

SENSITIZATION FOR THE AUTOCHTHONOUS BREEDS CONSERVATION VIA THE PUBLIC SHOWS OF ANIMALS

SENSIBILIZACION DE LA OPINION PUBLICA POR LA CONSERVACION DE RAZAS AUTOCTONAS A TRAVES DE LAS EXPOSICIONES DE ANIMALES

Camacho, M.E.* , J.F. Capote**, A. Molina*, N. Darmanín**, J.V. Delgado*, A. Burgos* and M.Fresno**

* Departamento de Genética. Universidad de Córdoba. 14005 Córdoba. Spain.

** Producción Animal, Pastos y Forrajes, CITA. Apartado 60, La Laguna. 38080 Tenerife. Spain.

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Palabras clave adicionales

Encuestas. Preservación. Razas minoritarias.

SUMMARY

From a inquiry about conservation of rare breeds answered by the visitors to the Autochthonous Domestic Animal Breeds Public Show *Agrocanarias 90*, we evaluate its sensitization power on people of different age and relationship with the land. We also expose some interesting suggestions made by those questioned.

RESUMEN

A partir de una encuesta contestada por los visitantes de la Exposición de Razas Autóctonas de Animales Domésticos *Agrocanarias 90*, se evalúa su poder de sensibilización sobre personas de diferente edad y relación con el campo. Se exponen algunas sugerencias de los encuestados.

INTRODUCTION

It is widely admitted that one of the most important ways for the conservation of the autochthonous breeds of domestic animals is the sensitization of public opinion. It does not make

possible the direct active participation of all citizens but extends the problem to urban people. It induces, at least, a comprehension of the public resources employed in their conservation, and gains support for the conservationist private organizations. The public shows of animals have been used to this end for a long time ago by most

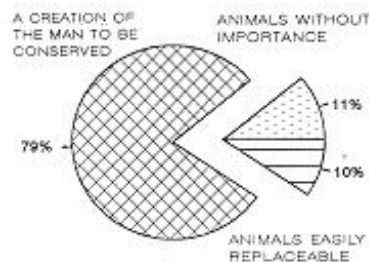


Figure 1. What are the rare breed domestic animals according to you? (Qué son las razas autóctonas para usted?).

Arch. Zootec. 41 (extra): 573-577. 1992.

of the world conservationist organizations, including the Spanish SERGA.

This work shows the previous thoughts of the visitors of a public show on rare breeds with respect to its conservation, their aptitude towards the problem and, finally, their sensitization after the visit.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

POPULATION AND SAMPLE. We have worked with an aleatory sample of 271 individuals from a population of 10000 visitors to the Public Show of Canary Autochthonous Breeds (Delgado *et al* 1990) celebrated in *Agrocana-rias 90*, the most important exposition of land products of the Canary Islands.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE INQUIRY. Nine key questions about the subject *Conservation of Rare Breeds and Shows* were included in the questionnaire; the first eight with a

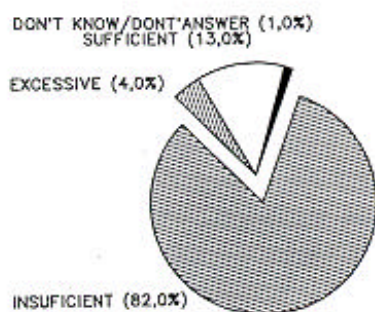


Figure 2. What do you think about the official interest in rare breed domestic animals? (¿Qué es lo que piensa sobre el interés oficial sobre las razas autóctonas?).

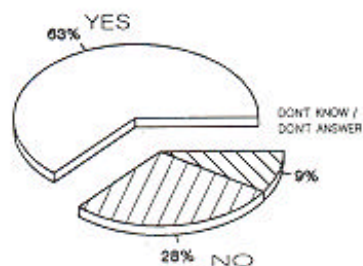


Figure 3. If you are or you were a farmer would you renounce of some profits for the protection of the domestic animals rare breed? (Si fuera granjero ¿renunciaría algún beneficio para proteger a las razas autóctonas?).

limited number of answers and the last for suggestions.

To try to establish subpopulations we asked the following two questions: are you farmer?; what is your age? Followed by a question (**figure 1**) dealing with the visitors knowledge about the subject.

Four questions (**figures 2, 3, 4** and **5**) were asked afterwards, to detect the attitude with respect to the necessary actions for the conservation and preservation of rare breeds and, two more (**figures 6** and **7**) trying to evaluate the sensitization about the conservation of autochthonous breeds produced after visit.

