



International  
Society for  
Applied  
Ethology

# 2018-2019 SURVEY

## ISAE LATIN AMERICAN REGION

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# ISAE - Latin America Region Survey

## Introduction

At the International Society for Applied Ethology Latin America (LA) Regional Office, we wanted to understand the professional background and needs of our members and potential members in the Latin America Region. We hope that this valuable information could allow us to improve our communication with ISAE members in the region and with those who would like to be part of our professional organization.

## The survey

The survey was design using Google platform and it was open between September 2018 and January 2019. It was distributed using the regional email account and social platforms.

Responses to the survey were confidential, no name, email or any other identifiable information was collected. The survey had 2 sections, a general information section where we asked about the background of the participants and a second section that had 3 types of questions depending on the affiliation to ISAE: current members, non-members and former ISAE member.

## Results

### 1. General Results

We received a total of 63 responses from which:

- 32% were from Current ISAE members
- 3% were from Former ISAE members
- 65% were from Non ISAE members

From these 71% of respondents were female and 29% male. Respondents were current residents of 8 countries within the LA region, the majority from Chile (43%), followed by Brazil (17%) (Figure 1). The age distribution of the survey respondents is showed in Figure 2.

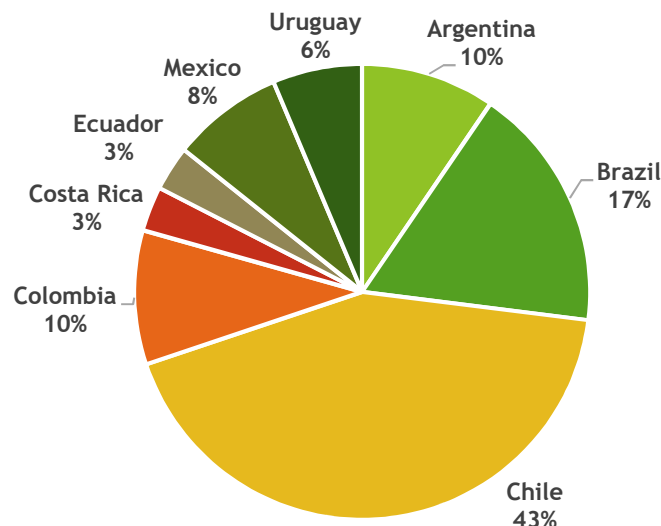
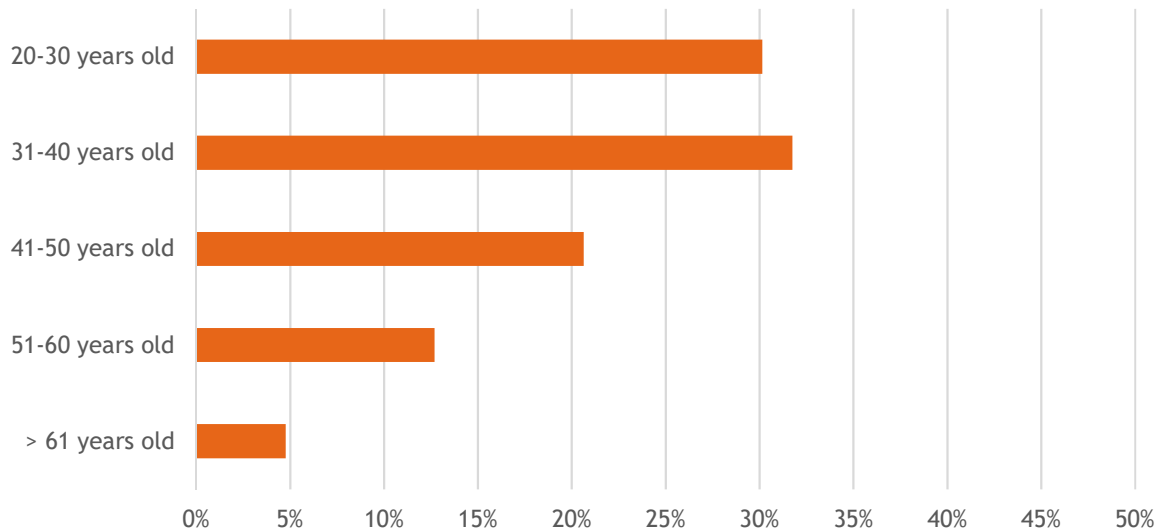
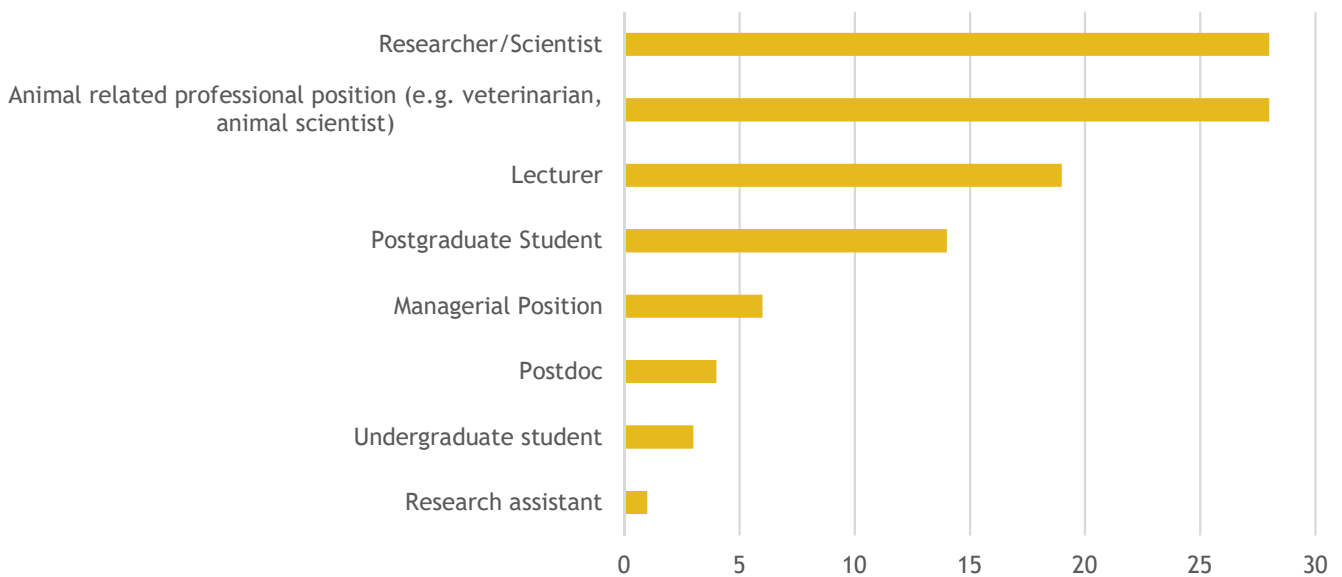


Figure 1. Distribution of survey respondents per country of residence.



