

# What are the characteristics of the ideal leisure horse?

Key findings of the questionnaire performed by the  
FEIF Leisure Riding Committee, 2014

# Background for the survey

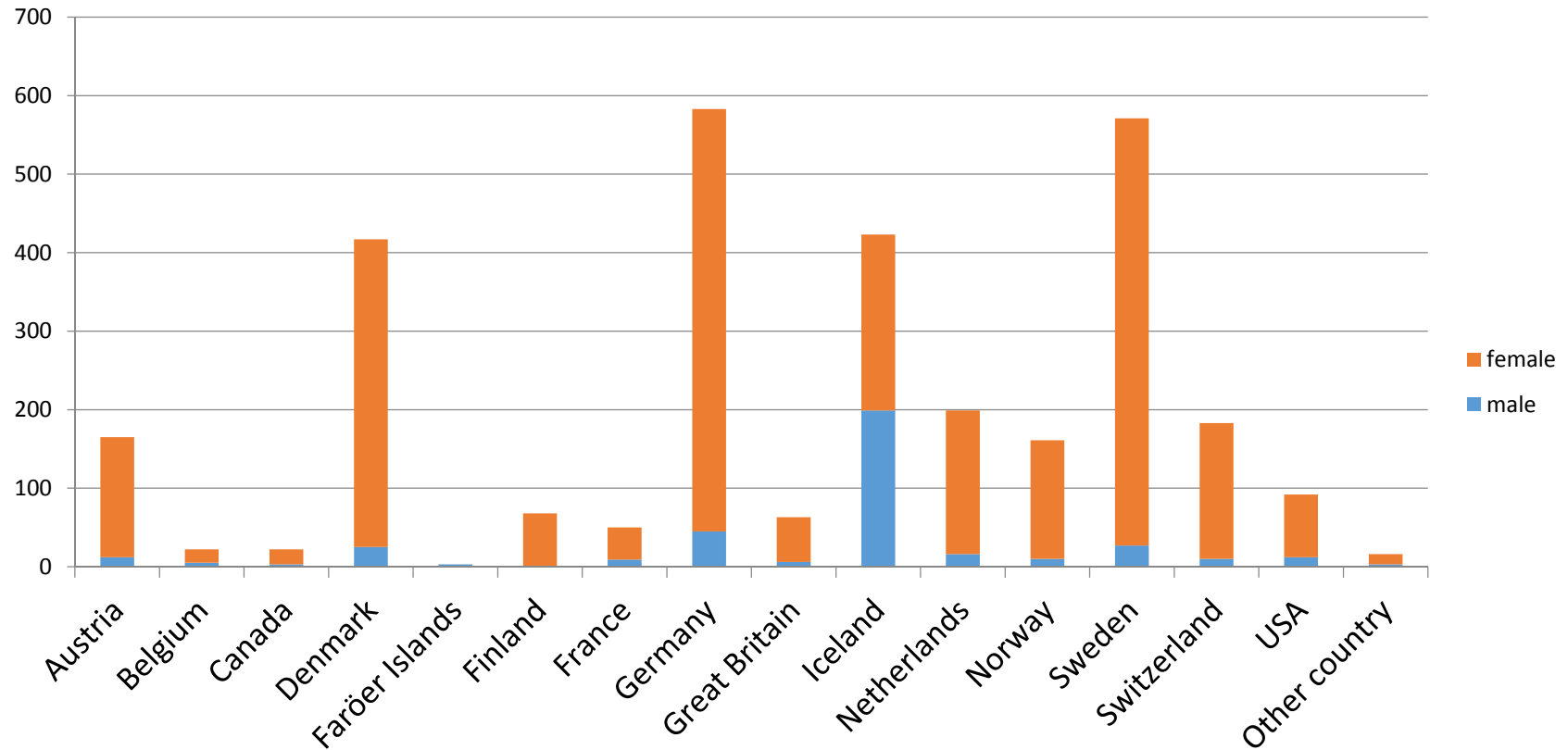
- We wish to establish a test of the characteristics and overall ridability of a horse
  - To secure the best possible match between rider and horse
  - To allow trainers to aim at special goals for leisure horses
- Holar and Hvannerey Universities have confirmed participation
  - At the conference in 2014, universities requested a survey to start the work to know what is prioritised when looking for a horse for leisure riding

# How?

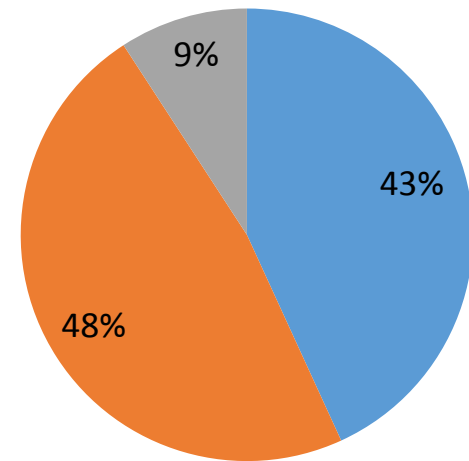
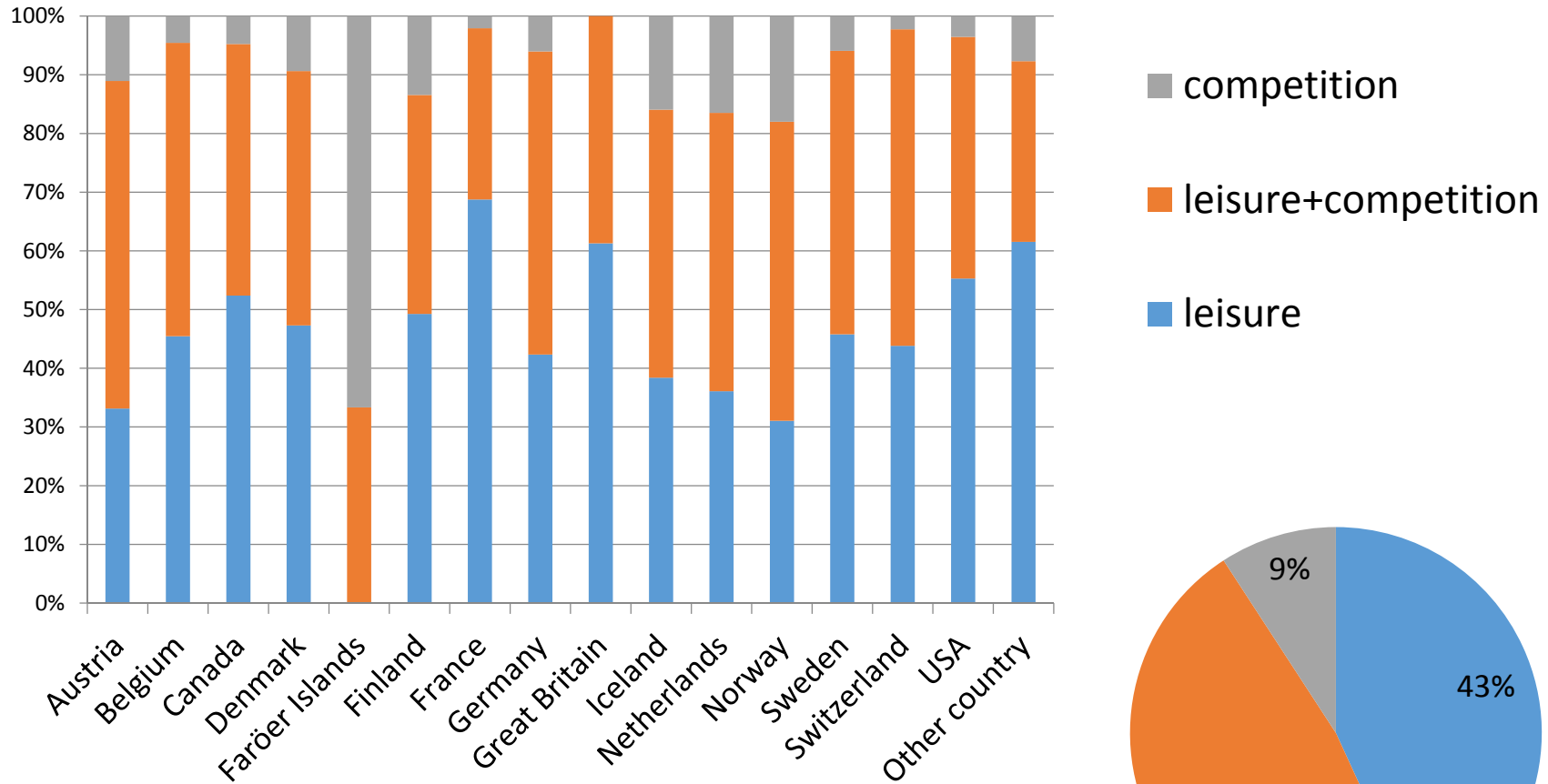
- The survey was launched in May 2014 and ended (officially) in July 2014. Responses having arrived later have been included.
- The survey was launched on FEIF website, national websites and via FEIF Facebook (which was shared many times).

