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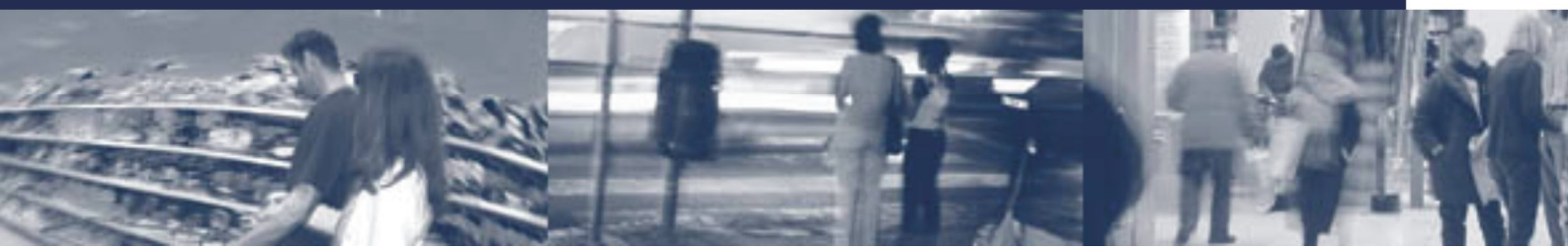

Stray Dog Survey 2011

A report prepared for:

Dogs Trust

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1 Introduction

1.1 Background and Methodology

Dogs Trust commissions an annual survey of local authority dog wardens and environmental health officers in order to investigate the state of the nation's dogs. GfK NOP Social Research has been running the Stray Dogs survey since 2003, and was again chosen to conduct the survey in 2011. The research consisted of two stages, an initial telephone sweep of local authorities was carried out between 28th March and 3rd April 2011 to update contact details and collect email addresses. Postal questionnaires were then sent to all named respondents without an email address and an initial email invitation was sent to all named individuals with an email address within 378 local authorities with responsibility for environmental health in the UK on 22nd April 2011.

Two options were made available to respondents to enable them to complete the survey in the most convenient way for them – to complete the survey online or to return the data to GfK NOP via a paper survey in a free post envelope, by fax or by email. Following postal, email and telephone reminders, 306 questionnaires were returned by the deadline (1st July 2011), giving a response rate of 81% across England, Scotland and Wales (Great Britain).

Table 1 shows the response rate broken down by TV region, campaign region and country. Local authorities within Northern Ireland were contacted separately; directly by Dogs Trust and their data was later merged with the Great Britain data set. All of the 26 authorities in Northern Ireland responded, giving an overall response rate of 82% across all 404 local authorities.

Table 1: Response rates

TV Region	Authorities Responding	Total Authorities	Response rate %
Tyne Tees (North East)	13	16	81
Granada (North West)	28	35	80
Yorkshire (Yorkshire)	20	21	95
Central (Midlands)	55	70	79
HTV (Wales and West)	23	29	79
Anglia (East & Anglia)	28	38	74
Carlton (London)	53	70	76
Meridian (Southern)	39	45	87
West Country (South West)	15	17	88
Border (Borders)	6	7	86
Grampian (Northern Scotland)	8	9	89
STV Central (Central Scotland)	18	21	86
Ulster (Northern Ireland)	26	26	100
Wales	18	22	82
West	5	7	71
Tyne Tees & Border	19	23	83
GADAL North East	22	27	81
GADAL North West	30	37	81
GADAL Wales	18	22	82
GADAL Northern Ireland	26	26	100
England	261	325	80
Scotland	27	31	87
Northern Ireland	26	26	100
Wales	18	22	82
Total	**332**	**404**	**82**

1.2 Objectives

This survey aims to provide information about the number of stray dogs that local authorities have become involved with, the methods that they have used for dealing with stray dogs and the ways in which dogs were reunited with their owners. Data is collated at both a national and a regional level.

In order to track data from year to year the questionnaire was kept largely the same as in previous years. However, one of the 2010 questions (about licensed breeding kennels) was removed from the survey. In its place, a number of new questions were added to address:

1. the working hours of dog warden services
2. provisions for out of hours services
3. changes in staff numbers in the past year and the coming year

Comparisons are made with previous surveys where appropriate in this report.

1.3 Definition of regions

The findings are analysed according to the 13 ITV regions throughout the UK. The definitions are as follows: Tyne Tees (North East), Granada (North West), Yorkshire (Yorkshire), Central (Midlands), HTV (Wales and West), Anglia (East and Anglia), Carlton (London), Meridian (Southern), West Country (South West), Border (Borders), Grampian (Northern Scotland), STV Central (Central Scotland), and Ulster (Northern Ireland).

Since 2009, reference has also been made to the newly formed TV regions of Tyne Tees and Borders (incorporating Tyne Tees and Border regions) and to Wales and West as two separate regions.

Findings are also analysed by four campaign regions – GADAL North East, GADAL North West, GADAL Wales and GADAL Northern Ireland.

1.4 Interpretation of the data

In order to maintain comparability with methods used in previous surveys, the national total is calculated separately from the regional totals. As a result the individual region figures do not always equal the all UK total.

The key findings from this survey are based on actual numbers reported by each authority (e.g. the number of strays); however, at some points reference is made to 'estimated' figures. We have grossed these figures up to make estimates for each TV region based on the assumption that authorities responding are representative of authorities as a whole.

Where figures are shown for Wales, West and Tyne Tees & Border TV regions these are additional to and do not make up part of the overall UK totals.

It is also worth noting that the 26 authorities within Northern Ireland only provide data on number of strays seized by the local authority, the number brought in or surrendered by the general public, the number reclaimed during the statutory local authority kennelling period, and total number put to sleep. Where all other figures are reported these are based on the 306 responding authorities in Great Britain.

2 Summary of findings

2.1 The number of stray dogs handled

Based on the 332 authorities who responded to this survey, an estimated 126,176 stray dogs were handled by local councils across the UK from 1st April 2010 to 31st March 2011. This represents a four percentage point increase from the estimate of 121,693 dogs handled last year.

Chart 1 shows the estimated number of stray dogs handled annually across the UK since 1997.

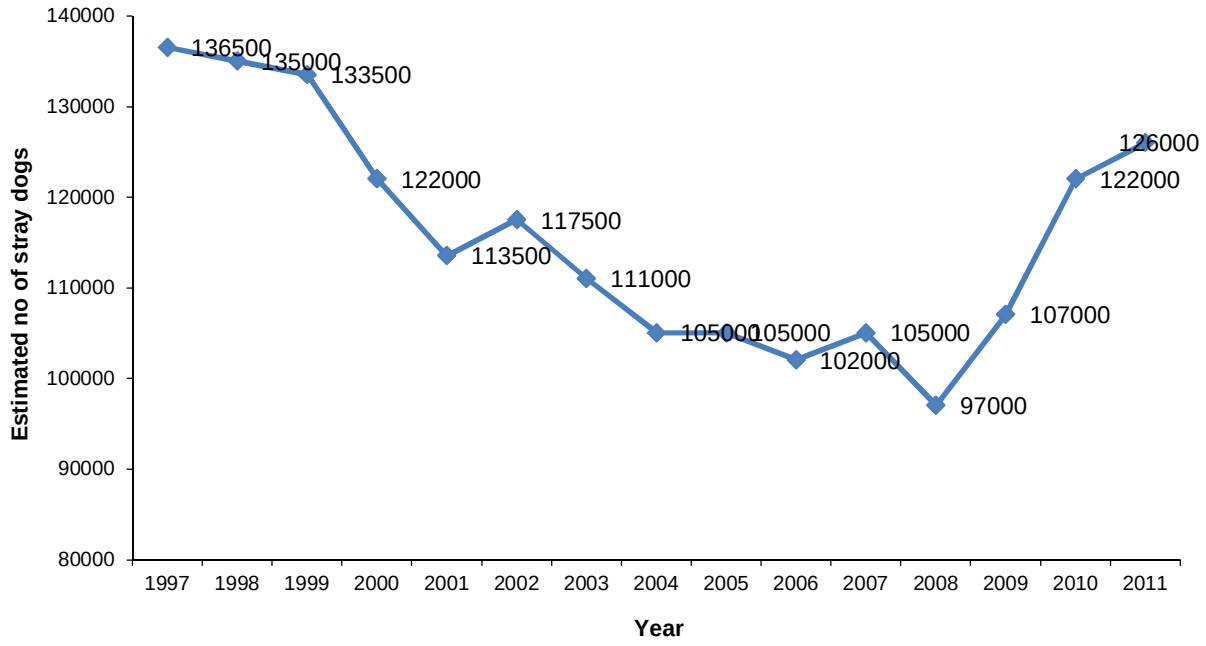


Chart 1: The number of stray dogs in the UK since 1997

Base: All local authorities in the UK (332)

Using the latest census data, recorded in 2001, we are able to estimate the number of people per stray dog across the UK. This year local authorities across the UK handled an average of one stray for every 465 people. However, there are significant regional variations.

For instance, in the STV Central TV region local authorities dealt with one stray dog for every 1,121 people on average; whilst in the Ulster region, there is an estimated average of 185 people per stray dog. Table 2, below, provides the full regional breakdown in terms of the number of strays to people across the UK.

The regional differences in the number of stray dogs reported by different authorities will reflect a number of factors, including the population size and the number of dogs owned.

Table 2: Estimated number of people per stray dog by TV region

TV Region	Estimated number of Strays 10-11	Authorities Responding	Estimated strays per authority	Estimated number of people per stray dog
Tyne Tees	11,119	13	855	273
Granada	19,119	28	683	329
Yorkshire	10,081	20	504	463
Central	20,995	55	382	483
HTV	12,529	23	545	344
Anglia	6,242	28	223	652
Carlton	14,547	53	274	777
Meridian	10,002	39	256	539
West Country	4,346	15	290	520
Border	1,523	6	254	457
Grampian	2,107	8	263	503
STV Central	3,399	18	189	1,121
Ulster	9,119	26	351	185
Wales	9,482	18	632	306
West	3,051	5	610	463
Tyne Tees & Border	12,516	19	659	249
UK Total	**126,176**	**22**	**5,735**	**465**

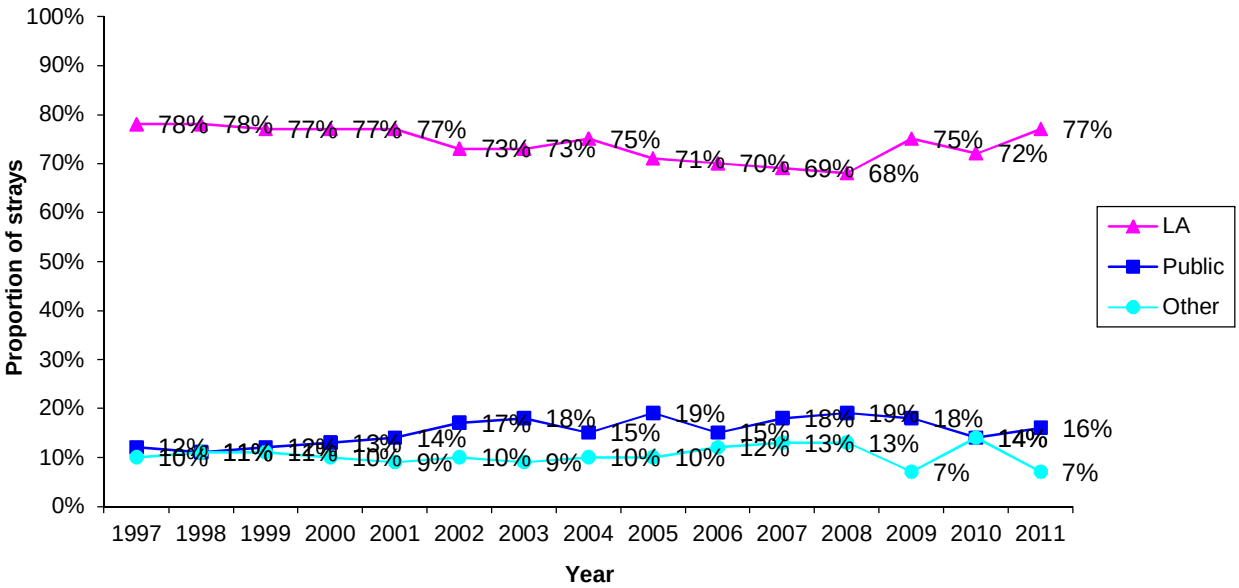
2.2 Seizing stray dogs

The survey asked local authorities to detail the number of stray dogs that were seized or taken in between 1st April 2010 and 31st March 2011. This was broken down across a number of key sources including seized by the local authority as strays, brought in by the general public and brought in by the police.

