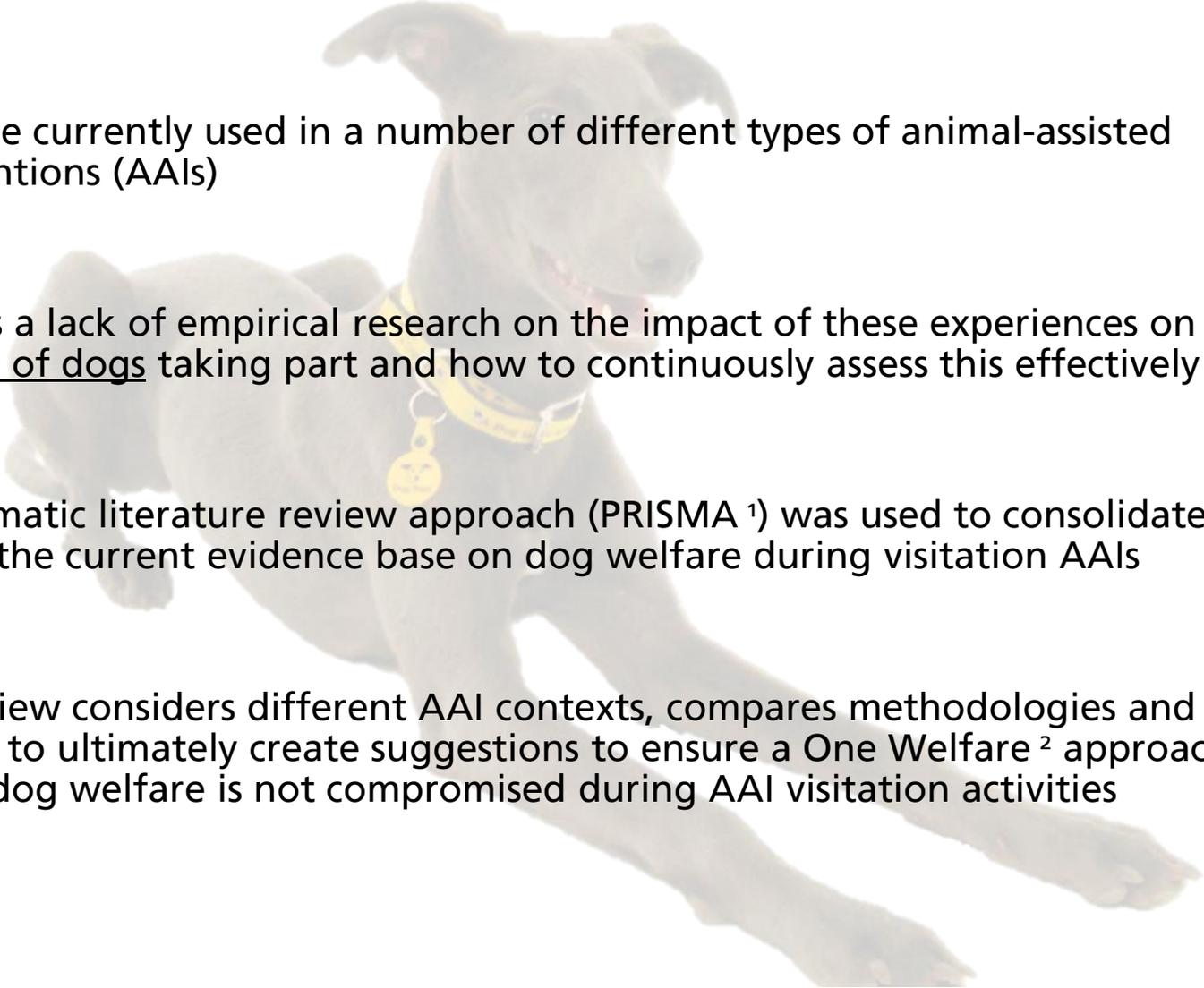


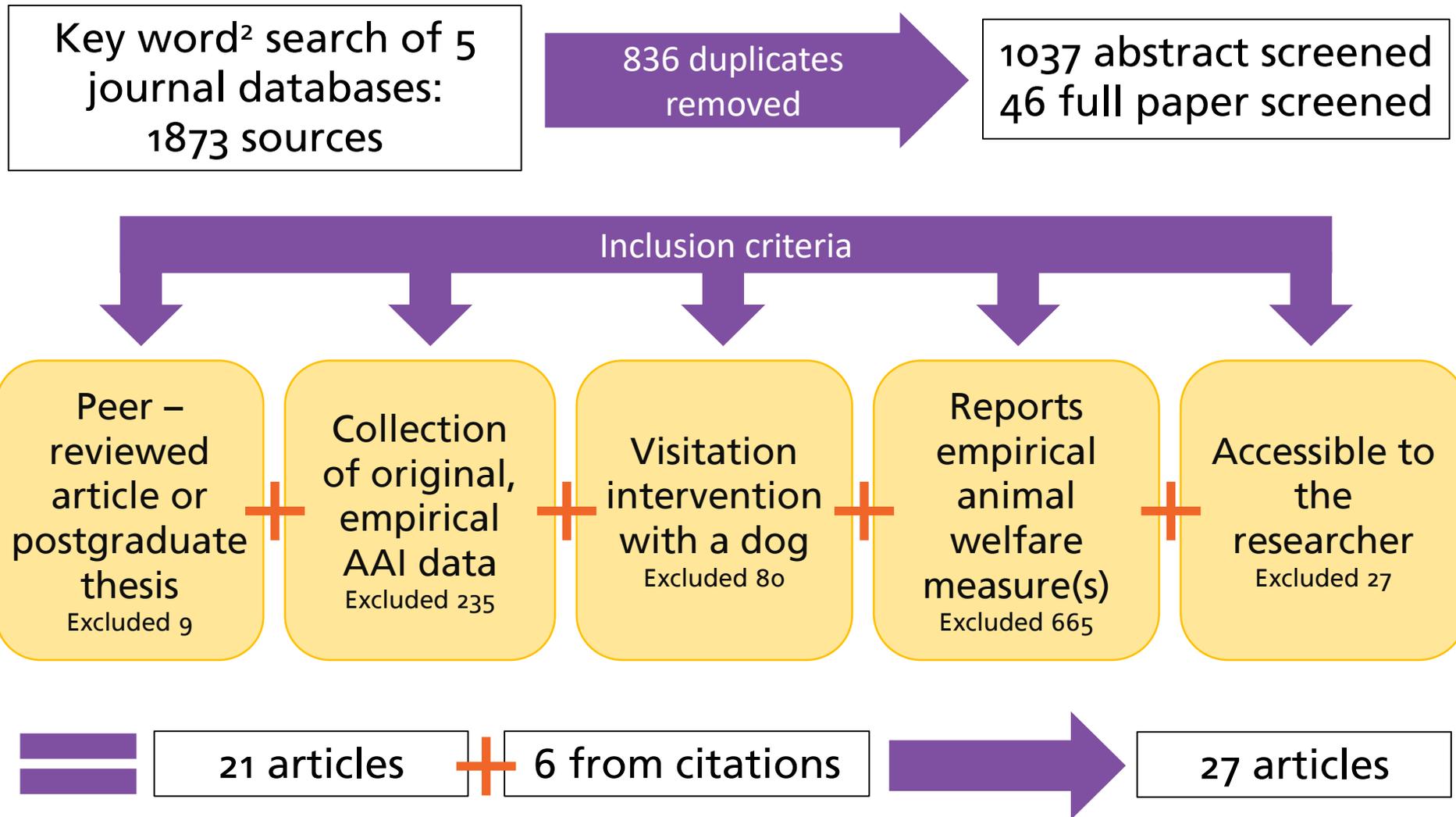
The Impact of Animal-Assisted Interventions on Dog Welfare: A Systematic Literature Review