# General information

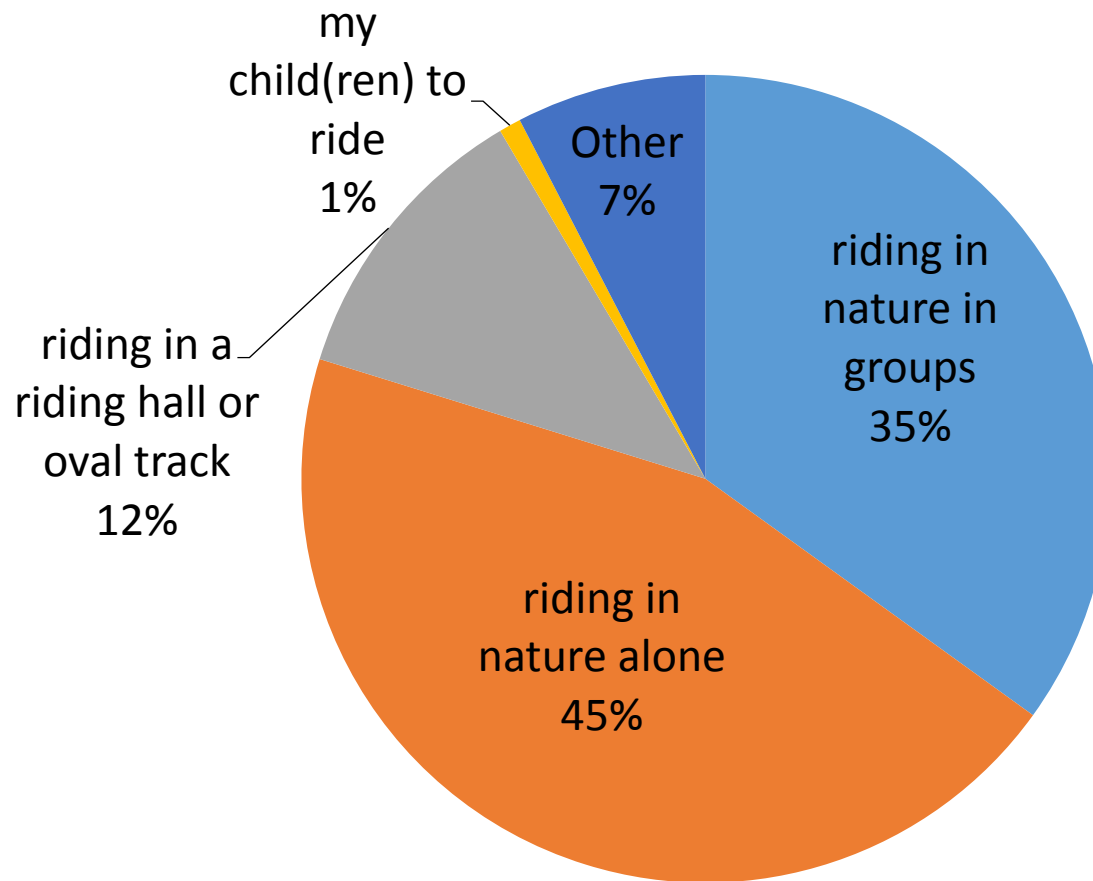
- 3060 responses



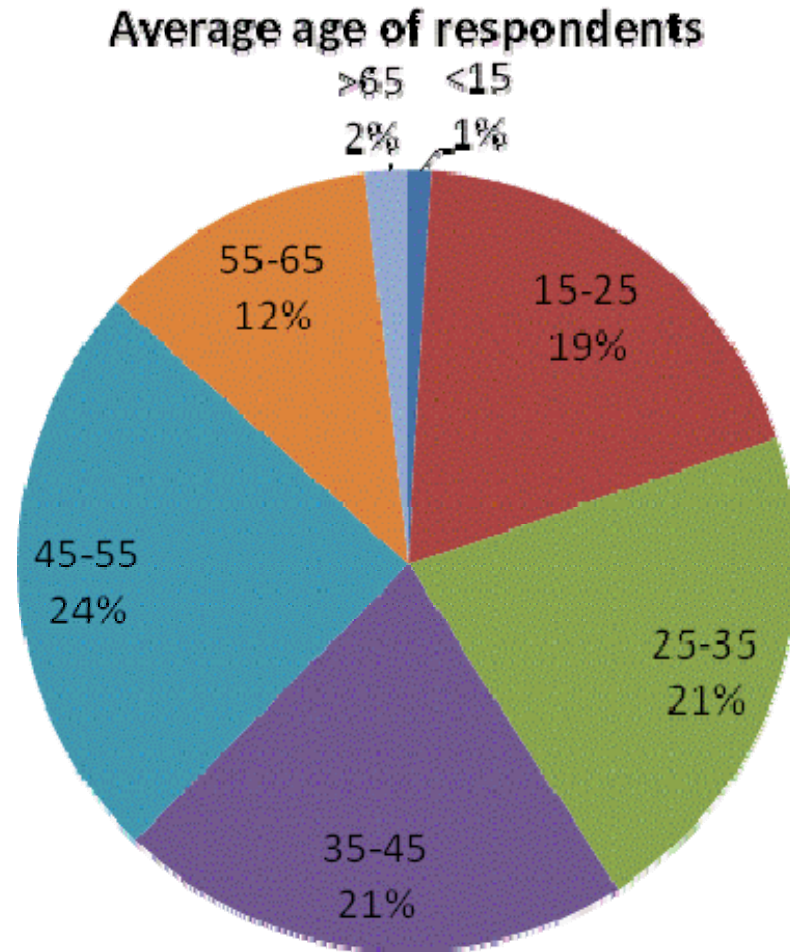
# Respondents' main interest per country