**Figure 2.** Age distribution of all survey respondents

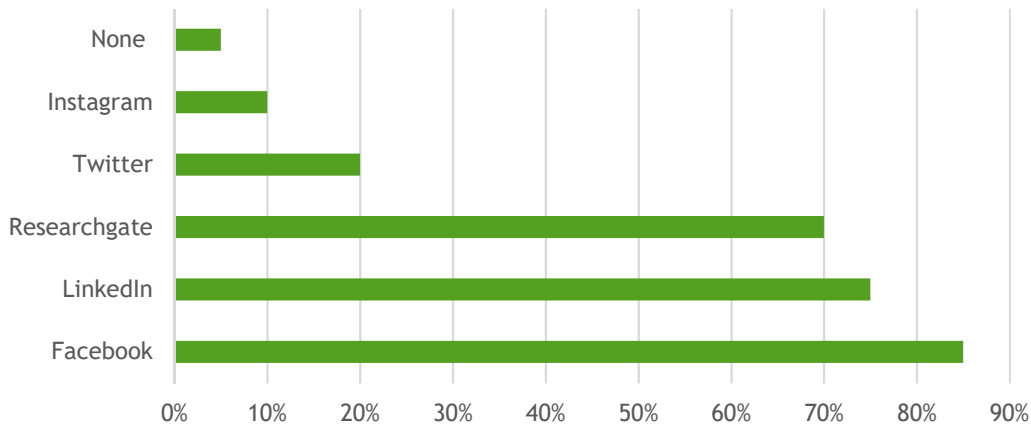
Respondents mainly declared that their current employment was in an animal related professional position and/or researcher, followed by lecturer (Figure 3).



**Figure 3.** Employment or study position that closely matches current working or study situation of respondents. They were able to select more than one option.

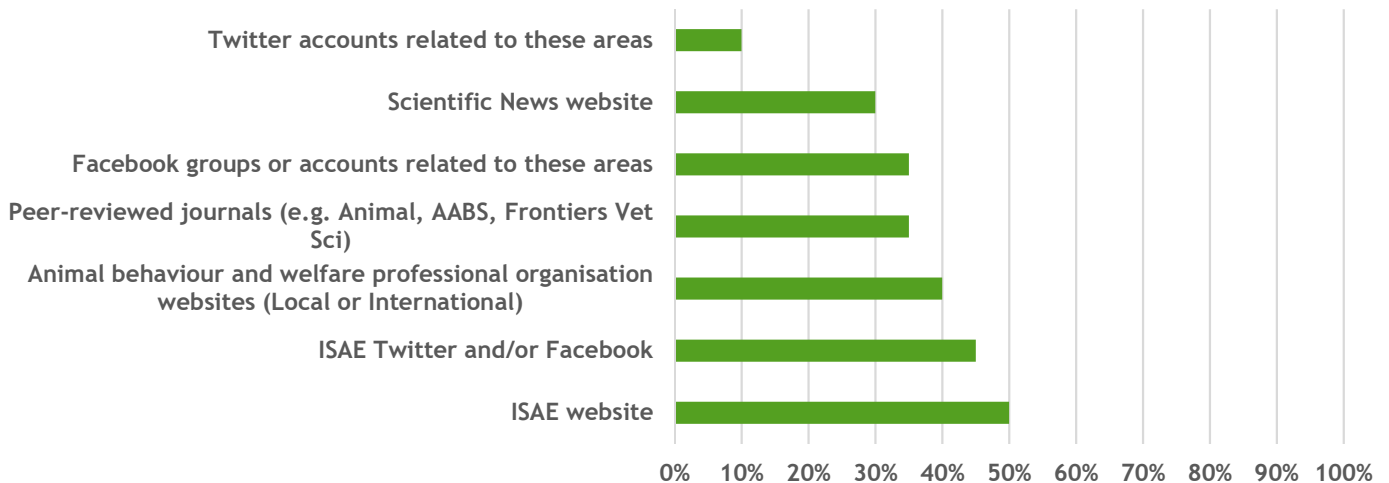
## 2. Current ISAE members

Facebook, LinkedIn and ResearchGate were the most used social media channels by our current ISAE members in the LA Region (Figure 4).



**Figure 4.** Social media channels used by current ISAE members in the LA Region

When asked where they get updates about animal behaviour and welfare science, the most used online platforms were ISAE Twitter and/or Facebook and ISAE website (Figure 5).



