

# Bayside Domestic Animal Management Plan

Community research  
summary report

January 2022

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## Key findings

Bayside City Council is required under Victorian legislation to have a Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) and review it every four years. To develop the 2022-2026 DAMP and ensure it meets current community needs, a comprehensive research project was undertaken in October – November 2021.

Research was conducted via 31 in-depth interviews with stakeholders who expressed an interest in participating, and two separate surveys: a statistically valid representative survey covering randomly selected households (n=1,257), and an open access survey completed by those with an interest in the topic (n=897).

The key findings from the research were:

1. Most people say they have seen dog behaviours that go against animal management laws (mostly uncollected dog poo), however, seeing dog owners and dogs doing the right thing is just as widespread.
2. Over a third (38%) said they have seen cats trespassing, outside at night and/or preying on wildlife.
3. Over time, opinions as to why people don't pick up their dog's poo have remained relatively consistent: most dog owners say this is due to being distracted, the dog being out of sight, or not having a bag; whereas non-dog owners predominantly believe it's because dog owners don't care.
4. Dog owners want greater availability of poo bags and more frequent emptying of bins to help address the issue of uncollected dog poo, whereas non-dog owners feel there should be more fines and enforcement.
5. The divide between dog owners and non-dog owners is further illustrated by perceptions of the strictness of off-leash restrictions: dog owners often feel they are too strict (51%), while non-dog owners commonly think they are not strict enough (41%). Notably, there is some parity between dog owners and non-dog owners (39% and 36% respectively) on the balance of restrictions being *just right*.
6. There is no clear community preference regarding protecting the safety of dogs and people at off-leash sportsgrounds during organised sport: dog owners predominantly want existing rules to apply (on-lead within 20m), whereas non-dog owners have a stronger preference for no dogs at all during sport. Overall, each option registers a similar level of support (no dogs at all 45%, on-leash within 20m 44%).
7. More than half of the community support no off-leash dog access to bushland, heathland, conservation areas (65%) and/or Ricketts Point marine sanctuary (56%) to ensure sensitive environmental areas and native wildlife are protected from domestic animals. Although, this is less popular among dog owners (just under half support this).
8. There is minimal support for cat containment (33% overall, 17% cat owners) nor increasing the night-time curfew for cats (32% overall, 12% cat owners). Indeed, 17% of cat owners admit to letting their cats out at night at least monthly, and 40% let them out during the day weekly or more often. Those who let their cats out at night mostly know that the regulation says they shouldn't (67% of those who let their cat out at night monthly or more often are aware, and 88% of those who let their cat out at night sometimes are aware).
9. Awareness of Council regulations remains relatively stable over time, although there have been slight increases in awareness of the ability to register pets online, that dog owners need to carry poo bags when walking their dog, and the requirement that dogs and cats be registered.
10. The importance of service provisions is also similar in 2021 to 2017, with the top three being providing dog poo bags where people walk their dogs, providing registration and desexing discounts for pensioners, and posting photos of found pets online. Non-pet owners place particular importance on active surveillance and checking registration through patrols.
11. Patrol preferences are for weekends, at the beach when restrictions change, and the foreshore bay trail.
12. Of those who had contacted Council from 2018-21 for domestic animal management reasons other than registrations (mostly reporting a barking dog or dog off leash when it shouldn't be), over four in

ten were not satisfied with the outcome of their enquiry. This was mostly due to the issue not being resolved, late follow-up, or lack of enforcement of dog behaviour in public spaces.

13. Around a third of respondents said they had experienced a domestic animal management issue they hadn't reported, mostly relating to dogs being off-lead when they shouldn't / not being under effective control, uncollected dog poo, or cats roaming at night. The main barriers to reporting are a perception that Council can't / won't do anything about it or not having proof of who did it.
14. Fewer than one in ten representative respondents said they don't want any contact with dogs, while a quarter don't want any contact with cats. This has remained relatively constant when compared to 2017.
15. Findings suggest that during COVID-19 there may have been up to 8% of households who acquired a pet for the first time, and 19% who got a new pet but have had one before. COVID-19 also resulted in changes to dog walking behaviour among those who had dog beforehand, with 31% doing more walks per day and 25% walking at different times of the day. One in four of those who had changed their behaviour said they would continue with these new behaviours.
16. Respondents (8%) who got a pet for the first time during the pandemic had slightly lower levels of awareness of a range of domestic animal requirements, specifically the cat curfew, the need for cats to be desexed and registered, the need for dog owners to have effective control, and that uncollected dog poo can cause bacteria in the bay.
17. The majority of Bayside dog owners walk their dogs off-leash locally at least once a week. The most popular walking times are 4-7pm and 8-10am. The top three most commonly used locations for walking dogs off-lead are Dendy Park, Sandringham Beach and Sandringham Harbour. Location selection is driven by the size of the open space (large), being able to walk there from home, and other friendly dogs for socialisation.
18. Perceptions regarding the importance of pets remain consistent to 2017, with almost all pet owners agreeing that they are an important part of their life, and they contribute to improved exercise and mental health outcomes. Data also shows a slight increase in recognition that Council recognises the importance of pets (higher among the representative sample).
19. Most representative respondents self-report increases in mental and physical health during COVID due to having pets, and increases in feelings of safety at home and on walks due to pet ownership.

## Key recommendations

- Education and/or pamphlets for new pet owners (distributed with registration) explaining effective control and appropriate/responsible dog and cat ownership.
  - Those who have recently registered their first pet may need extra information to improve their knowledge of the environmental impacts of dog poo, what it means to have effective control, and cat regulations (need to be desexed, registered and kept inside at night).
- Encourage non-pet owners to see the positive behaviours of dog owners. To address tensions in the community, there is a need to foster greater understanding between pet and non-pet owners and encourage non-pet owners to see the positive behaviours of dog owners. Key issues to address through storytelling are:
  - Uncollected dog poo: there is a perception among non-pet owners that owners don't care, whereas it is far more likely to be due to forgetting bags or being distracted.
  - People not necessarily wanting to be approached by dogs. The widespread perception that "my dog is friendly" doesn't consider that not all people want to be approached by dogs – even dog owners.
  - Myths about dog poo – it's not a fertiliser; it's toxic and contaminates soil and water.
- Prohibit dog off-leash access to any bushland, heathland and/or conservation areas, including Ricketts Point
- With regards to the strictness of off-lead restrictions, it is recommended that these not be changed (as there is no consensus between dog owners, who often find them too strict, and non-dog owners who often perceive them to be not strict enough). Instead, the option of community education and/or dog training opportunities could be explored to increase adherence to effective control rules.
- There are clear opportunities for raising awareness of Council regulations and services, specifically:
  - Dogs and cats can be registered online.
  - Dog owner awareness of dogs not being allowed within 20m of playground, sporting game or public BBQ/seating area.
  - Key regulations communicated and reinforced through online registration process
- Knowledge of the cat night-time curfew may help curb the behaviour for many, however, most who let their cat out at night know they shouldn't. This suggests that further research may be necessary to understand why these people don't follow the regulations, so that an effective behaviour change program can be developed.
- Any transition to permanent cat containment (day and night) would be challenging as most cat owners let their cats outside at least monthly.
  - If this is on the horizon, a comprehensive long-term education campaign and infrastructure support would be needed to help cat owners transition their cat(s) to 24-hour containment.
- Educate dog owners on the process for and importance of reporting dogs being aggressive towards other dogs to Council.
- Audit and review dog restriction signage to ensure it is clearly visible and consistent, as located at multiple access points
- Introduce signage that goes beyond listing rules and restrictions and includes:
  - Examples of proper etiquette for the 'comfort of others', and reasons why this is important.
  - Definition of 'effective control', and why this is important.
- Explore use of digital resources, such as QR codes on signage or interactive maps, to enable owners to clearly see the dog leash regulations that apply to a particular location – this may be particularly useful at locations frequently by visitors to Bayside.
- Utilise further behavioural insights research to:
  - Find out what is underpinning people's negative behaviours relating to their pet's management; the various different reasons.

- Target messages/signage/communications/campaigns to educate and create understanding and empathy to encourage a change in people's behaviour.
- Develop programs to encourage registration of puppies before they are desexed
- Audit locations of dog waste bag dispensers to ensure appropriate placement in highly visible locations, such as near waste bins
  - Research which dispensers are most frequently empty to inform refilling schedule
  - Encourage dog owners to take only the dog waste bags they need so there are bags for other park users.
- Establish a 'found pets' program via Council communication channels
- Explore methods to encourage training of dogs, such as:
  - Database of qualified dog training providers
  - Provision of dog training discount vouchers
  - Registration discounts for dogs trained through approved/qualified provider
  - Development of short online training module on pet ownership/effective control/etiquette to be completed when registering a new pet.
- Trial development of etiquette standards at sports grounds with sports clubs and other users.
- Develop an annual education and communication program coinciding with Officer patrols at key times to raise awareness and compliance with seasonal issues such as:
  - Breeding season of native birds
  - Foreshore beach restriction changes during summer
  - Start of sport seasons on sports grounds
  - Annual pet registration period
  - Animal care during summer
  - Cat curfew times

## Introduction

### Research Purpose

Bayside City Council is required under Victorian legislation to have a Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) and review it every four years. To develop the 2022-2026 DAMP and ensure it meets current community needs, a comprehensive research project was undertaken in October – November 2021.

The 2021 research program was designed to complement information already known about the community from past research and explore previously raised and emerging issues in greater detail.

### Methodology

Research was conducted via two separate surveys and in-depth interviews. A survey was sent via post or email to 5,700 randomly selected representative households to ensure results can be used to accurately represent broad community views. An open version of the same survey was provided for all interested community members to share their ideas and experiences. Surveys have been colour coded throughout this report in line with the following tables (green for *representative survey*, and purple for *open access survey*).

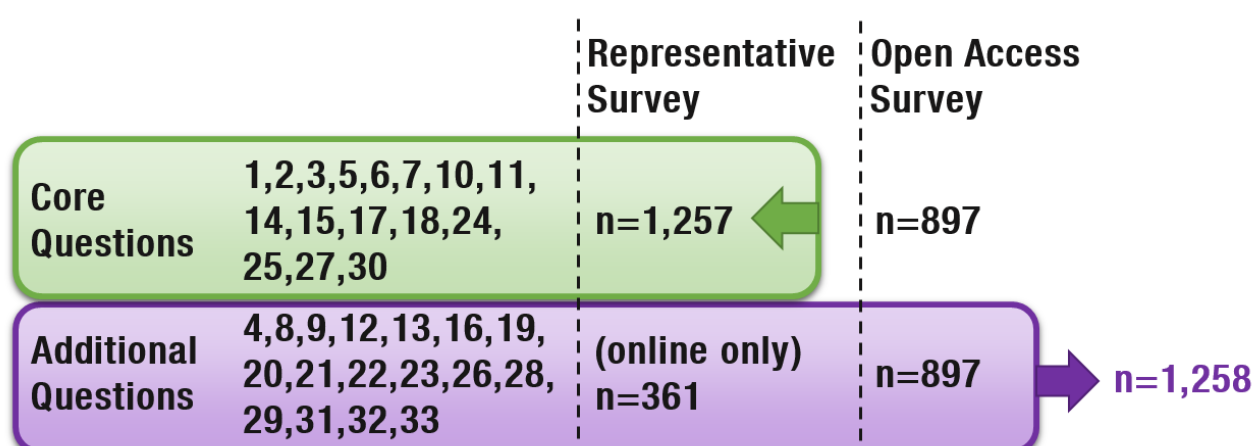
The 2021 research program also included a qualitative component consisting of 31 half-hour telephone in-depth interviews. The results of this component appear throughout the report as complementary commentary to the survey findings (where applicable) or topic area, supported by participant quotations.

Representative Community Survey	
<b>Total sample:</b>	n=1,257
<b>Dog/cat owner sample:</b>	n=559
<b>Non-pet owner sample:</b>	n=698
<b>Sampling method:</b>	Proportional sampling using the rates database. Households were randomly drawn to be representative of the broader community by suburb and pet ownership status (registered dog, registered cat, and no registered pets). This method aims to achieve a representative sample of pet and non-pet owners, and ensures coverage of all Bayside residents including renters and households with no landline telephones (mobiles only).
<b>Distribution method:</b>	Mail-out of paper survey with option to complete online.
<b>Additional questions</b>	Those who completed the survey online were provided with the option to complete additional questions and 361 respondents chose to do so. These responses have been included in the analysis for these additional questions (see diagram following).
<b>Survey error reduction strategies:</b>	Strategies were employed in the design of the mail-out material and the survey questions to maximise response rates from all community members, not just pet owners. These included direct prompts for non-pet owners in the cover letter / email invite, and starting the survey with neutral questions applicable to everyone. Survey forms were scanned to minimise the risk of human error in data entry.
<b>Notes on analysis:</b>	As response rates were higher among pet owners, results were weighted by suburb and pet ownership status (using Council registration database categorisation) to ensure findings are representative. Anonymity has been maintained throughout analysis. The survey data file has NOT been linked to the street address of respondents.

<b>How to interpret findings:</b>	The results from this component provide an overview of community knowledge, perceptions and experiences and can be interpreted as being more representative of a holistic community view than the open access survey results.
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Open access Survey	
<b>Total sample:</b>	n=897
<b>Dog/cat owner sample:</b>	n=689
<b>Non-pet owner sample:</b>	n=208
<b>Sampling method:</b>	Online with option to request a paper form.
<b>Distribution method:</b>	Widespread distribution through email lists, SMS (registered pet owners), social media, signage in 29 prominent locations around Bayside, and the Council website.
<b>Survey error reduction strategies:</b>	To try and encourage the widest possible scope of community members to participate, the survey tool was designed with introductory questions which covered a broad spectrum of community views (to reduce the incidence of people discontinuing because they feel it isn't relevant to them).
<b>Survey content:</b>	This survey included all questions from the representative survey, plus additional questions designed for key stakeholders who were invited to participate, specifically businesses and friends-of groups. It also included additional questions on specific topics of note (including those identified from past research), to collect ideas from the community about how these issues can be addressed.
<b>How to interpret findings:</b>	Given the targeted nature of distribution for this survey, findings cannot be interpreted as representing the whole Bayside community, but rather those with a particular interest in the topic. This has afforded the opportunity to collect considered feedback from those who are well versed on the issues.

As illustrated in the following diagram, there were two sets of questions, the first were core questions included on the paper (representative) and online (representative & open access) versions of the survey. There were also additional questions which were included in the open access survey, as well as offered as an option to the representative survey participants who were completing the survey online.



For the core questions we use the representative survey data as it provides us with a statistically valid understanding of the broader community situation. For the additional questions we combine the sample from the representative survey who chose to complete those questions and the open access survey data.

## Response rates

The **representative survey** achieved a 22% response rate (n=1,257), with a good spread across suburbs and a robust sample of both pet (n=559) and non-pet owners (n=698).

Representative survey	Database			Survey			Response rate
	Sent	Pets	No pets	Returned	Pets	No pets	
Beaumaris	691	37%	63%	184	47%	53%	27%
Black Rock	364	34%	66%	103	39%	61%	28%
Brighton	1419	30%	70%	308	43%	57%	22%
Brighton East	836	31%	69%	178	47%	53%	21%
Cheltenham	230	32%	68%	40	45%	55%	17%
Hampton	769	33%	67%	189	46%	54%	25%
Hampton East	315	25%	75%	49	43%	57%	16%
Highbury	454	30%	70%	74	47%	53%	16%
Sandringham	616	31%	69%	132	42%	58%	21%

A total of 897 responses were received through the **open access survey**. Detail of the distribution method can be found in the [Research evaluation](#) section of this report.

Open Access survey	N=	% sample
Resident with dog/s	620	69%
Resident with cat/s	173	19%
Non-resident / use parks	49	5%
Involved with sports team	146	16%
Friends-of group	98	11%
Dog-related business	11	1%

## Respondent profile

Typically, for non-quota social research conducted amongst the broader community, one will experience low instances of responses from males and younger people. Encouragingly, the strategies employed in the mail-out **representative survey** to try and achieve a more representative demographic profile were moderately successful, with 39% of the sample being male (typically around 25-30%) and 26% under 50 year olds.

However, it should be considered when interpreting findings that there is a notable gap in responses from those aged 18-24.

The **open access survey** did not aim to be demographically representative, however it did manage to reach a few more 18-24 year olds than the representative survey.

**Figure 1 - Demographics**

		Representative			Open Access	
		Count	%	Census %	Count	%
Gender	Male	485	39%	48%	253	28%
	Female	716	58%	52%	603	67%
	I'd prefer not to say	30	2%	-	38	4%
	Prefer to self-describe	4	0%	-	3	0%
Age	14-34	72	6%	22%	79	9%
	35-59	525	43%	45%	501	59%
	60+	624	51%	32%	275	32%

One in four (40%) respondents in the **representative survey** indicated that they have children (of any age) in their household, compared to 45.8% in the 2016 Census. The proportion of respondents in the open access survey who indicated they have a child (of any age) living at home (46%) was in line with the 2016 Census (46%).

It should be noted that 69% of the open access survey respondents are dog owners (compared to 68% in 2017), therefore this sample is heavily skewed towards this segment of the community.

In the open access survey, there were 53 respondents who indicated that they live outside of Bayside. The distribution of the resident sample shows an over-representation in Beaumaris and an underrepresentation in Brighton and Brighton East.

**Figure 2 – Location of respondents**

	Representative			Open Access	
	Count	%	Census %	Count	%
Beaumaris	184	15%	12%	134	15%
Black Rock	103	8%	6%	70	8%
Brighton	308	25%	25%	150	17%
Brighton East	178	14%	15%	87	10%
Cheltenham	40	3%	4%	55	6%
Hampton	189	15%	14%	135	15%
Hampton East	49	4%	6%	40	4%
Highett	74	6%	8%	67	7%
Sandringham	132	11%	11%	106	12%
Outside Bayside	-	-	-	53	6%

## In-depth interviews

Telephone in-depth interviews were conducted with 31 Bayside residents.

Participants were selected from 112 applicants to ensure broad representation across various stakeholder/interest groups, as well as a level of balance based on gender, age, pet ownership status, and suburb. These profile details are presented in the tables below.

All participant quotations were deidentified and tagged with a broad descriptor using the characteristics shown in the tables below. Characteristics are in the following format and appear next to participant quotations:

*“Quote...” (Gender, age range, pet ownership status, interest group belonged to, Bayside residential location)*

Quotations provided are exemplar comments that best sum up the overall sentiment, thought or perception about the subject matter addressed. Therefore, not all participants have been quoted, and some may have been quoted more than others.

Characteristic	n=	Characteristic	n=
Males	12	Pet community group	7
Females	19	Environment / friends group	6
<35 year old	-	Resident group	9
35-49 year old	10	Sportsground user / sports club	6
50-59 year old	11	Pet-related business	3
60-69 year old	10	<b>Southern suburbs</b> (Black Rock, Beaumaris, Cheltenham)	3
70+ year old		<b>Central suburbs</b> (Hampton, Hampton East, Sandringham, Highett)	18
Dog owner	18	<b>Northern suburbs</b> (Brighton, Brighton East)	10
Cat owner	4		
No pets	8		

## Notes on analysis

Dog and cat owners are referenced in this report based on self-classification through a survey question, rather than registration database categorisation.

In most instances, reporting of dog and/or cat owner data will be based on the representative sample, whereas at other times it will be based on the combined pet owner sample (includes open access data).

The primary reason why analysis will mainly focus on the representative sample is because it provides a better snapshot of the whole-of-community context and is statistically representative of the Bayside population due to the random sampling approach used in data collection.

The open access survey was not statistically representative due to its open sampling approach. However, the open access survey provided the opportunity for any community member to provide feedback, and offers insights into the perspectives of those with an interest in the topic. Where open access results are reported in addition to representative, this should only be considered background information and not an alternative interpretation of the results of the study. The representative survey is the deciding reference where both results are presented.

The choice of data source is clearly identified and explained proceeding each item of analysis and is based on whether it is more meaningful to understand pet owner behaviour within the broader community context (representative data) or whether the aim is to find out behaviours and experiences specific to pet owners (combined pet owner data).

Where possible, comparisons have been made to the 2017 Bayside community survey on these topics.

Regional analysis for 2021 is defined as follows:

		<b>Representative survey n=</b>	<b>Open access survey n=</b>
	<b>Suburbs</b>		
<b>Southern</b>	Black Rock, Beaumaris, Cheltenham)	327	259
<b>Central</b>	Hampton, Hampton East, Sandringham, Highett	444	348
<b>Northern</b>	Brighton, Brighton East	486	237
<b>Total n=</b>		1,257	844

The numbering within this document has been aligned to the questionnaire in [Appendix 1](#).

## Research findings

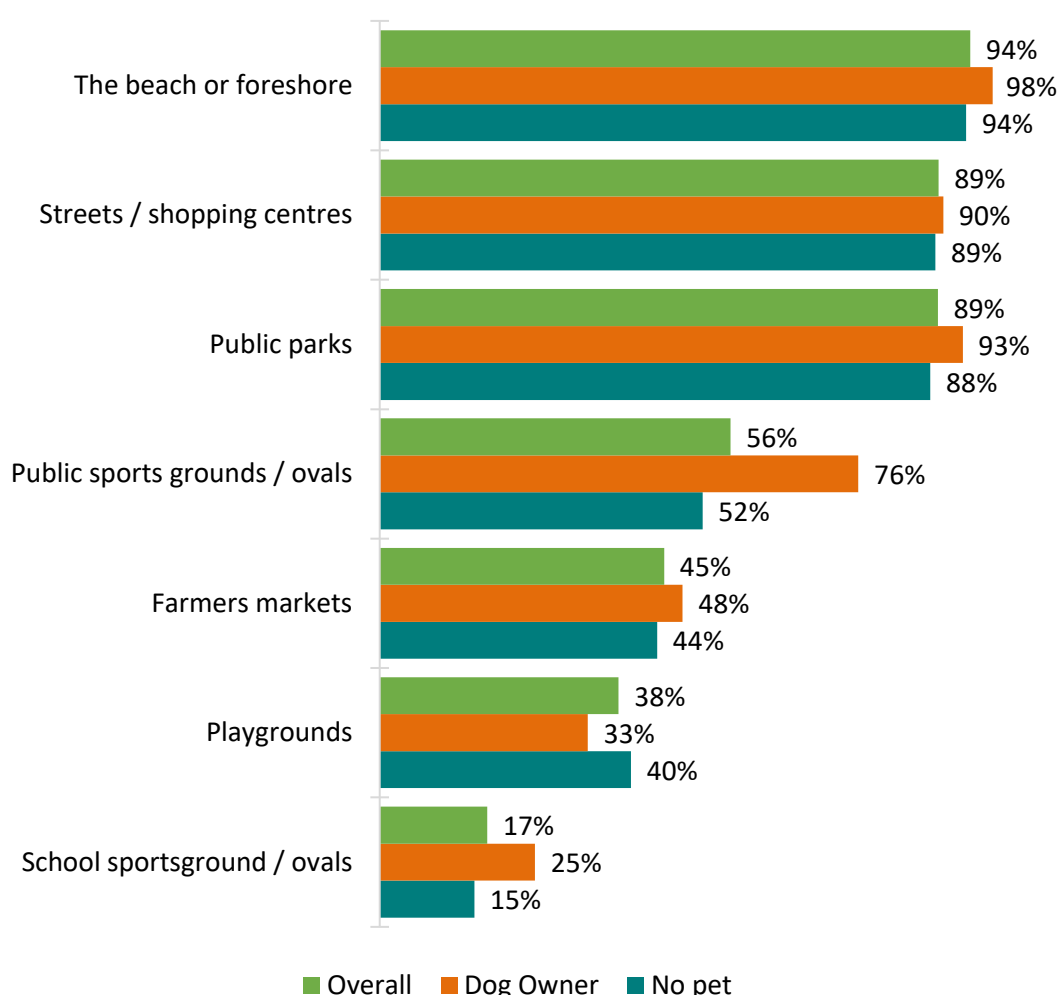
### Outdoor spaces

#### Visitation

Question	Data source	Sample	Notes
Q1. Which of the following outdoor spaces in Bayside, if any, do you like to visit?	Representative survey (weighted data)	Representative 2021 (n=1,253)	Introductory question. Multiple answers allowed per respondent. To be used for cross tabulations where relevant.

A greater proportion of those who own a dog indicated that they visit outdoor public sports grounds/ovals and school sportsgrounds/ovals in Bayside than those who don't own a dog.

**Figure 3 - Visitation to outdoor spaces in Bayside (Representative survey)**



When analysing the representative data by region, visitation to school sports grounds/ovals is greater overall in the southern region (64%, compared to 56% average) and visitation to farmers markets is lower in Northern and Southern regions (42% and 43% respectively) compared to the central region (51%).

#### Open Access survey results

Results for the open access survey were similar to the representative survey with slight preference order changes (Refer to the table below). The beach or foreshore were the most popular places visited in both

samples, although open access survey participants more commonly said they visit public parks and/or sportsgrounds, which is unsurprising considering the majority were dog owners.

**Figure 4 - Open Access findings - visitation to outdoor spaces in Bayside**

Outdoor spaces	% Total (n=897)
The beach or foreshore	96%
Public parks	95%
Streets / shopping centres	89%
Public sports grounds / ovals	76%
Farmers markets	58%
Playgrounds	36%
School sportsground / ovals	25%
Other	3%

### Positive and negative animal behaviours

Question	Data source	Sample	Notes
Q2. In the last year, have you noticed any of the following when out and about in the Bayside area?	Representative survey (weighted data)	2021 (n=1,251) 2017 (n=796)	Since the 2011 survey this question sought to contextualise the range of grievances identified from complaints received by Council, alongside the benefits of dogs, whilst ensuring all respondents felt included in the survey scope.

Respondents were presented with a list of both positive and negative potential experiences regarding pets in public spaces and asked which they had observed within the last year. Most members of the community are noticing people doing the right thing, but an equal proportion also observe others doing the wrong thing.

<b>89%</b>	<b>88%</b>
Negative (Dog related)	Positive (Dog related)
Dog poo that hasn't been picked up by dog owners	Dog owners who pick up their dogs poo
Dogs off-leash when they shouldn't be	Dogs in public spaces who are friendly and well behaved
Groups of dog owners socialising while their dogs play unsupervised	Dog owners who have their dogs on leash when they are meant to
Dogs in off-leash areas who won't return to their owner when called	Dogs happily playing under supervision
Dogs annoying or intimidating other dogs	Off-leash dogs who return to their owner when called
Dogs in off-leash areas who won't return to their owner when called	
Dogs annoying or intimidating people	
Dogs running from parks onto the road	

Off-leash dogs in childrens' playgrounds

Dogs running through or too close to sporting events

Sportsground grass damaged by dogs digging

Dogs or cats in conservation zones (heathland, marine sanctuary)

**The key findings were:**

- The vast majority of respondents (88%) indicated they had seen positive dog / dog owner behaviour in the year prior – an eight-point decrease from 96% in 2017. A similar proportion (89%) indicated seeing negative dog / dog owner behaviours – up slightly from 84% in 2017.
- COVID-19 may have influenced noticing negative behaviours as (reported later) there was an increase in pet ownership during this time, indicating an influx of new/inexperienced owners. Participants in the in-depth interviews observed that increased poor behaviour was likely due to inexperience or new owners not knowing the rules. The increase in experiencing negative dog behaviours may also be due to there being additional answer options in the survey.
- Over one third (38%) report having seen cat behaviours that do not align to regulations: cats on streets / in yards at night, cats preying on wildlife, and/or trespassing or wandering cats.
- Households with dogs showed higher incidences of noticing:
  - Dog owners who pick up their dogs poo (88%, 69% no pets)
  - Dogs happily playing under supervision (85%, 56% no pets)
  - Dog owners who have their dogs on leash when they are meant to (86%, 66% no pets)
  - Dogs in public spaces who are friendly and well behaved (89%, 64% no pets)
  - Off-leash dogs who return to their owner when called (77%, 45% no pets)
  - Sportsground grass damaged by dogs digging (17%, 11% no pets).

These findings highlight an opportunity to encourage non-pet owners to see the positive behaviours of dog owners. Results were similar to 2017.

- Households without dogs showed higher incidences of noticing:
  - Dogs annoying or intimidating people (33%, 15% dog owners)
  - Dogs off-leash when they shouldn't be (59%, 49% dog owners)
  - Dogs in childrens' playgrounds (24%, 15% dog owners)
  - Dogs or cats in conservation zones (heathland, marine sanctuary) (7%, 3% dog owners).

