



REPRESENTING VOLUNTARY DOG RESCUERS ACROSS THE UK

**NATIONAL SURVEY
OF
LOCAL AUTHORITY
DOG WARDENS**

CONTENTS

PAGE 3	FOREWORD
PAGE 4	AIMS OF SURVEY, METHODOLOGY, RESPONSE RATE, INTERPRETATION
PAGE 6	EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
PAGE 9	CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
PAGE 15	DETAILED FINDINGS
PAGE 15	SECTION 1: DOG WARDEN SERVICE
PAGE 16	SECTION 2: ANIMAL WELFARE CHARTER
PAGE 17	SECTION 3: STRAY DOG SERVICE
PAGE 22	SECTION 4: COMMUNITY OUTREACH WORK
PAGE 24	SECTION 5: DANGEROUS DOGS
PAGE 25	SECTION 6: LICENSING
PAGE 29	SECTION 7: DOG WELFARE ISSUES
PAGE 31	COMMENTS MADE BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES
PAGE 31	APPENDIX 1: RECORD KEEPING
PAGE 32	APPENDIX 2: WHERE STRAY DOGS ARE KEPT
PAGE 33	APPENDIX 3: REASONS WHY DOGS WERE EUTHANISED
PAGE 34	APPENDIX 4: RESCUE AND RE-HOMING ORGANISATIONS THEY WORK WITH
PAGE 35	APPENDIX 5: THE WORK THEY ARE UNDERTAKING WITH SOCIAL HOUSING PROVIDERS TO PROMOTE RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERSHIP
PAGE 37	APPENDIX 6: PROPOSED MEASURES FOR DEALING WITH DANGEROUS DOGS
PAGE 39	APPENDIX 7: DANGEROUS DOGS
PAGE 41	APPENDIX 8: THE LICENSING ARRANGEMENTS RELATING TO DOGS
PAGE 43	APPENDIX 9: DOG WELFARE



**FOREWORD BY ANDRE MENACHE,
CHAIR OF THE DOG RESCUE FEDERATION**

The Dog Rescue Federation was formed in 2012 and is made up entirely of voluntary dog rescue groups operating in different parts of the UK. Our stated purpose is to alleviate the suffering caused to dogs by irresponsible ownership and unlicensed breeding and, in so doing, reduce the social impact of abandoned dogs in communities.

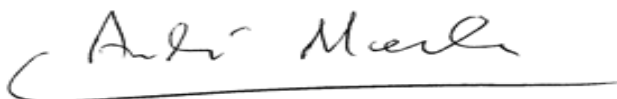
We recognise that until a new legal framework is in place throughout the UK that properly addresses the complex range of issues involved, genuine progress in achieving this purpose will prove difficult. In the absence of new legislation, the Federation believes that improvements are still possible particularly if local authorities adopt a more proactive approach towards the implementation of existing laws, notably those relating to unlicensed dog breeding. We would also welcome the introduction of more effective measures aimed at reducing the numbers of stray dogs.

The Federation's **National Survey of Local Authority Dog Wardens** is an important piece of research that throws considerable light on how local authorities differ in their practices and approaches towards dealing with dog welfare-related issues. It also offers an opportunity for the Federation to suggest to local authorities ways in which they might consider developing more uniform practices for dealing with these issues.

We are already aware of many encouraging examples where local authorities are developing new strategies for reducing the numbers of unwanted dogs and also promoting responsible dog ownership (please see "Working with Councils" on our website www.dogrescuefederation.org for more information). Our ultimate aim is to encourage all local authorities to adopt the good practices of those councils with a more proactive approach towards dog welfare issues. We also want to explain the potential financial savings of doing things differently.

I would like to express the Dog Rescue Federation's enormous thanks to each local authority for taking the time and trouble to participate in our survey. We realise that at a time of considerable pressure on their available resources, the distraction of responding to such requests for information can only add to their workload but we sincerely hope that they will find the results of the survey useful, helping them to compare their own local authority's practices against those of other councils in the UK.

Finally, I would like to offer a special word of thanks to our excellent team of volunteers, particularly Julie Sanders, Helena Taylor, Caroline Maguire, Denise Boardman and Paul Smith for their tremendous work in bringing this survey and report together.





Aims of Survey

The primary aim of this survey was to discover the extent to which local authorities vary in their practices and approaches on dog welfare-related issues, specifically in respect of the way they handle stray dogs, undertake community outreach work to promote responsible dog ownership and also how they license dog breeding/other dog-related establishments.

The survey also aims to seek the views of local authorities on two issues, i.e. the possible benefits of introducing a fixed penalty system as a more effective means of enforcing the Animal Welfare Act and the perceived effectiveness of the government's newly proposed measures regarding dangerous dogs to encourage more responsible dog ownership.

Some elements of the survey were designed to identify local authorities wishing to promote responsible dog ownership by forming partnerships with external organisations such as dog rescue/ re-homing organisations and social housing providers.

Methodology

404 local authorities (Dog Wardens/Contractors) across the United Kingdom were sent a Freedom of Information request to complete the survey. The survey was mailed out during week commencing 28th October 2013 and participants were given until 6th December 2013 to complete the survey. A follow-up email was sent one week prior to the close date to generate further responses.

The survey took the form of an online questionnaire divided into seven sections:

- Section 1: Dog Warden Service
- Section 2: Animal Welfare Charter
- Section 3: Stray Dog Service
- Section 4: Community Outreach Work
- Section 5: Dangerous Dogs
- Section 6: Licensing
- Section 7: Dog Welfare Issues

The majority of councils responded online with a small number choosing to respond by post, (postal responses were subsequently entered online by the Dog Rescue Federation).

Response Rate

390 local authorities either completed all or part of the survey - an overall response rate of 96%.

Each local authority was asked to identify in which geographical area of the UK they are located. They responded, as follows:

- North England 14
- North West England 39
- North East England 20
- East England 28
- Central England 62
- South West England 36
- South England 18
- South East England 94
- Scotland 31
- Wales 22
- Northern Ireland 26

Interpretation

The key findings from this survey are based on actual responses by local authorities to the questions they were asked.

Some local authorities only completed part of the survey and as a result, we have only been able to interpret the data based on the responses received to each question. The percentages used in our analysis are based on the number of local authorities who responded to a particular question, not to the 390 local authorities taking part in the survey overall. All percentages are rounded up or down to the nearest percentage point.

In relation to the questions asked in the survey on the numbers of stray dogs handled by each local authority, the numbers euthanised at local authority cost and the numbers reunited with their owners, we have calculated estimates based on the actual responses received from local authorities 'grossed up' to represent the situation in the UK as a whole.

Most questions in the survey set out multiple-choice options against which local authorities could respond. Where local authorities were asked to provide numeric information, this was generally in the form of specific number ranges e.g. 1-2, 3-5, 6-10.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This summary provides an overview of the main findings of the survey. The detailed results of the survey are given on pages 15-30.

SUMMARY

In terms of the way that the Dog Warden Service is managed, the majority of local authorities (75%) still manage this service directly with the remainder having contracted the service out to external service providers.

The highest proportion of local authorities (74%) regarded dealing with stray dogs as their primary role; this is fairly predictable given that it is the only statutory function that they are required to undertake. At the other end of the spectrum, only 2% identified the promotion of responsible dog ownership and 1% the promotion of neutering in the community as their primary role.

44% of local authorities felt that the introduction of a fixed penalty system would make it easier for them to enforce their duties under the Animal Welfare Act.

Basic training of Dog Wardens appears to be adequate, for example, 89% of local authorities providing dog-handling training. However there are noticeable shortfalls in the levels of more advanced provision, for example, 25% of local authorities do not train their Dog Wardens in animal welfare legislation, 28% do not offer dog behaviour training, 30% do not train in microchip insertion and 58% do not train in dog first aid.

Less than a third of local authorities (32%) have an Animal Welfare Policy or Charter and, of those that do, less than a third (31%) include a section dealing with companion animal welfare.