**Figure 5.** Internet platforms used by current ISAE members in the LA Region to get updated about animal behaviour and welfare science

The websites used by those who responded that they get their updates about animal behaviour and welfare science from “Scientific News website” were:

- UFAW
- OIE
- Animal Behaviour at the University of Guelph
- RSPCA
- Faunalytics
- FAWEC
- WAP

We asked our members how the ISAE Regional Office could help them in their professional development, their answers fell within the following three areas:

**a) Networking:**

- *Creating opportunities for networking*
- *Helping with information and consolidation of networks of scientists and research groups working in common areas*

- *It helps me engaging with professionals in my area from the region and keep me updated in the current research areas*
- *Through networking around the world*
- *Allowing me to get in touch more effectively with central ISAE and other professional organizations or associations in the area of ethology.*

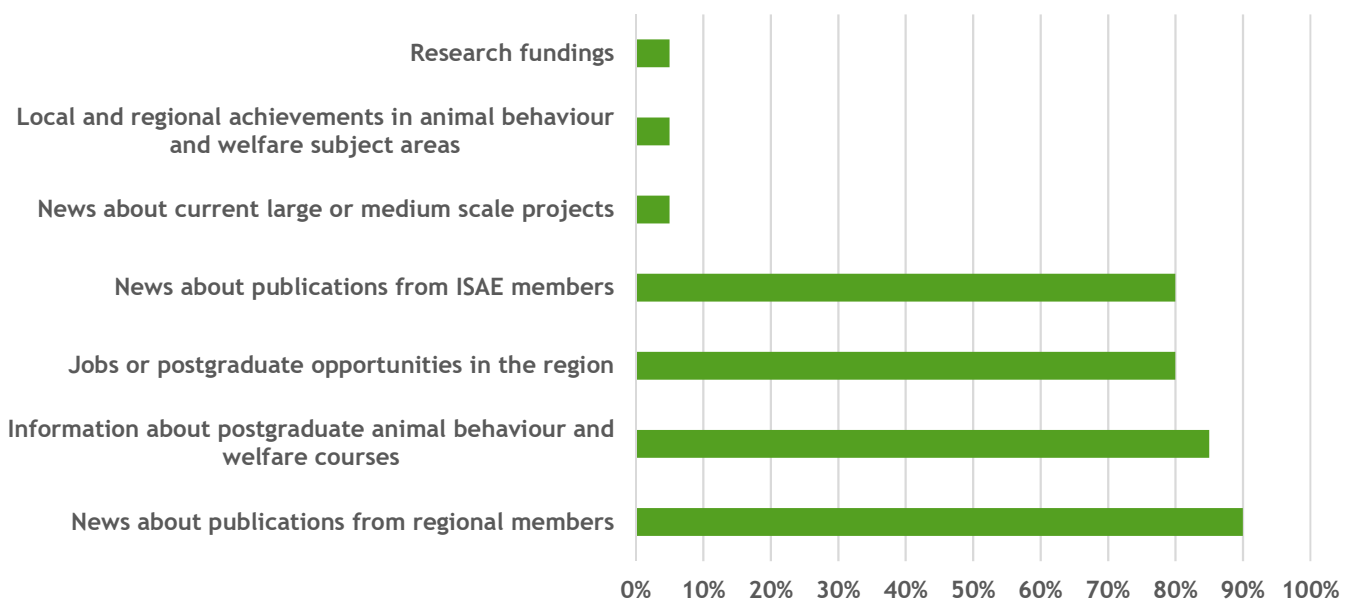
**b) Information about events and job opportunities**

- *Sending newsletters more frequently*
- *Sending more information and scientific articles*
- *Keep us informed about related events and potential job offers.*
- *Offering databases per area, with information about ethology, applied ethology and animal welfare*
- *Workshops and employment networks*
- *Posting jobs and opportunities from Latin American Universities and Organizations*

**c) Economic assistance**

- *Discounts for publishing papers related to the organization*

In addition, our members are interested to know more about published work by other regional members, postgraduate programmes in animal behaviour and welfare and courses, jobs or postgraduate opportunities in the region and general news about publications from ISAE members (Figure 6). When asked how they would like to receive regional news, 85% of our members would like to receive this information by email, 45% by Facebook Regional Group, and 20% by Twitter Regional account.