These findings show that there are several shared public space usage challenges where non-dog owners tend to notice problem behaviours more than dog owners.

There are also a range of regional variations in the incidence of noticing specific behaviours:

**Northern:**

- Higher incidence of seeing dog poo that hasn't been picked up by dog owners – 88%
- Higher incidence of seeing people walking more than 4 dogs at a time – 22%.

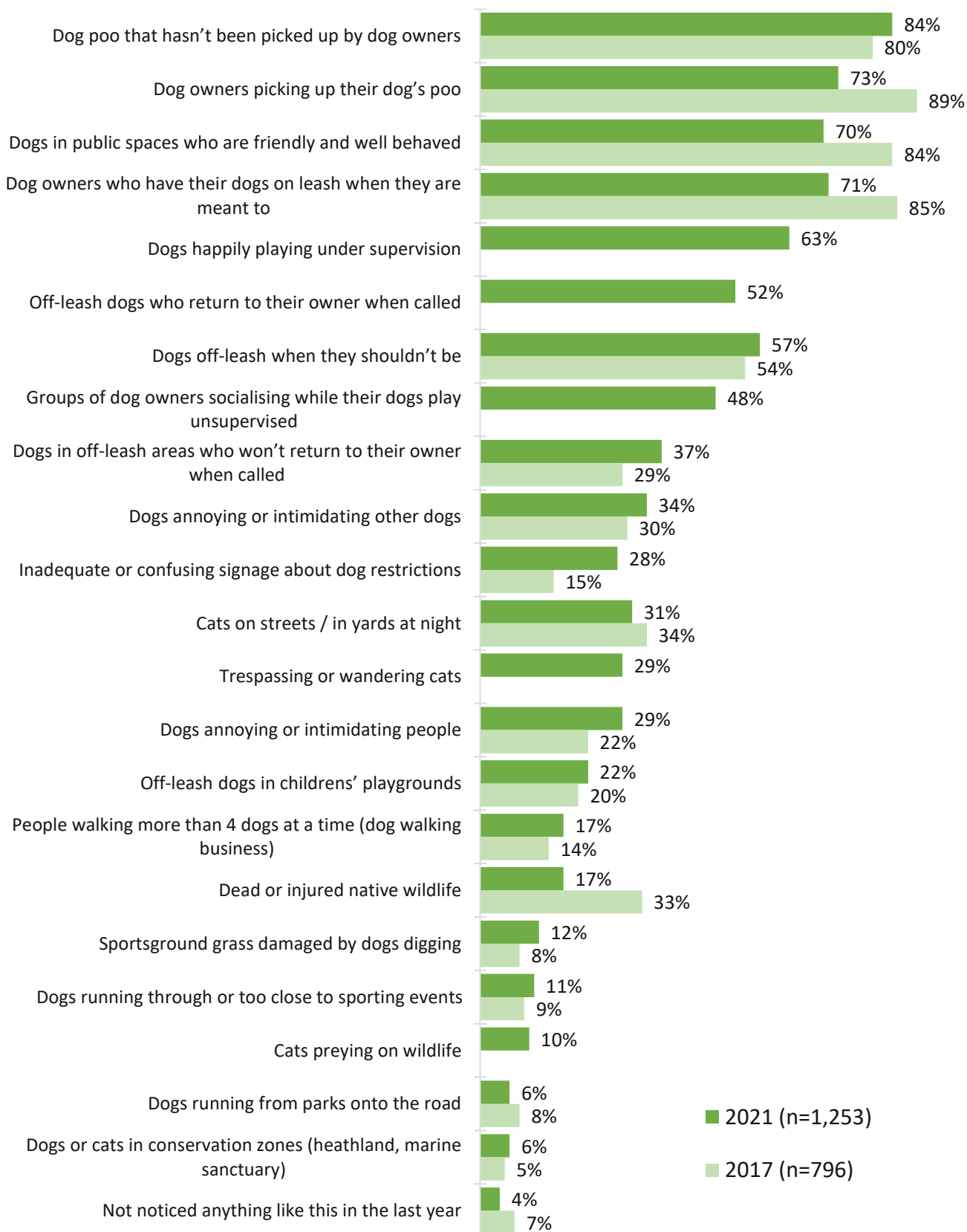
**Central:**

- Higher instance of seeing cats on streets/in yards at night-time – 35%.

**Southern:**

- Higher instance of observing dogs or cats in conservation zones – 10%.

**Figure 5 - Behaviours of owners, dogs and cats observed (positive & negative)**



### Open Access survey results

Those who completed the open access survey more commonly reported seeing the positive animal management behaviours (highlighted in purple in the following table, net 92%). This is illustrative of the

difference in the samples, with the open access participants more commonly being dog owners and having an interest in the topic (and therefore not broadly representative of the whole community).

**Figure 6 – Open Access findings – behavioural observations**

	<b>Representative (n=1,253)</b>	<b>Open Access (n=897)</b>
Dog owners picking up their dog's poo	73%	81%
Dogs in public spaces who are friendly and well behaved	70%	81%
Dog owners who have their dogs on leash when they are meant to	71%	78%
Dogs happily playing under supervision	63%	78%
Dog poo that hasn't been picked up by dog owners	84%	77%
Off-leash dogs who return to their owner when called	52%	70%
Dogs off-leash when they shouldn't be	57%	58%
Groups of dog owners socialising while their dogs play unsupervised	48%	50%
Dogs in off-leash areas who won't return to their owner when called	37%	43%
Dogs annoying or intimidating other dogs	34%	37%
Inadequate or confusing signage about dog restrictions	28%	36%
Cats on streets / in yards at night	31%	33%
Trespassing or wandering cats	29%	30%
Dogs annoying or intimidating people	29%	27%
Off-leash dogs in childrens' playgrounds	22%	22%
People walking more than 4 dogs at a time (dog walking business)	17%	19%
Sportsground grass damaged by dogs digging	12%	16%
Dead or injured native wildlife (eg. possums, ducks, water rats, birds)	17%	15%
Dogs running through or too close to sporting events	11%	14%
Cats preying on wildlife	10%	14%
Dogs running from parks onto the road	6%	9%
Dogs or cats in conservation zones (heathland, marine sanctuary)	6%	9%

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## In-depth interview feedback

Interviewees provided extensive feedback across a range of areas relating to the behaviours of dog owners and their dogs in public areas, with two categories explored:

- 1) Residential and shopping - front yard, back yard, streets, shops
- 2) Open areas - Parks, beaches, shared sports areas

The following feedback is a general overview, more detail is provided under relevant sections of this report.

### Residential and shopping - front yard, back yard, streets, shops

Overall, most participants said dogs and pets behaviour was very/fairly well controlled – generally good control

*“ [the control people have over their pets] In general, fairly good... I think if there is an issue, the issue is more based around people not knowing.” (Male,35-49 yrs, Pet-related business, Central suburb.)*

*“I think on the whole pretty well... on the whole I think people are pretty considerate, but there's just a few who are still continuing to walk their dogs off-leash under the assumption that their dogs under control, so they don't need to.” (Female,35-49 yrs, Dog owner, Cat owner, Pet community group, Resident group, Sportsground user/sports club, Central suburb.)*

However, incidences of off-leash dogs in urban on-leash areas are not uncommon

*“...dog owners [need to be educated to] understand that if there's an area that says dog on-leash, to have your dog on-leash, even if your dog is ... a nice friendly dog, he's okay [to be off-leash].” (Female,60-69 yrs, Cat owner, Resident group, Central suburb.)*

Participants perceived that, generally, Bayside residents had small dogs. They only saw small to midsize dogs with their owners around shops and cafes. This led many to reason that most offenders in open areas (parks, beaches, sportsgrounds etc) were from outside the Bayside area - not residents. Lockdown during COVID-19 and travel restrictions also indicated to some those main problems might be from non-residents because they observed less bad behaviour like dog poo not being picked up.

*“... at the beach, everything is amplified by about fifty [poor effective control] It's much worse at the beach because you get a lot of non-Bayside people there, a lot of bigger dogs which I don't believe are Bayside dogs. When you got down to local shops you see tons of caboodles all a little fluffy, fluffballs. [If you see] a rottweiler or a, you know, Rhodesian Ridgeback, they're not the types of dogs that people in the area have generally. Yeah, always exceptions to the rule, but generally speaking, I don't think Bayside people are big dog owners.” (Female,35-49 yrs, Non-pet owner, Southern suburb.)*

*“So I guess it's like any community you'll have outsiders who aren't doing the right thing. But I think in general, the majority of dog owners do the right thing and pick up after their dogs.” (Female,50-59 yrs, Dog owner, Cat owner, Central suburb.)*

*“During the lockdown, I suddenly noticed it [the beach] was a whole lot cleaner. And it's made me wonder if the people who live in Bayside see the foreshore as being a sense of community ownership and collective ownership and care. And maybe people who travel from outside that area into the area don't have that shared sense...” (Female,50-59 yrs,*

*Dog owner, Pet community group, Resident group, Sportsground user/sports club, Northern suburb.)*

*"...I'm now thinking about it. Like, I know the rules, because I've lived in this area for six years. But if you were to turn up at that park, I don't think it's too obvious" (Female, 35-49 yrs, Non-pet owner, Central suburb.)*

*"I think it's the dog beaches that we have the issue with people coming from out of area...I think they tend to be larger dogs,[with] owners that are less aware of obviously, regulations, but also maybe not quite so conscious of how their dogs are [behave] with other dogs" (Female, 35-49 yrs, Dog owner, Pet community group, Resident group, Central suburb.)*

The overall feeling was that most people do the right thing, but dog poo can often litter nature strips and footpaths. Even though there may be a relatively small proportion of people doing the wrong thing it can translate to a large number of incidences overall, noticed by and impacting on the general community.

*"[It's] very hard to eradicate that 1% of people who are leaving the poo on the ground. 99% pick it up really well. And it's just that 1%. You know, it's a little bit like criminals in society, it's hard to eliminate that 1%..." (Female, 50-59 yrs, Dog owner, Northern suburb.)*

*"What you do see a fair bit is dog poo on the footpath or nature strips and that sort of thing. So I'm not sure how that gets there without the owner seeing it. That might be from dogs who are off the lead, behind the owners walking and not noticing it. So that would probably be my only concern." (Female, 50-59 yrs, Dog owner, Cat owner, Central suburb.)*

Participants observe that offending owners that do not pick up after their pet were 'not aware' of dog litter. Many believe this can be deliberate or genuinely 'innocent' due to distraction.

*"There's, there's the ones who are running, who think that they shouldn't have to pick it up because they've got a small dog or that they're running and so they're too busy to do that. There's the males ... egotistical males who [don't bother]. And then there's the ones on the phone who actually would have picked it up but missed it because they're on the phone..." (Female, 50-59 yrs, Dog owner, Northern suburb.)*

Barking dogs left alone during the day or generally barking at night can be a persistent problem at times and may be a growing concern given an increase in overall pet ownership during COVID-19.

*"...we'd occasionally get somebody fixing the roof of a neighbouring house and they [dogs] just spend literally the entire day barking at them." (Male, 50-59 yrs, Non-pet owner, Central suburb.)*

*"I think one of the things that's going to be an issue for Council going forward is what happens when everybody goes back to work, and there are animals at home, particularly dogs who are bored and don't understand why their life has suddenly taken this terrible turn for the worse. And they might be barking more, they might be trying to escape more and other kinds of antisocial behaviours. And I think that's something that could well rebound on Council down the track." (Female, 60-69 yrs, Dog owner, Southern suburb.)*

## Open areas - Parks, beaches, shared/sports areas

While behaviour is “pretty good” in residential streets and around shops, the general consensus was that owner & pet behaviour is “a different story” in open areas.

There is some perception that owners seem oblivious to the comfort of others when their dog provides unwanted attention to others.

*“Behaviour is good ... Just about everywhere, except for parks...” (Female, 50-59 yrs, Dog owner, Northern suburb.)*

Poo pick-up is a ubiquitous ‘bug bear’ – often owners are ‘unaware’ due to socialising, on the phone, jogging, and/or not observing their dogs off lead. Generally, people are doing the right thing with their dogs but there are a few (a perceived minority) who aren’t.

*“We go to a couple of parks. And so we chat to a lot of the dog owners. I think the majority of them I’d say 90% are really good. I think sometimes you see people on their phones and that sort of thing. So they’re not really that aware of what their dogs doing. I know we really closely supervise our dog. And I believe that most pet owners do the same.” (Female, 50-59 yrs, Dog owner, Cat owner, Central suburb.)*

There is a general perception that Bayside residents know the rules, but outsiders don’t – lack of effective / prominent signage is a problem.

*“But the problem with Bayside is particularly this area where I go because it attracts people from other areas from other municipalities. Now whether they have similar rules or what, I don’t know, but they come from all over, particularly during summer. That’s where you need the signs [listing the rules].” (Male, 70+ yrs, Dog owner, Northern suburb.)*

Participants report that there are lots of off-lead offences in on-lead areas in parks and on beaches/foreshore car parks (before the beach off-lead areas).

*“...you’ll see people go through the gate with the dog on a leash and just let them off the lead once they’re inside having passed a sign saying, you know, this is a dog on leash area...” (Female, 70+ yrs, Cat owner, Environmental/friends group, Central suburb.)*

*“I remember playing soccer with, with my son ... and this dog, you know, guy came up excising his dog off the leash, ran up to us, I said to him, you know, this is a dogs on the leash part. He said, I’ve got a leash and held up the leash in his hand. And, you know, the dog was all over my son, my son was bawling.” (Male, 50-59 yrs, Non-pet owner, Central suburb.)*

*“... their dogs will be running down to the path to the beach, they have them off-leash before they get to the beach. They’re going quite fast, sometimes it’s been quite dangerous to me. I’m worried that they might run into me or knock me over. And that has happened once as well.” (Female, 60-69 yrs, Cat owner, Resident group, Central suburb.)*

There is a perception that the dominant attitude of pet owning ‘offenders’ is that their dog has “every right” to be there and “why would you come to a ‘dog beach/park’ if being approached by a dog is likely?”

*“I think that the problem is that dog owners do seem to have to think that they have a right to let the dogs run off leash.” (Female, 70+ yrs, Cat owner, Environmental/friends group, Central suburb.)*

*"... [dog owners need] education that even if they go to areas where it's dog off leash, to understand that they have to have complete control of their dog. They have to be able to visually sight their dog and other people also have the right to use the facilities and feel safe there. It's not a dog only park, it's a dog off-leash park!" (Female, 60-69 yrs, Cat owner, Resident group, Central suburb.)*

There is a general perception that offenders of all of the above are males with large dog breeds.

*"... And then there are other people who are just wilfully, you know, think that they're special, or think they're dogs are special, the rules don't apply to them. Probably, mainly men, I would say... [for example] I said to this guy, I said, you know, this is supposed to be a dog on the leash. And he said, like, who are you? Where are you from? You know, what's it to you? And, you know, he's really being quite aggressive" (Male, 50-59 yrs, Non-pet owner, Central suburb.)*

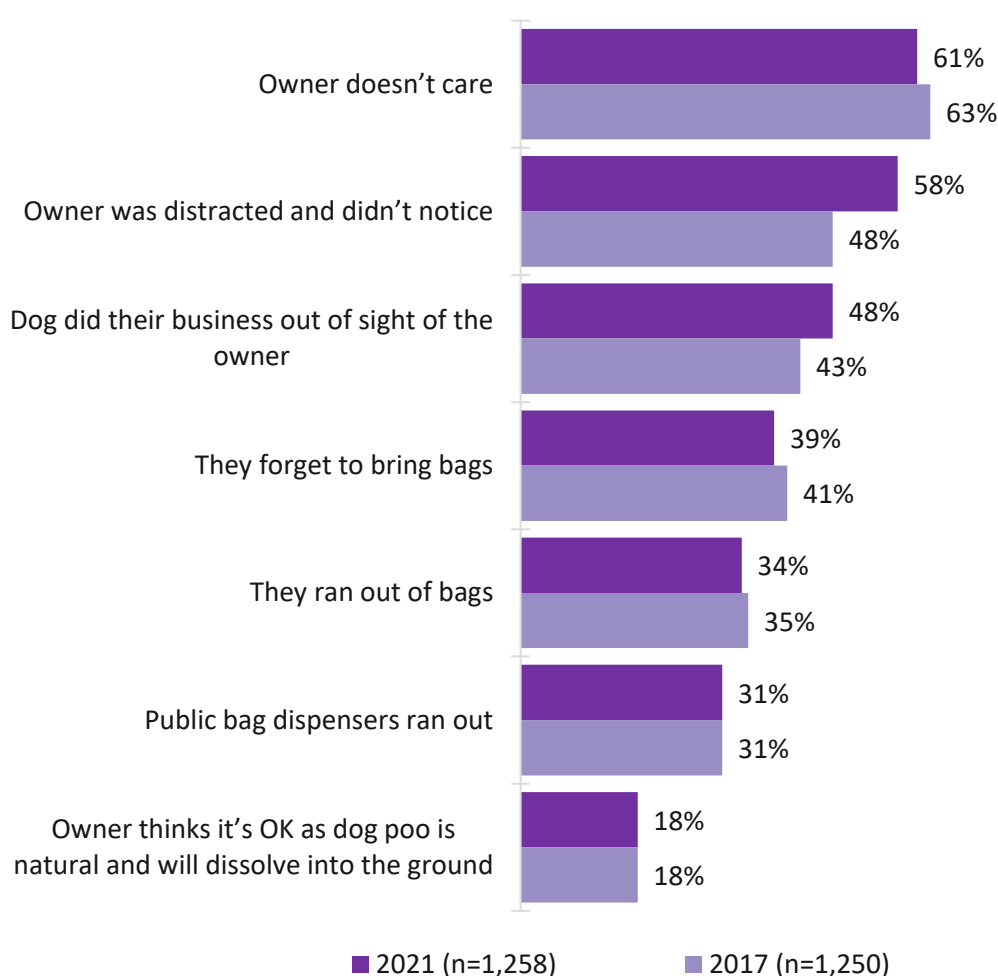
*"... your male who's got a bulldog, or an intact male dog who aggressively tells you that there's no way that he's going to pick up the poop and will knock your block off if you try and, you know, challenge him about it." (Female, 50-59 yrs, Dog owner, Northern suburb.)*

## Uncollected dog poo and nuisance dog behaviour

Question	Data source	Sample	Notes
Q4. What do you think are the reasons why people don't pick up their dog's poo in public spaces?	This question was asked in the open access survey only in 2021	2021 (n=1,258) 2017 (n=1,250)	Multiple answers allowed per respondent. Includes open access responses as well as those from the representative survey who chose to complete additional questions.

Depth interview discussions have indicated that it is a minority group who are not collecting their dog's poo. Consistent with the 2017 result, the most common reason cited for not picking up after their dog was that the owner doesn't care (61% 2021, 63% 2017). Also, it was commonly reported that owners were distracted and did not notice (58%) and that the dog did their business out of sight of the owner (48%). Opinions regarding this haven't changed over time.

**Figure 7 - Perceptions as to why some dog owners don't pick up their dogs poo**



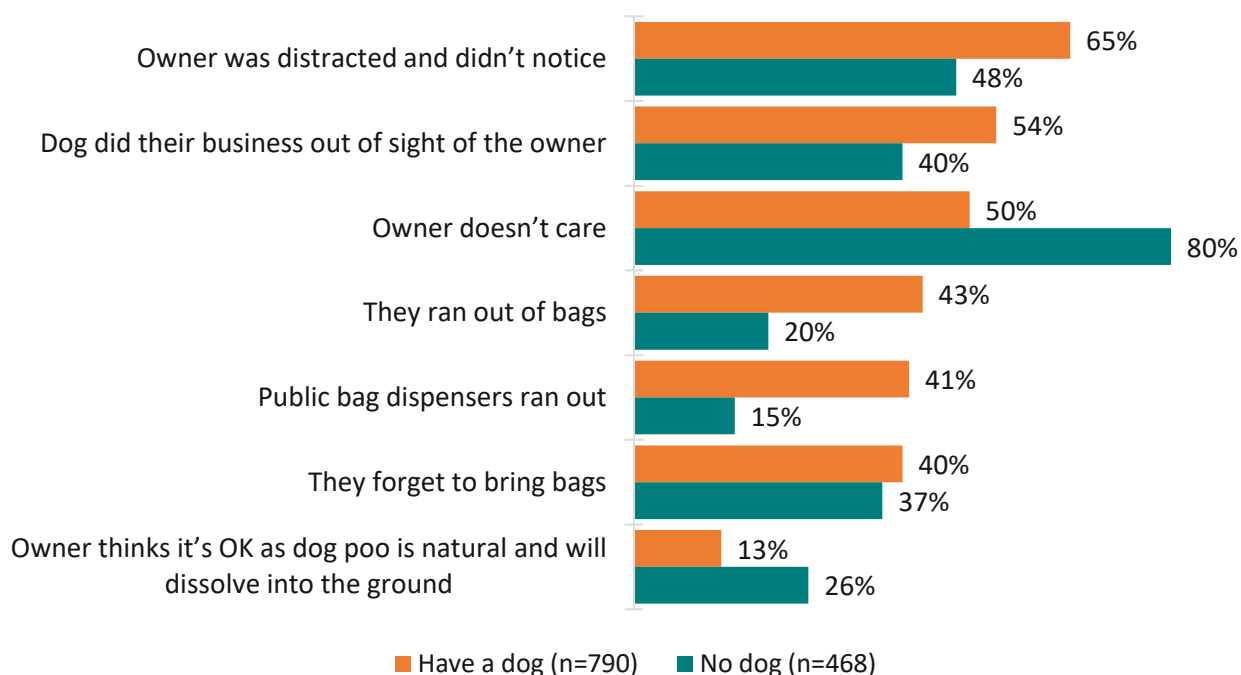
These top reasons are consistent with in-depth interview discussions. Interviewees often cited owners (deliberately or otherwise) not seeing their dog pooing because they were on the phone or socialising. Also, people jogging off-lead will often be many meters ahead or behind their dog – and not observing their dog's behaviour. It was also observed that the areas where gates have been removed may have seen a reduction

in dog poo not being picked up, not because owners are more watchful over their animals, but that they no longer attend that open area and the problem has been shifted elsewhere.

Not caring is consistent with reports that when asked to pick up their dog's poo, some owners become abusive and tell the observer to "mind their own business". However, the majority do comply.

The perceived reasons for not picking up dog poo are notably different amongst those without dog than those with dogs, suggesting a disconnect in understanding amongst the community, which may be contributing to tensions.

**Figure 8 - Perceptions as to why some dog owners don't pick up their dog's poo by dog ownership status**



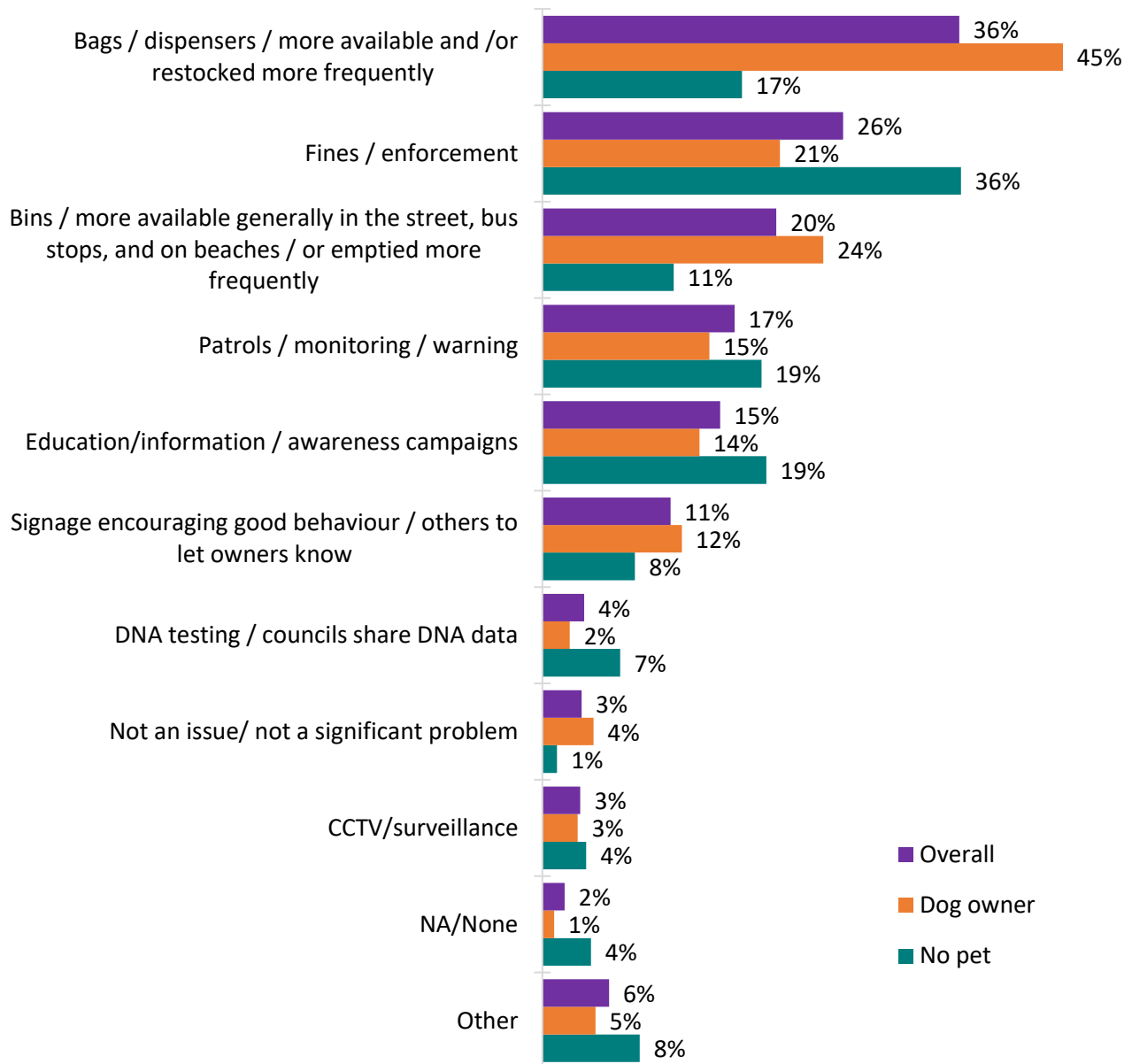
Question	Data source	Sample	Notes
Q13. Please tell us about any ideas for how Council can help reduce the problem of uncollected dog poo	Open access	879 comments regarding uncollected dog poo	Open ended question. Responses were thematically coded for analysis.

There is a divide between dog owners and non-pet owners on what Council could do to reduce the problem of uncollected dog poo, particularly with regards to fines and enforcement: with 36% of non-pet owners advocating *fines/enforcement* (compared to 21% dog owners), and 19% of non-pet owners calling for more patrols / monitoring / warnings (compared to 15% dog owners).

Dog owners want greater availability of dog poo bags (45%, compared to 17% non-pet owners) and bins emptied more frequently (24%, compared to 11% non-pet owners). This may indicate that non-pet owners are not aware of the level of availability of these facilities or simply do not find it a reasonable excuse in the first place for there to be uncollected poo. That said, non-pet owners are more commonly in favour of education/information / awareness campaigns (19%) than dog owners (14%).

Note the chart following does not include suggestions made by less than 4% of respondents overall.

