

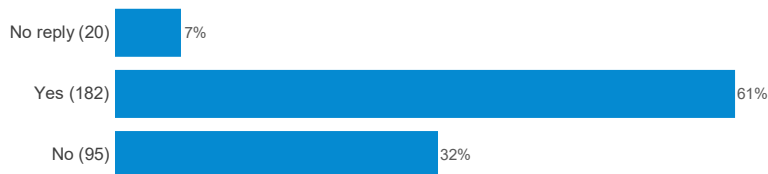
PSPO Dog Controls Survey 2024

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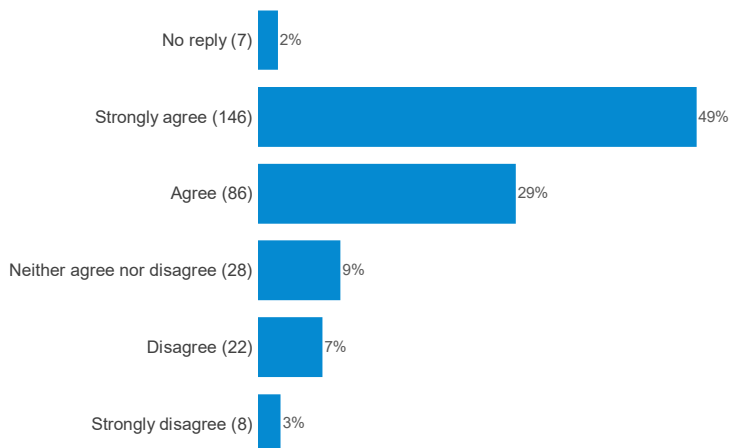
This report was generated on 09/09/24. Overall 297 respondents completed this questionnaire. The report has been filtered to show the responses for 'All Respondents'.

The following charts are restricted to the top 30 codes. Lists are restricted to the most recent 1000 rows.

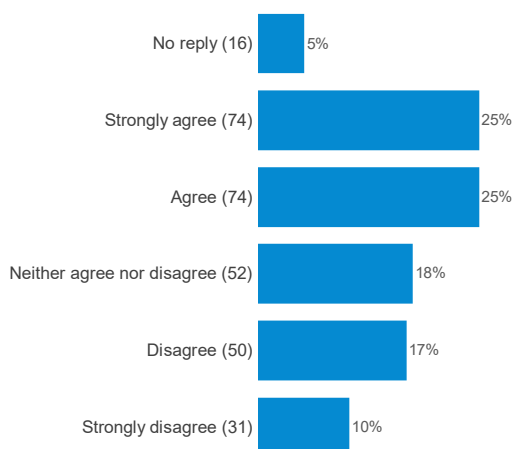
Are you a dog owner? (Please select one option only)



To what extent do you agree or disagree that each of the following are a problem within Medway: (Please select one option per row) (Dog fouling)

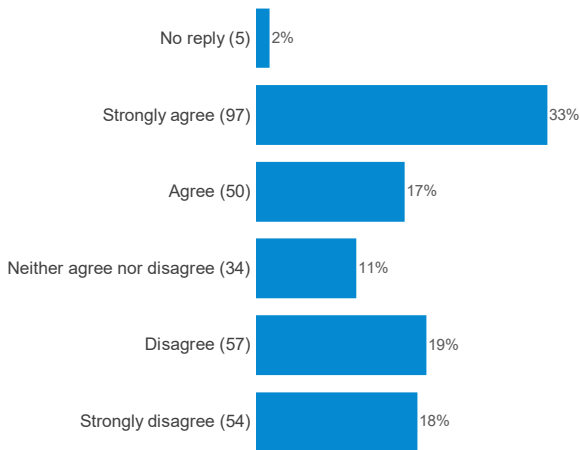


To what extent do you agree or disagree that each of the following are a problem within Medway: (Please select one option per row) (Dogs in exclusion areas)

