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School of Animal and Veterinary Sciences

Online surveys of cat management in Adelaide Councils

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seek LIGHT

Overview

Intro:

Background – Mitcham Council
Aim of project



Results:

Demographics of respondents/Cat management
Attitudes to cat management bylaws
Cat nuisance
Strays/semi-owned cats/unowned cats



Intro - Mitcham Council

Registration and microchipping of cats encouraged 2010/2011
Then made mandatory 2011/2012
Discount for desexed cats

2,561 cats registered in 2016/2017
Estimated ~ 7,300 in the council* (35% of cats registered)

No knowledge of effects of cat management of owned cat populations

*Australia AM. Pet Ownership in Australia 2016. animalmedicineaustralia.org.au, 2016:65

*Australia AM. Pet Ownership in Australia 2016. animalmedicineaustralia.org.au, 2016:65

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Intro – Aim of project

Assess residents' attitude to cat management/registration

Assess effects of cat management

Residents' nuisance issues

Stray numbers

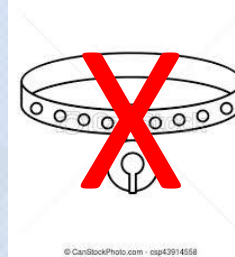


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1 council with cat bylaws
(Mitcham)



2 councils without bylaws
(Charles Sturt and Salisbury)



Demographics of respondents
Cat ownership +/- cat info
Attitudes to cat bylaws/registration
Cat nuisance issues

Available online through councils,
Facebook, vet practices etc.





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Demographics of respondents



Demographics of respondents

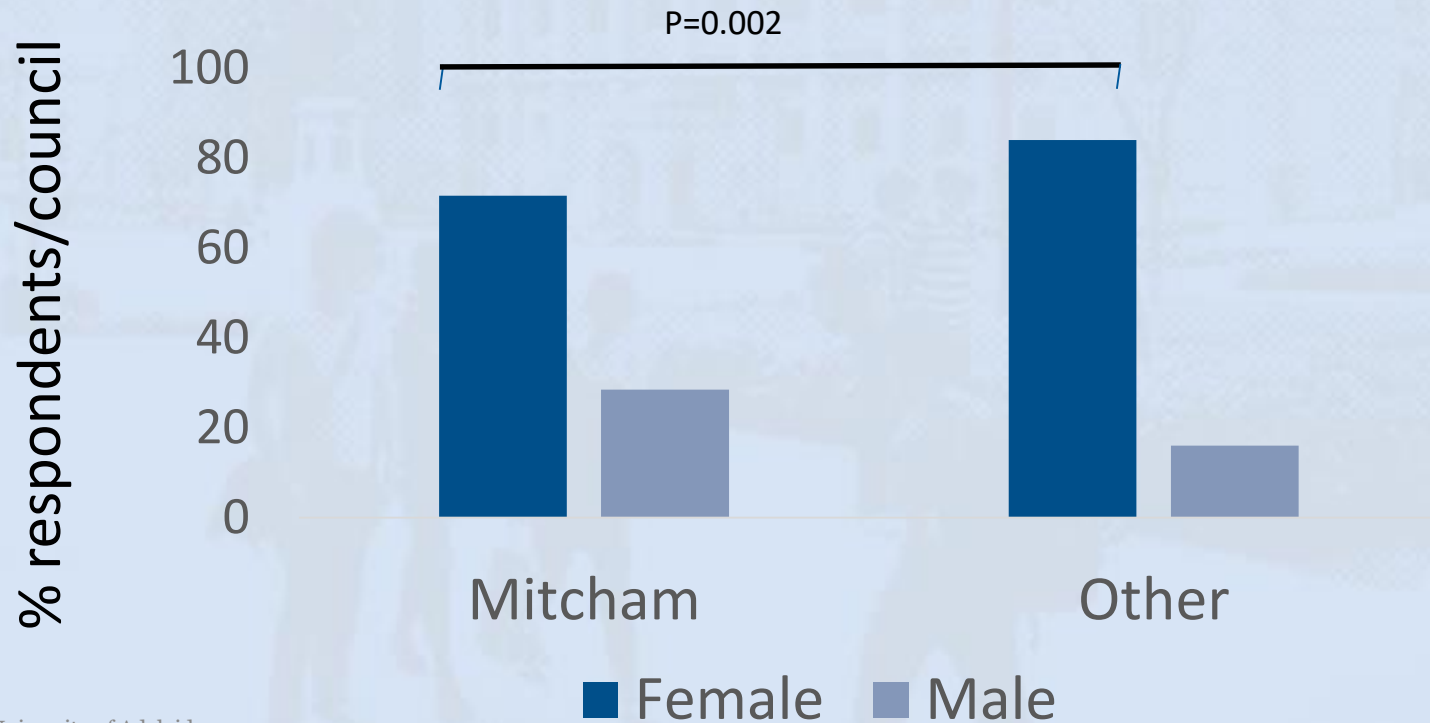
Overall 554 complete responses

	Mitcham	Charles Sturt*	Salisbury*
Cat bylaws introduced	Yes	No	No
Respondents	198	162	194
Cat owner (%)	104 (53)	132 (81)	130 (67)
Non cat-owner (%)	94 (47)	30 (19)	64 (33)