**Figure 9 – Ideas for reducing the problem of uncollected dog poo**



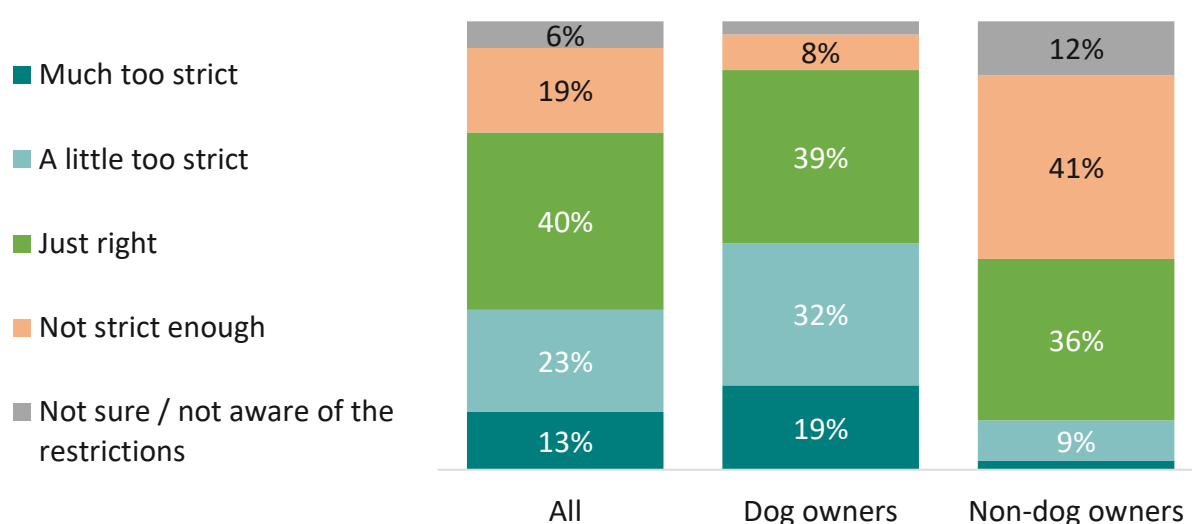
## Off-leash restrictions - Pet and public safety

Question	Data source	Sample	Notes
Q8 Do you think current off-leash restrictions for dogs provide a good balance for sharing Bayside's public spaces?	Open access	2021 (n=1,258) (unweighted)	Single response. Sample results filtered by overall, dog owners and non-dog owners

Overall, just over one third (36%) of participants believe the current off-leash restrictions for dogs are *too strict* (23%) or *much too strict* (13%). Not surprisingly a greater proportion of dog owners (51%) believe this to be the case compared to non-dog owners (11%). The most common response amongst non-dog owners is that off-leash restrictions are not strict enough.

Notably, there is some parity between dog owners and non-dog owners (39% and 36% respectively) on the balance of restrictions being *just right*.

**Figure 10 - Perception of the level of off-leash restrictions**



In-depth interview participants (dog owners and non-dog owners alike) echoed sentiments of the open access survey results regarding the levels of restrictions and being *too strict* or *just right*.

Though most dog owners do the right thing, both dog owners and non-dog owners acknowledged that effective control was a problem for enough dog owners that education was recommended to support effective and responsible off-leash behaviours. *"It's an owner problem, not a dog problem"* (general comment from most participants). *"Education is the answer"* (general comment from most participants)

*"So my view on this is that we just we had a beautiful dog community until COVID. And now we've got a lot of uneducated dog owners and it's presented an enormous problem in terms of a lack of responsibility, not taking responsibility for their dog's behaviour and probably not understanding a dog's behaviour" (Female, 50-59 yrs, Dog owner, Northern suburb.)*

*"I'd probably say about 95% of people are respectful and train a dog well and keep the dog under control, but because there is such a high number of dogs all it takes us for that 5% of people to not bother following the rules" (Male, 35-49 yrs, Non-pet owner, Sportsground user/sports club, Central suburb.)*

Suggestions were made that the Council provides sufficient off-leash areas (spaces) in parks and on beaches. In particular, segregated fenced areas.

*“Well, certainly, we don't want animals bothering people. So I think the separation between where dogs are allowed to be and where kids are playing on Play Equipment is a really good thing.” (Female, 60-69 yrs, Dog owner, Southern suburb.)*

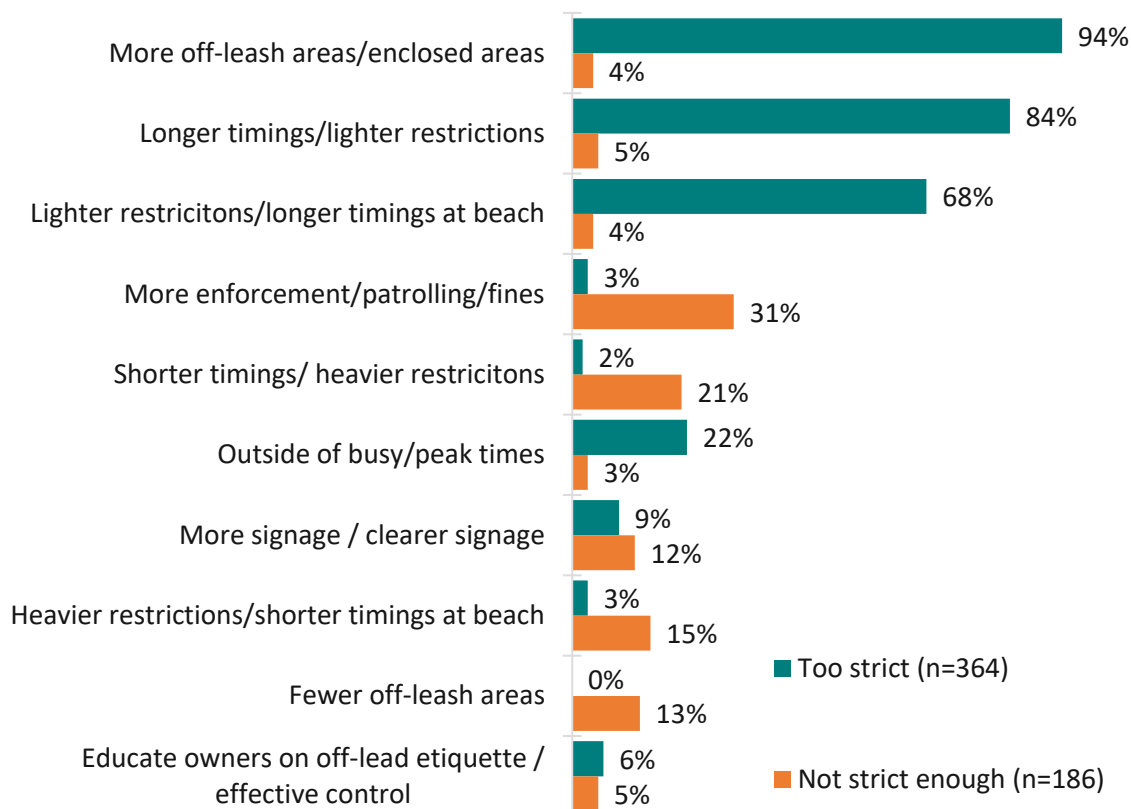
Question	Data source	Sample	Notes
Q9 How would you like to see off-leash restrictions changed?	Open access only – question was not in the representative paper survey.	550 comments	Open ended question. Responses were thematically coded for analysis.

Those who said the off-leash restrictions were too strict or not strict enough were asked to write in their ideas for how restrictions should be changed.

Amongst those who felt the restrictions were too strict (mostly dog owners) the main suggestions were more off-leash areas, longer timespans when off leash is allowed in general, and specifically at the beach. Whereas those who felt the rules aren't strict enough mostly call for more enforcement and shorter timings in general and at the beach.

Note the chart below does not include suggestions made by less than 4% of respondents overall.

**Figure 11 Suggested changes to off-lead restrictions**

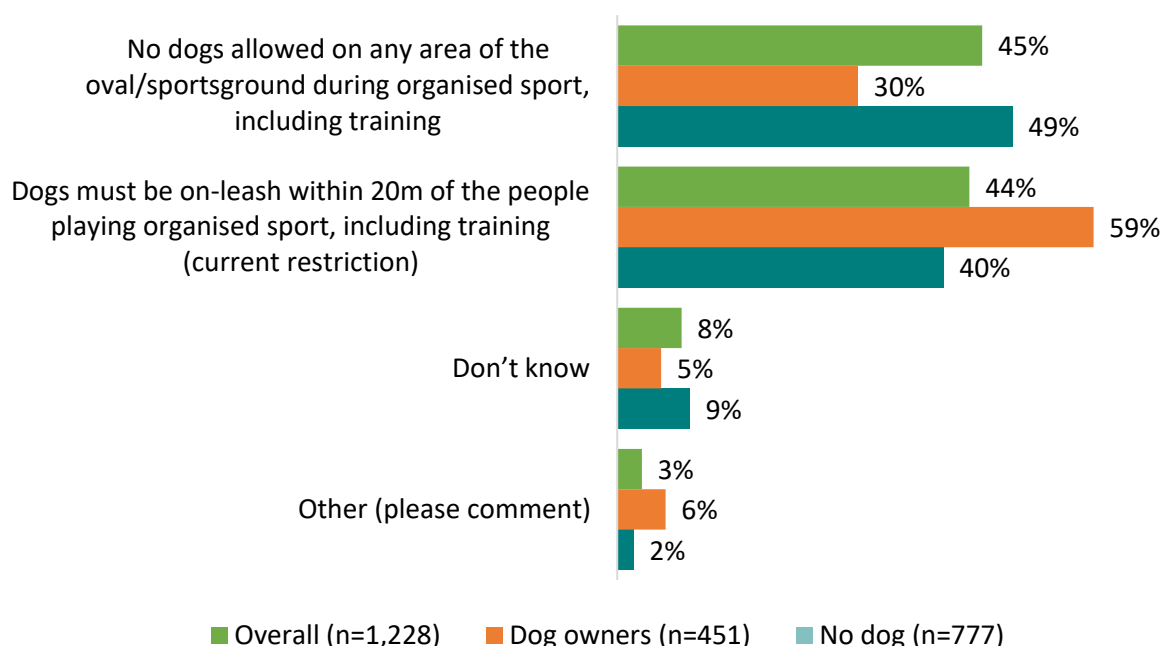


Question	Data source	Sample	Notes
Q10. How can we best protect the safety of dogs and people at off-leash sportsgrounds?	Representative survey (weighted) Open access results are provided for background information only. Representative results should take priority.	N=1,236	Respondent could only choose a single answer

When faced with the alternative of a blanket ban on off-leash dogs on sportsgrounds during organised sport, dog owners prefer the existing 20 metre rule.

A greater proportion of non-pet owners (49%) advocated *no dogs allowed on any area of the oval/sportsground during organised sport, including training* compared to dog owners (30%).

**Figure 12 – Preference on how to best protect the safety of dogs and people at off-leash sportsgrounds**



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### Open Access survey results

In the Open Access sample there was a stronger preference for dogs to be on-leash within 20m of people playing organised sport, including training (59%, compared to 45% representative survey), which is unsurprising given the majority of the open access survey was dog owners, and this view is stronger amongst dog owners.

This finding helps demonstrate the importance of undertaking representative surveying as it illustrates that the opinions of those with an interest in the topic (open access) can be quite different to the whole-of-community perspective (representative).

**Figure 13 – Open Access findings - preference on how to best protect the safety of dogs and people at off-leash sportsgrounds**

	Overall (n=897)	Dog Owners (n=620)	No Dog (n=208)
Dogs must be on-leash within 20m of the people playing organised sport, including training (current restriction)	59%	67%	36%
No dogs allowed on any area of the oval/sportsground during organised sport, including training	25%	16%	51%
Other	10%	11%	9%
Don't know	6%	6%	4%

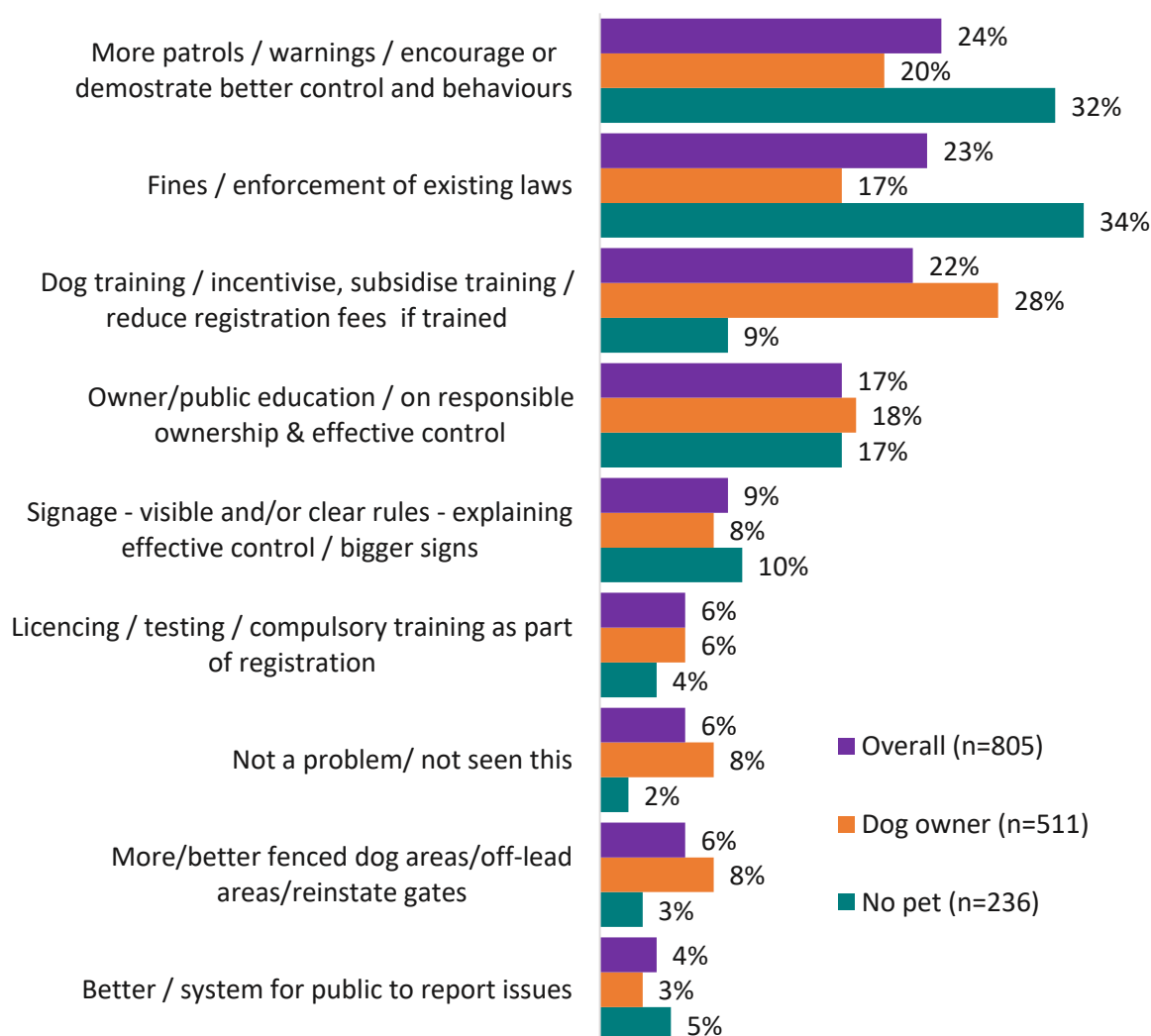
Question	Data source	Sample	Notes
Q12. Please tell us your ideas for how Council can help reduce the incidence of dogs not being under effective control when off-leash	Open access survey	805 comments	Open ended question. Responses were thematically coded for analysis.

For non-pet owners, *more patrols and warnings...* (32%) and *finest / enforcement...* (34%) were the main suggestions on how Council can reduce incidence of dogs not being under effective control off lead; whereas dog owners are less likely to make the same suggestions (20% and 17% respectively) and prefer *dog training / incentivise, subsidise training / reduce registration fees if trained* (28%, compared to 9% non-pet owners).

Dog owner and non-pet owners alike similarly suggested *owner/public education / on responsible ownership & effective control* (non-pet owners 17%, dog owners 18%), *signage – visible and/or clear rules – explaining effective control / bigger signs* (non-pet owners 10%, dog owners 8%) and *licencing / testing / compulsory training as part of registration* (non-pet owners 4%, dog owners 6%) as a way forward in helping reduce incidence of dogs not being under effective control when off-leash.

Note the following chart does not include suggestions made by less than 4% of respondents overall.

**Figure 14 – Suggestions on how Council can help reduce the incidence of dogs not being under effective control when off-leash**



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## In-depth interview feedback

Many participants, dog and non-pet owners alike, perceive that owner and pet behaviour is generally “a different story” (a general sentiment) in open areas. Some perceive that owners seem oblivious to the comfort of others when their dog provides unwanted attention to others.

*“Behaviour is good ... Just about everywhere, except for parks...” (Female, 50-59 yrs, Dog owner, Northern suburb.)*

*“He/She’s only playing”, “He/She’s just being friendly”, “He/She won’t hurt you” (owners are often quoted as saying) – dog owners and non-pet owners alike do not like dogs jumping up, running through picnics, frightening their children and or their own dogs. Many agree that this behaviour is not acceptable, warranted or asked for. Owners often provide excuses similar to those whose behaviour might be considered harassment, “dogs will be dogs” just as “boys will be boys”. Many feel that these excuses are not valid.*

*“...my children are, in varying degrees, a bit scared of dogs, especially my daughter, she’s 12. And so how she encounters dogs has quite a major effect on our enjoyment of the local area” (Male, 50-59 yrs, Non-pet owner, Central suburb.)*

A prevailing sentiment is that pet owner etiquette is lacking. It was suggested that signage that goes beyond rules and restrictions but include examples or proper etiquette for the comfort of others, defining ‘effective control’ and reasons why this is important. For example, those that walk their dog off leash in on-leash areas because “My dog is OK” – Other’s don’t know that, and it can make beach or park-going unpleasant for them.

*“There needs to be much more attention to spending money on signage in these parks. The do’s and don’ts of having a dog but done in a positive way, not in a finger wagging sort of way, worded by a good comms person... so that it comes across in a more light-hearted but positive sort of way and they need to use pictures and images” (Female, 50-59 yrs, Dog owner, Northern suburb.)*

*“This would be such a classic area to do some behavioural insight work... because you kind of want to get to know what are the messages that will change people’s behaviour, and what is sort of underpinning the way that they’re behaving ... there are a whole lot of different reasons... different messages will have different impacts on the people. So you kind of need to understand why dog owners are behaving in the way that they’re behaving... and so I feel like a big sign ... [with the right messages] would be a source of truth, possibly be a useful piece of messaging” (Male, 50-59 yrs, Non-pet owner, Central suburb.)*

*“I’ve got little kids, and my kids are terrified of dogs, because of the way that dog owners handle their dogs. Or don’t handle their dogs. It’s really just a lack of empathy. I have been told, ‘my dog is entitled to be here’ or ‘my dog friendly’... kids don’t understand that. And no one should really trust any animal...I think people assume that others should know that they’ll be safe.” (Female, 35-49 yrs, Non-pet owner, Southern suburb.)*

There were also reported cases where a park is vacant because it is perceived that dog owners will let their dogs off leash. Dog owners then see an empty park and think it is OK to exercise their dog off lead there because nobody is there. This highlights the importance of maintaining the integrity of the rules at all times for the consideration of others.

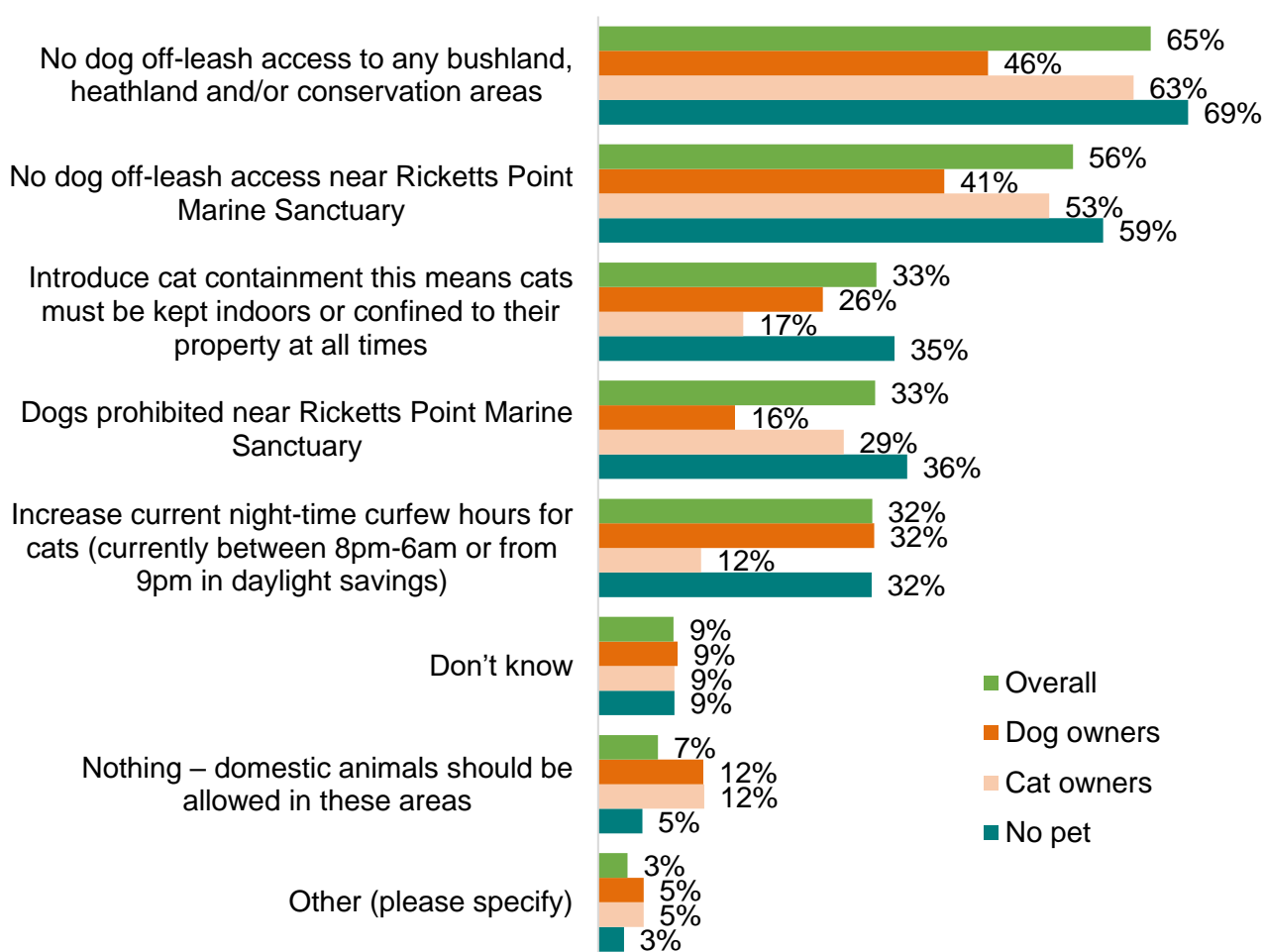
*“ ... if you’re a dog owner, and you see a completely empty park, you think well, what’s the harm in exercising my dog there? But the answer is, because if my kids see that, and they know, or if I know that there’s more likely than not to be dogs off the leash, we’ll just never go there. It’s had a massive effect on our ability to use our park and for my children to get their exercise and get out there and enjoy themselves with friends. (Male, 50-59 yrs, Non-pet owner, Central suburb.)*

## Pets and the environment

Question	Data source	Sample	Notes
Q11. How can we ensure sensitive environmental areas and native wildlife are protected from domestic animals?	Representative Survey	2021 (n=1,241)	Multiple choice. Respondents were prompted to select all that apply. Open access results are provided for background information only. Representative results should take priority.

Almost two thirds (65%) of respondents believed that there should be no dog off-leash access to any bushland, heathland and/or conservation areas. This view was shared in similar proportion by cat (63%) and non-pet owners (69%) but significantly less so by dog owners themselves (46%).

**Figure 15 - Suggestions on how we can ensure sensitive environmental areas and native wildlife are protected from domestic animals**



More than half overall support restrictions to dogs in Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary, with 56% saying *no off leash in Ricketts Point* and 33% saying dogs should be prohibited near Ricketts Point.

A minority of overall respondents (7%) believed that there should be no restrictions on domestic animals access to sensitive environmental areas for protection and that of native wildlife. One in every eight dog and cat owners (12% each) also held this view.

In-depth interviews indicate that there may be little understanding of the environmental sensitivity of these areas juxtaposed with perceptions that other councils do not impose harsh restrictions in what may be perceived to be similar seaside areas.

Notably, cat owners were least supportive of increased containment measures with only 17% supporting indoor or on-property confinement at all times, or increases to night-time curfews (12%), compared to overall community support (33% and 32%) respectively on the same measures.

### Open Access survey results

In the open access data, the incidence of selecting each of the environmental management options is lower than the representative findings, as is to be expected given the open access survey was mostly dog owners, and dog owners are less likely to be in favour of these measures.

At the overall level, the order of priority (sorted by proportion of suggested items) on how sensitive environmental areas and native wildlife can be protected from domestic animals is similar to the representative survey. The exception is *Increase current night-time curfew hours for cats (currently between 8pm-6am or from 9pm in daylight savings)* ranked in third place in the open access survey compared to ranking fifth in the representative survey (note the representative survey should have priority over the open access survey).

Even though the proportions are lower for the top suggested items by comparison to the representative survey, the priorities, by order, are the same.

**Figure 16 – Open Access findings - suggestions on how we can ensure sensitive environmental areas and native wildlife are protected from domestic animals**

	Overall (n=897)	Dog owners (n=620)	Cat owners (n=173)	No pet (n=208)
No dog off-leash access to any bushland, heathland and/or conservation areas	48%	37%	51%	71%
No dog off-leash access near Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary	43%	35%	43%	63%
Increase current night-time curfew hours for cats (currently between 8pm-6am or from 9pm in daylight savings)	30%	31%	16%	34%
Introduce cat containment this means cats must be kept indoors or confined to their property at all times	30%	28%	30%	38%
Dogs prohibited near Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary	22%	11%	21%	50%
Nothing – domestic animals should be allowed in these areas	12%	15%	16%	4%
Don't know	10%	12%	12%	5%
Other	8%	8%	8%	8%

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## In-depth interview feedback

The major concern participants had with animal access to environmentally sensitive areas, aside from physical danger to wildlife and digging holes, was the longer-term effect of animal excrement on the ecosystem.

Many suggested that further education and signage was necessary, explaining importance of picking-up after dogs (toxicity, damage to plants, ecosystems, dog poo IS NOT manure).

*"There is a small percentage of the population that I think just believe it [dog poo] will disintegrate into the grass rather than picking it up. I think they think it's fertiliser when it's actually not. There's needs to be greater education ... I think the people that don't pick up don't think that they are doing anything wrong. Yeah, lack of understanding, education." (Female, 50-59 yrs, Dog owner, Pet community group, Southern suburb.)*

*"...the nutrients in the dog poo is not good for our indigenous plants it's got entirely the wrong nutrients and it can easily kill the native vegetation that it hits. It settles into the soil; it can change the biome in the soil and it's not compatible with growing indigenous plants." (Female, 70+ yrs, Cat owner, Environmental/friends group, Central suburb.)*

*"It's a sensitive environment [the beach areas] and you would also be aware that poo is quite toxic because of the e-coli etc... on the Bay Trail we've got all these beautiful signages they're like plaques and they talk about the local artists the Heidelberg gardens, and we've also got plaques about indigenous life and is strategically put in viewing points. [The plaques] give local information about the history... what I've suggested is that the points where you've got people coming into beaches, you know, your main walking tracks down... [feature sculptures/plaques] of [for example] the Burrunan dolphin [Australian Bottlenose dolphin] which is unique to the Bayside area [in Victoria, its habitats are in the Port Phillip bay and the Gippsland lakes] ... [The message being] this is a sensitive natural environment. It's important to take your rubbish home and [pick up and] discard animal or your dog poop [properly]." (Female, 50-59 yrs, Non-pet owner, Environmental/friends group, Central suburb.)*

Also, signage explaining that poo bags are biodegradable in LANDFILL, not compostable and NOT suited for compost as dog poo is toxic – throwing bags in bushes or green waste bins is not acceptable.

*"I've seen people put their dog poo there into the green waste bin and when I've challenged them, they tell me that this is a biodegradable plastic bag... They also pick up the poo in the plastic bags and hurl it into the bushes... (Female, 70+ yrs, Cat owner, Environmental/friends group, Central suburb.)*

## Council regulations and services

### Awareness of regulations

Question	Data source	Sample	Notes
Q5. Were you aware before today that...?	Representative survey	2021 (n=1,230) 2017 (n=795)	Open access results are provided for background information only. Representative results should take priority.

The following chart shows the proportion of people in the representative survey who indicated that they were aware of a range of Council regulated items relating to domestic animal management.

Since the 2017 survey there has been a slight increase in the proportion of people aware that people have to carry dog poo bags when walking their dog, dogs and cats must be registered with Council, and that this registration can occur online.