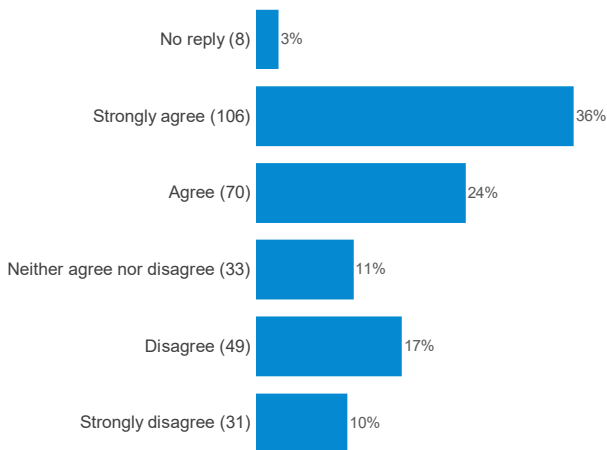


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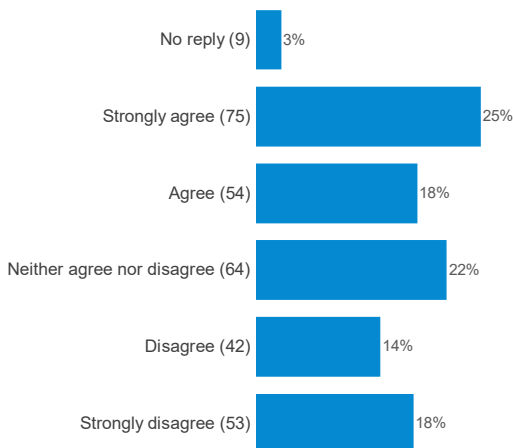
To what extent do you agree or disagree that each of the following are a problem within Medway: **(Please select one option per row) (Dogs off lead in Capstone and/or Riverside Country Parks)**



To what extent do you agree or disagree that each of the following are a problem within Medway: **(Please select one option per row) (Dogs off lead on pavements, footways and verges alongside roads)**



To what extent do you agree or disagree that each of the following are a problem within Medway: **(Please select one option per row) (People walking too many dogs at one time)**

