Appendix 5: People's Panel Survey 2024 report

Dog Policy and Bylaw People's Panel Survey Final Report

June 2024

Survey Methodology

Methodology

Survey invites were sent to **19,280** panel members via email

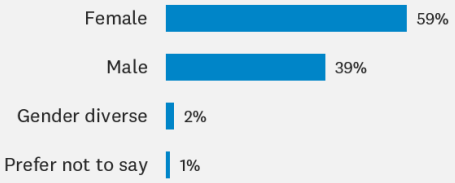
11% (n=2,184) finished the survey

Fieldwork: **3** to **14** March 2024

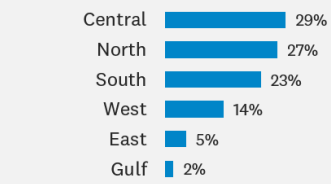
Sample profile

The survey sample was skewed towards Aucklanders who are female, older (those aged 35+), and European.

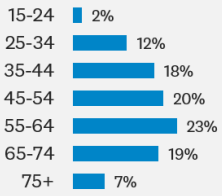
Gender



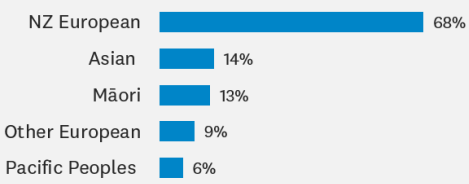
Area



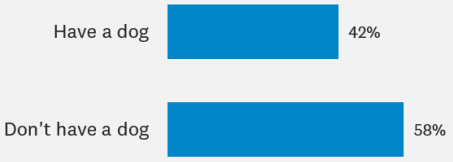
Age



Ethnicity



Dog ownership



In this report, we look at results at an **overall level**, as well as by **Local Boards** (excluding Aotea Great Barrier due to small sample sizes)

BASE: All respondents (n=2,184)

Executive summary

SUMMARY

Dog ownership and registration:

- 42% of respondents have at least one dog in their household.
- 75% of dog owners have one dog, 22% have two dogs, and 3% have 3 or more dogs.
- Almost all dog owners (93%) say they have registered their dogs. The main reasons for not registering a dog are that it is too expensive (31%), that their dog is registered with another council, or that they just don't see the point (13%).

Policy on dogs – focus areas:

- There is strong overall agreement with council's focus areas to 'ensure dogs remain a positive part of living in Auckland' (75% and higher):
  - **88%** agree with council **taking appropriate action** in response to irresponsible dog ownership
  - **80%** agree with council **providing incentives** for responsible dog ownership
  - **80%** agree with council **promoting the welfare** of dogs e.g. owner education and adoption programmes
  - **75%** agree with council **increasing public awareness** and education e.g. how to safely interact with dogs
- 50% of respondents felt that council could focus on different areas, and suggest more enforcement, dog owner education, and stronger penalties and consequences for irresponsible dog ownership.
- Very few felt that council should be doing less (3%).

Dog-related issues:

- Almost all respondents (91%) have experienced or witnessed dog-related problems in the last 12 months, the most common problems were dog owners not picking up their dog poos (70%), and dogs roaming without an owner (58%).
- 74% know dog-related problems can be reported to council.
- Some dog-related problems are more common in certain local boards e.g. there are higher rates of dogs roaming without an owner, dogs attacking people and animals, and dogs being neglected or abused in the southern boards of Māngere-Ōtāhuhu, Ōtara-Papatoetoe, and Manurewa.
- Respondents who have seen serious issues in the past 12 months (e.g. dogs attacking people or animals, or dogs being neglected or abused) have higher rates of reporting these issues to council. Respondents seem more likely to talk to owners if there is a problem with dog behaviour or owner control.

SUMMARY

Walking multiple dogs in public:

- 79% of respondents see people walking multiple dogs 'some of the time' or more frequently. The most common pack sizes are 2 or 3 dogs, seen by 80% and 41% of respondents in the last 12 months, respectively.
- Over half (55%) of those who have seen multiple dogs being walked reported having witnessed no issues in the last 12 months.
- When there were issues, they were most commonly the pack taking up the entire pathway (26%), dog poos not being picked up by the walker, and dogs wandering off-leash in an on-leash area (both 14%).
- We asked if there should be a limit on the number of dogs walked by one person:
    - 41% of respondents answered 'yes', and over half of them said the limit should be 2 dogs (51%)
    - 36% answered 'no', their key reasons being that limits are unnecessary if the dogs are under control, that they weren't aware of any issues caused by multiple dogs, and that professional dog walkers are skilled and responsible
    - 6% answered 'other' and 17% said 'I don't know'

Multiple dog owners and multiple dog owner licence (MDOL):

- Only 25 respondents had 3 or more dogs, 60% of them said they had a multiple dog owner licence (MDOL).
- 7% of respondents live next door to a home with 3 or more dogs. When asked if they have experienced any problems in the last 12 months 61% reported noise disturbance, 28% reported intimidating or aggressive behaviour, and 20% mentioned neglect or poor treatment of the dogs. 31% said they had not experienced any problems.
- 55% of respondents feel the current requirements for MDOLs are fine and 31% said they should be stricter e.g. reducing the number of dogs required for the licence.

SUMMARY

Agreement with principles for dog access rules:

- Almost all respondents (89% and higher) agree with council's 'safety' and 'protection' principles i.e. that dog access rules should protect and support animals and wildlife, public safety, and the environment.
- Most people (81%) agree that places for dogs should be easy to get to and enjoyable for the owner and dog.
- There was lower agreement that dog owners have the right to use public spaces (68%), and that public spaces should be shared with everyone - including dog owners and their dogs (62%). The main reasons for disagreeing were a perceived conflict with people's rights and safety, the acknowledgement that there are irresponsible dog owners, and that dogs can cause nuisance.

Agreement with dog access rules:

- There was almost unanimous agreement that owners need to pick up dog poo (96%).
- There was high agreement with the current dog access rules for playgrounds, council-controlled spaces, sports surfaces, as well as the ability to temporarily change dog access rules and the 'dogs in season' rule (81-84% agreement).
- Just under a quarter (72%) agreed that dog access should be determined by the person in charge of a building.
- The lowest agreement was for the 'default' summertime rule (57%). The main reason for disagreeing was that the rule felt too restrictive and that it should allow for more access (40%). Some people also mentioned wanting longer summertime hours and periods.

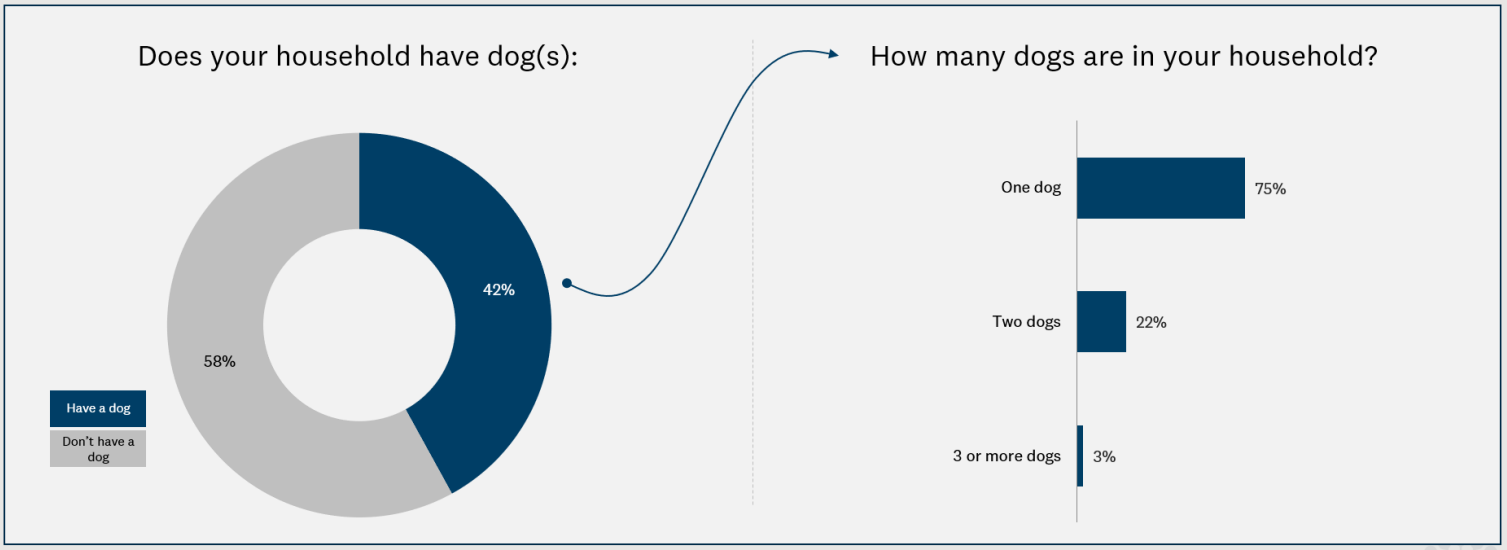
Following dog access rules:

- 58% of respondents felt that people follow dog access rules well. Only 10% say they are not followed well.
- Suggestions to help people better follow rules include better or clearer signage about rules (67%) and more patrols (55%).
- 39% said that the rules need to be improved or updated – key suggestions were for better signage, enforcement, and communication of access rules.

Dog ownership and registration

42% of respondents have a dog in their household

The majority (75%) of dog owners have one dog and 22% have two dogs.



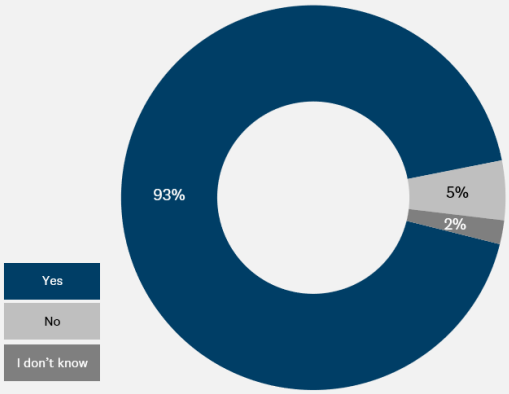
BASE: All respondents (n=2,184)
Q: How many dogs are there in your household? Please include all dogs, whether you or another person owns the dog.

BASE: Those who have dogs (n=928)

93% of dog owners say they have registered their dog(s)

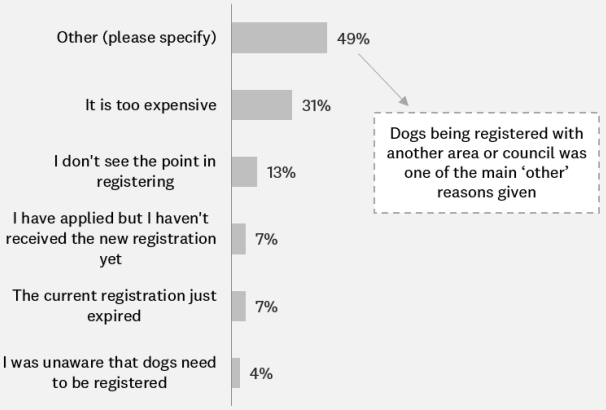
Almost all respondents with dogs say their dogs are registered. Main reasons for not registering a dog are that it is too expensive (31%), that their dog is registered with another council, or that they just don't see the point (13%).

Are all the dogs in your house registered?



BASE: All respondents (n=2,184)
Q: Are all the dogs in your household registered with Auckland Council? Please note, your responses are completely confidential. They will only be used to inform our dog policy and bylaw review.

Why have you not registered all the dogs in your household?



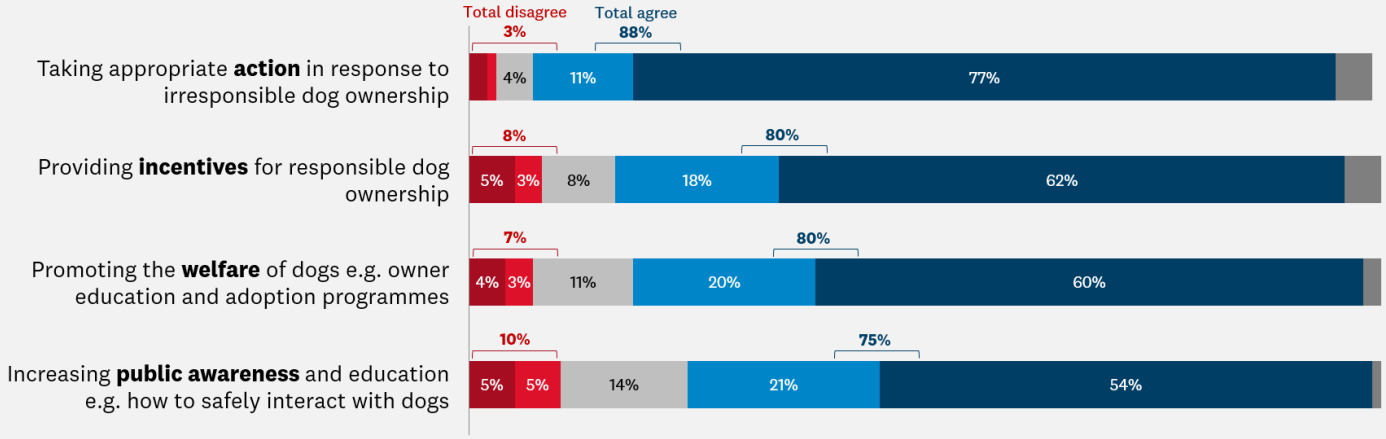
BASE: Dog owners who have unregistered dogs (n=45)
Q: Why have you not registered all the dogs in your household? Please note, your responses are completely confidential. They will only be used to inform our dog policy and bylaw review. Please select all that apply.

Policy on Dogs – Focus Areas

Overall agreement with focus areas is strong (75% and up)

Most respondents (88%) agree that council should take appropriate action in response to irresponsible dog ownership.

