

BC SPCA Food Policy

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BC SPCA's Vision

To inspire and mobilize society to create a world in which all animals enjoy as a minimum, five essential freedoms:

- 1. Freedom from hunger and thirst**
- 2. Freedom from pain, injury, and disease**
- 3. Freedom from distress**
- 4. Freedom from discomfort**
- 5. Freedom to express behaviours that promote well-being**

BC SPCA's Mission

To protect and enhance the quality of life for domestic, farm and wild animals in British Columbia.

Our Objective

To encourage increased uptake of humanely raised farm animal products by British Columbian consumers through leadership in the BC SPCA's own purchasing practices.



Good Policy

1. Reflects your values.
2. Has buy-in from your stakeholders, including the implementers and your community.
3. Achievable and easy to understand.

Our Process

1. Environment scan of other animal welfare NGOs
2. Survey staff and Community Council members.
3. Draft Policy and solicit Board input.
4. Solicit staff and Community Council input.
5. Finalize and approve policy.



Environment Scan

Higher Welfare Food Policies:

ASPCA

RSPCA Australia

RSPCA UK

World Animal Protection

Vegetarian or Vegan Food Policies:

Montreal SPCA

HSUS

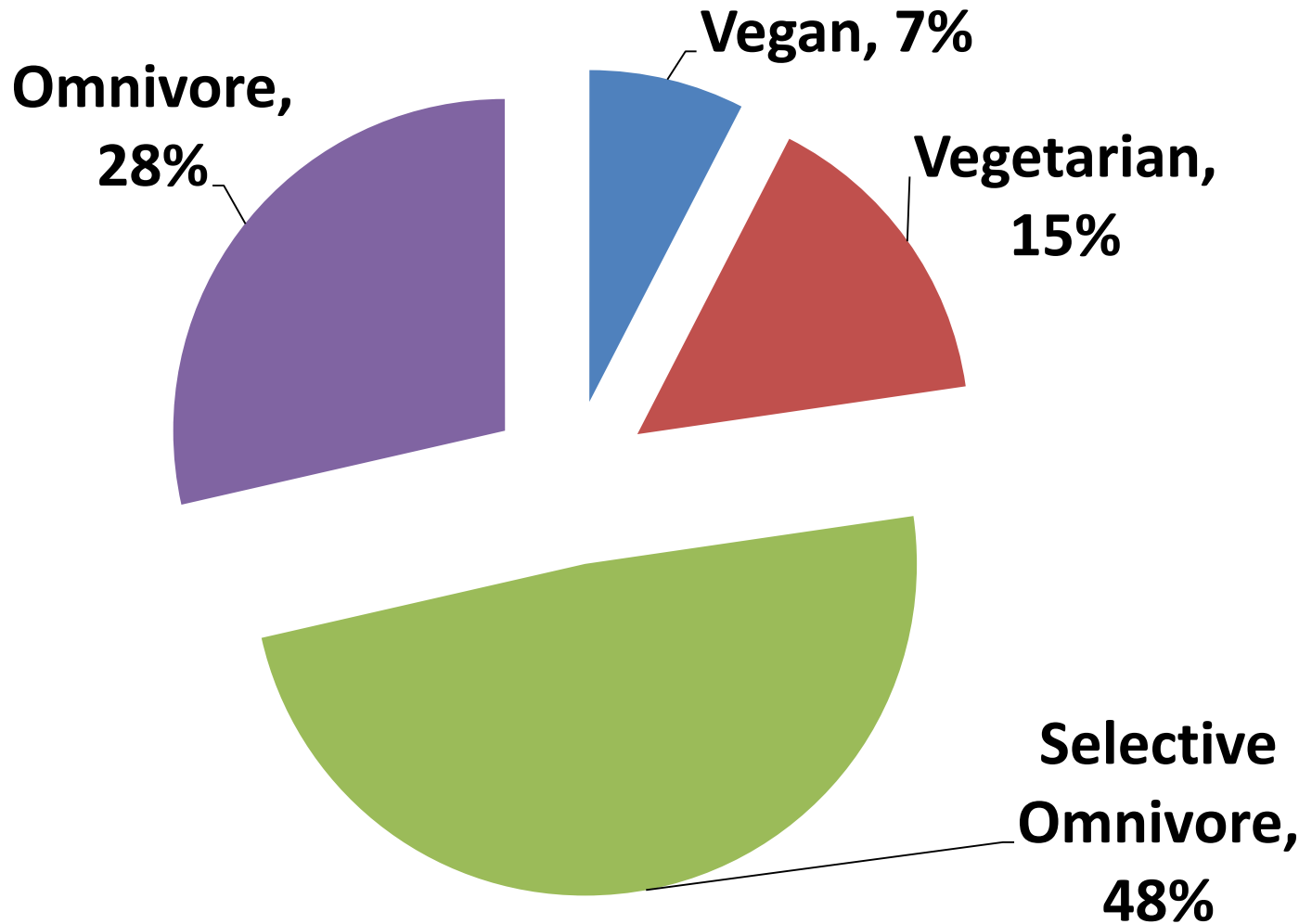
Our Survey

- Gauge current dietary choice of our community
- Benchmark foods served at events
- Benchmark food options available around BC
- Assess preferences for the policy options
- Assess implementation challenges and needs

Participation

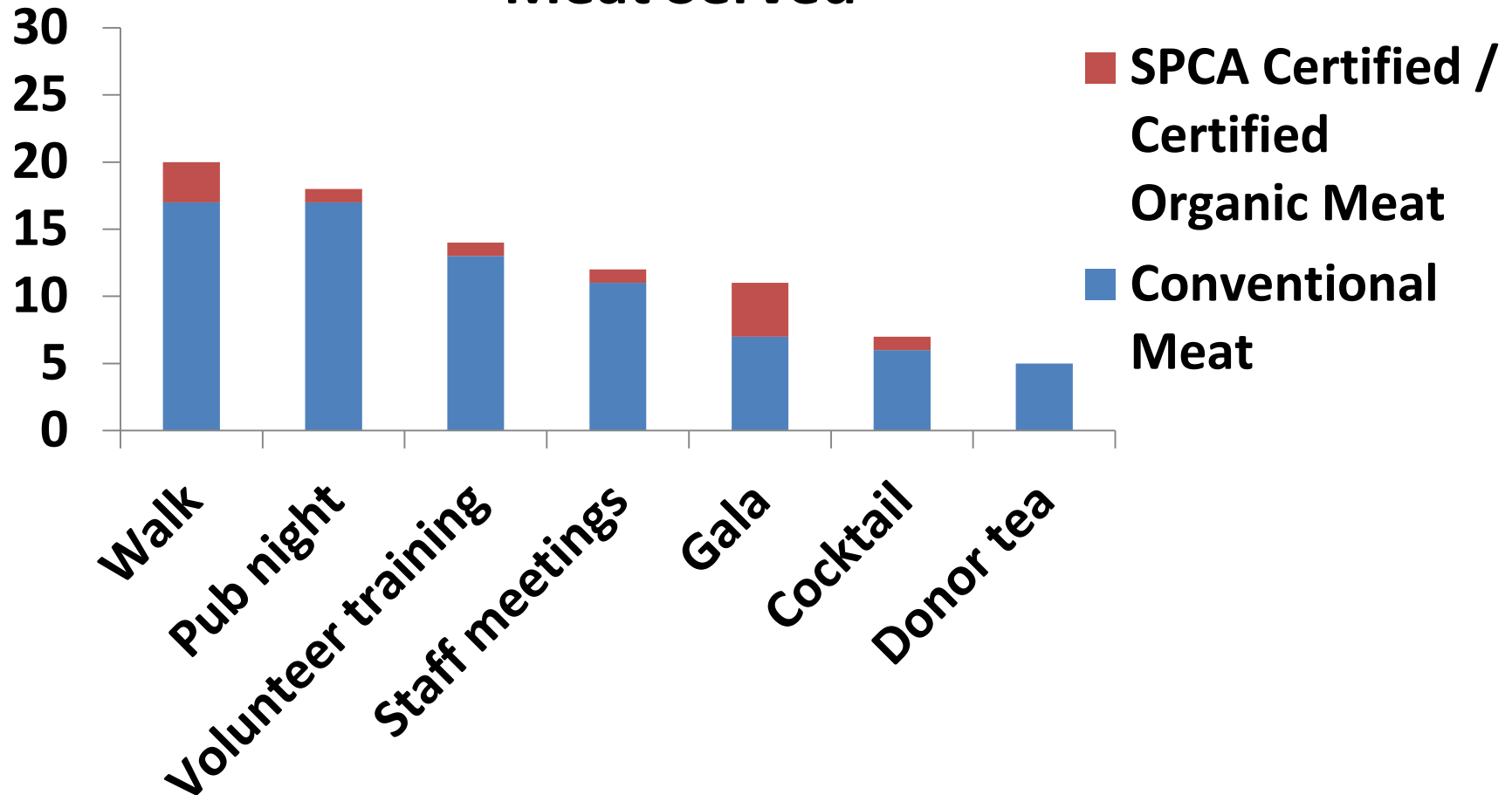
- 130 respondents from every location
- 89 staff
- 41 Community Council and Board members

