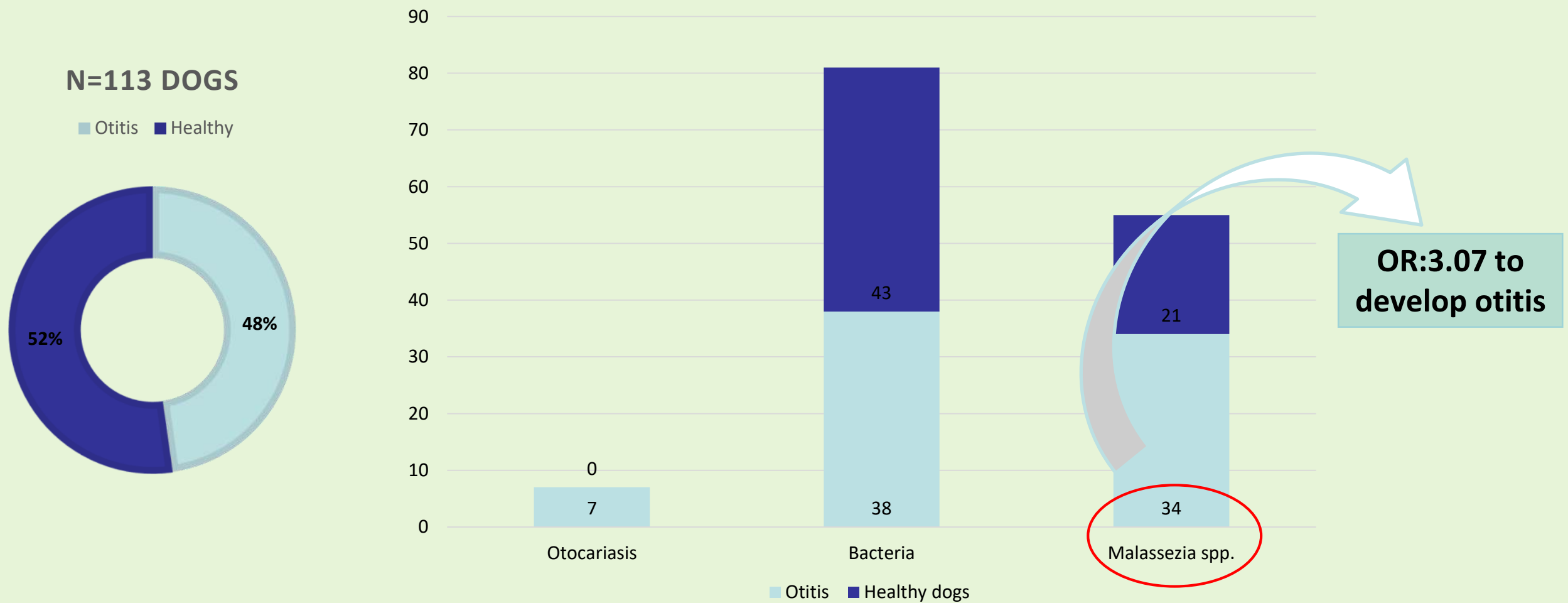
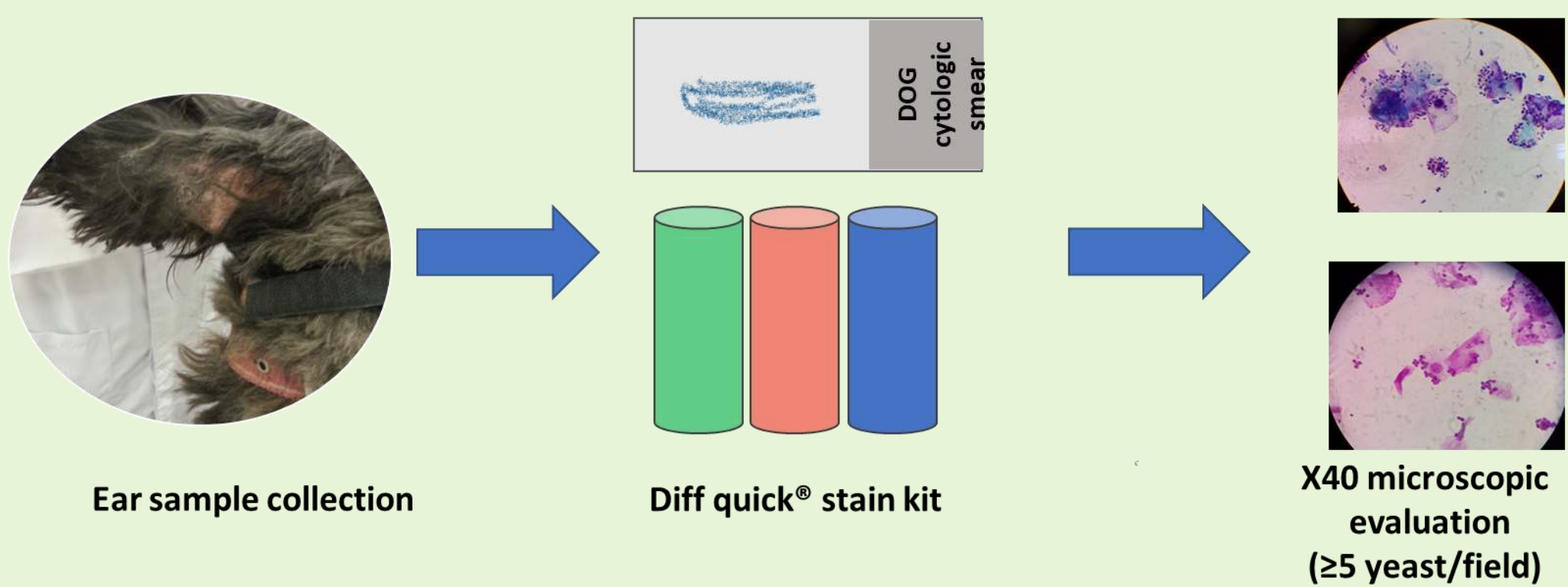