The standard of stray dog service provision varies considerably in the UK, particularly in the level of 'out-of-hours' provision. Only a small minority of local authorities (10%) provide a full 'in-house 24-hour collection' service, with 43% offering an 'in-hours collection/ out-of-hours reception' service, 26% offering an 'in-hours collection/ contracted-out out-of-hours' service and 18% offering only an 'in-hours collection/ no out-of-hours' service. 54% of local authorities do not accept stray dogs found outside their areas.

In terms of stray dogs handled by local authorities, the legal requirement to keep records of dogs received and how they are disposed of appears to be observed by the vast majority of councils (93% saying they keep such records). However, some local authorities alluded to the fact that their record keeping does not extend beyond the point when the ownership of a dog is transferred to a 'pound' or rescue organisation meaning that there is not always a

full audit trail of what eventually happens to dogs once they leave a local authority's control.

The responses received from local authorities indicate that they rely heavily upon contracted-out provision for keeping stray dogs during the statutory retention period. Only 9% of councils use their own holding kennels for these dogs with the majority (69%) using contracted-out dog-boarding establishments and the remaining 22% using contracted-out animal rescue charities.

The estimated number of stray dogs handled by local authorities during the 12 months period ending 30 September 2013 was 116,141. The Staffordshire Bull Breed/Cross Breed is the main breed handled by local authorities in England, Scotland and Wales whereas in Northern Ireland it is the Border Collie. Of the replies received, the highest proportion of local authorities (32%) said that they had returned between 51-100 stray dogs to their owners during the 12 months covered by the survey. It is estimated that local authorities re-united approximately 53,700 stray dogs with their owners, representing 46% of all stray dogs handled.

Although micro chipping allows for quick identification and the immediate return of any dog that strays again in the future, only half of all local authorities (50%) offer a microchip service before dogs are reunited with their owners.

In respect of how local authorities deal with unclaimed dogs, 43% of councils claimed not to have euthanised dogs under their control although all of the remainder confirmed that 'some dogs' were euthanised as a method of disposal.

Unclaimed dogs are less likely to be re-homed directly by local authorities with 43% saying that no dogs are dealt with this way. It seems that the more likely strategy is for local authorities to pass unclaimed dogs to a rescue organisation for re-homing (all dogs being dealt with this way by 34% of councils), probably because they see this as more effective way to find these dogs a good new home. Alternatively, they to pass them to a dog pound for re-homing/selling (in 40% of all cases).

It is estimated that up to 9,492 of the UK's stray dog population were euthanised at local authority cost during the 12 months ending 30 September 2013, representing 8.2% of the estimated number of strays handled and 15.2% of all unclaimed dogs. The most common reasons given by local authorities for euthanising dogs were aggression (43%), ill health (37%) and breed type (33%).

The actions taken by councils¹ before dogs are re-homed appear to vary considerably with a tendency to concentrate on physical assessments (87% of cases) and behavioural assessments (85%) but less so on other aspects. For example, 31% of councils do not allow dogs to be returned if re-homing is unsuccessful, 36% do not microchip dogs, 40% do not vet new owners, 43% do not vaccinate dogs and 63% do not neuter dogs.

Local authorities appear to undertake a considerable amount of outreach work to promote dog welfare in the community, but some issues are less well covered. For example, 95% of all Councils provide information about responsible dog ownership on their websites and 78% undertake educational work with the public about responsible ownership and their duty of care. However, 49% choose not to conduct school visits to promote responsible dog

ownership and 58% said that they do nothing to promote free or low cost neutering schemes in their areas.

Almost two-thirds of local authorities (65%) work in partnership with dog rescue and rehoming organisations to promote responsible dog ownership but of those not doing this, only 31% said they would be interested in forming such a working relationship.

Partnership working with social housing providers to promote responsible dog ownership appears to be a relatively low priority with only 35% undertaking outreach work on social housing estates, 11% having tenancy agreements prohibiting dog breeding and just 4% having tenancy agreements requiring dogs to be neutered.

In relation to the Dangerous Dogs Act² the majority of local authorities (77%) had seized no dogs under the terms of this legislation during the 12 months covered by the survey (this may be due to the fact that the Police are responsible under the Act for seizing Section 1 and Section 3 dogs). However, from the responses received, a number of areas were identified that had a higher rate of dangerous dog seizures and it appears that the Pit Bull breed remains popular despite the ban imposed on its ownership under the Dangerous Dogs Act (accounting for 76% of all dogs seized). When asked for their opinion, only 19% of local authorities felt that the newly proposed legislation on dangerous dogs (following the Government's consultation in 2012) would promote more responsible ownership.

In terms of licensing and inspection arrangements undertaken by local authorities, 21% have no licensed dog boarding kennels, 36% have no licensed private homes offering a dog boarding service, 41% have no licensed commercial dog breeding establishments and 72% have no licensed private homes carrying out commercial dog breeding. Of those that do licence these types of establishments, local authorities typically inspect them only once a year (63%, 57%, 60% and 43% respectively) but many councils reported variations to this.

Finally, local authorities were invited to identify their main dog welfare concerns. At the top of their list of concerns was the number of stray dogs (identified by 41% of local authorities) followed by irresponsible dog ownership (18%) dangerous dogs and out of control dogs (8% each). Only 2 out of the 365 local authorities responding gave backstreet breeding/illegal dog breeding as their main dog welfare concern although several made comments linking the number of dogs being bred to the stray dog problem.

1. Includes dog pounds and animal welfare organisations that local authorities contract-out their re-homing services to.
2. As it applies in England and Wales. In Scotland the DDA is amended by the Control of Dogs (Scotland) Act 2010. The Dangerous Dogs (Northern Ireland) Order 1991 has a similar effect in Northern Ireland



CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

CONCLUSIONS

NUMBERS OF STRAY AND ABANDONED DOGS

This survey has identified that during the twelve months ending 30 September 2013 local authorities in the UK handled an estimated 116,141 stray and abandoned dogs. During the same period, it is estimated that up to 9,492 dogs were euthanised at local authority cost, representing 8.2% of the stray population and 15.2% of all unclaimed dogs.

These numbers are broadly consistent with those reported by the Dogs Trust in their annual survey for the twelve months ending 31 March 2013 - although they do show a 3.7% increase in the number of stray dogs handled and a 5.6% increase in dogs euthanised.

Overall, the picture remains depressingly poor and underlines the urgent need for action to be taken to address the underlying causes of the stray dog problem. The high number of dogs being euthanised also represents a significant drain on local authority resources - we estimate that councils are spending an estimated £1 million on veterinary fees alone.

THE ROLE OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

Since 1990, local authorities have been required by law to appoint an officer to deal with stray dogs and in 2008, when the Police relinquished their duty to receive stray dogs, local authorities became fully responsible for these dogs. Due to the nature of how responsibility was passed to them (with hardly any additional funding, resources or training) local authorities have subsequently struggled to deliver an adequate service for stray dogs and stray dog care. This is despite the commendable efforts of many keen and capable Dog Wardens who undertake their role as a vocation and not just a job.

Local authorities are under tremendous pressure to deliver cost effective services in their communities and in today's tough economic climate, the shortage of financial and human resources makes it incredibly difficult for them to cope with the demands placed upon them. This certainly appears to be the case in relation to dog welfare issues, where irresponsible dog breeding has resulted in a substantial increase in the dog population and irresponsible dog ownership has caused a surge in the number of stray and abandoned dogs that local authorities must deal with.

The Dog Rescue Federation recognises that all local authorities are constrained by a finite budget and that dog welfare may regrettably sit somewhat down their list of spending priorities; this is particularly the case because they inevitably concentrate their resources on

statutory functions and for the most part, dog welfare is a discretionary activity. We do not wish to blame councils for this but we do urge them to review their priorities particularly as we believe that some of our recommendations will produce longer-term financial benefits. However, we also acknowledge that real progress can only be achieved by the introduction of much-needed additional funding and we strongly encourage central government to re-consider not only the financial support it gives to local authorities, but also to review the policies and statutory framework within which local authorities undertake dog welfare activities. Imposing on local authorities a properly funded statutory function to deal with a wider range of dog welfare issues, backed up by central monitoring of each council's service provision/stray dog numbers etc. would be a more successful way of ensuring that dog welfare is treated with the priority it deserves. Therefore, we urge central government to review its strategy on this and give local authorities the necessary powers and resources to properly address the problems outlined in this report.