**Figure 6.** Type of information that current ISAE members in the LA region would like to receive from ISAE Regional office

Finally, we wanted to know what ISAE could offer to make membership more useful/appealing to them. Their answers fell in the following categories:

**a) Economic assistance**

- *Access to publications, discount for courses*
- *Travel grants, reduced fee in ISAE conference*
- *Discounts to attend international meetings*
- *Offer the possibility to be part of the association through universities*

#### **b) Jobs, internships and network information**

- *Job offers in Latin America, as well as internship offers and possible collaborations in the region, like the main ISAE website.*
- *Information about groups that are interested in doing collaborative research*
- *Information on international funding sources*

### **3. Former members**

Only 2 former members replied our survey, both declared that they are not members since 2012. The reasons given for not renewing were lack of affordability to pay the fee and forgetting to renew. One of our former members is keen to become member again but suggested that offering a discount for paying for two years in advance would be a good idea. They also suggested that the best way for the ISAE regional office to communicate with its members is a newsletter, and a webpage. They were glad to participate in our survey:

*“this survey is a good start!! we need to gather our Latin American mates!”*

### **4. Non-members**

From the respondents 61% do not belong to a professional association, while 39% answered that they do. From those who said that belong to a society, the following are the societies they mentioned:

- Mexican Society of Veterinary Epidemiology
- Animal Behaviour Society
- Brazilian Ethology Society
- Uruguayan Zoological Society
- Latin American Society of Primatology
- Argentinian Society of Laboratory Animals Science and Technology
- Argentinian Society of Animal Production
- Chilean Society of Veterinary Clinical Ethology
- Chilean Society of Animal Production
- Costa Rican Veterinary College
- Chilean Veterinary Professional Association
- Mexican Society of Ethology and Animal Welfare

Respondents answers to the reason why they do not belong to a professional society fell within the following categories:

#### **a) Lack of knowledge about a professional society or opportunities to join one**

- *Because I did not know how to*
- *Because I do not know anybody that belong to a society*
- *Because I don't know*
- *Because I don't know anyone or maybe is a new concept*
- *Because I don't know what that is*
- *I have not had the opportunity to join a society*
- *In the short time of my professional life, I have worked at universities and I don't know the possibility to belong to a society*
- *I don't belong to a professional society because I have never met any in XXX that dedicates to animal welfare and applied ethology*
- *Because in my country is not common, there is one for veterinarians but it is compulsory*

#### **b) Economic reasons**

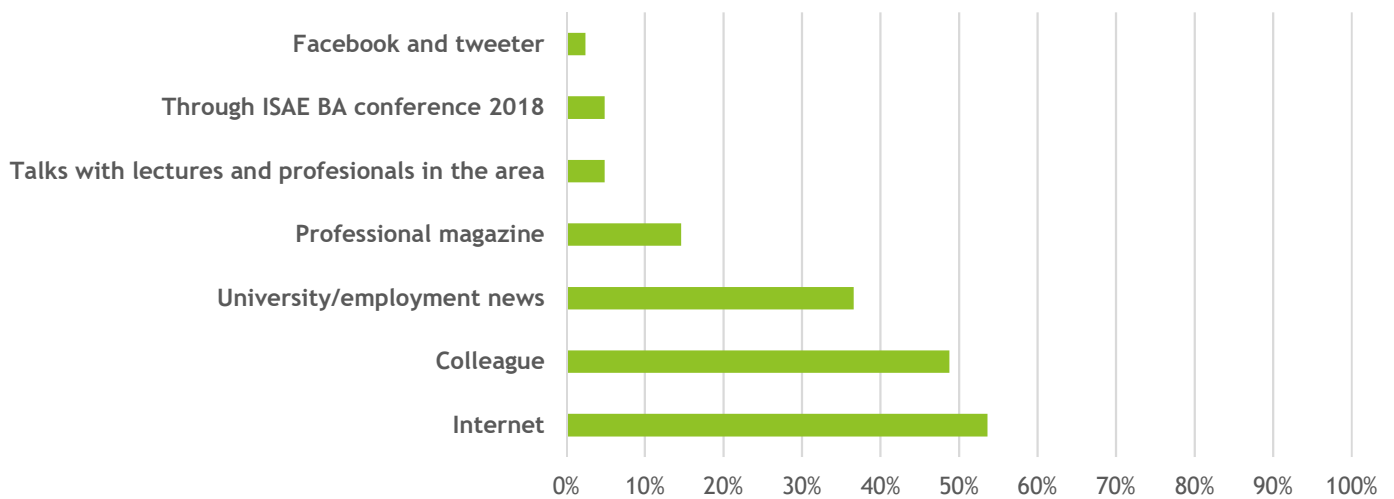
- *High cost of membership fee and renewal v/s benefits*
- *High cost and lack of representation (topic of interest)*