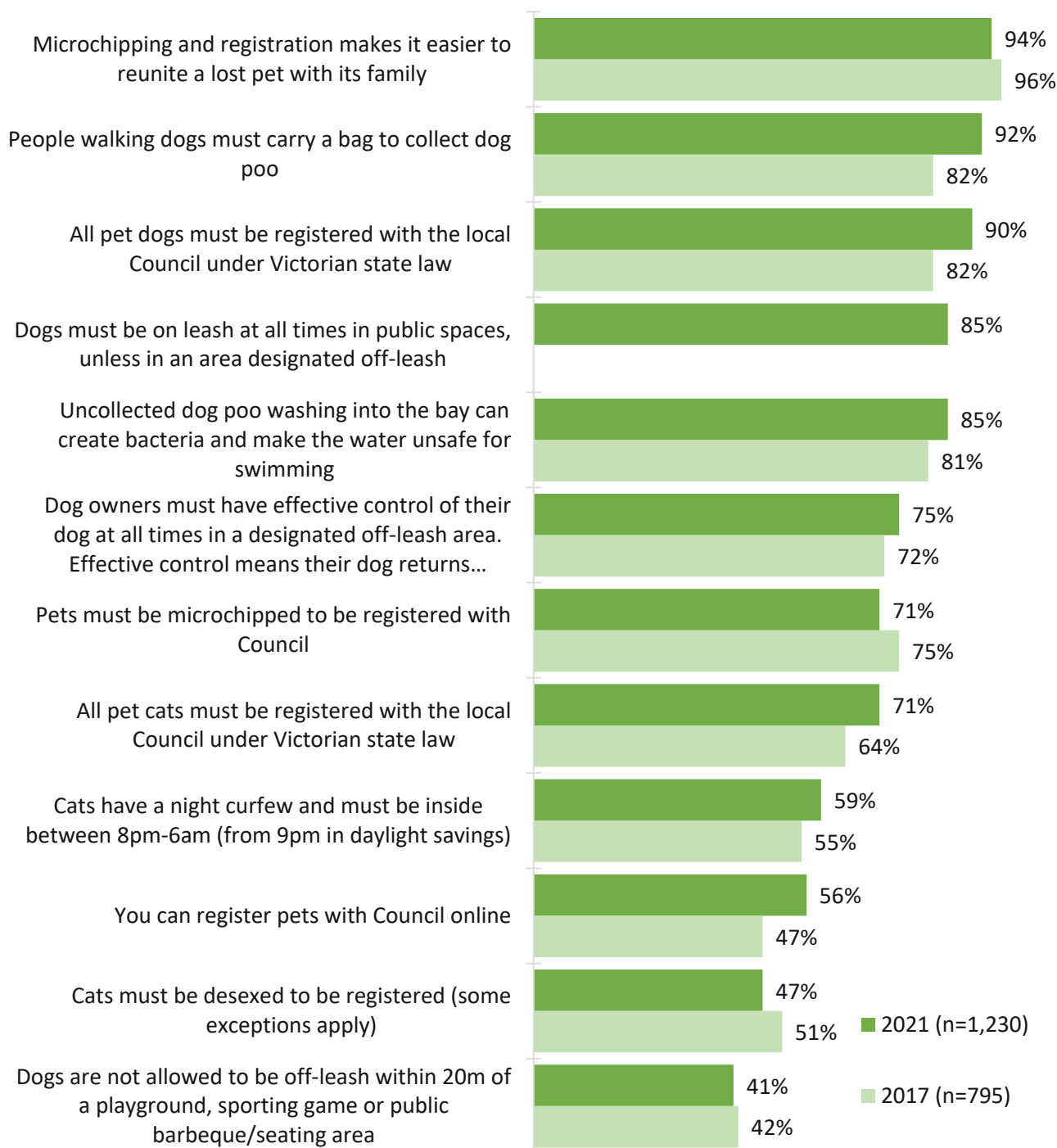
As can be seen in figure 15, most pet owners are aware of the regulations relative to their pets.

Two thirds (67%) of those who said they often let their cat out at night (n=64) said that they were aware of the night-time cat curfew. Awareness of the night-time cat curfew is at 88% of those who let their cat out at night infrequently (n=40) and 92% of those who only let them out during the day (n=151). This suggests that awareness and regulation works to some extent, but further understanding of the barriers would be necessary to develop a behaviour change program for those who are still letting their cats out at night.

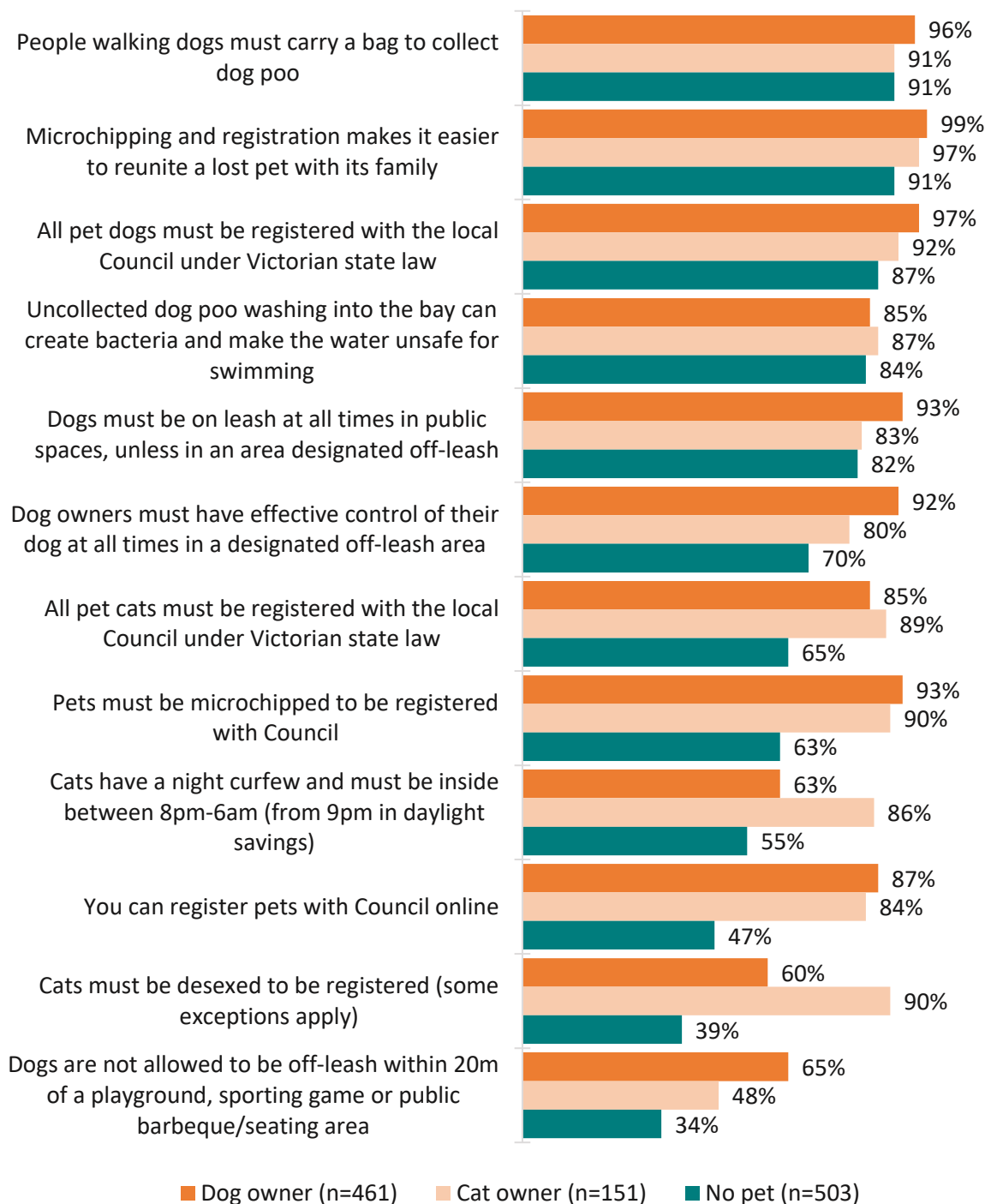
Those who indicated they had got a pet for the first time during COVID-19 (open access survey, n=68) showed notably lower incidences of being aware of:

- Night-time cat curfew (56%)
- Cats needing to be desexed to be registered (57%)
- Dog owners having to have effective control (87%)
- Cats having to be registered (71%)
- Uncollected dog poo washing into the bay can create bacteria (75%).

**Figure 17 - Proportion of people aware of regulations**



**Figure 18 - Proportion of people aware of regulations by pet status, 2021**



### Open Access survey results

At the overall level, ranked order of awareness by proportion aware is similar to the representative survey rank order except for *Uncollected dog poo washing into the bay can create bacteria and make the water unsafe for swimming* (eight place in open access compared to fifth place in representative). This is also an item where open access respondents were less aware (80%) than representative survey respondents (85%). Notably non-pet owners (84%) in the open access survey had the greatest level of awareness on this item than dog or cat owners (each 79%).

Open access participants were not as aware on items highlighted in orange in the table below (any negative variance was highlighted). Conversely, they were more aware of items highlighted in green than participants in the representative sample (variances of 10% or more were highlighted).

**Figure 19 – Open Access findings – awareness of regulations**

	% Awareness & rank by % Awareness				
	Open Access (n=897)		Representative (n=1,230)		% Variance
Microchipping and registration makes it easier to reunite a lost pet with its family	98%	1	94%	1	4%
All pet dogs must be registered with the local Council under Victorian state law	93%	2	90%	3	3%
Dogs must be on leash at all times in public spaces, unless in an area designated off-leash	90%	3	85%	4	5%
People walking dogs must carry a bag to collect dog poo	88%	4	92%	2	-4%
Dog owners must have effective control of their dog at all times in a designated off-leash area. Effective control means their dog returns immediately when called, doesn't approach strangers uninvited and is under constant supervision.	88%	5	75%	6	13%
Pets must be microchipped to be registered with Council	85%	6	71%	7	14%
All pet cats must be registered with the local Council under Victorian state law	80%	7	71%	8	9%
Uncollected dog poo washing into the bay can create bacteria and make the water unsafe for swimming	80%	8	85%	5	-5%
You can register pets with Council online	79%	9	56%	10	23%
Dogs are not allowed to be off-leash within 20m of a playground, sporting game or public barbeque/seating area	72%	10	41%	11	31%
Cats have a night curfew and must be inside between 8pm-6am (from 9pm in daylight savings)	65%	11	59%	9	6%
Cats must be desexed to be registered (some exceptions apply)	56%	12	47%	12	9%

## Service provision priorities

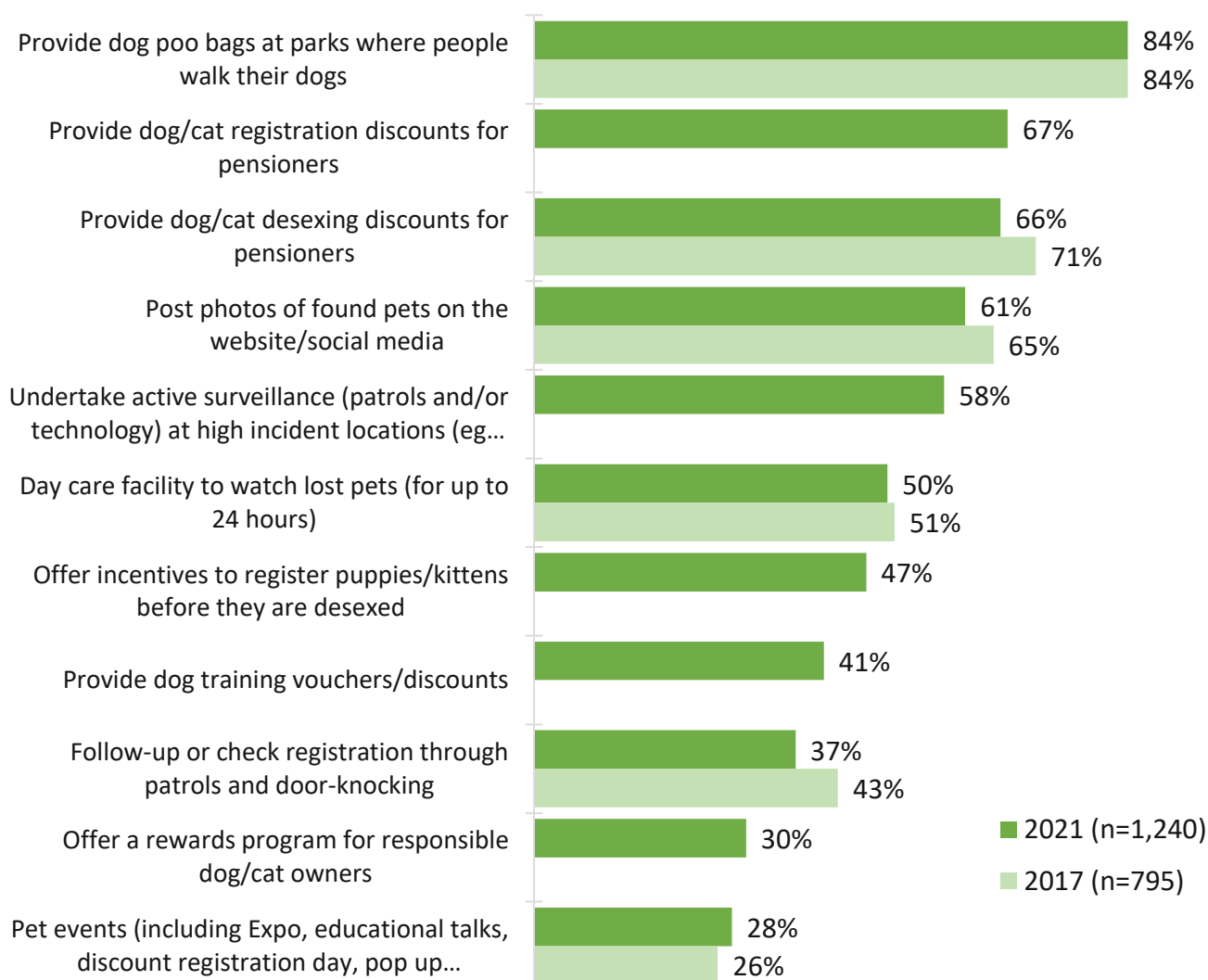
Question	Data source	Sample	Notes
Q6. How important or otherwise do you think it is for Council to provide the following services for the community?	Representative survey	2021 (n=1,240) 2017 (n=795)	Open access results are provided for background information only. Representative results should take priority.

The following chart shows the proportion of representative survey respondents who specified that they think each service provision is extremely important or very important. This upper end of the rating scale has been drawn out to identify the services perceived by the community as being the most critical.

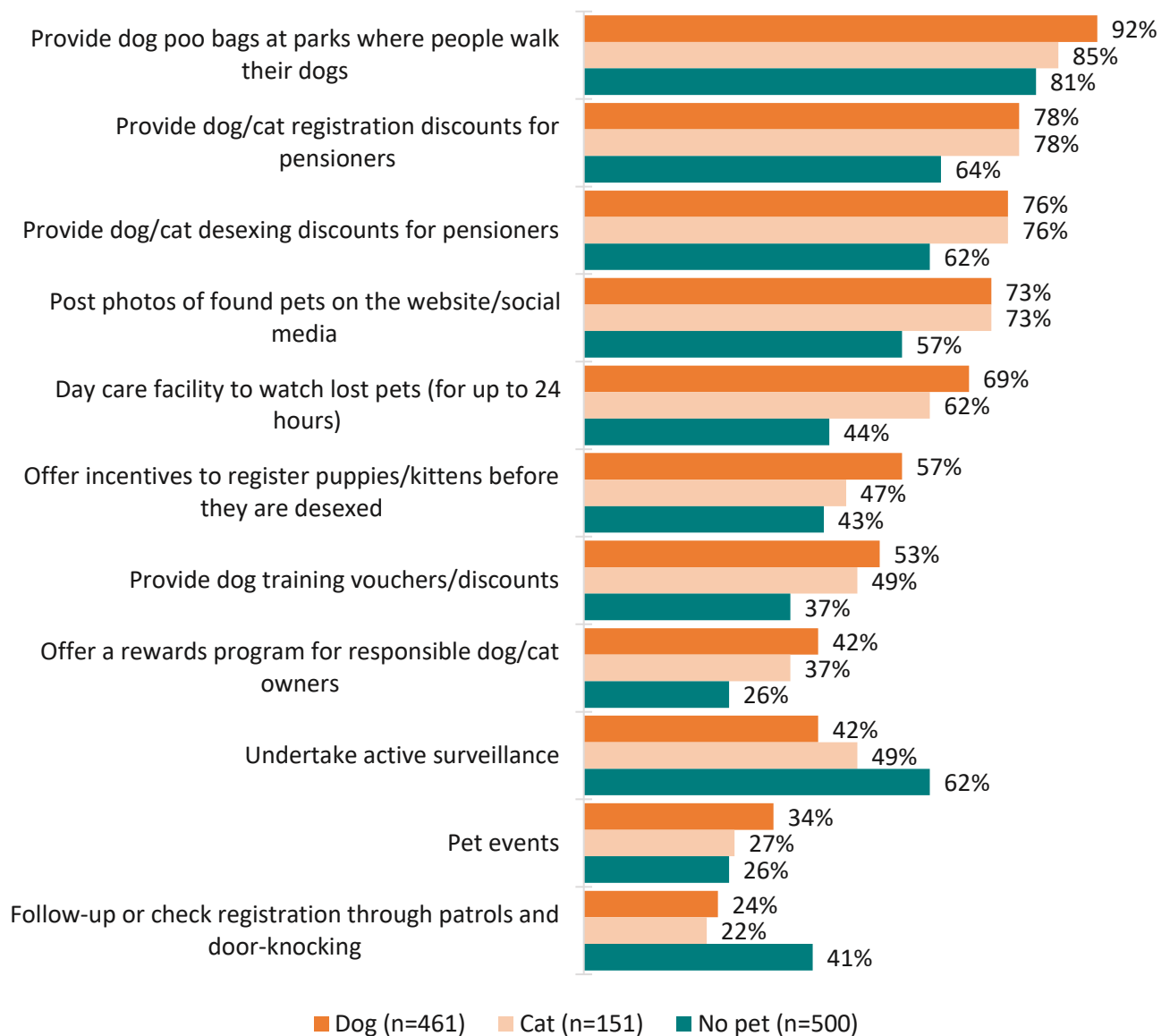
It is clear from the findings that the majority of the Bayside community (both dog owners and non-dog owners) recognise the importance of Council providing dog poo bags and bins, providing desexing and registration discounts, providing photos of found pets on social media, and undertaking active surveillance.

As can be seen in figure 17, active surveillance and registration checks are more commonly rated as important amongst non-pet owners, whilst pet owners show higher instances of rating all other items as important.

**Figure 20 – Council domestic animal provisions rated as important**



**Figure 21 - Council domestic animal provisions rated as important by pet status, 2021**



## Open Access survey results

At the overall level, ranked order of importance by proportion is similar to the representative survey rank order. Notably, the proportions overall were much lower for the representative survey compared to the open access results, in particular the following were rated as important by 30%+ more respondents in the open access when compared to the representative survey:

- *Pet events (including Expo, educational talks, discount registration day, pop up information booths)* (47% variance)
- *Provide dog training vouchers/discounts* (39% variance)
- *Day care facility to watch lost pets (for up to 24 hours)* (37% variance)
- *Offer a rewards program for responsible dog/cat owners* (33% variance)
- *Post photos of found pets on the website/social media* (30% variance)

This shows that the opinions of those interested in the topic (open access) are stronger than the broader population (representative). The majority (77%) of open access participants were dog and/or cat owners, so greater overall (proportional) importance on services to pet owners would be expected.

**Figure 22 – Open Access findings - Council domestic animal provisions rated as important**

	% Importance & rank by %			
	Open Access (n=897)		Representative (n=1,230)	
Provide dog poo bags at parks where people walk their dogs	97%	1	84%	1
Post photos of found pets on the website/social media	91%	2	61%	4
Provide dog/cat registration discounts for pensioners	90%	3	67%	2
Provide dog/cat desexing discounts for pensioners	89%	4	66%	3
Day care facility to watch lost pets (for up to 24 hours)	87%	5	50%	6
Undertake active surveillance (patrols and/or technology) at high incident locations (eg sports grounds)	81%	6	58%	5
Provide dog training vouchers/discounts	80%	7	41%	8
Offer incentives to register puppies/kittens before they are desexed	76%	8	47%	7
Pet events (including Expo, educational talks, discount registration day, pop up information booths)	75%	9	28%	11
Offer a rewards program for responsible dog/cat owners	63%	10	30%	10
Follow-up or check registration through patrols and door-knocking	60%	11	37%	9

## In-depth interview feedback:

Participants had plenty of suggestions for services Council should supply to address priorities in the regulation of pet ownership. The main suggestions are as follows.

Poo bag dispensers on beaches WITH the bins – often they're not at the same location. Also, regular emptying of poo bins and replenishment of bags in dispensers. Often bins are overflowing, or dispensers run empty.

*"The other thing I think that they could be doing is making sure that when that the poo bags are replaced on a regular basis, we often get towards the end of the month, and*

*they're they've run out of poo bags in the in the little, little dispensers over at my local park.” (Female,60-69 yrs, Dog owner, Southern suburb.)*

Encouraging registration is an important first step in being able to regulate. Many suggested encouraging registration at a universal charge and regulate desexing aspects etc. after registration once people are signed up and identifiable.

*“Certainly, it's important for dogs and cats to be registered ... it's really important for Council to know how many there are and whereabouts they're located. So registration has got an important role to play in that if nothing else” (Female,60-69 yrs, Dog owner, Southern suburb.)*

Many people will delay registration a year until their dog is desexed to pay the lower rate. There is a widespread perception that desexing before a dog is one year old is detrimental to the animal's health. After waiting, sometimes they don't bother registering their animal as registration is not enforced.

*“... there's a disincentive to register your dog early, because it's going to cost you a lot more... they pay they pay the higher fee register their dog, get their dogs desexed and get a small portion of the registration back! I got a new dog last year, and I didn't register until it was desexed. I wasn't going to pay 300 bucks [several friends have also done this].” (Male,60-69 yrs, Dog owner, Resident group, Northern suburb.)*

There were a few suggestions of having some kind of training as part of the registration process. For example, a short, simple, online training module on pet ownership/effective control/etiquette (does not have to be long). Then, repeat <short>, online training module of rules and expected proper pet ownership in the Bayside area as criteria for renewal

*“... you have a test a training module, and then you have a test [online]. And some of those tests can be jolly hard [referring to this practice in the financial services industry], like, this doesn't need to be. You're going to tell me what your responsibility is in this circumstance...” (Male,60-69 yrs, Dog owner, Environmental/friends group, Resident group, Central suburb.)*

*“When you pay registration ... you pay it, you go online, you pay registration, you have a few questions that you have to answer, you know, are you allowed do such and such [training and test about the rules]” (Female,35-49 yrs, Dog owner, Pet community group, Resident group, Central suburb.)*

Furthermore, suggestions were made for discounts for training at registration – on provision of proof of training at a predetermined level.

*“...if you're talking about discount, there should be discounts because of [for people who have had] basic training.” (Male,35-49 yrs, Pet-related business, Central suburb.)*

*“Well, I think you definitely have to encourage people to register their own animal. Why don't you do that by offering a discount? You know if you do it as a certain time or age? Yeah, that might be an incentive. I think making sure that there's as much information about the training opportunities as possible.” (Female,60-69 yrs, Non-pet owner, Environmental/friends group, Central suburb.)*

*“... offer a discount to licence renewal if the dogs been to obedience school ... and they could take that further, they could actually have a little a little online questionnaire that if*

*you answer... and you explain your responsibility as a dog owner, you get an additional discount, another 5% or something like that. So you've put in writing you've gone through that process." (Male,60-69 yrs, Dog owner, Environmental/friends group, Resident group, Central suburb.)*

Participants suggested that the Council provide references/discounts to dog obedience training orgs, arrange free training sessions in parks, or training discounts/subsidising.

*"I think that finding ways to either subsidise that that'd be training classes or dog training classes for people maybe putting on classes sponsored completely by Council. When you when you get your puppy everybody goes off to the local vet for some puppy school stuff, but that's about it. So if Council is really concerned then perhaps it might want to put some money down on providing training for people." (Female,60-69 yrs, Dog owner, Southern suburb.)*

Many believed the Council should provide rules/updates to proper etiquette pamphlets with registration and renewals – some suggesting that this may be already done. This information could also be distributed through newsletters, email, social media posts and communications reminding people of their responsibilities/rules. There was also a suggestion that Council could utilise text messaging to remind people in certain areas (where problems are reported) of the rules.

*"Bayside Council have a Facebook group, they could put reminders out on Facebook, they also have newsletters, they could put reminders on that whatever that I think they sort of market themselves, they do come up on my Facebook feed. I do get newsletters in the mail. So it's those sorts of ways that they currently market other things, that they're doing, they could re-emphasise the rules around responsible pet ownership too." (Female,60-69 yrs, Cat owner, Resident group, Central suburb.)*

*"...I think my dog died about 13 years ago. So I'm not up to with the latest information and that ... the bayside pet management team handout to people when they're animals are registered... just sort of code of conduct really, what is expected of dog owners..." (Female,60-69 yrs, Non-pet owner, Environmental/friends group, Central suburb.)*

*"So maybe the occasional text message to remind about the rules ... I think some people just need that little bit of extra reminding ..." (Female,35-49 yrs, Dog owner, Cat owner, Pet community group, Resident group, Sportsground user/sports club, Central suburb.)*

There were suggestions that the Council engage/encourage professional trainers/walkers to work in the area – this was seen as important given increase in pet ownership over COVID period. Demand for walking/training will/has increased. This was seen as a proactive move to foster better animal care, owner competence, and better compliance with the rules.

*"I can assure you this dog would be a real problem [but for engaging walking services]...The owners [of the dog engaging dog walking services] didn't know it had to be [registered]. So the dog is now registered. But also, we've arranged for training, because the dog was bought during COVID, and therefore couldn't get the right puppy school or the right obedience training [pointing out the benefits of engaging professional services is better compliance and pet behaviour]." (Male,35-49 yrs, Dog owner, Pet-related business, Northern suburb.)*

Finally, a number of participants believed that the Council should provide/develop, in cooperation with other Councils and/or the state government, a mobile phone app with GPS that shows owners where they are and what the rules are for that particular area. It could have simple graphics showing e.g. red "on-lead" or green "off-lead" locations; this would provide locals with needed information and serve as a solution for non-residents to know the rules. It would be a useful, clear, up to date reference for the community to consult.