Agreement with council's focus areas to promote responsible dog ownership:



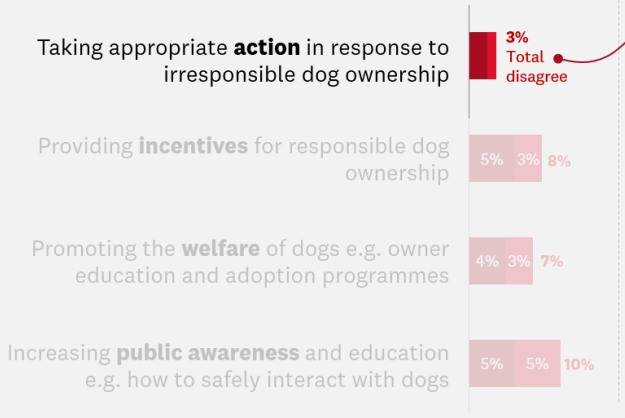
BASE: All respondents (n=2,184)
Q: We would like to ask you about our approach to ensuring dogs remain a positive part of living in Auckland. Our approach is focused on the following areas. How much do you agree or disagree with these focus areas?

1 – Strongly disagree | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 – Strongly agree | I don't know

Disagreeing with council taking appropriate action

Only 3% disagree with this focus area, those who disagree mainly mention that they perceive council's current actions to be ineffective.

Disagreement with council's focus areas:



Reasons for disagreeing:

Key themes

- 65% Council's current actions in response to irresponsible dog ownership is ineffective
- 16% Dog owners require more education
- 14% Penalises responsible dog ownership

Comments

"I do not agree that AC is taking sufficient action against loose, roaming dogs, unregistered dogs and aggressive dogs. I recently reported a roaming dog in my street that defecates in peoples' properties and is not behind a fenced property - left to roam free and does not appear to have a collar or registration tag. Council is yet to do anything about this dog report. The dog is still roaming the streets."

"More public education before penalising people who may not know how to be a responsible dog owner. Dogs shouldn't be put down or otherwise punished or branded as 'menacing' because they haven't been trained correctly or loved enough."

BASE: All respondents (n=2,184)
Q: We would like to ask you about our approach to ensuring dogs remain a positive part of living in Auckland. Our approach is focused on the following areas. How much do you agree or disagree with these focus areas?

BASE: Those who disagree with focus area and chose to comment (n=56)
Q: Why do you disagree with our focus area of: 'Taking appropriate action in response to irresponsible dog ownership'? If you can't think of anything, please leave this question blank.

1 – Strongly disagree | 2

Disagreeing with council providing incentives

Only 8% disagree with this focus area, those who do disagree tend to mention that it should be the dog owners' responsibility and that incentives have limited effects.

Disagreement with council's focus areas to promote responsible dog ownership:

Reasons for disagreeing

Key themes		*Comments*
42%	Dog owner's responsibility	*"All dog owners must be responsible for their own dog. There is no need to incentivise them; should there be a need to, then they should not be owning a dog.."*
32%	Incentives have limited effects	*"Too much cost in policing and making it work... when there is generally a high percentage of complying owners/dogs. This policy wouldn't catch those that are NOT registered. Therefore, it has limited value."*
19%	Focus council resources on core services and other initiatives	*"I don't see why ratepayers should bear the cost of reduced fees for dog registrations. If you have a dog, you register it and there should be no further costs to a ratepayer."*
19%	Incentivising responsible dog ownership is inequitable	

BASE: All respondents (n=2,184)
Q: We would like to ask you about our approach to ensuring dogs remain a positive part of living in Auckland. Our approach is focused on the following areas. How much do you agree or disagree with these focus areas?

BASE: Those who disagree with focus area and chose to comment (n=144)
Q: Why do you disagree with our focus area of: 'Providing incentives for responsible dog ownership'? If you can't think of anything, please leave this question blank.

1 – Strongly disagree | 2

Disagreeing with council promoting the welfare of dogs

Only 7% disagree with this focus area, those who do disagree mention that it is not the council's role, and that the dog welfare is the dog owners' responsibility.

Disagreement with council's focus areas to promote responsible dog ownership:

Reasons for disagreeing

Key themes		*Comments*
37%	Not council's role	*"With limited resources I strongly believe that this is not a priority for Auckland Council and investment needs to be made into regulation compliance and taking appropriate action in response to irresponsible dog ownership. I believe this is not an Auckland Council role and it is being dealt with by independent organisations."*
30%	Dog owner's responsibility	*"This should be left to agencies such as SPCA to take responsibility for."*
28%	Promoting dog welfare has limited effects / is inequitable	*"Pet ownership is a privilege and those who do not already know that and take every opportunity to look after their pets, won't suddenly change their behaviour because of Council outreach..."*
26%	Focus council resources on core services and other initiatives	

BASE: All respondents (n=2,184)
Q: We would like to ask you about our approach to ensuring dogs remain a positive part of living in Auckland. Our approach is focused on the following areas. How much do you agree or disagree with these focus areas?

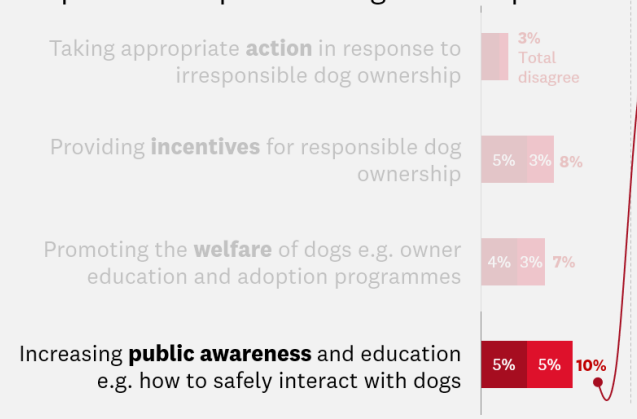
BASE: Those who disagree with focus area and chose to comment (n=123)
Q: Why do you disagree with our focus area of: 'Promoting the welfare of dogs'? If you can't think of anything, please leave this question blank.

1 – Strongly disagree | 2

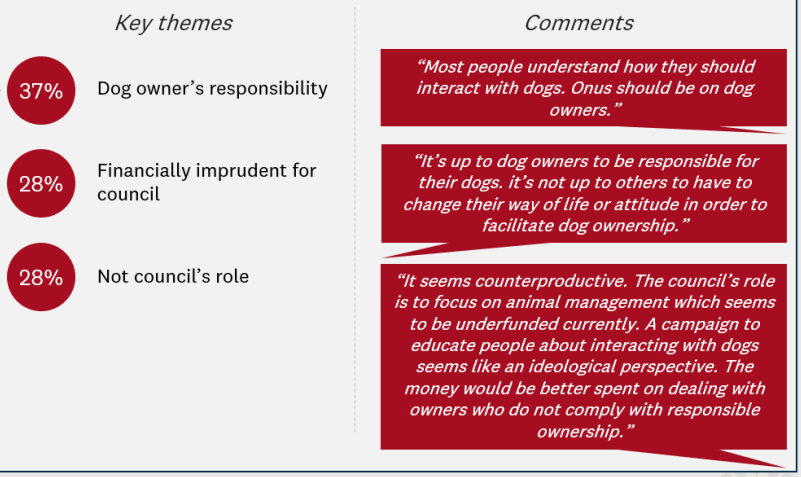
Disagreeing with council increasing public awareness

10% disagree with this focus area, those that do disagree say it is the dog owners' responsibility, that it would be financially imprudent for council to focus on this, and that it is not council's role.

Disagreement with council's focus areas to promote responsible dog ownership:



Reasons for disagreeing



BASE: All respondents (n=2,184)
Q: We would like to ask you about our approach to ensuring dogs remain a positive part of living in Auckland. Our approach is focused on the following areas. How much do you agree or disagree with these focus areas?

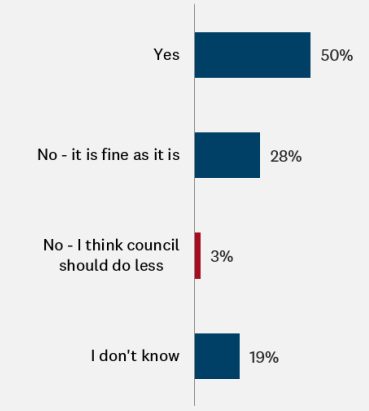
BASE: Those who disagree with focus area and chose to comment (n=177)
Q: Why do you disagree with our focus area of: 'Providing incentives for responsible dog ownership'? If you can't think of anything, please leave this question blank.

1 – Strongly disagree | 2

50% say council could have different focus areas

Their main suggestions were more enforcement, more dog owner education, and stronger penalties and consequences. Just over a quarter (28%) thought everything was fine as it is, and only 3% thought council should be doing less.

Is there anything different council could focus on?



What else should council focus on?

BASE: All respondents (n=2,184)
Q: Is there anything different that council could focus on to promote responsible dog ownership?

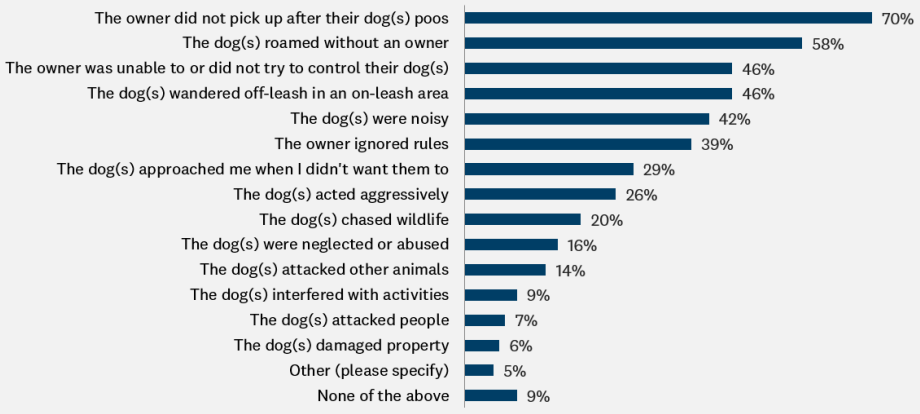
BASE: Those who said there are different areas council could focus on and chose to comment (n=1,034)
Q: What else should council focus on?

Dog-related issues

74% know dog-related problems can be reported to council

Almost all respondents (91%) have witnessed dog-related problems in the last 12 months. 70% of respondents have seen dog owners not picking up their dog(s) poos, and over half (58%) have seen dogs roaming without an owner. Just under half (46% each) have seen owners unable or unwilling to control their dog, and dogs walking off-leash in an on-leash area. 14% have seen dogs attacking animals, and 7% have seen dogs attacking people.

dog-related problems witnessed or experienced in last 12 months:



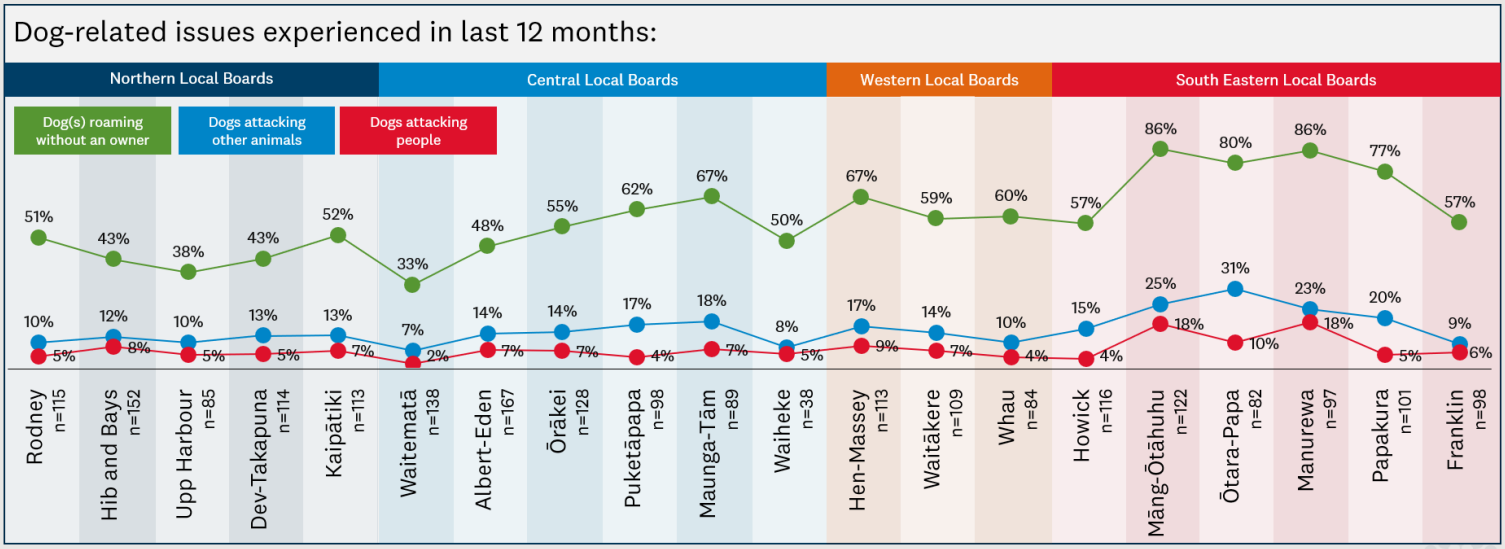
Aware problems could be reported to council:

74% were aware these issues could be **reported** to council:

BASE: All respondents (n=2,184)
Q: In the last 12 months, have you experienced or witnessed any of the following dog-related problems while out in public, or at a home (your home or someone else's home)? Please select all that apply.
Q: Before today, were you aware that you could report these kinds of dog-related problems to Auckland Council?