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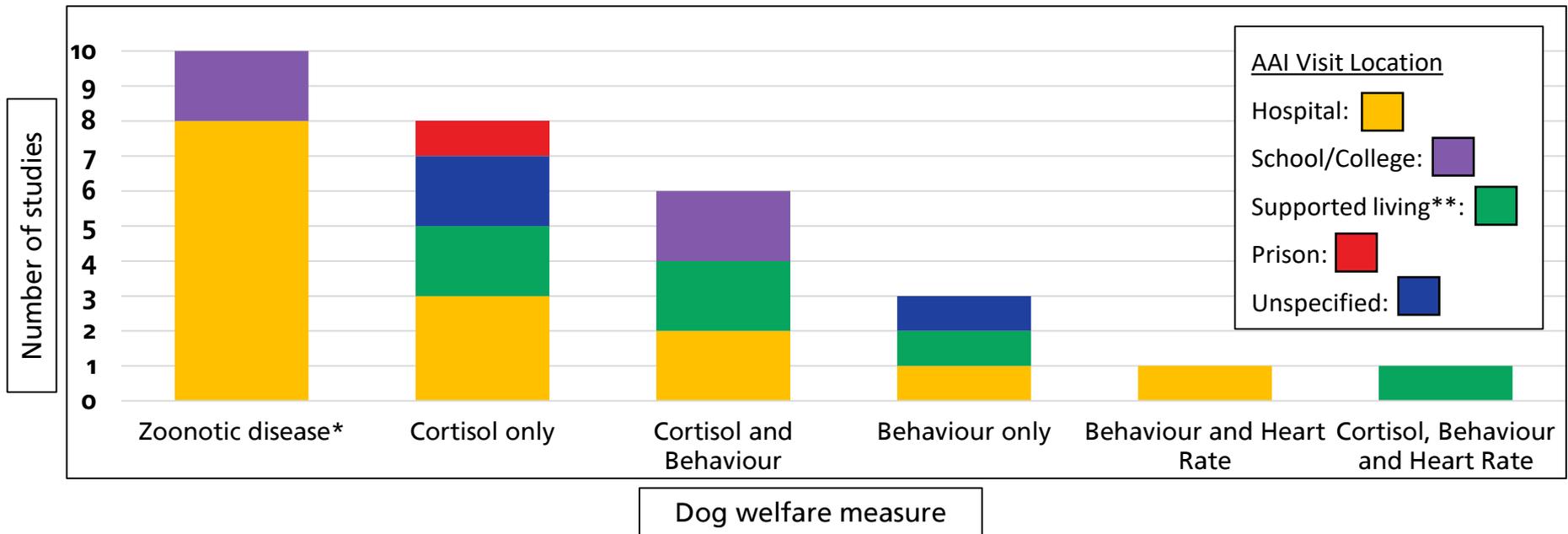
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- Dogs are currently used in a number of different types of animal-assisted interventions (AAIs)
 - There is a lack of empirical research on the impact of these experiences on the welfare of dogs taking part and how to continuously assess this effectively
 - A systematic literature review approach (PRISMA ¹) was used to consolidate and review the current evidence base on dog welfare during visitation AAIs
 - The review considers different AAI contexts, compares methodologies and intends to ultimately create suggestions to ensure a One Welfare ² approach, where dog welfare is not compromised during AAI visitation activities



Brief Overview of Results

- 18 studies used potential indicators of stress to measure dog welfare.
- 10* studies looked at zoonotic disease presence as a risk to human health, but in this review they were discussed as an indicator of, or risk to, dog welfare
- Results on dogs' physiological and behavioural wellbeing during AAI were mixed and in some cases conflicting within studies. This could be the result of:
 - Limitations within methodologies, including participant's and researcher's interpretations of behaviour and the difficulty in differentiating 'positive' and 'negative' arousal in cortisol levels
 - The specificity of the different types of AAI programmes may require individualised best practice guidelines and monitoring approaches



*One paper looked separately at a school and a hospital AAI which are counted as two studies. Zoonotic diseases included Salmonella, Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus (MRSA), *Clostridium difficile*, *Giardia duodenalis*, *Trichuris vulpis*, *Toxocara canis* and Ancylostomatidae. **Includes nursing homes, supported living facilities or classes for developmental and learning difficulties

Please see our poster at IWDC 2019 for more results

This research was undertaken by and for the Canine Behaviour and Research Directorate at Dogs Trust, the UK's largest dog welfare charity. The full results of this study are currently being written up for publication.

To learn more about our research projects you can email us at research@dogstrust.org.uk or visit our website: <https://www.dogstrustdogschool.org.uk/research/>