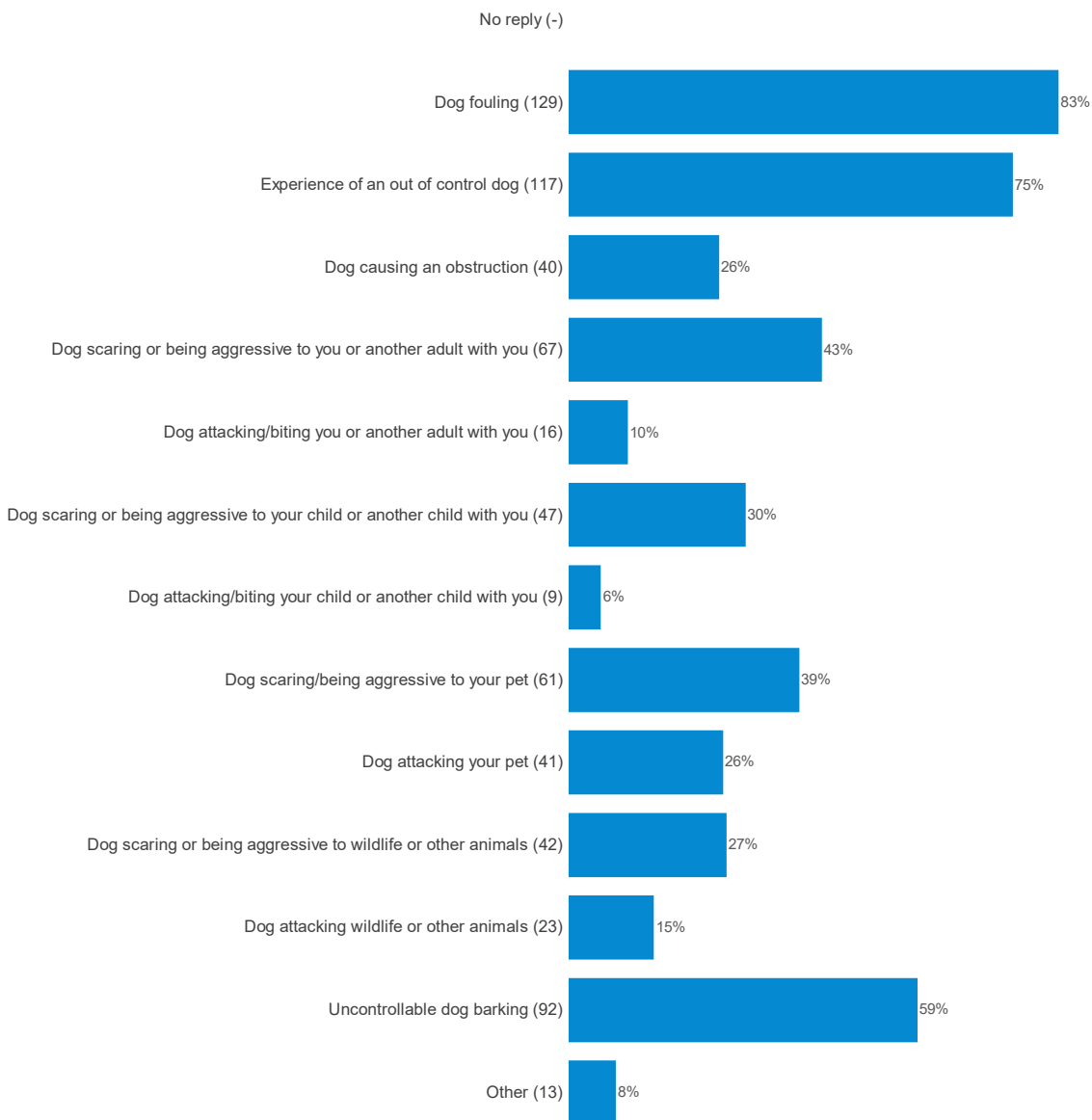


PSPO Dog Controls Survey 2024

Have you been affected by irresponsible dog ownership within Medway? (Please select one option only)



How have you been affected by irresponsible dog ownership in Medway? (Please select all that apply)



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Other, please state:

- Dog off lead on pavements being allowed to apply on lead dog and being aggressive
- My cat was killed by a dog off a lead last August (the homeless man by Strood M&S that died). He was visiting Medway Gate to buy/sell drugs in the big block of flats and stood and watched as his dog killed my cat)
- I have 2 rescues who are petrified of dogs off-lead in all public places
- Drunk owners with off lead dogs having no control. Off lead dogs in the street approaching my dog on lead. Dogs running in roads.
- Walker being aggressive when confronted about dog behaviour
- Dog off lead attacking kids football. No recall from owner, no apology
- No recall
- Owners dogs killed our 10 month old cavalier king charles after attacking 4 other dogs that afternoon
- The whole wording here is wrong. The responsibility lies with dog owners. Too many bumbling about on their phones not watching their dogs.
- Dogs off leads at St Margaret's Cemetery
- People who walk their dogs off lead that run at mine who is fear reactive they don't control their dog and threaten to smash me in the face and then puts pictures of my dog all over fb saying he's dangerous and should be put down the amount of people in my area that think because their dogs are little they do not need to put them on the lead or pick up the poo we have witnessed many people let their dog poo right next to the poo bin and walk off if you offer them a bag they swear at you
- Dogs off lead in children's play areas
- Multiple dogs blocking pathways

Do you support the continuation of the previous PSPO relating to dog fouling? (Please select one option only)



PSPO Dog Controls Survey 2024

Why don't you support the continuation of the previous PSPO relating to dog fouling?
(Please write in the box below)

Because there are not enough bins to put your dog bags in . Often the bins are over flowing too

Waste of time, try emptying the dog poo bins that get left full for days on end that I constantly report to you and my councilor Lauren Edwards

Dogs do no foul all the time and your lack of foul bins in capstone is a joke . You caused the problem by not providing enough bins

Too strict

It's not the dogs fault it's down to the owners and with the state of the streets in Medway dog poo is probably bottom of the list why not take about the rat infested houses or alleys filled with rubbish

It is a toothless bit of legislation which is largely not adequately policeable and therefore unenforceable

Not enough dog bins

Whilst I do support the pspo re dig fouling the enforcement officers behave like hitler and only target women

How can you put an exclusion order around the outdoor gym equipment at the Strand as the equipment is in an open field

Do you support the continuation of the previous PSPO relating to dog exclusion? (Please select one option only)



Why don't you support the continuation of the previous PSPO relating to dog exclusion?
(Please write in the box below)

I understand the importance of play areas which are exclusively for the use of child be off limits to dogs but why should the country park ponds and picnic areas be??? Surely dog on a lead would be a better option?