*"Maybe an app would be good. And app would be good to show you the dog beaches and or dog parks that would be available. I think we're all on apps at the moment, I only use my computer for work" (Female, 50-59 yrs, Dog owner, Cat owner, Central suburb.)*

*"Apps could be very helpful, but the only problem with apps is like, if you have to download an app every time you go to a different Council, it's gonna have like loads of apps on your phone. If there was one for the whole of Victoria, that'd be good" (Female, 35-49 yrs, Non-pet owner, Central suburb.)*

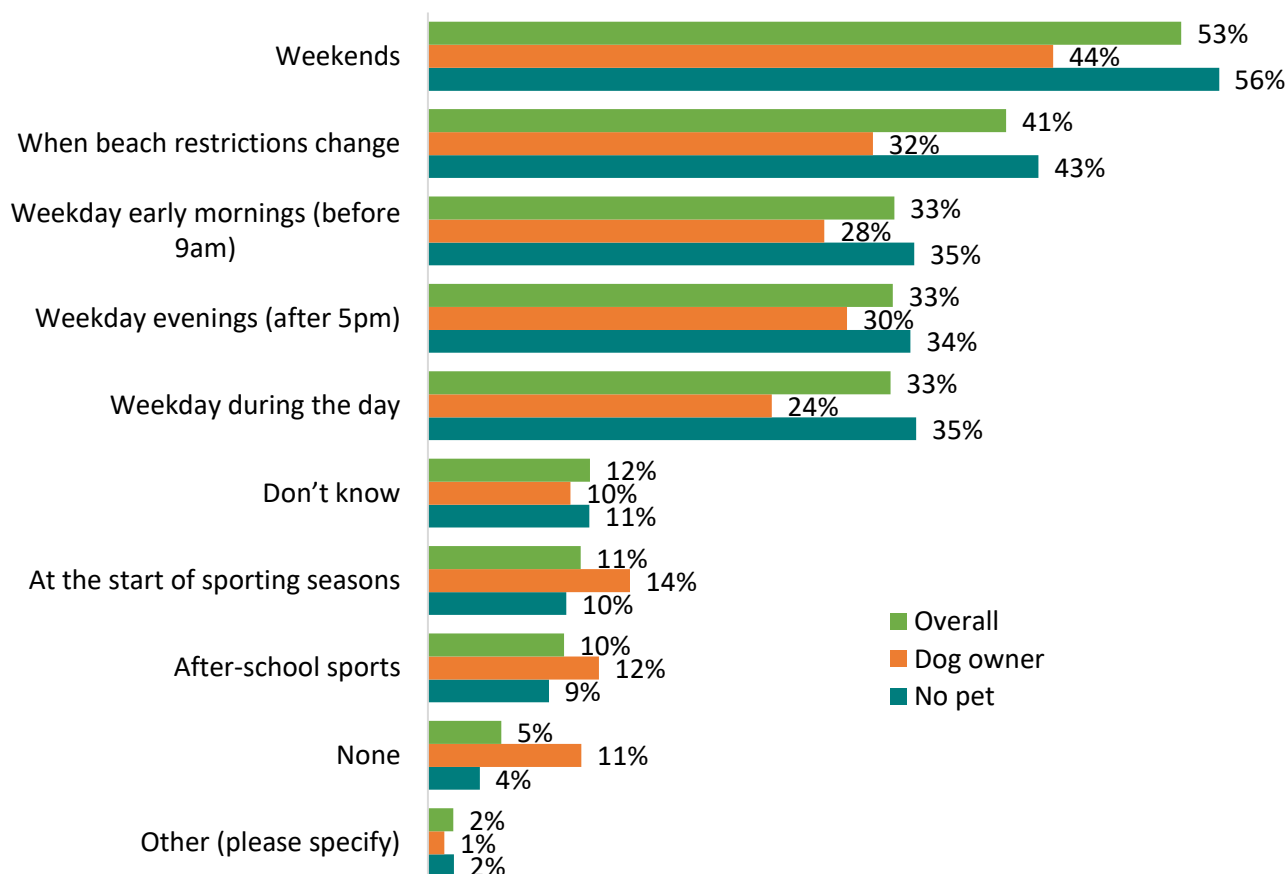
## Additional patrol priorities

Question	Data source	Sample	Notes
7a. What times do you think should be priorities for Council officers to patrol? Q7b. What locations do you think should be priorities for Council officers to patrol?	Representative survey	2021 (n=1,224)	Multiple answers allowed per respondent. Open access results are provided for background information only. Representative results should take priority.

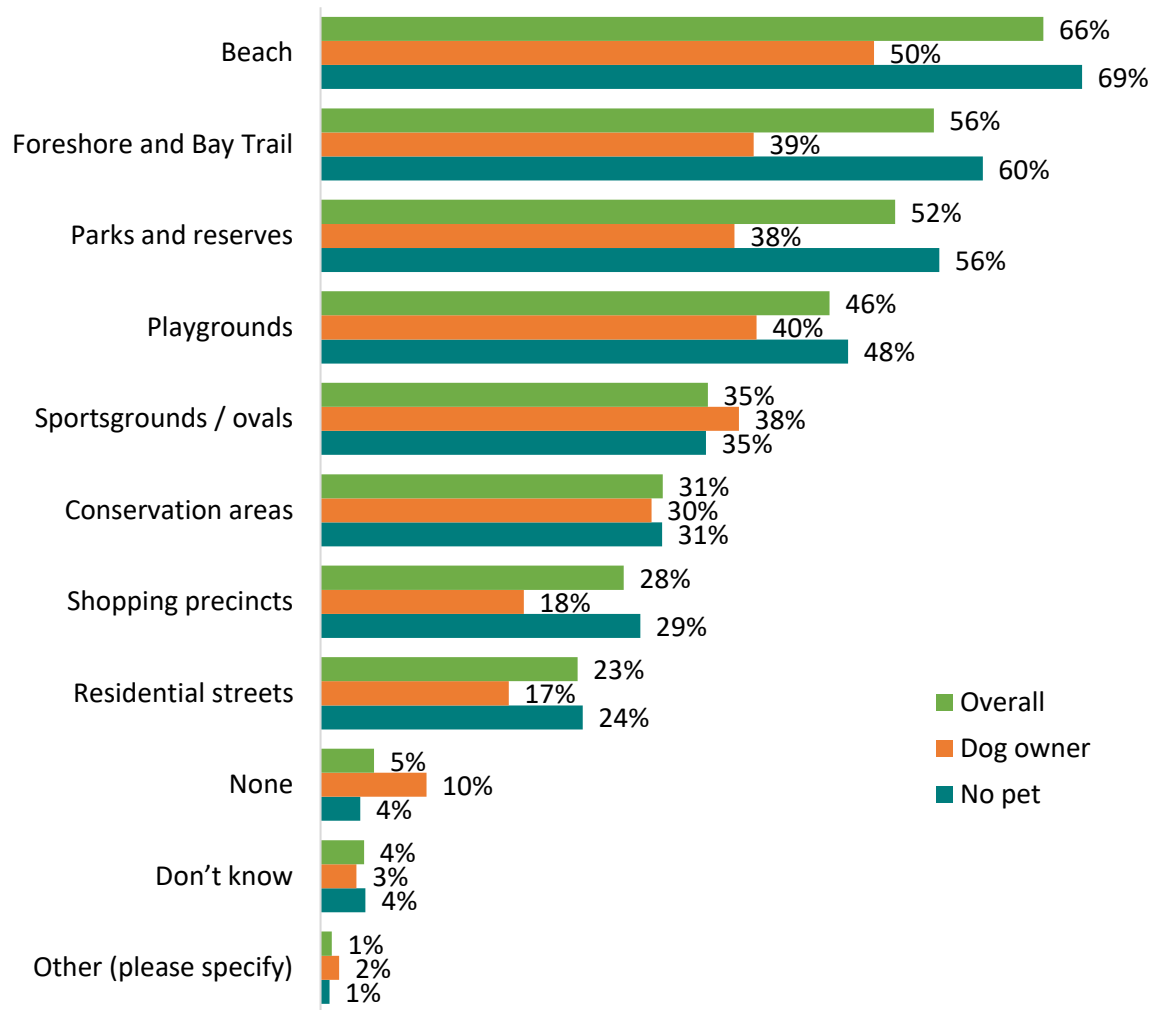
The survey informed respondents that *Council has limited resources for after-hours proactive patrolling of public areas for domestic animal management issues (checking registration, enforcing on-leash rules, ensuring owners pick up their dog's poo)*, and asked how they thought Council should prioritise this resource.

While not as popular an idea with dog owners, findings suggest that the focus for Council planning of additional patrols should be on the beach on weekends and when beach restrictions change (seasonally). These items have remained in similar order of priority and proportion compared to the 2017 results. However, there has been a greater proportion of dog and non-dog owners prioritising weekends (44% & 56% respectively, 2021) compared to 2017 (32% & 50%, respectively). Also notable is that a lesser proportion of dog and non-dog owners believe there should be no change to patrols (11% & 4% respectively) in 2021 compared to (34% and 18% respectively) 2017. This may be due to the COVID restriction period where pet ownership has increased along with an increase perception of poor effective control of new owners, requiring the need for increased patrols and corrective intervention - note not necessarily punitive by way of fines, but by way of assisting or advising on how to achieve better compliance.

**Figure 23 – Additional patrol priorities**



**Figure 24 - Suggested locations that should be priorities for Council officers to patrol**



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## Open Access survey results

Those who responded through the open access survey showed significantly lower instances of wanting patrols to occur on the beach or foreshore, on weekends, when beach restrictions change, or weekdays during the day. Instead, they more commonly wanted patrols to occur in conservation areas, or not at all. This illustrates that the broader community (representative sample) prioritises beach and foreshore patrols to a greater extent than those with an interest in the topic (open access sample).

**Figure 25 – Open Access findings – patrol times and locations priorities**

Suggested times that should be priorities for Council officers to patrol	% Total (n=897)	Suggested locations that should be priorities for Council officers to patrol	% Total (n=897)
Weekends	41%	Beach	41%
Weekday evenings (after 5pm)	35%	Foreshore and Bay Trail	38%
When beach restrictions change	30%	Parks and reserves	38%
Weekday early mornings (before 9am)	30%	Conservation areas	37%
Weekday during the day	18%	Playgrounds	37%
At the start of sporting seasons	13%	Sportsgrounds / ovals	34%
After-school sports	11%	Residential streets	16%
Other	2%	Shopping precincts	15%
None	12%	None	11%
Don't know	13%	Don't know	3%
		Other	2%

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## In-depth interview feedback

In-depth interview participants attributed increases in poor observed behaviours to an increase of inexperienced pet owners during COVID restrictions. Most participants believed that a 'carrot' rather than 'stick' approach was a better use of time for those patrolling compliance – though it was believed fines were warranted for repeat or belligerent offenders as a deterrent – many have never seen any fines issued which was perceived as a problem for encouraging compliance.

Also, it was felt there is a need for better signage explaining aspects of proper etiquette and the dos and don'ts of on-and off-leash behaviours.

*"Those guys who are not responsive or who are openly hostile towards picking up after their dog, those people need to be fined...huge amounts, because that's the only language those people understand. But I don't think that's the majority of people..." (Female,50-59 yrs, Dog owner, Northern suburb.)*

*"And there is just completely endemic non-compliance with the rules, in my experience... So I kind of think, well, if the Council was that interested, and was really on top of it ... it'd be it'd be like shooting fish in a barrel to go and pick up dog owners, because there's always somebody there [breaking the rules]. (Male,50-59 yrs,Non-pet owner, Central suburb.)*

*"I've never ever seen anyone get in trouble for having their dogs in the wrong place at the wrong time." (Female, 35-49 yrs, Non-pet owner, Southern suburb.)*

*"They have to really start enforcing fines and they have to start checking and monitoring and actually enforcing the dog rules because it's just getting a bit ridiculous as far as we're concerned. My wife was sitting with a mother's group in the park just a couple of weeks ago, and a dog ran up when she was breastfeeding, and the owner didn't even bother [dog jumped up on her]." (Male, 35-49 yrs, Non-pet owner, Sportsground user/sports club, Central suburb.)*

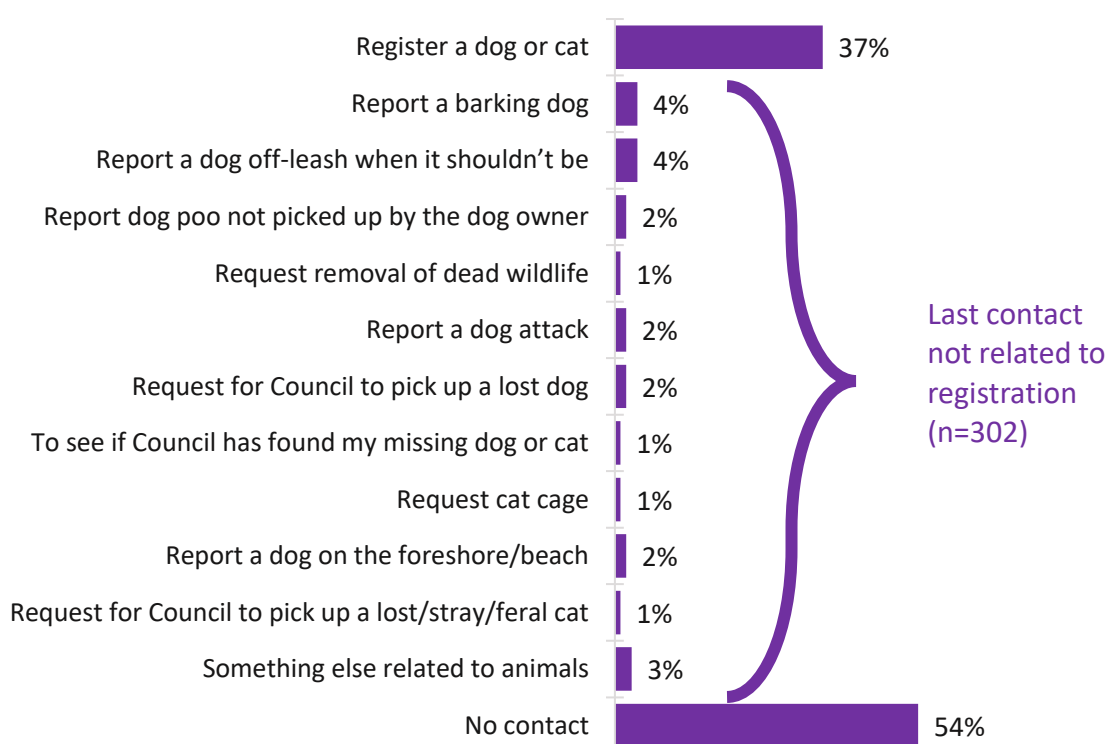
## Contact with Council

Question	Data source	Sample	Notes
Q14. Have you contacted Council for any of the following reasons in the last 3 years? AND 14a) ... the most recent contact?	Representative survey and Open access survey (unweighted)	Combined sample Representative & Open access n=2,090	Multiple answers allowed per respondent.

When combining both research samples, 768 respondents (37%) indicated they had contacted Council in the three years prior to interview for the purpose of registration only (the same proportion as 2017), and 302 (14%) indicated contact for another domestic animal management related purpose. Two thirds of those who had contacted for another domestic management related purpose were pet owners (56%).

The main reasons for contact other than registration was related to inappropriate dog behaviour or lost dogs. The following chart shows the incidence of each reason for the last contact made.

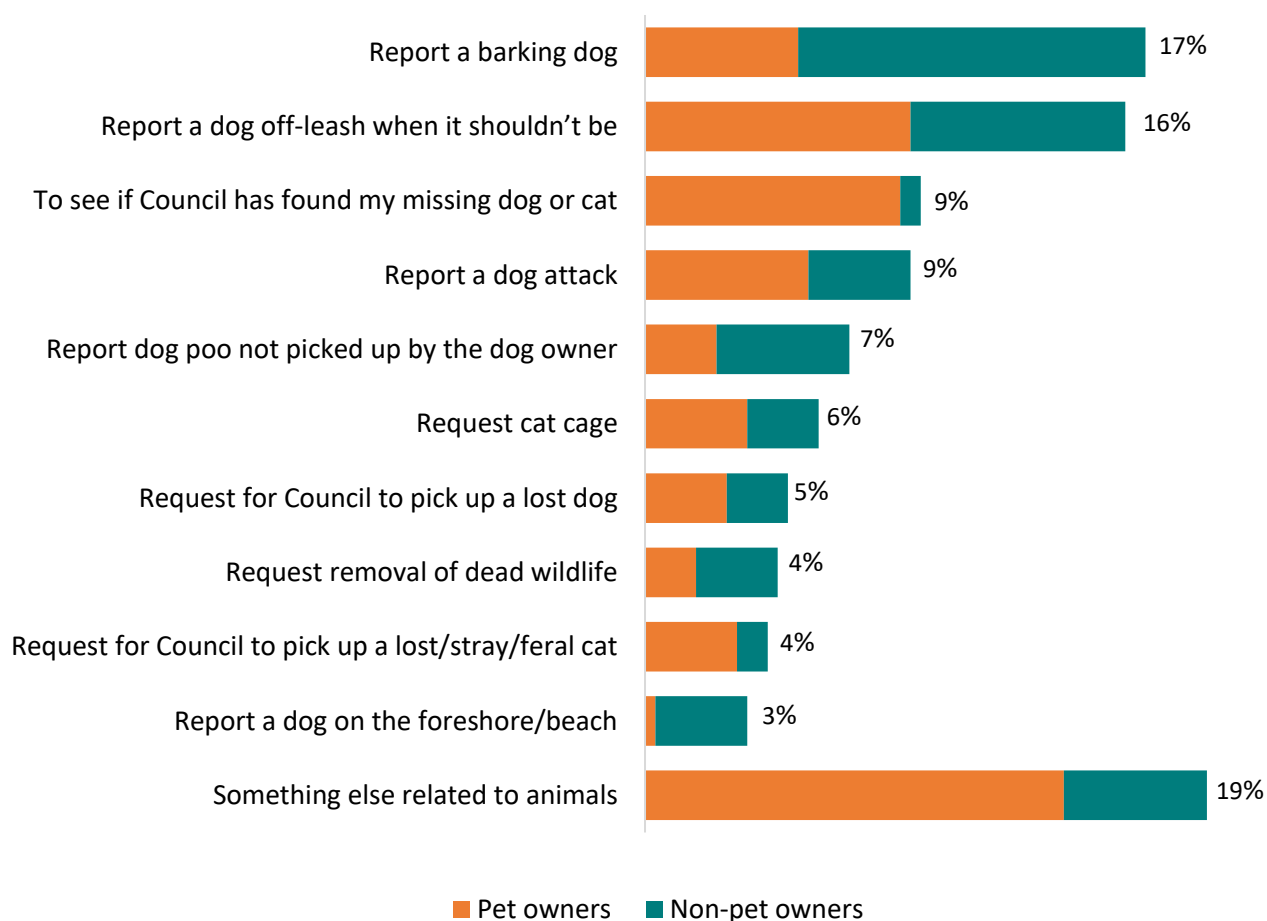
**Figure 26 - Reasons for last contact with Council**



The following chart indicates the proportion of each contact type (excluding non-contact and registration from base) and the split between pet owners and non-pet owners.

Some types of contact are more common among pet owners than non-pet owners (see if Council *has found my lost dog or cat, report a dog attack or report a dog off-leash when it shouldn't be*), while non-pet owners more commonly *report a barking dog, dog poo that hasn't been picked up* and *reporting a dog on the foreshore/beach*.

**Figure 27 - Reasons for most recent contact with Council (excludes non-contact and registration (n=290))**

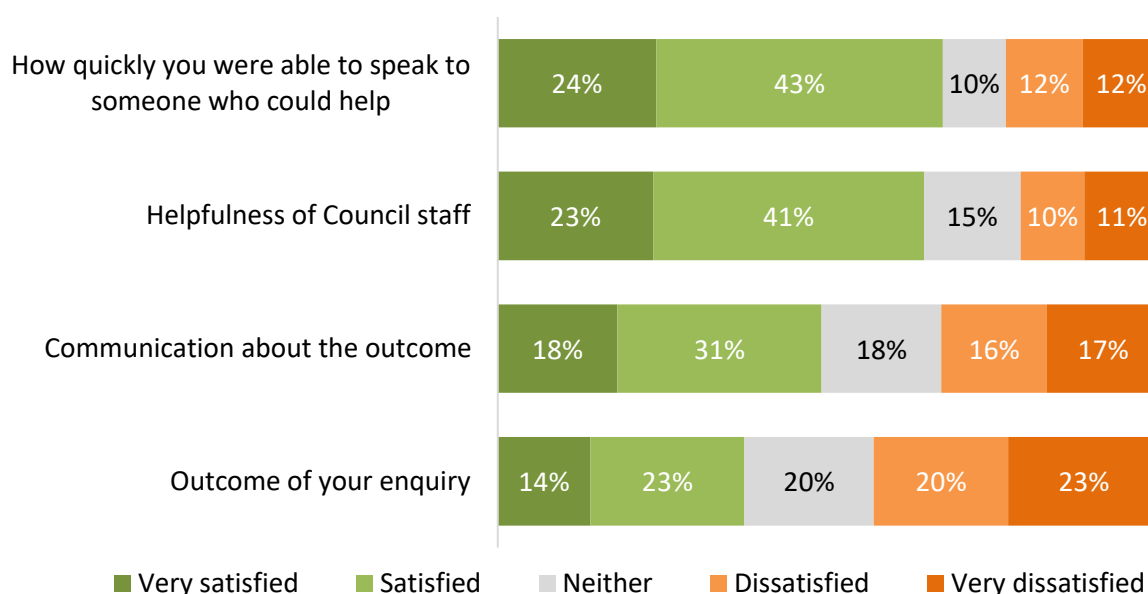


Question	Data source	Sample	Notes
Q15. Thinking about when you contacted Council for <reason for contact> How would you rate Councils response in terms of...? 15a. Why were you dissatisfied with the outcome?	Representative survey & Open access survey (unweighted)	Combined sample n=284-300	Asked of those who had contacted Council for a purpose other than registration of their animal.

Those who had some form of contact with Council were asked to rate their last contact across four customer service variables. Notably, these satisfaction measures had lower ratings than 2017.

Across all types of non-registration related contact, most people who had made contact were satisfied with how quickly they could speak to someone (67% 2021, 71% 2017) and the helpfulness (64% 2021, 65% 2017) of those they spoke to at Council. However, fewer were satisfied with the outcome of their enquiry (37% 2021, 48% 2017). This is potentially due to the difficulty in coming to a resolution for many the contact types, but may also presents an opportunity to better manage outcome expectations.

**Figure 28 - Satisfaction ratings for contact with Council (other than registration)**



% of those who had made contact other than registration. n=284-300

Due to small sample sizes, there were no notable variations in satisfaction across the contact types.

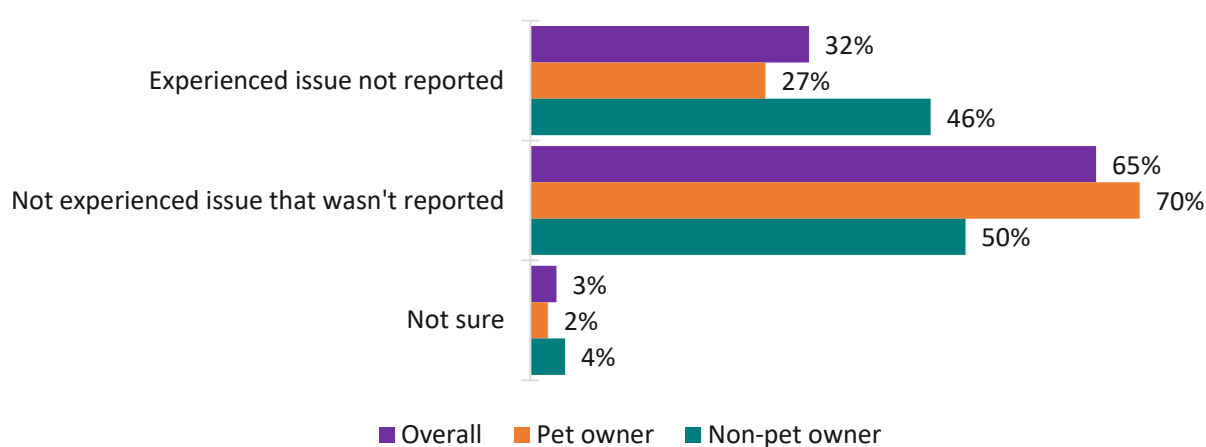
When asked to elaborate on why they were dissatisfied with the outcome of their enquiry, 124 people provided an explanation, with the most common reasons being:

- No action by Council / issue unresolved (46 mentions)
- Lack of follow-up or reply (22 mentions)
- Lack of enforcement against dogs in public spaces (21 mentions)
- Advised that nothing could be done (16 mentions)
- Nothing done about barking dog complaint (10 mentions).

Question	Data source	Sample	Notes
Q16. Have you experienced any domestic animal issues in the last 12 months which you haven't reported to Council? 16a. <If yes> Please tell us about the issue, and why you didn't report it to Council	Open access survey (unweighted)	n= 1,258	Asked of those who had contacted Council for a purpose other than registration of their animal. Q16a recorded as written response then coded for ease of analysis.

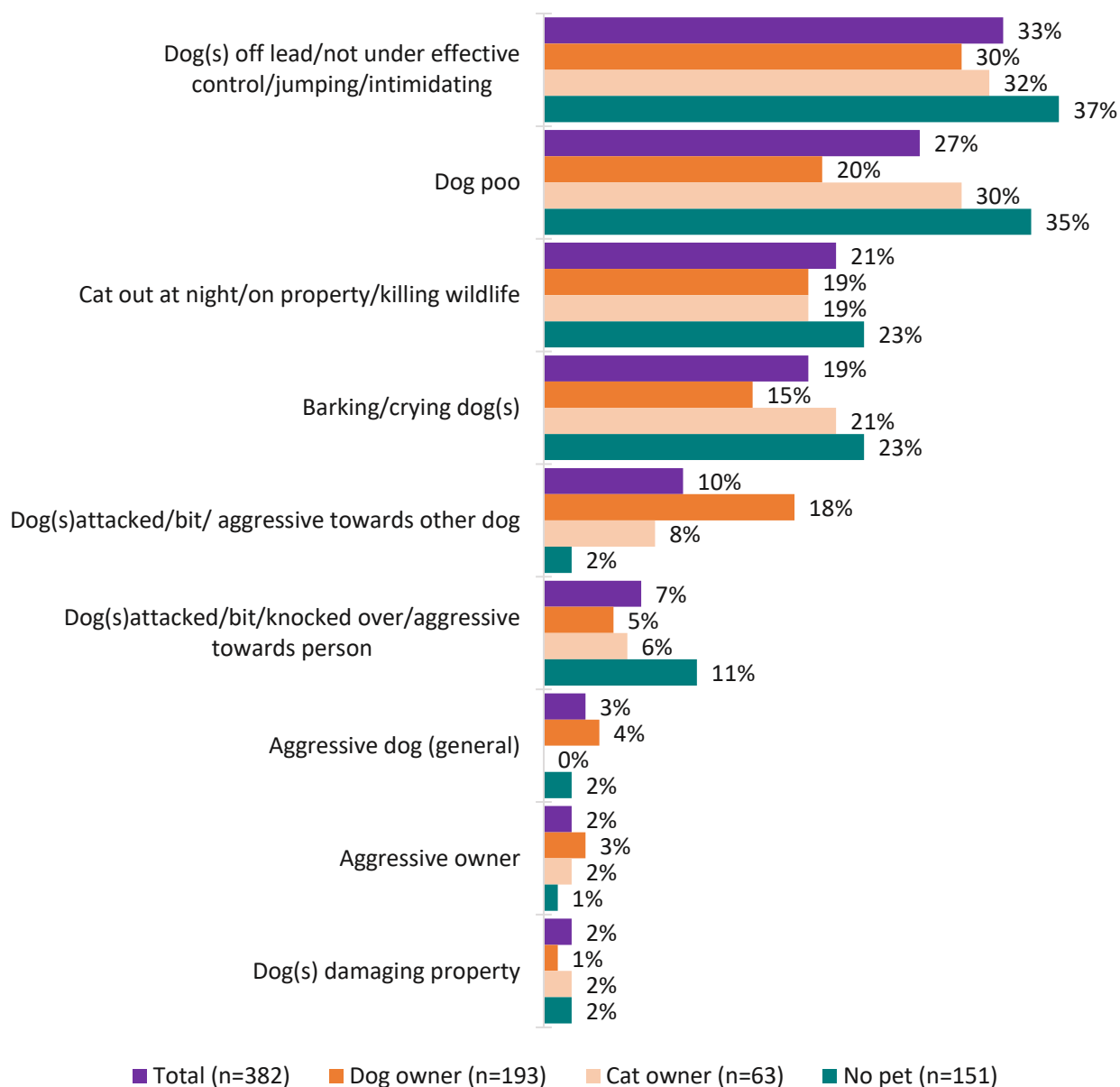
Almost a third (32%) of all participants experienced a domestic animal issue in the 12 months prior to interview that they didn't report to Council. Non-pet owners more commonly indicated they had experienced a domestic animal management issue they hadn't reported.