Demographics of respondents

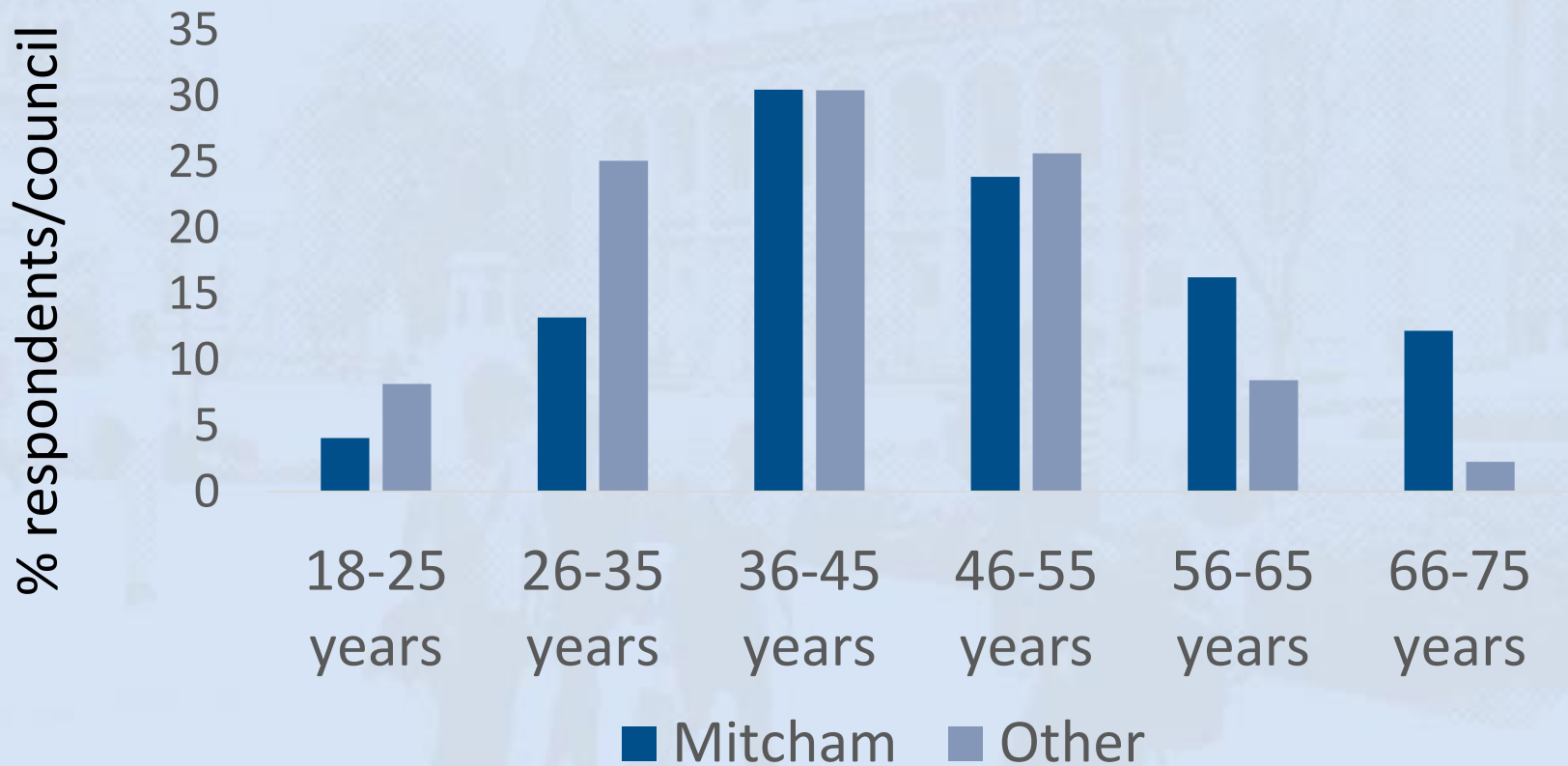
Sex

Majority of respondents were female



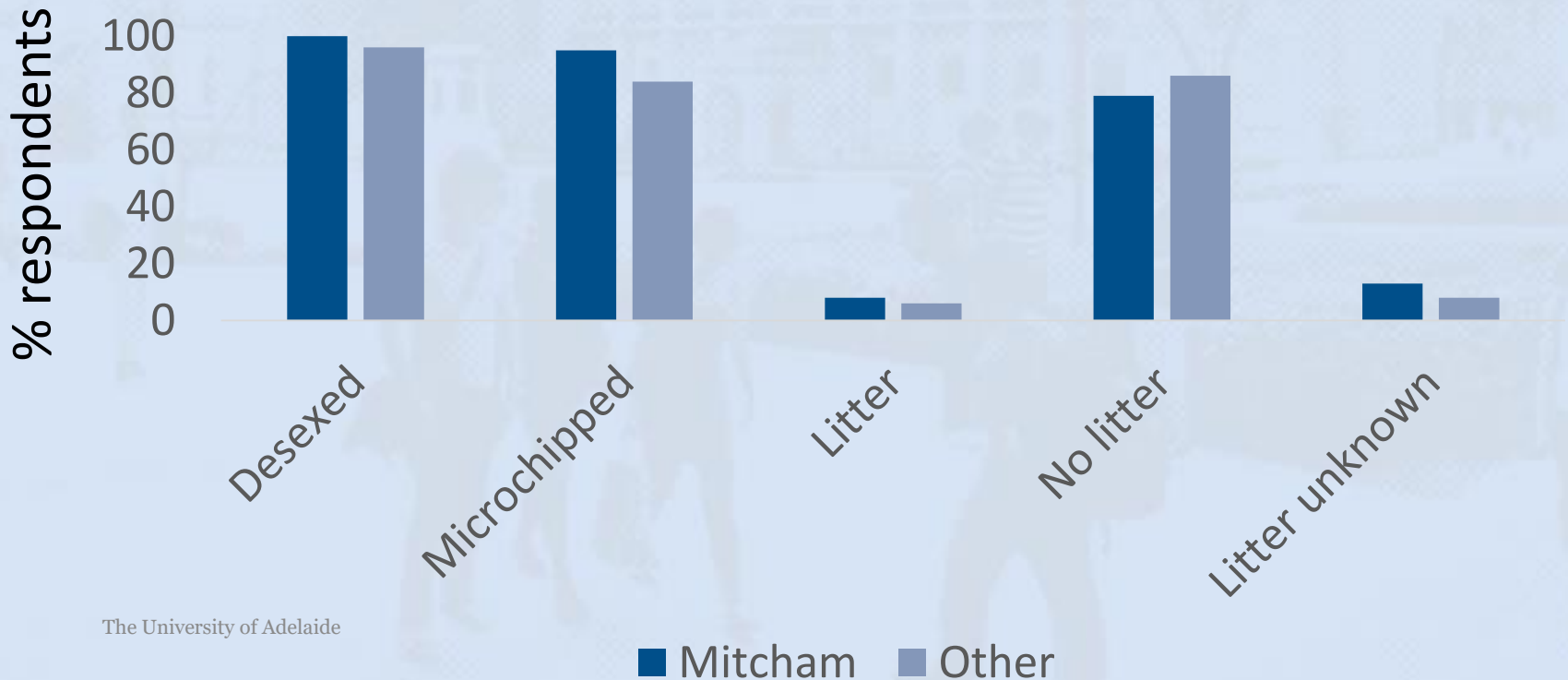
Demographics of respondents

Age



Demographics of cats Management

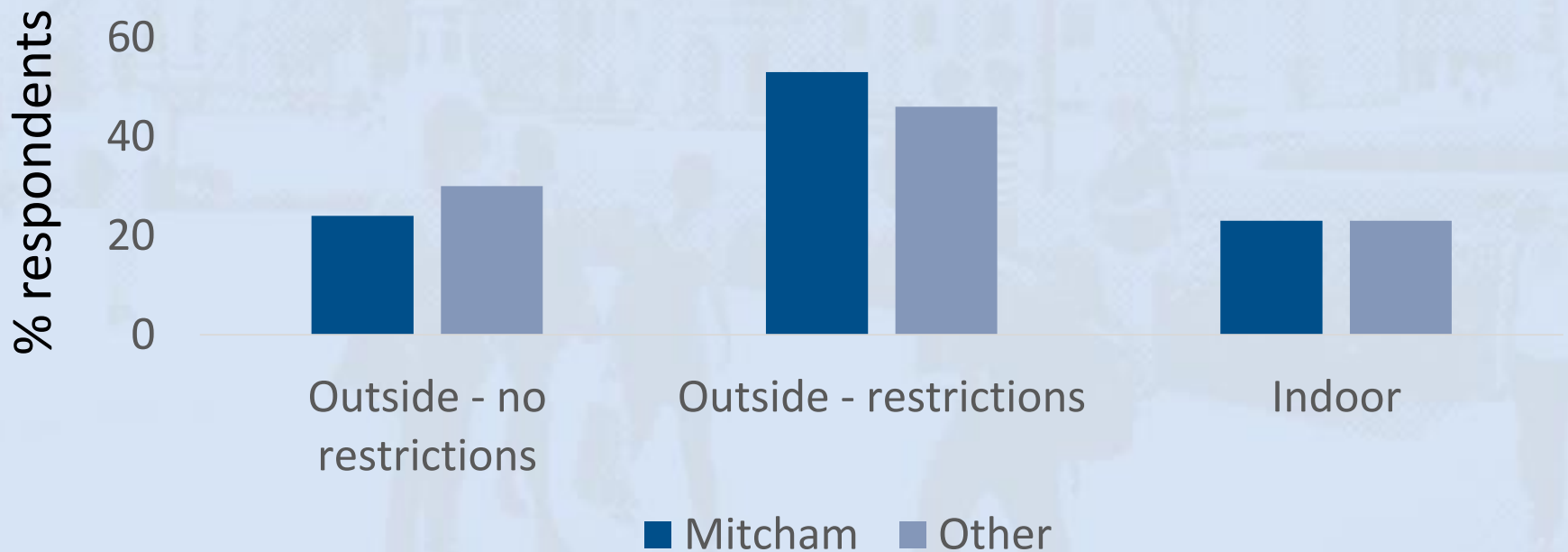
Most respondents were responsible owners



Demographics of cats

Outside access

No difference in proportions of residents keeping cat indoor
More Mitcham residents restricted cats outdoor access though





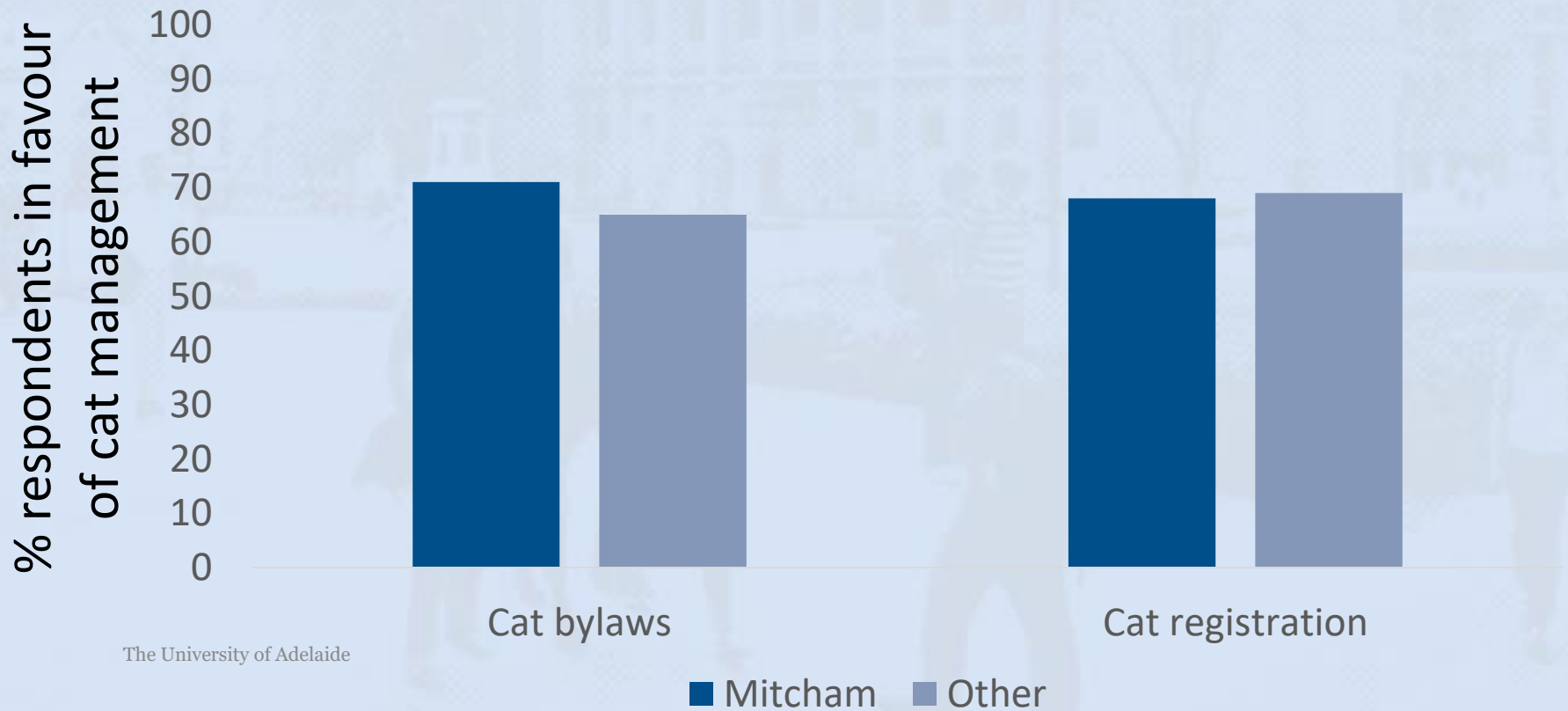
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Respondents attitude to cat registration/bylaws