If you allow ferel medway kids in these places the people should be able to take dogs.

If my dog is on a lead and I'm cleaning up after it but my child wants to go to Wainscott fields park I should be able to take him with my daughter to the park. We don't have child exclusion zones where dogs can play without kids riding bikes at dogs/throwing their scooter at them/barking at them as they run past or trying to kick them!

Waste of time, you don't enforce now no tickets issued last year and in the last four years three tickets for the whole of Medway don't waste our money

Dogs need somewhere to go to. Lots of fields and open play spaces are good for dogs Especially at early hours when children aren't using them eg before 9am

The tennis courts at the Strand are an invaluable area for off-lead dog training, especially since they go largely unused for tennis for most of the year. If you want people to stop letting their dogs loose then you need to provide dog run areas (such as the one on St Mary's island). If dogs can't go on the strand tennis courts anymore, then install secure fencing on the lawns that used to be the golf course and create a designated dog run area. I'd also love to see dog runs added to other local parks as well, namely Great Lines which is massive so there are a few potential areas to fence off, and Lower Lines which has a perfect spot behind the Midkent College car park.

I do not agree with the 2m lead element.

PSPO Dog Controls Survey 2024

Why don't you support the continuation of the previous PSPO relating to dog exclusion?
(Please write in the box below)

A lot of respective owners will abide by not allowing animal to run wild in these areas also respective owners will use a dog buggy for the animals

Dogs are part of the family and should be allowed in all areas with rules to uphold responsible ownership

The majority of dogs and owners are responsible. If things continued then similar should be done for children who are often much bigger problem

Unable to take young child to the park and the dog for a walk simultaneously, thus creating problems with having to leave dog or child unattended. This heightens the risk of dogs or children being taken or a parents attention bring diverted leading to accidents.

So where do you play with your dog now playing fetch in a graveyard but they have to be kept on a lead might as well start putting every dog down because the next step for the council would be to keep them indoors 24/7

If the dog is sufficiently trained then it would not be a nuisance.

I don't agree with the Deangate exclusion as it isn't a park yet

I don't think the right thing to do is "put all the dogs in one place" kind of reaction. It will only cause more issues with dog-dog problems and people won't get their dogs out if they don't always cope in that environment. EDUCATING people is a much better idea.

A lot of Medway parks/recreation grounds are not fenced in well enough. A playground is fenced in for the protection of children, dogs also need protection. If dogs are unable to be in these inclosed spaces then the recreation grounds and parks themselves should be better fenced in. It also discriminates against families with a well behaved dog, I want to be able to take my daughter to a playground whilst on a family outing/walk with my dog.

Because it will make the life of dog owners more difficult without reason since majority of dog owners know how to behave.

I cannot comment on all areas highlighted as proposed dog exclusion zones as I have not visited all areas however I strongly disagree with Deangate Ridge being on the proposed list. I agree any enclosed children's play areas or swimming pool areas should be dog free zones however deangate ridge has a large open field with a running track and old sports buildings which are no longer looked after. The football areas are left over goals with no netting and these areas cover the whole field, if this was to become a dog exclusion zone the entire field would be unusable for dog walks. Football games are occasionally played at the field on weekends and whenever this is the case people are always respectful of those areas and do not have dogs off lead/running over to these areas. The sports facility not being maintained and kept running is a real shame and waste of good facilities, I feel if this is now made a dog exclusion zone it will be even more of a waste of space. If this is something that must go ahead then please consider changing this from a dog exclusion zone to a dogs on lead zone. This is a great social space where many families visit with their dogs and are able to be active together. If a dog free zone I feel this will mean a very small amount of people will visit and use this space.

The only area I have an issue with because it relates to me is the exclusion of gods at Deangate. I understand not on the running track and tennis courts but do not u destined it with the football pitches which are not in use 99.9% of the time. Also if you stop dogs from going here where else are people supposed to walk their dogs. You are turning the golf course into a country park which we will have to pay to walk in which is absured and leaves people without places to walk there dogs for free. Also I wouldn't have an issue with this if deangate was actually looked after, the running track and tennis courts have been left untouched for over 10 years and are slowly becoming unusable anyway. If you refurbished these then I'd definitely understand although then they'd probably not be free anymore as there's no where to go in Medway for free now. One other mention regarding dog foul, at the currently abandoned golf course maybe if the council put some bins out there would be less dog poo left. I'm not making an excuse for it as it's not acceptable but the old golf centre is being used as Medway council offices so how hard would it be to chuck some poo bins out on the old golf course.