INCIDENCE OF OTITIS EXTERNA DUE TO *MALASSEZIA PACHYDERMATIS* IN DOGS SUBMITTED TO WEEKLY GROOMING

-Batista, Thiago Neves – MV, MSc, PhD – Department of Veterinary Medicine – FURB, Blumenau
 -Lucioli, Joelma – MV, MSc, PhD – Veterinary Pathologist- Department of Veterinary Medicine – FURB, Blumenau
 -Anzai, Eleine – MV, MSc - Department of Veterinary Medicine – FURB, Blumenau
 -Santos, Isabela Belotto – MV - Brusque
 -Loos, Arthur Henrique – MV – Cãoapanheiro Veterinary clinic - Brusque

Otitis is an inflammation of the ear canal, and is frequently diagnosed in the veterinary routine. *Malassezia pachydermatis* infections are one of the most important agents of ear infection in dogs. Diagnosis is usually simple and easy to be established in veterinary facilities. Animals that attend to grooming services are exposed to several procedures like excessive cleaning, ear hair removal and high levels of humidity, which can predispose to otitis. This study aim to evaluate the occurrence of external otitis, and *Malassezia* yeast infections in a population of dogs, which regularly visit grooming services in Brusque – SC, Brazil. Several epidemiological factors were analyzed such as: age, breed, sex, bathing frequency and their correlation with the occurrence of otitis. For this study 113 samples were collected from both ears, using a sterile swab, and then smeared in microscope slides. Statistical analyses were performed by chi – square test, simple logistic regression and multiple logistic regression.



A high incidence of dogs where diagnosed with otitis externa, with no significant findings related to age, hyperplasia, pus, erythema, odor and pain. The most affected breeds were Mongrel dogs 16.66% (9), Yorkshire Terrier 14.81%8 (8), Shih Tzu and Poodle 12.91% (7) and Lhasa Apso 9.25% (5). There were no sex-related predisposition to otitis externa. Yeast were detected in 55 samples and these dogs had higher chances to develop otitis. Occurrence of otitis in this population can be considered elevated in comparison other data, and a high count of yeasts and bacterial cells was also noted. The findings suggest that, weekly grooming in dogs, must be revised in order to avoid high incidence of otitis externa.