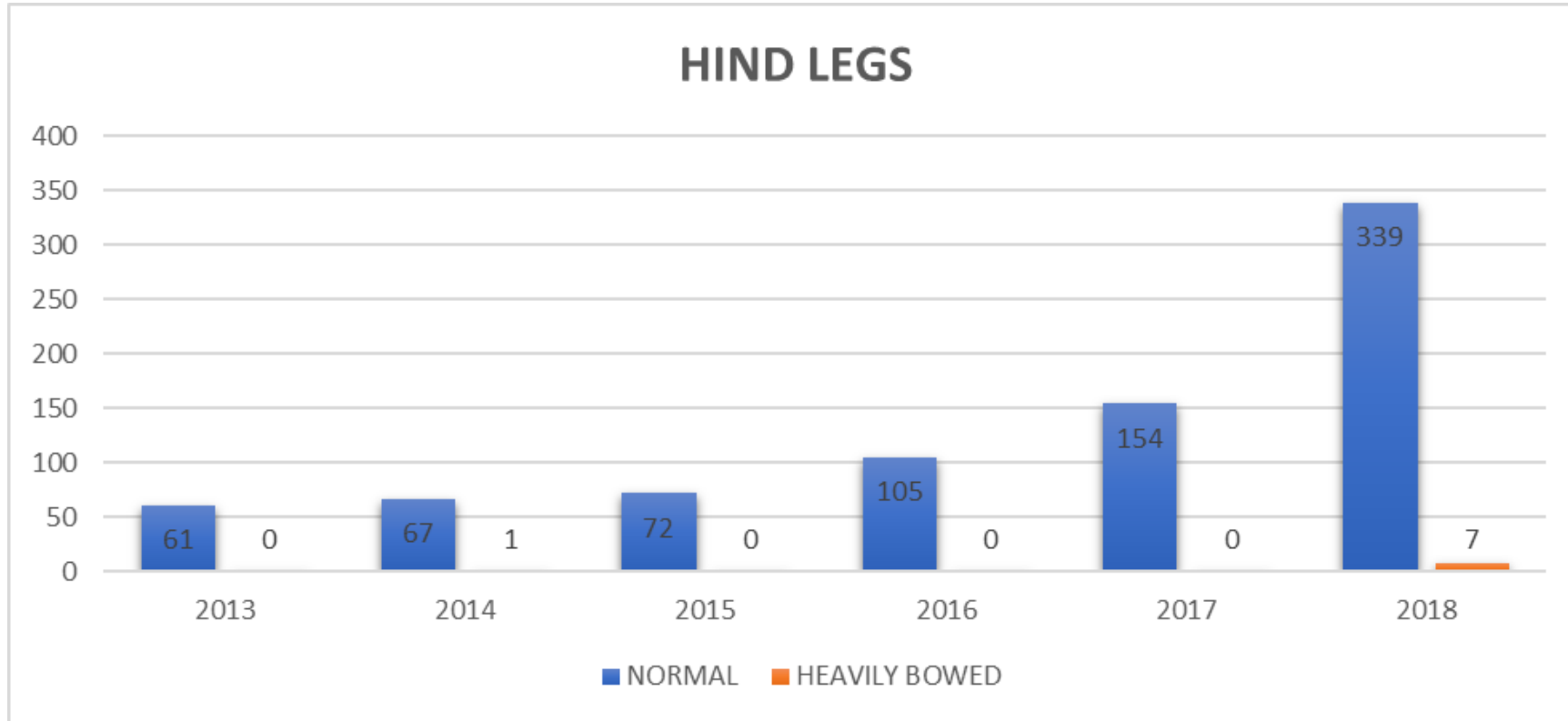


ALL EYE CONDITIONS WERE NOT DETRIMENTAL TO THE DOGS
HEALTH IN 2018

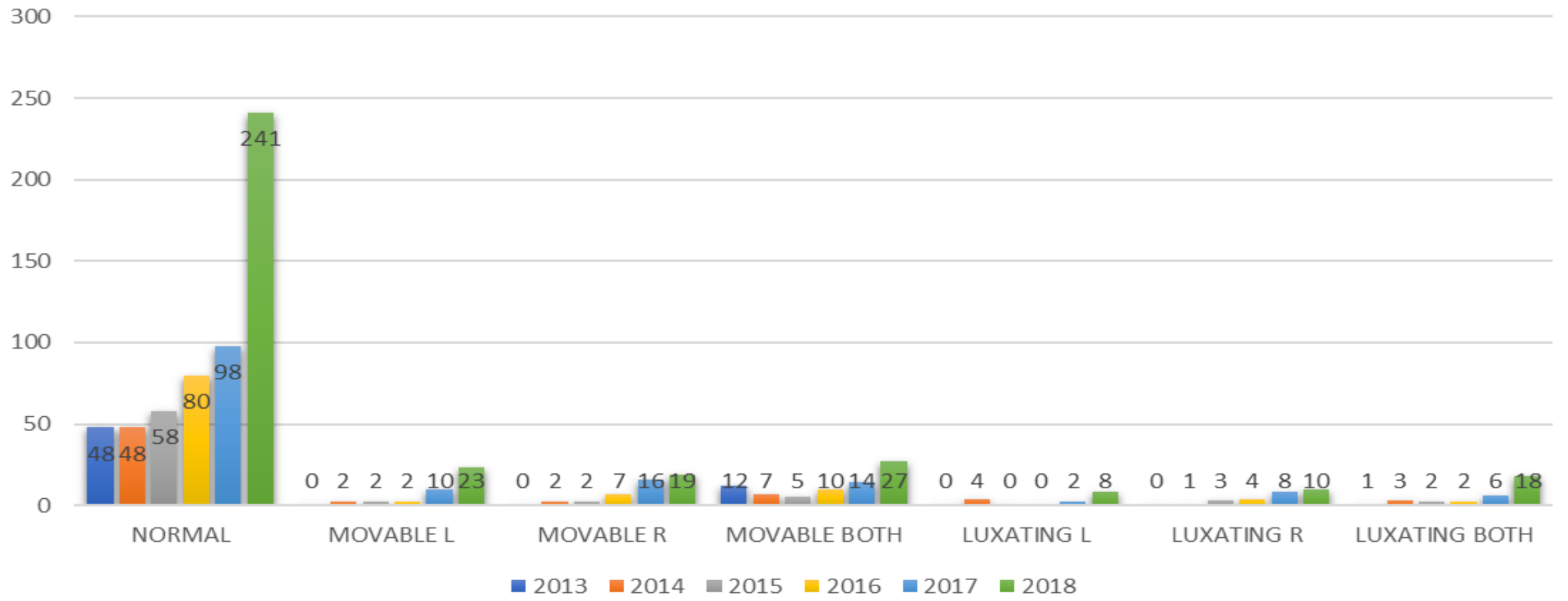
FORELEGS



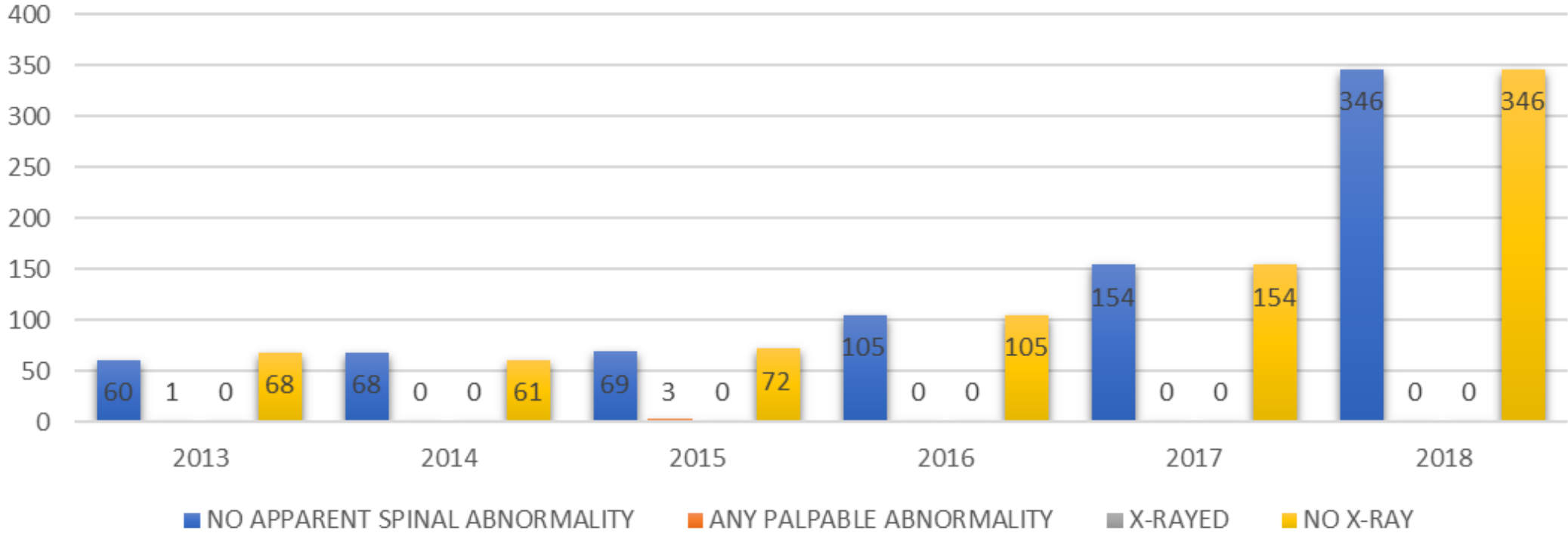
HIND LEGS



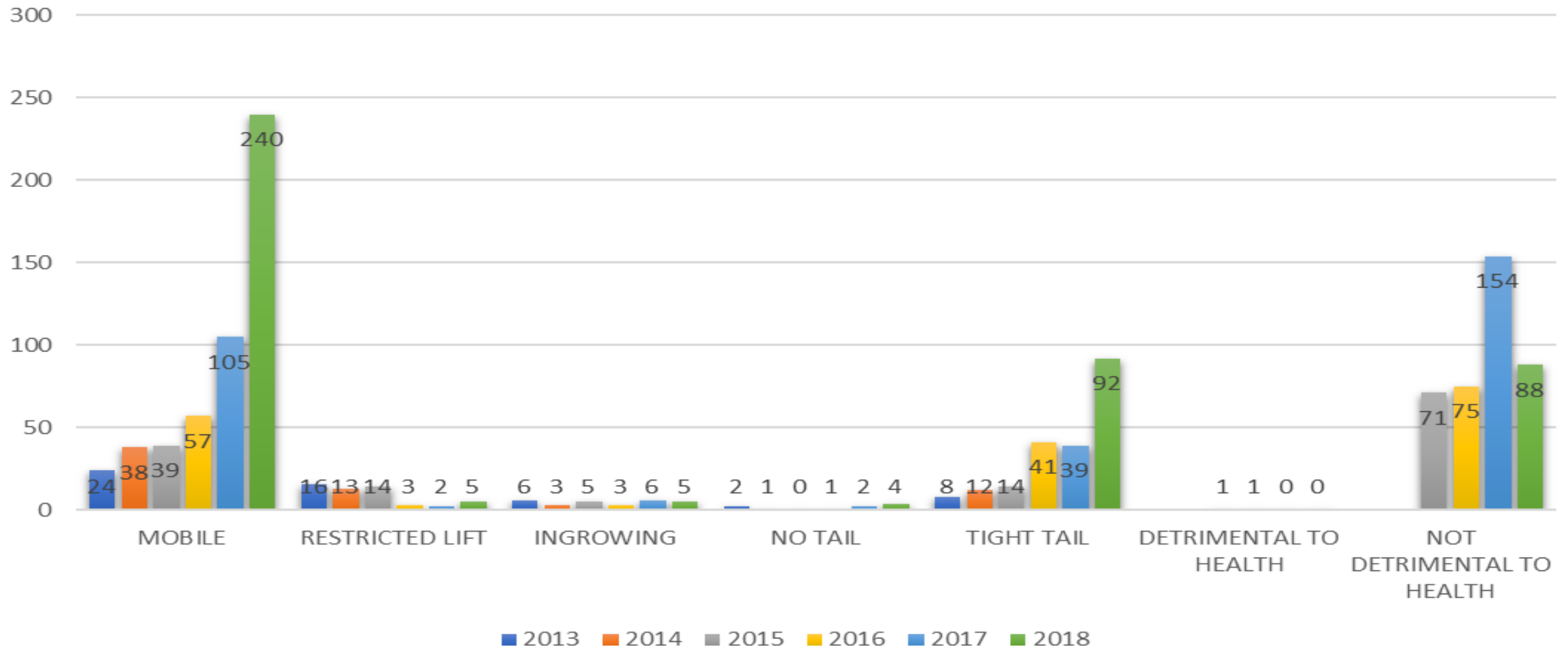
PATELA



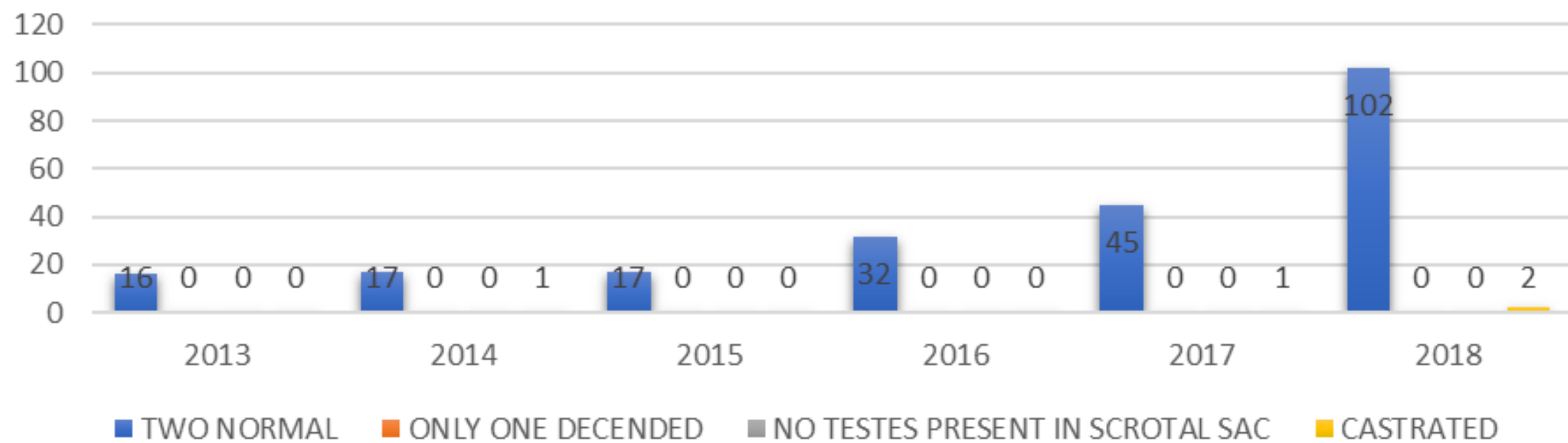
SPINE



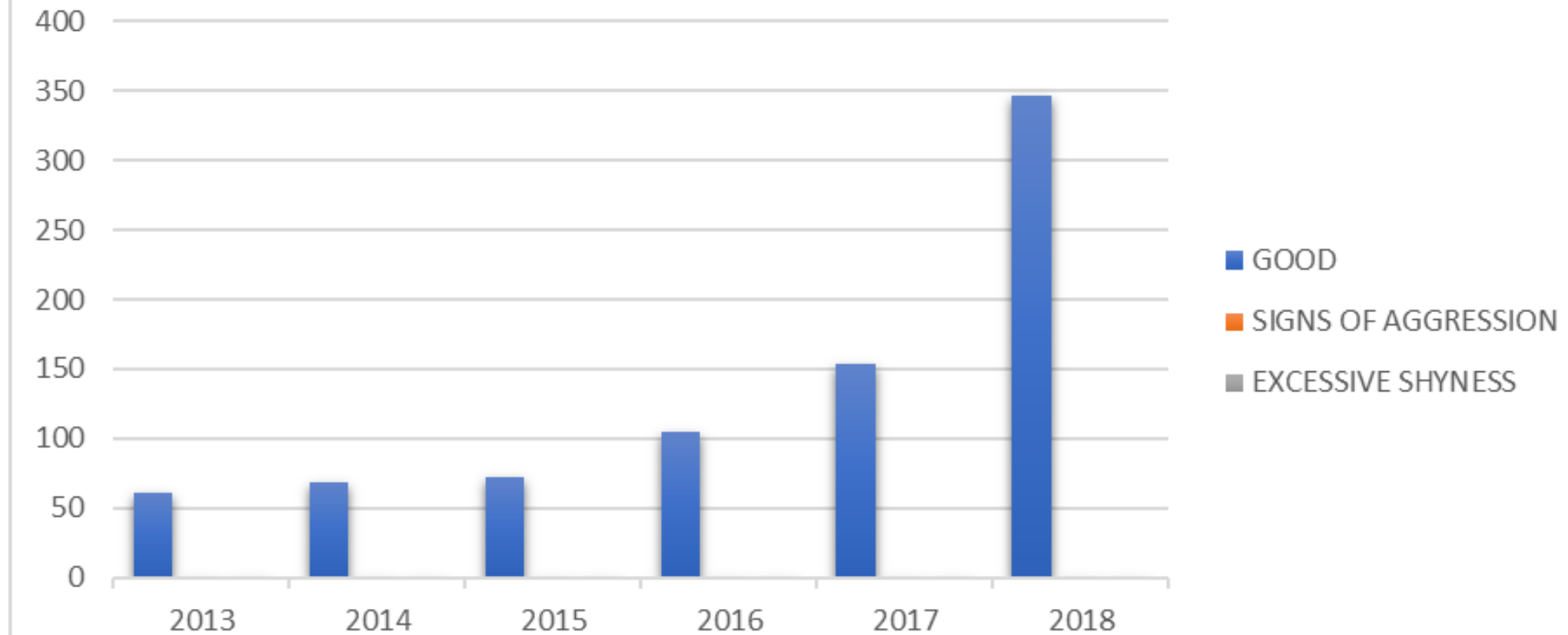