# What do we use our horse for?

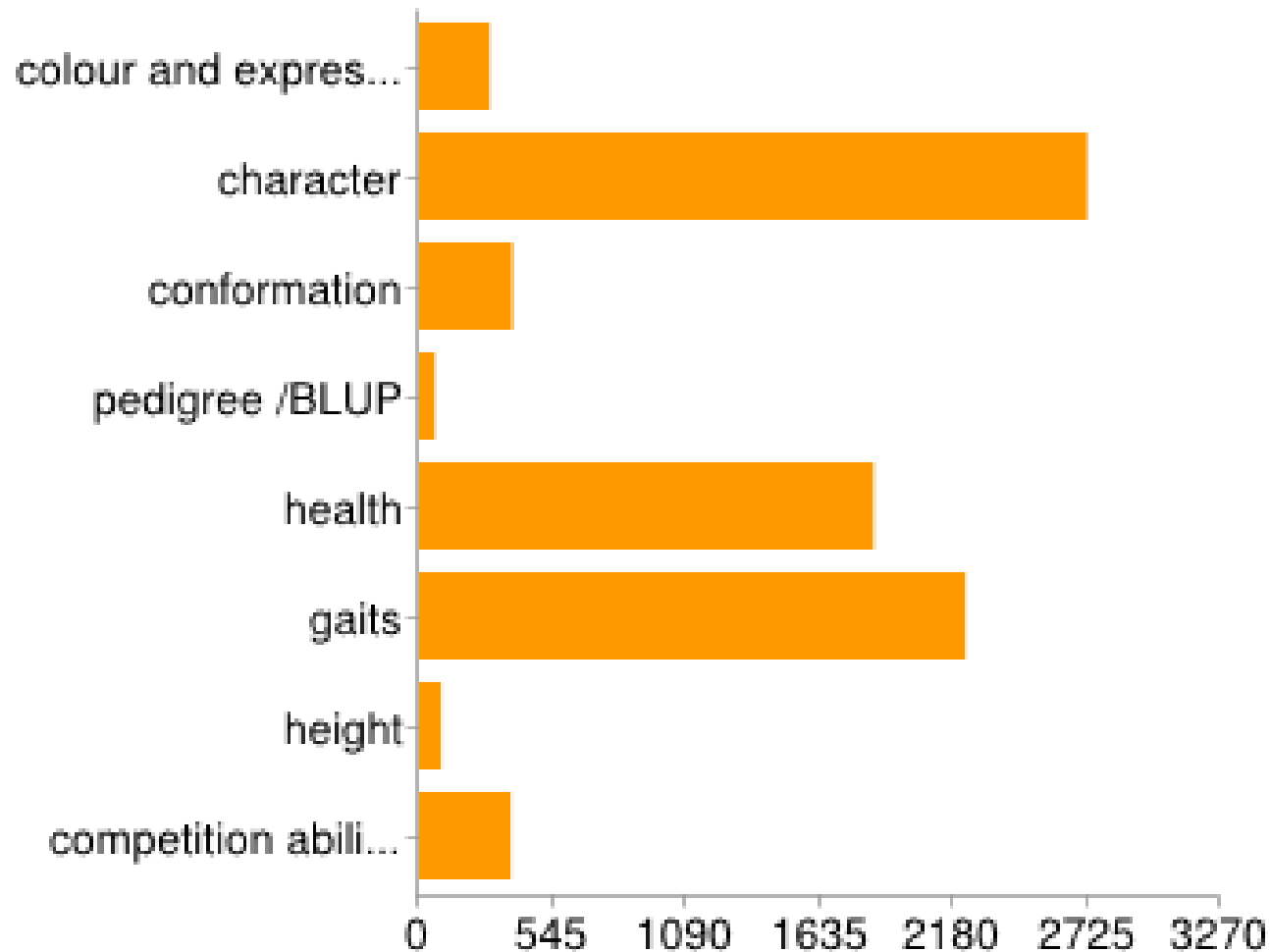


# Age vs country



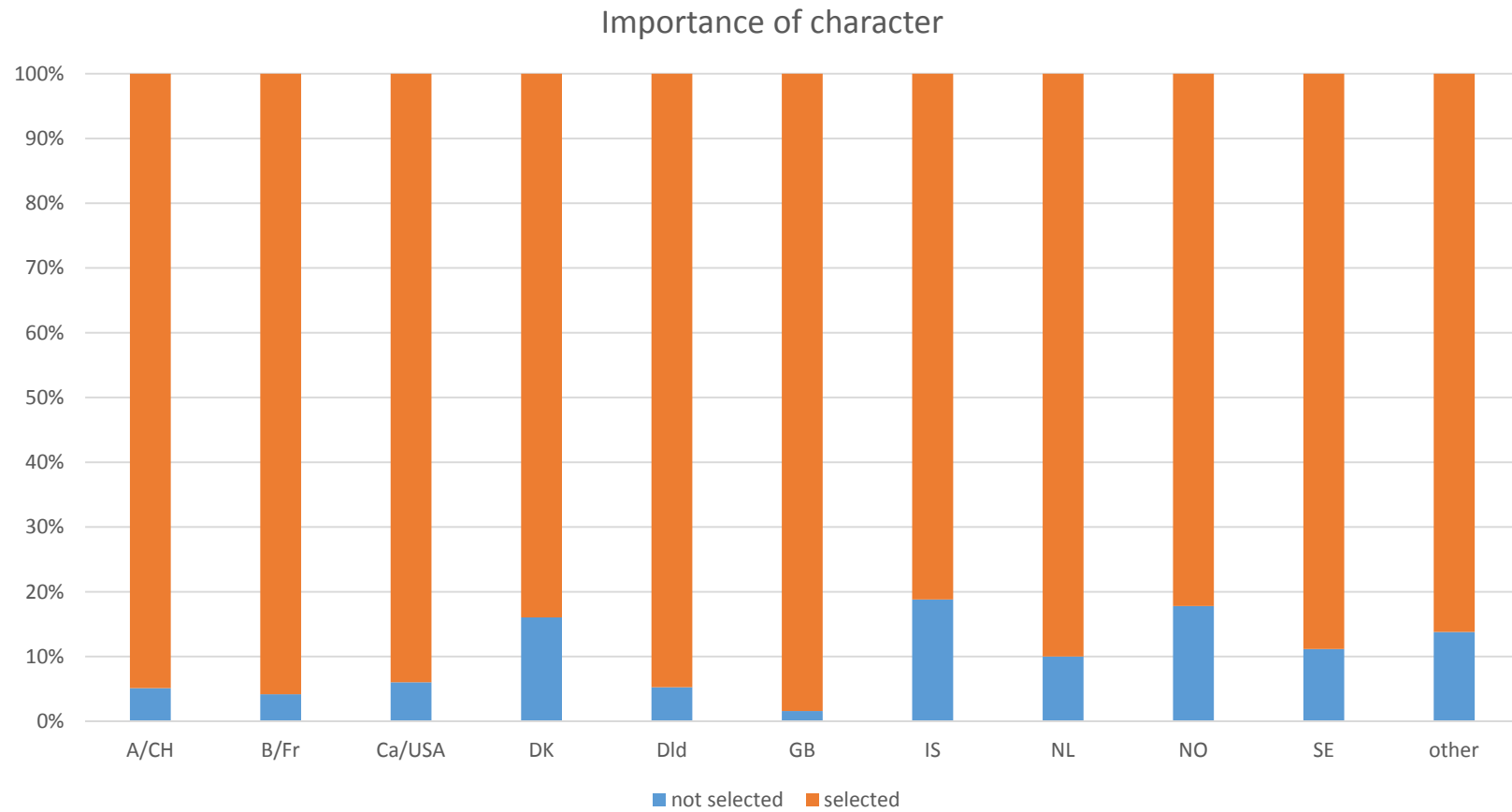
- Belgium: 50% of respondents < 25 years old
- USA and Great Britain: more than 40% of respondents > 55 years old

My picture of the ideal leisure horse is mainly based on its:

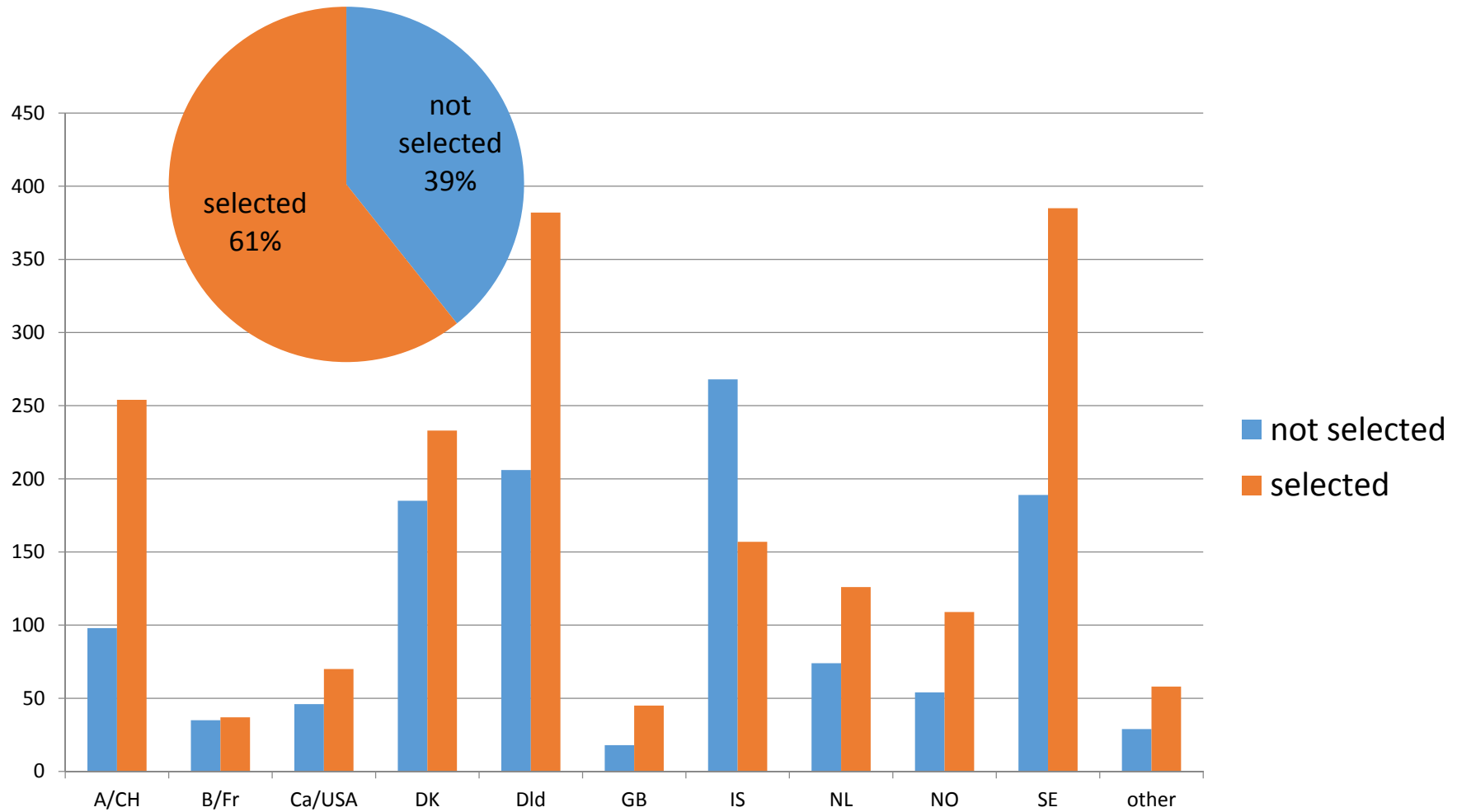




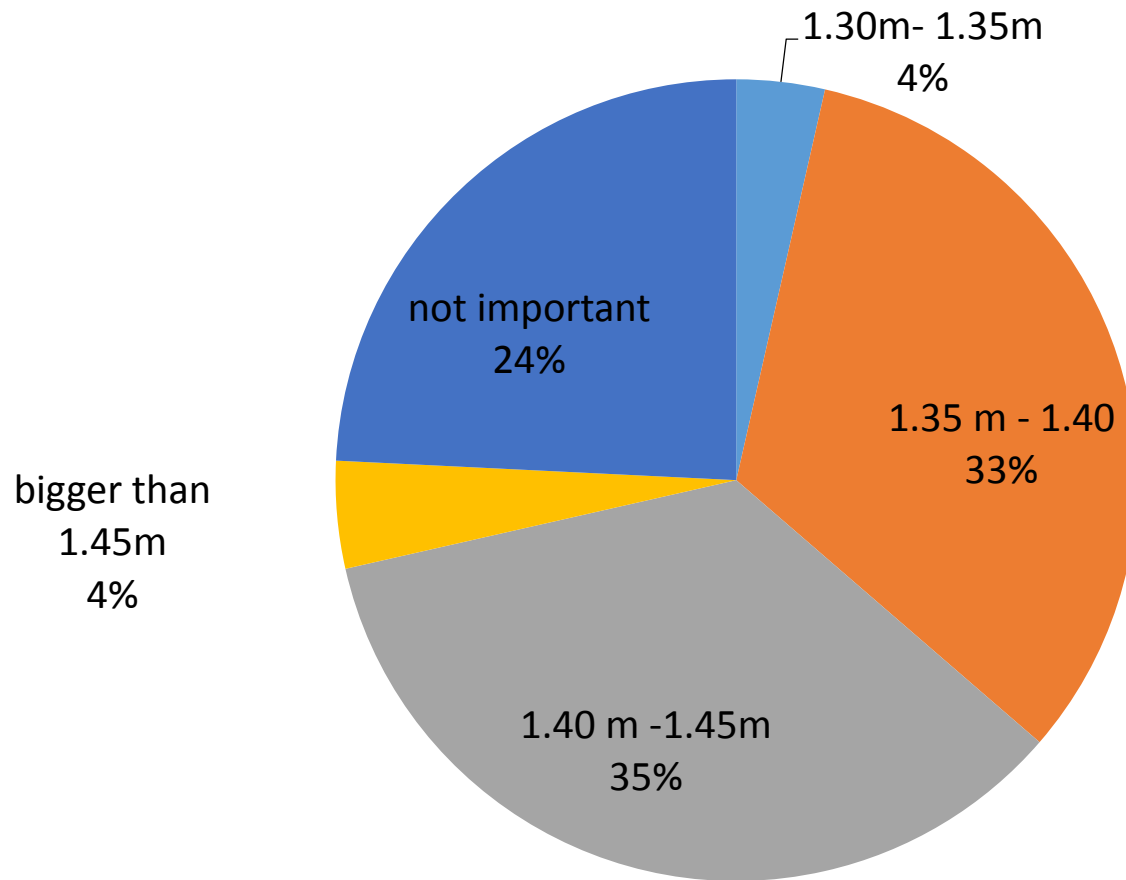
# The importance of character



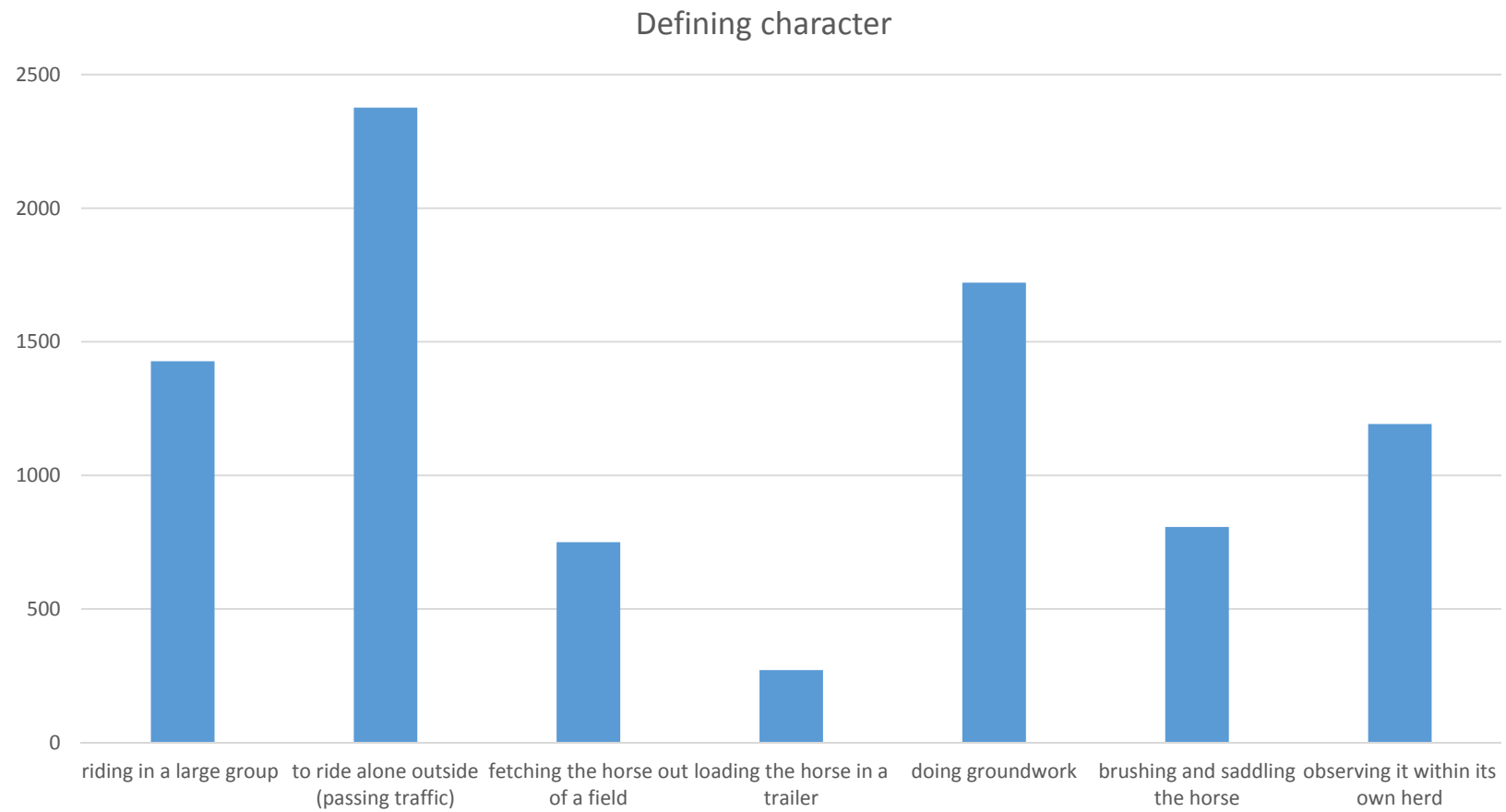
# Health – difference caused by eczema?