Notwithstanding this call to central government, and until such times as there is a shift of thinking in Whitehall, this survey has identified considerable variations in the practices and approaches of local authorities on a range of dog welfare issues. Whilst acknowledging that such variations are the inevitable consequence of local authority priority setting, the Dog Rescue Federation strongly believes that the welfare of dogs would benefit greatly if local authorities were to adopt a more consistent approach and employ the best practice of their peers wherever possible.

ANIMAL WELFARE CHARTER

Rather surprisingly, less than a third of local authorities appear to have an Animal Welfare Charter and the proportion having an additional section dealing with companion animal welfare is even smaller. This is disappointing, as the Dog Rescue Federation believes that the implementation of a Charter would help to clarify a Council's approach across a range of animal welfare issues.

Charters are unlikely to cover every aspect of animal welfare, but they do identify those areas considered by a Council to be most important or where it may have some influence as a public body. In effect, a Charter sets the 'tone' by which a Council approaches animal welfare, helping it to develop an agreed set of priorities within which it will operate. By having a specific section within the Charter devoted to companion animal welfare, a Council is also much more likely to have 'thought-through' its approach towards dealing with dog-related issues, particularly its role in providing services beyond those that it has a statutory obligation to deliver.

DEVELOPING A MORE PROACTIVE APPROACH TOWARDS DOG WELFARE ISSUES

It is evident from the responses made by local authorities that they see their primary role as 'reactive' rather than 'proactive'. This is best illustrated by the high proportion of local authorities identifying 'dealing with stray dogs' as their primary role (a statutory requirement) as compared with the very small numbers, for example, identifying the promotion of neutering in the community (a discretionary activity). Further evidence of this approach is found in the relatively low number of councils conducting school visits to promote responsible dog ownership and in the even smaller proportion undertaking community outreach work with social housing providers to promote responsible ownership on social housing estates.

It is understandable that local authorities find it hard to divert limited staff resources into these types of proactive work when they are faced with a constant stream of stray and abandoned dogs demanding their more immediate attention - there are also many funding issues involved in undertaking proactive-based work. However, in the long run it is absolutely essential that schemes such as promoting responsible ownership, as just one example, do form a strong part of their work programmes. Without these activities being given a higher priority the problems currently faced by local authorities will continue and the costs of dealing with strays and dog abandonment will only increase over time.

ACHIEVING CONSISTENCY ACROSS THE UK

The survey has identified substantial differences in the way that local authorities operate. This is evident across a range of issues such as their approach towards Dog Warden training; their processes for dealing with stray and abandoned dogs; their re-homing practices; their working relationships with local dog rescue organisations and social housing providers.

These differences can partly be explained because councils have to organise themselves in a way that best responds to local issues - and national issues too, given that England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland all operate under different dog welfare rules and procedures. However, the extent to which local authorities vary in their approach is an issue of concern and tends to suggest that they do not always share 'best practice' with one another, nor are they encouraged to do so.

The Dog Rescue Federation believes that all dogs deserve to be treated in the best possible way, regardless of where they are located in the UK and would welcome the adoption of a consistent approach that more effectively promotes dog welfare. We also believe that all local authorities should strive to achieve the best standards of operation by sharing best practice with one another.

RECORD KEEPING

The survey identified that the vast majority of local authorities fulfill their statutory obligation by keeping records of dogs they handle, although from the comments given it would appear that there are inconsistencies in the type of information recorded and the way in which records are maintained. The survey did not 'drill-down' to establish how detailed these records actually are, nor did it establish the extent to which an audit trail is maintained of what happens to these dogs once local authorities cease to have responsibility for them.

It has long been a concern of the voluntary dog rescue sector that the numbers generally quoted (via the Dogs Trust annual survey) of dogs euthanised at local authority cost considerably understate the true destruction rates involved. That is because there is no 'official knowledge' of the numbers of dogs ultimately euthanised by commercial dog pounds and rescue organisations beyond the period of local authority responsibility.

This problem could be addressed if local authorities took a longer-term interest in the welfare of all the dogs they have handled by extending their record keeping to include data from dog pounds/rescue organisations on the eventual outcomes of these dogs. We would ask them to consider this as a possible way forward but, being realistic, and having regard to the resource constraints within which local authorities currently operate, it would be seem

infinitely more sensible for central government to establish a single UK database recording all stray dog data to allow for more effective monitoring of the situation. We believe that such a database would, for the first time ever, allow central government a strategic overview of what actually happens to the thousands of unclaimed stray dogs transferred by local councils each year to either rescue organisations or commercial pounds.

LICENSING

The survey identified that 72% of local authorities have no private homes licensed for commercial dog breeding. Yet this somewhat contradicts anecdotal evidence suggesting that the practice of breeding dogs in homes to supplement household income is widespread in the UK.

No information was invited from local authorities on the extent to which they suspect that this type of breeding is happening within their communities although some commented that over-breeding is one of the reasons for a high stray dog population. Only two local authorities actually gave 'backstreet breeding/illegal breeding' as their main dog welfare concern, which may indicate that local authorities are unable to give much priority to this issue.

Local authorities do have powers to investigate cases where they believe that unlicensed breeding of dogs in private dwellings is taking place but seem reluctant to take action through the courts to prosecute those involved - probably due to the costs involved and because they find it difficult to enforce poor legislation that principally revolves around proof of breeding and the number of litters involved. The Dog Rescue Federation believes that the UK's dog population will continue to spiral unless central government introduces a more stringent licensing regime requiring all forms of dog breeding to be brought under proper inspection of control by local authorities. We also believe that HMRC should be doing more to investigate cases where dog breeding has become an undeclared second income of households. It is our considered opinion that unless these types of measures are taken to curb the indiscriminate breeding of dogs, local authorities will inevitably continue to deal with a very high volume of strays. However, until such changes are made we would like to see local authorities becoming more proactive in their attempts to weed-out unlicensed breeders by using all the powers currently available to them in law. We would also encourage them to mount local publicity campaigns explaining what the licensing requirements are for anyone intending to breed dogs for profit with the aim of deterring those who may seek undeclared financial gain from breeding activities.

The survey also identified inconsistencies between local authorities in terms of the frequency of inspections of licensed dog breeding premises and other dog-related establishments. In the Dog Rescue Federation's view, this situation makes it much easier in those areas of the UK where inspection of premises is less frequent for unscrupulous businesses to flourish, with a consequential detrimental impact on dog welfare. In our opinion, there should be a uniform and rigorous approach to licensing inspections with clear guidance on how many inspections should take place each year.

FIXED PENALTIES

The fact that 44% of local authorities said in the survey that the introduction of a fixed

penalty system would make it easier for them to enforce their duties under the Animal Welfare Act is extremely interesting. However, we accept that this may be due to the fact that many of them have no direct experience of enforcing this Act and may have perceived our question as relating to the use of Fixed Penalty Notices for other types of dog offences, e.g fouling. For this reason, it is not possible to draw any strong conclusions from the survey other than to say that it does indicate a possible preference towards such an intervention. We believe that this evidence should be noted by central government when considering the implementation of such a system.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That all local authorities consider the introduction of an Animal Welfare Charter or Policy, incorporating a specific section dealing with companion animal welfare.
2. That local authorities review the existing priorities of their Dog Warden Services with the aim of allocating more time to proactive work on issues such as:
 - a) Better education of the general public in their duty of care towards their pets and responsible ownership, with a particular emphasis on the education of young people.
 - b) Raising awareness of the problems caused by irresponsible dog breeding.
 - c) The promotion of free and low cost neutering and micro chipping.
3. That a consistent approach be adopted in the operation of Dog Warden Services across the UK, possibly by the development and adoption of the following:
 - a) A new national standard for the training of all Dog Wardens incorporating a recognised qualification for all staff involved in this line of work.
 - b) A national 'Code of Practice' for the handling of all stray and abandoned dogs, including a consistent approach dealing with:
 - i. Initial receipt with particular attention to 'out-of-hours' provision.
 - ii. Methods of holding during the 7-day statutory retention period.
 - iii. Re-unification with owners.
 - iv. Re-homing procedures.
 - v. Micro chipping, vaccination and neutering.
 - vi. Humane disposal, when absolutely necessary.
 - c) A more effective national mechanism for sharing 'best practice'.
 - d) Closer partnership working with dog rescue organisations.
 - e) Closer partnership working with social housing providers.
4. That local authorities consider implementing an audit trail of dogs transferred to commercial dog pounds and rescue organisations to ensure that there is better knowledge of what happens to these dogs beyond the statutory period of

responsibility.