Personal Dietary Choice



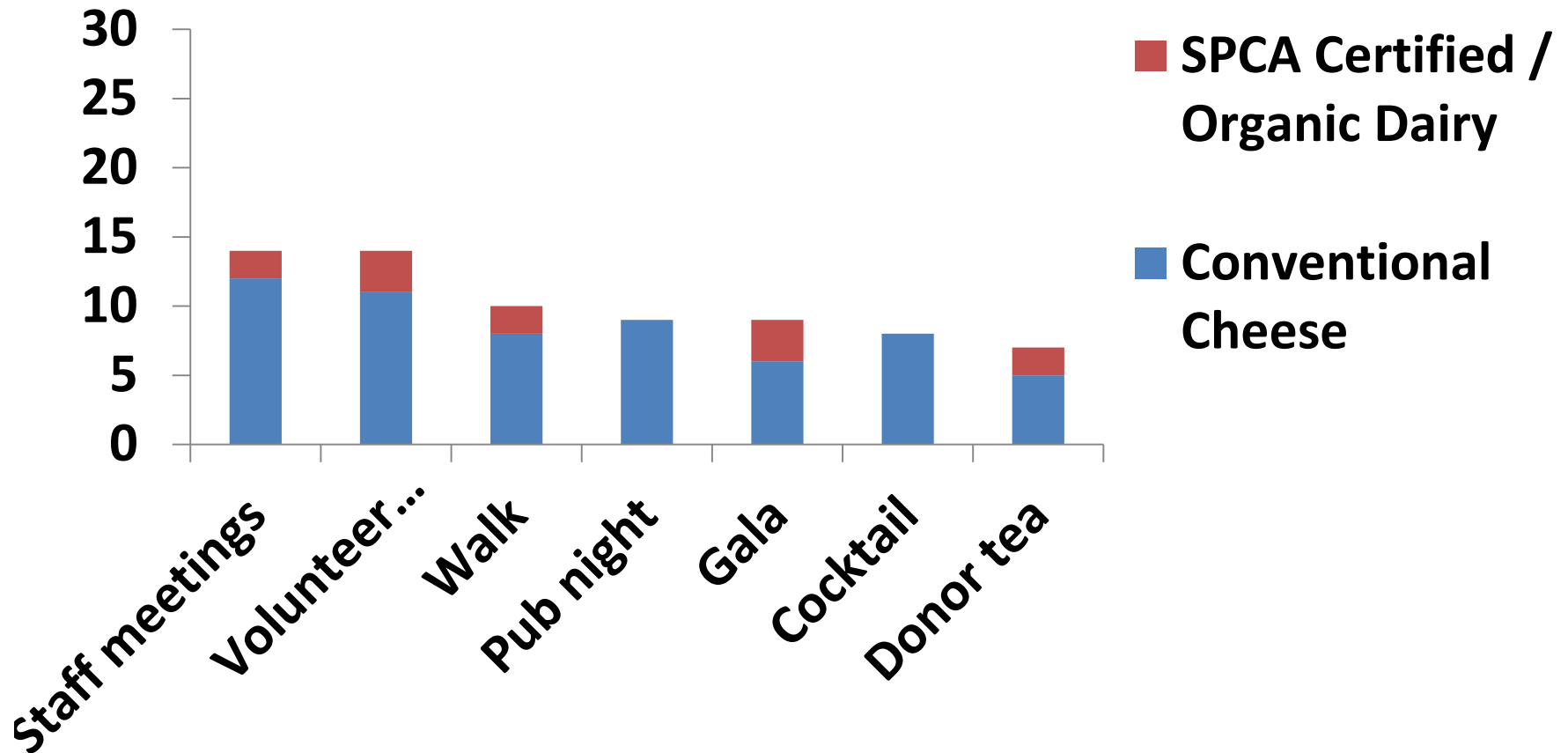
Current practices

Meat Served



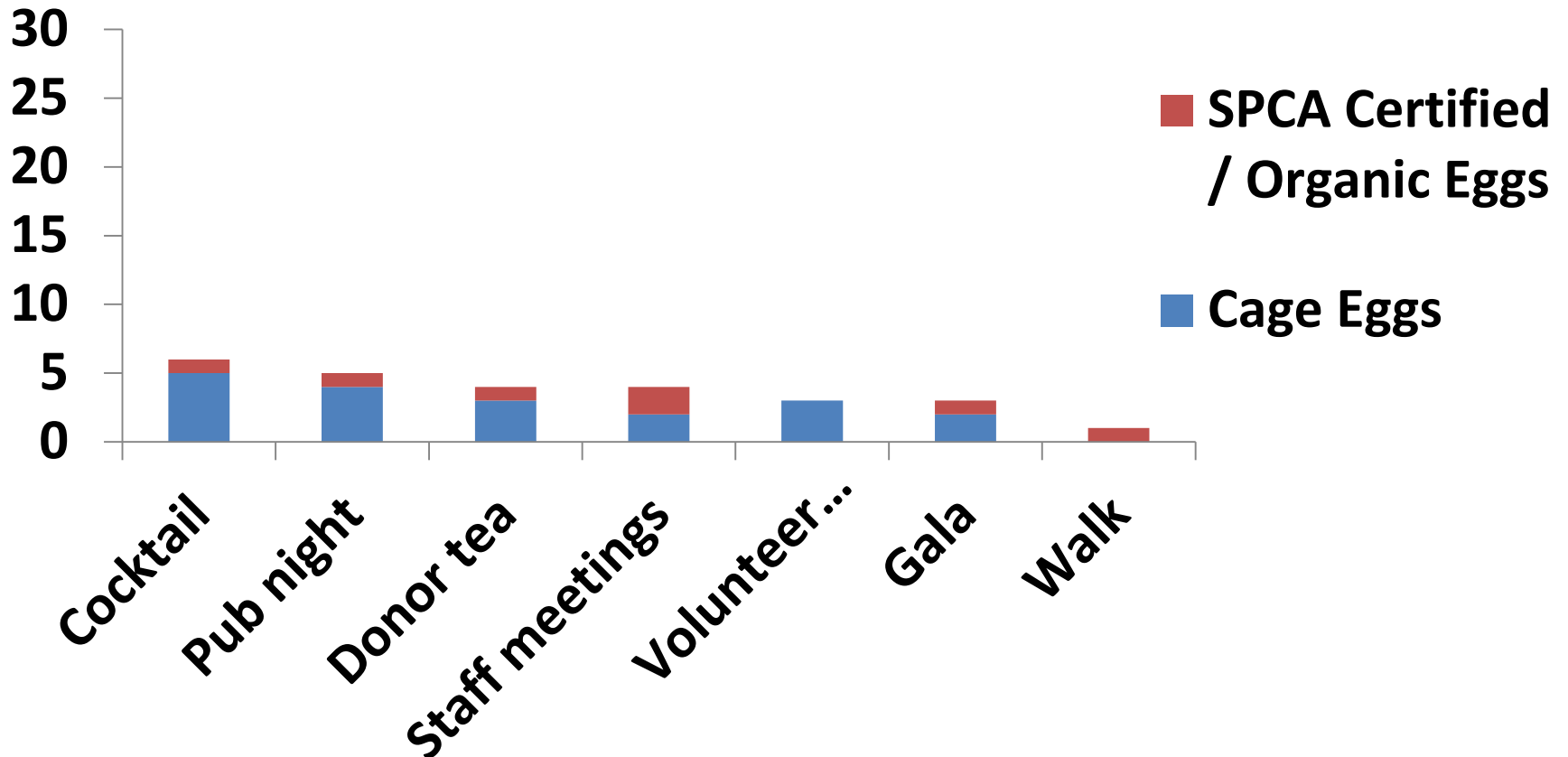
Current practices

Cheese Served



Current practices

Eggs Served



What's Available in Your Community?

- Cage-free eggs are available everywhere
- 7 locations indicated they had no availability of SPCA Certified, Certified Organic, or free-range meat
- 12 locations indicated they had no availability of SPCA Certified, Certified Organic, or pasture-raised dairy products
- Northern locations have much less availability of “higher welfare” products

What did we hear?

“Thank you for taking the risks involved to put this forward! I hope the response is overwhelmingly clear and favourable for the proposal.”

“I believe this should've been implemented already but better later than never. We should practice what we preach ;) ”

What did we hear?

“We are concerned about sourcing food products and the cost of them. Currently food provided at branch functions is purchased with points at a local grocery store.