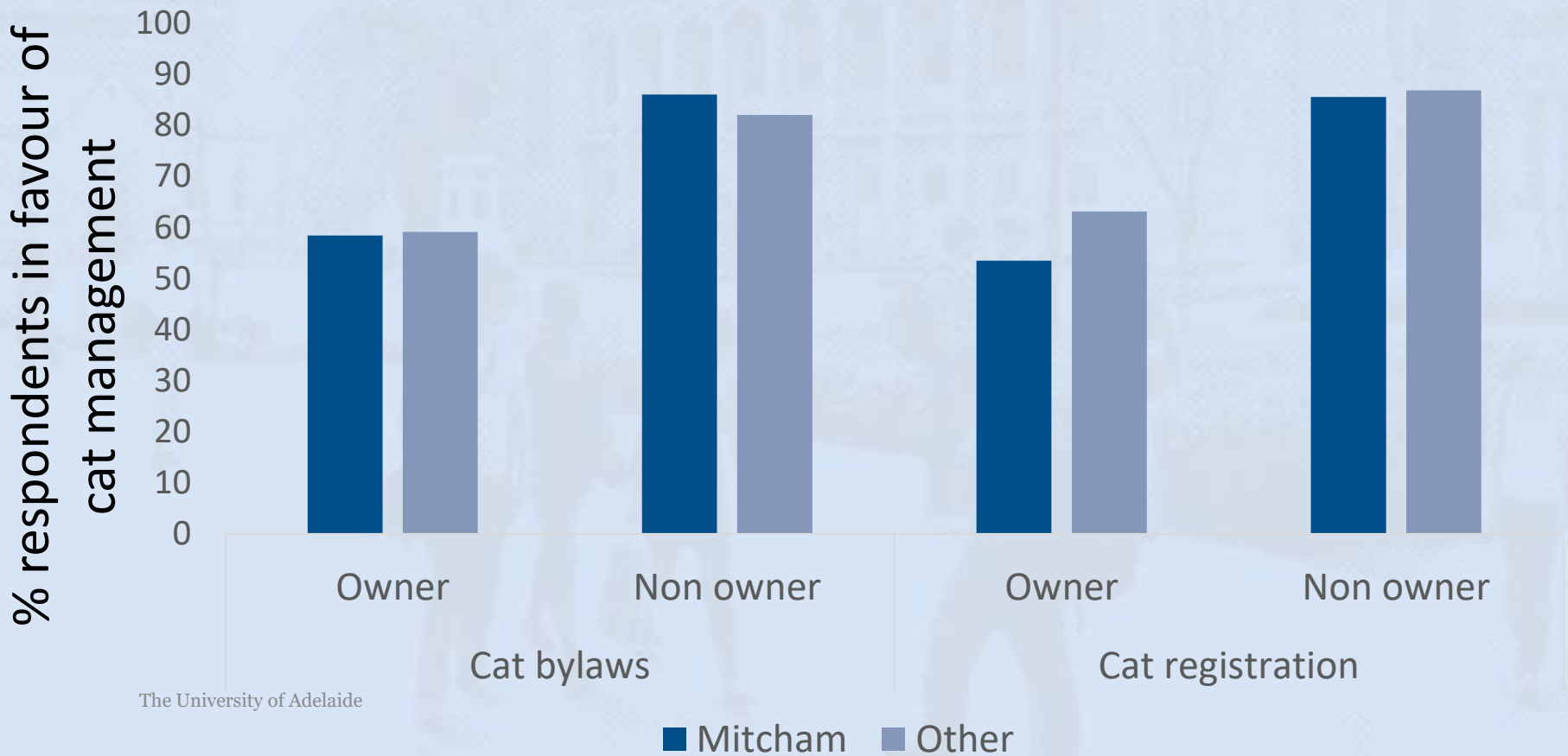
Respondent in favour of cat management

Majority of respondents in favour of bylaws/registration



Bylaw/registration vs. council and cat ownership

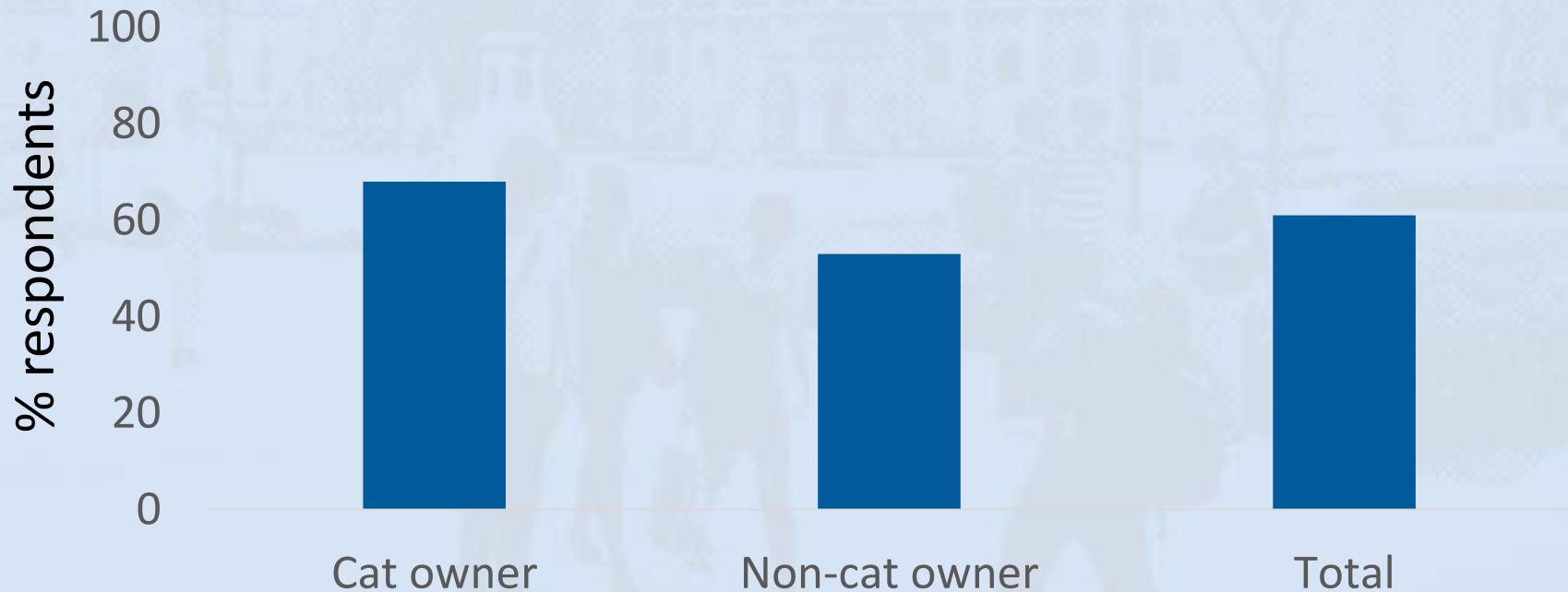
Cat owners less in favour of bylaws/registration