Dog-related issues by local board

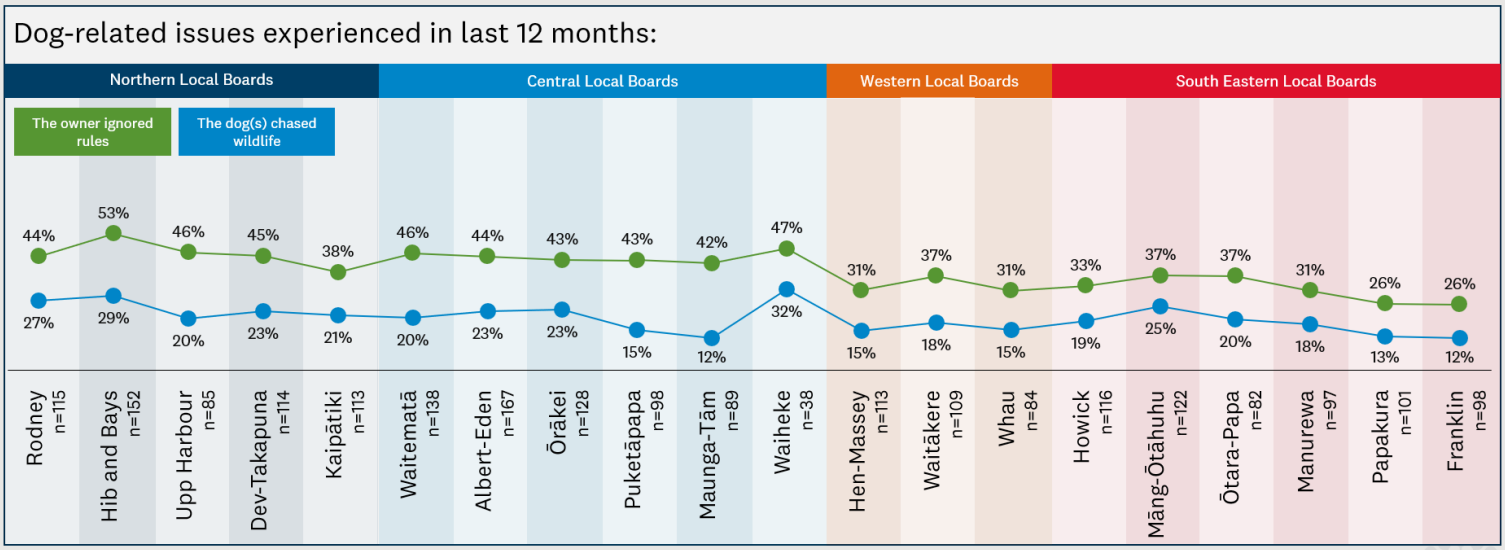
Reports of dogs walking without an owners, dogs attacking other animals, and dogs biting people are much higher in the southern boards of Māngere-Ōtāhuhu, Ōtara-Papatoetoe, and Manurewa.



BASE: All respondents (n=2,184)
Q: In the last 12 months, have you experienced or witnessed any of the following dog-related problems while out in public, or at a home (your home or someone else's home)? Please select all that apply.

Dog-related issues by local board

The incidence of dog owners ignoring rules is higher in northern and central local boards. A higher proportion of Waiheke residents (32%) report dogs chasing wildlife.

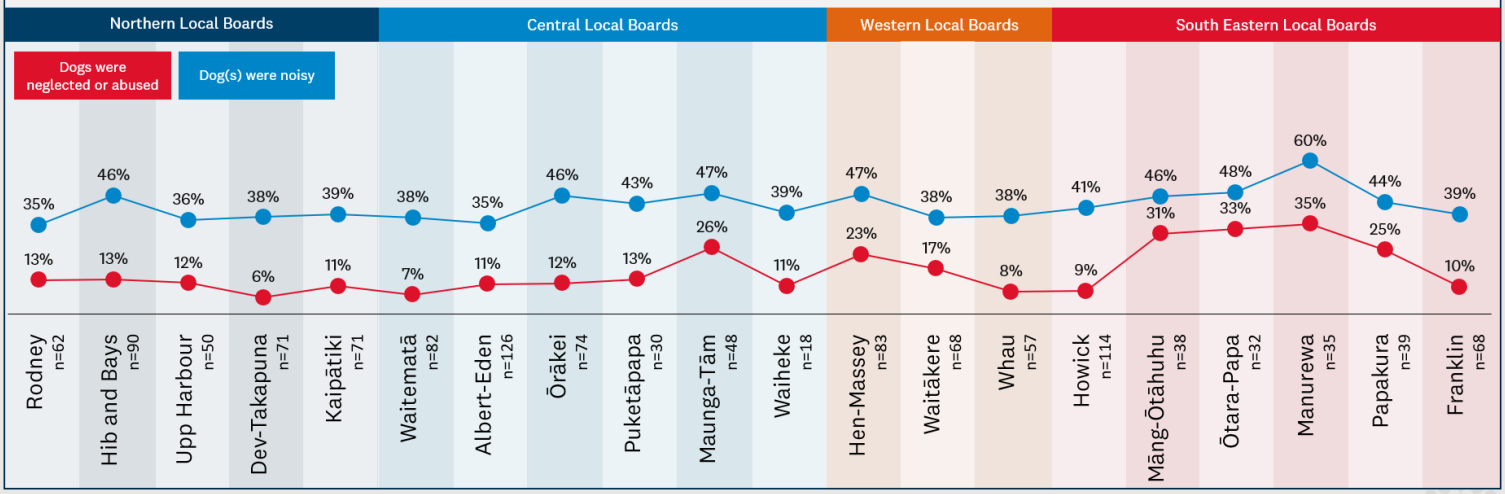


BASE: All respondents (n=2,184)
Q: In the last 12 months, have you experienced or witnessed any of the following dog-related problems while out in public, or at a home (your home or someone else's home)? Please select all that apply.

Dog-related issues by local board

The incidence of dogs being neglected or abused are much higher in Māngere-Ōtāhuhu, Ōtāra-Papatoetoe, and Manurewa, Maungakiekie-Tāmaki, and Papakura local boards. The issue of dogs being noisy seems a bit lower in the Northern boards in general, a large number (60%) report this being an issue in Manurewa.

Dog-related issues experienced in last 12 months:



BASE: All respondents (n=2,184)
Q: In the last 12 months, have you experienced or witnessed any of the following dog-related problems while out in public, or at a home (your home or someone else's home)? Please select all that apply.

Reporting to council more likely for serious issues

Respondents who have seen serious issues in the past 12 months (e.g. dogs attacking people and animals or dogs being neglected or abused) have higher rates of reporting these issues to council at least once (24%-36%). Respondents talked to owners particularly when there was dog behaviour or control issues e.g. owner unable to control dog or dogs approaching when unwanted. Reporting to another organisation was most common for animal welfare concerns.

Actions taken in response to dog-related issues:

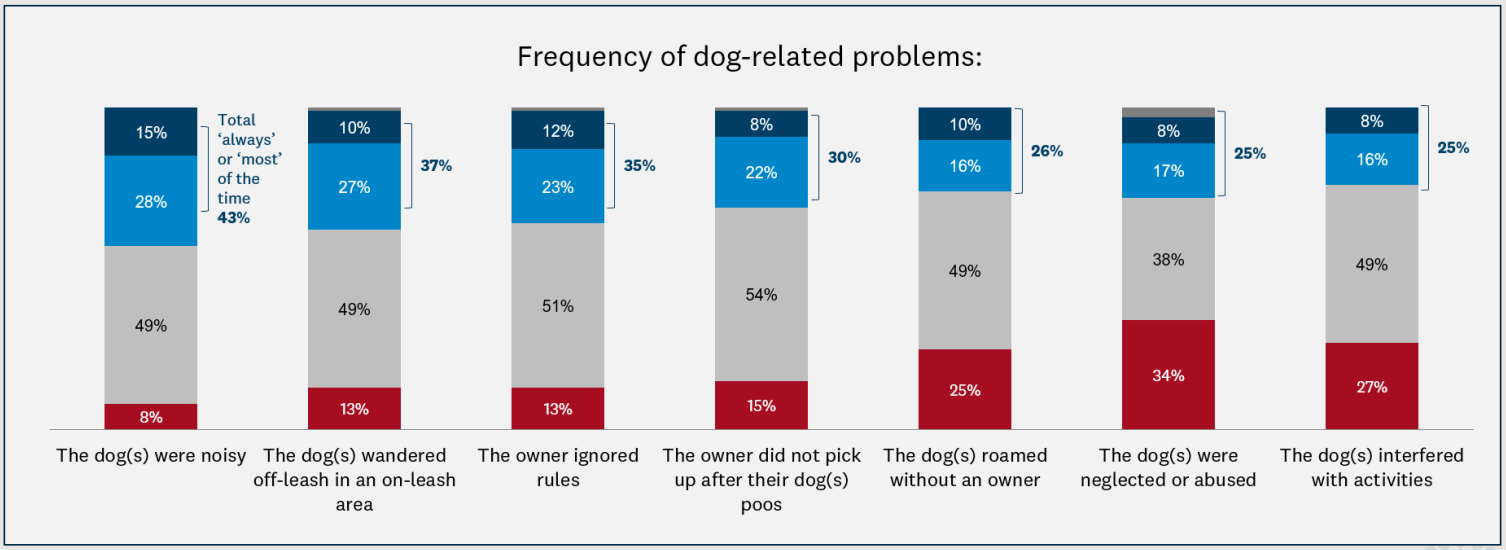
Low % | Moderate % | High %

	Number who have experienced or witnessed issue in last 12 months	Reported it to Auckland Council	Reported it to another organisation e.g. SPCA, Police	Talked to the owner about it	Resolved the issue myself	None of these - I took no action	Other / I don't know
The owner did not pick up after their dog(s) poos	1,539	3%	1%	18%	19%	63%	2%
The dog(s) roamed without an owner	1,256	21%	4%	7%	9%	60%	3%
The owner was unable to or did not try to control their dog(s)	999	10%	2%	29%	9%	54%	2%
The dog(s) wandered off-leash in an on-leash area	997	6%	1%	16%	4%	74%	2%
The dog(s) were noisy	912	14%	2%	15%	5%	66%	3%
The owner ignored rules	858	5%	1%	19%	2%	73%	2%
The dog(s) approached me when I didn't want them to	631	10%	1%	26%	23%	42%	2%
The dog(s) acted aggressively	561	22%	2%	22%	12%	44%	3%
The dog(s) chased wildlife	441	5%	3%	15%	9%	65%	5%
The dog(s) were neglected or abused	349	28%	24%	13%	5%	36%	6%
The dog(s) attacked other animals	305	24%	7%	19%	13%	39%	7%
The dog(s) interfered with activities	200	6%	2%	20%	14%	57%	5%
The dog(s) attacked people	149	36%	5%	18%	7%	31%	11%
The dog(s) damaged property	133	11%	4%	12%	14%	62%	4%

BASE: Those who have experienced or witness the particular dog-related problems in the last 12 months
Q: Have you done any of the following about the dog-related problems you experienced or witnessed in the last 12 months? Please select all that apply.

Noisy dog(s) is the most frequently experienced problem

Of those who have experienced the following dog-related issues, dogs being noisy, dogs wandering off-leash in and on-leash areas, and dog owners not following rules are reported to occur most frequently.

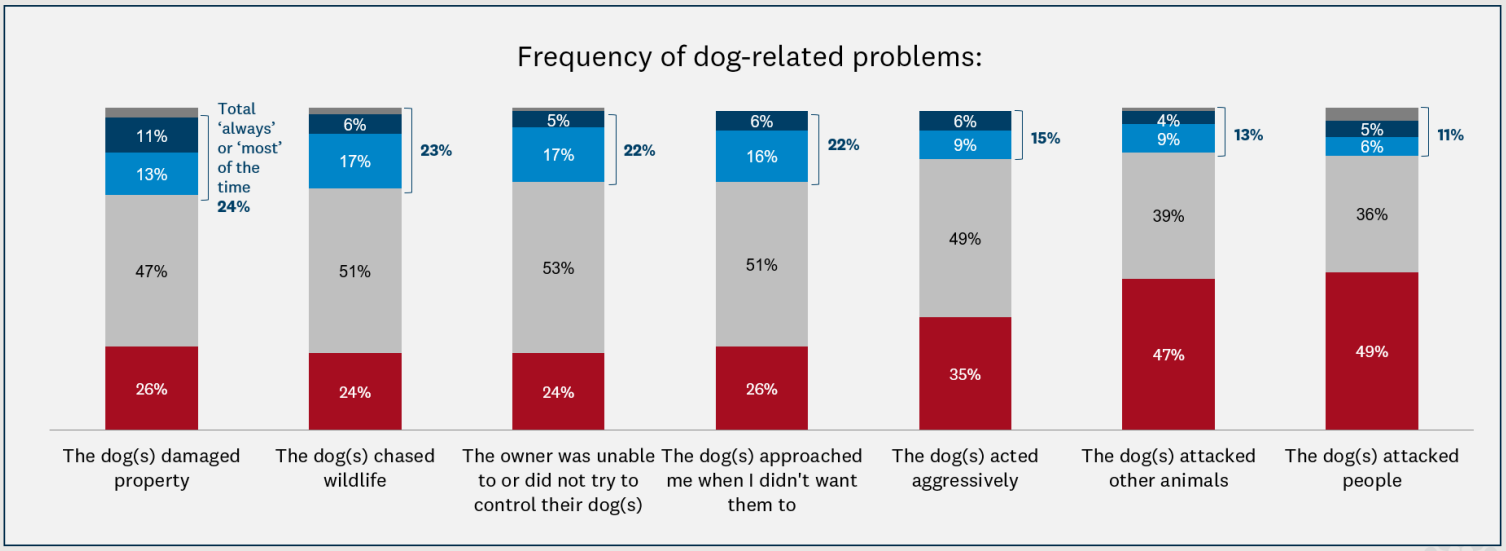


BASE: Those who have experienced or witness the particular dog-related problems in the last 12 months
Q: How frequently do you encounter these dog-related problems while out in public or at a home?

Rarely | Sometimes | Most of the time | Always | I don't know

More serious problems tend to occur less frequently

Almost half of those respondents who have seen a dog attacking other animals or people say it occurs rarely.



BASE: Those who have experienced or witness the particular dog-related problems in the last 12 months
Q: How frequently do you encounter these dog-related problems while out in public or at a home?

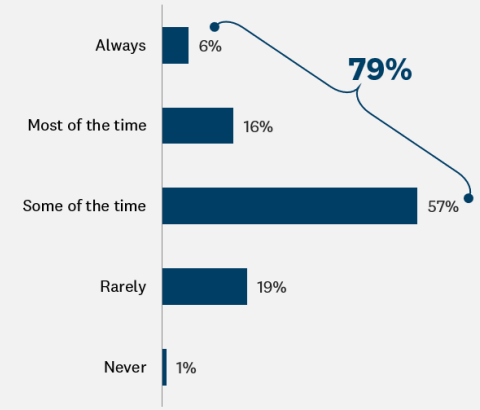
Rarely | Sometimes | Most of the time | Always | I don't know

Walking multiple dogs in public places

79% see multiple dogs walked at least sometimes

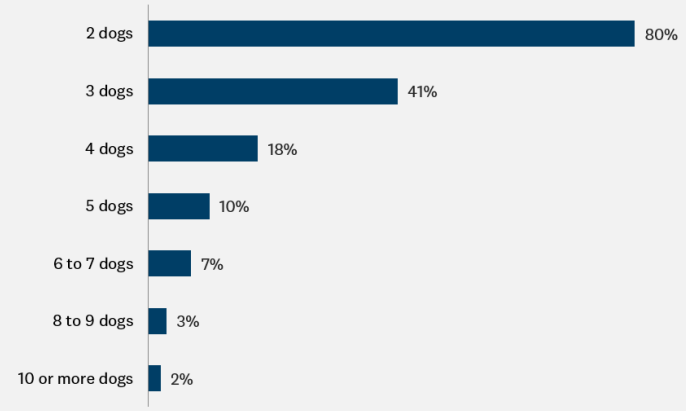
The most common pack sizes are of 2 and 3 dogs, seen by 80% and 41% of people, respectively.