EVALUATION OF THE INQUIRY. The data were saved and statistically analyzed using the Statistical Analysis System (S.A.S. 1982a and 1982b) following the standard methodology in the Analysis of questionnaires (Sanchís *et al.*

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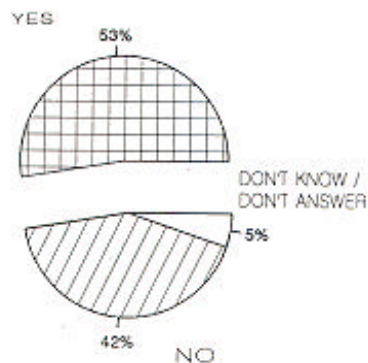


Figure 4. Do you think the conservation of autochthonous rare breeds justifies adopting strong measures, such as closing borders to foreign animals? (La conservación de las razas autóctonas ¿justifica medidas drásticas como el cierre de fronteras a otros animales).

1989). These Analysis consisted in a study of the basic descriptive statistics (Proc. Univariate), the Analysis of the distribution of frequencies (Proc. Tabulate) and the developing of independence test (Proc. Freq).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

We have seen how the frequency* for farmers (60, 22.1%) and non farmers (205, 75.4%) and age groups (from 1 to 18 years, between 18 and 35, between 35 and 55, and older than 55), does not present any association (Chi square test) in their results with observe that most of inquired considered them as a creation of man that

* six individuals not answered for this question

must be conserved (216, 79.4%).

To What do you think about the effort of public institutions for the autochthonous breeds? (figure 2), most of the people (224, 82.4%) evaluate

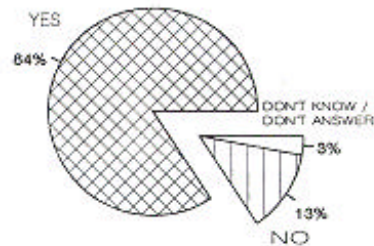


Figure 5. Would you buy products from rare breeds even though they were more expensive? (¿Compraría productos de razas autóctonas aunque fueran más caros?)

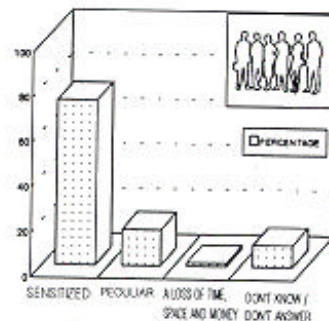


Figure 6. Which have been your feelings, during your attendance at this autochthonous breeds show? (¿Cuáles han sido sus impresiones durante la visita a la exposición de razas autoctonas?).

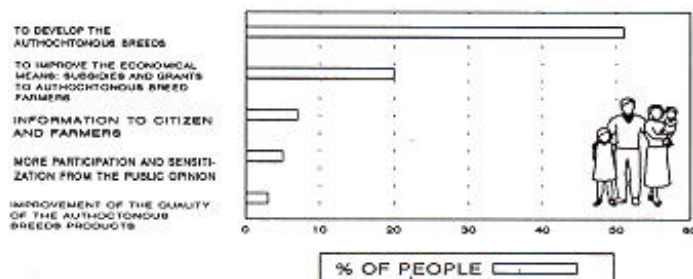


Figure 7. Main citizen's preoccupation with respect to the rare breed domestic animals conservation. (Principales preocupaciones respecto a la conservación de razas autóctonas).

this effort as insufficient, 34 persons (12.5%) consider it sufficient and only 10 persons (4%) excessive.

On the question; *If you are or you were a farmer would you renounce some profits for the protection of rare breed of domestic animals?* (figure 3), 172 persons (63.2%) answered *Yes*, and 75 (27.6%) answered *No*. On this question we point out the similar frequencies obtained for farmers and non farmers (*Yes*: 60% and 64.4%; *No*: 35% and 25.9%, respectively).

When we asked *Are hard measures justified to conserve the autochthonous breeds?* (figure 4), the opinion was divided, 144 (53.2%) persons answered *Yes*, and 115 (42.3%) answered *No*.

On the question *Would you buy products from autochthonous breeds even though they were more expensive?* (figure 5), the majority of inquired answered *Yes* (229, 84.2%). Only 35 persons (12.9%) answered *No*.

To which has been your feelings

during your attendance at this autochthonous breeds show? (figure 6), 199 (73.2%) persons felt sensitized with the breeds conservation, for 43 (15.8%) rare breeds are curious animals, and only 4 (1.5%) considered the show as a waste of time, space and money.

Finally, we have obtained several interesting suggestions with respect to the rare breeds conservation (figure 7), being the most important ones to develop the autochthonous breeds and improve economic aids to farmers.

CONCLUSIONS

Seeing these results all together we observe that independent of age and the relationship with the land, public opinion considers the autochthonous breeds as something created by man that must be conserved with more effort by public institutions.

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Those inquired would renounce some farm profits or would buy more expensive products in order to collaborate with conservation efforts. Most of inquired considered the autochthonous breed shows, as a good mean to

sensitize the public opinion on its conservation.

Finally we emphasize the interesting suggestions made by those questioned as shown in **figure 7**.

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