Mitcham residents – awareness of bylaws existing

Awareness of bylaws a potential issue





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Nuisance results

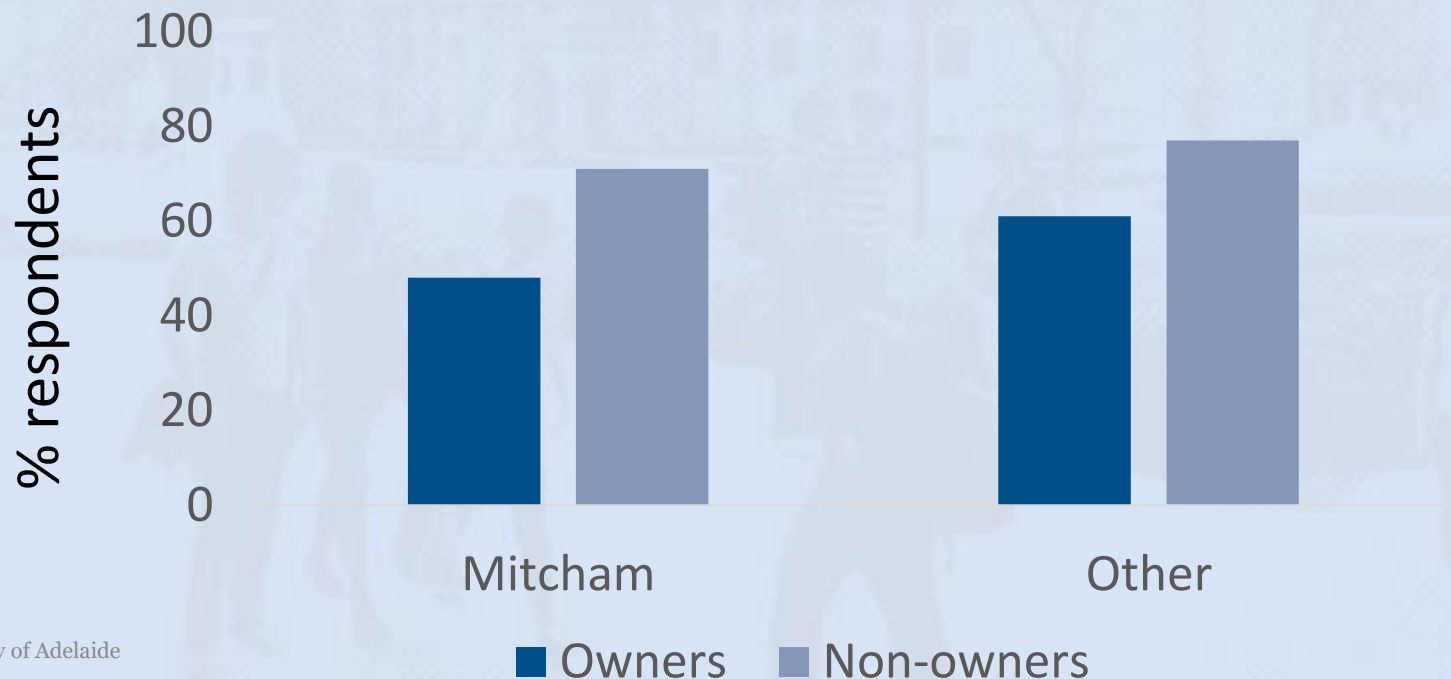


Nuisance issues – Roaming cats a nuisance

63% of respondents overall had nuisance issues

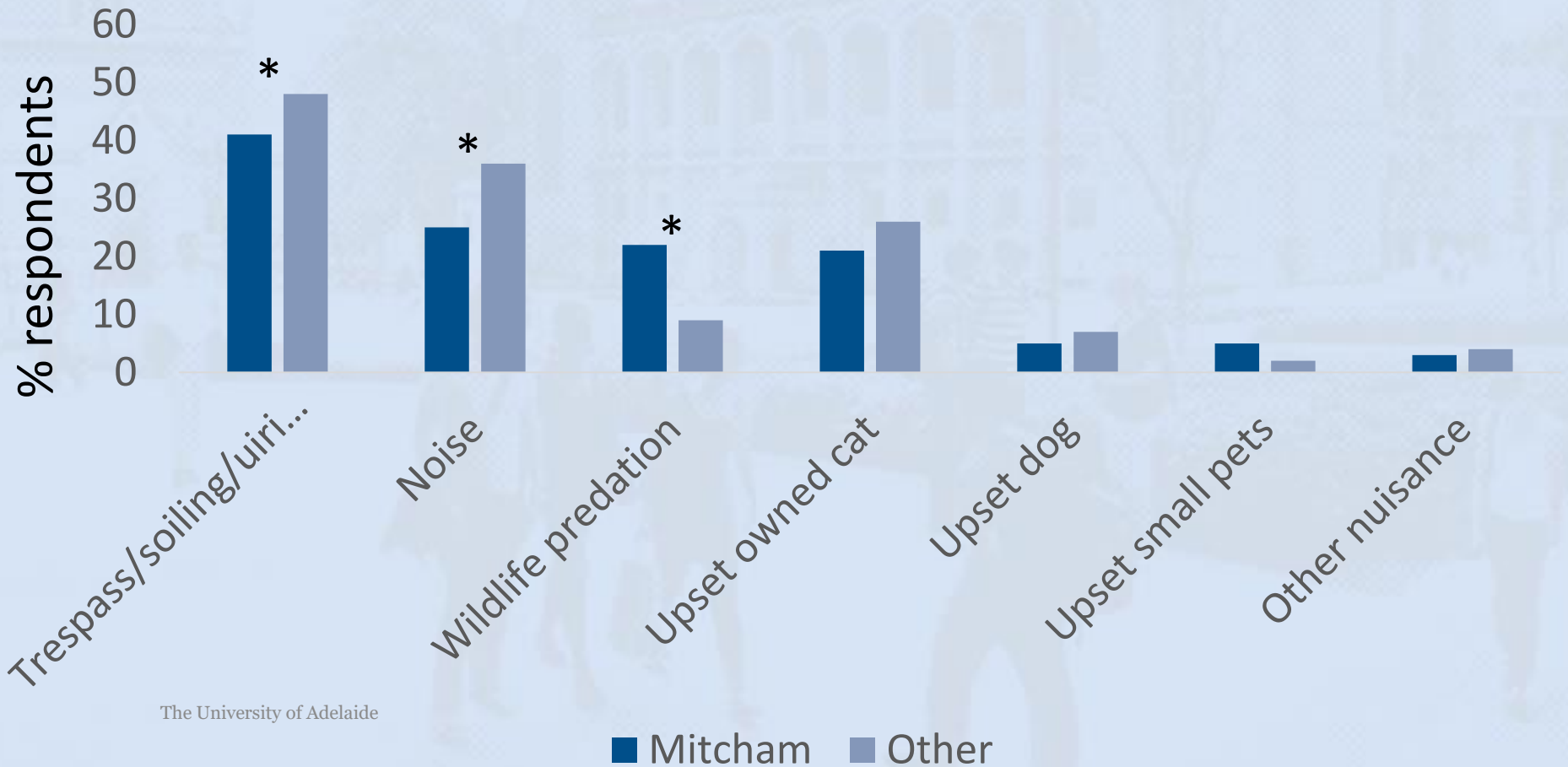
More non-owners (75%) than owners (57%) had nuisance issues