5. That, preferable to recommendation 4, central government considers the introduction of a single, UK stray/abandoned database.
6. That central government considers an increase in funding support to local authorities to enable them to run an effective Dog Warden Service.
7. That central government (via HMRC) takes more vigorous action against those individuals who breed dogs as a source of undeclared income.
8. That local authorities use the powers currently available to them to more proactively target unlicensed dog breeders and mount local publicity campaigns aimed at deterring unlicensed dog breeding for profit.
9. That a review of existing dog-breeding legislation in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland be undertaken aimed at reducing the number of dogs being bred for profit.
10. That a national framework be established setting out clear guidance on the frequency of inspections of licensed dog breeding premises and other dog-related establishments.
11. That central government note the views expressed by local authorities in respect of the issue of fixed penalties under the Animal Welfare Act possibly associated with the introduction of higher fines in the courts.



DETAILED FINDINGS

SECTION 1: DOG WARDEN SERVICE

The first part of the survey asked each local authority to provide some basic information about how they manage their Dog Warden Service; what they see as its primary role; and what training they provide to their staff.

Management

Local authorities were asked who manages their Dog Warden Service.

Of the 386 local authorities responding to this question:

- 76% indicated that the Dog Warden Service was still under their direct management
- 24% have contracted-out this service to external providers

Primary Role

Local authorities were asked what they saw as being their Dog Warden Service's primary role.

Of the 337 local authorities responding to this question:

- 74% identified dealing with stray dogs as their primary role
- 14% identified dealing with dog fouling
- 6% identified dealing with dog control/nuisance issues
- 2% identified the promotion of responsible dog ownership
- 2% identified dealing with dangerous dogs
- 2% identified animal establishment licensing
- 1% identified dealing with dog cruelty and duty of care
- 1% identified the promotion of neutering in the community
- 2% Other

Fixed Penalty System

Local authorities were asked whether they agreed or disagreed with the statement that 'the introduction of a fixed penalty system would make it easier for local authorities to enforce their duties under the Animal Welfare Act.'

Of the 352 local authorities responding to this question:

- 44% *agreed*
- 16% *disagreed*
- 40% *did not know*

Training

Local authorities were asked whether they provided relevant training to their Dog Wardens.

Of the 298 local authorities responding to this question:

- 89% *provide dog handling training*
- 75% *provide animal welfare legislation training*
- 72% *provide dog behaviour training*
- 70% *provide microchip insertion training*
- 42% *provide dog first aid training*

SECTION 2: ANIMAL WELFARE CHARTER

The second part of the survey asked each local authority to provide information on their animal welfare policies.

Animal Welfare

Local authorities were asked if they have in place a policy or charter with regard to animal welfare.

Of the 383 local authorities responding to this question:

- 52% *do have a policy or charter in place*
- 32% *do not*
- 15% *did not know*

Companion Animal Welfare

All local authorities indicating that they have an animal welfare policy or charter in place were then asked whether it also covers companion animal welfare (both domestic and commercially owned):

Of the 124 local authorities responding to this question:

- 31% *do have a companion animal welfare policy or charter in place*
- 37% *do not*
- 32% *did not know*

SECTION 3: STRAY DOG SERVICE

The third part of the survey asked local authorities a range of questions relating to their stray dog service.

Type of Service

Local authorities were asked what type of stray dog service they operate.

Of the 299 local authorities responding to this question:

- *45% operate an 'in-hours' collection service and 'out-of- hours' reception point*
- *27% operate an 'in-hours' in-house collection service and a contracted 'out-of-hours' service*
- *18% operate an 'in-hours' collection service and no 'out-of-hours service*
- *10% operate an 'in-house' 24 hours collection service*

Dogs From Other Areas

Local authorities were asked whether they accepted dogs that have been found in another council's area and brought to their local authority area by the finder.

Of the 383 local authorities responding to this question:

- *43% do accept these dogs*
- *54% do not*
- *13% did not know*

Record Keeping

Local authorities were asked whether they keep records of all stray dogs received and how they dispose of them.

Of the 381 local authorities responding to this question:

- *93% do keep records*
- *6% do not*
- *1% did not know*

(For additional comments made by local authorities about record keeping, please see Appendix 1)

Where Stray Dogs Are Kept

Local authorities were asked where they keep stray dogs while waiting for them to be claimed.

Of the 357 local authorities responding to this question:

- *69% contract out this service to a local boarding establishment to act as a dog pound*
- *22% contract this service out to an animal rescue charity to act as the dog pound*

- *9% own their own holding kennels that act as the local dog pound*

(For additional comments made by local authorities on this issue, please refer to Appendix 2)

Number of Stray Dogs Handled

Local authorities were asked to provide information on how many stray dogs they handled during the twelve months period commencing 1 October 2012 to 30 September 2013.

252 local authorities gave their exact figures totalling 72,445 stray dogs.

Assuming that these responses are representative of local authorities as a whole it is estimated that across the UK, 116,141 stray dogs were handled during the year ending 30 September 2013.

Breeds of Stray Dogs Handled

Local authorities were asked to provide information on the top 10 breeds of stray dogs handled by them during the twelve months period ending 30 September 2013 (this includes both claimed and unclaimed stray dogs).

266 local authorities responded and from the information they provided, the following list emerged in order of highest response:

- *Staffordshire Bull (listed by 113 local authorities)*
- *Other* (listed by 106)*
- *Staffie Cross (listed by 53)*
- *Mongrel (listed by 42)*
- *Jack Russell (listed by 40)*
- *Border Collie (listed by 21)*
- *Labrador (listed by 20)*
- *Terrier Cross (listed by 16)*
- *Lurcher (listed by 8)*
- *Border Collie Cross (listed by 8)*

** Other included (in order of highest response): German Shepherd, Yorkshire Terrier, Spaniel, Rottweiler Cross, Greyhound, Westie, Chihuahua, Mastiff, Border Terrier, Whippet, Golden Retriever, Akita, Labrador Cross, Pit Bull, Lhaso Apso, Pug, Doberman, Saluki, Yorkshire Terrier Cross.*

Stray Dogs Returned to Owners

Local authorities were asked how many of the stray dogs they handled during the twelve months period were returned to their owners, either by being directly claimed from the kennels or by being returned to the owner.

Of the 355 local authorities responding to this question (using the number ranges specified in the survey):

- *7% returned 1-25 dogs*

- 10% returned 26-50 dogs
- 32% returned 51-100 dogs
- 22% returned 101-150 dogs
- 10% returned 151-200 dogs
- 10% returned 201-300 dogs
- 2% returned 301-350 dogs
- 2% returned 351-400 dogs
- 2% returned 401-500 dogs
- 2% returned 501 plus dogs (on average reporting circa 550 dogs)

Assuming that the responses from these local authorities are representative of local authorities as a whole, it is estimated that approximately 53,700 of the UK's stray dog population were reunited with their owners. This represents 46% of all stray dogs handled by local authorities, leaving an estimated 62,441 dogs unclaimed by their owners.

Micro Chipping of Stray Dogs

Local authorities were asked if they offer a microchip service for stray dogs before they are returned to their owners.

Of the 377 local authorities responding to this question:

- 50% do offer this service
- 48% do not offer this service
- 2% did not know

Dealing With Unclaimed Stray Dogs

a) Euthanasia

Local authorities were asked whether they deal with unclaimed stray dogs by euthanasing them.