**Figure 29 - Whether experienced any domestic animal issues 12 months prior to interview AND NOT reported to Council**



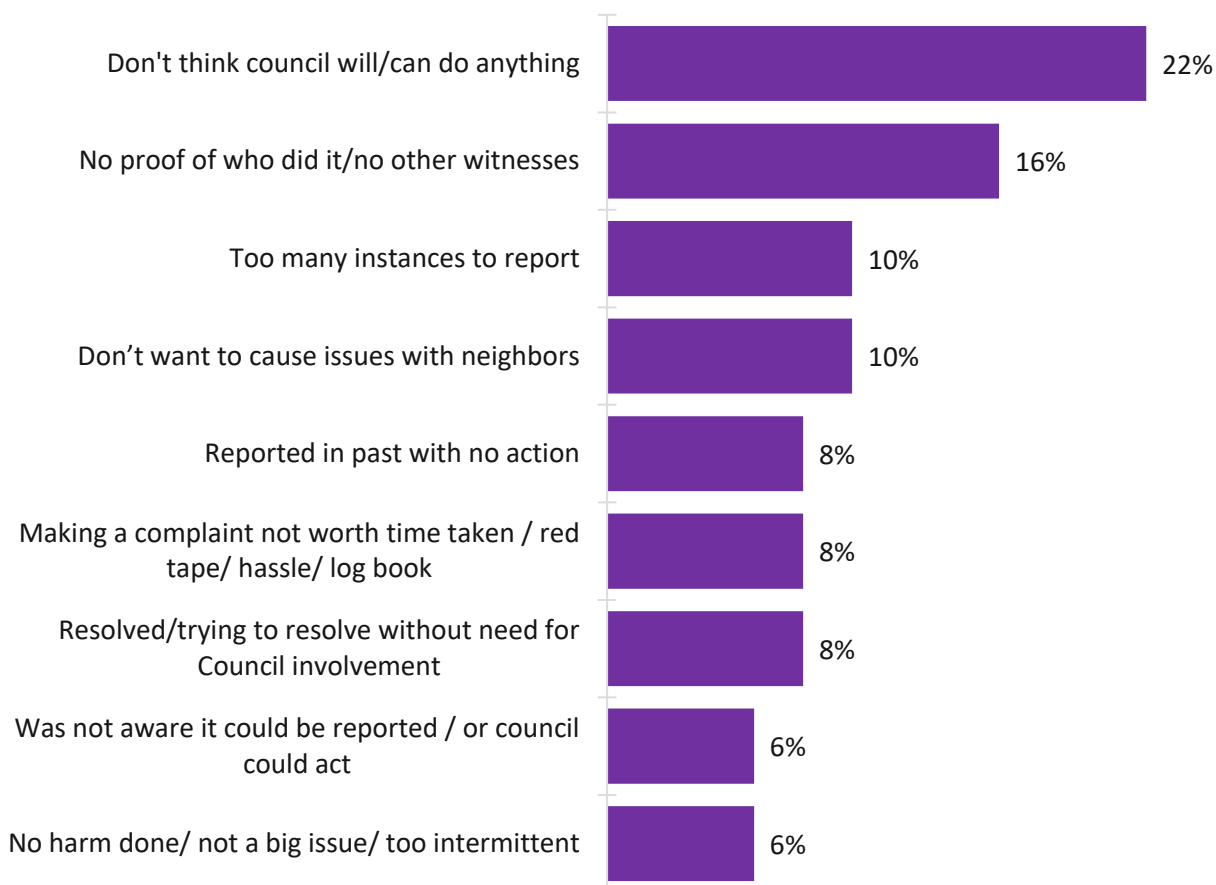
The most common domestic animal management issues not being reported to Council are dogs not being under effective control, uncollected dog poo and cats out at night-time.

**Figure 30 - Domestic animal issues experienced in 12 months prior to interview AND NOT reported to Council**



The primary barriers to reporting domestic animal management issues to Council are a perception that Council won't or can't do anything about it and no proof of who did it.

**Figure 31 - Top nine reasons why domestic animal issues were NOT reported to Council**



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#### **In-depth interview feedback:**

There were a number of reasons participants decided not to report any pet issues they had to the Council; primarily to keep the peace with the [offending] neighbours and/or believing the Council could do little about the issue.

*“And yeah, we sort of toyed with the idea of complaining, but then we think what is that going to achieve and is it really good, you know, how sensitive is it going to be? ... Is it going to cause some sort of problem?” (Male, 50-59 yrs, Non-pet owner, Central suburb.)*

*“If you encounter things as well, what do you do about it? Who do you go to? I have called up the Council and I just feel as if they're not going to do anything about it.” (Female, 60-69 yrs, Cat owner, Resident group, Central suburb.)*

## What Council can do for businesses

Question	Data source	Sample	Notes
Q33. What can Council do through the Domestic Animal Management Plan to support your business?	Open access survey	8 comments	Open ended question asked of those who said they run a dog related business in Bayside.

There were only 8 ideas put forth for things Council could do to support pet related businesses, most of which referred to educating people on being more responsible.

*Educate people on how to be responsible, what adequate care looks like and punish people who are cruel to animals or don't provide the basic care.*

*Help to educate the community about force-free training and dog behaviour, and provide information about Professional organisations such as the Pet Professional Guild Australia and APDT, so people know how and where to access safe and reliable information.*

*Offering training to pet owners would make my job a lot easier in terms of having to worry less about dog's exhibiting inappropriate behaviours or acting aggressively because their owner doesn't have control or doesn't isn't educated on dog body language etc.*

*Have a list of dog training providers like Glen Eira Council does on the Council website*

*Have dog water stations and bags in shopping strips.*

*I don't have a problem with the current restrictions, I think 4 dogs is enough for a walker and have no problems running my business in bayside.*

*Advertise*

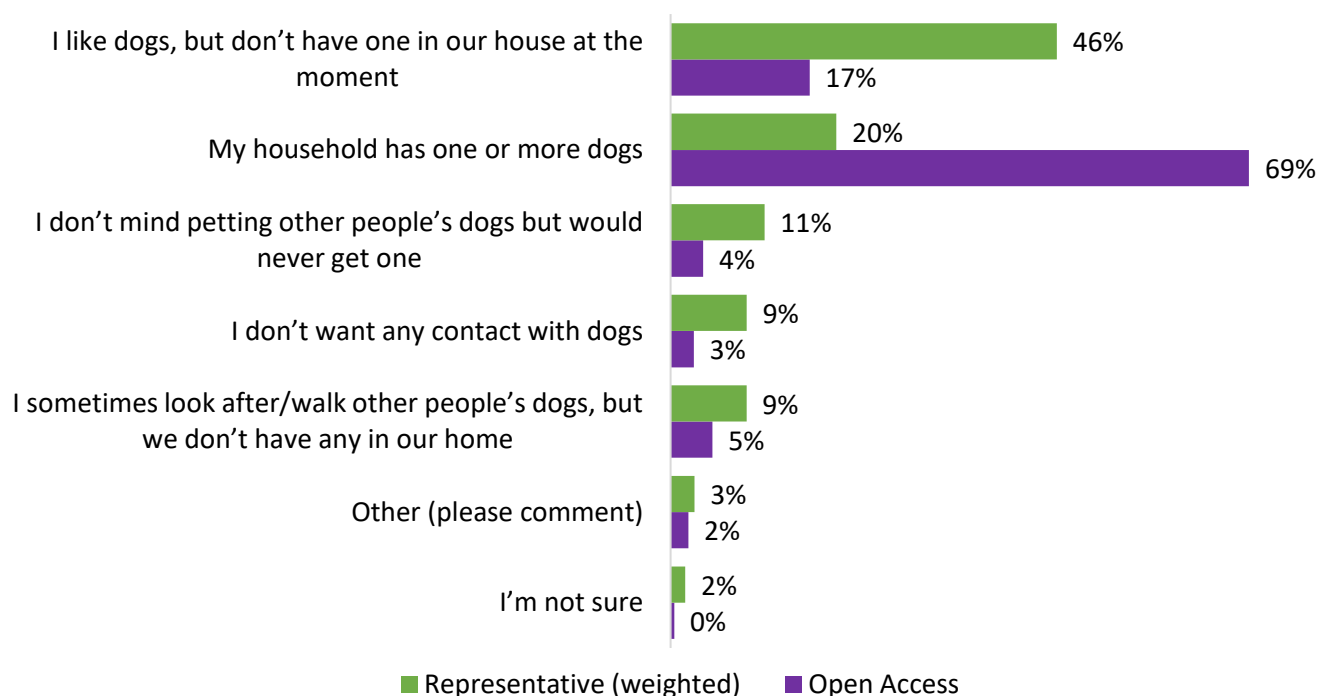
*Not charge me to run very small minding business*

## Pet ownership

Question	Data source	Sample	Notes
Q17 Which of the following best describes you in relation to dogs / cats? [If own] How many?	Representative survey (weighted) and open access survey (unweighted)	2021 Representative survey (n=1,182) Open access survey (n=897)	Includes multiple responses. Whilst it was asked in both surveys, analysis will focus on the representative sample as it provides a snapshot of the whole-of-community context.

Based on weighted representative data (green bar in following chart) it is estimated that the average number of dogs per household is 1.3 - a slight increase from 1.2 in 2017.

**Figure 32 - Dog ownership status**



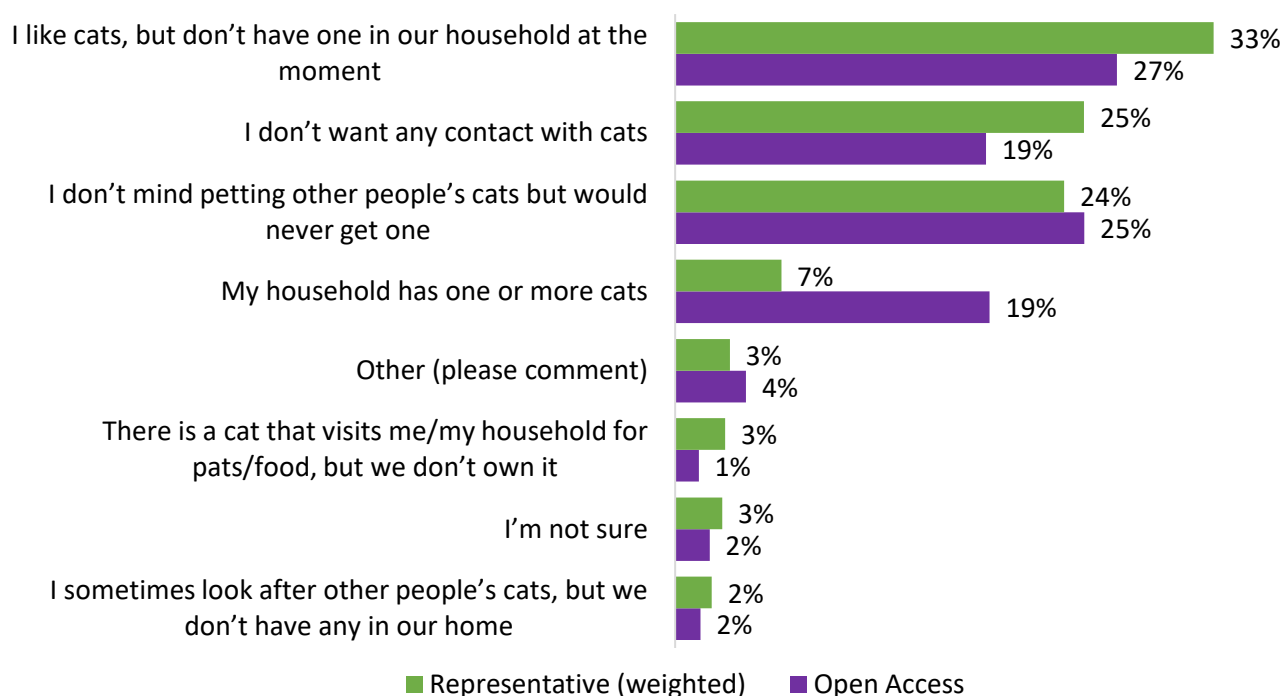
Results in 2021 for both the representative and open access surveys were within plus or minus a few points of the 2017 results.

Around one in ten people don't want any contact with dogs, however most people don't mind dogs.

The open access sample (purple bar in chart above) is significantly skewed towards dog owners.

Based on weighted representative data (green bar in following chart) it is estimated that the average number of cats per household with one or more cats is 1.18. There is a notable proportion of the community who do not wish to have any contact with cats (25%, similar to 2017).

**Figure 33 - Cat ownership status**



Results in 2021 for both the representative and open access surveys were within plus or minus a few points of the 2017 results, except for *I don't mind petting other people's cats but would never get one* in the representative survey that increased 7 points from 17% to 24% in 2021.

A high level analysis of the current dog and cat registrations against this data (without identifying addresses) indicates that around 20% of households who said they have a dog and/or cat haven't registered their animal (down from one third in 2017). The incidence of having an unregistered animal is slightly higher for households with cats (29%, compared to 36% in 2017) than households with dogs (18%, compared to 29% in 2017). This equates to potentially 9% of all households in Bayside with an unregistered animal. It should be noted that this is a very crude calculation as it doesn't consider any households who may have registered their animals in the 2-3 months prior to interview.

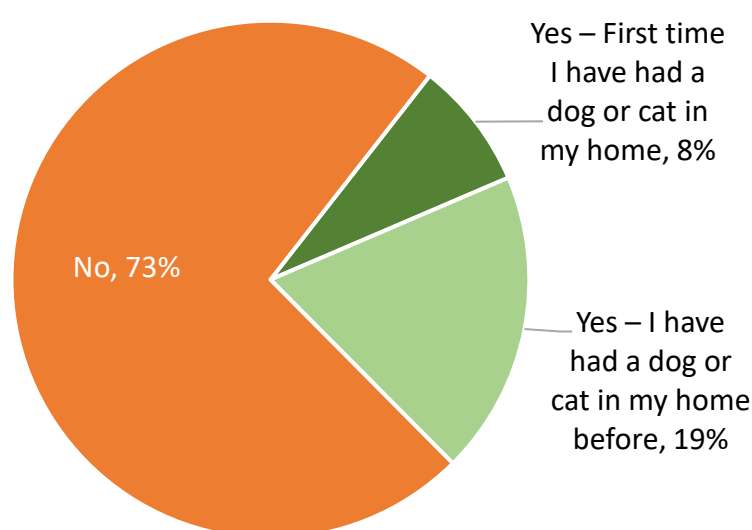
**Note on privacy:** The analysis to identify the incidence of unregistered pets has been conducted with 2-level randomly generated unique identifiers to protect the anonymity of individual responses so that this information CAN NOT be linked back to address.

Question	Data source	Sample	Notes
Q26. Did you get a dog or cat during COVID (since February 2020)?	Open access survey	n=902	Open access survey (including those from the representative survey who chose to answer additional questions). Asked if person has a dog or a cat.

One in 12 participants (8%) indicated that they became first time dog or cat owners during the COVID pandemic (since February 2020). A further one in five (19%) who had pets in the past or were already pet owners, acquired a pet during COVID.

There were no notable differences in demographics.

**Figure 34 – Got a dog or cat during COVID**



#### In-depth interview feedback:

There were a number of participants concerned about the sharp influx of new pet owners during COVID and those pets being left alone now that COVID restrictions have abated, and people are back to work during the day.

*“I think one of the things that's going to be an issue for Council going forward is what happens when everybody goes back to work, and there are animals at home, particularly dogs who are bored and don't understand why their life has suddenly taken this terrible turn for the worse. And they might be barking more, they might be trying to escape more and other kinds of antisocial behaviours. And I think that's something that could well rebound on Council down the track.” (Female, 60-69 yrs, Dog owner, Southern suburb.)*

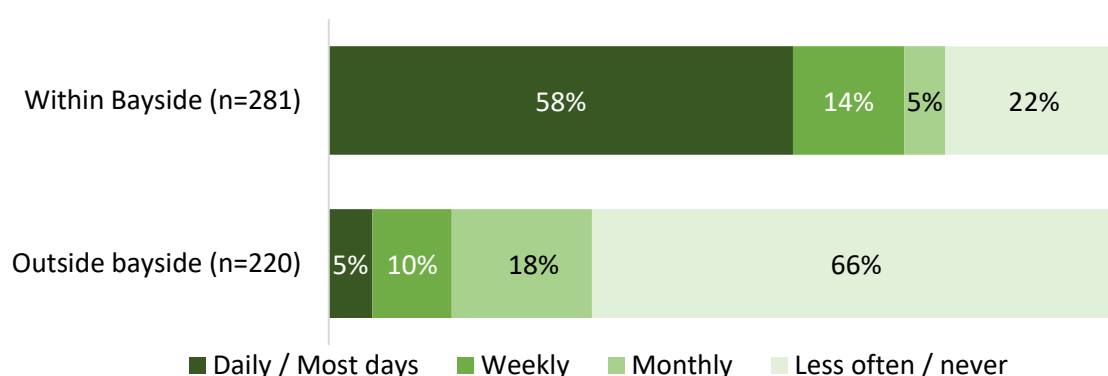
*“People were buying puppies, and they'll go back to work and everything else. And eventually, a lot of those puppies won't be wanted. And they'll end up in, in a home.” (Male, 70+ yrs, Dog owner, Northern suburb.)*

## Dog owners – Off-leash routines, time(s) & location(s)

Question	Data source	Sample	Notes
Q18. How often does the dog or dogs in your household get walked off-leash at off-leash areas in Bayside and Outside of Bayside?	Representative survey (weighted).	n=392	Whilst it was asked in both surveys, analysis will focus on the representative sample as it provides a snapshot of the whole-of-community context. Open access results are provided for background information only.

Most dog owners in Bayside (72%) walk their dogs off-leash in Bayside once a week or more often, which is less than the 2017 survey results (80% weekly or more often).

**Figure 35 - Frequency of walking dog off-leash**



Given the representative survey was a paper survey, some people will skip questions which aren't relevant to them, resulting in a high proportion who didn't answer the 'outside of Bayside' question (41% of mail responses). To assess whether this likely means 'never' we compared this data to the open access survey (the online system requires an answer to this question so it can't be skipped), which revealed 19% 'never'. Therefore it is likely that at least some of those who skipped this question did so instead of selecting 'never'. Assuming this is the case, the incidence of walking dogs outside of Bayside has remained unchanged when compared to 2011 and 2017 (4% most days, 9% 1-2 times a week).

## Open Access survey results

Open access survey dog-owners more frequently walked their dogs off-leash both within and outside of Bayside, further illustrating the difference between the two samples.

**Figure 36 – Open Access findings - frequency of walking dog off-leash**

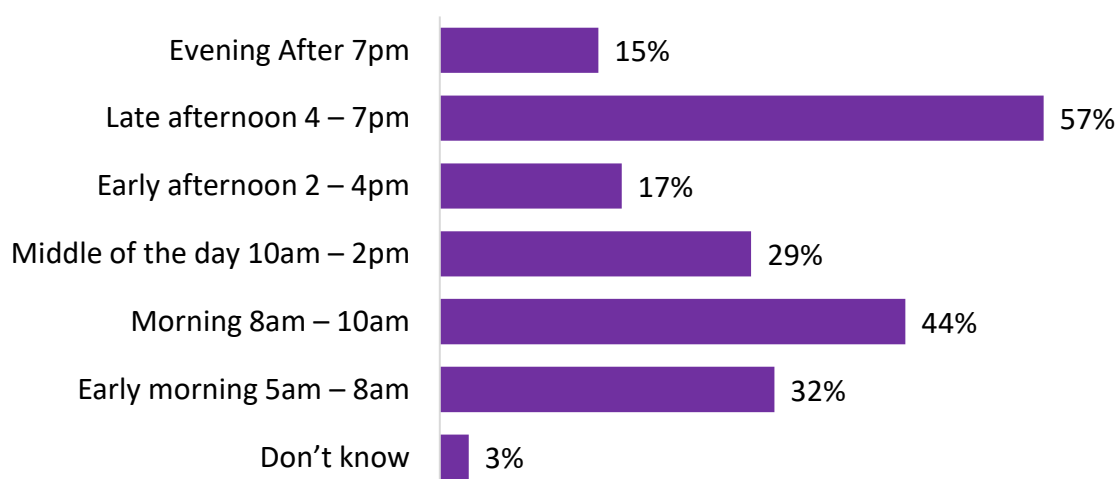
Within Bayside		% Total (n=620)	Outside Bayside		% Total (n=620)
Daily / Most days		68%	Daily / Most days		9%
Weekly		15%	Weekly		16%
Monthly		5%	Monthly		20%
Less often / Never		11%	Less often / Never		54%

Question	Data source	Sample	Notes
Q19. What times do you typically exercise your dog at an off-leash area?	Open access survey (unweighted)	n=726	Multiple response. Asked in the open access survey only (including those from the representative survey who chose to complete additional questions)

The majority of dog owners (57%) walk their pets in an off-leash area in *the late afternoon 4-7pm*. There is no notable difference in behaviour across age gender and location. The least common time to walk dogs off-leash is in the *evening after 7pm*.

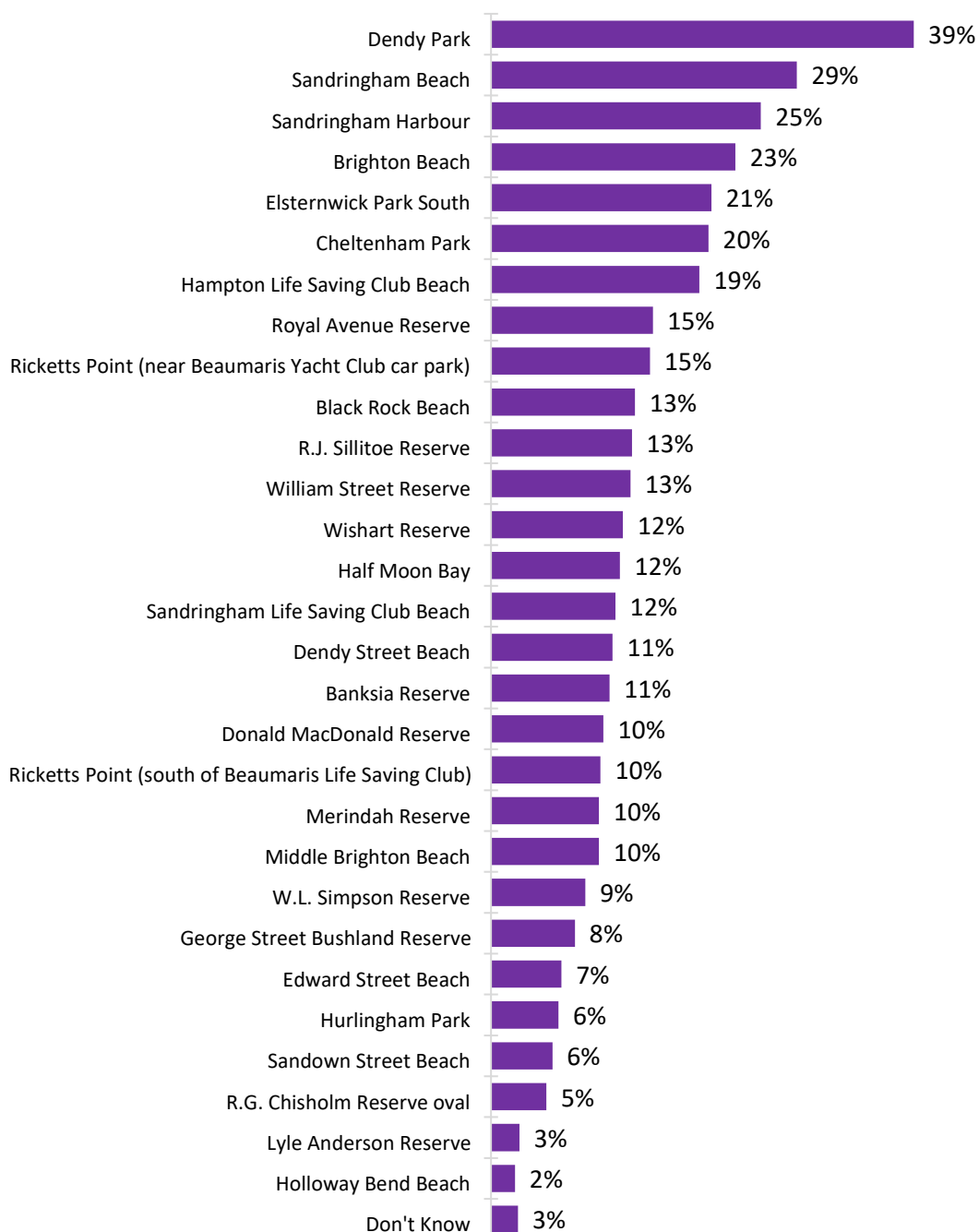
**Figure 37 - Times of day that dogs are exercised in an off-leash area**



Question	Data source	Sample	Notes
Q20. Which dog off-leash areas do you visit most often?	Open access survey (unweighted)	n=715	Asked in the open access survey only (including those from the representative survey who chose to complete additional questions). Asked of dog-owners who walk their dogs off-leash Multiple selections allowed.

The following chart provides a leaderboard of most to least visited off-leash locations in Bayside by dog owners who walk their dogs off-leash.

**Figure 38 - Dog off-leash areas visited most often**



The following tables show areas visited by dog owners who walk their dogs off-leash. This information may be useful in targeting communications relevant to specific locations. Please note that this is based on the open access survey data and is therefore not necessarily representative of the broader population.

The tables feature the region of the participant's residence (highlighted in yellow) and the locations visited predominantly by persons living in that region (sorted in descending order by that region). The proportion of residents from other areas that also visit the same location is also indicated in additional columns.

**Green highlights** signify a large overlap of visitation by residents from two or more other regions. Large overlap is gauged by corresponding visitations being in double digits (by proportion) or sharing notably similar proportions. **Blue highlights** a minor overlap in visitations of residents from other regions to the same location. **Orange highlights** indicates that visitors are mainly from the one region.

Visits to locations making up less than 5% of any regional population are not shown.

For example, 57% of residents in the northern region frequent Dendy Park off-leash areas. There is also a large overlap with Central residents, 42% of which use the area as well, therefore highlighted in green. To a lesser extent, 17% of residents from the Southern region also use that off-leash location.

Elsternwick Park South is mainly used by Northern residents (48%) with minor overlap in usage with Central (8%) and Southern (5%) residents.

Hurlingham Park is largely used by Northern residents. Usage by residents from other regions is less than 5% to none. Please note that all of this data is unweighted and does not necessarily reflect the proportion of the actual population of residents for each region.