59% in Mitcham and 65% in other councils



Nuisance issues roaming cat

6 major categories of nuisance

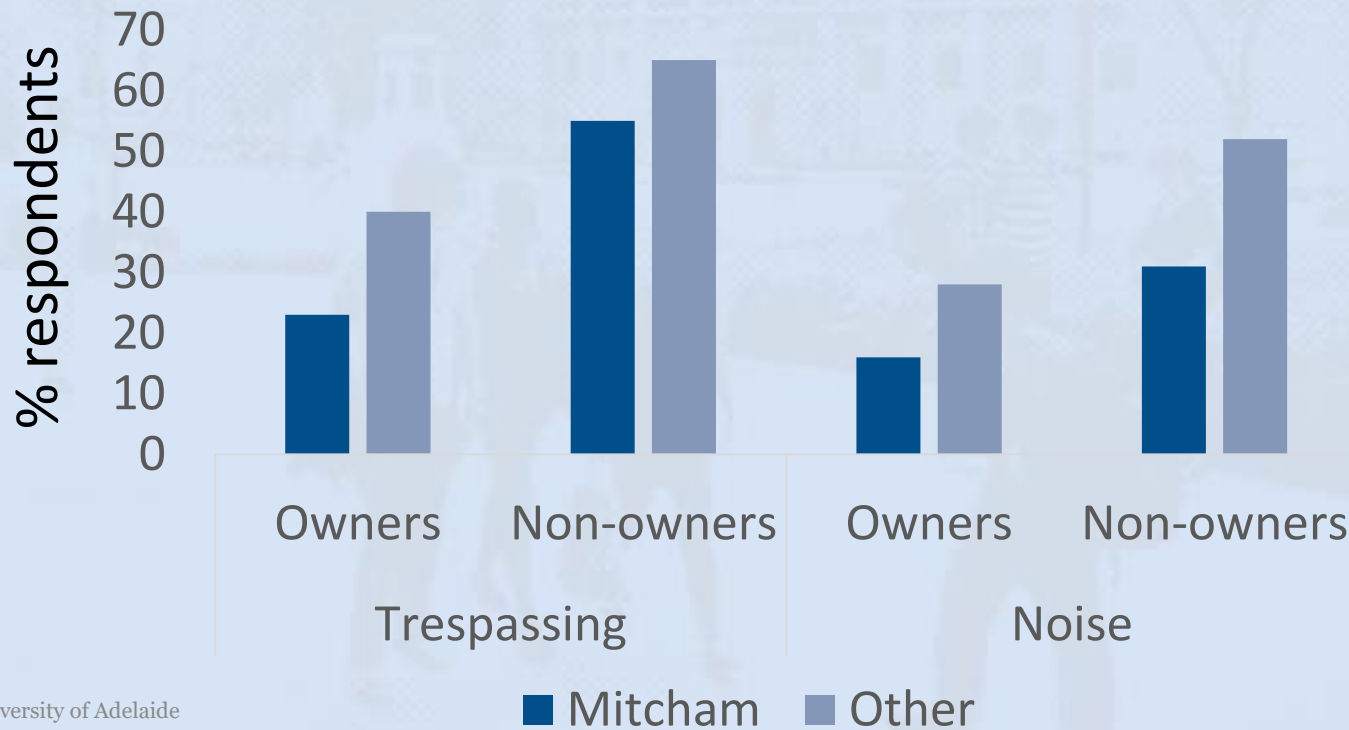




Nuisance issues roaming cat

Less issues with trespassing and noise in Mitcham for both cat owners and non-owners

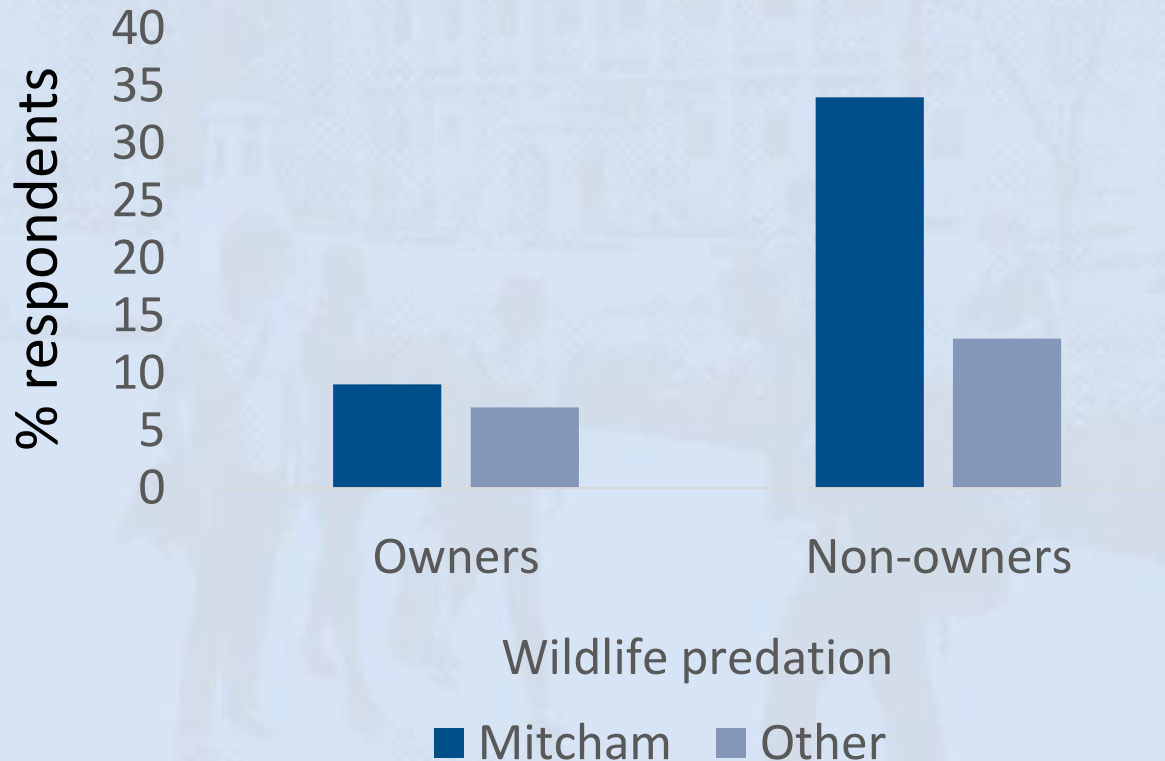
Non-owners had more nuisance issues than cat owners





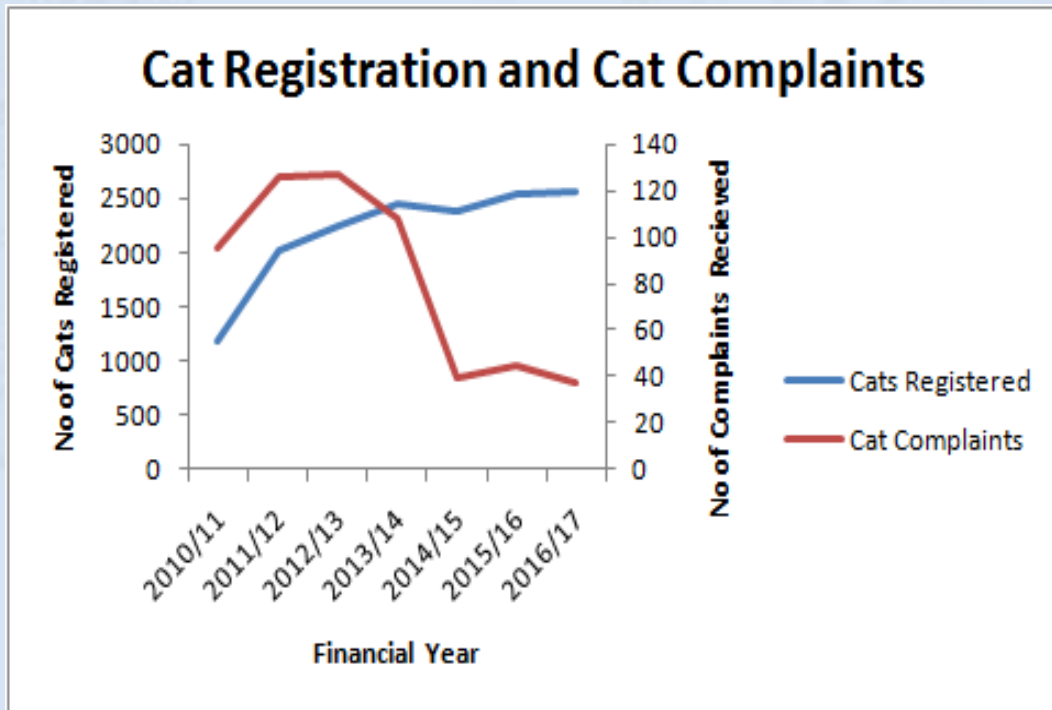
Nuisance issues roaming cat

Mitcham residents were more concerned with wildlife predation
More pronounced for non-owners





Nuisance issues - cat complaints Mitcham



Data from 2010-2017

Registration increased by 46%
(1175 - 2561)

Complaints decreased by 61%
(95 - 37)

- Statistically significant relationship (Pearson correlation = -0.799 , $p = 0.03$)