Of the 367 local authorities responding to this question:

- 43% replied that no dogs are dealt with this way
- 57% replied that some dogs are dealt with this way

b) Passing Ownership to a Dog Rescue Organisation

Local authorities were asked whether they deal with unclaimed stray dogs by passing on their ownership to a dog rescue organisation for re-homing.

Of the 256 local authorities responding to this question:

- 13% replied that no dogs are dealt with this way
- 24% replied that some dogs are dealt with this way
- 29% replied that most dogs are dealt with this way

- *34% replied that all unclaimed dogs are dealt with this way*

c) Passing Ownership to a Dog Pound Rescue Organisation

Local authorities were asked whether they deal with unclaimed dogs by passing on their ownership to a dog rescue organisation for re-homing/selling.

Of the 270 local authorities responding to this question:

- *24% replied that no dogs are dealt with this way*
- *12% replied that some dogs are dealt with this way*
- *24% replied that most dogs are dealt with this way*
- *40% replied that all unclaimed dogs are dealt with this way*

d) Re-homing by Local Authority

Local authorities were asked whether they deal with unclaimed dogs by re-homing them themselves.

Of the 178 local authorities responding to this question:

- *43% replied that no dogs are dealt with this way*
- *47% replied that some dogs are dealt with this way*
- *8% replied that most dogs are dealt with this way*
- *2% replied that all unclaimed dogs are dealt with this way*

Number of Stray Dogs Euthanased

Local authorities were asked how many stray dogs were euthanised at local authority cost during the 12 months period commencing 1 October 2012 to 30 September 2013.

Of the 367 local authorities responding to this question (using number ranges specified in the survey):

- *16% euthanised no dogs*
- *18% euthanised 1-2 dogs*
- *17% euthanised 3-5 dogs*
- *13% euthanised 6-10 dogs*
- *6% euthanised 11-15 dogs*
- *4% euthanised 16-20 dogs*
- *5% euthanised 21-25 dogs*
- *2% euthanised 26-30 dogs*
- *4% euthanised 31-35 dogs*
- *3% euthanised 36-40 dogs*
- *2% euthanised 41-50 dogs*
- *10% euthanised 51 plus dogs (on average reporting circa 140 dogs)*

Assuming that the responses from these local authorities are representative of local authorities as a whole, it is estimated that up to 9,492 of the UK's stray dog population were euthanised at local authority cost during the period of the survey. This represents 8.2% of

all stray dogs handled by local authorities and 15.2% of dogs remaining unclaimed by their owners.

Reasons Why Stray Dogs Are Euthanised

Local authorities were asked to indicate the reasons why dogs were euthanised, in order of priority.

Of the 297 local authorities responding to this question, the following emerged in order of priority:

- 127 (43%) said it was due to aggression
- 111 (37%) said it was due to ill health
- 99 (33%) said it was due to breed type
- 51 (17%) said it was due to dog not being claimed
- 33 (12%) said it was due to behavioural problems
- 7 (2%) said it was due to no rescue place being available
- 4 (1%) said it was due to the dog being a long-term kennel dog

(To see a selection of additional comments made by local authorities on why dogs are euthanised, please refer to Appendix 3.)

Actions Taken Before an Unclaimed Dog is Re-homed

Local authorities were asked a series of questions about the actions taken if an unclaimed dog is re-homed by the local authority, dog pound or animal welfare organisation.

367 local authorities responded to this question:

Dogs are physically assessed

- 87% said yes
- 3% said no
- 10% did not know

Dogs are behaviourally assessed

- 85% said yes
- 3% said no
- 12% did not know

Dogs can be returned if re-homing is unsuccessful

- 69% said yes
- 7% said no
- 24% did not know

Dogs are micro chipped

- 64% said yes

- 20% said no
- 16% did not know

New owners are 'vetted' i.e. home checked before dog is re-homed

- 60% said yes
- 20% said no
- 20% did not know

Dogs are vaccinated

- 57% said yes
- 25% said no
- 18% did not know

Dogs are neutered

- 37% said yes
- 39% said no
- 24% did not know

SECTION 4: COMMUNITY OUTREACH WORK

The fourth part of the survey asked local authorities questions about their community outreach activities and partnership working to promote dog welfare.

Outreach Activities

Local authorities were asked if they undertake any of the following work to promote dog welfare within the community.

365 local authorities responded:

- a) Provide information on the council's website on responsible dog ownership and stray dog service
 - 95% said yes
 - 5% said no

- b) Education of the public in responsible pet ownership and duty of care
 - 78% said yes
 - 22% said no

- c) Active promotion of free or low cost micro chipping
 - *67% said yes*
 - *33% said no*

- d) Hold community events/roadshows on responsible dog ownership
 - *63% said yes*
 - *37% said no*

- e) Work in partnership with social housing providers to promote responsible dog ownership
 - *59% said yes*
 - *41% said no*

- f) Conduct school visits to promote responsible dog ownership
 - *51% said yes*
 - *49% said no*

- g) Active promotion of free or low cost neutering schemes
 - *42% said yes*
 - *58% said no*

Partnership Working

Local authorities were asked whether they work in partnership with dog rescue and re-homing organisations to promote responsible dog ownership.

Of the 378 local authorities responding to this question:

- *61% do work in partnership*
- *35% do not*
- *4% did not know*

Those local authorities not working in partnership with dog rescue and re-homing organisations were then asked whether they would be interested in forming such a partnership to promote responsible dog ownership.

- *31% said they would*
- *31% said they would not*
- *38% did not know*

(To see a list of some of the dog rescue and re-homing organisations that work in partnership with local authorities, please refer to Appendix 4.)

Working With Social Housing Providers

Local authorities working with social housing providers were asked whether they have undertaken any work with them to promote responsible dog ownership.

Of the 313 local authorities responding to this question:

- *42% had promoted free/subsidised micro chipping*
- *35% had undertaken outreach work promoting responsible ownership on social housing estates*
- *25% had promoted free/subsidised neutering*
- *11% had tenancy agreements which prohibit dog breeding*
- *4% had tenancy agreements which require dogs to be neutered*

(To see a selection of additional comments made by local authorities on the work they are undertaking with social housing providers to promote responsible dog ownership, please refer to Appendix 5.)

SECTION 5: DANGEROUS DOGS

The fifth section of the survey asked local authorities for information about dogs seized under the Dangerous Dogs Act and sought their opinion on newly proposed measures to encourage more responsible ownership.

Numbers of Dogs Seized

Local authorities were asked how many dogs in their local area were seized under the Dangerous Dogs Act during the twelve months period commencing 1 October 2012 and ending 30 September 2013.

Of the 308 local authorities responding to this question (within the number ranges specified in the survey):

- *77% seized no dogs*
- *10% seized 1-2 dogs*
- *4% seized 3-5 dogs*
- *3% seized 6-10 dogs*
- *2% seized 11-15 dogs*
- *1% seized 16-20 dogs*
- *Below 1% seized 21-25 dogs*
- *Below 1% seized 26-30 dogs*
- *Below 1% seized 30-35 dogs*
- *Below 1% seized 36-40 dogs*
- *Below 1% seized 41-50 dogs*
- *Below 1% seized 50 plus dogs*

NB It should be noted that in general the Police are responsible for dealing with dangerous dogs and therefore the majority of local authorities have not been involved with the seizure of dangerous dogs.

Breeds of Dogs Seized

Local authorities were asked to indicate the top 5 breeds (in order of priority) that were seized under the Dangerous Dogs Act in their area during the twelve months period.

Of the 78 local authorities responding to this question, the following list emerged:

- 76% Pit Bull
- 5% Staffordshire Cross
- 4% Akita
- 4% Rottweiler Cross
- 4% Staffordshire Bull
- 1% Mastiff

Proposed New Measures to Encourage Responsible Ownership

Local authorities were asked whether they thought that the newly proposed measures regarding dangerous dogs (following the Government's consultation in April 2012) would encourage more responsible ownership.