# Height of the ideal leisure horse

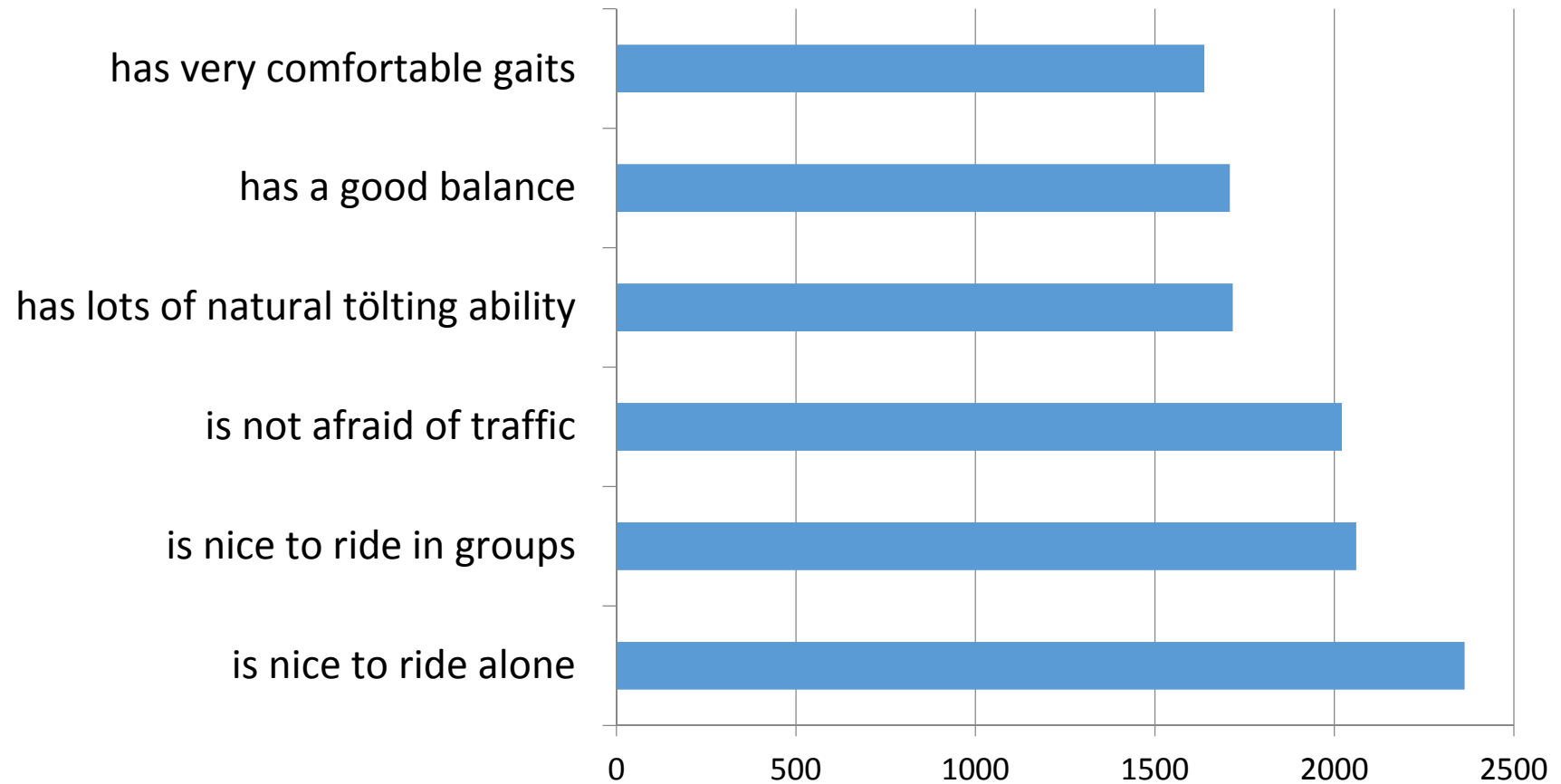


# How to define character

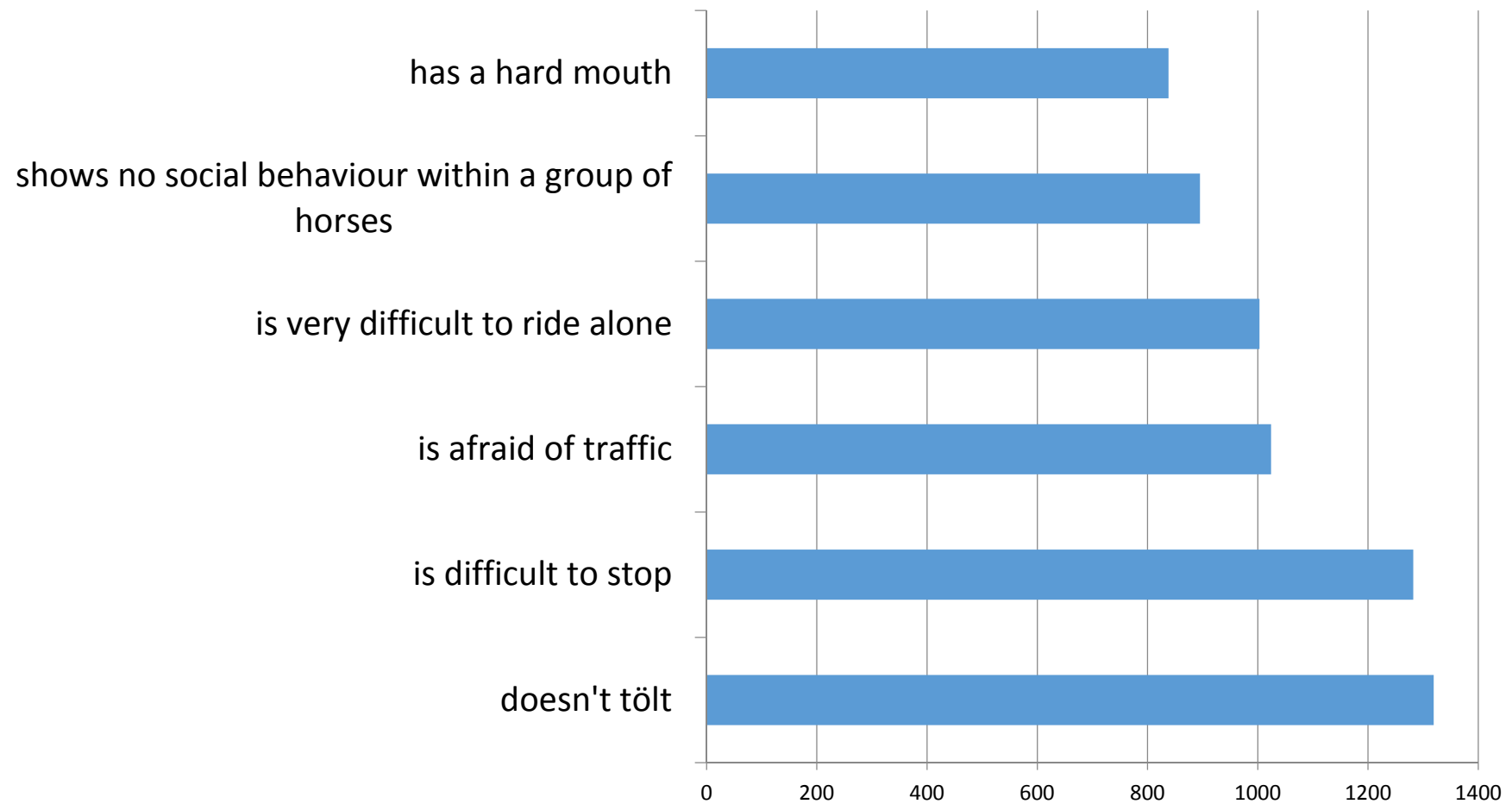


# A leisure horse is in my view a horse which.....

## Top 6 selected characteristics



# Top 6 of reasons NOT to buy a horse

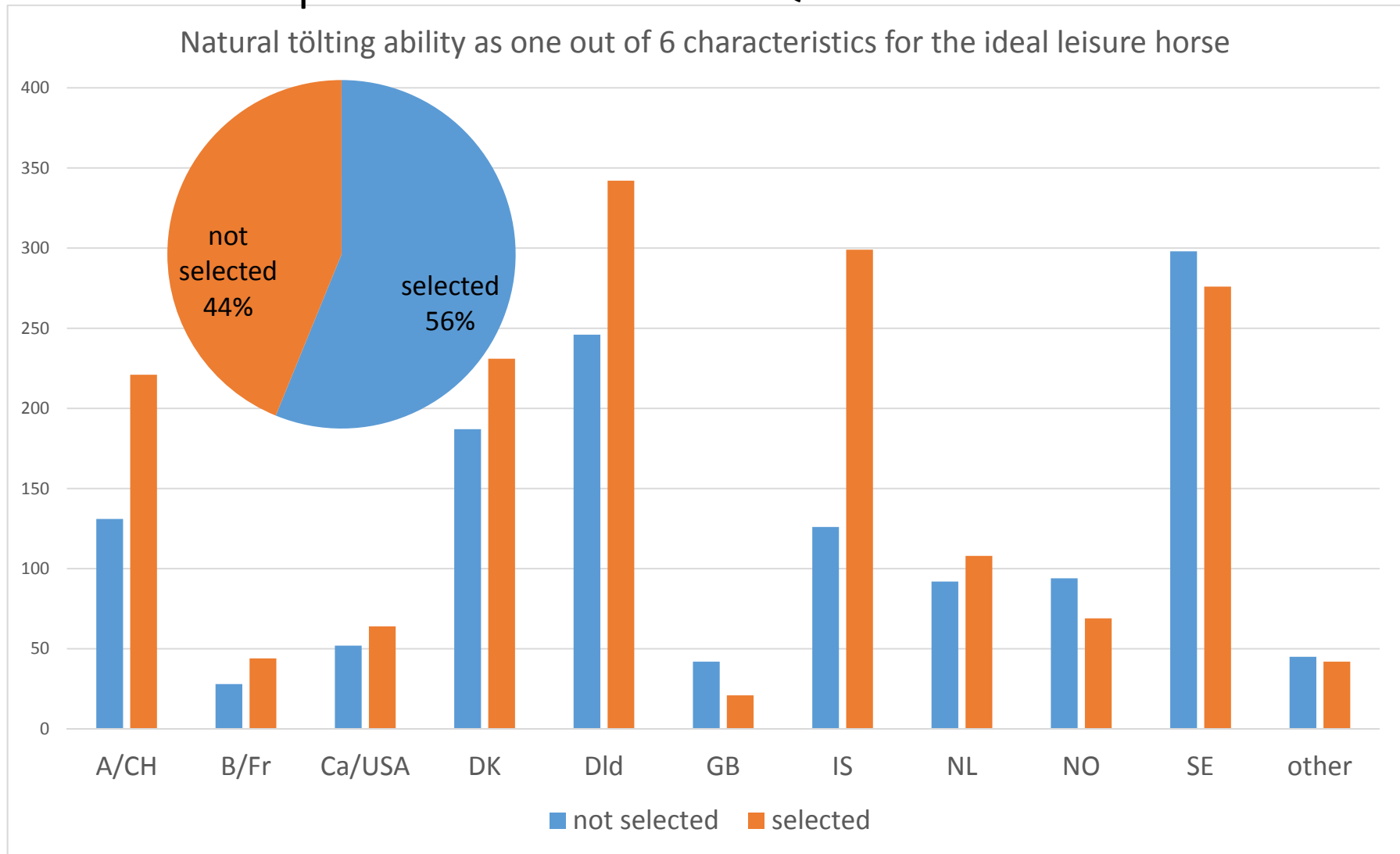


# How important is tölt?

4 questions about tölt:

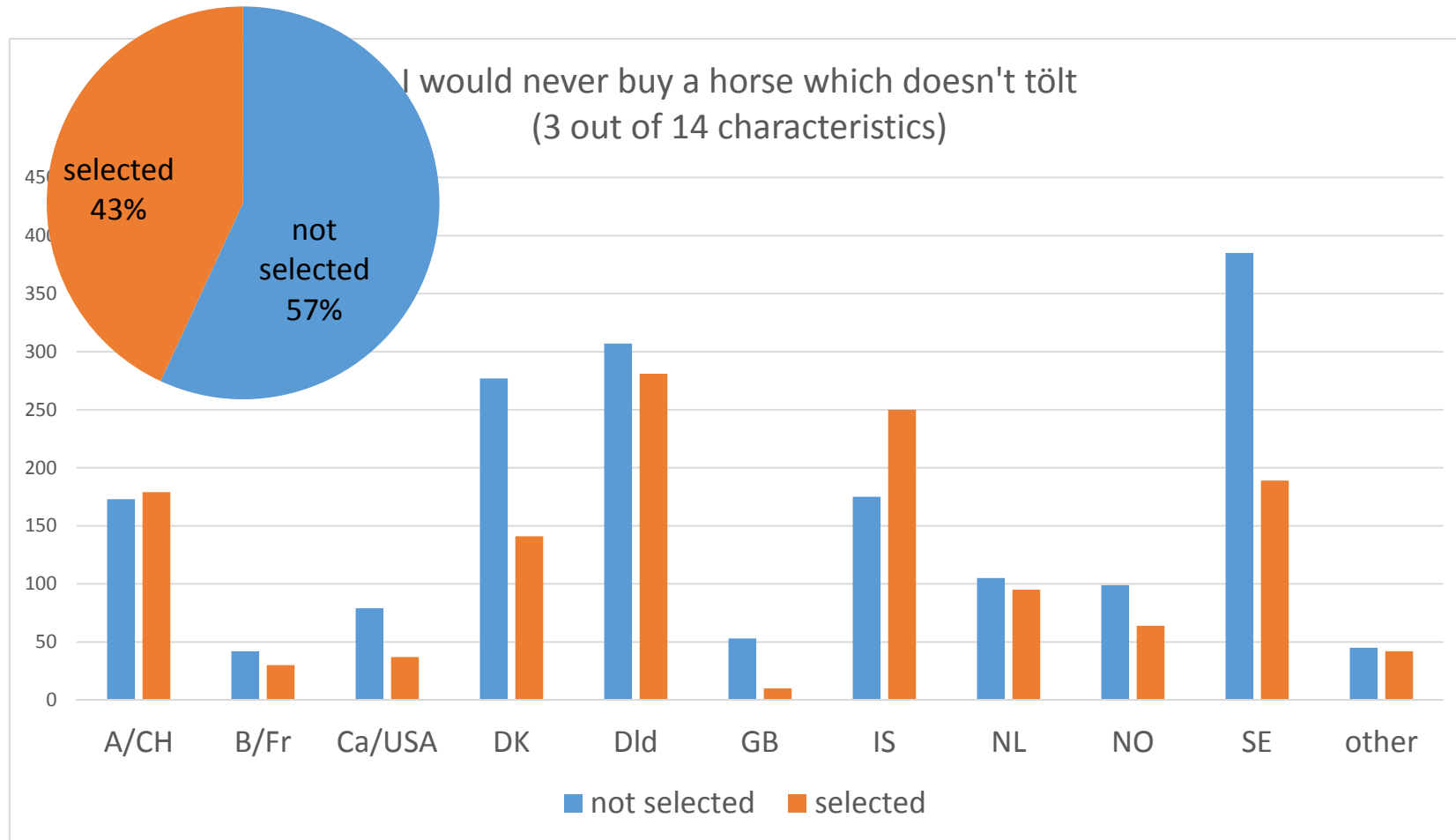
- A leisure horse is, in my view, a horse which (choose the 6 most important characteristics out of 15, varying from gaits, to character, level of training )
- I would never buy a horse which (choose 3 out of 14, one option = doesn't tölt)
- When choosing between two horses to buy, I'd choose
  - A horse which can't tölt / which can't be ridden alone
  - A horse which can't tölt / which can't be ridden in groups

