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INTRODUCTION

Table 1. Summary of the laws on the possession of dogs considered potentially dangerous (*Llei 10/1999* and *Real Decreto 287/2002*).

Breeds	Morphological characteristics	Requirements	Safety measures in public spaces
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bullmastiff - Dobermann - Argentine Mastiff - Bordeaux Mastiff - Brazilian Mastiff - Naples Mastiff - Pit Bull Terrier - Canary fighting dog - Rottweiler - Staffordshire Bull Terrier - American Staffordshire Terrier - Tosa Inu - Akita Inu 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strong muscle and powerful appearance - Marked character and great value - Short hair - Thoracic perimeter between 60 – 80 cm and height of the withers between 50 – 70 cm - Weight > 20 kg - Large and robust head and jaw - Wide, muscular and short neck - Large chest, short and muscular back - Sturdy and muscular limbs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Being over 18 years old - No criminal records - Physical and psychological aptitude certificates - Third party liability insurance not less than 120,000 € 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Carrying the administrative license and the certification of the registration of the animal in the Municipal Register. - Using race-adapted muzzle and non-extendable leash of < 2 m - Not taking more than one of these dogs per person - Taken by people aged over 16

Objective: The aim of this project is to question the classification of the breed-specific legislation and to seek scientific evidence to verify whether there is a racial predisposition to attack people or other animals.

SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE

Studies of aggressive behaviour

- These studies use different methodologies to compare breeds, and this leads to diversification of results.
- Some studies suggest evident differences in behaviour among breeds, but also within-breeds.
- Breed differences in behaviour are influenced by both genetics and environment.
- Some behavioural characteristics are subjective.

Epidemiological studies of bites

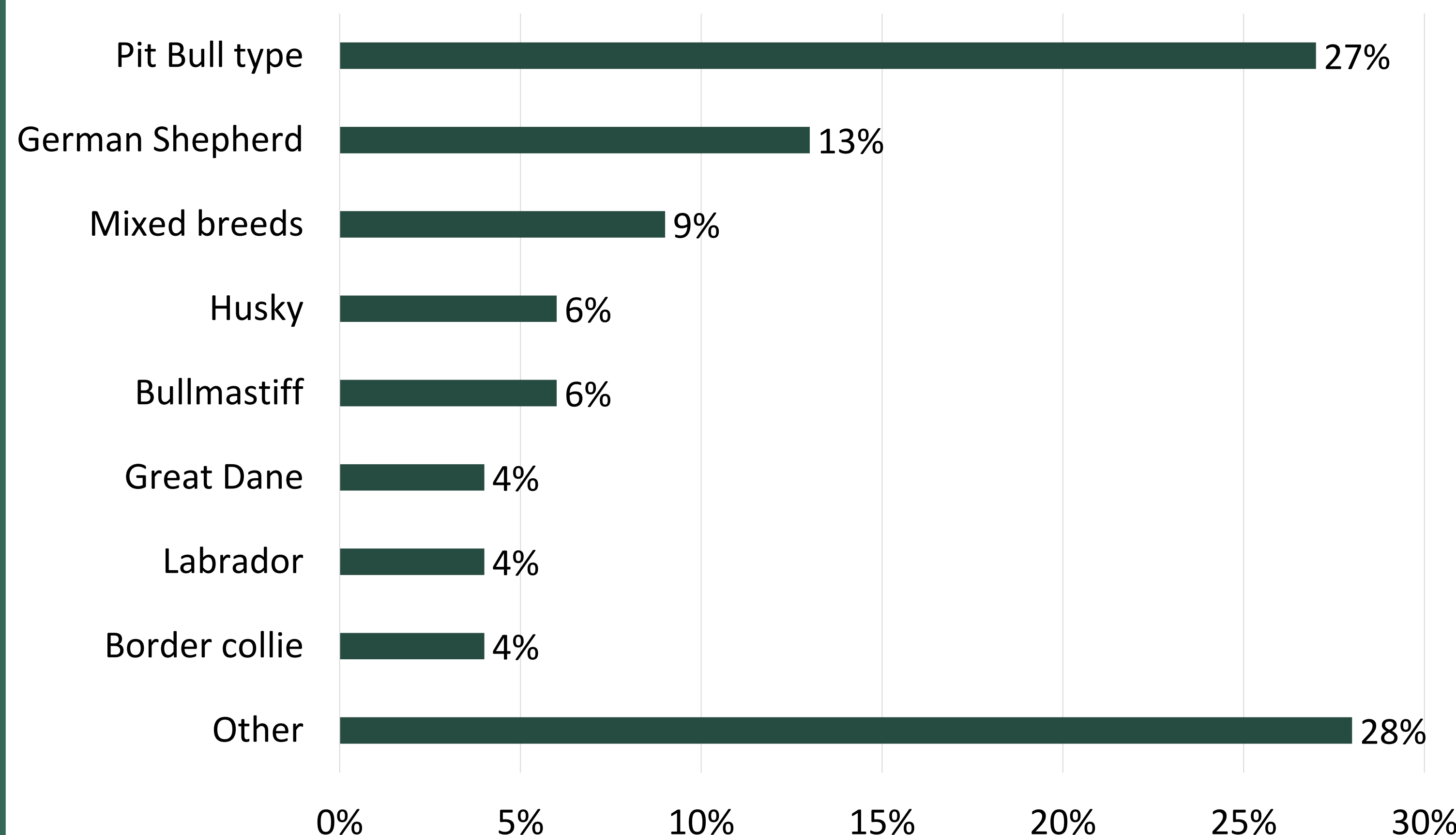


Figure 1. Dog breeds implicated in 108 injuries according to Morzycki et al. (2019).