Local authorities themselves played the most important role in seizing stray dogs, as in previous years, seizing 77% of reported strays. The proportion seized by local authorities has increased slightly since last year and is now back in line with higher figures that were reported prior to 2001. A further 16% of stray dogs were brought in by the general public, a figure that has increased slightly since last year when lowest figure was reported since 2001.

Chart 2 shows the trends in how stray dogs are being seized since 1997.

Chart 2: How strays were brought to the local authority



Base: All local authorities (332). NB: figures for 'other' are based only on authorities in Great Britain (306)

The 'other' figure shown in Chart 2 accounts for a variety of sources including the police, vets, RSPCA and dogs seized under the Dangerous Dogs Act. Although the number of dogs brought to local authorities by the Police across the UK has increased from last year's reported figure of 1,589 to 2,025 this year, this still equates to 2% of all strays being brought in, the lowest proportion recorded since the Stray Dogs survey began in 1997.

2.3 What happens to the UK's stray dogs?

The second question in the survey asks local authorities to detail what happened to the stray dogs that they handled during the period of 1st April 2010 to 31st March 2011.

We can estimate that two fifths of stray dogs (48%) were reunited with their owners between 1st April 2010 and 31st March 2011, either by being reclaimed during the statutory local authority kennelling period (36%) or by being returned directly to their owner without entering a kennel (12%). The proportion of dogs being reunited with their owners has decreased by three percentage points since last year.

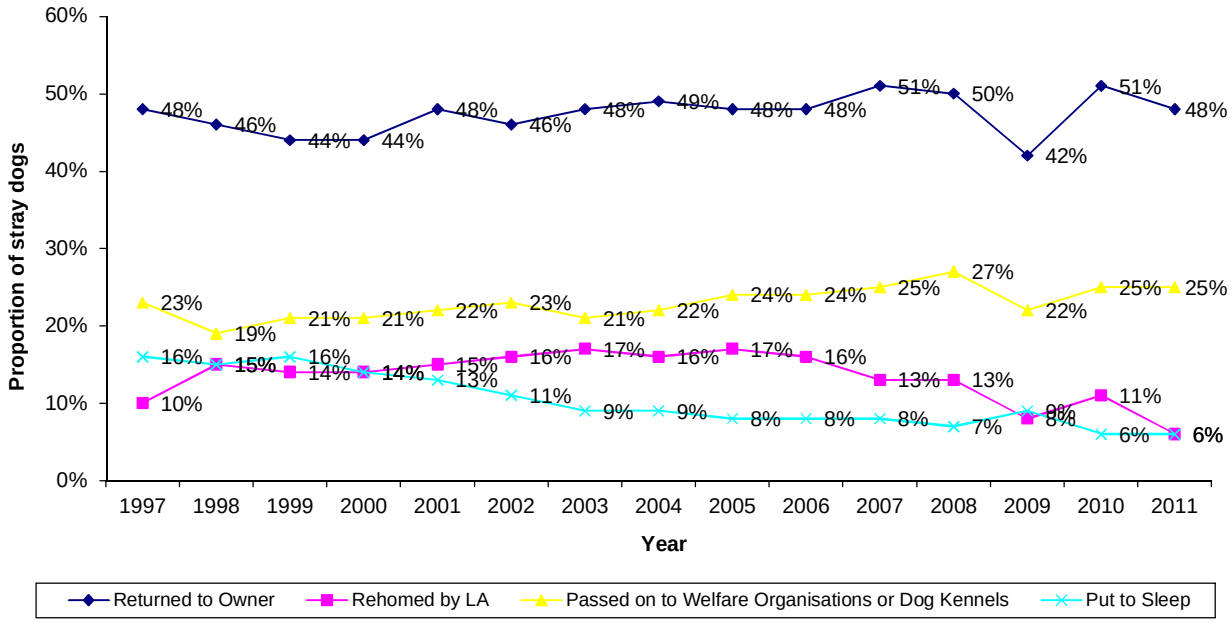
An estimated 8,112 stray dogs were re-homed by the local authority. Although the number of dogs being rehomed has risen since last year, there has in fact been a fall in the percentage of dogs being rehomed from 11% last year to 6% this year. A quarter (25%) of strays were passed on to welfare organisations or dog kennels after the statutory period. This proportion remains the same as last year and is in line with estimates over the last 10 years.

The proportion of stray dogs being put to sleep has increased by one percentage point since last year and now accounts for 6%. This is still one of the lowest destruction figures recorded since the Stray Dogs survey began in 1997. This year 5,852 stray dogs were reported as having been put to sleep by authorities taking part in this survey, compared with 5,342 last year. From this figure we can estimate that approximately 7,121 dogs were put to sleep across the UK during the period of 1st April 2010 to 31st March 2011.

Amongst the authorities responding it was reported that 1,190 dogs were put to sleep due to behavioural problems or aggression, 674 due to ill health, and 207 under the Dangerous Dogs Act. Reasons were not given to cover all reported cases.

Chart 3 shows the trends in how stray dogs have been handled since 1997.

Chart 3: What happens to stray dogs?



Base: All local authorities in the UK (337)

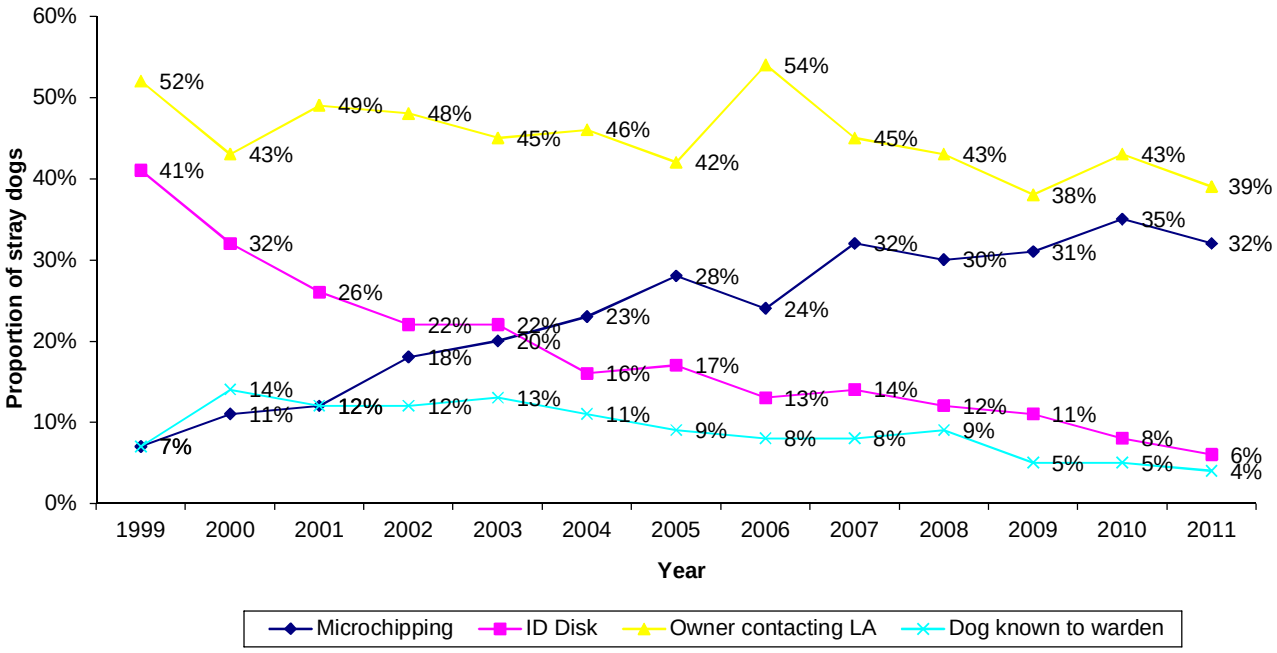
A variety of other outcomes including strays being kept or retained by finders (137 dogs), RSPCA (65 dogs) and non Dogs Trust or RPCA rescue centres and shelters (16 dogs) were also mentioned. In addition to this, it was reported that information as to how they had been handled was not kept or recorded for around 85 stray dogs.

2.4 Ways in which dogs were returned to owners

The survey also asked about methods by which stray dogs had been successfully returned to their owners. Of the four main methods by which dogs are returned, the owner contacting the local authority or pound directly accounted for the largest proportion, with a reported 39% of reunions attributable to this. The proportion of dogs returned to their owners as a result of already being known to the warden has fallen to its lowest ever level of 4%.

Micro-chipping has fallen slightly in significance since last year, but still remains one of the most influential aspects accounting for a reported 32% of reunions[1]. Whilst micro-chipping retains its importance, the importance of identification disks in reuniting dogs with their owners has fallen again. This year identification disks accounted for 6% of the methods used for the return of dogs; a proportion that has continuously decreased over time and is now at its lowest ever reported level.

Chart 4: Methods resulting in dogs being reunited with their owners



Base: All local authorities in Great Britain (311)

1 The proportion returned through micro-chipping refers only to instances where the method used to return stray dogs has been identified, i.e. unspecified methods of tracing owners have been excluded from this calculation. This year the method responsible for returning dogs to their owners was given for 16,966 strays, that is only 16% of all reported strays.

Other Reasons for dogs being returned to their owners included identifying tattoos (55 dogs). This information was not available or had not been kept for 451 stray dogs.

There is regional variation in the means by which dogs are returned to their owners. Owners contacting the local authority or pound directly accounts for 88% of methods in the Grampian region, but for just 16% in Tyne Tees and just 18% in the Granada. Micro-chipping accounts for almost half of methods in the Tyne Tees (49%) and Carlton (47%) TV regions, but much less than this in Grampian (6%).

2.5 Dog Wardens

Local authorities were also asked about how they employ their dog wardens. Respondents were asked to state whether the dog warden for their authority was employed by the local authority itself or whether they were contracted out.

Just half of the local authorities questioned gave an answer to this question with 41% reporting that their dog warden was employed by the local authority, and just 14% that their dog warden was contracted out. A total of 139 (45%) authorities in Great Britain did not specify how their dog warden was employed. This question was not asked of authorities in Northern Ireland.

A new question added to the survey this year asked local authorities to specify the hours that they dog warden service works. More than half (51%) of those questioned stated that their dog warden service operated during working hours on Mondays to Fridays; with 20% having a service which also operated on call out of working hours on Mondays to Fridays. Just 14% said their dog warden service worked working hours on Saturday and Sunday, with an additional 20% saying it worked on call out of working hours on Saturday and Sunday. Only four local authorities (1%) said that they had a dog warden service which operated 24/7. A total of 140 (46%) authorities in Great Britain did not specify how their dog warden was employed. This question was not asked of authorities in Northern Ireland.

With specific reference to out of hours services, local authorities were asked what provision was available in their area. Of the authorities questioned 18% said there was permanent staff provision, with a further 18% saying there was a acceptance point and just 1% saying that out of hours provision was contracted out or that there was a contractor on call. Just 5% said that there was no provision in place for out of hours service in their area. A total of 174 (58%) authorities in Great Britain did not answer this question. This question was not asked of authorities in Northern Ireland.

2.6 Who handles stray dogs?

Local authorities were also asked to specify who handles strays in the areas they operate in. They were asked to identify whether stray dogs were handled by council owned pounds, welfare charity kennels, private boarding kennels or others. Respondents could mention all that applied within their local authority.