#### **c) New to the professional area**

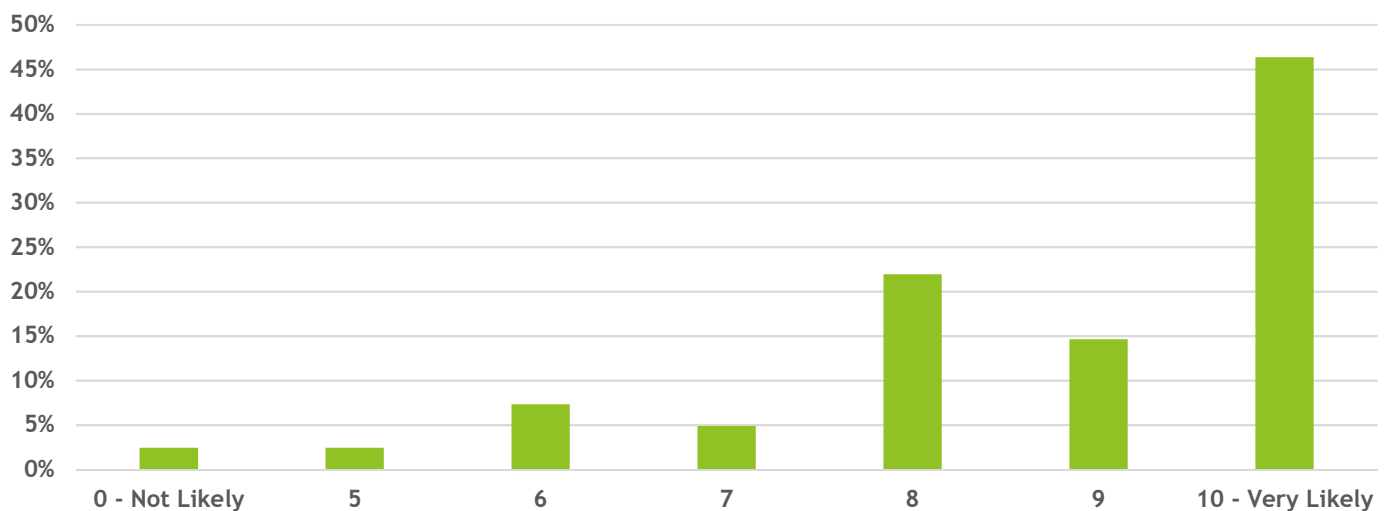
- *I am recently working in the area*

- *Because I am just getting involved in the subject, since I've been a few years in the profession*
- *I am a new graduate and am evaluating the membership.*
- *I am a student*
- *I am an undergraduate student, but in the future, I would like to participate in many professional societies.*

Eighty percent of the respondents said that they have heard about ISAE, the remaining did not know about ISAE. From those who heard about ISAE, they knew about it through internet, a colleague, or through university or employment news (Figure 7). When asked to read about ISAE Mission statement, more than 70% of respondents said that they were more likely or very likely to join ISAE (Figure 8).