Frequency of seeing people walking multiple dogs:



BASE: All respondents (n=2,184)
Q: How frequently do you see people walking more than one dog at a time in public places?

Sizes of dog groups seen walking in past 12 months:



BASE: Those who have seen multiple dogs being walked in the past 12 months (n=2,143)
Q: Please choose the sizes of all the dog groups you've seen being walked by a single person in the past 12 months: Please select all that apply.

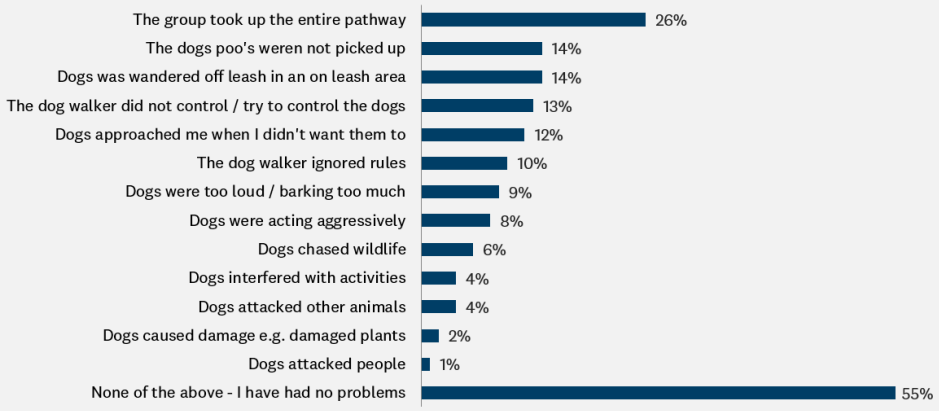
45% have witnessed issues with people walking multiple dogs

Over half (55%) have not witnessed any issues caused by multiple dogs being walked in the last 12 months. The most commonly witnessed or experienced issue is the walker and pack taking up the entire pathway (experienced by 26%), dog(s) poos not being picked up by the walker, and dogs wandering off-leash in an on-leash area (both 14%).

Problems because of walking multiple dogs at a time:

45% have witnessed issues because of **multiple** dog walking in the last 12 months:

dog-related problems witnessed or experienced in last 12 months:

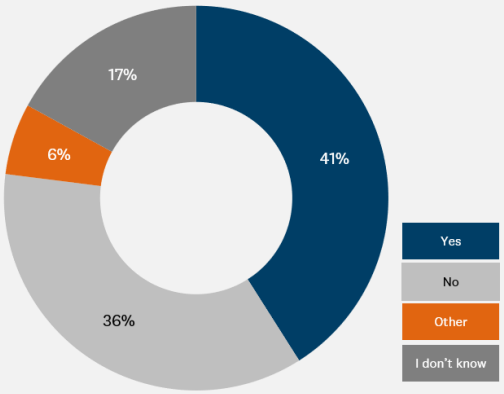


BASE: Those who have seen multiple dogs being walked in the past 12 months (n=2,143)
Q: In the last 12 months, have you experienced or witnessed any of the following problems because of people walking more than one dog at a time? Please select all that apply.

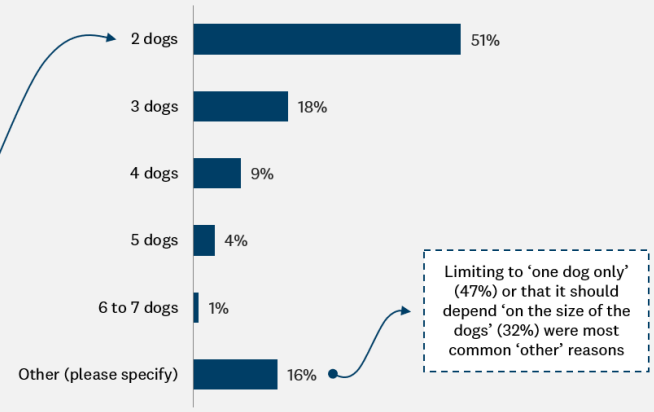
41% think there should be a limit on number of dogs walked

Of those who think there should be a limit, 51% think the limit should be 2 dogs. A fairly high proportion selected other for this question (16%), almost half of these comments stated the limit should be one dog.

Should there be a limit on the number of dogs walked?



What should the limit be?



BASE: All respondents (n=2,184)
Q: Do you think there should be a limit on the number of dogs walked by one person?

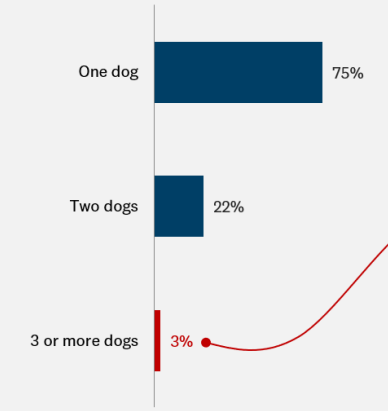
BASE: Respondents who think there should be a limit on dogs walked (n=897)
Q: What do you think the limit should be? Please select all that apply.

Multiple dog owners

Only 25 respondents in total had 3 or more dogs

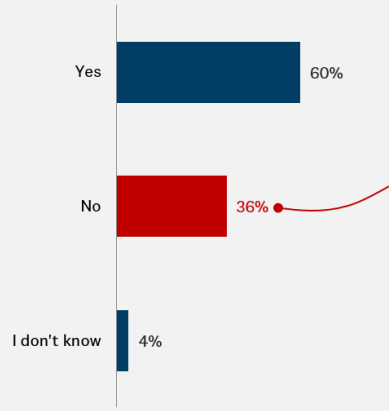
60% of them said they had a multiple dog owner licence (MDOL).

How many dogs are in your household?



BASE: All respondents (n=2,184)
Q: How many dogs are there in your household? Please include all dogs, whether you or another person owns the dog.

Do you currently have a MDOL?



BASE: Those who have 3 or more dogs (n=25)
Q: Do you currently have a multiple dog owner licence? Please note, your responses are completely confidential. They will only be used to inform our dog policy and bylaw review.

Why don't you have a MDOL?

"I had 3 dogs and have just adopted a stray that was dumped behind my home. I haven't considered a licence."

"My dogs never leave our property."

"We aren't in an urban zone."

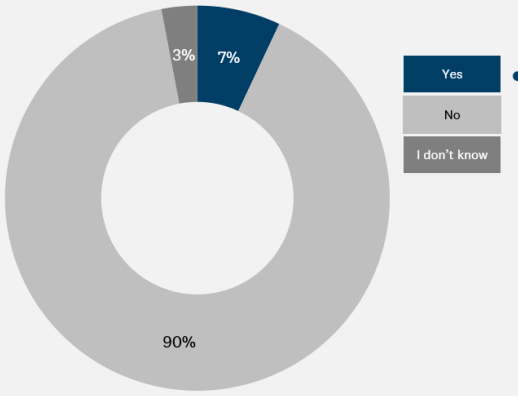
"I only have one dog. Another household member who owns 2 dogs does have a multidog licenced."

BASE: Those who have 3 or more dogs and don't have a MDOL and chose to comment (n=7)
Q: Why don't you have a multiple dog licence? Please note, your responses are completely confidential. They will only be used to inform our dog policy and bylaw review. If you can't think of anything, please leave the textbox blank.

7% said they live next door to a home with 3 or more dogs

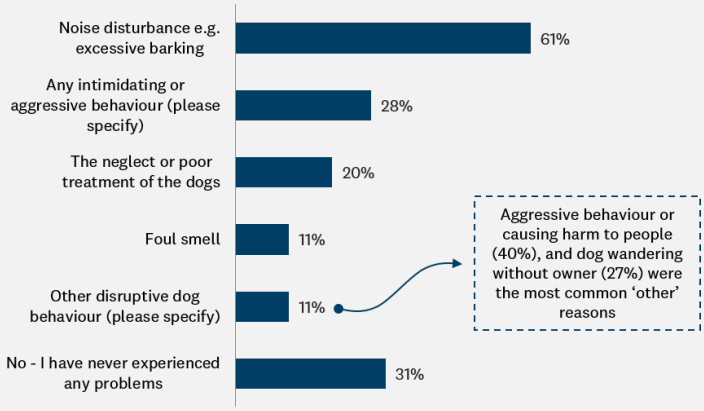
When asked if they have experienced any problems due to living next door to multiple dogs in the last 12 months, 61% reported noise disturbance, 28% reported intimidating or aggressive behaviour, and 20% mention neglected or poor treatment. 31% said they haven't experienced any problems from living next to multiple dogs.

Do you live next door to a home that has three or more dogs?



BASE: All respondents (n=2,184)
Q: Do you live next door to a home that has three or more dogs?

Problems due to living next to multiple dogs:

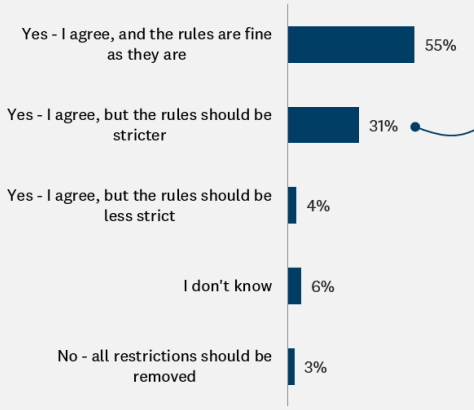


BASE: Those who live next door to multiple dogs (n=152)
Q: In the last 12 months, have you experienced or witnessed any of the following problems because of three or more dogs being kept on your neighbour's property? Please select all that apply.

55% feel the current MDOL requirements are just fine

While 31% feel that the rules should be stricter. When asked for suggestions on how to make the rules stricter, respondents said to reduce the number of dogs required for the licence (36%) and for the licence to consider property suitability (18%).

Should a licence be required to keep three or more dogs?



How should the rules be **stricter**?

Key themes

- 36% Reduce the number of dogs required for a licence
- 18% Licence to consider property suitability
- 15% Stricter enforcement / rules / monitoring

Comments

> *"Most residential sections do not have the space for more than two dogs."*

> *"Dogs need a lot of care and space. Two medium or large sized dogs that are kept in a residential area should require a licence as nowadays properties are much smaller and there is less room to properly accommodate medium-large dogs. The rules for dog licencing should also include how much outdoor space is available as a factor with licencing one two or more dogs."*

> *"I think the rules should be based on neighbourhoods. In the increasingly intensification of housing the rules have to be stricter. Maybe the size of your backyard indicates the number of dogs allowed."*

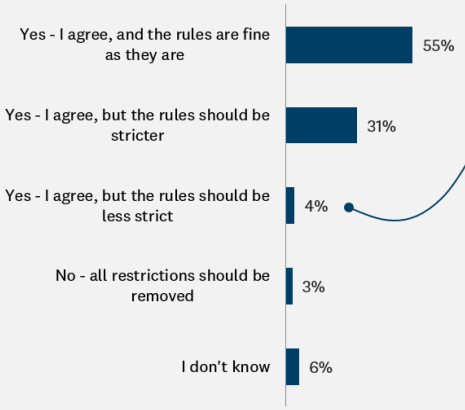
BASE: All respondents (n=2,184)
Q: In Auckland's residential areas, a multiple dog licence is required to keep three or more dogs on a property for over 30 days (whether or not the dogs have more than one owner). The purpose of the licence is to minimise problems to neighbouring properties and to people walking past the property by assessing whether the home is suitable for three or more dogs. Do you agree that a licence should be required to keep three or more dogs on a property for over 30 days in residential areas?

BASE: Those who thought the rules should be stricter and chose to comment (n=359)
Q: How should the rules be stricter? If you can't think of anything, please leave this question blank.

Very few (4%) thought the MDOL rules should be less strict

Their suggestions were to take into account the type of dog, responsible ownership, and make the licence for 4 or more dogs.

Should a licence be required to keep three or more dogs?



How should the rules be **less strict**?

Key themes

- 39% Be more lenient depending on the type of dog and responsible ownership
- 39% Licence for four or more dogs
- 20% Owning three dogs should not require a licence
- 15% Allow more dogs if property is suitable

Comments

> *"Many responsible people have several dogs, and these people should not be restricted because of the few irresponsible ones. A small minority makes it hard for all of us. That's true of many things in life."*

> *"I think some people have 3 tiny dogs (miniature breeds) at home, and can keep them clean, quiet enough and well controlled, so that's okay."*

> *"I think you should need permission for more than four dogs."*

> *"I personally wouldn't mind if my neighbour had 3 dogs – although 4 upwards, I would be wary."*

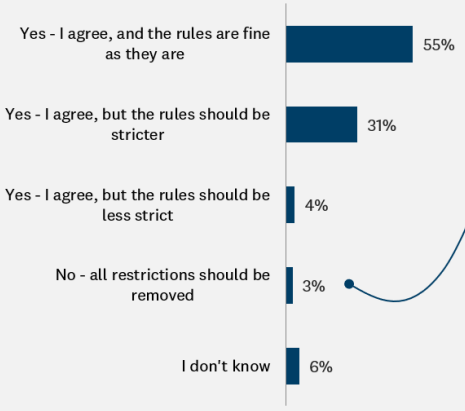
BASE: All respondents (n=2,184)
Q: In Auckland's residential areas, a multiple dog licence is required to keep three or more dogs on a property for over 30 days (whether or not the dogs have more than one owner). The purpose of the licence is to minimise problems to neighbouring properties and to people walking past the property by assessing whether the home is suitable for three or more dogs. Do you agree that a licence should be required to keep three or more dogs on a property for over 30 days in residential areas?

BASE: Those who thought the rules should be less strict and chose to comment (n=67)
Q: How should the rules be less strict? If you can't think of anything, please leave this question blank.

Only 3% thought all restrictions should be removed

Their key reasons for this was that responsible dog owners were being penalized, and that issuing such a licence should not be council's role.

Should a licence be required to keep three or more dogs?