TAILS



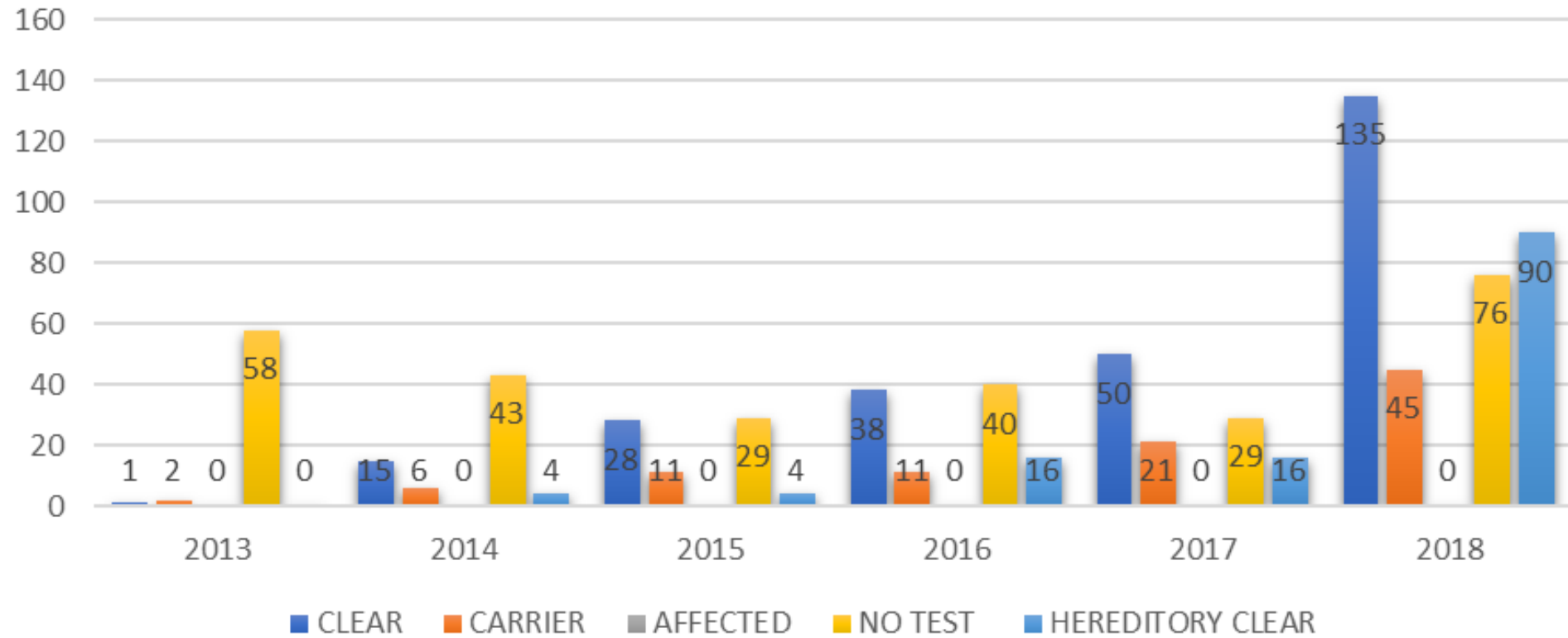
TESTES



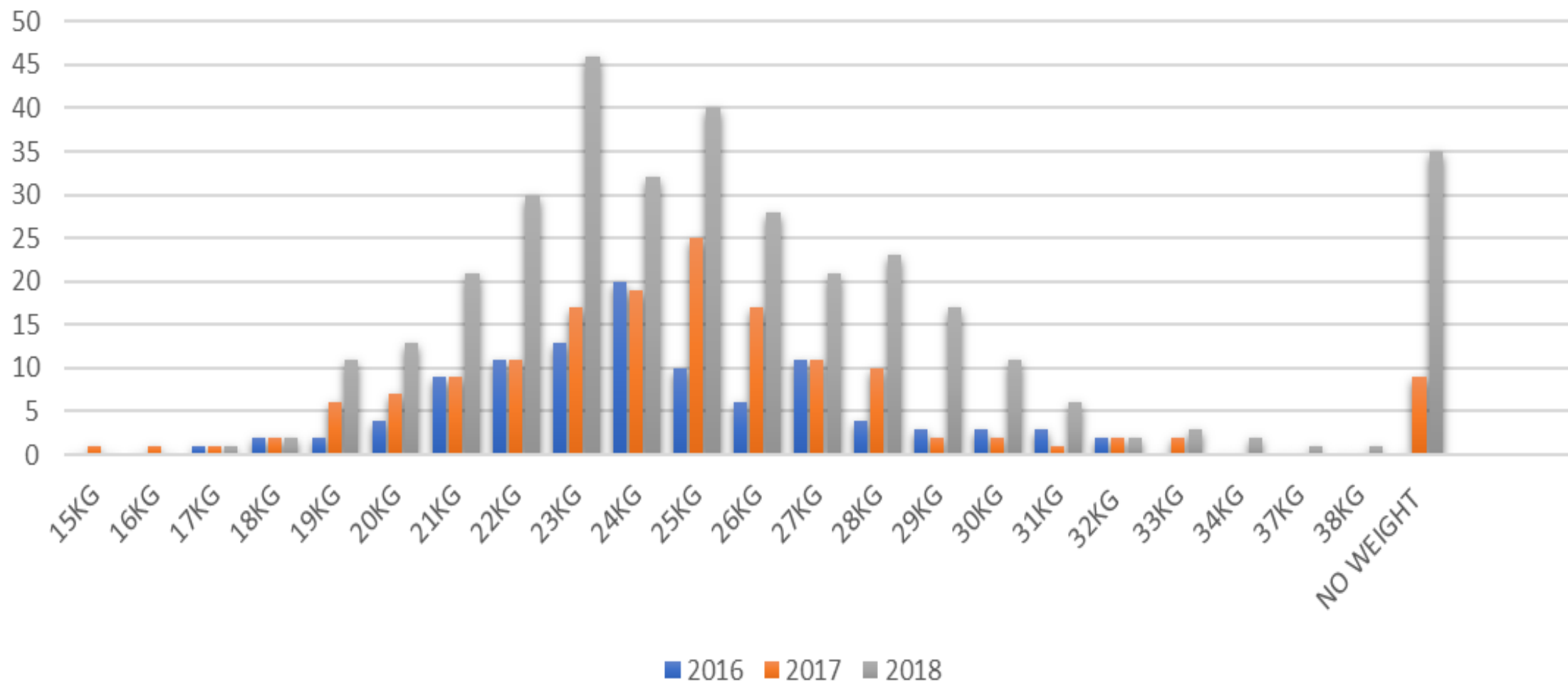
TEMPERAMENT



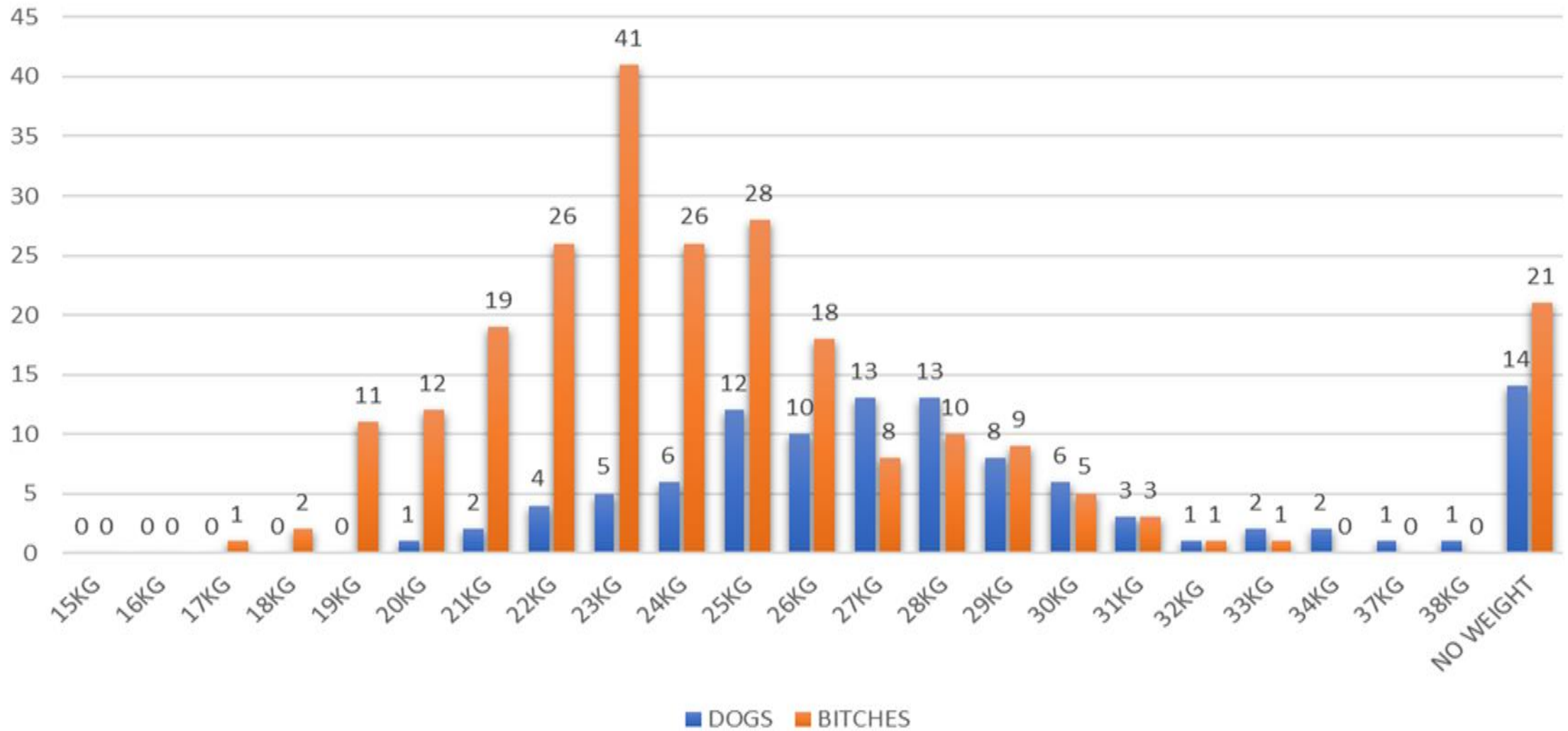
HUU



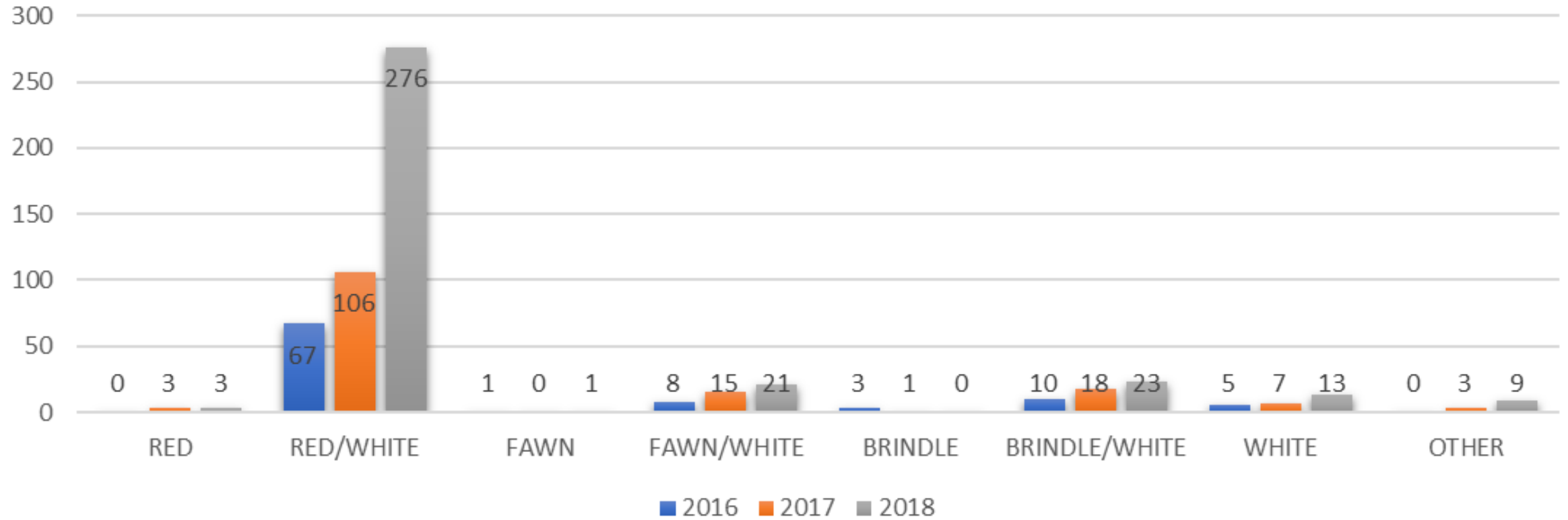
WEIGHTS



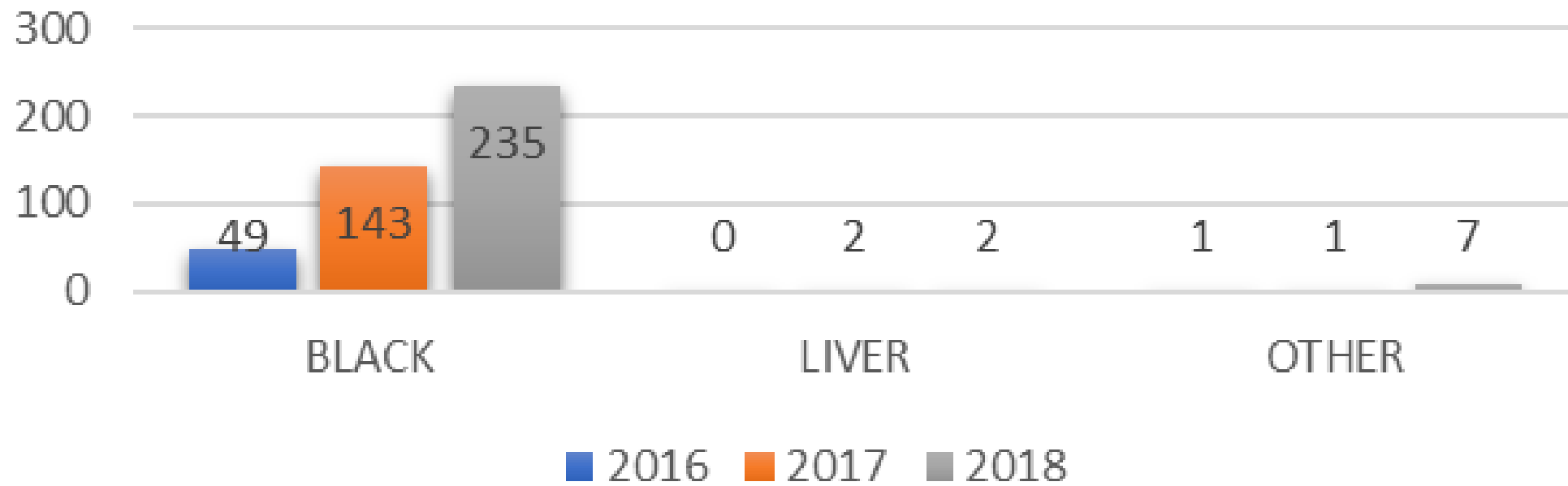
DOGS/BITCHES



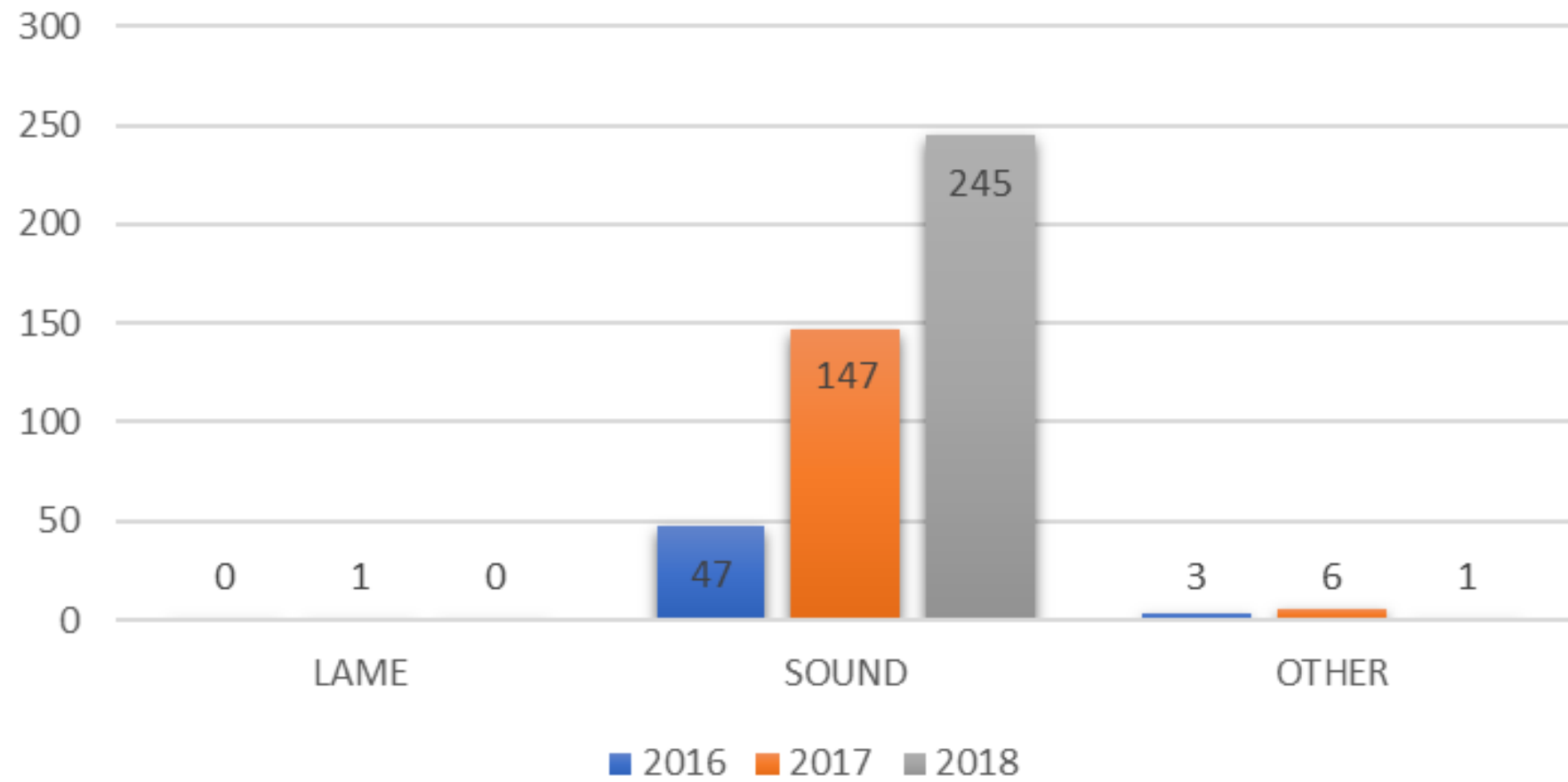
COLOURS



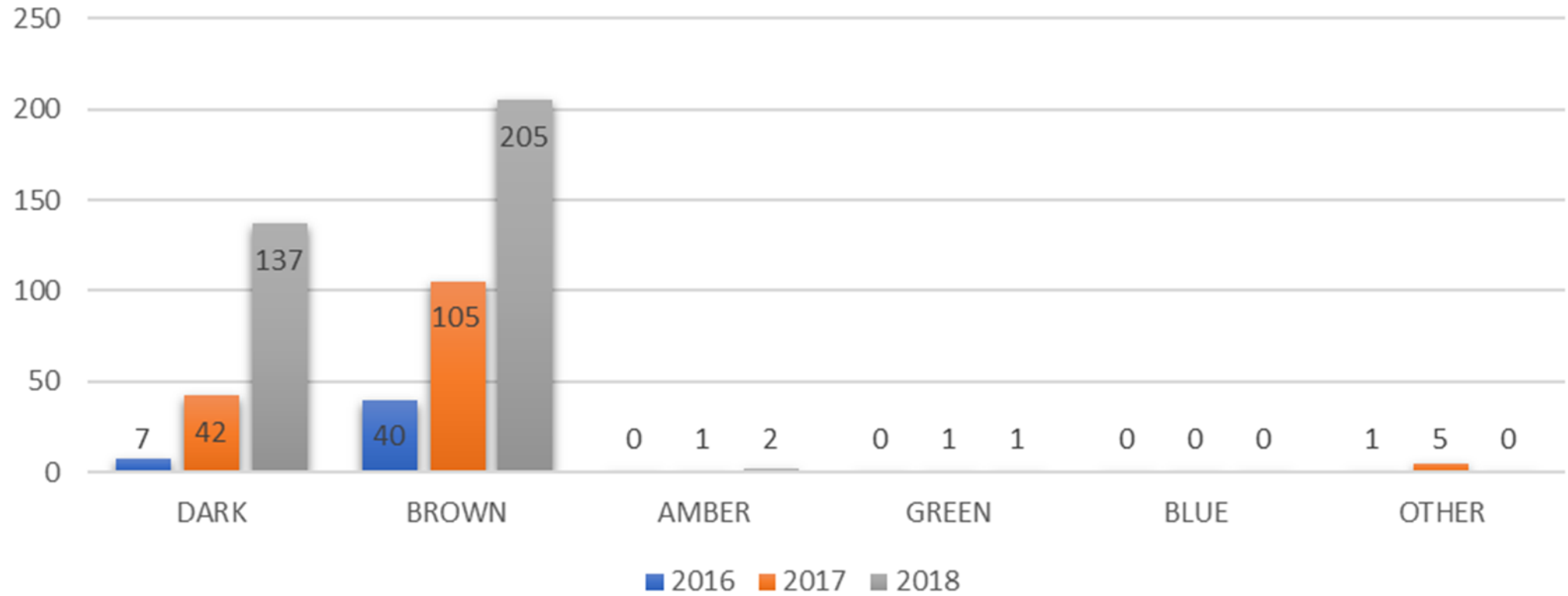