The most frequent response was private boarding kennels, mentioned by 37% of respondents. The next most frequent response was welfare charity kennels, mentioned by 21% of respondents. Other mentions included council owned pounds (4%), contractors (1%), rescue kennels/centres (1%) and vets (1%). Again, this question was only answered by half of those questioned, with 130 (46%) authorities not specifying who handled their strays. This question was not asked of authorities in Northern Ireland.

2.7 Staff numbers

Two new questions were added to the survey this year asking local authorities about staff numbers in their dog warden services. Local authorities were first asked whether staff numbers had decreased, increased or stayed the same in the last 12 months. Just 8% of those questioned stated that staff numbers had decreased, with 2% saying they had increased. The most common answer, given by 44% of local authorities who were questioned was that staff numbers had stayed the same. A total of 139 local authorities (45%) did not give an answer to this question. This question was not asked of authorities in Northern Ireland.

Local authorities were then asked about the changes they would expect to see in staff numbers in their dog warden service in the next 12 months. Again, they were asked to state whether these would decrease, increase or stay the same. Responses were very similar to the previous question about the last 12 months, with just 6% expecting staff numbers to decrease, 1% expecting them to increase and 48% expecting them to stay the same. A total of 138 (45%) of those questioned did not supply an answer. This question was not asked of authorities in Northern Ireland.

2.8 Status dogs

Picking up on media coverage of 'status dogs', this year's survey again included a number of questions asking respondents to report the number of 'status dogs' they had handled and how many of those, if any, had been put to sleep due to aggression. The media often refers to 'status dogs' as those whose looks or breed type are thought to convey a particular impression of their owner - such as Bull breeds, Rottweilers, Akitas or Crosses of these. These questions were not asked of authorities in Northern Ireland.

Across the 306 authorities that responded 11,099 'status dogs' were reported as having been handled between 1st April 2010 to 31st March 2011. This accounts for 11% of all strays reported in the UK, although some authorities did not provide figures. This figure has decreased since last year when 17,834 status dogs were reported, accounting for 18% of all stray dogs seized in 2010.

Furthermore, a reported 660 of these 'status dogs' were reportedly put to sleep during this period due to aggression; a figure that has also fallen from the 1,137 reported last year.

2.9 Conclusions

The number of stray dogs reported by UK authorities overall has increased by four percentage points since last year. The grossed number now stands at an estimated 126,176 stray dogs across the UK, the highest it has been since 2000. Reported figures suggest that the majority (77%) of these dogs were seized by the local authority as strays.

One in five (42%) of the estimated stray dogs handled in the UK between 1st April 2010 to 31st March 2011 were reunited with their owners, and a quarter (25%) were passed on to a welfare organisation or dog kennel for possible rehoming. A further 6% were re-homed by the local authority.

Of the dogs that were returned to their owners, it was reported that 39% of these cases were a result of the owner contacting the local authority or pound directly. Micro-chipping continues to play an increasing role in tracing the owners of stray dogs, now accounting for over a third (32%) of stray dogs being returned to their owners.

Since 1999 the proportion of stray dogs being put to sleep has decreased year on year, except for a one percentage point rise between 2008 and 2009. This year an estimated 6% of stray dogs were put to sleep across the UK, this is a one percentage point increase on last year's estimates.

The most common way for dog wardens to be employed was directly by the local authority, and the most used service for handling strays was private boarding kennels. The consensus is that staff numbers within dog warden services have stayed the same over the last 12 months and are likely to remain the same over the next 12 months.

3 Regional Summaries

Table 3: TV region responses

		TV Region															
	Total*	Tyne Tees	Granada	Yorkshire	Central	HTV	Anglia	Carlton	Meridian	West Country	Border	Grampian	STV Central	Ulster	Wales	West	Tyne Tees & Border
Base	332	13	28	20	55	23	28	53	39	15	6	8	18	26	18	5	19
Response rate (%)	82	81	80	95	79	79	74	76	87	88	86	89	86	100	82	71	83
Number of Strays	126,176	11,119	19,119	10,081	20,995	12,529	6,242	14,547	10,002	4,346	1,523	2,107	3,399	9,119	9,482	3,051	12,516
Number put to sleep	7,121	226	701	580	1,130	620	277	816	365	82	26	140	67	1,762	486	132	249
Number re-united	61,127	5,873	7,998	5,123	11,153	5,840	3,652	5,846	6,070	2,805	648	1,315	2,137	2,380	3,950	1,960	6,448
Passed onto welfare orgs	31,118	3,516	5,996	2,078	5,838	3,979	1,205	4,267	2,138	865	831	117	753	-	3,155	805	4,320
People per stray	465	273	329	463	483	344	652	777	539	520	457	503	1,121	185	306	463	249

*Please note: in order to maintain comparability with methods used in previous surveys, the national total is calculated separately from the regional total. Therefore totals do not always equal the sum of all regions. All figures shown have been grossed up to represent 100% of authorities within each region. Tyne Tees & Border is calculated separately in this way and so may not directly reflect combined figures from the Tyne Tees region and Border region.

3.1 Tyne Tees

There are 16 individual local authorities within the Tyne Tees TV region. This year the response rate from Tyne Tees authorities decreased to 81% with all but three authorities in this region responding.

The number of stray dogs reported in the Tyne Tees TV region has increased by 32%, from an estimated 8,425 strays last year to an estimated 11,119 strays this year. This increase is more marked than the 15% and 25% rises seen in the last two years. The number of strays per person in Tyne Tees is one for every 273, greater than the national average of 465 people per stray.

The proportion of strays destroyed has again fallen since last year in absolute terms (from 4% to 2%), with the estimated number of strays put to sleep falling from 356 in 2010 to an estimated 226 this year. Where reported, more than a third (37%) of strays destroyed were put to sleep due toil health, with a further 32% put to sleep due to behavioural problems or aggression. Details were not given for all reported destructions.

Overall, an estimated 53% of strays in the Tyne Tees region were re-united with their owners, a five percentage point decrease from the estimated proportion in 2010. Where a reason was given for those strays being returned to their owners, the most frequent reason was the dog having a microchip (49%). In one in six cases (16%) the owner contacting the local authority or pound directly was stated as the reason for reunion. Despite a decrease last year, the proportion of strays re-homed through welfare organisations has increased this year, to 32%. This compares to 25% in 2009-2010, 25% in 2008-2009, 31% in 2007-2008, 29% in 2006-2007, 22% in 2005-2006 and 21% in 2004-2005.

Of the 13 local authorities that responded in the Tyne Tees region, seven reported that they directly employed their dog warden; with just one authority saying they contracted out this service. The remaining five authorities did not provide an answer to this question.

A third (four) of local authorities in Tyne Tees reported that private boarding kennels handled their strays. A quarter (three) of authorities also reported the use of welfare charity kennels and one more to use council owned pounds to in handling stray dogs within their authority. Five councils did not state who handled their stray dogs.

The majority (eight) of authorities in Tyne Tees have a dog warden service operating during working hours on Mondays to Fridays; with a quarter (three) having services operating on call out of working hours on Mondays to Fridays. Just one authority reported to have a service provided during working hours on Saturdays and Sundays; with a quarter again (three) having a service on call out of working hours on Saturdays and Sundays. Five councils did not provide information at this question.

Five authorities have acceptance point provision in place in their area for out of hours services and two have permanent staff available during this time. Six councils did not provide information at this question. More than half (seven) of authorities in Tyne Tees reported that

staff numbers in their dog warden services had stayed the same over the last 12 months; with just one saying they had decreased and the remaining five not providing an answer. The proportions were the same in relation to expectations of how staff numbers over the next 12 months.

A total of 1,208 'status dogs' were reportedly handled in Tyne Tees between 1st April 2010 and 31st March 2011. Of these, just 27 were reportedly put to sleep due to aggression.

3.2 Granada

There are a total of 35 individual local authorities within the Granada TV region. The response rate from local authorities in the Granada was 80% this year, with 28 responses received.

The number of stray dogs in the Granada region has increased by an estimated 13%, from 16,907 up to 19,119. The number of strays per person is above the national average, at 329 people per stray. The proportion of stray dogs being put to sleep has remained at just 4%, with 701 cases reported this year. Where reported, the main reason for dogs being put to sleep in the Granada region was due to behavioural problems or aggression (18%). This was followed by destructions due to ill health (10%) and in accordance with the Dangerous Dogs Act (4%). Details were not given for all reported destructions.

Overall, two fifths (42%) of stray dogs in the Granada region were returned to their owners, and a third (31%) were passed on to welfare organisations.

Within the Granada TV region a quarter (seven) of individual local authorities reported that they directly employed their dog warden; with a further four contracted out their dog warden. However, the majority (17) of authorities did not specify how their dog warden was employed.

A quarter (seven) of the local authorities in the Granada TV region reported that their strays were handled by welfare charity kennels, with six using private boarding kennels and none reporting to use council owned pounds. Again, the majority (17) of authorities did not specify who handled their strays.

Eleven authorities in Granada reported to have a dog warden service operating during working hours on Mondays to Fridays, with seven having services available on call out of working hours on these days. Just four authorities had a dog warden service that worked during working hours on Saturdays and Sundays, and six had one that worked on call out of hours on these days. Again, the majority (17) of authorities did not specify answers to these questions.

For six authorities there was permanent staff provision for their area in place for out of hours service, while two had acceptance points available. At this question 20 authorities did not provide information.

Although 17 authorities did not provide information about staff numbers within their dog warden services eight reported that these had stayed the same in the last 12 months, with two saying they had decreased and one that they had increased. Looking forward to the next 12 months nine authorities expected these staff numbers to stay the same, one for them to increase and one for them to decrease.

A total of 1,333 ‘status dogs’ were reportedly handled in Granada between 1st April 2009 and 31st March 2010, the third highest figure across all TV regions. Of these, 124 were reportedly put to sleep due to aggression.

3.3 Yorkshire

There are a total of 21 individual local authorities within the Yorkshire TV region. This year all but one authority in Yorkshire responded to the survey, increasing the response rate to 95%, compared with 86% last year.

The total estimated number of strays in the Yorkshire region has fallen by 19% since last year, from 12,392 to 10,081, although this is still higher than the figure of 7,308 estimated in 2009. In Yorkshire the number of stray dogs per head of population is in line with the national average, one stray for every 463 people compared to one stray for every 465 people nationally.

The estimated proportion of dogs put to sleep has risen by four percentage points since last year. In 2010 the figure was 266 while this year it is 580, constituting 6% of strays in the Yorkshire TV region. Where reported, half of cases where stray dogs were put to sleep were attributed to behavioural problems or aggression (55%), with 15% attributed to ill health and just 2% related to the Dangerous Dogs Act/Order. Details were not given for all reported destructions.

Half (51%) of strays were re-united with their owners in Yorkshire. Micro-chipping was given as a reason for having re-united dogs with their owners in 32% of cases, second only to owners contacting the local authority or pound directly (49%). A fifth (21%) of dogs were passed on to welfare organisations.

Almost half (nine) of the individual local authorities in the Yorkshire TV region reported that they employed their dog warden directly with just one reporting to contract out their dog warden. The remaining 10 authorities did not provide information here.

Almost half (nine) of local authorities in the Yorkshire TV region had private boarding kennels handling their strays, with one using welfare kennels and one using 'other' means. The remaining 10 authorities did not provide information here.

Half (10) of individual authorities in Yorkshire reported to have a dog warden service during working hours on Mondays to Fridays, with a fifth (four) also having services on call out of working hours on these days. Just one authority reported to have a dog warden service during working hours one Saturdays and Sundays, whilst four said they had services on call out of hours on these days. Again 10 authorities did not provide information here.

Four of individual authorities in Yorkshire have permanent staff provision for their area in place out of hours whilst two have acceptance point services. The remaining 11 did not provide information here.

Focusing on staff numbers in the last 12 months nine authorities reported that these had stayed the same, with just one reporting a decrease. These figures were the same in regards to expected staff numbers in the next 12 months. Ten authorities did not provide information here.

A total of 983 'status dogs' were reported across the Yorkshire TV region, down from 1,260 last year. Just 89 (9%) of these were reportedly put to sleep due to aggression, one of the lowest figures reported across all TV regions.