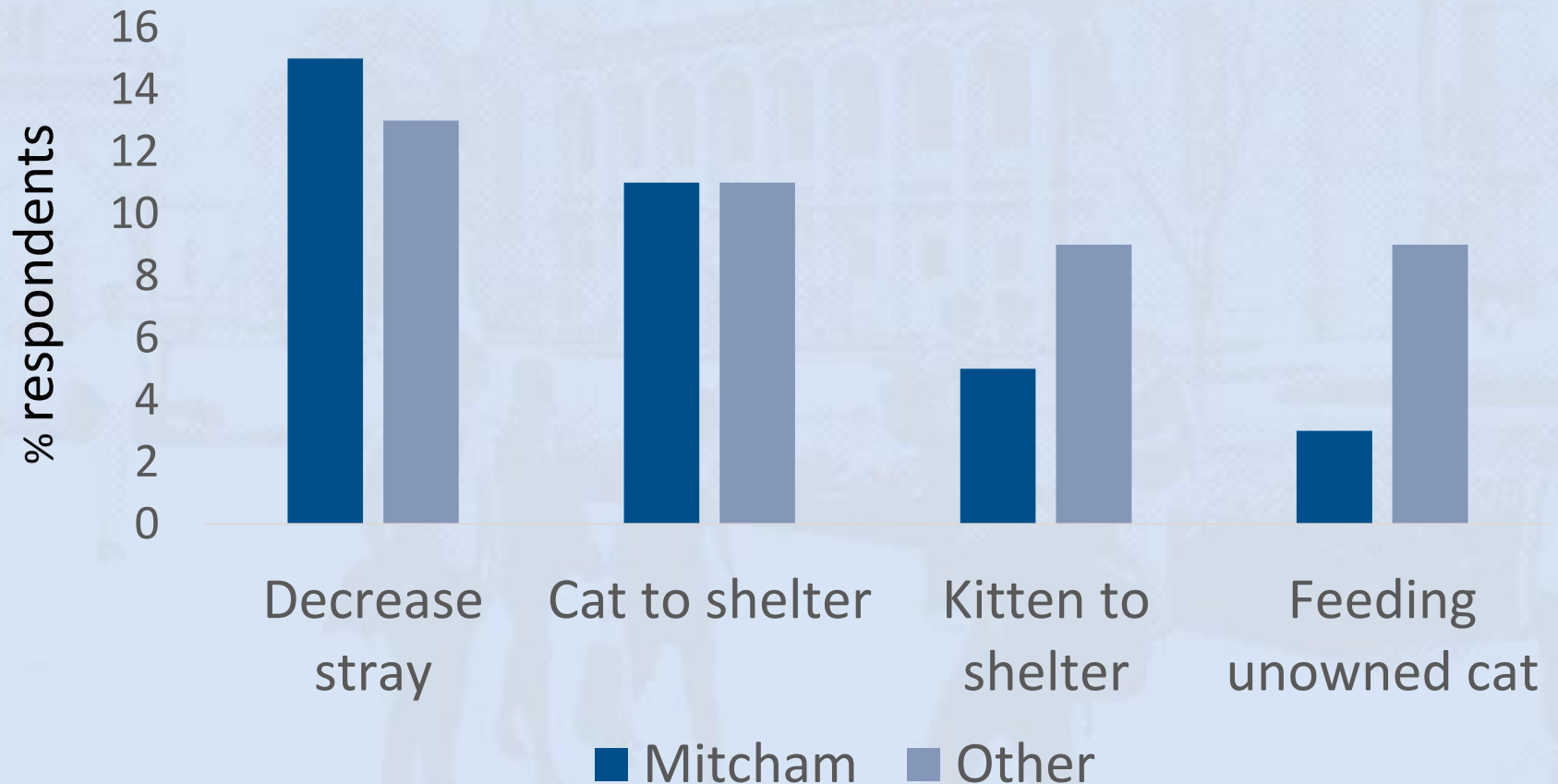
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Stray numbers



Stray cats - numbers

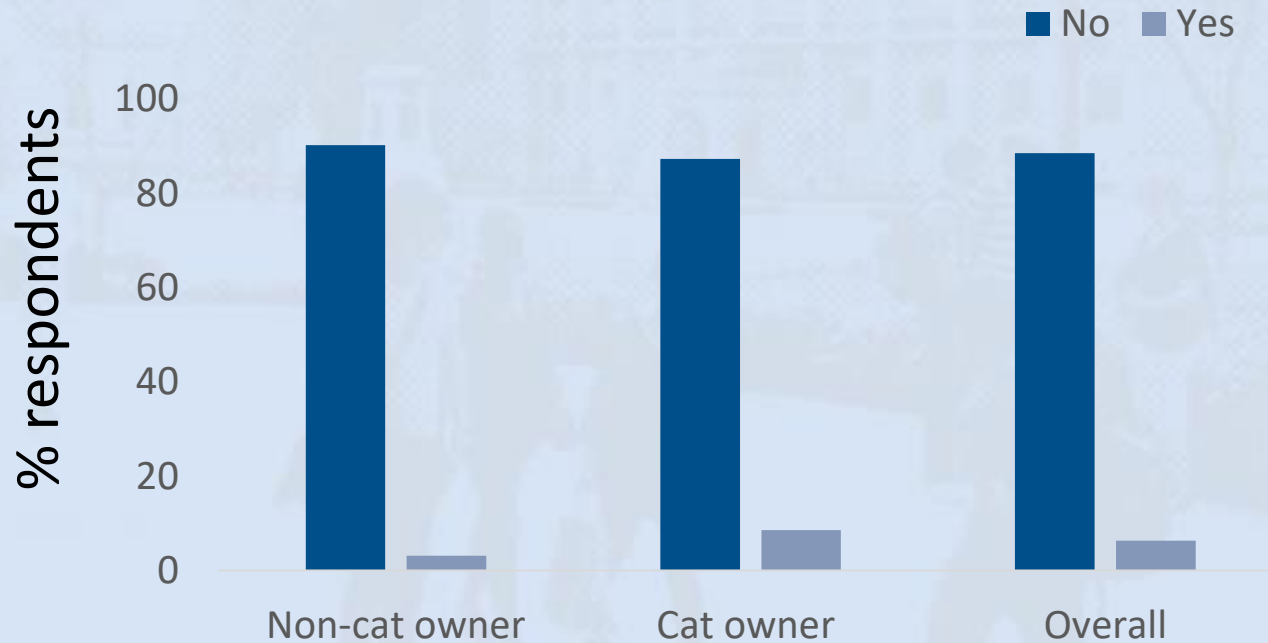
Potentially fewer strays in Mitcham?





Feeding a semi-owned cat by cat ownership

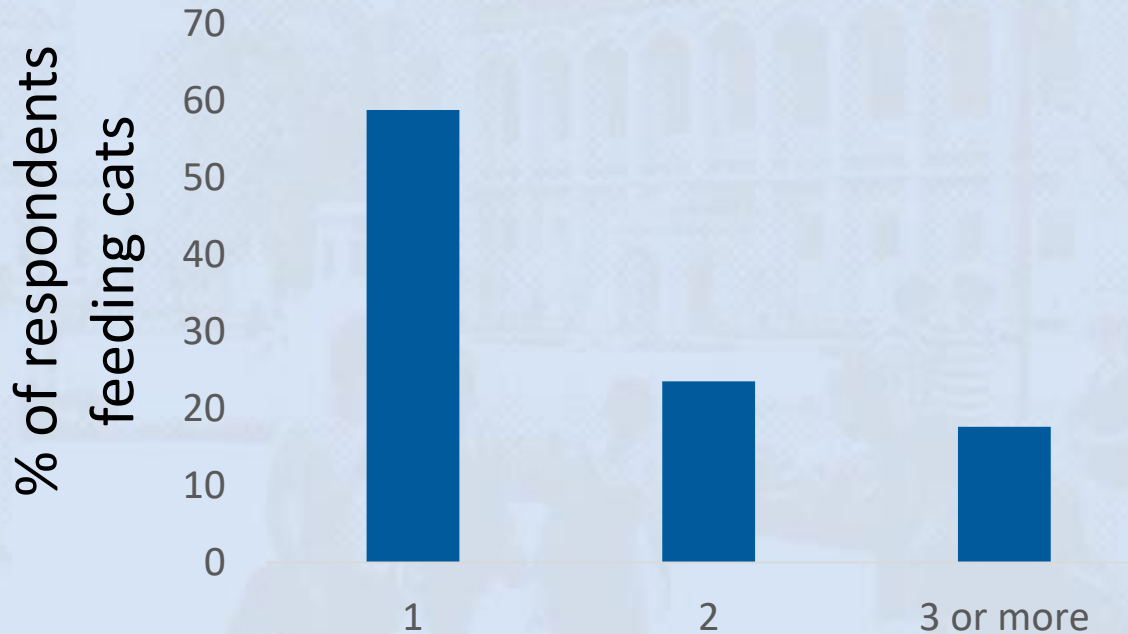
Only 35 respondents fed un-owned cat(s)





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How many cats do you feed that you do not own?





Summing up

Fewer complaints with stray cats in Mitcham – due to cat management?