Of the 351 local authorities responding to this question:

- 19% said yes
- 28% said no
- 53% did not know

NB This consultation applied primarily to England only. Legislation on three of the four proposals relates to devolved matters and the Parliament in Scotland and Assemblies in Wales and Northern Ireland have powers to make legislation in relation to dangerous dogs. However the Ministerial function relating to the final proposal (on increasing the registration fee for the Great Britain- wide Index of Exempted Prohibited Dogs) is not devolved to Wales and Defra has discussed with the Scottish and Welsh Governments how best to implement this proposal in its application to Great Britain.

(To see a selection of comments made by local authorities on the proposed measures, please refer to Appendix 6. For a selection of additional comments on dangerous dogs, please refer to Appendix 7).

SECTION 6: LICENSING

The sixth section of the survey asked local authorities a series of questions on their licensing arrangements relating to dog boarding, dog breeding, pet shops and greyhound racing tracks.

Number of Licenced Dog Boarding Kennels

Local authorities were asked how many dog boarding kennels they regulate by issuing licenses and carrying out inspections.

Of the 321 local authorities responding to this question (within the number ranges specified in the survey):

- 21% said none
- 14% said 1-2
- 17% said 3-5
- 22% said 6-10
- 14% said 11-15
- 6% said 16-20
- 4% said 21-30
- 2% said 31-50

Number of Licenced Private Homes Offering a Dog Boarding Service

Local authorities were asked how many private homes offering a dog boarding service they regulate by issuing licenses and carrying out inspections.

Of the 304 local authorities responding to this question (within the number ranges specified in the survey):

- 36% said none
- 18% said 1-2
- 17% said 3-5
- 12% said 6-10
- 7% said 11-15
- 4% said 16-20
- 3% said 21-30
- 2% said 31-50
- 1% said 50 plus

Number of Licenced Commercial Dog Breeding Establishments

Local authorities were asked how many commercial dog-breeding establishments they regulate by issuing licenses and carrying out inspections.

Of the 307 local authorities responding to this question (within the number ranges specified in the survey):

- 41% said none
- 35% said 1-2
- 15% said 3-5
- 6% said 6-10
- 1% said 11-15
- 1% said 16-20
- 1% said 31-50

Number of Licenced Private Homes Carrying Out Commercial Dog Breeding

Local authorities were asked how many private homes carrying out commercial dog breeding they regulate by issuing licenses and carrying out inspections.

Of the 286 local authorities responding to this question (within the number ranges specified in the survey):

- 72% said none
- 20% said 1-2
- 4% said 3-5
- 2% said 6-10
- 1% said 16-20
- 1% said 21-30

Number of Licenced Pet Shops

Local authorities were asked how many pet shops they regulate by issuing licenses and carrying out inspections.

Of the 313 local authorities responding to this question (within the number ranges specified in the survey):

- 11% said none
- 8% said 1-2
- 29% said 3-5
- 31% said 6-10
- 12% said 11-15
- 6% said 16-20
- 1% said 21-30
- 1% said 31-50
- 1% said 50 plus

Number of Licenced Greyhound Racing Tracks

Local authorities were asked how many Greyhound racing tracks they regulate by issuing licenses and carrying out inspections.

Of the 299 local authorities responding to this question (within the number ranges specified in the survey):

- 93% said none
- 5% said 1-2
- 1% said 3-5
- 1% said 11-15

Frequency of Inspections - Licenced Dog Boarding Kennels

Local authorities were asked how often inspections are carried out at licenced dog boarding kennels in their area.

Of the 312 local authorities responding to this question:

- *1% said they never inspect these establishments*
- *3% said they inspect only once when the establishment is first licensed*
- *63% said they inspect once a year*
- *8% said they inspect twice a year*
- *9% gave other frequencies (unspecified)*
- *16% said they do not license these establishments*

Frequency of Inspections - Licensed Private Homes Offering a Dog Boarding Service

Local authorities were asked how often inspections are carried out at licenced private homes offering a dog boarding service in their area.

Of the 292 local authorities responding to this question:

- *1% said they never inspect these establishments*
- *4% said they inspect only once when the establishment is first licensed*
- *57% said they inspect once a year*
- *5% said they inspect twice a year*
- *11% gave other frequencies (unspecified)*
- *22% said they do not license these establishments*

Frequency of Inspections - Licensed Dog Breeding Establishments

Local authorities were asked how often inspections are carried out at licenced dog breeding establishments in their area.

Of the 278 local authorities responding to this question:

- *1% said they never inspect these establishments*
- *3% said they inspect only once when the establishment is first licensed*
- *60% said they inspect once a year*
- *4% said they inspect twice a year*
- *9% gave other frequencies (unspecified)*
- *23% said they do not license these establishments*

Frequency of Inspections - Licensed Dog Breeding in Private Homes

Local authorities were asked how often inspections are carried out at licenced dog breeding establishments in private homes in their area.

Of the 251 local authorities responding to this question:

- *2% said they never inspect these establishments*
- *2% said they inspect only once when the establishment is first licensed*
- *43% said they inspect once a year*
- *4% said they inspect twice a year*
- *10% gave other frequencies (unspecified)*
- *39% said they do not license these establishments*

Frequency of Inspections - Licensed Pet Shops

Local authorities were asked how often inspections are carried out at licenced pet shops in their area.

Of the 307 local authorities responding to this question:

- *1% said they never inspect these establishments*
- *2% said they inspect only once when the establishment is first licensed*
- *70% said they inspect once a year*
- *9% said they inspect twice a year*
- *10% gave other frequencies (unspecified)*
- *8% said they do not license these establishments*

Frequency of Inspections - Licensed Greyhound Racing Tracks

Local authorities were asked how often inspections are carried out at licenced Greyhound racing tracks in their area.

Of the 237 local authorities responding to this question:

- *7% said they never inspect these establishments*
- *1% said they inspect only once when the establishment is first licensed*
- *9% said they inspect once a year*
- *1% said they inspect twice a year*
- *7% gave other frequencies (unspecified)*
- *75% said they do not license these establishments*

(To see the additional comments made by local authorities on the licensing arrangements relating to dogs, please refer to Appendix 8).

SECTION 7: DOG WELFARE ISSUES

The seventh section of the survey asked local authorities to indicate the dog welfare issues of most concern to them, in order of priority.

Out of the 365 responses received, the following list emerged - with the issue of most concern to local authorities listed first:

- *150 local authorities gave 'the number of stray dogs' as the issue of most concern*
- *64 gave 'irresponsible dog ownership'*

- 29 gave *'dangerous dogs'*
- 28 gave *'out of control dogs'*
- 20 gave *'dog fouling'*
- 18 gave *'dog attacks on humans'*
- 17 gave *'the number of dogs being abandoned'*
- 15 gave *'dog attacks on dogs'*
- 6 gave *'dog barking'*
- 4 gave *'over-population of dogs'*
- 4 gave *'dogs with behavioural problems from lack of socialisation'*
- 3 gave *'dog attacks on livestock'*
- 2 gave *'the number of neglect/abuse cases'*
- 2 gave *'backstreet breeding/illegal dog breeding'*
- 1 gave *'dogs being used for dog fighting'*
- 1 gave *'dogs attacking other animals' (i.e. cats/rabbits)*
- 1 gave *'hare coursing'*

Local authorities were also invited at the end of the survey to add any final comments they may wish to make relating to dog welfare. A summary of these can be found in Appendix 9.