Vegetarian options are always available. This community is very supportive of our branch and we would not want to alienate them by implementing a policy they feel is too “‘extreme’.

Currently when we host a Dinner & Silent Auction or Burger & Brew, the meat choice is always the most popular by a wide margin. The potential for losing community support of our events is very real.”

What did we hear?

“Hey, Geoff, is there interest in a move to require dehorning of goats to be done by a vet under anesthetic? I'm raising Nigerian Dwarf goats, so this has been on my mind.”

Concerns Raised

Cost: Budget for increased costs.

Availability: Qualifying products will be difficult to source, especially for events held at restaurants and other venues with existing suppliers (pub nights, galas).

Recommendation: A marketing coordinator should be retained recruit new farms and food vendors, plus offer assistance in sourcing products.

The Policy!

Vegetarian or vegan food options must be made available at all BC SPCA-organized functions at which food is served in order to meet the anticipated needs of participants.

94% agreed or strongly agreed.

The Policy!

Only qualifying “higher-welfare” food products may be sold or used for human consumption at BC SPCA-organized functions.

93% agreed or strongly agreed.

Roll Out

Effective immediately, only SPCA Certified, Certified Organic or cage-free / crate-free **eggs or pork products** may be served at any BC SPCA function

Rationale:

- Conventional practices for these industries are acutely concerning (battery cages and crates)
- Cage-free eggs are available in every community
- Very few events serve eggs or pork products.

Roll Out

Ten locations are piloting the full policy now.

Rationale:

- Piloting in the easiest communities first increases buy-in
- Other branches will on-board over 4 years as higher welfare products become available.