Indications that there are fewer issues with strays, but no proof that actually fewer stray cats – data limitations

Most owner (respondents) are responsible (desex, microchip)

Majority of residents (respondents) in favour of registration, more so for non-cat owners

Biased sample risk – more responsible cat owners in survey



Demographics of



City of Mitcham

City of Salisbury

City of Charles Sturt

RSPCA (SA)

Respondents



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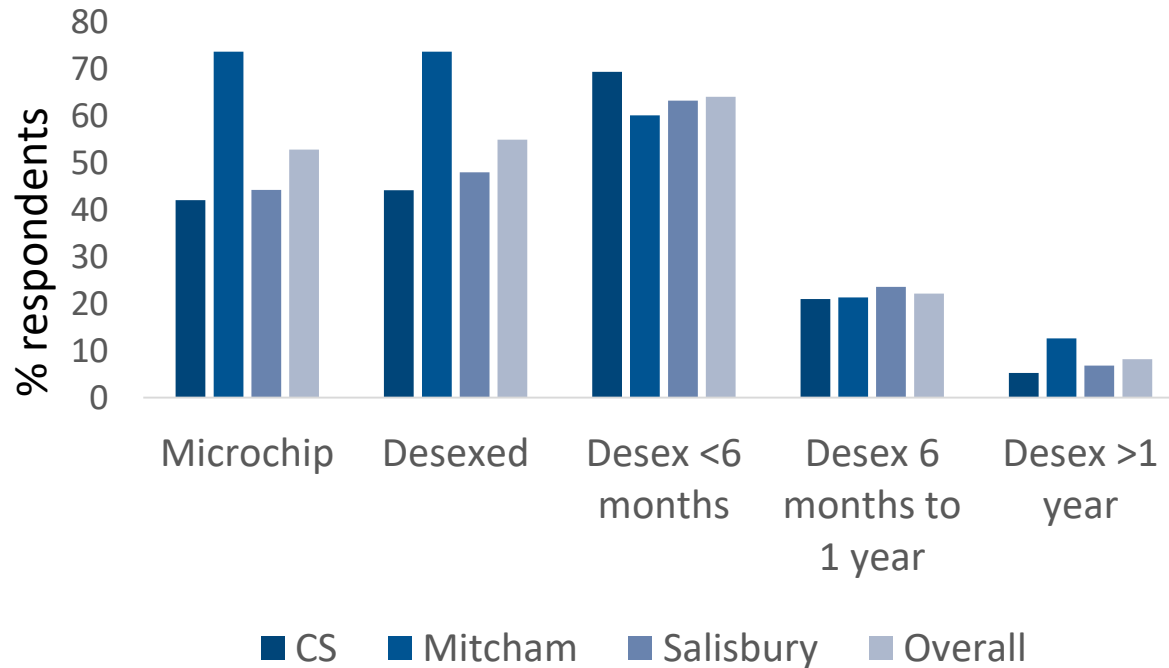


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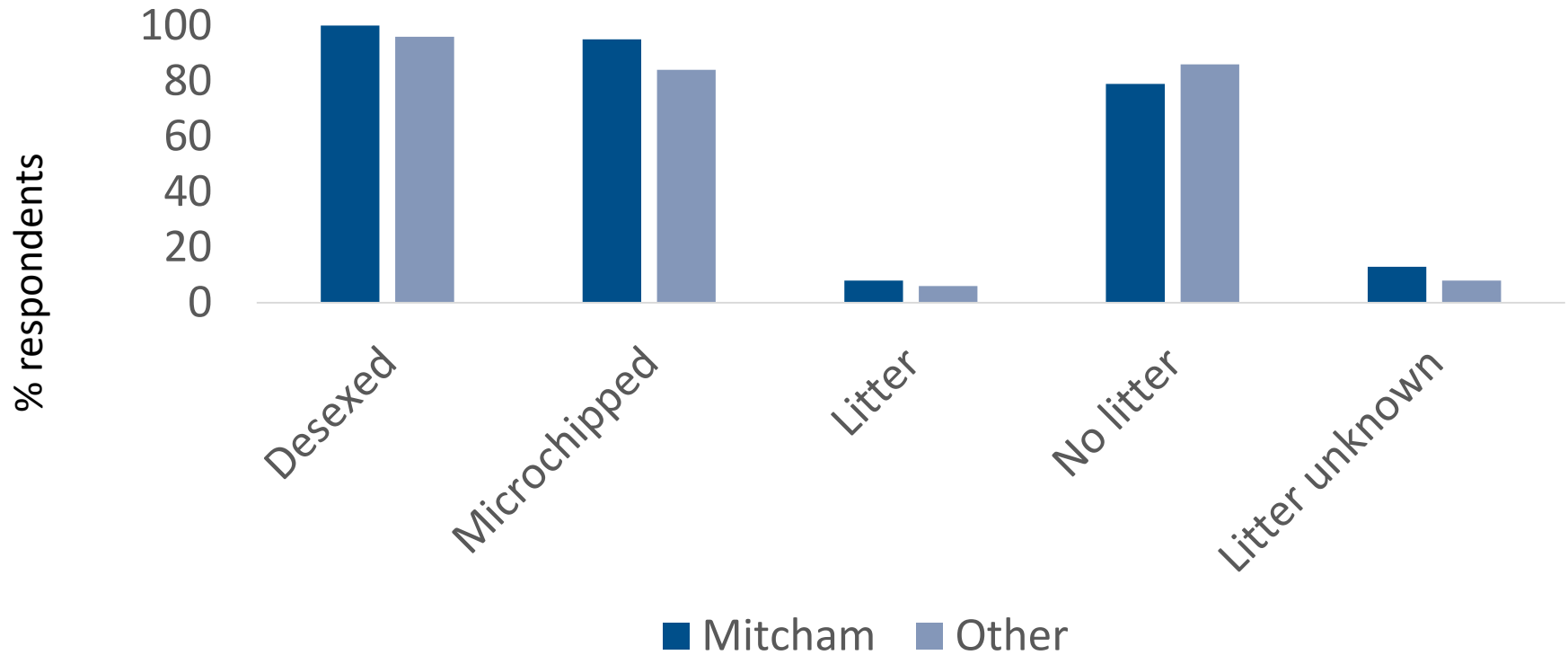
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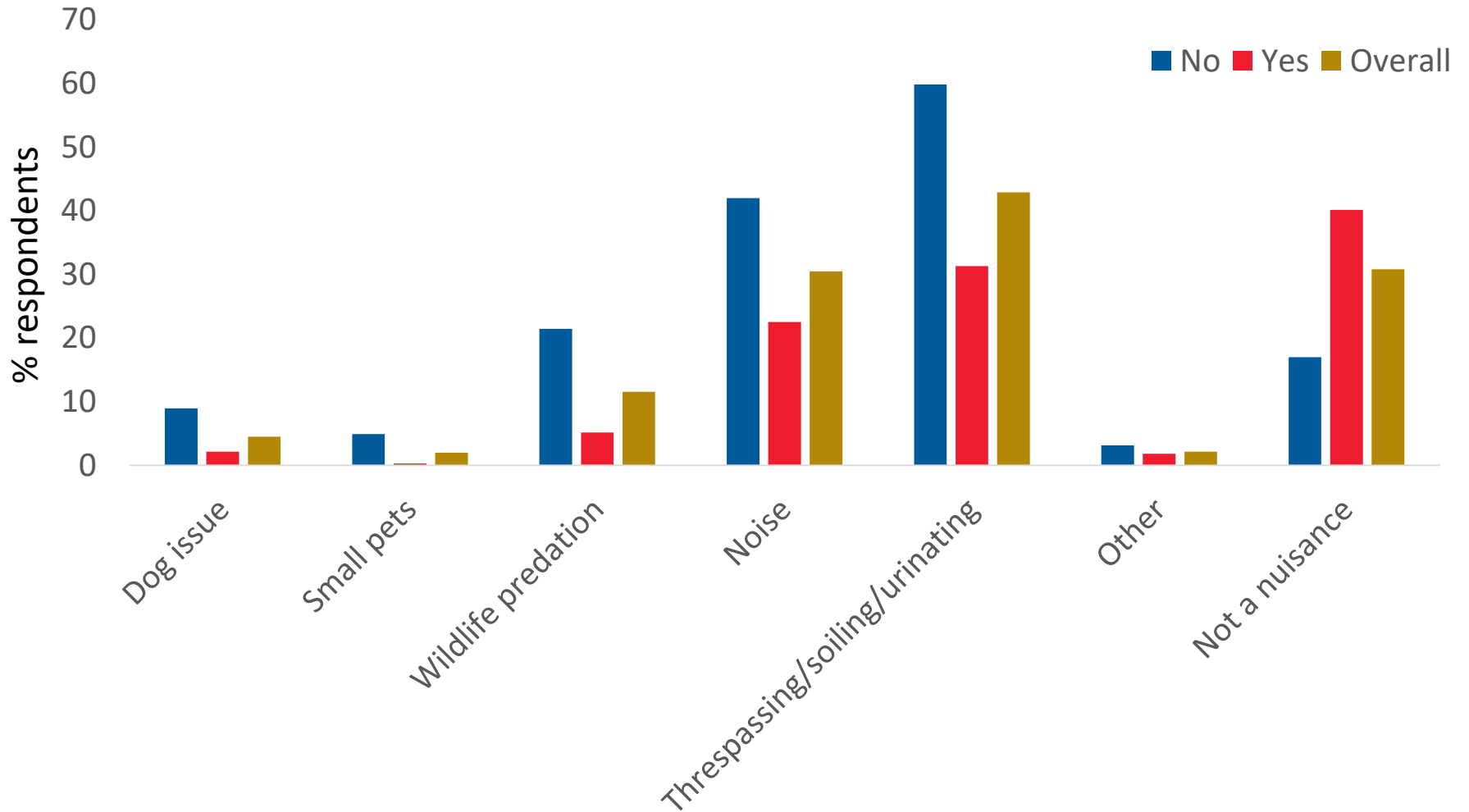
Demographics of cats