APPENDIX 1

Comments made by local authorities re: Record keeping

1. *Our contractor keeps these records.*
2. *Contractor does not for kenneled dogs but all others.*
3. *Presumably our kennels record what happens to unclaimed dogs.*
4. *We don't keep records of disposal.*
5. *Basic in-out records only.*
6. *After 7 days passed onto rehoming centres.*
7. *After 7 days the dogs become the property of the kennels, we do not ask for information on what ultimately happens to them.*
8. *Full audit trail including all welfare notes.*



APPENDIX 2

Comments made by local authorities re: Where stray dogs are kept

1. *2 local boarding kennels and an animal rescue charity board kennels.*
2. *Both boarding establishments and rescue charity.*
3. *Combined, short term holding kennel, and contracted out boarding establishment.*
4. *Contracted stray dog kennels (not commercial boarders).*
5. *Contracted to London Borough of Waltham Forest.*
6. *Contractor has own kennels.*
7. *Contractor uses their nominated holding kennels to act as the local dog pound contracts out this service to another local authority dog pound.*
8. *Dog Rescue Shelter in partnership with other local authorities and the Police service.*
9. *Local dog-boarding establishments used by agreement but not under a formal contract.*
10. *Local police kennels during the day transferred to SSPCA facility the dogs home.*
11. *Use local boarding kennels and rescues, wherever we can get the dogs in.*
12. *Use various kennels. We also have a contract with another LA to board our strays and contract with Battersea Dogs & Cats Home.*
13. *We also have temporary holding kennels at our offices for owners to claim dogs on the day of seizure but these are not suitable for overnight kenneling.*
14. *We have an arrangement with a well-known charity but they are rarely able to accept stray dogs for boarding (I can't think of one occasion since I started in Jan 2013).*
15. *We have just closed our own pound in the last month and are currently operating a pilot with a local private kennel*



APPENDIX 3

Comments made by local authorities re: Reasons why dogs were euthanised.

1. *A small number of dogs are euthanised if banned breeds or no prospect of rehoming because of behavioural issues.*
2. *No dogs are routinely euthanised if not claimed.*
3. *Banned breed types, aggressive dogs and dogs which were suffering extremely due to bad health would be put down by the Council if unclaimed.*
4. *Contractor assumes ownership of dogs after 7 days.*
5. *Contractor collects and rehomes after statutory 7 days.*
6. *Contractor kennels organise move of dogs to dog rescue organisation.*
7. *Dog are only euthanised if on veterinary advice or considered too dangerous to re-home.*
8. *Dogs are only euthanised if they fail Kennel assessments.*
9. *Dogs are only euthanised if unsuitable for rehoming.*
10. *Dogs only euthanised if animal is diseased or old/ infirm etc.*
11. *Dogs only euthanised where assessed as being unsuitable for rehoming (usually behavioural issues).*
12. *Euthanised by dog rescue organisation if not rehomed.*
13. *First refusal of our dogs to Dogs Trust and all dogs remaining then go to SSPCA.*
14. *If dogs are people / dog aggressive they are PTS as we are unable to get them into rescue.*
15. *Some are seized by the police under the DDA 1991, some are seized and given to the RSPCA under the AWA 2006.*
16. *Try to rehome all healthy dogs as far as possible. Pictures of unclaimed dogs are put on council website and submitted to local newspapers.*



APPENDIX 4

Information provided by local authorities re: Rescue and re-homing organisations they work with

All Dogs Matter

All Sorts

Animal Welfare Trust

Animals in Distress

Appledown Dog Rescue

Assisi Animal Sanctuary

Babbington Hall Rescue

Battersea Dogs and Cats Home

Birmingham Dogs Home

Benvarden Animal Rescue Kennels

Blue Cross

Bolton Animal Shelter

Causeway Dog Rescue

Dogs Trust

Greyhound Rescue

Friends of the Animals

Hilbrae Rescue

Hillside Animal Sanctuary (Rehoming)

Kit Wilson

Lincolnshire Rescue Kennels

Manchester Dogs Home

Margaret Green Animal Rescue Centre

North Clwyd Animal Rescue

Pendle Dog Rescue

Perthshire Abandoned Dog Society

Radcliffe Animal Shelter

*Rainbow Centre and Causeway
Animal Sanctuary*

Ravenwood Pet Rescue

Raystead Animal Welfare

RSPCA

Ruby Paws

South Coast Staffie Rescue

SSPCA

Stray Aid Rescue and Rehoming Charity

Teckels Animal Sanctuaries

The Mayhew Animal Home

Three Counties Dog Rescue

Wood Green Animal Shelter

APPENDIX 5

Comments made by local authorities re: The work they are undertaking with social housing providers to promote responsible dog ownership

1. *Advice and support offered to RSL's Dog control orders.*
2. *Dog Road shows in communities during summer months.*
3. *Events in local parks etc.*
4. *Formulation of tenancy agreements/pet contracts.*
5. *Joint visits to homes where animal welfare is an issue and work with owner to correct living conditions/animal welfare policies.*
6. *Joint visits with Housing Officers.*
7. *Leaflets provided looking at tenancy contracts at present.*
8. *Work with Council Housing Services Officers to recognise signs of animal welfare abuse.*
9. *Partnership working with PDSA when they are in area where awareness raising can be undertaken at the same time as the pet checks.*
10. *Pass Dogs Trust information to all social housing groups to get assistance with tenancy agreements.*
11. *Pet policy covering behaviour etc.*
12. *Regular patrolling on problem estate areas.*
13. *Several Micro-chipping events on estates deemed to be problematic.*
14. *Sharing of advice when dealing with dog complaints site visits.*
15. *Blue Cross have neutered in a couple of incidents of high-risk cases.*
16. *Tenancy agreement for micro chipping.*
17. *Tenancy agreements promoting welfare and registering.*

18. *The Dogs Trust provides the council with free neutering vouchers to be given out at our discretion.*
19. *We are currently liaising with housing to try to introduce micro chipping requirement.*
20. *We are currently liaising with our borough to amend the tenancy agreement conditions in relation to dog ownership and breeding.*
21. *We are working with our own in-house housing department to look at restricting the number of dogs in our properties and neutering and chipping programme.*
22. *We work alongside social housing if they have a problem with a dog/s in a property, but don't actively do any proactive work with them.*
23. *Work with HAs to provide advice to owners where there are problems.*
24. *Worked with them on housing tenancy agreements.*
25. *Working and advising social housing tenants of responsible dog ownership.*
26. *Working on setting up a DIG group - like LUTON Working together where there are problems.*
27. *Working with housing authority at the moment to ban some types of dog and neutering.*
28. *Working with own housing provider to introduce a pet policy and free chipping.*

APPENDIX 6

Comments made by local authorities re: Proposed measures for dealing with dangerous dogs

1. *By virtue of the increased number of prosecutions undertaken by enforcement organisations, the publicity generated will force the public to take greater responsibility.*
2. *Cannot assess the data until it has been implemented then it can be checked against existing data for comparison.*
3. *Compulsory chipping will lead to greater accountability of owners.*
4. *Compulsory micro chipping will not stop attacks could help identify owners, but to date there has been no clear reassurance that this legislation will be rigorously enforced. Legislation making it illegal were dog attacks take place on private property will not stop attacks.*
5. *Dangerous dogs are dealt with by the police not the local authority therefore no records are held.*
6. *Depends what you mean by responsible ownership. Compulsory micro chipping will have little impact unless it is properly resourced and more importantly enforced. If it isn't there will be little difference from the current state of play and it will unfortunately be as unsuccessful as the horse passport legislation. The new anti social behaviour powers will potentially help deal with irresponsible owners at an early stage but again this is being put upon local authorities with no additional resources and in most cases existing budgets / resources are being cut.*
7. *Micro chipping is a useful tool but will not prevent one dog attack. And who will enforce it? It is already a criminal offence with level 5 fine not to have dog tagged, we often see non compliance and have prosecuted persistent offenders but the courts do not take seriously so set very low or no fine. Over 50% of the chipped dogs we collect have out of date details on chip.*
8. *I believe strongly this would have a positive effect on the number of dogs on streets, in rescue homes and also the number of dog attacks.*
9. *This is not the sole answer however, it has to be a complete holistic approach with education, ability for TRAINED officers to issue dog control orders and support for enforcement officers to actually carry out their duties - must be statutory or many LAs will not enforce in same way as Animal Welfare Act.*