- Some studies conclude that all breeds are able to bite.
- These studies have difficulties in analysing population data because of incomplete records.
- Popular breeds are causing more bite injuries due to the number of individuals.

Effects of law application analysis

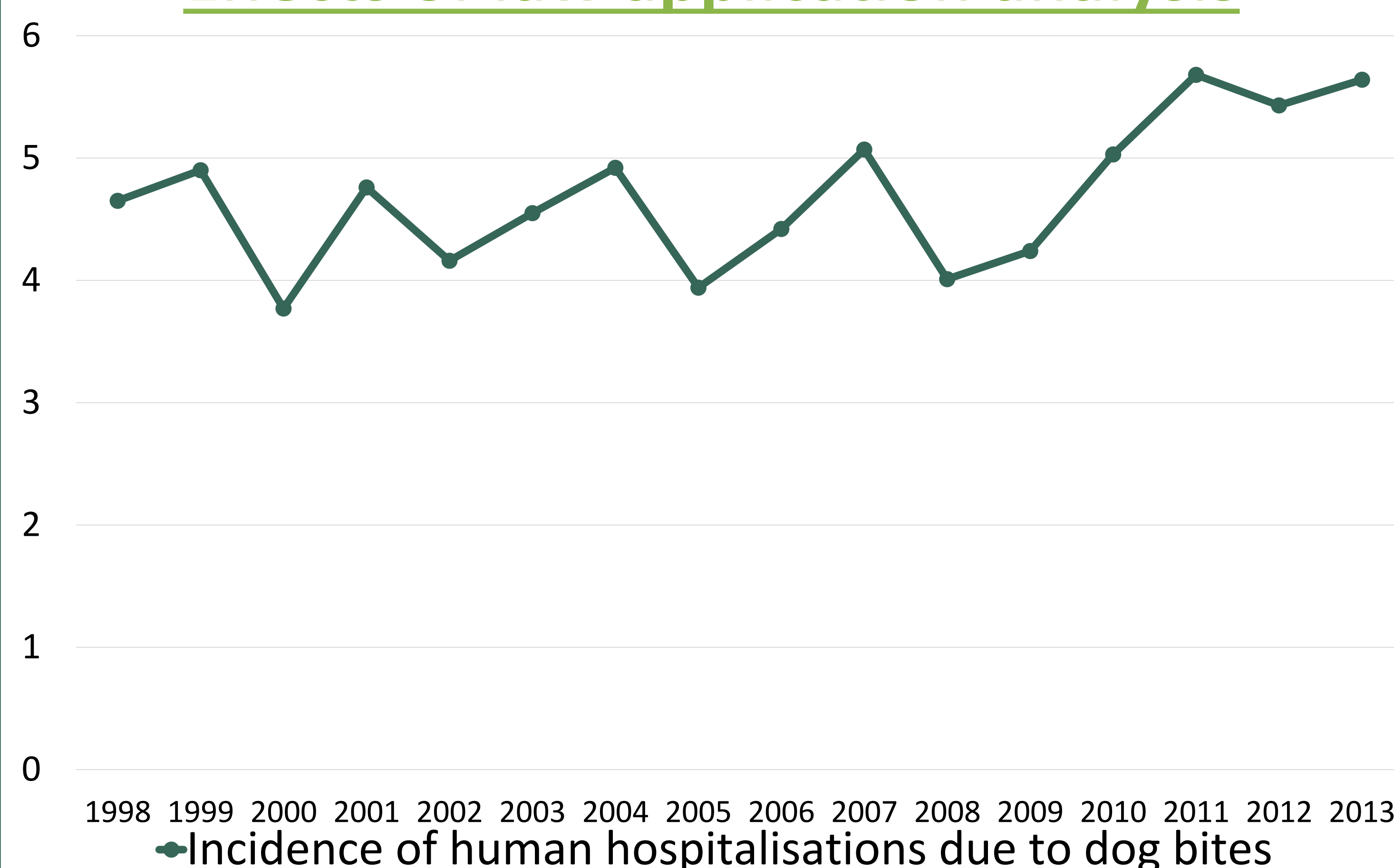


Figure 2. Incidence of human hospitalisations due to dog bites in Ireland after the introduction of the breed specific legislation in 1998 (Ó'Súilleabháin 2015).

- Focusing on certain breeds may have negative consequences related to risk perception.

CONCLUSIONS

- Problems associated with canine aggression are the result of interactions between different factors.
- Professionals involved in animal care and control oppose the ineffective and unfair approach to the owners of breeds affected by this breed-specific legislation.
- Problems of irresponsible ownership are not unique to any dog breed.
- Effective animal control legislation must focus on responsible and humane ownership.

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