



**Brighton & Hove Citizens' Panel,
New Dog Control Order Survey, March 2008
Drat headline report**

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1. Methodology

20 questions relating to the New Dog Control Order were included in the March 2008 Xchange questionnaire that was sent to 1,262 members of Xchange, Brighton & Hove's Citizens' Panel. Approximately, 950 panel members were sent a self completion postal questionnaire and 312 sent a link to an e-version of the same questionnaire.

2. Response Rate

823 completed questionnaires were returned, representing a response rate of 65%. The response rate is higher than that of the previous two Xchange questionnaires. 105 responses (13%) were from dog owner.

3 Results

These results represent the views of the 823 respondents who completed their questionnaire. All responses have also been analysed by respondents:

- Age
- Gender
- Ethnicity
- LLTI
- Dog ownership
- Area analysis when appropriate to the individual question

If there are significant differences in responses to individual questions by any of the above variables, reference will be made in this report. Where no reference is made the reader can assume that there are no significant differences to the overall response.

3.1 Animal Welfare Team Priorities

From a given list of responsibilities, respondents were asked to pick the three that they thought the Animal Welfare Team should priorities.

From fig 3.1 below, clearly, for more than two thirds of respondents, the priority responsibilities for the Animal Welfare Team are 'enforcing rules on dog fouling' (72%) and 'intervening in animal cruelty and animal welfare' (69%).

Fig 3.1: Animal Welfare Team priorities	Responses (n)	Percentage of respondents (%)
Enforcing rules on dog fouling	592	72
Intervening in animal cruelty and animal welfare	564	69
Enforcing the keeping of dogs on leads	270	36
Investigating dog attacks or incidents	253	31
Licensing of animal establishments	238	29
Enforcing no dog areas	214	26
Animal welfare education	173	21
Picking up stray dogs	127	15
Other	31	4

Base: All respondents who selected three or fewer priorities (777)

3.1.1 Dog owners

Only one in ten dog owning respondent (10%) thought that 'enforcing dog no dog areas' should be a priority for the Animal Welfare Team, compared to 29% of non dog owning respondents.

More than two out of five dog owning respondents (44%) thought 'licensing of animal establishments' should be a priority compared to only 27% of none dog owning respondents.

3.1.2 Respondents age

Nearly a half of respondents (47%) aged over 65 thought that 'enforcing keeping dogs on leads' should be an Animal Welfare Team priority, compared to only 29% of respondents aged under 65.

3.2 Dog related problems

Respondents were asked how much of a problem the following dog related issues were in their local area.

Fig 3.2	A very big or fairly big problem (%)	Not a very big problem or not a problem at all (%)	Base (n)
Dog fouling	57	43	815
Too few dog fouling bins	52	48	664
Dogs not been kept on leads	15	85	807

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Noise from dog	7	93	809
Stray dogs	2	98	728

Base: All respondents who answered the individual questions, excluding those saying 'don't know'

From fig 3.2 above, nearly three out of five respondents (57%) think 'dog fouling is a problem in their local area. More than a half of all respondents (52%) also think that there is 'not enough dog fouling bins in their local area'.

3.2.1 Dog owners

Two thirds of dog owning respondents (66%) think 'too few dog fouling bins' are a very big or fairly big problem in their local area.

3.3 Dogs on local beaches

Respondents were asked which of four scenarios relating to dogs having access to the city's beaches they preferred.

Fig 3.3: Thinking about Brighton & Hove's beaches, do you think that dogs should be	Responses (n)	Percentage of respondents (%)
allowed on all beaches throughout the whole year	55	7
allowed only on designated beaches at all times of the year	243	30
allowed on all beaches during the winter and only allowed on designated beaches during the summer	343	42
excluded from all beaches throughout the whole year	173	21

Base: All respondents who answered the question (814)

Opinion on when and where dogs should be allowed on beaches and when and where they should not is divided. However, more than nine out of ten respondents (93%) think that there should be some restrictions; either dogs being excluded from some beaches or some restrictions during the summer months.