Why should all restrictions be **removed**?

Key themes

- 33% Penalises responsible dog owners
- 27% Issuing licence should not be council's role
- 17% Requirement to obtain a licence should not be based on the number of dogs
- 10% Licence requirement adds to people's financial pressures

Comments

> *"Some people are responsible dog owners and don't need this administrative intrusion."*

> *"Provided the dogs are responsibly and well looked after people can make their own decisions. This is too 'one size fits all'. Especially if there are small multiple dogs. It also prevents responsible good dog owners from opening up their homes and hearts to welcoming an additional dog from the pound."*

> *"Why is it the council's problem how many dogs someone owns? And you are just adding more expense to someone trying to live their life."*

> *"Cause if the dogs are fine and have plenty of space then that's okay and should be up to the SPCA."*

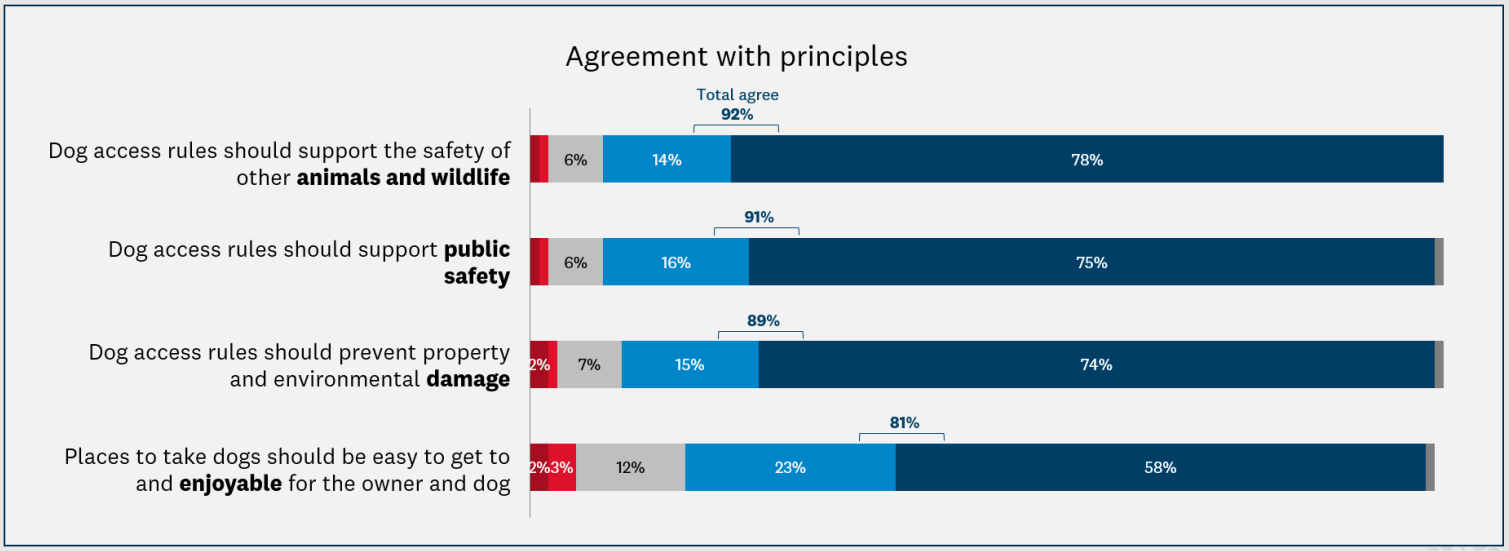
BASE: All respondents (n=2,184)
Q: In Auckland's residential areas, a multiple dog licence is required to keep three or more dogs on a property for over 30 days (whether or not the dogs have more than one owner). The purpose of the licence is to minimise problems to neighbouring properties and to people walking past the property by assessing whether the home is suitable for three or more dogs. Do you agree that a licence should be required to keep three or more dogs on a property for over 30 days in residential areas?

BASE: Those who thought the rules should be less strict and chose to comment (n=59)
Q: Why do you say that? If you can't think of anything, please leave this question blank.

Principles for dog access rules

Strong agreement with 'safety' and 'protection' principles

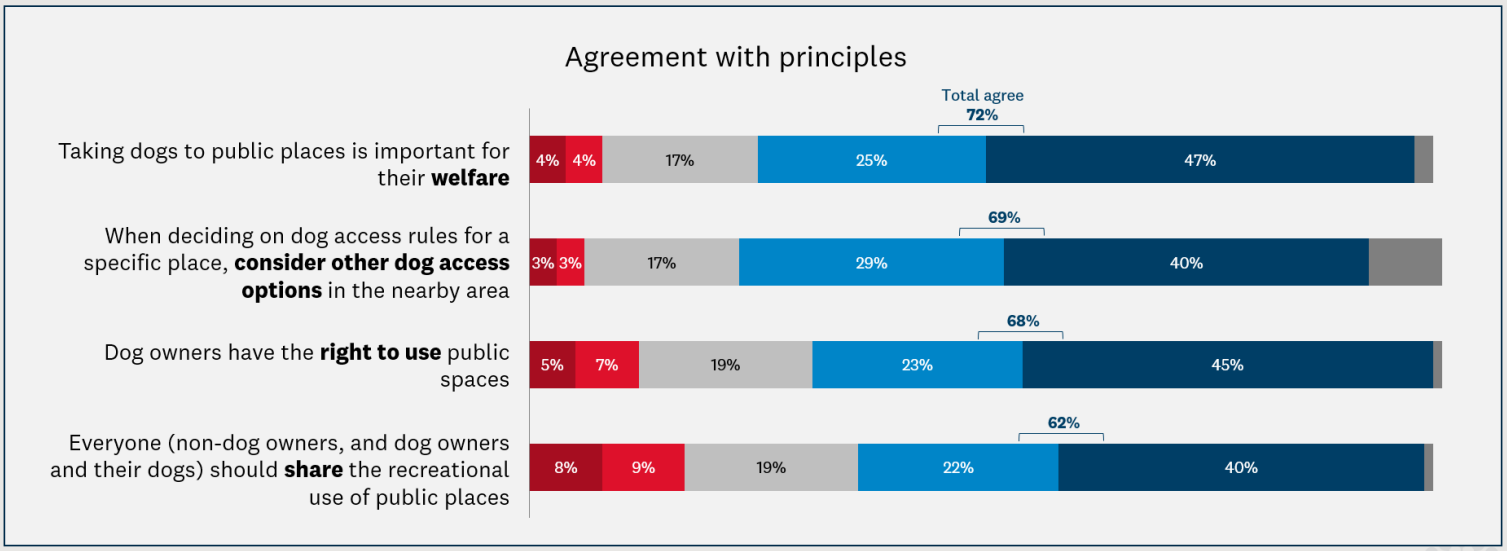
Almost all (89% and higher) agree that dog access rules should protect and support animals and wildlife, public safety, and the environment. Most people (81%) agree that places for dogs should be easy to get to and enjoyable for both the owner and dog.



BASE: All respondents (n=2,184)
Q: This section of the survey is about dog access rules. These are rules about where dogs can be taken in Auckland. Our dog access rules are guided by the following principles. How much do you agree or disagree with the principles below?

Lower agreement for 'right to use' and 'sharing' spaces

Agreement was low for the statements dog owners have the right to use public spaces (68%), and that public spaces should be shared with everyone, including dog owners and their dogs (62%).



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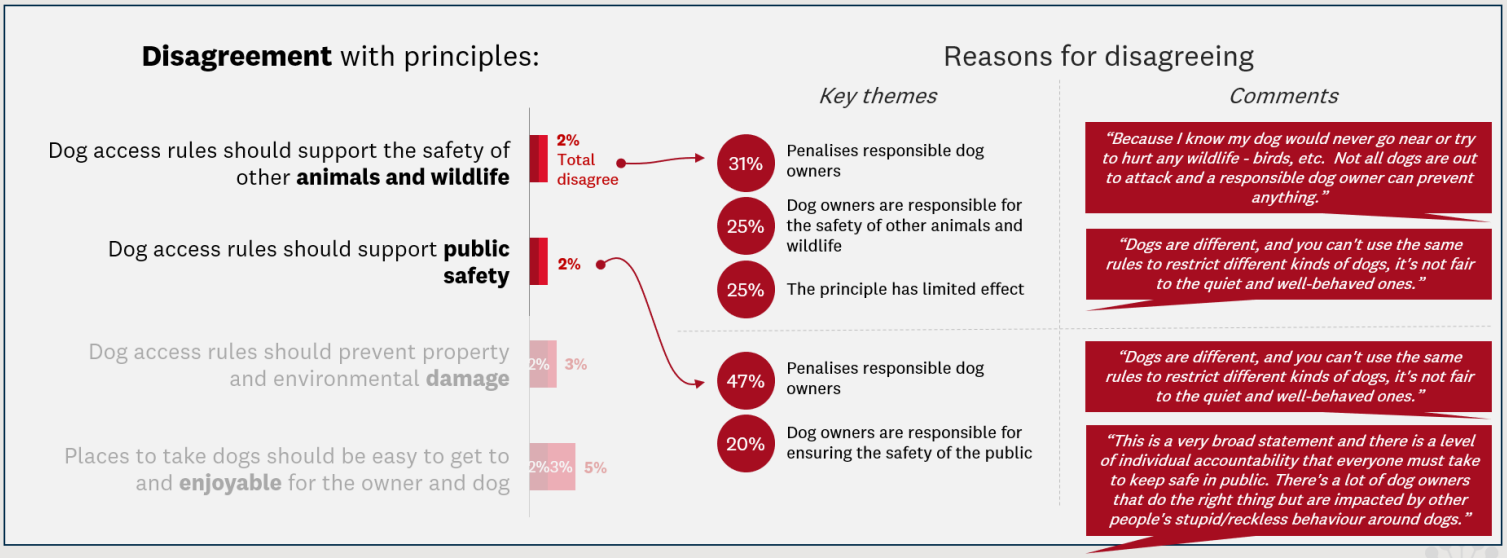
Reasons for disagreeing with dog access rule principles:

Those who disagree that rules should support the safety of 'animals and wildlife' and 'support public safety' say they disagree because it feels like it penalises responsible dog owners, and that dog owners are responsible for these both.



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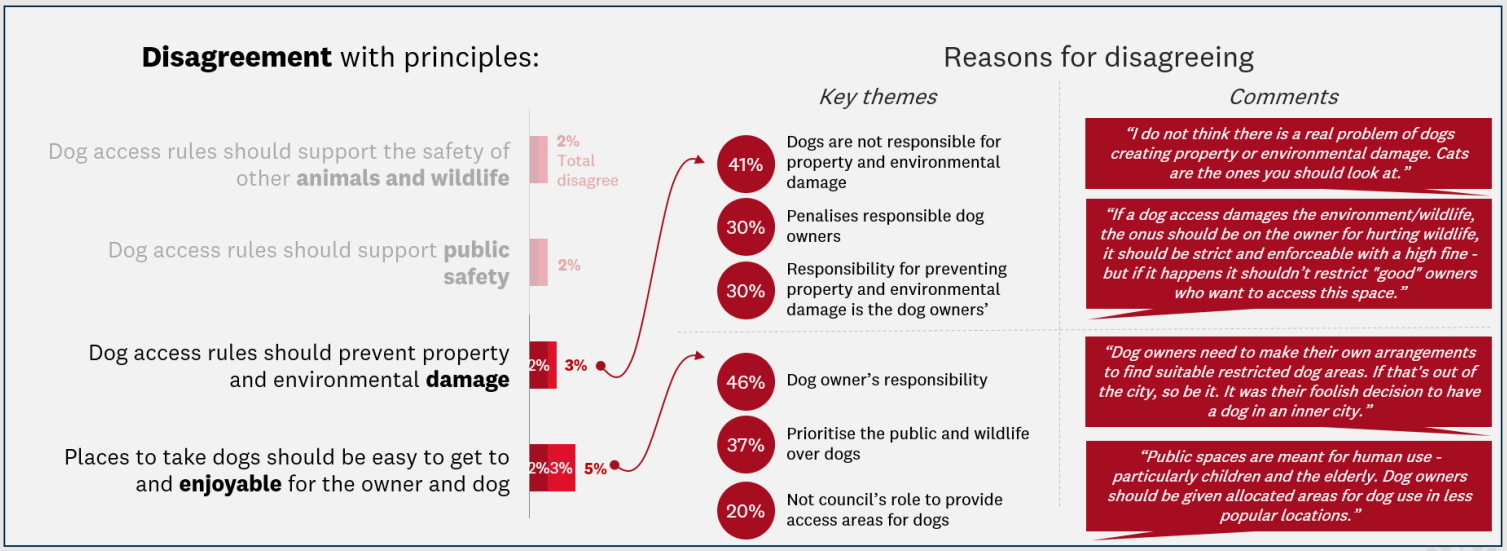
BASE: Those who disagree with focus area and chose to comment
Q: Why do you disagree with the '[principle]'? If you can't think of anything, please leave this question blank.

Reasons for disagreeing with dog access rule principles:

Those who disagree that dog access rules should prevent property and environmental damage most commonly say that they feel that dogs are not responsible for damages and that it is the dog owners' responsibility to prevent property damage. Those that disagree that places to take dogs should be easy to get to and enjoyable are most likely to say it is the dog owners' responsibility to provide this themselves.