**Figure 39 - Northern residents – Dog off-leash areas visited most often**

Location	Northern (n=206)	Central (n=283)	Southern (n=194)	Overall (n=715)
Dendy Park	57%	42%	17%	39%
Brighton Beach	49%	13%	6%	23%
Elsternwick Park South	48%	8%	5%	21%
William Street Reserve	33%	8%		13%
Dendy Street Beach	28%	6%		11%
Middle Brighton Beach	24%	5%		10%
Sandringham Beach	19%	45%	18%	29%
Hurlingham Park	19%			6%
Sandringham Harbour	16%	42%	13%	25%
Hampton Life Saving Club Beach	13%	33%	8%	19%
Sandown Street Beach	12%			6%
R.J. Sillitoe Reserve	7%	27%		13%
Wishart Reserve	7%	21%	5%	12%
Sandringham Life Saving Club Beach	7%	18%	9%	12%
Half Moon Bay	5%	12%	20%	12%
Cheltenham Park	5%	15%	47%	20%

**Figure 40 - Central residents – Dog off-leash areas visited most often**

Location	Central (n=283)	Southern (n=194)	Northern (n=206)	Overall (n=715)
Sandringham Beach	45%	18%	19%	29%
Dendy Park	42%	17%	57%	39%
Sandringham Harbour	42%	13%	16%	25%
Hampton Life Saving Club Beach	33%	8%	13%	19%
R.J. Sillitoe Reserve	27%		7%	13%
Royal Avenue Reserve	25%	17%		15%
Wishart Reserve	21%	5%	7%	12%
W.L. Simpson Reserve	19%			9%
Sandringham Life Saving Club Beach	18%	9%	7%	12%
Merindah Reserve	16%	11%		10%
Cheltenham Park	15%	47%	5%	20%
George Street Bushland Reserve	13%	8%		8%
Brighton Beach	13%	6%	49%	23%
Half Moon Bay	12%	20%	5%	12%
R.G. Chisholm Reserve oval	11%			5%
Edward Street Beach	10%	7%		7%
Black Rock Beach	9%	32%		13%
William Street Reserve	8%		33%	13%
Elsternwick Park South	8%	5%	48%	21%
Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary foreshore area (near Beaumaris Yacht Club car park)	6%	42%		15%
Dendy Street Beach	6%		28%	11%
Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary foreshore area (south of the Beaumaris Life Saving Club)	5%	28%		10%
Middle Brighton Beach	5%		24%	10%
Lyle Anderson Reserve	5%			3%

**Figure 41 - Southern residents – Dog off-leash areas visited most often**

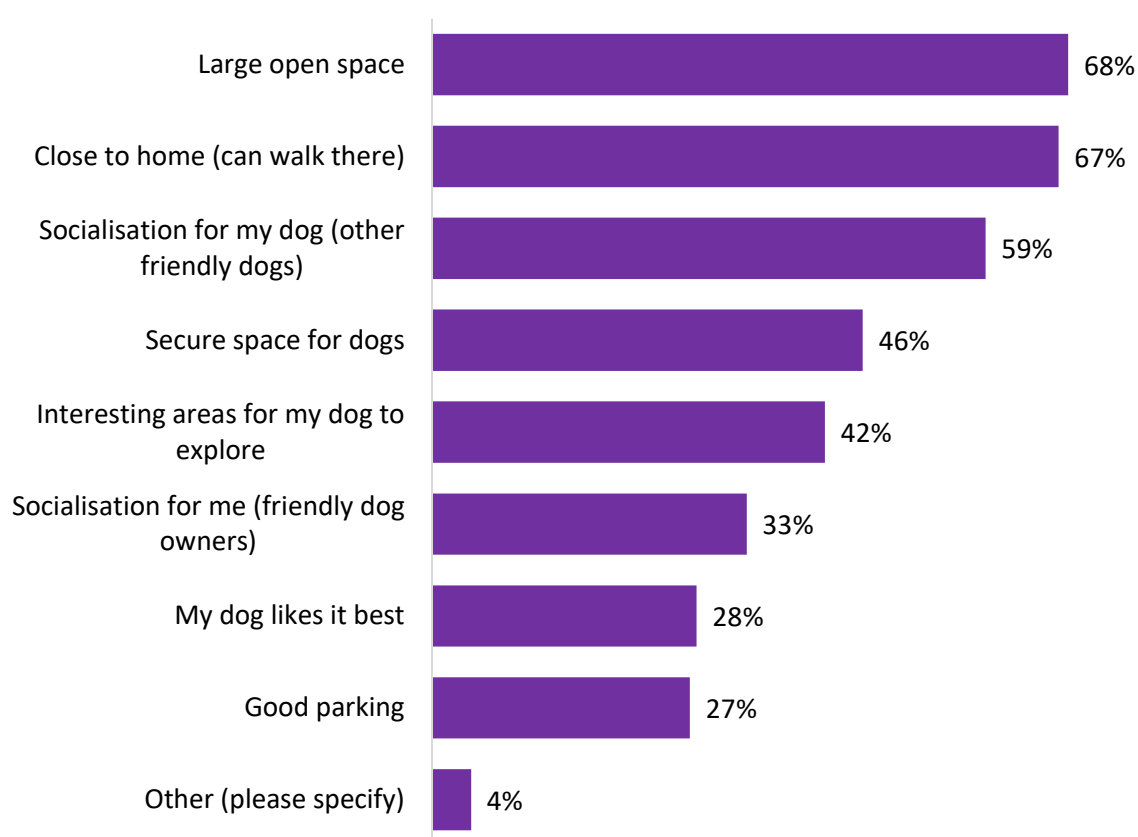
Location	Southern (n=194)	Northern (n=206)	Central (n=283)	Overall (n=715)
Cheltenham Park	47%	5%	15%	20%
Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary foreshore area (near Beaumaris Yacht Club car park)	42%		6%	15%
Banksia Reserve	38%			11%
Donald MacDonald Reserve	36%			10%
Black Rock Beach	32%		9%	13%
Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary foreshore area (south of the Beaumaris Life Saving Club)	28%		5%	10%
Half Moon Bay	20%	5%	12%	12%
Sandringham Beach	18%	19%	45%	29%
Dendy Park	17%	57%	42%	39%
Royal Avenue Reserve	17%		25%	15%
Sandringham Harbour	13%	16%	42%	25%
Merindah Reserve	11%		16%	10%
Sandringham Life Saving Club Beach	9%	7%	18%	12%
Hampton Life Saving Club Beach	8%	13%	33%	19%
George Street Bushland Reserve	8%		13%	8%
Edward Street Beach	7%		10%	7%
Brighton Beach	6%	49%	13%	23%
Elsternwick Park South	5%	48%	8%	21%
Wishart Reserve	5%	7%	21%	12%

Question	Data source	Sample	Notes
Q21. What do you like most about this/these location(s)?	Open access survey (unweighted)	n=697	Asked in the open access survey only. Note that most liked aspects are not linked 1 to 1 to Q21 – dog off-leash areas visited most often. Therefore, most liked aspects for each location cannot be shown.

*Large open space* (68%) and that the location was *close to home (can walk there)* (67%) were the top two factors driving selection of location for off-leash dog walks.

An opportunity for *socialisation with other dogs* (59%) and being a *secure place* for their dog(s) (46%) were also valued most with respect to those areas.

**Figure 42 - Aspects of dog off-leash areas liked the most by participants**

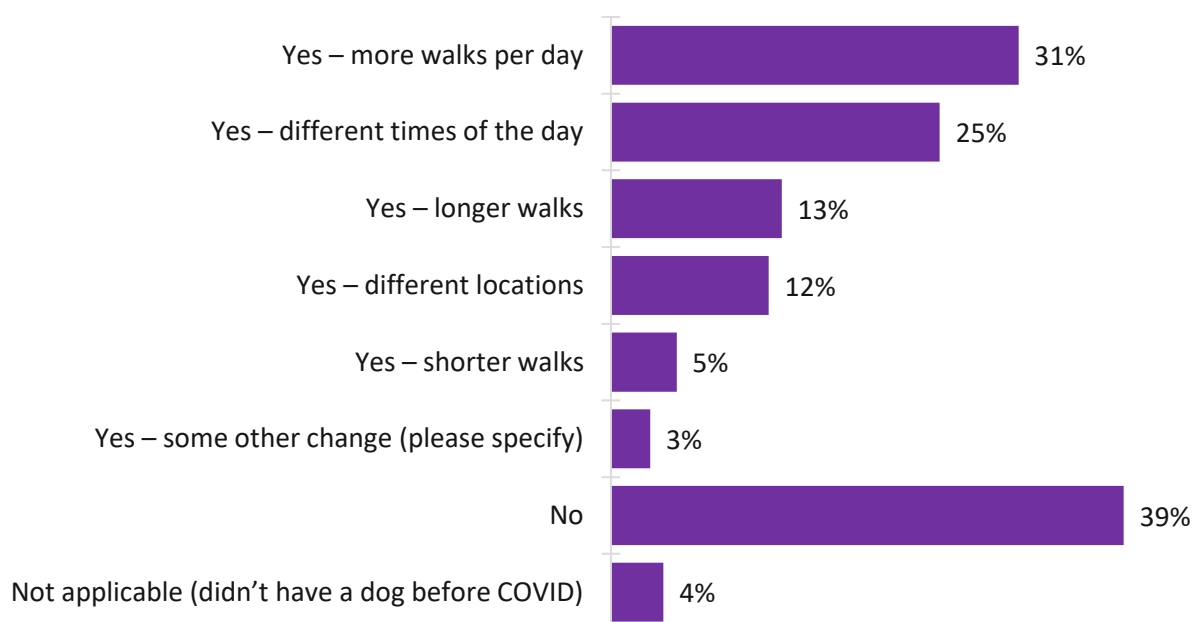


The proportion of 'likes' were similar across residential regions and other demographic groups.

Question	Data source	Sample	Notes
Q22. Has the location and frequency of walking your dog changed due to COVID restrictions? Q23. <if yes> Are you likely to go back to your previous dog walking behaviours once COVID restrictions have been lifted?	Open access survey (unweighted)	n=790	Asked in the open access survey only. Q22 was a multiple selection question, therefore a crosstabulation to specific behaviours adopted during COVID restrictions that are likely to be reversed (in Q23) cannot be matched directly, but inferred only, based on available data. Note that these inferences exclude those that indicated they don't know if they will revert to their pre-COVID behaviours.

Over half of respondents with dogs self-reported behaviour change in dog walking during COVID restrictions. The most common changes in behaviour were going on *more walks per day*, and walking at *different times of day*.

**Figure 43 – Proportion of dog owners who changed dog walking behaviour during COVID restrictions & likely retained behaviour afterwards**



In a follow-up question, the 444 respondents who said they had made a change to walking behaviour during COVID were asked if they would go back to their previous behaviour after COVID. More said that they would stick to the new dog walking behaviour (41%) than go back to their pre-COVID dog-walking behaviour (29%); and 30% were undecided.

Those who said they were doing more walks a day and/or longer walks more commonly indicated they would stick to this new behaviour (54%), whereas 46% of those who said they were doing shorter walks said they would go back to their previous behaviour after COVID.

## Cat owners – indoor/outdoor habits

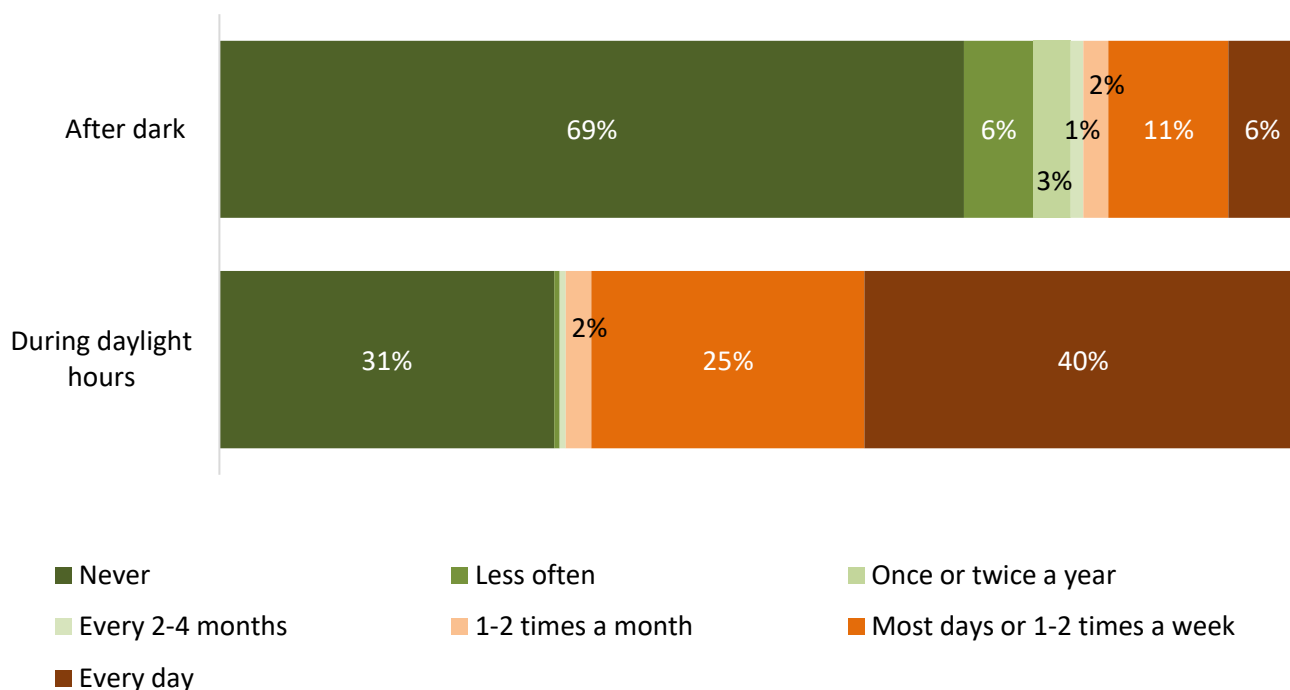
Question	Data source	Sample	Notes
Q25. How often does your cat spend time outdoors...?	Representative survey	n=102	New question in 2021 asked in the representative survey. Only asked on households with cats. Open access results are provided for background information only. Representative results should take priority.

Over two thirds of cat owners (69%) reported their cats were never *outdoors after dark* and under one third (31%) are never *outdoors during daylight hours*.

Almost two thirds (65%) of cat owners indicated their cats were outdoors during the day weekly or more often, whereas one in six owners (17%) report their cats outdoors *after dark* weekly or more often.

There were no notable variations between participant's residential location or other demographic indicators.

**Figure 44 - Frequency cat owners report their cats are outdoors after dark and during daylight**



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## Open Access survey results

Overall results for the open access survey were roughly similar to the representative survey with regards to cat owners reporting how often their cats spend *outdoors after dark*. However, time spent outside during daylight hours varied more greatly with 51% indicating their cats were outside *every day* and 22% indicating *never* in the open access survey, compared to 40% and 31% respectively in the representative survey.

**Figure 45 – Open Access findings - frequency cat owners report their cats are outdoors after dark and during daylight hours**

After dark	% Total (n=173)	During daylight hours	% Total (n=173)
Every day	5%	Every day	51%
Most days or 1 or 2 times a week	10%	Most days or 1 or 2 times a week	22%
1-2 times a month	4%	1-2 times a month	1%
Every 2-4 months	2%	Every 2-4 months	1%
Once or twice a year	6%	Once or twice a year	0%
Less often	5%	Less often	2%
Never	66%	Never	22%

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## In-depth interview feedback:

There was a strong indication that confining cats was, generally, understandable (many outright agree with the measure) though not always desirable – particularly by cat owners being challenged when faced with the prospect of complete containment.

*“I think that regulating cats so they're not out at night, attacking the wildlife is a good thing.” (Female, 60-69 yrs, Dog owner, Southern suburb.)*

*“I have a cat who can't jump a fence. She can't leave the property. But we have lots of cats that come into our property. And I really like them. I don't have an issue with pets coming onto my property at all They just want a bit of a pat.” (Female, 60-69 yrs, Cat owner, Resident group, Central suburb.)*

*“Cats shouldn't be outside they need to be contained.” (Female, 50-59 yrs, Dog owner, Pet community group, Southern suburb.)*

*“I've actually come to believe that people should confine their cat to their properties 24 hours a day, because we are most concerned about the potential of cats to killing small birds and we have trouble retaining our small birds here at the moment, they're under threat from a lot of larger bird species that are more dominant.” (Female, 60-69 yrs, Non-pet owner, Environmental/friends group, Central suburb.)*

*I've been a cat owner for most of my life. I would hate to see Bayside adopt some of the policies of some of the other councils where cats aren't allowed out ... I think if you live in an apartment, and you have to keep a cat inside, then you should get a kitten because then they get used to that. But when you've got like a seven-year-old cat like ours to*

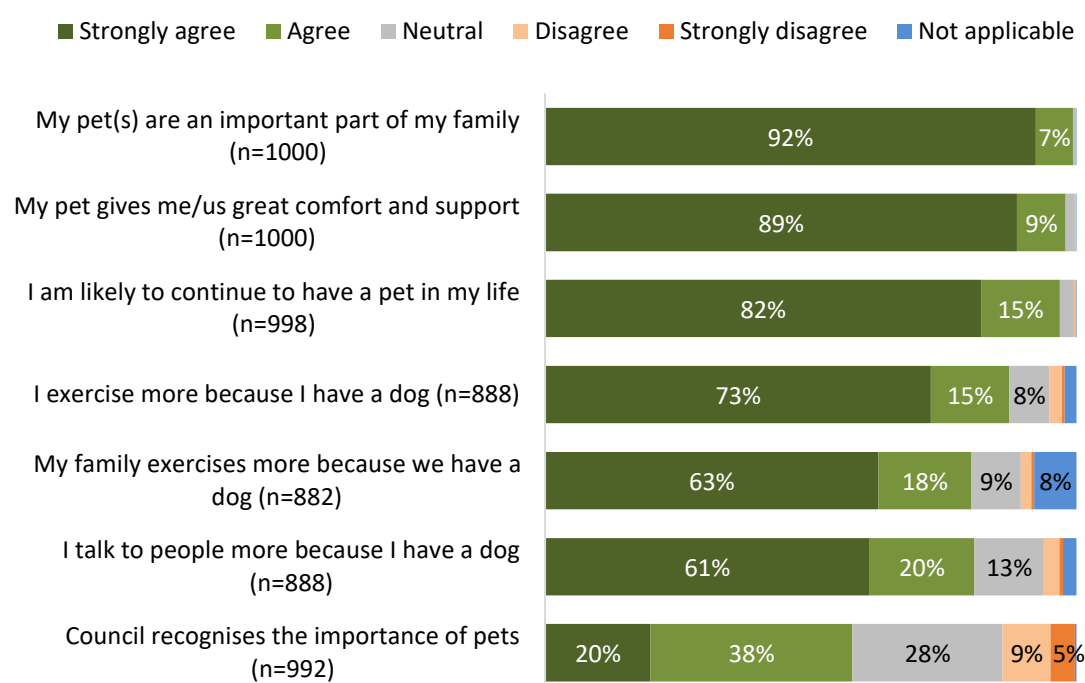
*confine in the house would be really, really difficult and she'd [the cat] be really upset about it."* (Female, 50-59 yrs, Dog owner, Cat owner, Central suburb.)

## Importance of pets

Question	Data source	Sample	Notes
Q27. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?	Representative survey & Open access survey	n=1,000	Asked of just pet owners. A score combining the strongly agree and agree measures was carried forward from 2017.

Findings in 2021 provide consistent support the 2017 survey results, showing that almost all pet owners recognise the health and wellbeing benefits of owning a dog and/or cat. Pets being an important part of the family has an almost perfect score (99% strongly agree plus agree) similar to 98% in 2017.

**Figure 46 Agreement with value statements about pets**



Notably, participants who indicated that they *exercise more because I have a dog* decreased by five points to 87% strongly agree plus agree in 2021. Similar decreases were observed for *my family exercises more because we have a dog* (80% in 2021, down from 91% in 2017); and *I talk to people more because I have a dog* (81% in 2021, down from 91% in 2017). These decreased exercise and social aspects are likely the result of COVID restrictions.

The proportion agreeing that Council recognises the importance of pets has increased slightly, and is particularly high amongst the representative survey sample (66% strongly agree plus agree), compared to 54% for the open access survey.

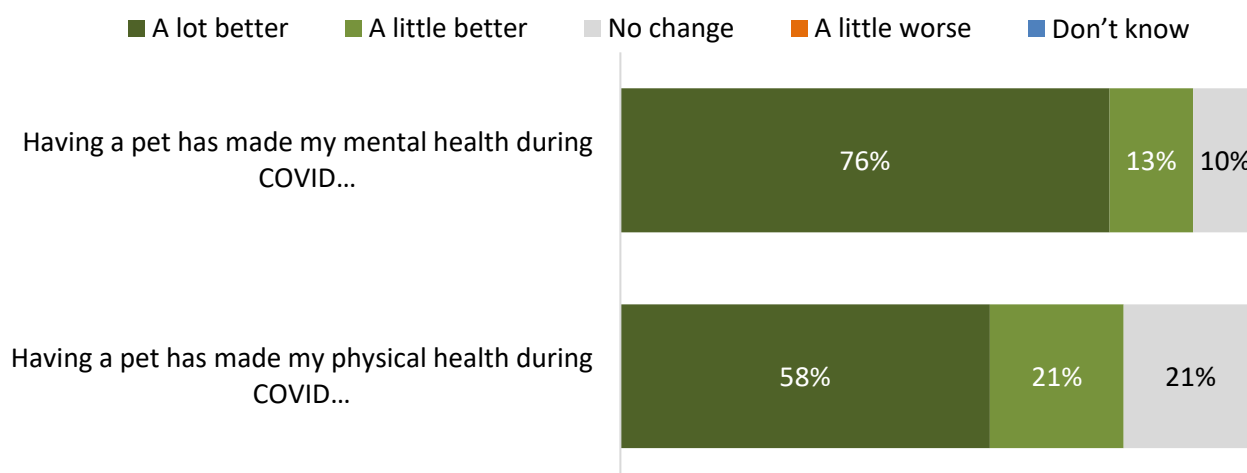
Question	Data source	Sample	Notes
Q28. Please rate the following statements – <Physical/Mental health effect of pet ownership during COVID>	Open access survey	n=902	Asked of just pet owners. Note that it is assumed that self-reported improvements/maintenance in physical and mental health are due to the presence of pets than otherwise would be in case of owning no pets, given the same conditions imposed by COVID restrictions. This study takes no measures of mental or physical status of all respondents for the purposes of empirical comparison between these groups and relies on self-assessment of pet owners only.

Just over three quarters (76%) of pet owners reported that having a pet during COVID made their mental health *a lot better*. A further 13% indicated it made their mental health *a little better*.

Dog owners were more likely to report their mental health being *a lot better* (60%) as a result of pet ownership than cat owners (52%).

The effect was more modest, yet still notable, for pet ownership's effect on physical health; where 58% of participants reported that having a pet during COVID made their physical *a lot better*, and a further 21% indicated it made their physical *a little better*.

**Figure 47 - Rating of pet ownership's effect on mental & physical health during COVID**



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## In-depth interview feedback:

Depth interview participants were asked to consider the value pet ownership brings to the individual and then how this value might translate to the community and a whole. The responses were universal.

Participants believed pets provided individuals:

- Companionship
  - Great for people of all ages especially those living alone/elderly.
- Mental health benefits
- Teaches children responsibility/caring for something other than oneself
- Passive exercise
- Social interaction – meeting people you would not normally meet
  - Community connection.

*“...they might live by themselves where they've got a dog or a cat ... And they've got companionship, and all that sort of thing. I think that's important... if they've got a dog, they can get out a couple of times a day and walk the dog, and spend time with a dog, it's good for the dog, and it's good for the human being. And it's a very worthwhile experience. I think it's good for people's mental health and physical wellbeing. Therefore, it helps the community.” (Male, 70+ yrs, Environmental/friends group, Central suburb.)*

*“So not only does it get them [owners] out of the house, but you know, they're talking to the friends that they've made through the dogs. (Female, 70+ yrs, Cat owner, Environmental/friends group, Central suburb.)*

*“They're also great way to meet people. Thinking about what you see over the park, if you've got a dog and you're out there, people stop and chat ... you meet people at the park or you meet them down the beach. And so they're [dogs] also a way for people to enhance their social connection. You could also say if you were looking at dog clubs or dog training, different sorts of mechanisms, again, those are social connections. And one of the things that we know is that social connections are incredibly important for people.” (Female, 60-69 yrs, Dog owner, Southern suburb.)*

Community benefits put forth were:

- Connection/cohesion
- Happier community
- Less burden on mental health services

*“I'm also associated with pets for the homeless. So, I have a very strong view that pets are a very big plus, for humans. I think that they are a really big, love bomb, really, they provide you with love and support, and a whole lot of things that you might not have anyone else to provide to you. So I think they are a really significant asset for managing mental health. Not to mention... going out for a walk. They also assist people with their physical health, as well get out and about. But I really think that mental health is improved by having a pet. I think we've seen that, especially through COVID.” (Female, 60-69 yrs, Dog owner, Southern suburb.)*

*“I guess having a pet it's almost like having like an additional family member... And I guess there is that community. Not so much with cats. But with dogs. I know, a lot of friends who are dog owners, they catch up at dog parks and made a lot of friendships that*

*way. So being able to congregate together has given them sense of belonging to the community, as a dog bonus. Less so with cats. having said that, I'm street community group and we talk about our cats. And, you know, one of my cats was hit by a car and there was a lot of outpouring of grief and support for that." (Female,60-69 yrs, Cat owner, Resident group, Central suburb.)*

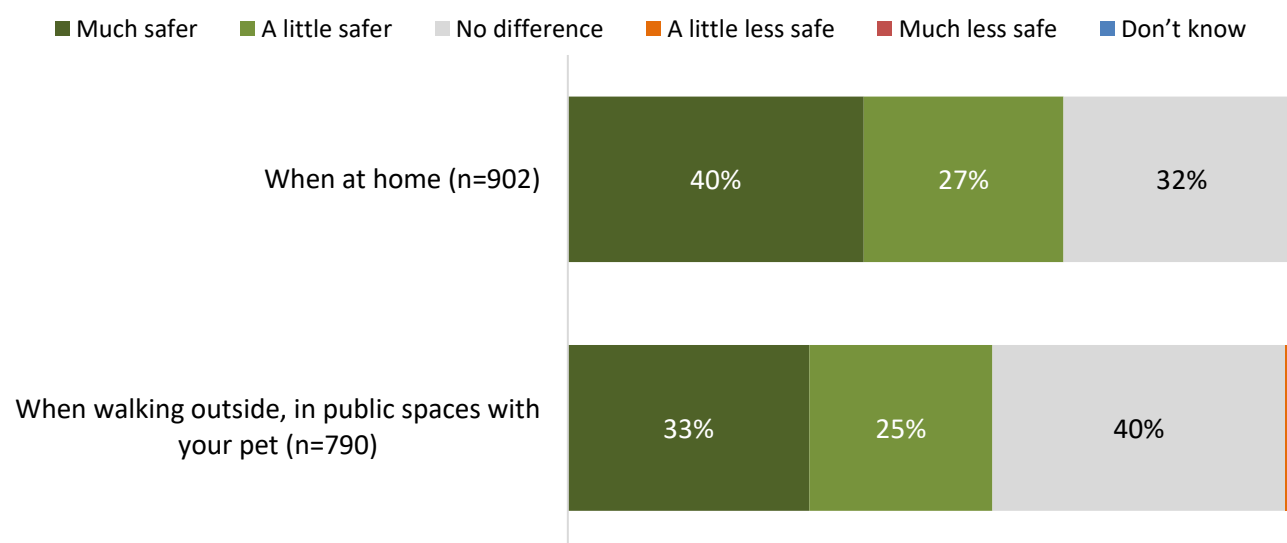
*"There's definitely a huge value and especially seen in COVID, for getting to in providing friendship, companionship ... if you're feeling anxiety. I know I've been through patches where I might not have left the house if I didn't have a dog. I've got children but you know, they weren't pulling me out the door for a walk. So mental health and wellbeing. There's a myriad of benefits in owning a pet you know, even if it's a cat we have a cat too, you know, petting the cat just for company. They are constant, constant companion and they've got a sense of loyalty. Mental health and wellbeing is a major benefit and that translates to being a benefit for the community. If you've got mentally well and healthy and happy people, then you've got a generally safe and healthy happy community essentially. People who interact well together you know, more neighbourly, more friendly. You know, happy people." (Female,35-49 yrs, Dog owner, Cat owner, Pet community group, Resident group, Sportsground user/sports club, Central suburb.)*

Question	Data source	Sample	Notes
Q29. How does having a pet impact on your feelings of safety...?	Open access survey	n=790-902	Asked of just pet owners. Note that it is assumed that self-reported improvements/maintenance in feelings of safety are due to the presence of pets than otherwise would be in case of owning no pets, given the same conditions imposed by COVID restrictions. This study takes no measures of feelings of safety for all respondents for the purposes of empirical comparison between these groups and relies on self-assessment of pet owners only.

Two thirds (67%) of pet owners reported that having a pet made them feel *much safer* or *a little safer* (27%) when at home - Females show a significantly higher incidence of reporting that they feel *much safer* when at home (48%) compared to males (22%).

When walking outside in public places with their pet, well over half (55%) of pet owners felt much safer (33%) or a little safer (25%) – again, females show a significantly higher incidence of saying they feel *much safer* when walking outside with their pet (41%) than males (15%).

**Figure 48 - Pet ownership and its impact on feelings of safety**



## In-depth interview feedback:

Some people, particularly females, reported feeling safer owning a dog or being around other people who were walking their dogs.

*"I used to have a dog and I'd always feel confident [safe] with my dog. Especially, you know, in more isolated areas to the beach. But now, without a dog, because I walk alone in the mornings. I do find it safer walking with other people walking their dogs around."*  
(Female, 35-49 yrs, Non-pet owner, Central suburb.)

*"I had to be careful not to go to the rocks areas where I had been chased by men down there. I had been flashed by men down there. So the morning time with the regular dog walkers. I actually feel safer."* (Female, 50-59 yrs, Non-pet owner, Environmental/friends group, Central suburb.)

## Additional comments

Question	Data source	Sample	Notes
Q30. Do you have any other ideas you'd like us to consider for an animal management plan that will meet the needs of the whole community?	Representative survey and open access survey	930 comments	Open ended question. Responses were thematically coded for analysis.

Most comments made by respondents in Q30 were repeating information already covered in other parts of the survey. A full list of comments has been provided to Council for further exploration as deemed necessary.

There were, however, a number of comments (28%) that fall within one of the 'out of scope' categories, as follows:

Category	Mentions
Establishment of secure new dog parks and off-leash areas	127
Public facilities for dog walkers, e.g. bins, waste bags, water bowls	64
Use of the natural environment and location of fencing to delineate dog off-leash areas (Note: most fence requests are actually to fence off playgrounds)	24
Current zoning of land (primary state use) and use of land managed by Parks Victoria or another (Note: Mostly people not wanting dogs in shopping areas)	20
Fees and charges for registration	16
Provision of gates on sportsgrounds	13
Council should not be involved in Domestic Animal Management/should reduce involvement	13

Furthermore, there were 56 comments relating to cat containment; 48 who were for it, and 8 who were against.

*Further restriction on cats. they are a threat to other small animal and should not be allowed to freely roam the street and enter other people's yard, not to mention leaving poo behind. Should be confined to the owner's property at ALL time*

*24 hour cat curfew to ensure cats do not roam onto other properties to stalk and kill birds and other animals.*

*Most cats don't catch anything. They are home to pop and eat and enjoy being outside in a changing environment that smell interesting. Restricting access to outside is a welfare issue. It prevents an important part of the normal behaviour taking place and will impact wellbeing and health of cats.*

There were also 59 mentions relating to requirements more, clearer, prominent and generally better signage.