3.4 Central

There are 70 individual local authorities within the Central TV region. This year 55 responded giving a response rate of 79%, falling by one percentage point since last year.

The estimated number of strays in the Central TV region fell slightly from 21,073 last year to 20,995 this year (although this does not represent a percentage fall). This corresponds to one stray for every 483 people according to 2001 census data, just below the national average of one stray for every 465 people.

The estimated proportion of strays put to sleep in the Central region has risen by 2 percentage points since last year, from 705 dogs to 1,130 dogs this year. This represents 5% of the estimated number of strays in the region. The main reason reported for destroying strays in the Central region was behavioural problems or aggression (41%). This was followed by ill health (23%) and a small number related to the Dangerous Dogs Act/Order (4%). Details were not given for all reported destructions.

An estimated 53% of strays were returned to their owners, in line with last year's figure. Where reasons were given a fifth (41%) were returned as a result of the owner contacting the local authority or pound directly; with just slightly less (37%) reportedly returned as a result of having a microchip.

Amongst the Central authorities who responded 25 reported to employ their dog warden directly with a further 11 contracting out and 19 that did not provide this information.

The main services used for handling strays across authorities in the Central TV region were private boarding kennels (19) and welfare charity kennels (17). Other local authorities also reported the use of council owned pounds (1) and rescue kennels or centres (1). Twenty authorities were unable to provide this information.

More than half (32) of individual authorities in the Central region have dog warden services during working hours on Mondays to Fridays and a quarter (15) have services on call out of working hours on these days. On Saturdays and Sundays 12 authorities have dog warden services during working hours and 16 on call out of working hours. Just one authority reported to have a 24/7 dog warden service. Twenty one authorities did not provide this information.

A quarter (15) of local authorities in the Central region have acceptance point provision in their area for out of hours services. Twelve have permanent staff provision, whilst one contracts this out and two reported to have nothing in place for out of hours services. Twenty nine authorities did not provide this information.

More than half (30) of the authorities in the central region reported that staff numbers in their dog warden service had remained the same over the last 12 months, with three saying they

had decreased and two that they had increased. Twenty did not supply this information. In the context of the next 12 months more than half (32) said that they expected staff numbers to say the same, with just four saying they expected to see a decrease. Nineteen authorities did not provide information here.

Across the Central TV region a total of 2,569 'status dogs' were reportedly handled between 1st April 2010 and 31st March 2011. Although this was the highest figure across all TV regions, a relatively small proportion (5%, or 119 'status dogs' in this region) were reportedly put to sleep due to aggression.

3.5 HTV

There are a total of 29 individual local authorities in the HTV TV region. This year 23 of these authorities responded, giving a regional response rate of 79%.

This year's estimated number of strays (12,529) represents an increase of 10% compared with last year's figure (11,426). The HTV region has fewer people per stray than the national average (344 people per stray, compared with 465 nationally).

The proportion of dogs estimated as having been put to sleep in the HTV region remains at 5% for the third year running, although the estimated number has increased from 544 in 2010 to 620 in 2011. Where reasons were given, the destructions of 13% of dogs were attributed toil health, whilst a further 11% were reportedly due to behavioural problems or aggression and just 3% were in relation to the Dangerous Dogs Act. Details were not given for all reported destructions.

Authorities in HTV this year reunited almost half (47%) of stray dogs with their owners. Where identifiable methods of return were mentioned, the proportion of dogs returned as a result of the owner contacting the local authority or pound directly was 42%; with a further 21% reunited as a result of micro-chipping; 13% due to identification discs and 11% due to the dog wearing both a chip and a disk. Almost a third (32%) of strays were passed on to welfare organisations; a two percentage point increase from last year's figure.

Almost a third (seven) of local authorities in the HTV region reported that they employed their dog warden directly. The remaining 16 did not provide information on this.

Four local authorities used private boarding kennels to handle their strays. A further two used welfare charities, with two more using welfare charity kennels and one reporting to use a rescue kennel/centre. The majority (15) did not provide information on this.

A quarter (six) of authorities in the HTV region had dog warden services operating during working hours on Mondays to Fridays, with two also having on call out of hours services on these days. Just two authorities reported having dog warden services during working hours on Saturdays and Sundays and a further two to having services on call out of working hours on these days. Just one authority reported having a 24/7 dog warden service. Sixteen authorities did not provide this information.

Four authorities have acceptance point provision in place in their area for out of hours service;

service; whilst one has permanent staff and one contracted out this service. Seventeen authorities did not provide information here.

Six of the authorities in the HTV region felt that staff numbers in their dog warden service had stayed the same over the last 12 months, with just one reporting a decrease. These proportions were the same in the context of expectations for the next 12 months. Sixteen authorities did not provide information here.

Across the HTV region 868 ‘status dogs’ were reported to have been handled during the last year, falling from the 1,898 reported last year. Of these 44 (5%) were reportedly put to sleep due to aggression.

3.6 Anglia

There are 38 individual local authorities, 28 of which submitted a survey response this year. The response rate of 74% is just 2% lower than that achieved last year.

The estimated number of strays has fallen by 15%, from 7,375 last year to 6,242 this year. The number of people per stray dog in the Anglia region is 652, indicating that there are fewer strays per person in this region than across the UK (465 per stray).

The number of strays estimated as having been put to sleep in the Anglia TV region has increased from 202 last year to its current level of 277. This represents only a 1% proportional increase and just 4% of strays in the region. Where stated, the main reason for stray dogs being put to sleep was due to behavioural problems or aggression (29%); with a further 10% being put to sleep due to ill health. Details were not given for all reported destructions.

Fifty nine per cent of strays were reunited with their owners. Where methods have been identified, 48% of reunions were accredited to the owner contacting the local authority or pound directly, followed by 27% to the dog having a microchip. This year a fifth (19%) of strays in this region were recorded as having been passed on to welfare organisations; a three percentage point decrease from last year's figure.

Two fifths (11) of local authorities in the Anglia TV region reported that their dog warden was employed directly, with five contracting them out. Twelve local authorities did not provide this information.

The most common service for handling strays in the Anglia TV region was private boarding kennels (14 authorities), followed by welfare charity kennels (four authorities). No other services were mentioned and 12 authorities did not provide this information.

More than half (15) of authorities in the Anglia TV region have dog warden services available during working hours on Mondays to Fridays, with four having services available on call out of working hours on these days. Just three had services during working hours on Saturdays and Sundays and just three on call out of working hours on these days. Twelve authorities did not supply information here.

Four authorities have permanent staff provision in their area for out of hours service, with three having an acceptance point available. Two authorities reported that there was nothing available in their area for out of hours service and 19 did not provide any information.

Almost half (13) of the local authorities in the Anglia TV region reported that staff numbers in their dog warden service had stayed the same over the last 12 months, with one reporting a decrease and two an increase. Looking forward to the next 12 months half again (14) expect to see staff numbers stay the same with one expecting to see an increase and one a decrease. Twelve authorities did not provide any information here.

3.7 Carlton

There are 70 individual local authorities in the Carlton TV region. Fifty three of these responded, giving a response rate of 76%.

The estimated number of strays reported by local authorities in the Carlton region has increased slightly from 14,402 to 14,547, a rise of 1%. This gives one dog for every 777 people, much lower than the UK average of 465 people per stray.

The estimated proportion of dogs put to sleep has increased by three percentage points and the estimated number of strays destroyed in the Carlton TV region this year is 490 (up from 262). This represents 6% of strays in the Carlton TV region. Where reported, the main reason for putting strays to sleep was under to the Dangerous Dogs Act/Order (17%), with a further 13% due to behavioural problems or aggression and 9% due to ill health. Details were not given for all reported destructions.

Two fifths (40%) of stray dogs were reported as being returned to their owners, and of the reasons given for this, almost half (47%) were due to the dog having a microchip. Owners contacting the local authority or pound directly accounted for 34% of reunions. This year it is estimated that 29% of stray dogs were passed on to a welfare organisation; a 2 percentage point increase since last year.

A quarter (13) of the local authorities in the Carlton TV region employ their dog wardens directly, with nine contracting them out. More than half (31) local authorities did not give this information.

A third (18) of local authorities in the Carlton TV region reported the use of private boarding kennels to handle their strays, with seven using welfare charity kennels, four contractors and two council owned pounds. Two also used a rescue kennel/centre and one and out of hours service. Twenty six local authorities did not provide this information.

Two fifths (21) of local authorities in the Carlton TV region have dog warden services available during working hours on Mondays to Fridays with 11 also having services operating on call out of working hours on these days. Just five authorities have services during working hours on Saturdays and Sundays, while 10 have services on call out of working hours on these days. One authority reported 'other' hours, four said they did not know and 27 did not provide and answer.

A fifth (10) have permanent staff provision in their area for out of hours services. Four have an acceptance point, two contractors and one 'other' provision. One authority reported to have no provision for out of hours services in their area, four did not know and 31 did not provide an answer.

More than a third (19) of local authorities in the Carlton TV region said that staff numbers in their dog warden service have stayed the same over the last 12 months, while two said numbers had decreased and one that they had increased. Similarly, 18 reported that they expect to see staff numbers stay the same in the next 12 months and four expect to see a decrease. Thirty one authorities did not provide any information here.

Across the Carlton TV region a total of 1,641 'status dogs' were reported. Although this is down from 3,130 reported last year, this remains the second highest figure reported across all TV regions. Of these just 97 (6%) were reportedly put to sleep due to aggression.

3.8 Meridian

There are 45 individual local authorities in the Meridian TV region. The response rate in Meridian has increased since recent years slightly since last year, from 84% in 2009 and 80% in 2010 to 87% this year with a total of 39 local authorities responding.

The number of strays estimated in the Meridian TV region has risen for the first time in a number of years from 8,276 last year to 10,002 this year, an increase of 21%. This corresponds to one stray for every 539 people, better than the UK average of one stray for every 465 people.

The proportion of stray dogs put to sleep in the Meridian TV region this year has increased by two percentage points to 4%, with the total estimated figure rising from 200 to 365. Where reasons were given, the main reasons for putting dogs to sleep were stated as behavioural problems or aggression (32%) and ill health (16%). Details were not given for all reported destructions.

This year 61% of strays in the Meridian TV region were reported as being reunited with their owner, a figure that has decreased significantly compared with 73% last year and 66% in 2009. Where a reason for this was given, 50% were returned due to the owner contacting the local authority or pound directly, and 32% were returned through micro-chips. A fifth (21%) were passed on to welfare organisations in the Meridian TV region.

More than a third (15) of local authorities reported to employ their dog warden directly, with a further seven contracting them out. Seventeen local authorities did not provide this information.

A third (18) of the authorities in the Meridian TV region used private boarding kennels to handle their strays. A further seven also used welfare charity kennels, with four using contractors and two council owned pounds. In addition, two local authorities mentioned the use of a rescue kennel/centre and one the use of out of hours services. Twenty six authorities did not provide information here.

Half (19) of the authorities in the Meridian TV region have a dog warden service available during working hours on Mondays to Fridays, with 10 having services on call out of working hours on these days. Nine authorities reported services that work during working hours on Saturdays and Sundays and 10 with on call out of working hours on these days. Nineteen authorities did not provide information here.

A quarter (9) of authorities have permanent staff provision in their area for out of hours services; with eight reporting an acceptance point. Three authorities report no out of hours provision and 21 did not provide an answer.

Two fifths (16) of authorities in the Meridian region have seen staff numbers in their dog warden service stay the same over the last 12 months, whilst five have seen them decrease and one increase. Half (20) of authorities expect to see staff numbers stay the same in the next 12 months, with two expecting to see a decrease. Seventeen did not provide any information here.

A total of 860 'status dogs' were handled across the Meridian TV region in the last year, decreasing from 1,358 last year. Of these it was reported that 78 were put to sleep due to aggression.

3.9 West Country

The West Country TV region has 17 individual local authorities, 15 of which responded this year giving a response rate of 88%.

The estimated number of strays reported in the West Country TV region has increased by 48% from 2,938 last year to 4,346 this year. This equates to one dog for every 520 people, below the UK average (465).