PSPO Dog Controls Survey 2024

Why don't you support the continuation of the previous PSPO relating to dog exclusion? (Please write in the box below)

It is a toothless bit of legislation which is largely not adequately policeable and therefore unenforceable
It's punishing responsible dog owners and tarnishing all with the same brush.

For Riverside Country Park, in order to buy a drink if I am with my dog, I need to go through the gate to the play area to enter the cafe. There used to be a serving hatch outside the gate but it no longer seems to be open. I think fencing off the play area keeping some of the picnic tables inside for parents, and leaving a few outside the cafe and therefore outside the (re-fenced) play area, for anyone else, would make more sense. I completely agree no dogs in play areas but feel facilities have to be fair for everyone rather than demonising dog owners without children, who are also council tax payers and might want a cup of tea - and somewhere to sit with it.

When there is no one playing in the park why shouldn't dogs be allowed

Its not fair on dogs that we are taking away all these beautiful open spaces for them to walk in an enjoy. Also families that have young children and dogs will have difficulties when going to these places. If a single parent has both does the child miss out or do you leave the dog unattended

This will hugely affect responsible dog owners and is unfair on the majority of people who care for their animals and the local community

Penalises responsible dog owner that may be on a walk with their children and they stop in the park and want to play on the playground. No issue is dog is kept on lead

I agree that dogs should be excluded from children's play areas but not from local parks. Your plan is to exclude them from outside gym areas but these are located within the park itself and are hardly used. To ban dogs from local parks will only result in dog owners having to drive, if they can to find other alternatives. Hempstead is my local park where I walk my dog every day and would be devastated if this was taken away from the residents.

As long as the dog is kept on a lead and under control I don't see why it is a problem for it to be allowed to come into that area with everyone else. How are we supposed to supervise our children and walk our dog at the same time if we have to be separated as the safety of one or the other is compromised

There are existing laws regarding control of dogs which are suitable. Often families will visit a park whilst walking a dog and this excludes them from the recreational activities and is discriminatory.

We ad dog owners are being discriminated against

Because responsible owners who wouldn't allow their dogs to behave badly and pick up after their dogs are penalised while irresponsible dog owners will ignore it anyway. Who is going to police this. There are rules about dog fouling anyway it doesn't stop because nobody enforces it. As a responsible dog owner I pick up and encourage others to pick up any dog mess that has been left by an irresponsible owner if it's in a public space. By banning responsible dog owners you take away people who will call out irresponsible dog owners and tell them to pick up after their dogs. You also take away the ability for families to go out together and enjoy places. Many families with children have dogs and to be able to go for a picnic near a play park with the dog is part of the enjoyment. (Taking the dog out with the kids is one way to get children walking) But ultimately wherever I have seen dogs banned irresponsible owners ignore it there is no one to enforce it so nobody listens to it accept responsible dog owners who already obey and cause no problems. Also things like cemetery's by all means say keep dogs on leads but to ban them means that relatives of owners who have died (like my mum) can't take the dog with them to the grave something many people find helpful while grieving taking the persons dog with them when they go to sit by the grave or tend it.

You state Hempstead Park in the proposal, yet you state that dogs will not be allowed within the play area, basketball or outside gym. That I can agree with but then the outside gym area, which I might add is never used needs to be fenced off from the rest of the park so still to allow dog owners to walk their dogs in the the rest of the park. I have walked my dogs in Hempstead park for 25 years and and feel that you are penalising local residents with dogs over the odd one or two people that use the outside gym. There are also many elderly that walk their dogs around Hempstead park that will then be forced to walk around the streets which is ridiculous !!

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Why don't you support the continuation of the previous PSPO relating to dog exclusion?
(Please write in the box below)

Many families with children have dogs, by excluding dogs you are excluding the family unit. Also the questions being asked are rather ambiguous.