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#### **In-depth interview feedback:**

There was a large amount of feedback relating to signage in the in-depth interviews. Some of these aspects may have been mentioned in previous sections of this report

A main recommendation was that signage needs to be clear and consistent and plentiful (at eye height - many signs are tacked to low fences or too high) – there are also too many rules/times etc listed which can make the information confusing. Suggestions were to make the information simpler to understand and perhaps use QR codes so people can get the latest rules for the season/time of day/sporting times. Also, signage should not just be at main entrances but at all access points.

*"...make sure that people know the rules when they're entering a place or and people can enter and leave at various sort of locations. You know, it's not necessarily through the grand entrance. So yeah, it's really focal points and things like that..." (Male, 60-69 yrs, Dog owner, Resident group, Northern suburb.)*

*"...even if it's a QR code that sort of says, on these dates ... there will be cricket ... or football ... on this particular oval, so that so that dog owners don't turn up and think, oh, I can take my dog around. (Female, 50-59 yrs, Dog owner, Northern suburb.)*

*"... So in places like footy ovals ... all of the signage is at knee height... I don't think anyone sees them. Because they're not at eye level [and] quite often the gate is open [and signs are mounted on the gates, so you can't see them when the gates are open]. So it's not it's not in your face. [I] would like to be able to say to someone, you know, you shouldn't have your dog off leash in this area. [When] Someone says, Well, I didn't say any sign [I can*

*point to one].” (Female,35-49 yrs, Dog owner, Pet community group, Resident group, Central suburb.)*

There are often problems at sporting grounds where there is lack of prominent signage, leading to persistent poor effective control of dogs.

*“...[there is] very little signage in relation to what dog owners responsibilities are around sporting grounds” (Male,60-69 yrs, Dog owner, Resident group, Sportsground user/sports club, Northern suburb.)*

*“The dogs run up to the kids with their [owners] very standard line. “That's okay. They're friendly”. When they're bounding towards a young child, a child thinks differently. I would say there's a lot of dog poo around ... a lot on ovals. The owners don't call them [their dogs] back, they pick up the balls and run off with them ...” (Male,35-49 yrs, Non-pet owner, Sportsground user/sports club, Central suburb.)*

Participants believed that signage should explain proper etiquette and define 'effective control' for "the comfort of others" - *"No, your dog is not fine, I'm not sniffing or licking you, eating your ice-cream, neither should your dog".* Communications should adopt more of a behaviour change strategy approach.

*“... so there's a behaviour change strategy, which is about communicating to people, these are the rules, you need to stick to them, your dog's not special. You, you need to understand that NOT everybody loves dogs, like you do. And your behaviour may be actually affecting other people adversely and stopping them from enjoying local community.” (Male,50-59 yrs, Non-pet owner, Central suburb.)*

Effective, prominent signage can work. The following is an example of change behaviour before and after prominent signage was introduced to an on-leash area that was always an on-leash area, but the participant believed was an off-leash area due to a large number of off-leash dogs.

*“I wasn't sure if <park> was a dog off leash park or not, until I spotted a tiny little sign at one of the entrances which suggested it was an ON-LEASH park, and I'd always assumed It wasn't ... people exercised dogs off the leash all the time. It was a bit of a problem for us as we like using the playground. And then suddenly, the Council [put up signs] that clarified it, they've [now] got really big signs. And it's had a massive effect on people's behaviour ... you hardly see anybody exercising a dog off-leash there now, so it's really been the signage, it's really been effective.” (Male,50-59 yrs, Non-pet owner, Central suburb.)*

A participant noticed that a neighbouring Council uses mobile signage to campaign in areas where problems have been reported.

*“[another Council] would put the mobile billboards, you know, the trailer with the flashy, you know, led orange lights. And that would sort of flash effective messages. ‘You watching your dog all the time?’, ‘effective control, means’, ‘carry a poo bag’, or whatever it is... They just have these sorts of things just flashing. They just put that in the park, wherever they would have a complaint, then leave it in the park for a month or two months.” (Male,35-49 yrs, Pet-related business, Central suburb.)*

## Interest in receiving further information

Question	Data source	Sample	Notes
Q31. Would you be interested receiving information from Council on any of the following topics?	Representative & open access survey	All respondents	

After completing the survey respondents were directed to a new survey form to collect contact information.

236 people provided an email address for the pet newsletter, and 662 people provided an email address for updates about the Domestic Animal Management Plan. These contact lists have been provided separately.

## Research evaluation

### Introduction

An ongoing evaluation was conducted to ensure comprehensive identification of challenges and opportunities for improvement in future similar research.

### In-depth interview recruitment

The EOI process for the in-depth interviews resulted in more expressions of interest than anticipated, therefore the number of in-depths was increased from 20 to 30 to ensure all interested stakeholders were covered by the research.

The most efficient and effective method of recruitment for the in-depth interviews involved the following process:

- Email invite with a link to a calendar page (on the ASDF Website) where respondents could book an interview time.
- SMS reminder to book.
- Follow-up phone call.

### Survey distribution activities

#### Representative survey

A sample of 5,700 households were randomly selected from the rates database (occupied residential properties), with proportional stratification by suburb. The list of selected households was then matched to internal Council records for email addresses. Where an email address was available the household was sent an email invite to the survey; where not they were sent a paper survey form as follows.

A mail pack was sent to 4,005 households across Bayside on 25 October 2021 with the following contents:

- Outer envelope with Council logo and address window
- Cover letter introducing the survey
- Survey form (designed for scanning)
- Reply paid envelope (addressed to scanning company)

The documentation sent to households informed that the survey needed to be returned by 19 November, and returns were accepted until 28 November. There were 56 return to sender returns.

An email invite was sent to 1,690 households on 28 October 2021. 106 of these emails bounced, and 20 recipients used the survey opt out functionality. An email reminder was sent on 22 and 28 November.

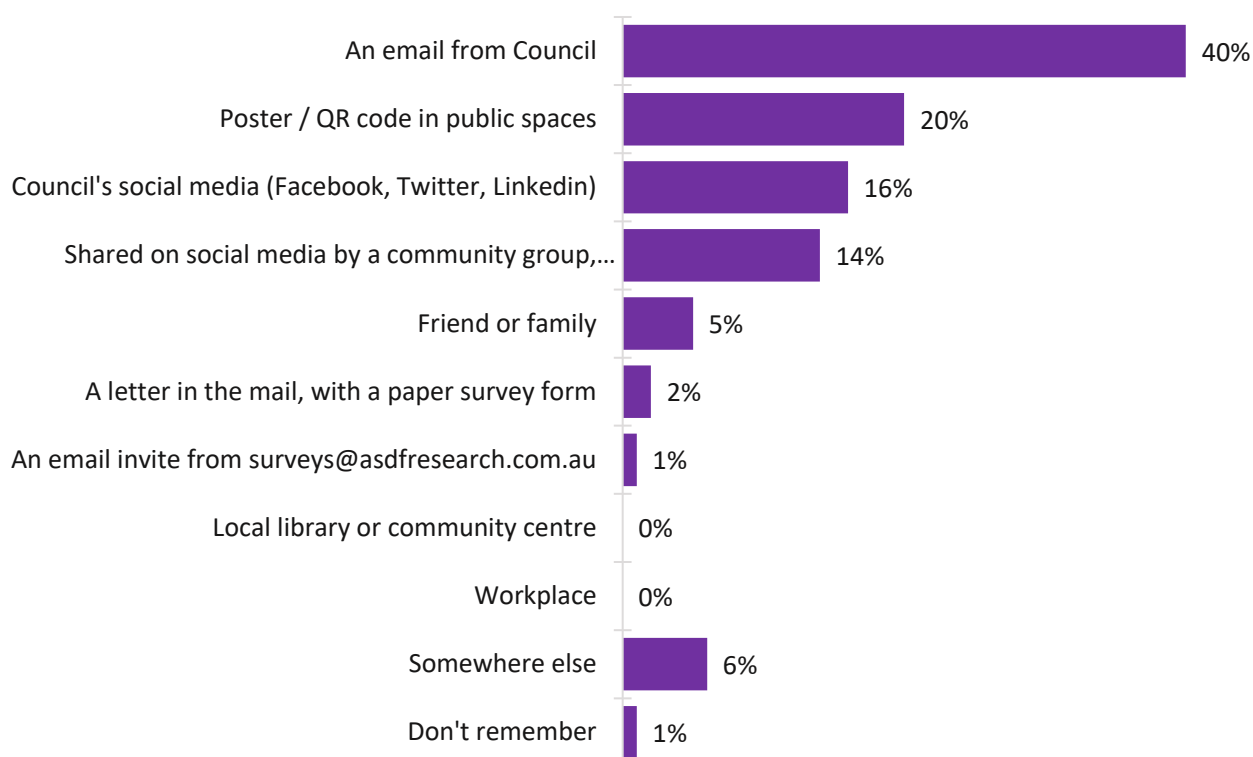
A 15% response rate was estimated, which was far exceeded. The final result was a 22% response rate overall. This was slightly lower than the response rate in 2017 (30%).

For analysis, data was weighted using proportion of households per suburb with a pet to ensure that the final results weren't skewed towards pet owners. To maintain respondent anonymity, this process was undertaken in such a way so as to ensure that survey data was in no way linked to residential street addresses. No notable gaps in coverage were identified.

#### Open Access survey

A parallel 'open access' survey was available for any Bayside community member to complete. This was launched through Council's Have Your Say engagement website on 1 November 2021 and open until 28 November 2021.

Respondents were asked where they heard of the survey, with most made aware through an email from Council, posters or QR codes.



When asked to specify their connection to Bayside the open access survey shows good coverage of all key stakeholder groups (includes multiple responses).

Self-selected category	N=	%
I am a member of a dog or cat community group	177	20%
I am a member of a friends-of or environment group which undertakes activities in Bayside	98	11%
I am involved with a sports team that uses sportsgrounds within Bayside (manager / trainer / player)	146	16%
I am involved with personal or group training using open space in Bayside (manager / trainer / client)	63	7%
I own or manage an animal day care or dog obedience training business in Bayside	3	0%
I run a dog-walking business that operates in Bayside	6	1%
I own or manage a business in Bayside relating to domestic animals (pet store etc.)	2	0%
My business in Bayside isn't pet related but has direct interaction with people and their pets (café etc.)	5	1%
I am a member of a lifesaving club in Bayside	32	4%
I live outside of Bayside but visit to use parks and/or beaches in the area	45	5%

Community groups covered include:

- Bayside dog owners Facebook (95 respondents)
- Breed-specific dog group (28 respondents)
- Dog obedience clubs / training schools (19 respondents)
- Bayside cat lovers group (12 respondents)

- Bayside dog alliance (7 respondents)

The main environment groups with representatives who completed the survey were:

- Beaumaris Conservation Society (13 respondents)
- Marine Care Ricketts Point (8 respondents)
- Sandringham Foreshore Association (7 respondents)
- Friends of Native Wildlife (6 respondents)

Those who said they are involved in a sports team that use sportsgrounds in Bayside play a variety of sports, including:

- AFL (52 respondents)
- Soccer (37 respondents)
- Cricket (29 respondents)
- Netball (21 respondents)
- Basketball (14 respondents)
- Tennis (11 respondents)

## Troubleshooting

### Online survey

No errors in the survey were reported by respondents.

### Mail-out survey

No respondents obstructed the tracking code on their survey form.

There was one household who submitted multiple surveys (online and paper form). To ensure a single response per household an analysis of completeness of responses was undertaken and the response with the highest incidence of question completion was kept, whilst the other response was deleted.

## Appendices

### Appendix 1: Questionnaire

This survey has been designed to provide the community with the opportunity to share their feedback and insights to assist with the development of the next Domestic Animal Management Plan.

Results from this survey will be analysed along-side a representative community survey which has been sent to a randomly selected sample of Bayside households.

The survey will take around 15 minutes to complete, depending on your answers.

Your responses are completely anonymous and will be analysed in group form alongside the responses of other people. For further information please see our privacy policy at [bayside.vic.gov.au/privacy](https://bayside.vic.gov.au/privacy).

#### Outdoor spaces

**Q1. Which of the following outdoor spaces in Bayside, if any, do you like to visit? Please select all that apply**

Public sports grounds / ovals
School sportsground / ovals
Public parks
Playgrounds
The beach or foreshore
Streets / shopping centres
Farmers markets
Other <i>please specify</i>
None

**Q2. In the last year, have you noticed any of the following when out and about in the Bayside area? This includes footpaths, parks, beaches, ovals etc. This list contains positive and negative things that we tend to hear about from the community. Please select all that apply**

Inadequate or confusing signage about dog restrictions	Dogs in public spaces who are friendly and well behaved
Dog owners picking up their dog's poo	People walking more than 4 dogs at a time (dog walking business)
Dog poo that hasn't been picked up by dog owners	Dogs running from parks onto the road
Dog owners who have their dogs on leash when they are meant to	Off-leash dogs in childrens' playgrounds
Groups of dog owners socialising while their dogs play unsupervised	Dogs running through or too close to sporting events
Dogs happily playing under supervision	Sportsground grass damaged by dogs digging
Dogs off-leash when they shouldn't be	Dead or injured native wildlife (eg. possums, ducks, water rats, birds)
Dogs in off-leash areas who won't return to their owner when called	Dogs or cats in conservation zones (heathland, marine sanctuary)

Off-leash dogs who return to their owner when called	Cats on streets / in yards at night
Dogs annoying or intimidating other dogs	Cats preying on wildlife
Dogs annoying or intimidating people	Trespassing or wandering cats
Not noticed anything like this in the last year	

**Q3. Please tell us the name of any locations you have noticed around Bayside where dog behaviour or uncollected dog poo is a particular issue** [OPEN ENDED]

**Q4. [OPEN ACCESS ONLY] What do you think are the reasons why some people don't pick up their dogs poo in public spaces?** *Please select all that apply*

They forgot to bring bags
They ran out of bags
Public bag dispensers ran out
Owner was distracted and didn't notice
Dog did their business out of sight of the owner
Owner thinks it's OK as dog poo is natural and will dissolve into the ground
Owner doesn't care
Other <i>please specify</i>
Don't know

**Q5. Were you aware before today that...?** *Please select one answer per row. These statements apply to regulations in Bayside.*

	Yes, I was aware	Not sure	No, I was not aware
People walking dogs must carry a bag to collect dog poo			
Dogs must be on leash at all times in public spaces, unless in an area designated off-leash			
Cats have a night curfew and must be inside between 8pm-6am (from 9pm in daylight savings)			
Cats must be desexed to be registered (some exceptions apply)			
Dog owners must have effective control of their dog at all times in a designated off-leash area. <i>Effective control means their dog returns immediately when called, doesn't approach strangers uninvited and is under constant supervision.</i>			
All pet cats must be registered with the local Council under Victorian state law			
All pet dogs must be registered with the local Council under Victorian state law			

Pets must be microchipped to be registered with Council

You can register pets with Council online

Microchipping and registration makes it easier to reunite a lost pet with its family

Uncollected dog poo washing into the bay can create bacteria and make the water unsafe for swimming

Dogs are not allowed to be off-leash within 20m of a playground, sporting game or public barbeque/seating area

### Council services

The next questions will help us understand community attitudes and preferences, and provide you with the opportunity to share your ideas for Bayside. Feedback gathered through these questions which is outside of the scope of the Domestic Animal Management Plan will be shared with our Open Space and Recreation team to inform future plans and strategies.

**Q6. How important or otherwise do you think it is for Council to provide the following services for the community?** *Please select one answer per row*

	Extremely important	Very important	Slightly important	Not at all important	Don't know
Provide dog poo bags at parks where people walk their dogs					
Offer incentives to register puppies/kittens before they are desexed					
Provide dog/cat desexing discounts for pensioners					
Provide dog/cat registration discounts for pensioners					
Provide dog training vouchers/discounts					
Offer a rewards program for responsible dog/cat owners					
Post photos of found pets on the website/social media					
Follow-up or check registration through patrols and door-knocking					
Pet events (including Expo, educational talks, discount registration day, pop up information booths)					
Undertake active surveillance (patrols and/or technology) at high incident locations (eg sports grounds)					

Day care facility to watch lost pets (for up to 24 hours)				
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Council has limited resources for after-hours proactive patrolling of public areas for domestic animal management issues (checking registration, enforcing on-leash rules, ensuring owners pick up their dog's poo).

**Q7a. What locations do you think should be priorities for Council officers to patrol?**

*Please select all that apply*

Beach	Conservation areas
Foreshore and Bay Trail	Playgrounds
Sportsgrounds / ovals	Shopping precincts
Parks and reserves	Residential streets
Other <i>please specify</i>	None
	Don't know

**Q7b. What times do you think should be priorities for Council officers to patrol?**

*Please select all that apply*

Weekday early mornings (before 9am)	Weekends
Weekday during the day	At the start of sporting seasons
Weekday evenings (after 5pm)	When beach restrictions change
After-school sports	None
Other <i>please specify</i>	Don't know

**Q8. [OPEN ACCESS ONLY] Do you think current off-leash restrictions for dogs provide a good balance for sharing Bayside's public spaces?**

Much too strict

A little too strict

Just right

Not strict enough

Not sure / not aware of the restrictions

**Q9. [IF TOO STRICT OR NOT STRICT ENOUGH] How would you like to see off-leash restrictions changed? For example, longer or shorter timings [OPEN ENDED]**

**Q10. How can we best protect the safety of dogs and people at off-leash sportsgrounds?**

Dogs must be on-leash within 20m of the people playing organised sport, including training (current restriction)

No dogs allowed on any area of the oval/sportsground during organised sport, including training

Other *please specify*

Don't know

**Q11. How can we ensure sensitive environmental areas and native wildlife are protected from domestic animals?** *Please select all that apply*

Increase current night-time curfew hours for cats (currently between 8pm-6am or from 9pm in daylight savings)

Introduce cat containment [this means cats must be kept indoors or confined to their property at all times]

No dog off-leash access to any bushland, heathland and/or conservation areas

No dog off-leash access near Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary

Dogs prohibited near Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary

Other *please specify*

Nothing – domestic animals should be allowed in these areas

Don't know

**Q12. [OPEN ACCESS ONLY] Please tell us your ideas for how Council can help reduce the incidence of dogs not being under effective control when off-leash** **[OPEN ENDED]**

**Q13. [OPEN ACCESS ONLY] Please tell us about any ideas for how Council can help reduce the problem of uncollected dog poo** **[OPEN ENDED]**

**Q14. Have you contacted Council for any of the following reasons in the last 3 years?**

*Please select all that apply*

Register a dog or cat

Request for Council to pick up a lost dog

Request for Council to pick up a lost/stray/feral cat

To see if Council has found my missing dog or cat

Report a barking dog

Report a dog on the foreshore/beach

Report a dog off-leash when it shouldn't be

Report dog poo not picked up by the dog owner

Request removal of dead wildlife

Request a cat cage

Report a dog attack

Something else related to animals *please specify*

I haven't contacted Council about animal management [→ GO TO Q16](#)

**Q14a. [IF SELECTED MORE THAN ONE IN Q14] Which one was your most recent contact?**

**Q15. Thinking of your most recent interaction, how would you rate Council's response in terms of...?**

*Please select one answer per row*

Very satisfied	Satisfied	Neither	Dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied	Not applicable
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How quickly you were able to speak to someone who could help					
Communication about the outcome					
The helpfulness of Council staff					
The outcome of your enquiry					

↓

**Q15a. Why were you dissatisfied with the outcome?** [OPEN ENDED]

**Q16. [OPEN ACCESS ONLY] Have you experienced any domestic animal issues in the last 12 months which you haven't reported to Council?**

Yes

No

Not sure

→ **Q16a [IF Q16 = YES] Please tell us about the issue, and why you didn't report it to Council**

Issue: [OPEN ENDED]

Why not reported to Council: [OPEN ENDED]

### Pets in Bayside

In this section we ask about your views on dogs and cats. Please include unregistered pets. Note that this survey WILL NOT under any circumstances be used to identify people with unregistered pets in accordance with privacy policies. It is important that you can be completely honest without having to worry – this information will help Council get an accurate estimate of actual pets in the municipality to better plan services.

**Q17. Which of the following best describes you in relation to dogs?**

*Please select one statement*

My household has one or more dogs → How many?

I sometimes look after/walk other people's dogs, but we don't have any in our home

I like dogs, but don't have one in our house at the moment

I don't mind petting other people's dogs but would never get one

I don't want any contact with dogs

Other *please specify*

I'm not sure

[IF HAVE A DOG] We would now like to find out a little more about the dog parks that you visit, so we can better understand dog walking behaviours

**Q18. [IF HAVE A DOG] How often does the dog or dogs in your household get walked off-leash at off-leash areas ...?**

<i>Please select one answer per row</i>	Every day	Most days	1-2 times a week	1-2 times a month	Every 2-4 months	Once or twice a year	Less often	Never
Within Bayside								
Outside of Bayside								

**Q19. [OPEN ACCESS ONLY] [IF WALK DOG OFF-LEASH] What times do you typically exercise your dog at an off-leash area?**

If someone else walks your dog, please specify the times they are walked by other people. *Please select all that apply*

Early morning 5am – 8am	Late afternoon 4 – 7pm
Morning 8am – 10am	Evening After 7pm
Middle of the day 10am – 2pm	Don't know
Early afternoon 2 – 4pm	

**Q20. [OPEN ACCESS ONLY] [IF WALK DOG OFF-LEASH] Which dog off-leash areas do you visit most often?**

<b>Beaumaris</b>	<b>Cheltenham</b>
Banksia Reserve	Cheltenham Park
Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary foreshore area (near Beaumaris Yacht Club car park)	<b>Hampton</b>
Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary foreshore area (south of the Beaumaris Life Saving	R.J. Sillitoe Reserve
	W.L. Simpson Reserve
	Sandringham Harbour
<b>Black Rock</b>	Hampton Life Saving Club Beach
Donald MacDonald Reserve	<b>Hampton East</b>
Black Rock Beach	Wishart Reserve
Half Moon Bay	<b>Highett</b>
<b>Brighton and Brighton East</b>	Lyle Anderson Reserve
Elsternwick Park South	<b>Sandringham</b>
Dendy Park	R.G. Chisholm Reserve oval
Hurlingham Park	Merindah Reserve
William Street Reserve	George Street Bushland Reserve
Brighton Beach	Royal Avenue Reserve
Holloway Bend Beach	Edward Street Beach
Dendy Street Beach	Sandringham Beach
Middle Brighton Beach	Sandringham Life Saving Club Beach
Sandown Street Beach	Don't know

**Q21. [OPEN ACCESS ONLY] [IF PROVIDED A LOCATION] What do you like most about this location(s)?** *You can choose more than one*

Close to home (can walk there)

Good parking

Secure space for dogs

Socialisation for my dog (other friendly dogs)

Socialisation for me (friendly dog owners)

Large open space

My dog likes it best

Interesting areas for my dog to explore

Other *please specify*

Don't know

**Q22. [OPEN ACCESS ONLY] Has the location and frequency of walking your dog changed due to COVID restrictions?** *You can choose more than one*

Yes – different times of the day

Yes – more walks per day

Yes – shorter walks

Yes – longer walks

Yes – different locations

Yes – some other change *please specify*

No

Not applicable (didn't have a dog before COVID)

Don't know

**Q23. [IF BEHAVIOUR CHANGED DUE TO COVID] Are you likely to go back to your previous dog walking behaviours once COVID restrictions have been lifted?**

Yes

No

Don't know

**THE NEXT QUESTION IS FOR EVERYONE, EVEN IF YOU DON'T HAVE A PET**

**Q24. Which of the following best describes you in relation to cats?**

*Please select one statement*

My household has one or more cats → How many?

There is a cat that visits me/my household for pats/food, but we don't own it

I sometimes look after other people's cats, but we don't have any in our home

I like cats, but don't have one in our household at the moment

I don't mind petting other people's cats but would never get one

I don't want any contact with cats

Other *please specify*

I'm not sure

**Q25. [IF HAVE A CAT] How often does your cat(s) spend time outdoors...?**

<i>Please select one answer per row</i>	Every day	Most days	1-2 times a week	1-2 times a month	Every 2-4 months	Once or twice a year	Less often	Never
During daylight hours								
After dark								

**Q26. [OPEN ACCESS ONLY] [IF HAVE A DOG OR CAT] Did you get a dog or cat during COVID (since February 2020)?**

Yes – First time I had a dog or cat in my home

Yes – I have had a dog or cat in my home before

No

Prefer not to say

**Q27. [IF HAVE A DOG OR CAT] To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?**

*Please select one answer per row*

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Not applicable
My pet(s) are an important part of my family						
My pet gives me/us great comfort and support						
I exercise more because I have a dog						
My family exercises more because we have a dog						
I talk to people more because I have a dog						
Council recognises the importance of pets						
I am likely to continue to have a pet in my life						

**Q28. [OPEN ACCESS ONLY] [IF HAVE A DOG OR CAT] Please complete the following statements: *Please select one answer per row***

	A lot better	A little better	No change	A little worse	A lot worse	Don't know
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Having a pet has made my physical health during COVID...					
Having a pet has made my mental health during COVID...					

**Q29. [OPEN ACCESS ONLY] [IF HAVE A DOG OR CAT]** How does having a pet impact on your feelings of safety...? *Please select one answer per row*

	Much safer	A little safer	No difference	A little less safe	Much less safe	Don't know
When at home						
When walking outside, in public spaces with your pet						

**Q30.** Do you have any other ideas you'd like us to consider for an animal management plan that will meet the needs of the whole community? **[OPEN ENDED]**

**Q31. [OPEN ACCESS ONLY]** Would you be interested receiving information from Council on any of the following topics? *Please select all that apply*

Pet e-newsletter *please go to web page: [Qre.host/DAMPcontact1](http://Qre.host/DAMPcontact1) and enter your email address you would like this sent to*

Pet interest groups, such as dog walking groups
Information about caring for pets
Information about training pets
Choosing the right pet for me or my family situation
Contacts for wildlife carers
Animal management services provided by Council
Pet related businesses in the municipality
Something else relevant to domestic animal management <i>please specify</i>
Not applicable to me

**Q32. [OPEN ACCESS ONLY]** Which of the following applies to your household? *Please select all that apply*

**I am a member of a dog or cat community group (Which one?)**

I am a member of a friends-of or environment group which undertakes activities in Bayside (Which one?)
I am involved with a sports team that uses sportsgrounds within Bayside (manager/trainer/player) (Which one?)
I am involved with personal or group training using open space in Bayside (manager / trainer / client)
I am a veterinarian who works in Bayside
I own or manage an animal day care or dog obedience training business in Bayside
I run a dog-walking business that operates in Bayside
I own or manage a business in Bayside relating to domestic animals (pet store etc.)

My business in Bayside isn't pet related but has direct interaction with people and their pets (café etc.)

I am a member of a lifesaving club in Bayside

I live outside of Bayside but visit to use parks and/or beaches in the area

Other *please specify*

None of these

**Q33. [IF A BUSINESS] What can Council do through the Domestic Animal Management Plan to support your business? [OPEN ENDED]**

### Demographics

Finally, we have a few questions to help us group your responses with other people for analysis. This information will not be used to identify you, in accordance with our privacy policy ([asdfresearch.com.au/privacy](https://asdfresearch.com.au/privacy)). We ask for this information as it helps us run a more meaningful analysis of the findings and better plan services; often people from different demographics have different needs.

**Q34. Which gender do you identify as?**

Male

Female

Prefer to self-describe *Please specify*

I'd prefer not to say

**Q35. What is your age group?**

14-17

18-24

25-34

35-49

50-59

60-69

70-84

85+

I'd prefer not to say

**Q36. Are there any children in your household aged...? *Please select all that apply***

0-5 years

6-11 years

12-17 years

18+ years

I'd prefer not to say

No children in the household

**Q37. [OPEN ACCESS ONLY] Where do you live?**

Beaumaris

Brighton East

Hampton East

Black Rock

Cheltenham

Highett

Brighton

Hampton

Sandringham

Other *please specify*

**Q38. [OPEN ACCESS ONLY] Would you like to receive updates about the Domestic Animal Management Plan?**

Yes

No

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. Please send your completed form to Bayside DAMP Survey, Local Laws, PO Box 27 Sandringham VIC 3191 before **18th Nov 2021**. Alternatively, you can scan the form and send it to [surveys@asdfresearch.com.au](mailto:surveys@asdfresearch.com.au).

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