10. *A well-run dog license scheme could be successful - see Calgary in Canada for world-renowned example.*
11. *Dog law needs to be put all under one act, not spread over several different ones (and will be worse with the new Anti-Social Behaviour bill).*
12. *BSL needs to be repealed as there is no scientific evidence to show that it works and a huge amount of studies to show that it doesn't work - in fact makes the situation worse. There are more pitbulls in the UK since the legislation came in and now Tosas and Dogos have also turned up. Pits are wonderful dogs in the right hands but by banning them, this has made them more attractive to the "wrong" people.*
13. *Does not apply to Scotland.*
14. *Failure to introduce Dog Control Notices and insufficient funding to enforce measures to be introduced.*
15. *Government consultation does not affect Northern Ireland. We have our own legislation to deal with dangerous dogs, Dangerous Dogs Order 1991.*
16. *Hopefully responsible dog ownership will improve but this is something that will have to be carefully monitored and isn't something that will necessarily show an instant improvement.*
17. *I believe that there are 4 different types of dog owners who wish to have a dangerous dog i.e. Pit Bull Terrier etc as a pet - The people who buy the dog believing that it is one breed and then turns out to be an illegal breed; the people who have the breed for a status symbol; the people who have them for illegal activities and; the people who love the breed for what it is.*
18. *People will only be responsible dog owners if they truly want to be. However, as a Council we will always educate dog owners to be responsible through our education programmes and positive enforcement policies.*

APPENDIX 7

Additional comments made by local authorities re: Dangerous dogs

1. *Micro chipping seems to be seen as the 'cure-all' and while it is undoubtedly a step in the right direction, it will not stop irresponsible owners breeding more dogs to sell to other irresponsible owners, all of whom will avoid the legislation.*
2. *Micro chipping is only as good as the currency of the information held on the database - in certain circles dogs are passed around and owners very transient, but microchip details never changed, making the chip useless.*
3. *Only reducing the number of dogs born will reduce the number which end up 'stray', a word which is becoming a euphemism for abandoned and unwanted by owners who present their dog to the local authority as 'found in the park'.*
4. *Not particularly - there is legislation to deal with dangerous dogs at present and most of the serious cases since 2005 have involved a member of the family or friends being attacked by the family pet. To ensure responsible ownership there must be stricter controls on the breeding and sale of dogs - however the cost of enforcement would probably be prohibitive.*
5. *Requires instant control orders by individual officers.*
6. *There are not sufficient resources for LA or police to enforce this, so the irresponsible owners will continue to get away with it.*
7. *There is scope for it to work but don't think it has been thought through thoroughly enough. All the work we were doing on the proposed Welsh Bill for out of control dogs was much better but then shelved unfortunately.*
8. *A lack of political will to make effective changes.*
9. *How will compulsory chipping stop a dog from being dangerous? The increased scope (to include private places) of the act will have no effect on the number of cases of attacks. Only introduction of a full licensing regime for dog owners may have some effect.*
10. *In Scotland dangerous dogs are dealt with by Police Scotland not local authority. We already have the control of dogs legislation in Scotland but this legislation is limited and is supposed to deal with dogs causing alarm and apprehension at an early stage before they seriously attack anyone.*

11. *More responsible ownership cannot be created from legislation alone if that was the case then we would not need more legislation now. It's about education and legislation. Educate the public as much as possible and target legislation at those who are the most irresponsible. Also have greater deterrents and punishments for the worst of offenders. Most irresponsible dog ownership boils down to the owner not having a clue about their dogs social, physical and behavioural requirements.*
12. *Will depend on publicity campaign informing owners of their responsibilities.*
13. *Micro chipping is a useful tool but will not prevent one dog attack. And who will enforce it? It is already a criminal offence with level 5 fine not to have dog tagged, we often see non compliance and have prosecuted persistent offenders but the courts do not take seriously so set very low or no fine. Over 50% of the chipped dogs we collect have out of date details on chip.*



APPENDIX 8

Additional comments made by local authorities re: The licensing arrangements relating to dogs

1. *Adhoc inspections aim for yearly but not always achieved.*
2. *All licensed premises are assessed and inspected as they become due.*
3. *If complaints or concerns annually, unless there's a problem.*
4. *Based on a risk assessment.*
5. *Council only inspect breeders who have 3 or more litters within 12 month period.*
6. *Depending on conditions and rating of establishment.*
7. *Dog Boarding Establishments as per risk assessment.*
8. *Dog Breeding Establishment varies per premises but at least 1 per year.*
9. *Each premises is inspected according to the number of animals and management controls in place.*
10. *First visit when first licensed then a risk based.*
11. *Initial inspection when first licensed, then inspections dependent on complaints we may receive If no complaints received then visits every 3 years.*
12. *Inspected as part of Health & Safety inspection schedule but is not risk assessed as a category A.*
13. *Inspected on priority basis.*
14. *Inspection of licence renewal and any complaints.*
15. *Although we do not have any licensed breeding establishments, we have a huge amount of dogs being bred (mainly bull breeds). Unfortunately they are below the minimal requirement of 5 litters a year needed for a licence.*
16. *The legislation is nonsense.*
17. *Random inspections if required.*
18. *Risk Based varies per premises.*

- 19. Routine inspections twice a year plus further regular inspections throughout year.*
- 20. Some home boarders may only have inspections every other year, if low risk and good premises*



APPENDIX 9

Final comments made by local authorities at the end of the survey re: Dog welfare

1. *All dogs should be Micro chipped and registered with local Authorities that would reduce strays and dog on dog/human attacks.*
2. *All LA's will operate their dog warden service differently. In our Borough the Police deal with dangerous dogs (as listed under Dangerous Dogs Act) and all dogs on human incidents therefore I have given no numbers for this.*
3. *Enforcement of the Animal Welfare Act is not a statutory duty so most LA's do not investigate welfare cases in their normal duties, these will be passed to the RSPCA. Whilst individual officers may be concerned about animal welfare, LA's (councillors/management etc) are not, what concerns them is the "cost" and knock on effect to the community (not animals themselves).*
4. *Although we keep a record of all the dogs we collect, it is not split between individual breed type. We split between bull breed and other types. 41% of dogs collected within the time asked were bull breeds. Out of this, 25% were classes as banned breeds.*
5. *Animal welfare act duties only extend to farm and commercial businesses in this authority. Dangerous dogs are a Police responsibility.*
6. *Financial constraint within local government and reduced service at a time of greater abandonment of dogs.*
7. *I feel it would be beneficial to all concerned if fines and prison terms were enforced more for welfare cases.*
8. *I think that the Government need to look at trying to reduce the number of dogs being bred and to target those irresponsible owners in a way that can prevent them from continuing to breed. I can't see why they can't bring back a dog license and at least then you would hope that people would take more responsibility and the chance of locating an owner are greater. There should also be penalties and immediate consequences for abandoning a dog. It is far too easy to pretend that you have found a dog as a stray and to pass the responsibility to the Local Authority.*
9. *If the Councils had more monies then I feel that we would be able to do more in animal welfare rather than just carrying out our statutory responsibilities.*
10. *Lack of resources, especially with ongoing Local Govt budget cuts has severely reduced dog warden services in a majority of Councils so the roles are not as*

extensive as they used to be.

11. *Please don't mistake FPN's as an "easy" option as you still need to be satisfied that an offence has taken place before you can issue one which is exactly the same as without them. They are simply a way of the offender discharging liability and not an easy cop out for enforcement officers.*
12. *Re the Animal Welfare Act, we do not use it. Welfare is left to the RSPCA however we work with them, and our nuisance work ties in with the welfare of the dog.*
13. *We respond to livestock welfare and leave companion animals to the RSPCA. Survey far too long.*
14. *The law regarding dogs needs to be completely changed, consolidated and renamed the Dogs Act and covering all aspects.*
15. *The use of social media, face book Twitter etc is very important in promoting responsible ownership and is used extensively in Salford (dogs in Salford).*
16. *Measures MUST include restrictions on the breeding and sale of dogs – I believe strongly this would have a positive effect on the number of dogs on streets, in rescue homes and also the number of dog attacks.*
17. *Must be statutory or many LAs will not enforce in same way as Animal Welfare Act. A well run dog licence scheme could be successful - see Calgary in Canada for world-renowned example.*
18. *Dog law needs to be put all under one act, not spread over several different ones (and will be worse with the new Anti-Social Behaviour bill).*
19. *Over breeding of dogs is having a major impact along with irresponsible dog ownership.*