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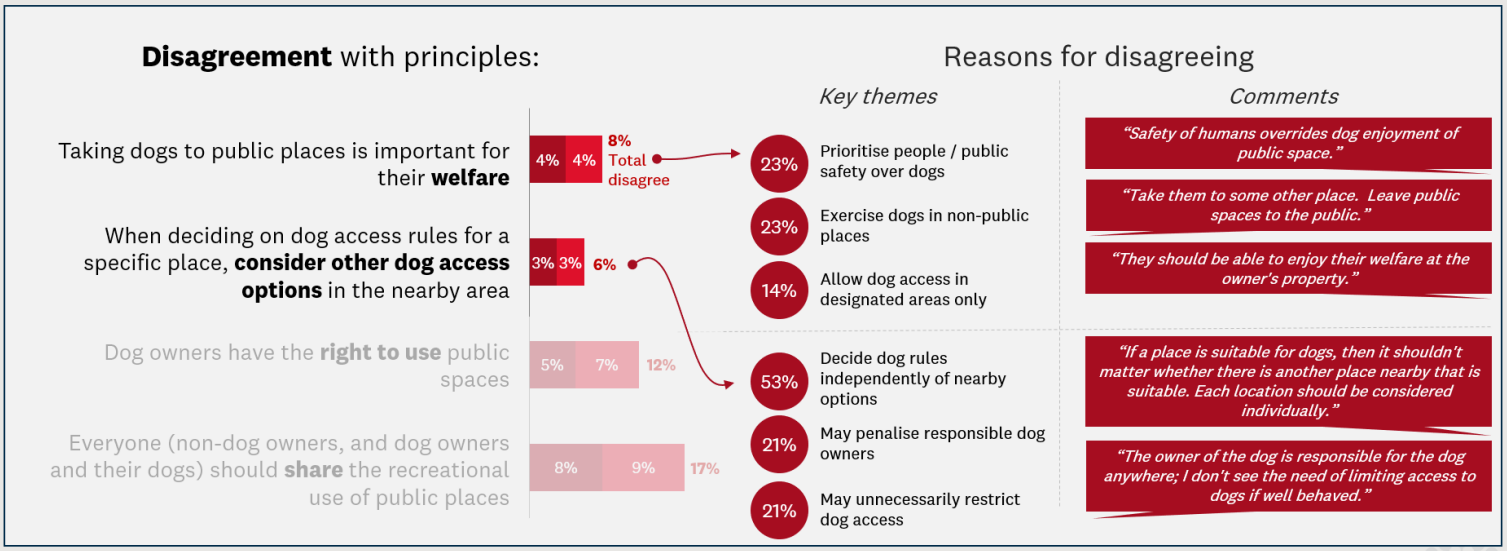
BASE: Those who disagree with focus area and chose to comment
Q: Why do you disagree with the '[principle]'? If you can't think of anything, please leave this question blank.

1 – Strongly disagree | 2

Reasons for disagreeing with dog access rule principles:

Those who disagree that taking dogs to public places is important for their welfare do so because they feel that people / public safety should have priority over dogs, and that dogs should be exercised in non-public places (both 23%). Those who disagree that other dog access options should be considered when deciding on the rules for a specific place feel that rules should be decided independently of nearby options.



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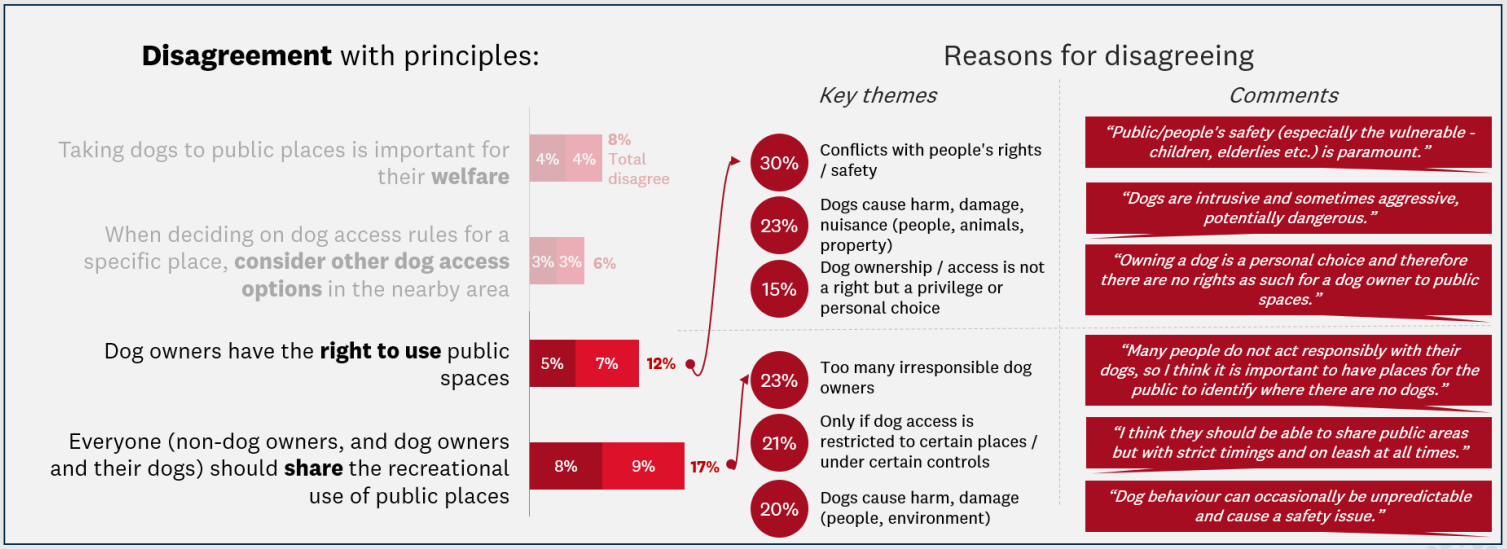
BASE: Those who disagree with focus area and chose to comment
Q: Why do you disagree with the '[principle]'? If you can't think of anything, please leave this question blank.

1 – Strongly disagree | 2

Reasons for disagreeing with dog access rule principles:

Those who disagree that dog owners have the right to use public spaces feel that this conflicts with people's rights and safety, and that dogs cause harm, damage and nuisance. Those who disagree that everyone should share public spaces (including dogs) do so because there are too many irresponsible dog owners, and they feel that dog access needs to be restricted to certain places within these spaces.



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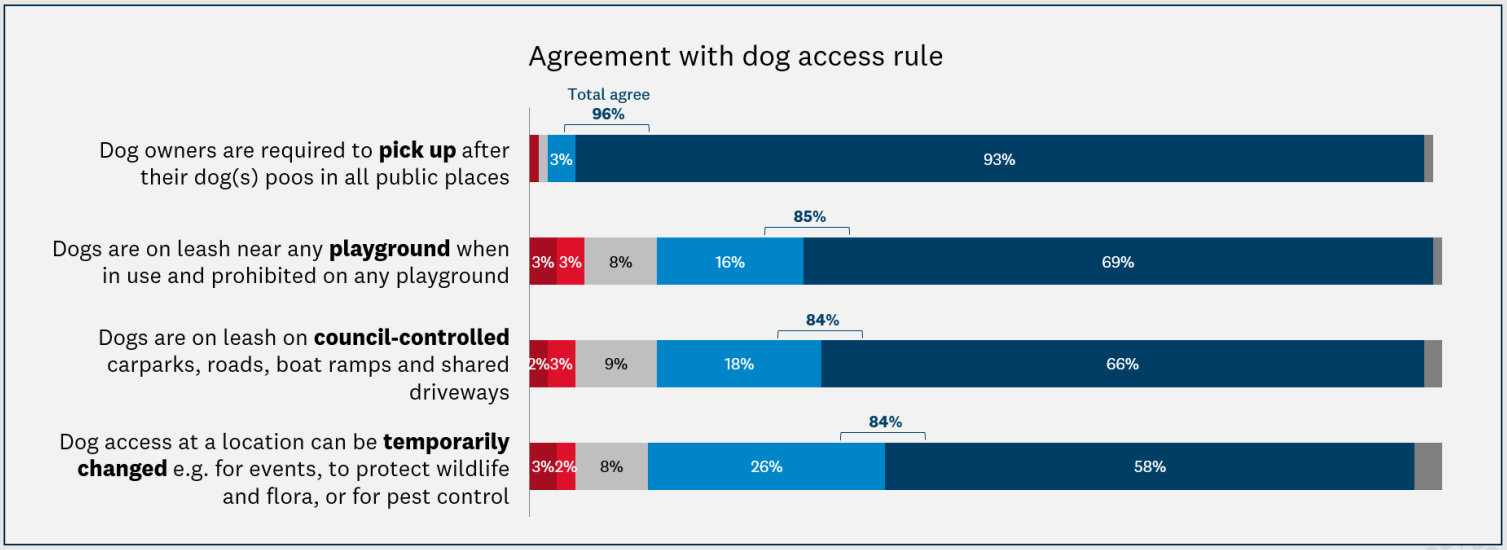
BASE: Those who disagree with focus area and chose to comment
Q: Why do you disagree with the '[principle]'? If you can't think of anything, please leave this question blank.

1 – Strongly disagree | 2

Dog access rules

Almost unanimous agreement that owners to pick up poos

There is high agreement with the current dog access rules for playgrounds, council-controlled spaces, as well as the ability to temporarily change dog access rules (all 85% or 84%).

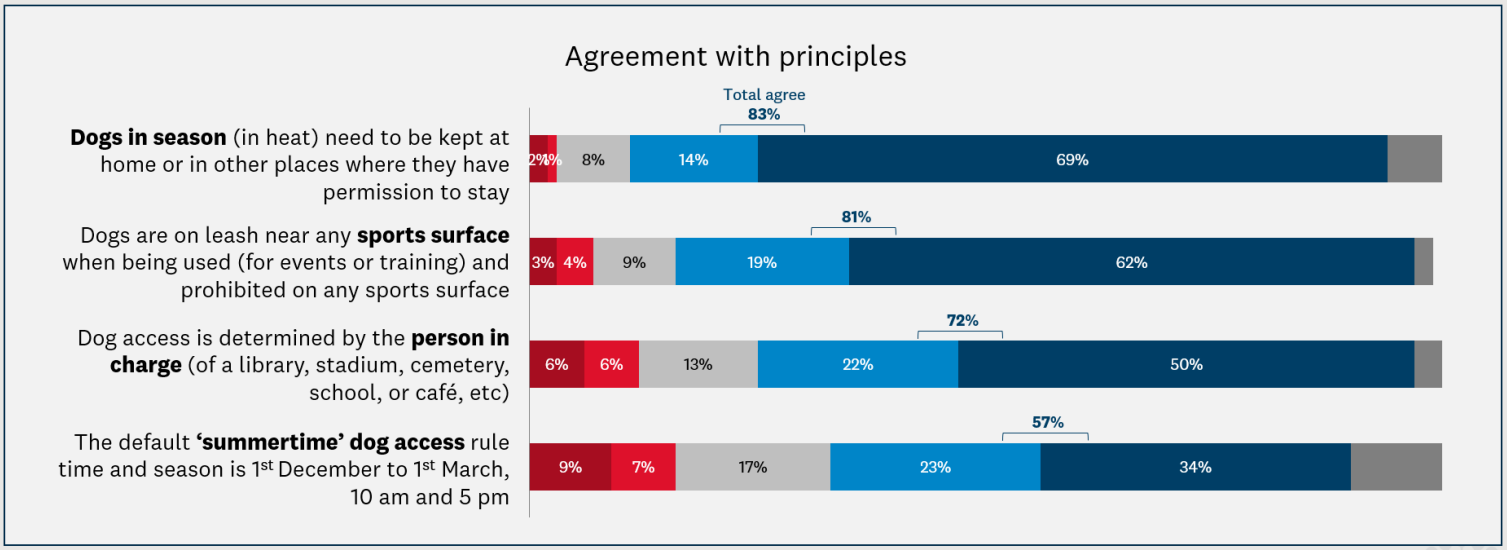


BASE: All respondents (n=2,184)
Q: Some types of public places have restrictions on dog access like requiring dogs to be on a leash. Some of these restrictions apply everywhere in Auckland by default. Listed below are some examples. How much do you agree or disagree with the following restrictions?

1 – Strongly disagree | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 – Strongly agree | I don't know

Lowest agreement for the 'default' summertime rule (57%)

83% agree with the dogs in season and the sports surface (81%) rules. Just under three quarters agree that dog access should be determined by the person in charge of a building.



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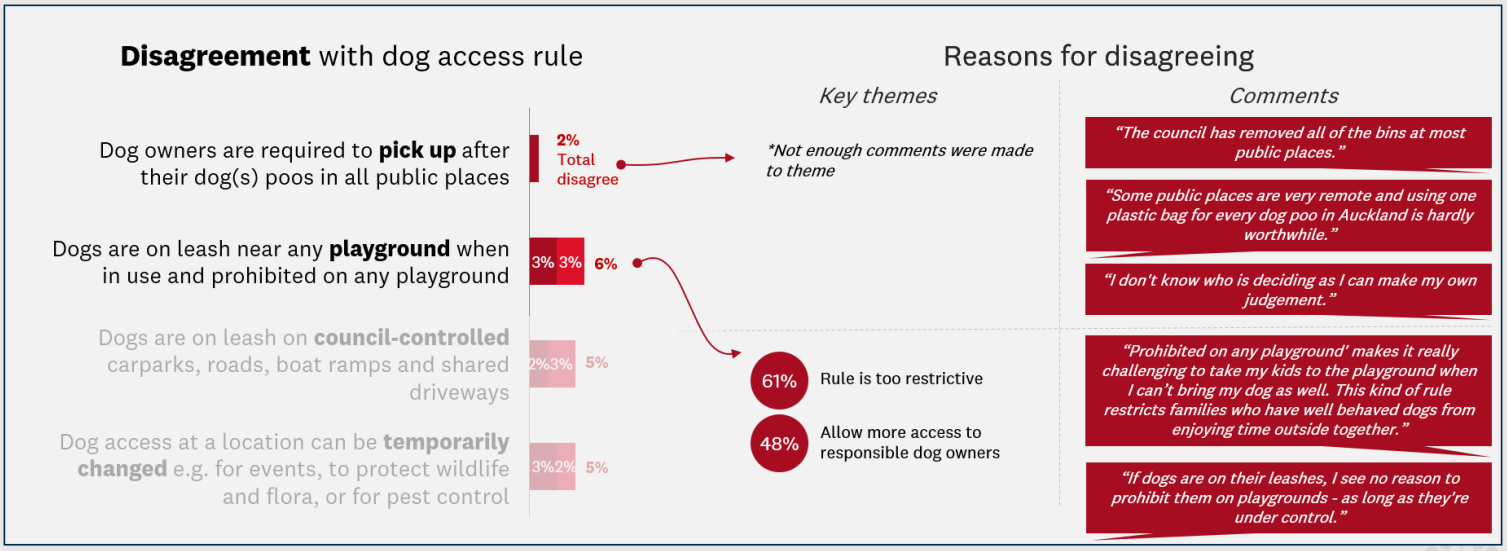
1 – Strongly disagree | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 – Strongly agree | I don't know

Reasons for disagreeing with dog access rules:

Those who disagreed with the dog access rule for playgrounds did so because they felt the rule was too restrictive or that responsible dog owners should be allowed more access.