The number of dogs put to sleep is still quite low at 82 dogs, which represents just 2% of the total number of strays in this area and is one of the lowest levels nationally. Reasons were given to account for 50 cases of dogs being put to sleep, the main reason being behavioural problems or aggression (24 cases). This was followed by ill health (17) and links to the Dangerous Dogs Act (nine cases). Details were not given for all reported destructions.

Around two-thirds (65%) of all stray dogs that are seized in the West Country TV region were returned to their owners; a 3 percentage point decrease from last year. Where reasons were given for dogs having been reunited, half (50%) were due to the owner's direct contact and 27% because of the use of micro-chips. A fifth (20%) of stray dogs in the West Country TV region were passed on to welfare organisations for possible re-homing.

The majority (11) of authorities in the West Country TV region reported to employ their dog warden directly, with just one reporting to contract this out. Three did not provide any information here.

Eleven of the 15 local authorities in the West Country TV region reported to use private boarding kennels to handle their stray dogs. A further seven authorities said their strays were handled by welfare charity kennels. Three did not provide any information here.

The majority (12) of authorities in the West Country TV region have dog warden service that operate during working hours on Mondays to Fridays, with four also having services on call out of working hours on these days. Just two have services during working hours on Saturdays and Sundays and five on call out of working hours on these days. Three did not provide any information here.

Four authorities have permanent staff provision in place in their area for out of hours service, with a further four having an acceptance point. Just one reported to have nothing in place for out of hours service. Six did not provide any information here.

The majority (9) of authorities reported that staff numbers in their dog warden service had stayed the same in the last 12 months, with three reporting a decrease. Slightly more (11) expect to see staff number stay the same over the next 12 months with just one expecting to see a decrease. Three did not provide any information here.

A total of 346 'status dogs' were reportedly handled in the West Country TV region within the last year, a figure that has increased from 137 since last year. Of these it was reported that just four were put to sleep due to aggression, the lowest figure across all TV regions.

3.10 Border

There are just seven individual local authorities in the Border TV region. This year the response rate was 86%, although it is important to note that this equates to six out of the seven authorities submitting a survey response

Estimated figures for all of the authorities in the Border TV region have decreased by 11% since last year, from 1,707 to 1,523. This gives a figure of one stray per 457 people, slightly above the UK average of one stray per 465 people.

The estimated number of stray dogs put to sleep has increased very slightly from 20 in 2010 to 26 this year. This represents just 2% of the total estimated stray population, and is lower than the UK average. Reasons were given for 22 cases of destruction, with dogs put to sleep due to ill health (12) or behavioural problems or aggression (10).

Of those strays reported by Border authorities, around two fifths (43%) were recorded as having been returned to their owners, and of reasons given for dogs being returned, the owner contacting the local authority or pound directly accounted for 45% and micro-chipping accounted for 16% of cases. A quarter (24%) said that this information was not available or had not been kept. More than half (55%) of strays in the Border TV region were passed on to welfare organisations, an estimated forty five percentage point increase from last year's figures.

Half (three) of the authorities in the Border TV region reported to employ their dog wardens directly, with the other half (three) contracting them out.

Welfare charity kennels were most likely to be used for handling strays, mentioned by four authorities. These were followed by private boarding kennels (mentioned by two authorities) and council owned pounds (mentioned by one authority).

All authorities reported to have dog warden services during working hours on Mondays to Fridays, with two having services on call out of working hours on these days. Three authorities have services during working hours on Saturdays and Sundays with two having services on call out of working hours on these days.

Just one authority has permanent staff provision in their area for out of hours services, with a further two having an acceptance point. Three authorities did not provide information on this.

The majority (four) of authorities in the Border TV region have seen staff numbers in their dog warden service stay the same over the last 12 months, whilst two have seen them decrease. Looking to the next 12 months the majority again (five) expect staff numbers to stay the same, with one authority expecting to see a decrease.

Across the Border TV region a reported 269 'status dogs' were handled in the last year, up from 164 last year. Of these just nine were reportedly put to sleep due to aggression, one of the lowest figures across all regions.

3.11 Grampian

The Grampian TV region has nine individual local authorities eight of which responded this year, resulting in an 89% response rate.

The estimated number of strays reported in Grampian has risen since last year from 1,975 to 2,107 this year, a 7% increase. This represents a number of people per stray figure of 503, lower than the UK average of one stray for every 465 people. The estimated number of strays reported as having been put to sleep has risen this year from 18 to 140, although this represents just a six percentage point increase and now accounts for just 7% of the total number of strays seized in this region. Where reported, 18% of these were put to sleep due to behavioural problems or aggression, 4% due to ill health and just 2% under the Dangerous Dogs Act/Order Details were not given for all reported destructions.

Two thirds (62%) of dogs in the Grampian TV region have been returned to their owners, a figure that has fallen slightly since last year when it was 70%. Where reasons have been recorded, the majority (88%) of these reunions were attributed owners contacting the local authority of pound directly. Just 6% were attributed to the use of micro-chips, compared with 13% last year. Just 6% of stray dogs in Grampian were recorded as having been passed on to welfare organisations, falling from 11% last year.

Three local authorities in the Grampian TV region reported that their dog wardens were employed directly by the authority. The remaining five authorities did not supply any information on this.

Three of the local authorities in the Grampian TV region used private kennels to handle their strays, with one using council owned pounds. The remaining four did not supply any information on this.

All authorities in the Grampian TV region have a dog warden service available during working hours on Mondays to Fridays, with two having services on call out of working hours on these days. Half (three) also have working hours services on Saturdays and Sundays and two have on call out of working hours services on these days.

Just one authority has permanent staff provision in their area for out of hours service. Two report having nothing and five did not provide an answer here.

Two authorities in the Grampian TV region reported that staff numbers in their dog warden service have decreased in the last 12 months, with a further two saying they had stayed the

same. Looking at the next 12 months none expect to see a decrease, whereas one expects to see an increase and three for staff numbers to stay the same. Four authorities did not provide any information here.

A total of 269 'status dogs' were reported across the Grampian TV region, the second lowest figure across all TV regions. Just nine of these 'status dogs' were reportedly put down due to aggression in Grampian.

3.12 STV Central

There are 21 individual local authorities in the STV Central TV region, 18 of which responded this year giving a response rate of 86%.

The estimated number of strays in the STV Central region has fallen this year by 7% from 3,669 last year to its current level of 3,399. This equates to one stray per 1,121 people, which is lower than the UK average and the lowest across all TV regions.

The proportion of dogs put to sleep remains at 2% for the third year running with the estimated number of destructions falling very slightly from 69 last year to 67 this year. Thirty nine cases were attributed to ill health and twenty 17 to behavioural problems or aggression. Details were not given for all reported destructions.

Two thirds (63%) of dogs were returned to their owners, a proportion that has increased by four percentage points since last year. Owners contacting the local authority or pound directly was reported to cover 43% of reunions, and the use of micro-chips to cover 31%. The number of strays passed to welfare organisations for possible re-homing has more than doubled in the STV Central region from 10% last year to 22% this year.

The majority (14) of local authorities within the STV Central region reported to employ their dog warden directly. The remaining four authorities did not provide any information here.

Eight local authorities in the STV Central region used welfare charity kennels to handle their strays with seven using private boarding kennels. The remaining four authorities did not provide any information here.

The majority (13) of local authorities in the STV Central region have a dog warden service available during working hours on Mondays to Fridays. One authority also reported having services available on call out of working hours on Saturdays and Sundays. Five authorities did not provide any information here.

A quarter (five) of authorities reported that there is no provision in their area in place for out of hours services. However, three reported that they had an acceptance point available and one has permanent staff provision. Nine authorities did not provide any information here.

The majority (12) of authorities have seen staff numbers in their dog warden service stay the same over the last 12 months, with two seeing them decrease. In the coming 12 months 13 expect staff numbers to stay the same with one authority expecting a decrease. Four authorities did not provide any information here.

Across the STV Central region 375 'status dogs' were reportedly handled in the last year. Of these just 15 were reported put to sleep due to aggression.

3.13 Ulster

Ulster authorities gave a response rate of 100% with all 26 authorities responding again this year. However, responses did not cover the entire questionnaire and so it is not possible to comment on all aspects related to stray dogs in the Ulster TV region.

The estimated number of strays recorded in the Ulster region has risen by 3% since last year from 8,870 to 9,119 this year. Using 2001 census data this equates to 185 people per stray dog. This is the highest number of stray dogs per head of population of any region in the UK, as was also the case last year.

The estimated number of strays put to sleep in the Ulster region has fallen from 2,278 last year to 1,762 this year. This represents seven percentage point decrease in the proportion of strays dogs being put to sleep in the region (down from 26% in 2010 to 19% in 2011). However, the proportion of stray dogs put to sleep in the Ulster region is the highest across all regions and well above the UK average of 6%.

An estimated 2,380 (26%) of stray dogs in the Ulster TV region were reunited with their owners, although no details were provided on what led to these reunion. No information was provided this year on the number of strays passed onto welfare organisations in the Ulster region.

Information was not collected from Ulster authorities on dog wardens; who handles strays; staff numbers or 'status dogs'.

3.14 Wales

The Wales TV region was newly established in 2009, formed from part of the Wales and West TV region (now referred to as HTV). There are 22 individual local authorities within this region, 18 of which responded this year giving a response rate of 82%.

Estimated figures for all of the authorities in the Wales TV region show that there are 2% fewer strays than estimated last year, 9,482 compared with an estimate of 9,632 last year. This gives a person per stray figure of 306, which is above the UK average.

The estimated number of stray dogs put to sleep has risen very slightly from 481 last year to 486 this year. This still represents 5% of the stray population, and is slightly lower than the UK average. Reasons were given in 123 of these cases, with 59 attributed to ill health, 49 to behavioural problems or aggression and 15 under the Dangerous Dogs Act. Details were not given for all reported destructions.

Of those strays reported by Wales authorities, two-fifths (42%) were recorded as having been returned to their owners, and of reasons given for dogs being returned, the owner contacting the local authority or pound direct accounted for 36% of cases. This was followed by the dog

having a microchip, accounting for 23% of reported cases. Thirty three per cent of stray dogs in the Wales region were passed on to welfare organisations.

Six of the local authorities reported to employ their dog warden directly, but the remaining 12 did not give any information on this.

Three of the local authorities in the Wales TV region reported the use of private boarding kennels to handle their strays. In addition, two reported the use of welfare charity kennels, two to use council owned pounds and one to use a rescue kennel or centre. Eleven authorities did not provide details here.

More than a quarter (5) of authorities in the Wales TV region have dog warden services available during working hours on Mondays to Fridays, with one having services on call out of working hours on these days. Just one has working hours services on Saturdays and Sundays and one on call out of hours services on these days. One authority reported to dog warden services 24/7 and 12 did not provide any information here.

Three authorities have provision of an acceptance point in their area for out of hours service, whilst one has permanent staff provided and one a contractor on call. Thirteen authorities did not provide details here.

A quarter (5) of authorities in the Wales TV region reported that staff numbers have stayed the same over the last 12 months, with one saying they had decreased. Six authorities expect to see staff numbers stay the same in the next 12 months. Twelve authorities did not provide details here.

A total of 758 ‘status dogs’ were reportedly handled across the Wales TV region this year, down from 1,703 last year. Of these 42 were reported to have been put to sleep due to aggression.

3.15 West

The West TV region was newly formed in 2009, formed from those regions in Wales and West (HTV) that did not fall into the new Wales TV region. There are just seven individual local authorities, five of which responded this year, giving a response rate of 71%.

Estimated figures for the West TV region show that there were 66% more strays than estimated last year, 3,051 compared with an estimate of 1,838 last year. This gives a person per stray figure of 463, in line with the UK average of 465.

The estimated number of stray dogs put to sleep has risen from 66last year to 132 this year. However, this still represents 4% of the total estimated stray population. Reasons were given in just seven cases, with four strays reportedly put to sleep due to behavioural problems or aggression and three due to ill health. Details were not given for all reported destructions.