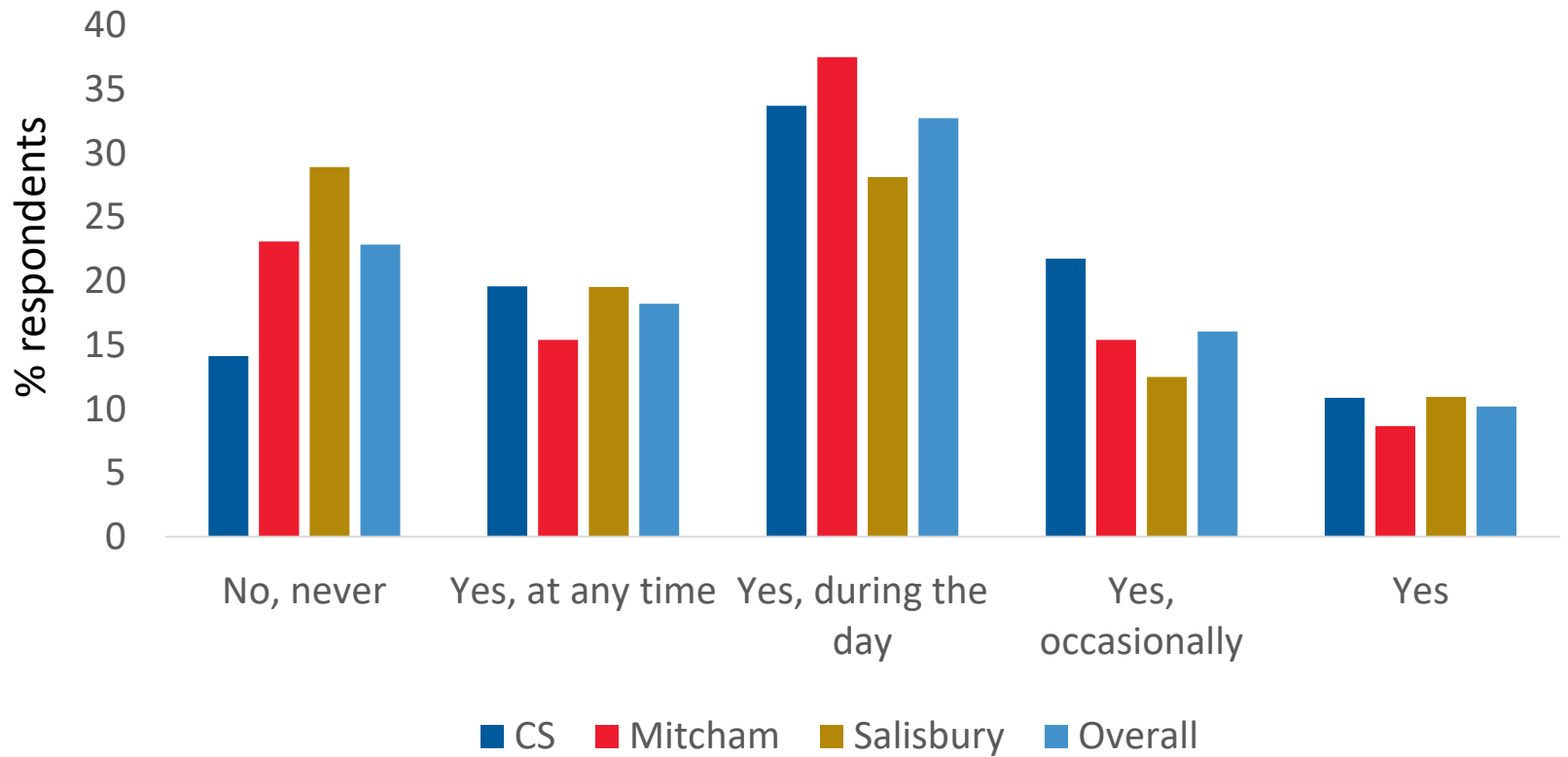
Demographics of cats - management

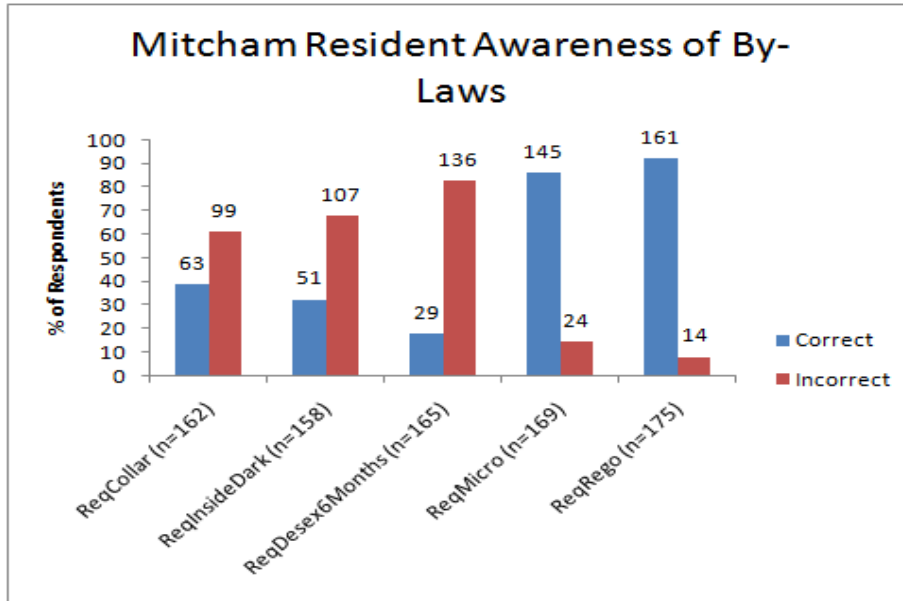


Cat nuisance by cat ownership

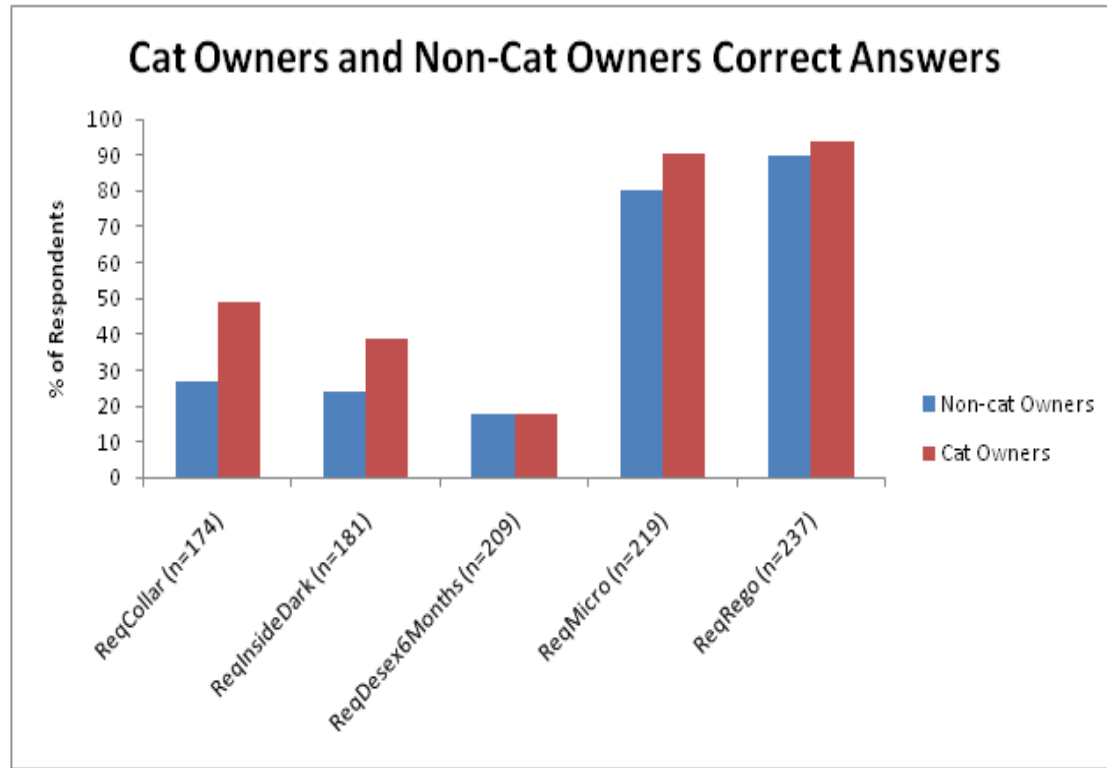


Does your cat go outside? by Council





- Nearly 39% of total respondents not aware cat by-laws introduced
- Majority incorrectly believed cats required to wear a collar, be kept inside after dark, desexed <6 months
- Nearly 85% correctly believed cats must be microchipped
- 92% knew cat registration is required



- 51.2% of cat owners and 73.3% non-cat owners incorrectly believed cats required to wear a collar, (p=0.004)
 - 82% cat owners and non-cat owners incorrectly believed cats must be desexed by 6 months (p=0.97)
-