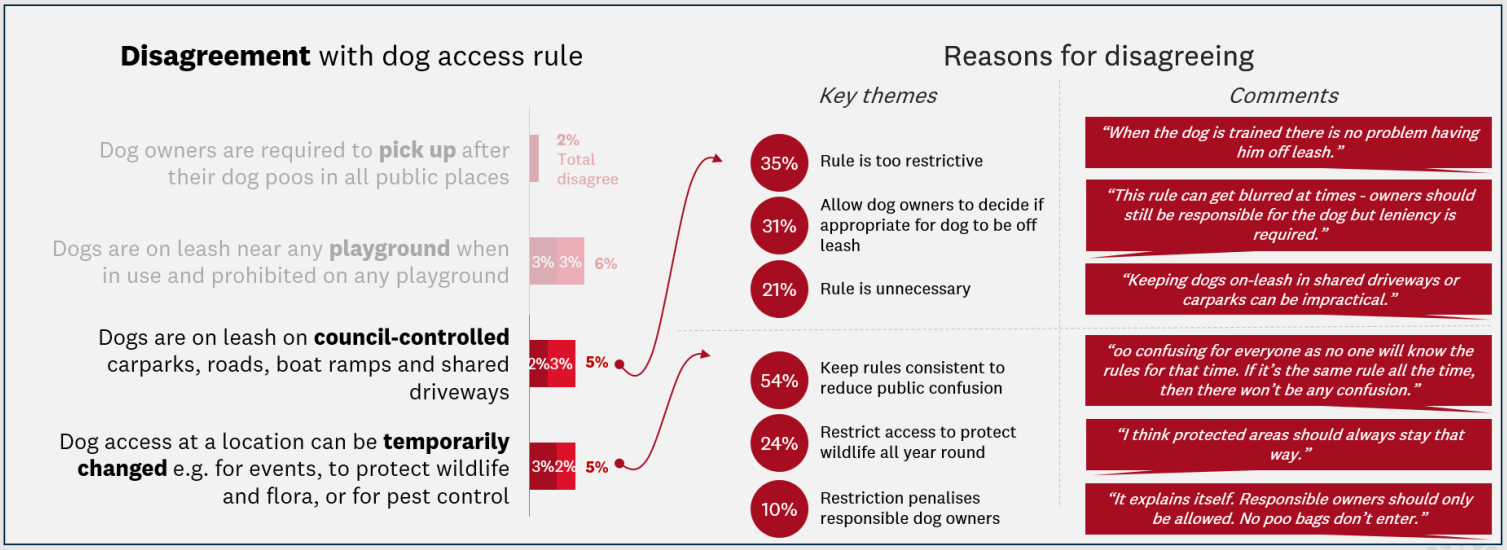
BASE: All respondents (n=2,184)
Q: We would like to ask you about our approach to ensuring dogs remain a positive part of living in Auckland. Our approach is focused on the following areas. How much do you agree or disagree with these focus areas?

BASE: Those who disagree with the dog access rule and chose to comment
Q: Why do you disagree with the following restriction '[dog access rule]'? If you can't think of anything, please leave this question blank.

1 – Strongly disagree | 2

Reasons for disagreeing with dog access rules:

Those who disagreed with the dog access rule for council-controlled spaces did so because they felt the rule was too restrictive and that dog owners should be able to decide if their dog should be off-leash. Those who disagreed that dog access rules could be temporarily changed most commonly mentioned that they felt rules should be kept consistent to avoid confusion.



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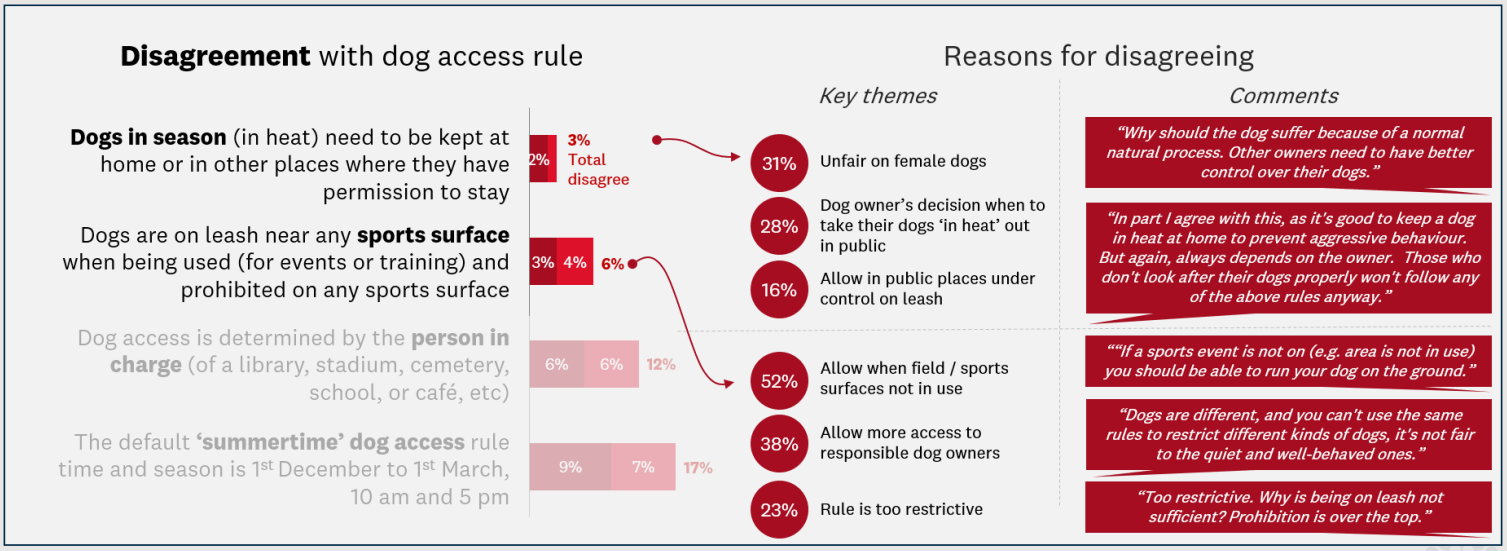
Q: Why do you disagree with the following restriction '[dog access rule]'? If you can't think of anything, please leave this question blank.

1 – Strongly disagree | 2

Reasons for disagreeing with dog access rules:

Those who disagreed with the rule for dogs in season did so because they felt it was unfair on female dogs or that they felt it was the owners' decision to make. Those who disagreed with the sports surface rule mostly did so because they thought that dogs should be allowed on sports surfaces when they were not in use.



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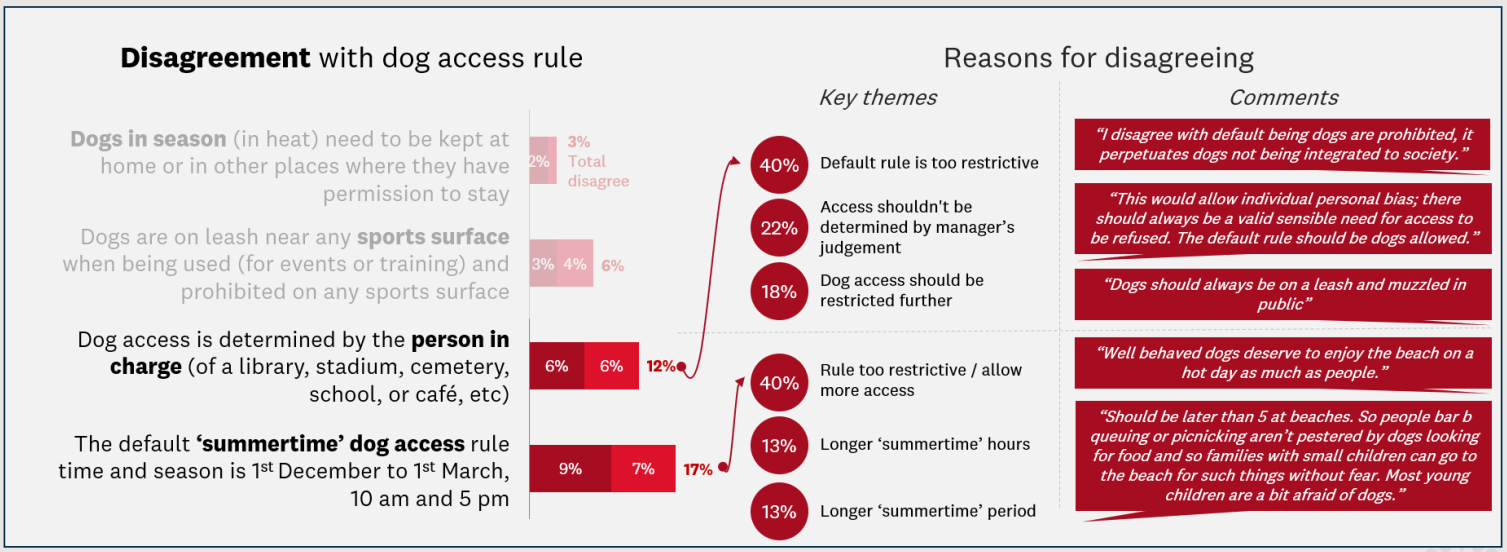
Q: Why do you disagree with the following restriction '[dog access rule]'? If you can't think of anything, please leave this question blank.

1 – Strongly disagree | 2

Reasons for disagreeing with dog access rules:

Those who disagreed that rules should be determined by the person in charge most commonly did so because they thought the default rule (dogs not allowed) was too restrictive. Those who disagreed with the default summertime rule did so because they felt that the rule was too restrictive and that it should allow for more access. Some of those who disagreed also mentioned wanting longer summertime hours and periods.



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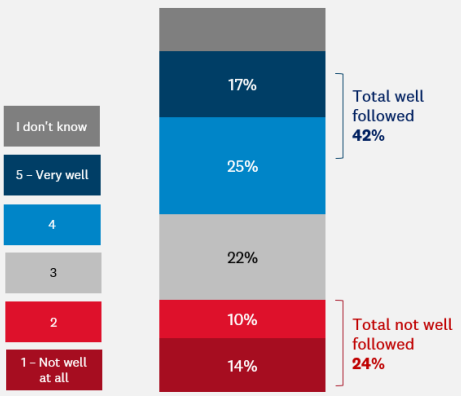
1 – Strongly disagree | 2

Following dog access rules

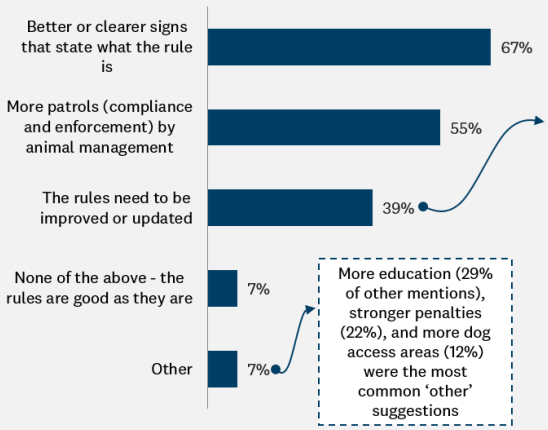
58% feel that people follow dog access rules well

Only 24% say they are not followed well. Suggestions to better help people follow rules include better or clearer signage about rules (67%) and more patrols (55%). 39% said that the rules need to be improved or updated, key suggestions were for better signage, enforcement, and communications of access rules.

How well people follow dog access rules:



Suggestions to help people better follow dog access rules:



Suggested improvements / updates:

- 27% Clearer, bigger and more signage
- 23% More enforcement
- 19% Better communication of access rules (e.g. improve council website information)
- 17% Consistent rules across Auckland

BASE: All respondents (n=2,184)
Q: about the parks and beaches with dog access rules and signage that you have visited. In the last 12 months, how well have the people you've seen there followed the dog access rules?

BASE: Those who rated people follow the rules 4 out of 5 or less (n=1,561)
Q: about the parks and beaches with dog access rules and signage that you have visited. In the last 12 months, how well have the people you've seen there followed the dog access rules?

BASE: Those who said the rules need to be improved or updated and chose to comment (n=277)
Q: How could the rules be improved or updated?

Any questions?

Contact the People's Panel Team at
peoplespanel@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

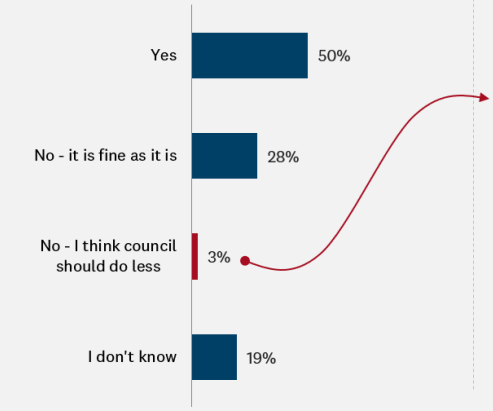
Appendix

Policy on Dogs – Focus Areas

Very few think council should do less

Only 3% feel that council should do less to promote responsible dog ownership (3%). When asked what council should do less off, investing on dog-related issues was the most common suggestion.

Is there anything different council could focus on?



BASE: All respondents (n=2,184)
Q: Is there anything different that council could focus on to promote responsible dog ownership?

What should council do less of?

Key themes

46% Less council investment on dog issues

26% Less regulation / enforcement

Comments

"Stop wasting council money on "dog welfare" and stick to their knitting - city services and infrastructure... Why does it fall to the council to look after people's pets?."

"I do not believe it is Councils responsibility to be the public 'police' and that some common sense should be the responsibility of the dog owner."

"Unnecessary spending."