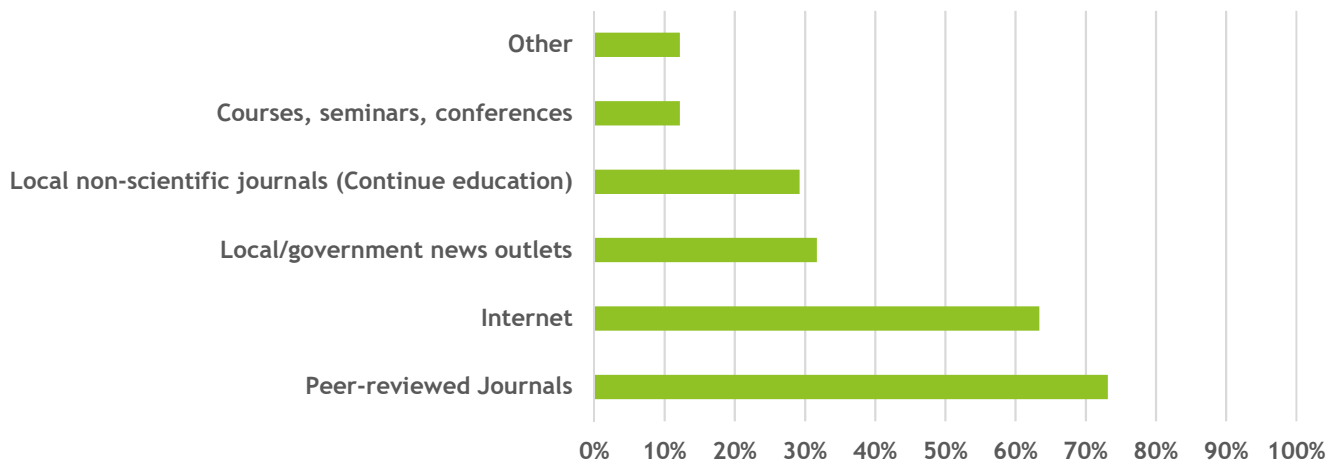


**Figure 7.** Places where respondents learnt about ISAE



**Figure 8.** Respondents likeliness to join ISAE after reading the ISAE Mission Statement

Non-members stated that they obtained information about animal behaviour and welfare mainly from peer-reviewed journals and the internet (Figure 9).



**Figure 8.** Places where respondents obtain information about animal behaviour and welfare for their current job or studies

Respondents were asked names of the websites from where they obtained animal behaviour and welfare information, they only mentioned once the ISAE website. Other websites mentioned were:

- OIE
- ResearchGate
- CIWF
- NC3Rs
- ISAE
- Temple Grandin

While some of the peer-reviewed journals mentioned were Applied Animal Behaviour Science, Animal Welfare, Animals, Animal Behaviour and Anthrozoos. In addition, 71% of the non-members have heard about AABS journal with 44% of those who heard from it, it is because they have published their work there.

## Conclusion and recommendations

This is the first survey run in the region to understand ISAE members' views. It is important to consider what social platforms they use to be able to reach them; this will also allow ISAE to reach potential members. Members have been able to let us know what their needs and interests on regards of their ISAE membership are. This is an opportunity to consider new ways to engaged them and strength the presence of ISAE in the region.

- ISAE shall consider reducing fees or finding other ways to support members in regions such as LA where economic constraints can be a strain for young professional or students to join or member to renew their memberships.
- The regional office could promote talks at main institutions or research groups in the different countries that are part of our region. This could be organised by members who live in those countries or by online platforms.
- ISAE may benefit of setting up a Spanish & Portuguese website or social platforms to reach our members and potential members in the region, this could be part of the international development of our organisation.
- Set up an Outreach Program that can be led by the Regional Office to engage with research labs and professional organizations around the region. This information can be uploaded to the ISAE website.