A good dog owner should have full control of their dog and what they do. And should be responsible enough to know if they can take their dog to these places or not to take them

You are classing all owners as disrespectful & inconsiderate . This is not the case . You have dogs & children in the same house so want to take them out together at times . The area I walk in the footballers & spectators leave plastic bottles & rubbish everywhere even though there are bins , humans can be just as bad if not worse at times. I spend a lot of the walking picking up rubbish and binning it . Yes there are walkers that don't pick up dog poo & the majority are men it seems . I've called people out on it and get abuse I just offer them a poo bag .now and shame them to their face . People that walk with their face looking at their phone or with headphones on are a nightmare as don't watch the dogs having a poo. Ban people from walking with headphones or with phones in their hands would be an idea . I agree with a lot of what you are saying but banning everyone because of the minority is unfair

Dogs on lead are not a nuisance. If a dog is on a lead and under control then there's no issue. Maybe ban people who don't have dogs from places where dogs are frequently walked

The question is too broad to allow a cogent approval / disapproval response as it is a single question concerning more than one area.

Children's and closed sport areas are already restricting dogs which I find reasonable , however open areas for sports in the field should not exclude dogs off leash. Is the council considered where the dogs can be walked and freely run in designated areas or fenced areas specifically organised for dogs? I think nothing is considered for dog owners specifically , it is only proposing restrictions and fines .

A dog is part of the family. How would you feel if you were told you had to leave one of your children behind for some reason?

My dog is my emotional support animal and I need her to help me get outside.

Do you agree with the new proposal of listing each dog exclusion area on the schedule of the PSPO? (Please select one option only)



Why don't you agree with the new proposal of listing each dog exclusion area on the schedule of the PSPO? (Please write in the box below)

As stated. If I'm walking my dog and my child wants to go in the park for a swing on our way along we should be able to do this with my dog on a lead and clearing up after any mess. Will you put a child exclusion dog park in all the areas you are wanting to restrict dogs from? You will be pushing more dogs into smaller areas causing more Issues

Waste of money

See previous

Existing signage is adequate

Respective owners will keep the animal under control and remove any mess made by their animal

There should be no restrictions

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Why don't you agree with the new proposal of listing each dog exclusion area on the schedule of the PSPO? (Please write in the box below)

It's a blanket punishment for responsible dog owners to create revenue for a broke tax hungry Labour council. It's all about Labour making money off whoever they can whilst giving it away and wasting it on those who contribute nothing.

There Should be no dog exclusion zones. They should be on a lead in these areas but not excluded.

Instead of punishing the pets why not punish the people and make exclusion zones for people

I don't think dogs should be excluded from any areas of they are sufficiently trained and cleaned up after

Don't agree with Deangate exclusion

There are too many exclusion zones

I definitely do not agree a ban in pottery road park in Hoo. Many older people walk their dogs around the park. Due to the layout you walk across the cement bit of the skate park and near the gym equipment. This would not work. Others that use electric wheelchairs with their dogs can only access it from that space!!! Are dog owners only aloud to walk half of the park even though the public walkways are in these spaces. It doesn't make sense. Also many dog owners use the football field at deangate on non match days (which is most days) this provides a quieter place to walk

Please see previous comments

As per my previous message.

Where children play if they are fenced off I do agree. If the area is not fenced off then it's a shared space, I purposely walk my dogs early morning so they can enjoy the parks without bothering other people.

Most people would not have heard of this PSPO let alone seen one until they fall foul of it; so listing sites is pointless.

See previous box.

I agree with excluding dogs from areas such as ponds and play areas but not I read that four dogs max would be allowed in car parks which seems excessive and not feasible for dog walkers

If you build a new play park it would not be covered. Therefore a general definition of play area (with provision of signage at the facility where relevant) etc is more appropriate.

Dogs should be allowed if no kids there

I dont think we should have dog exclusion zones

See previous answer

Don't agree with the new areas at all

You are punishing all dog owners instead of maybe fining those that allow their dogs to foul anywhere!

Because people rely on they're dogs for many reasons, emotional and mental health. I myself rely on my dogs to be able to leave the house some days. Restricting peoples abilities to take they're pets with them places is only penalising responsible dog owners for the actions of a few.

This is a waste of time and any attempt to enforce it will cost more than fhe income that will be received in fines

Snowball effect. Before you know it you'll be telling us all dogs need to be muzzled and kept on a short lead. Absolute rubbish.