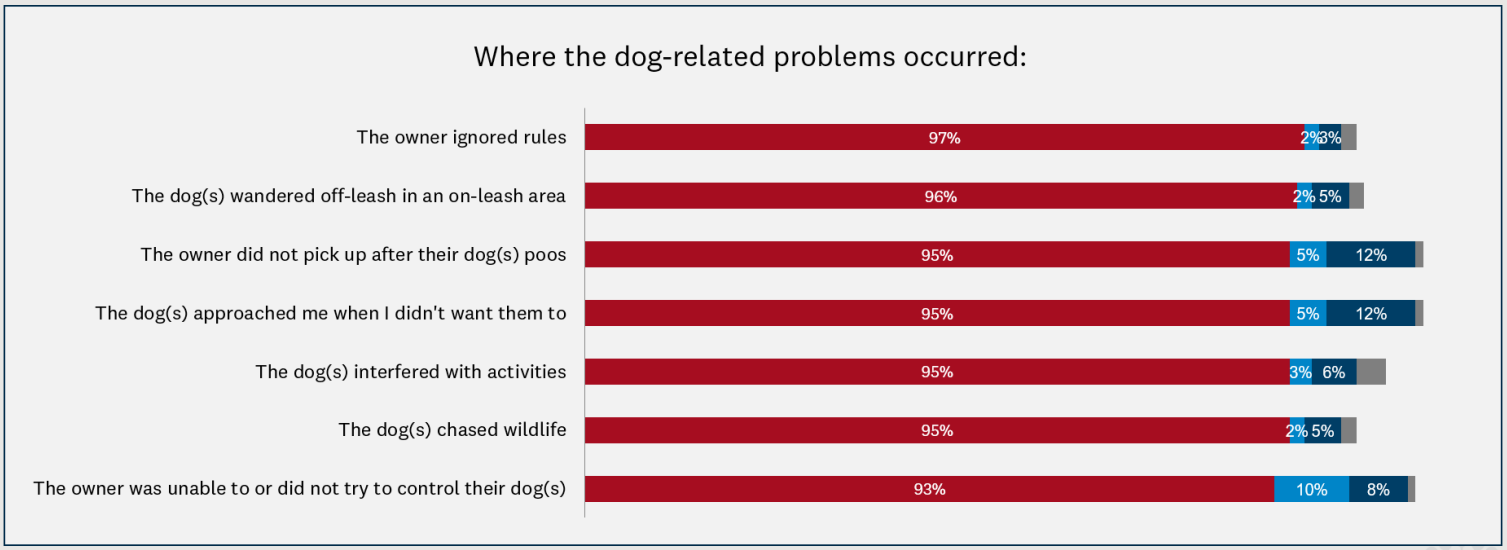
"Do not spend money to promote."

BASE: Those who said council should be doing less and chose to comment (n=48)
Q: What should council do less of? If you can't think of anything, please leave this question blank.

Dog-related issues

12% report dog owners leaving dog poo at their home

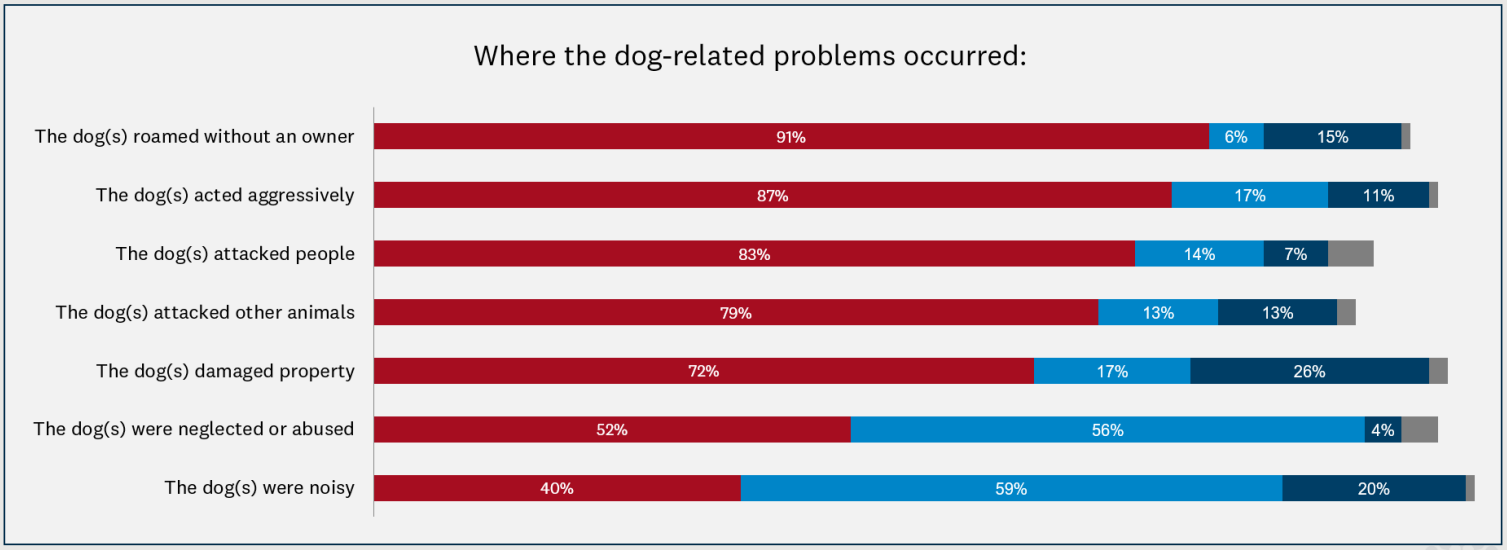
Another 12% report dogs approaching them in their own home when they did not want them to.



BASE: All respondents (n=2,184)
Q: Thinking about the dog-related problems you have experienced or witnessed in the last 12 months. Where did these problems occur? Please select all that apply.

26% of property damage incidents occurred at home

15% of those who witnessed or experienced dogs roaming without their owner, experienced it on their own property.



BASE: All respondents (n=2,184)
Q: We would like to ask you about our approach to ensuring dogs remain a positive part of living in Auckland. Our approach is focused on the following areas. How much do you agree or disagree with these focus areas?

High incidence issues typically have low calls to action

High incidence issues like dog owners not picking up their dog(s) poos or dogs roaming without an owner have rather low calls to action, only 35% and 37% of people who witnessed or experienced them took some action in the past year. Issues like owners being unable to control their dog, or dogs approaching people when it's unwanted seem to result in more people taking the action of talking to the owner.

Low % | Moderate % | High %

Incidence, frequency, and call to action of dog-related problems:

	Issue commentary	Witnessed or experienced in last 12% months *Base: all respondents*	Happens always' or 'most' of the time *Base: witnessed or experienced the issue*	Took action *Base: witnessed or experienced the issue*	Top action(s) taken *Base: witnessed or experienced the issue*	Occurred at a home (yours or someone else's) *Base: witnessed or experienced the issue*
The owner did not pick up after their dog(s) poos	Owners not picking up after their dogs is a high incidence, high frequency issue, with low action from the public. Resolving the issue oneself is the most common action when taken (19%). 16% of people who have experienced the issue have experienced it at a home.	High incidence (70%)	High frequency (30%)	Low action (35% took at least one action)	Resolve yourself (19%)	Moderate home incidence (16%)
The dog(s) roamed without an owner	Dogs roaming without an owner is a high incidence, moderate frequency issue, with low action from the public. Reporting to council is the most common action taken (21%). 19% of people who have experienced an issue have experienced it at a home.	High incidence (58%)	Moderate frequency (26%	Low action (37%)	**Report to council (21%)**	Moderate home incidence (19%)
The owner was unable to or did not try to control their dog(s)	Owners not controlling their dog(s) is a high incidence issue of, moderate frequency. Talking to the owner is the most common action taken (29%). 16% of people who have experienced ab issue have experienced it at a home.	High incidence (46%)	Moderate frequency (22%)	Moderate action (44%)	Talk to owner (29%)	Moderate home incidence (16%)
The dog(s) wandered off-leash in an on-leash area	Dogs roaming off-leash in an on-leash area is a high incidence, high frequency issue, with low action from the public. Talking to the owner is the most common action when taken (16%).	High incidence (46%)	High frequency (37%)	Low action (24%)	Talk to owner (16%)	Low home incidence (7%)
The dog(s) were noisy	Dogs being noisy is an issue of moderate incidence but high frequency, with low action from the public. Talking to the owners is the most common action (15%). 75% of those who have who have experienced this issue, experience it at a home.	Moderate incidence (42%)	High frequency (43%)	Low action (31%)	Talk to owner (15%)	High home incidence (75%)
The owner ignored rules	Owners ignoring rules is an issue of moderate incidence and high frequency, with low action from the public. Talking to the owner is the most common action (19%).	Moderate incidence (39%)	High frequency (35%)	Low action (25%)	Talk to owner (19%)	Low home incidence (4%)
The dog(s) approached me when I didn't want them to	Dogs approaching when they were not wanted is an issue of moderate incidence and frequency. This issue results in moderate action from the public with 26% of people who experienced it talking to the owner (19%). 16% of people who have experienced the issue have experienced it at a home.	Moderate incidence (29%)	Moderate frequency (22%)	Moderate action (56%)	Talk to owner (26%)	Moderate home incidence (16%)

BASE: All respondents (n=2,184)
Q: In the last 12 months, have you experienced or witnessed any of the following dog-related problems while out in public, or at a home (your home or someone else's home)? Please select all that apply.

BASE: Those who have experienced or witnessed the particular issue
Q: How frequently do you encounter these dog-related problems while out in public or at a home?
Q: Have you done any of the following about the dog-related problems you experienced or witnessed in the last 12 months?
Q: Where did these problems occur?

Respondents are more likely to act on serious issues

Serious issues like dogs acting aggressively, attacking people or animals, or dogs being neglected or abused are more likely to result in people taking action, and when doing so, they typically report it to council.

Low % | Moderate % | High %

Incidence, frequency, and call to action of dog-related problems (cont.):

	Issue commentary	Witnessed or experienced in last 12% months *Base: all respondents*	Happens always' or 'most' of the time *Base: witnessed or experienced the issue*	Took 'no' action *Base: witnessed or experienced the issue*	Top action(s) taken *Base: witnessed or experienced the issue*	Occurred at a home (yours or someone else's) *Base: witnessed or experienced the issue*
The dog(s) acted aggressively	Dogs acting aggressively is a moderate incidence, low frequency issue, with moderate action from the public. Talking to the owner and reporting to council are the most common actions when taken (both 22%). Over a quarter, 26% of people experiencing this issue, have experienced it at a home.	Moderate incidence (26%)	Low frequency (15%)	High action (53% took at least one action)	**Report to council** / talk to owner (both 22%)	Moderate incidence (26%)
The dog(s) chased wildlife	Dogs chasing wildlife is an issue with moderate incidence and frequency issue, with low action from the public. Talking to the owner is the most common action when taken (15%).	Moderate incidence (20%)	Moderate frequency (23%)	Low action (30%)	Talk to owner (15%)	Low home incidence (7%)
The dog(s) were neglected or abused	Dogs being neglected or abused is a low incidence issue of moderate frequency. Public action taking is high, and reporting to council is the most common action when taken (28%). 59% of people who have experienced this issue have experienced it at a home.	Low incidence (16%)	Moderate frequency (25%)	High action (58%)	**Report to council (28%)**	High incidence (59%)
The dog(s) attacked other animals	Dogs attacking other animals is a low incidence, low frequency issue with high action from the public. Reporting to council is the most common action when taken (16%). A quarter of those who have experienced the issue, experience it at a home.	Low incidence (14%)	Low frequency (13%)	High action (54%)	**Report to council (24%)**	Moderate incidence (25%)
The dog(s) interfered with activities	Dogs interfering with activities is a low incidence, moderate frequency issue with high action from the public. Talking to the owners is the most common action when taken (20%).	Low incidence (9%)	Moderate frequency (24%)	Low action (38%)	Talk to owner (20%)	Low home incidence (7%)
The dog(s) attacked people	Dogs attacking people is a low incidence, low frequency issue with high action from the public. 36% of people who experienced reported it to council, and 20% of those who experienced it experienced it at a home.	Low incidence (7%)	Low frequency (11%)	High action (58%)	**Report to council (36%)**	Moderate incidence (20%)
The dog(s) damaged property	Dogs damaging property is a low incidence but moderate frequency issue. The issue results in low public but talking to the owner (20%) is the most common action when experienced. 40% of people who have experience the issue have experienced it at home.	Low incidence (6%)	Moderate frequency (24%)	Low action (35%)	Resolve yourself (18%)	High incidence (40%)

BASE: All respondents (n=2,184)
Q: In the last 12 months, have you experienced or witnessed any of the following dog-related problems while out in public, or at a home (your home or someone else's home)? Please select all that apply.

BASE: Those who have experienced or witnessed the particular issue
Q: How frequently do you encounter these dog-related problems while out in public or at a home?
Q: Have you done any of the following about the dog-related problems you experienced or witnessed in the last 12 months?
Q: Where did these problems occur?

Walking multiple dogs in public places

Problems caused by walking multiple dogs

Those who have seen serious issues in the context of multiple dogs being walked (e.g. dogs acting aggressively or dogs attacking other animals or people) seem more likely to have taken some action. Typically, they report the most serious issues to council.

Low % | Moderate % | High %

Problems because of walking multiple dogs at a time:

	Incidence	Number of people who have seen issue	% who took action	Most common action taken	Second most common action taken
The group took up the entire pathway	26%	553	Low action (18%)	Talk to the owner (9%)	Resolved myself (9%)
The dog poos weren't picked up	14%	299	Low action (38%)	Talk to the owner (24%)	Resolved myself (13%)
Dogs was wandered off leash in an on leash area	14%	292	Low action (32%)	Talk to the owner (18%)	**Report to council (9%)**
The dog walker did not control / try to control the dogs	13%	277	Low action (32%)	Talk to the owner (20%)	**Report to council** and resolved the issue myself (both 6%)
Dogs approached me when I didn't want them to	12%	250	Moderate action (50%)	Talk to the owner (30%)	Resolved myself (18%)
The dog walker ignored rules	10%	221	Low action (32%)	Talk to the owner (19%)	**Report to council (9%)**
Dogs were too loud / barking too much	9%	201	Low action (30%)	Talk to the owner (14%)	**Report to council (11%)**
Dogs were acting aggressively	8%	175	High action (50%)	Talk to the owner (22%)	**Report to council (18%)**
Dogs chased wildlife	6%	129	Low action (34%)	Talk to the owner (19%)	**Report to council (9%)**
Dogs interfered with activities	4%	87	Moderate action (40%)	Talk to the owner (20%)	Resolved myself (17%)
Dogs attacked other animals	4%	76	High action (62%)	**Report to council (30%)**	Talk to the owner (21%)
Dogs caused damage e.g. damaged plants	2%	38	Low action (34%)	Talk to the owner (21%)	**Report to council (16%)**
Dogs attacked people	1%	20	High action (65%)	**Report to council (55%)**	Report to another organisation or talk to owner (both 10%)

BASE: Those who have seen multiple dogs being walked in the past 12 months (n=2,143)
Q: In the last 12 months, have you experienced or witnessed any of the following problems because of people walking more than one dog at a time? Please select all that apply.
Q: Have you done any of the following about the problems you experienced or witnessed in the last 12 months? Please select all that apply.