Of those strays reported by West authorities, two thirds (64%) were recorded as having been returned to their owners. Where reasons were given the owner contacting the authority or pound directly accounted for 62% of cases, with a quarter (23%) already being known to the

dog warden and 11% being reunited due to having a microchip (down from 51% of cases last year). A quarter (26%) of stray dogs in the West TV region were passed on to welfare organisations.

Just one of the local authorities in the West TV region reported that they directly employed their dog warden. The remaining four did not supply this information.

Again, just one local authority reported to use private boarding kennels to handle their strays, with the remaining four not supplying any information on who handles their strays.

Again, four of the five local authorities in the West TV region did not supply any information about the hours of their dog warden services. The one that did supply this information reported to have a dog warden service during working hours and on call out of working hours seven days a week. This one authority also reported to have acceptance point provision in place for out of hours service.

The one authority that supplied information on staff numbers in their dog warden service reported that numbers had stayed the same over the last 12 months, but that they expected to see a decrease in the next 12 months.

Across the West TV region a total of 110 'status dogs' were reported. Just two of these was reportedly put to sleep due to aggression.

3.16 Tyne Tees and Border

Tyne Tees and Border is another TV region newly established in 2009 and brings together those local authorities from the two separate Border and Tyne Tees regions. The new TV region includes 23 individual local authorities, 19 of which responded giving a response rate of 83%.

Estimated figures for all authorities within the Tyne Tees and Border TV region showed a 22% increase in the number of strays, 12,516 compared with an estimate of 10,253 last year. This gives a person per stray figure above the UK average at 249. The estimated proportion of stray dogs put to sleep has decreased by 1%, from 284 last year to 249 this year. This represents just 2% of the estimated stray population in the Tyne Tees and Border TV region. Where reasons were given 80 dogs were reported put to sleep due to ill health, 69 due to behavioural problems or aggression and seven under the Dangerous Dogs Act. Details were not given for all reported destructions.

Half (52%) of estimated strays in Tyne Tees and Border authorities were returned to their owners. Where reasons were given micro-chipping accounted for 44% of cases and owners contacting the local authority or pound directly for 20% of. Of all stray dogs in the Tyne Tees and Border TV region a third (35%) were passed on to welfare organisations.

Half (10) of local authorities in the Tyne Tees and Border TV region reported to employ their dog warden directly, with four authorities contracting out this job. Five authorities did not provide this information.

Seven of the local authorities in the Tyne Tees and Border TV region reported to use welfare charity kennels to handle their strays. In addition, six reported to use private boarding kennels and two to use council owned pounds. Again, five authorities did not provide this information.

The majority (14) of authorities in the Tyne Tees and Border region have a dog warden service operating during working hours on Mondays to Fridays. Five also have a service on call out of working hours on these days. Four reported to have a working hours service on Saturdays and Sundays, with five reporting services on call out of working hours on these days. Again, five authorities did not provide this information.

Seven authorities have an acceptance point provision in place in their area for out of hours service, with three having permanent staff provision. Nine authorities did not provide any details on their out of hours provision.

More than half (11) of the authorities in the Tyne Tees and Border region reported that their dog warden staff numbers had stayed the same over the last 12 months, with three saying they had decreased. Looking towards the next 12 months, 12 authorities expect their dog warden staff numbers to stay the same whilst two expect them to decrease. Five authorities did not supply any information around staff numbers.

A total of 1,477 ‘status dogs’ were reported to have been handled by the local authorities in the Tyne Tees and Border TV region, down from 2,107 reported last year. Of these just 36 were reportedly put to sleep due to aggression.

4 Campaign Region Analysis

There are four Campaign (GADAL) regions in the UK. These are areas in which Dogs Trust works especially closely with local authorities to reduce the number of stray dogs.

Table 4 shows the findings in each of these four regions.

Table 4: Campaign region responses

		Campaign Region			
	Total	**North East**	**North West**	**Wales**	**Northern Ireland**
Base		22	30	18	26
Response rate (%)		81	81	82	100
Number of Strays	126,176	14,163	20,197	9,482	9,119
Number put to sleep	7,121	250	866	486	1,762
Number re-united	61,127	7,095	8,442	3,950	2,380
Passed on to welfare orgs	31,118	4,276	6,137	3,155	-
People per stray	465	359	346	306	185

4.1 Year on year changes within the Campaign Regions

The Northern Ireland campaign region is identical to the Ulster TV region, and all results pertaining to Ulster therefore apply to the Northern Ireland campaign area. The same is true of the Wales campaign region, which is identical to the Wales TV region.

The estimated number of strays in the North East campaign region has increased by 7% since last year from 13,268 to 14,163 whilst the estimated proportion of dogs reunited with their owners has fallen by eight percentage points from 7,685 to 7,095. Since last year the proportion of dogs put to sleep has fallen by an estimated one percentage point (from 419 250) and the proportion passed to welfare organisations has increased by eight percentage points (from 2,878 to 4,276).

The estimated number of strays in the North West campaign region has risen by 12%, from 18,042 last year to 20,197 this year. The proportion of strays reunited with their owner has decreased by an estimated four percentage points, from 8,247 to 8,442. The estimated proportion of dogs put to sleep remained at 4% of strays, despite a slight increase in estimate numbers from 777 to 866. The estimated proportion of dogs passed to welfare organisations has increased by seven percentage points from 4,211 to 6,137.

4.2 Comparisons between Campaign Regions

As stated elsewhere in the report, Northern Ireland has the worst rate for stray dogs per person, with only 185 people per stray dog, based on this year's estimate. As shown in Table 4, all other campaign regions see a lower number of people per stray compared to the national average of 465.

In Northern Ireland an estimated 19% of strays were put to sleep. This compares with, 5% in Wales, 4% in the North West and 2% in the North East.

The proportion of strays that were returned to their owner was 50% in the North East, 42% in the North West and in Wales and 26% in Northern Ireland.

In Wales an estimated 33% of stray dogs were passed onto welfare organisations for possible re-homing, with 30% being passed on in the North West and the North East. This year no information was provided regarding this by local authorities in Northern Ireland.

In each campaign region the majority (12 in the North East, nine in North West and six in Wales) of local authorities reported employing their dog warden directly. A small number also reported to contract out this job (four in the North West and two in the North East). No information was provided by authorities in the Northern Ireland campaign region.

In each campaign region the use of private boarding kennels to handle strays was most common (eight in both the North East and North West and three in Wales). The next most frequent mention was the use of welfare charity kennels (seven in North West, five in North East and two in Wales). Other mentions included council owned pounds (two in Wales and one in North East). One local authority in Wales also mentioned a rescue kennel/centre. No information was provided by authorities in the Northern Ireland campaign region.

The majority of authorities in North East (14) and North West (13) have dog warden service available during working hours on Mondays to Fridays. Five of the authorities in Wales also had this provision. Seven authorities in North West, four in North East and one in Wales also have on call out of working hours services on Mondays to Fridays. In addition, Four in North West, Three in North East and one in Wales have working hours services on Saturdays and Sundays; with six in North East, four in North West and one in Wales having on call out of working hours services on these days. No information was provided by authorities in the Northern Ireland campaign region.

In the North each most (nine) authorities have an acceptance point provision in their area for out of hours service, with just two having permanent staff on hand. In the North West a larger amount (seven) of authorities have permanent staff provision out of hours, with four also having an acceptance point. In Wales just three authorities have and acceptance point and just one has permanent staff provision for out of hours service. One also reported to have contractor provision. No information was provided by authorities in the Northern Ireland campaign region.

Across all campaign regions most authorities reported that staff numbers had stayed the same over the last 12 months (12 in North East, nine in North West and five in Wales). A small number in each area reported that staff numbers had decreased in this time (three in North

North West, two in North East and one in Wales). One authority in North West reported an increase in staff numbers over the last 12 months. Looking towards the next 12 months most authorities across the campaign regions expected staff numbers to stay the same (12 in North East, 10 North West and six in Wales) with just two in North East and two in North West expecting to see a decrease and one in North West expecting to see an increase. Eight authorities in North East, 17 in North West and 12 in Wales did not provide any information here and no information was provided by authorities in the Northern Ireland campaign region.

The largest number of 'status dogs' were reported by local authorities in the North West (1,384), followed by North East (1,299). The lowest figure was reported in Wales (758). All campaign regions have seen fewer 'status dogs' than last year. It was reported that 38 (3%) 'status dogs' were put to sleep in North East, 126 (9%) in Wales and 42 (6%) in North West. No information was provided by authorities in the Northern Ireland campaign region.

5 Comparisons by Country

Looking at the local authorities by country some notable comparisons can be made between England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

It is clear from the table below that the number of people to stray dogs was highest in Northern Ireland. The estimated proportion of dogs put to sleep differs across the four countries. Around a fifth (19%) of stray dogs in Northern Ireland were put to sleep, compared with 5% in Wales and 4% in each of England and Scotland. The UK average was 6%.

Around half of the total estimated strays in both Scotland (57%) and England (51%) were returned to their owners. This compared with 42% in Wales and 26% in Northern Ireland.

In Scotland 23% of the estimated stray dog population were reported as having been passed on to welfare organisations, compared with 27% of strays in England and 33% in Wales. No information was provided by authorities in Northern Ireland.

Table 5: Country responses

	Country			
	England	**Scotland**	**Wales**	**Northern Ireland**
Base	261	27	18	26
Response rate (%)	80	87	82	100
Number of Strays	101,713	5,889	9,482	9,119
Number put to sleep	4,362	217	486	1,762
Number re-united	51,915	3,363	3,950	2,380
Passed onto welfare orgs	27,173	1,342	3,155	-
People per stray	482	870	185	306

Most local authorities in each country reported that their dog warden was employed directly. Those in Scotland (63%) were more likely to employ their dog warden this way than authorities in England (39%) and Wales (33%). A sixth (16%) of English local authorities and just 4% of those in Scotland reported to contract out this role. No information was provided by authorities in Northern Ireland.

Most local authorities reported to use private boarding kennels to handle their strays. This was more likely in England (39%) and Scotland (37%) than in Wales (17%). A third (33%) of authorities in Scotland use welfare charity kennels, as do a fifth (20%) of those in England and 11% of those in Wales. Other responses included council owned pounds (11% authorities in Wales, 7% in Scotland and 3% in England) and rescue kennels/centres (6% in Wales and 1% in England). Other authorities in England also mentioned contractors (2%), vets (1%) and 'other' alternatives (1%). Sixty one per cent of authorities in Wales, 43% in England and 30% in Scotland did not provide any information here. No information was provided by authorities in Northern Ireland.

Across all countries most authorities (63% in Scotland, 51% in England and 28% in Wales) reported dog warden services operating working hours on Mondays to Fridays, with 23% in England, 6% in Wales and 4% in Scotland having on call out of working hours services on these days. In addition, 15% of authorities in England, 6% in Wales and 4% in Scotland have working hours services on Saturdays and Sundays; with 23% in England, 7% in Scotland and 6% in Wales having on call out of working hours services on these days. Six per cent of authorities in Wales and 1% in England reported 24/7 dog warden services. Sixty seven per cent of authorities in Wales, 35% in England and 37% in Scotland did not provide any information here. No information was provided by authorities in Northern Ireland.

Authorities in Scotland are most likely (22%) to have nothing in place in their area for out of hours service, with just 11% having an acceptance point and just 7%having permanent staff provision. In England 20% have permanent staff provision and 19% have an acceptance point, with just 4% having nothing. In Wales 17% have an acceptance point and 6% permanent staff provision. Seventy two per cent of authorities in Wales, 59% in Scotland and 57% in England did not provide any information here. No information was provided by authorities in Northern Ireland.

Across all countries most authorities (56% in Scotland, 44% in England and 28% in Wales) reported that staff numbers in their dog warden service had stayed the same over the last 12 months. A small amount in each (15% in Scotland, 8% in England and 6% in Wales reported a decrease and just 3% in England reported an increase. Looking forward to the next 12 months 63% of authorities in Scotland, 48% in England and 33% in Wales expect to see staff numbers stay the same. Just 7% in England and 4% in Scotland expect to see a decrease, with a further 4% in Scotland and 1% in England expecting an increase. Sixty seven per cent of authorities in Scotland, 45% in England and 30% in Scotland did not provide any information on staff numbers. No information was provided by authorities in Northern Ireland.