We as dog owners are being discriminated against

Not necessary

For reasons I've said previously

See previous comments

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Why don't you agree with the new proposal of listing each dog exclusion area on the schedule of the PSPO? (Please write in the box below)

It's time to be inclusive, stop unnecessary use of PSPO to penalise law abiding dog owners. There are already government laws on dog ownership and fouling, simply enforce these laws on any individual who breaks the laws instead of imposing blanket bans.

It is not large dog groups that are the issue, but irresponsible owners of one /two dogs that have no respect for controlled dogs on lead.

I don't think it is needed.

People still need to take their dogs out and if you live in a built up area sometimes the only option is to take them to these places to get away from roads and cars etc. And people dog walk for a living so youde be taking money from good working people

Again you are penalising the good owners

Make it a dogs on lead area instead of a ban altogether. Responsible dog owners don't go into children's play parks anyway.

One example I have read is stopping dog owners from passing through areas where ramps or exercise equipment has been installed. Ridiculous if that is the entrance to the park! Why not make on lead areas until dog safely past those zones. Please remember the average dog walker takes their dog out every day 365 days of the year.

As some areas were created after the parks so areas you would revoke does not make sense as the placement of for example an exercise area is in the middle of the park, also they rarely used. Dog walks use areas every day. Why punish responsible dog owner

It allows, in practice, unscrutinised extensions without appropriate public review and discussion

Copperfield Park is a dog friendly Park if you cut off dogs going near the equipment where we dogs meant to walk. How about changing the bottom half of the park into a dog area only. Fence it off and cut the grass

Most of the proposed areas consider the whole park. Parks are few in the area we live and all of them are banned for dogs. Would that mean that we need to keep our dog on a leash when out and not be able to let her free to run and sniff and socialise with other dogs. This is really harmful to dogs and would make them suffer let alone will impact their behaviour. The proposal is mainly one sided and should consider dog owners as well and designated free run areas for the dogs.

there should be no exclusion area.

there should be no exclusion area as it would exclude me from going there

Do you support the continuation of the previous PSPO relating to dogs on leads in specified areas? (Please select one option only)



Why don't you support the continuation of the previous PSPO relating to dogs on leads in specified areas? (Please write in the box below)

Why should my dog with excellent recall be forced to be on a lead!?? What next inforced muzzles? Walking at night only to avoid other members of the public??

Because you have built flats on all our old walking free places . You now want to control the only places you have left (so far) to exercise dogs

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Why don't you support the continuation of the previous PSPO relating to dogs on leads in specified areas? (Please write in the box below)

I think the 2m rule is unnecessary. There are areas such as Lordswood Lane where it's not necessary, although it should be necessary to bring your dog to heel when passing people (locking off an extendable lead if necessary).

the current PSPO means I don't take my dog to those areas, when I would quite like to and feel myself and my dog would benefit from being off-lead in those places.

there are grass verges around medway that are safe to have a dog on an extendable lead of more than 2metres.you state 2metres in length but dont clarify if an extendable lead can be used as long as reduced to 2metres for that area?.

Put leads on feral kids and adults first

Not all dogs need to be on leads, some dogs need freedom to run and explore, there are times and places for straining

Waste of time, fix the roads and antisocial behaviour electric bikes and scooters

Sensible dog owners who use flexible leads which extend are being punished for irresponsible people using them badly. Their people will probably still continue to use them badly and the people using them sensible, i.e. short anywhere busy, will be the ones who follow the rules when they weren't causing an issue in the first place.

2 metres is too short

A 2m lead length being enforced is not necessary if the dog is under control

The new proposals are more extensive and needed

It doesn't go far enough. Dogs should be kept on leads on all play parks, not just certain areas. It is wrong to limit where children can safely play to allow dogs free reign. For example, I have witnessed up to 12 dogs off leads in Cozenton park, fouling and preventing anyone safely using the grassed areas. Owners do not pick up dog mess, which is why the council pay for a special vehicle to clean up dog mess from the playing fields in Rainham Rec.

Because not all dog owners are irresponsible

When children are controlled then dogs can be looked at too

Dogs like to run and play ball games . You are. Restricting them by closing a section of the park to dogs , but horses and foxes and rabbits and rats are allowed

Dogs need to have some length of lead on grass verges for example to sniff and exercise. They are well away from the roadside and pavement so it's not a danger to anyone. Would you like to be kept on so short a lead everywhere you went?