# How important is tölt?– Question 1

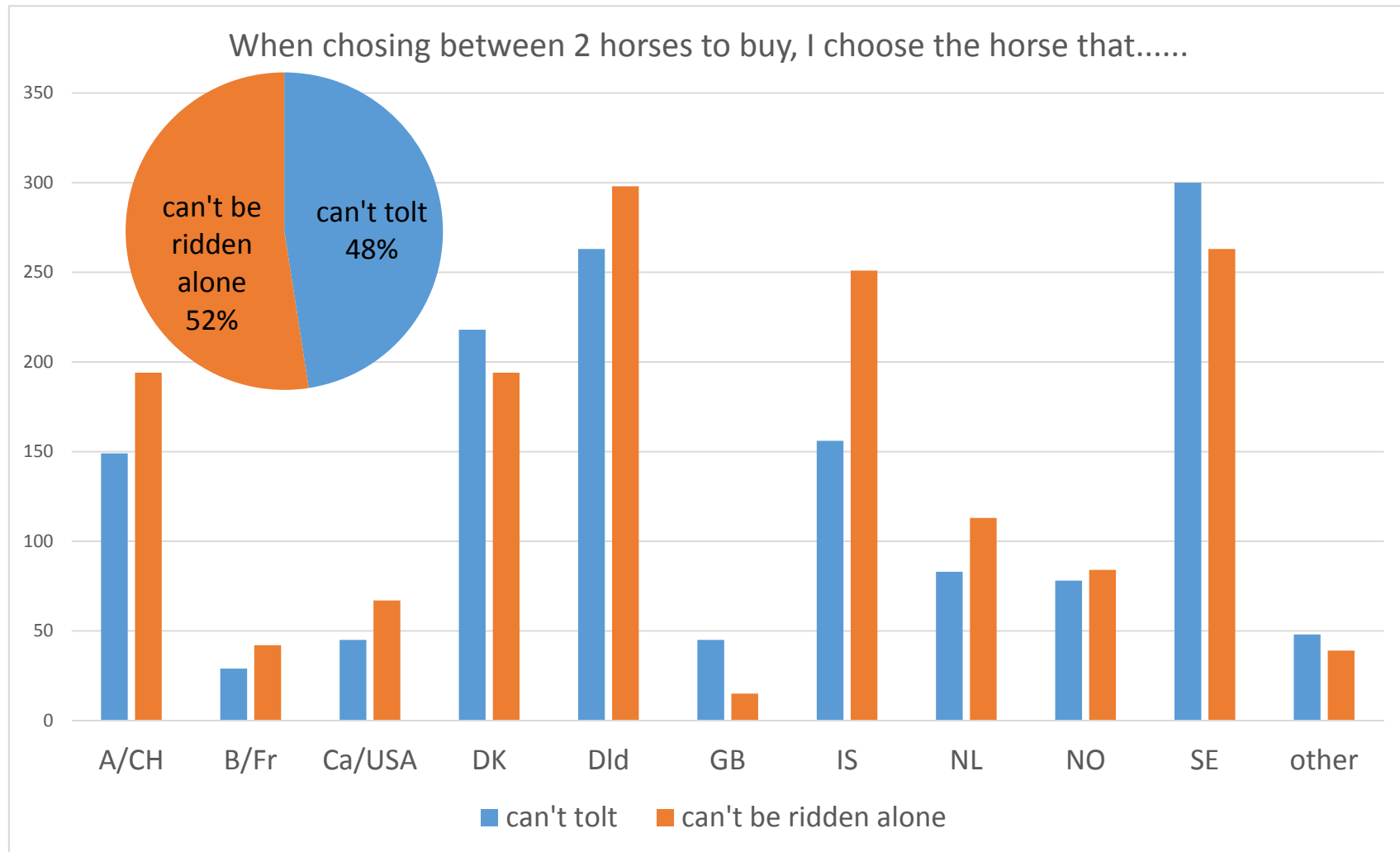




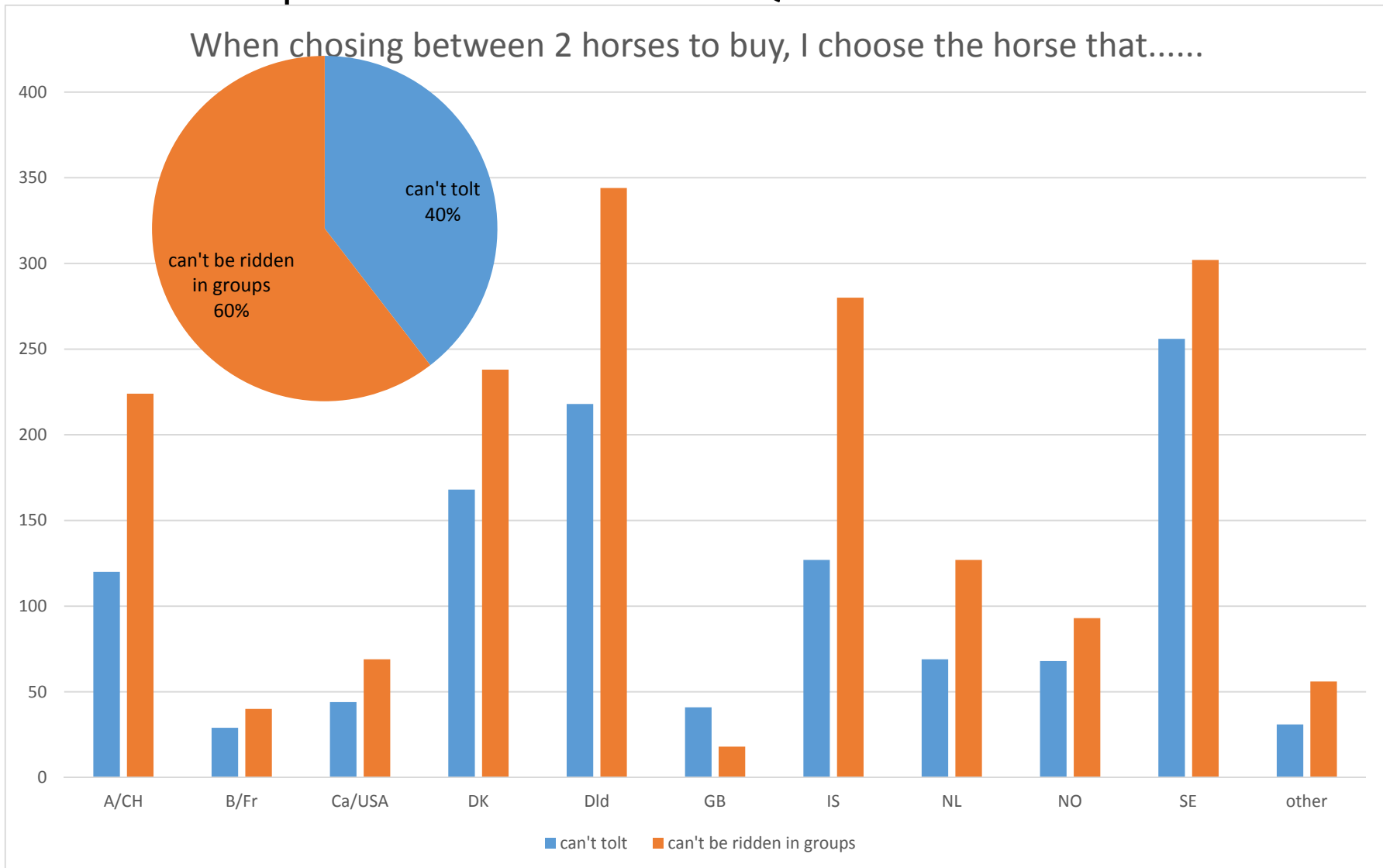
# How important is tölt?– Question 2



# How important is tölt? – Question 3

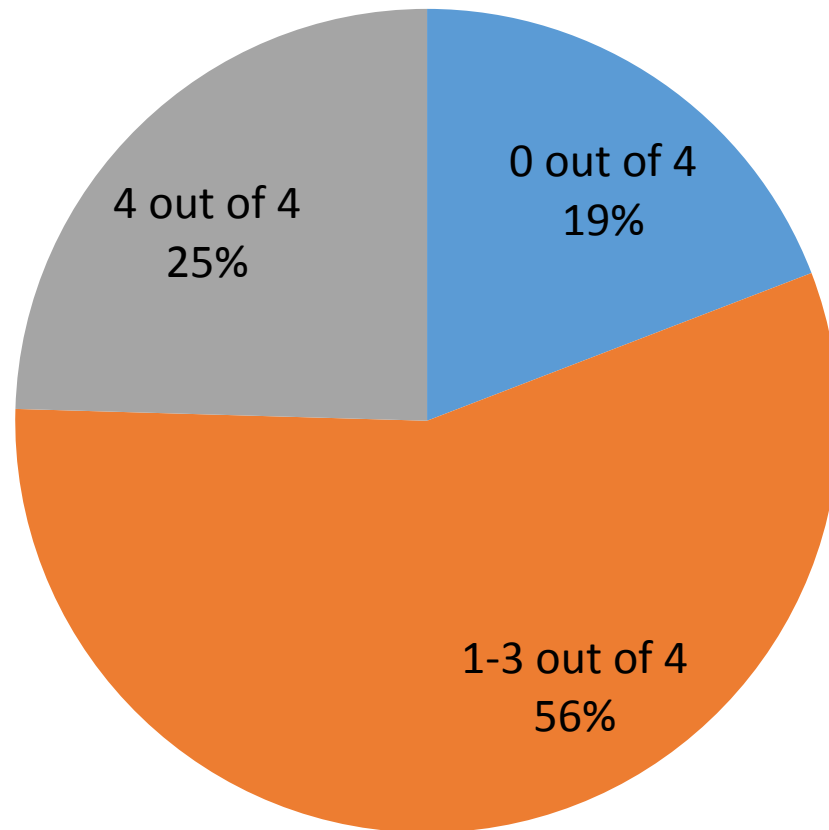


# How important is tölt?– Question 4

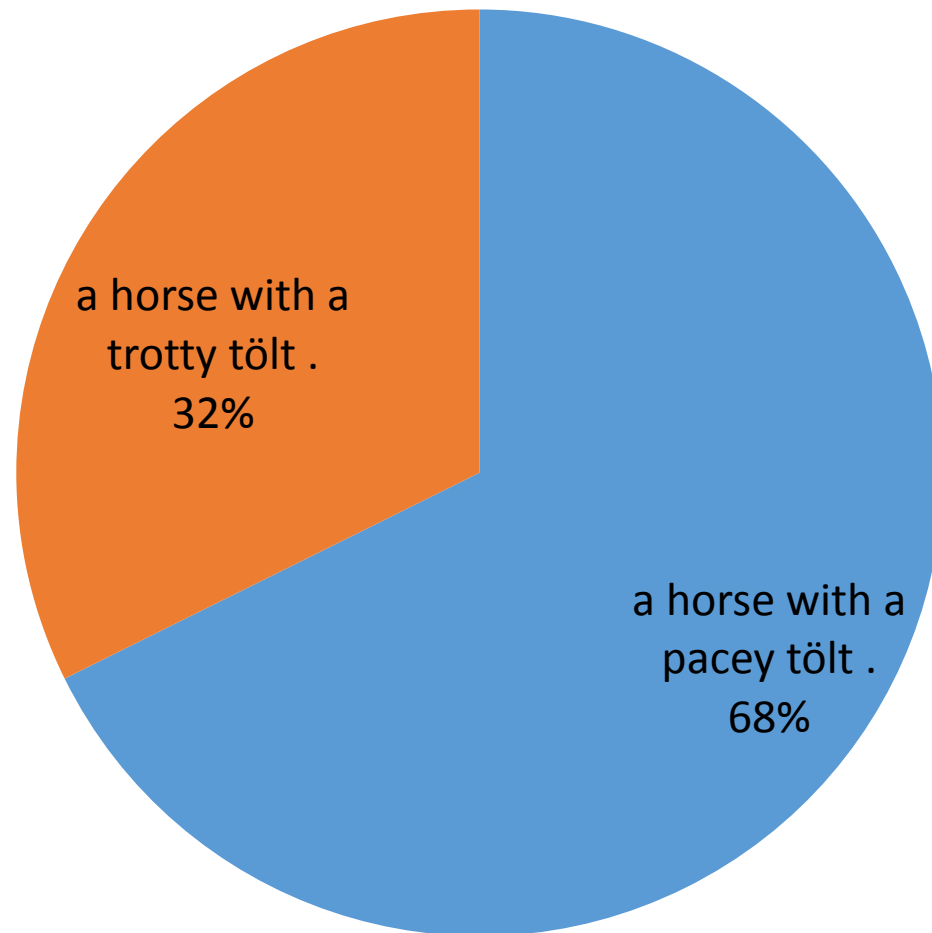


# The importance of tölt

Number of times a respondent selected tölt over other characteristics



# Pacey tölt vs trotty tölt



# What's next?

- Questionnaire gives a good insight into what is important
- Developing a test in cooperation with universities (2015)
- Testing the test (2016)
- Proposal in the delegates assembly (2017)
- Approval by the delegates assembly and incorporating the test into the FEIF-system (2018)