Local authorities in England reported handling the highest number of 'status dogs' (9566, compared with 775 in Scotland and 758 in Wales). This is to be expected as England has the largest number of local authorities. The reported number of 'status dogs' put to sleep due to aggression was also highest in England (580), with 42 in Wales and 38 in Scotland. No information was provided by authorities in Northern Ireland.

6 APPENDICES

6.1 Appendix A: Authorities by Region

6.1.1 TV Region

Tyne Tees	
City of Sunderland	Newcastle City Council
Darlington Borough Council	North Tyneside Council
Durham County Council	Northumberland County Council
East Riding of Yorkshire Council	Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council
Gateshead Metropolitan Borough Council	Richmondshire District Council
Hambleton District Council	Scarborough Borough Council
Hartlepool Borough Council	South Tyneside Metropolitan Borough Council
Middlesbrough Council	Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

Granada	
Barrow-in-Furness Borough Council	Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council
Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council	Pendle Borough Council
Blackpool Borough Council	Preston City Council
Bolton Metropolitan Borough Council	Ribble Valley Borough Council
Burnley Borough Council	Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council
Bury Metropolitan Borough Council	Rossendale Borough Council
Cheshire East Council	Salford City Council
Cheshire West and Chester Council	Sefton Council
Chorley Borough Council	South Ribble Borough Council
Fylde Borough Council	St Helens Metropolitan Borough Council
Halton Borough Council	Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council
High Peak Borough Council	Warrington Borough Council
Hyndburn Borough Council	West Lancashire District Council
Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council	Wigan Council
Lancaster City Council	Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council
Liverpool City Council	Wyre Borough Council
Manchester City Council	

Yorkshire	
Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council	Harrogate Borough Council

Bassetlaw District Council
Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council
Chesterfield Borough Council

City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council
City of Wakefield Metropolitan District Council
City of York Council
Craven District Council
Derbyshire Dales District Council
Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council
East Lindsey District Council
Kingston upon Hull City Council
Kirklees Council
Leeds City Council
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Ryedale District Council
Selby District Council
Sheffield City Council
South Holland District Council
West Lindsey District Council

Central

Amber Valley Borough Council	North Kesteven District Council
Ashfield District Council	North Lincolnshire Council
Aylesbury Vale District Council	North West Leicestershire District Council
Birmingham City Council	North Warwickshire Borough Council
Blaby District Council	Northampton Borough Council
Borough of Telford and Wrekin	Nottingham City Council
Boston Borough Council	Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council
Bromsgrove District Council	Oadby and Wigston Borough Council
Broxtowe Borough Council	Oxford City Council
Cannock Chase District Council	Redditch Borough Council
Charnwood District Council	Rugby Borough Council
Cheltenham Borough Council	Rushcliffe Borough Council
Cherwell District Council	Rutland County Council
Corby Borough Council	Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
Cotswold District Council	Shropshire Council
Coventry City Council	Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Derby City Council	South Derbyshire District Council
Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council	South Gloucestershire Council
East Staffordshire Borough Council	South Northamptonshire Council
Erewash Borough Council	South Oxfordshire District Council
Forest of Dean District Council	South Staffordshire Council
Gedling Borough Council	Stafford Borough Council
Gloucester City Council	Staffordshire Moorlands District Council
Herefordshire Council	Stoke on Trent City Council
Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council	Stratford on Avon District Council
Leicester City Council	Tamworth Borough Council
Lichfield District Council	Tewesbury Borough Council
Lincoln City Council	Vale of White Horse District Council
Malvern Hills District Council	Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council
Mansfield District Council	Warwick District Council
Melton Borough Council	West Oxfordshire District Council
Newark and Sherwood District Council	Wolverhampton City Council
Newcastle Under Lyme Borough Council	Worcester City Council
North East Derbyshire District Council	Wychavon District Council
North East Lincolnshire Council	Wyre Forest District Council

HTV

Bath and North East Somerset Council	Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council
Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council	Monmouthshire County Council
Bridgend County Borough Council	Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
Bristol City Council	Newport County Borough Council
Caerphilly County Borough Council	Pembrokeshire County Council
Cardiff County Council	Powys County Council
Carmarthenshire County Council	Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
Ceredigion County Council	Sedgemoor District Council
City and County of Swansea	Swindon Borough Council
Conwy County Borough Council	Torfaen County Borough Council
Denbighshire County Council	Vale of Glamorgan Council
Flintshire County Council	West Somerset District Council
Gwynedd Council	Wiltshire Council
Isle of Anglesey County Council	Wrexham County Borough Council
Mendip District Council	

Anglia

Barbergh District Council	Ipswich Borough Council
Bedford Borough Council	Kettering Borough Council
Borough Council of Kings Lynn and West Norfolk	Luton Borough Council
Braintree District Council	Maldon District Council
Breckland District Council	Mid Suffolk District Council
Brentwood Borough Council	North Hertfordshire District Council
Broadland District Council	North Norfolk District Council
Cambridge City Council	Norwich City Council
Central Bedfordshire	Peterborough City Council
Chelmsford Borough Council	Rochford District Council
Colchester Borough Council	South Cambridgeshire District Council
Daventry District Council	South Kesteven District Council
East Cambridgeshire District Council	South Norfolk District Council
East Northamptonshire Council	St Edmundsbury Borough Council
Fenland District Council	Suffolk Coastal District Council
Forest Heath District Council	Tendring District Council
Great Yarmouth Borough Council	Uttlesford District Council
Harborough District Council	Waveney District Council
Huntingdonshire District Council	Wellingborough Borough Council

Carlton

Barnet Council	London Borough of Hillingdon
Basildon District Council	London Borough of Lambeth
Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council	London Borough of Lewisham
Bexley Council	London Borough of Redbridge
Borough of Broxbourne	London Borough of Richmond Upon Thames
Borough of Spelthorne	London Borough of Sutton
Brent Council	London Borough of Tower Hamlets
Castle Point Borough Council	London Borough of Waltham Forest
Chilton District Council	London Borough of Wandsworth
Corporation of London	London Borough of Westminster
Crawley Borough Council	Merton Council
Croydon Council	Milton Keynes Council
Dacorum Borough Council	Mole Valley District Council
Dartford Borough Council	Newham Council
East Hertfordshire District Council	Reading Borough Council
Elmbridge Borough Council	Reigate and Banstead Borough Council
Epping Forest District Council	Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea
Epsom and Ewell Borough Council	Royal Borough of Kingston Upon Thames
Gravesham Borough Council	Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead
Greenwich London Borough Council	Runnymede Borough Council
Guildford Borough Council	Slough Borough Council
Harlow District Council	South Bucks District Council
Hertsmere Borough Council	Southend on Sea Borough Council
Hounslow Council	Southwark Council
Islington Council	St Albans District Council
London Borough of Barking and Dagenham	Stevenage Borough Council
London Borough of Bromley	Swale Borough Council
London Borough of Camden Council	Tandridge District Council
London Borough of Ealing	Three Rivers District Council
London Borough of Enfield	Thurrock Council
London Borough of Hackney	Watford Borough Council
London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham	Waverley Borough Council
London Borough of Haringey	Welwyn Hatfield District Council
London Borough of Harrow	Woking Borough Council
London Borough of Havering Council	Wycombe District Council

Meridian

Adur District Council
Arun District Council
Ashford Borough Council
Borough of Poole
Bournemouth Borough Council
Bracknell Forest Borough Council
Brighton and Hove City Council
Canterbury City Council
Chichester District Council
Christchurch Borough Council
Dover District Council
East Dorset District Council
East Hampshire District Council
Eastbourne Borough Council
Eastleigh Borough Council
Fareham Borough Council
Gosport Borough Council
Hart District Council
Hastings Borough Council
Havant Borough Council
Horsham District Council
Lewes District Council
Maidstone Borough Council
Medway Council
Mid Sussex District Council
New Forest District Council
North Dorset District Council
Portsmouth City Council
Purbeck District Council
Rother District Council
Rushmoor Borough Council
Sevenoaks District Council
Shepway District Council
Southampton City Council
Surrey Heath Borough Council
Test Valley Borough Council
Thanet District Council
Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council
Wealden District Council
West Berkshire Council
West Dorset District Council
Winchester City Council
Wokingham District Council
Worthing Borough Council

West Country

Bolsover District Council
Cornwall Council
East Devon District Council
Exeter City Council
Mid Devon District Council
North Devon District Council
North Somerset Council
Plymouth City Council
South Hams District Council
South Somerset District Council
Stroud District Council
Taunton Deane Borough Council
Teignbridge District Council
Torbay Council
Torridge District Council
West Devon Borough Council
Weymouth and Portland Borough Council

Border

Allerdale Borough Council
Carlisle City Council
Copeland Borough Council
Dumfries & Galloway District Council
Eden District Council
Scottish Borders Council
South Lakeland District Council

Grampian

Aberdeen City Council	Highland Council
Aberdeenshire Council	Moray District Council
Angus Council	Orkney Islands Council
Comhairle Nan Eilean Siar	Shetland Islands Council
Dundee City Council	

STV Central

Argyle And Bute Council	Midlothian Council
City Of Edinburgh District Council	North Ayrshire District Council
Clackmannashire Council	North Lanarkshire Council
East Ayrshire Council	Perth & Kinross Council
East Dunbartonshire Council	Renfrewshire Council
East Lothian Council	South Ayrshire Council
East Renfrewshire County Council	South Lanarkshire District Council
Falkirk Council	Stirling District Council
Fife Council	West Dunbartonshire District Council
Glasgow City Council	West Lothian Council
Inverclyde Council	

Ulster

Antrim Borough Council	Down District Council
Ards Borough Council	Dungannon & South Tyrone Borough Council
Armagh District Council	Fermanagh District Council
Ballymena Borough Council	Larne Borough Council
Ballymoney Borough Council	Limavady Borough Council
Banbridge District Council	Lisburn Borough Council
Belfast City Council	Magherafelt District Council
Carrickfergus Borough Council	Moyle District Council
Castlereigh Borough Council	Newry & Mourne District Council
Coleraine Borough Council	Newtownabbey Borough Council
Cookstown District Council	North Down Borough Council
Craigavon Borough Council	Omagh District Council
Derry City Council	Strabane District Council

Wales

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Bridgend County Borough Council
Caerphilly County Borough Council
Cardiff County Council
Carmarthenshire County Council
City and County of Swansea
Conwy County Borough Council
Denbighshire County Council
Flintshire County Council
Gwynedd Council
Isle of Anglesey County Council
Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council
Monmouthshire County Council
Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
Newport County Borough Council
Pembrokeshire County Council
Powys County Council
Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
Torfaen County Borough Council
Vale of Glamorgan Council
Wrexham County Borough Council

West

Bath and North East Somerset Council
Bristol City Council
Mendip District Council
Sedgemoor District Council
Swindon Borough Council
West Somerset District Council
Wiltshire Council

Tyne Tees and Border

Allerdale Borough Council
Carlisle City Council
City of Sunderland
Copeland Borough Council
Darlington Borough Council
Dumfries & Galloway District Council
Durham County Council
East Riding of Yorkshire Council
Eden District Council
Gateshead Metropolitan Borough Council
Hambleton District Council
Hartlepool Borough Council
Middlesbrough Council
Scottish Borders Council
South Lakeland District Council
Newcastle City Council
North Tyneside Council
Northumberland County Council
Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council
Richmondshire District Council
Scarborough Borough Council
South Tyneside Metropolitan Borough Council
Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

6.1.2 Campaign Regions

GADAL North East	
Allerdale Borough Council	Leeds City Council
Carlisle City Council	Middlesbrough Council
City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council	Newcastle City Council
City of Sunderland	North Tyneside Council
City of Wakefield Metropolitan District Council	Northumberland County Council
City of York Council	Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council
Copeland Borough Council	Richmondshire District Council
Craven District Council	Ryedale District Council
Darlington Borough Council	Scarborough Borough Council
Durham County Council	Sedgefield Borough Council
Eden District Council	Selby District Council
Gateshead Metropolitan Borough Council	South Tyneside Metropolitan Borough Council
Hambleton District Council	Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
Harrogate Borough Council	Wansbeck District Council
Hartlepool Borough Council	Wear Valley District Council