- Nearly a third of respondents (30%) thought that dogs should only be allowed only on designated beaches throughout the year.
- Nearly three quarter of respondents (72%) thought that dogs should be allowed only on designated beaches during the summer.
- Nearly a half of all respondents (49%) thought that dogs should be allowed on all beaches during the winter.

- More than nine out of ten respondents (93%) thought that dogs should not be allowed on some designated beaches during the summer.
- Less than one in ten respondents (7%) think that dogs should be allowed on all beaches throughout the whole year and only a fifth (21%) think that dogs should be excluded from all beaches throughout the year.

From the bullet points above, some mix of designated beaches and summer restrictions is preferable to the majority of respondents.

3.3.1 Dog owners

Statistically similar to non dog owning respondents, only one in ten (10%) of dog owning respondents thought that dogs should be 'allowed on all beaches throughout the whole year'

Nearly a quarter of non dog owning respondents (23%) thought that dogs should be 'excluded from all beaches throughout the whole year, compared to only 10% of dog owners.

3.4 Dog restrictions

From a given list of different city land marks and areas, respondent were asked if they thought dogs should be excluded from them, even when on a lead.

Fig 3.4.1: Should dogs be excluded	Yes (%)	No (%)	Base (n)
Children's play areas	87	13	809
School playing fields	83	17	806
The Old Steine war memorial	58	42	769
The Pavilion gardens	51	49	776
Council Cemeteries	47	53	767
Hove Lawns	42	58	776
Small historic squares	38	62	763

Base: respondents who answered the individual questions

From fig 3.4 above,

- More than four out of five respondents think that dogs, even when on leads, should be excluded from 'children's play areas' (87%) and 'school playing fields' (83%)

- Less than two in five respondents (38%) think that dogs, even when on a lead should be excluded from 'small historic squares' such as Brunswick Square and Norfolk Square.
- For the other areas 'the Old Steine War memorial', 'Pavilion Gardens', 'council cemeteries' and 'Hove Lawns' opinion is divided.

3.4.1 Dog owners

Two out of five non dog owning respondents (41%) thought that dog should be excluded from small historic squares, compared to only 23% of dog owners.

Over a half of non dog owning respondents (54%), thought that dogs should be excluded from the Pavilion Gardens, compared to only a third of dog owning respondents (33%).

Nearly a half of non dog owning respondents (46%) thought that dog should be excluded from Hove Lawns, compared to less than a fifth of dog owners (18%).

3.4.2 Respondents age

For small historic squares, the Pavilion Gardens, the Old Steine War Memorial, council cemeteries and Hove Lawns. The proportion responding that dogs should be excluded increase with age. This is most marked for The Old Steine War Memorial, where 77% of respondents over 65 think dogs should be excluded compared to 53% of respondents under 65.

3.4.3 More than four out of five respondents (87%) either strongly agree or slightly agree that when on the streets and roads of Brighton & Hove dogs should be kept on a lead at all times. Only 5% of respondents disagree.

3.4.4 One in five respondents (20%) strongly agree or slightly agree that they had been prevented from going about their normal every day activities due to the irresponsible behaviour of dog owners. Nearly two third of respondents disagree (63%).

3.5 On the spot fines

More than two thirds of respondents (71%) strongly agree or slightly agree that on the spot fines should be introduced for those responsible for dogs that disobey any new laws that are introduced. Only 10% of respondents disagree.

Central government guidelines suggest that on the spot fines for disobeying new dog

controls should be set at £80. More than a half of all respondents (57%) thought that this sum was 'about right' with over a third of respondents (38%) thinking it was 'too high' and 7% thinking it was 'too low'.

3.5.1 Dog owners

Over a half of dog owning respondents (52%) agree that on the spot fines should be introduced for those responsible for dogs that disobey any new laws that are introduced. However, this rises to nearly three quarters of non dog owning respondents (74%).