PIGMENTATION



MOVEMENT



EYE COLOUR



As far as the future for testing, we are very pleased how many breeders are taking up the Health Testing Scheme. We have now implemented a download of the Health form as so many are now taking it up it has been impossible to keep up sending out individual forms. This is working well and Leiza is sending out people's certificates when the results are recorded.

Breed Clubs are still holding some testing sessions alongside their shows, which are well supported.

This brings us to the latest initiative that has been taken jointly by the Kennel Club and Cambridge University setting up a Respiratory Functional Grading Scheme.

The Bulldog Breed Council, which is responsible for the conservation of the Bulldog, wishes to thank all the breeders, owners and the breed clubs for enabling Cambridge University to carry out research into the Bulldog Breed. By participating on a voluntary basis at shows and the specially set up health test days.

Without the cooperation of the owners it would have not been possible to develop a scheme of this scale, many pet owners have joined in and we hope they will be made aware that they too can take advantage of the new scheme.

The numbers tested for research have led to more accurate meaningful data being collected, allowing the University team to train vets to offer this test regionally across the country giving access to the scheme to most breeders within a 2-hour radius of where they live. The Grade will form part of the Breed Councils Established Health Scheme and as many people as possible will be encouraged to take it up.

The Kennel Club are to be congratulated for having the confidence in the difference this test can make, to the future health of generations of Brachycephalic breeds, to fund and to incorporate the collection and building of a whole new area of information to be analysed and to add to their accessible Health Data base in the same way as HUU data is added to registration documents which will give breeders more information to help breed healthy dogs. The Results being open to view.

Vicky Collins-Nattrass

Breed Health Co-ordinator