GADAL North West	
Barrow-in-Furness Borough Council	Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council
Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council	Pendle Borough Council
Blackpool Borough Council	Preston City Council
Bolton Metropolitan Borough Council	Ribble Valley Borough Council
Burnley Borough Council	Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council
Bury Metropolitan Borough Council	Rossendale Borough Council
Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council	Salford City Council
Cheshire East Council	Sefton Council
Cheshire West and Chester Council	South Ribble Borough Council
Chorley Borough Council	St Helens Metropolitan Borough Council
Fylde Borough Council	Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council
Halton Borough Council	Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council
High Peak Borough Council	Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council
Hyndburn Borough Council	Warrington Borough Council
Kirklees Council	West Lancashire District Council
Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council	Wigan Council
Lancaster City Council	Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council
Liverpool City Council	Wyre Borough Council
Manchester City Council	

GADAL Wales

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council	Isle of Anglesey County Council
Bridgend County Borough Council	Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council
Caerphilly County Borough Council	Monmouthshire County Council
Cardiff County Council	Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
Carmarthenshire County Council	Newport County Borough Council
Ceredigion County Council	Pembrokeshire County Council
City and County of Swansea	Powys County Council
Conwy County Borough Council	Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
Denbighshire County Council	Torfaen County Borough Council
Flintshire County Council	Vale of Glamorgan Council
Gwynedd Council	Wrexham County Borough Council

GADAL Northern Ireland

Antrim Borough Council	Down District Council
Ards Borough Council	Dungannon & South Tyrone Borough Council
Armagh District Council	Fermanagh District Council
Ballymena Borough Council	Larne Borough Council
Ballymoney Borough Council	Limavady Borough Council
Banbridge District Council	Lisburn Borough Council
Belfast City Council	Magherafelt District Council
Carrickfergus Borough Council	Moyle District Council
Castlereigh Borough Council	Newry & Mourne District Council
Coleraine Borough Council	Newtownabbey Borough Council
Cookstown District Council	North Down Borough Council
Craigavon Borough Council	Omagh District Council
Derry City Council	Strabane District Council

6.2 Appendix B: Questionnaire and Covering Letters / email

6.2.1 Questionnaire

GfK NOP

DogsTrust

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

Annual Stray Dog Survey 2011

This survey involves all local authorities in the UK. **Individual councils' figures will NOT be made publicly available.**

The results of this survey do benefit individual authorities, as these are used by Dogs Trust to identify where to spend our funds. **In 2010 Dogs Trust invested over £3m in local campaigns aimed at reducing the number of strays. In 2011 we are increasing our support to ALL local authorities – especially through the provision of free or low cost microchips**. So we would be extremely grateful if you would complete the survey, even if you don't consider your area to have a major stray dog problem.

The survey is being carried out on our behalf by GfK NOP, and all individual councils' information remains confidential to GfK NOP unless the respondent is happy for it to be made available to Dogs Trust. You can either return this questionnaire to GfK NOP in the enclosed reply paid envelope or complete it online at **http://www.surveys.com/dogstrust.**

If you would prefer this survey to be handled by your Freedom of Information Department, we would be very grateful if you could redirect this questionnaire to them. Or if you are not the appropriate person to complete the questionnaire, please pass it on to the relevant person.

Please enter figures in the spaces provided. Where you are unsure of specific figures please provide your best estimate.

Thank you in advance for your co-operation.

1 Name of Local Authority

County operate in

2 **During the period 1 April 2010 – 31 March 2011, how many dogs were:**

(If unsure of figures and you are providing an estimate, please tick here ☐)

Seized by the local authority as stray dogs

Brought in/surrendered by the general public

Brought in by the police

Brought in by other means *(please specify)*

Already in local authority kennels on 1 April 2010

Seized by the local authority or brought in by the police or general public under or in response to the Dangerous Dogs Act / Order

TOTAL

3 **From 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011, how many dogs taken in were:**

- Reclaimed during the statutory local authority kennelling period
- Returned directly to the owner without kennelling
- Rehomed by the local authority
- Passed on to a welfare organisation or dog kennel for possible rehoming after the statutory period
- Put to sleep
- Still in local authority kennels at 31st March 2011
- Other *(please specify)*

TOTAL

4 **Of the dogs put to sleep, how many were:**

- Put to sleep due to ill health
- Put to sleep due to behavioural problems / aggression
- Put to sleep under the Dangerous Dogs Act / Order

TOTAL

5 **Of the dogs that were returned to their owners, how many were returned as a result of:**

- Dog having a microchip
- Dog wearing an identification disc
- Dog having both an identification disc and a microchip
- Owner contacting the local authority / pound direct
- Dog already known to warden
- Other *(please specify)*

TOTAL

6 **Is your dog warden:** *(please tick one)*

Employed by the local authority ☐ Contracted out ☐

7 **Who out of the following handles your strays?** *(please tick all that apply)*

Council owned pound ☐ Welfare Charity kennels ☐

Private Boarding kennels ☐ Other *(please specify)* ☐

8 **a) What hours does your dog warden service work?** *(tick all that apply)*

Working hours, Mon-Fri ☐ On call out of working hours, Mon-Fri ☐

Working hours, Sat-Sun ☐ On call out of working hours, Sat-Sun ☐

Other

b) What provision has your area got in place for out of hours service?

Permanent ☐ Acceptance point ☐ Nothing ☐

Other

9 **a) In the last 12 months, have staff numbers in your dog warden service:**

Decreased ☐ Increased ☐ Stayed the same ☐

b) In the next 12 months, do you expect staff numbers in your dog warden service to:

Decrease ☐ Increase ☐ Stay the same ☐

10 **The media often refers to 'status dogs' as those whose looks or breed type are thought to convey a particular impression of their owner - such as Bull breeds, Rottweilers, Akitas or Crosses of these. With this in mind, please answer the following (estimates are acceptable):**

a) How many 'status dogs' have you handled in the last year

b) Of the status dogs you have handled in the last year, how many had to be put to sleep due to aggression

Respondent Details:
This section is for analysis purposes only and any information given will remain anonymous and strictly confidential unless we specifically have your permission.

If you do **NOT** wish to be contacted by Dogs Trust, please tick here ☐

Your name:

Your job title:

Your telephone number:

Name of dog warden *(if applicable)*:

Individual local authority figures will NOT be made publicly available: however Dogs Trust uses individual authority statistics to identify where future funds should be invested.

If you do **NOT** want Dogs Trust to see or use your figures or funds' allocation purposes, please tick here ☐

Dogs Trust greatly value your help, and would like to thank you for taking part in this survey.

Please return your questionnaire to GfK NOP in the enclosed reply-paid envelope or complete it online at **http://www.surveys.com/dogstrust**

GfK NOP 452606 03/11 LS v1.02

6.2.2 Covering letters to those who responded to the survey in 2010 & Email invitation text for all those who gave an email address

<<Respondent Name>>
<<Job Title>>
<<Local Authority>>
<<Add1>>
<<Add2>>
<<Add3>>
<<Add4>>
<<Postcode>>

Our reference <<SN>>

<<Date>>

Dear <<Respondent name>>

Re: Annual Dogs Trust Stray Dogs Survey 2011

Thank you so much for completing last year's survey on stray dogs and helping to create the most complete picture of the stray and abandoned dog situation in the UK.

I am writing to ask you, once again, for your invaluable help.

In the next few days you will receive a request to complete the 2011 survey from GfK NOP, either via e mail or through the post. I would be extremely grateful if you could respond again this year. A summary report will of course be sent out to everyone who responds.

As always, this survey involves all local authorities in the UK and individual local authority figures will NOT be made publicly available. The results will however be used by Dogs Trust to raise public awareness of the stray dog situation and, as mentioned before, form the basis of our funding allocations.

In 2010 Dogs Trust invested over £3m in local campaigns aimed at reducing the number of strays. In 2011 we are increasing our support to ALL local authorities – especially through the provision of free or low cost microchips. So we would be extremely grateful if you would complete the survey, even if you don't consider your area to have a major stray dog problem.

Thank you, in advance, for your co-operation. Together, I hope we can continue to build a better future for dogs.

Yours sincerely

Clarissa Baldwin OBE

GfK NOP

Chief Executive Dogs Trust
<<Respondent Name>>
<<Job Title>>
<<Local Authority>>
<<Add1>>
<<Add2>>
<<Add3>>
<<Add4>>
<<Postcode>>

Our reference <<SN>>
<<Date>>

Dear Respondent name

RE: Dogs Trust Annual Stray Dogs Survey 2011

Thank you for completing last year's survey on stray and abandoned dogs taken in by local authorities throughout the UK. We are writing to ask you, once again, for your help.

We would be extremely grateful if you could complete and return the enclosed survey, in the reply paid envelope provided.

If you prefer, you can fill the questionnaire in online at: http://www.surveys.com/dogstrust (entering your log-in [<<SN>>]). Or you could email or fax the questionnaire back to Elisabeth Brickell – Research Executive at GfK NOP – straydogssurvey@gfk.com / 0207 890 9589.

However you choose to return the questionnaire, please do so by Friday 17th June 2011.

Your response will help to give the most complete national picture of the stray dog situation in the UK. The findings of the survey enable us to raise public awareness of the stray dog issue and will form the basis of our regional funding allocations.

In 2010 Dogs Trust invested over £3m in local campaigns aimed at reducing the number of strays. In 2011 we are increasing our support to ALL local authorities – especially through the provision of free or low cost microchips. So we would be extremely grateful if you would complete the survey, even if you don't consider your area to have a major stray dog problem.

The survey is being carried out in conjunction with GfK NOP, a leading market research company. All individual respondent details remain confidential to GfK NOP unless you give permission otherwise.

Also, to thank you for your assistance, a summary report of the survey will be sent out to everyone who responds.

As this type of information is available under the Freedom of Information Act, if you would prefer this survey to be handled by your Freedom of Information Department; we would be very grateful if you could redirect this questionnaire to them. If you are not the appropriate person to complete this questionnaire, please pass it to a relevant colleague in your department.

Thank you, in advance, for your co-operation. Together, I know we can continue to build a better future for dogs.

Yours sincerely

Clarissa Baldwin OBE
Chief Executive Dogs Trust

Elisabeth Brickell
Research Executive GfK NOP

Email Invitation Text

Dear <<Respondent Name>>

Dogs Trust Annual Stray Dogs Survey 2011

I am writing to you to ask for your help. As you are no doubt aware, Dogs Trust conducts an annual survey on stray and abandoned dogs taken in by local authorities throughout the UK.

We would be extremely grateful if you could complete this online questionnaire about the number of stray dogs in your authority.

Your response is invaluable as it will help provide the most complete picture of the stray dog situation in the UK. The findings of this survey enable us to raise public awareness of the stray dog issue and form the basis of our regional funding allocations.

The survey is being carried out in conjunction with GfK NOP, a leading market research company. All respondent details remain confidential to GfK NOP unless you give permission otherwise.

To access the short survey please click once on the link below and enter your unique log-in [<<SN>>].

http://www.surveys.com/dogstrust

Don't worry if you can't complete all of the questions in one go. To access the survey again simply click on the link above and you will pick up where you left off.

If you would prefer to receive a paper version of this survey so that you can post, e mail or fax your responses back, please contact Elisabeth Brickell – GfK NOP's Research Executive – on elisabeth.brickell@gfk.com

Elisabeth is also available to answer any queries or questions that you have regarding this survey.

We would be very grateful if you could take the time to complete the survey within the next few days.

To thank you for your assistance, a summary report of the survey will be sent out to everyone who responds.

Thank you, in advance, for your co-operation. Together, I know we can continue to build a better future for dogs.

Yours sincerely,
Clarissa Baldwin OBE
Chief Executive
Dogs Trust