Extendable and auto retracting leads can be bought up to 5 meters in length. this gives the dog some freedom to roam and sniff areas without pulling on the lead, and the dog is still controlled. a caveat could be introduced to indicate the responsibilities for dog owners using such leads.

A dog should have the right to run around and experience a bit of freedom that's like putting your kids on leads when you take them into town and to nice places

Dog can be trained to walk off leads. A responsible dog walker would be alerted to cyclists and young children and can use a lead where applicable in the circumstances. This is not about general safety and is another excuse to punish responsible dog owners. Dog needs can be walked off leads where safe to do so

It depends on which areas. I now live in a pub (with my 8 year old dog), and we do not have a garden - so if l/a member of my staff and/or a regular customer takes Jasper out for a toilet break they do not always take a lead. Jasper is well trained and doesn't run off, his recall is good and we always pick up after him. Jasper doesn't even run out the pub doors despite the fact they are always open in warm weather. Of course I stay by Jasper and visa versa when out for a toilet break, but no I do not always put him on a lead to walk 10 steps up the road to let him do his business.

Most people would not have heard of this PSPO let alone seen one until they fall foul of it; so listing sites is pointless.

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Why don't you support the continuation of the previous PSPO relating to dogs on leads in specified areas? (Please write in the box below)

See previous box

A definition of leads or keep dogs under close control is more appropriate. If there is concern about traffic it is safety it would be far better to lower the speed limit to 20mph as it would improve safety much more effectively and enhance the urban environment - which is currently dominated by motor vehicles at the expense of pedestrians and other road users such as cyclists.

Playgrounds yes, but the surrounding areas makes it for a very boring walk if you have to keep the dog on a lead the whole time - resulting in dogs not properly exercised and bored - ridiculous

If under control, fine to be off lead or on a longer lead

See previous answer

Too many unnecessary restrictions on dog owners

It's not appropriate for a country park

It should be up to owners to decide when is appropriate to have their dog on a lead and how long that lead is. Only well trained dogs should be off lead with a responsible owner using good judgement. Some dogs do not like wearing leads as they are used to being off lead.

Same reason as before

See previous answer. Also as per the RSPCA 5 freedoms dogs need the ability for safe free running.

This discrimination against dog owners

It's ignored by irresponsible dog owners no one police's it so again responsible dog owners are the only people who are penalised.

I would agree if it was rational and proportionate , however .

I feel that as long as the dog is on lead and under control why does it matter if the lead is 2metres long or 5metres long. Longer leads are more useful in training techniques for dogs

Having walked dogs and taken children without dogs to this area, this is not needed.

I want the new one with the specific lead length

Again you are penalising the good dog owners. If the dog is reactive to other dogs they shouldn't take them to these type of places . Educating & communicating with people is better. Have helpers on sites is better . Not assuming all dog owners are bad

Where is the evidence that leads longer than a certain, seemingly arbitrary length, are problematic, or, indeed, that every person with a dog is deemed incapable of controlling the animal by any other means. The restrictive new definition of what constitutes a lead is unnecessary.

Same reasons, dog areas should be established not ban the dogs from parks.

dog owners need to be responsible just like parents need to be with their children. Should we have areas where children are on leeds such as where ground-nesting birds are?

owners need to be responsible for their dog's actions.

Do you agree with the new proposal of dogs on leads in specified areas to include all areas listed in Schedule 2? (Please select one option only)



PSPO Dog Controls Survey 2024

Why don't you agree with the new proposal of dogs on leads in specified areas to include all areas listed in Schedule 2? (Please write in the box below)

See previous

Dogs need freedom just like us . stop building . Stop ruining our lives

Don't agree with the pavement section as there are many types of pavements, many of which don't require a 2m limit unless passing people.

the list is too extensive and over restrictive

I have not seen sufficient need to change from previous years

I think blanketing whole areas excludes responsible owners

Not enforceable waste of money

These are open spaces - 2m is very limiting. There are times when I've visited these spaces with my dog with very few people around and therefore it's nice for the dog to be able to explore and run more than 2m

See prev

The 2m lead length is unnecessary

Nor all dogs are a nuisance. Children can be worse and are not restricted

I already thought dogs weren't allowed in play areas and cemeteries to be honest. I agree that within reason dogs should be on a lead around high public traffic areas. But dogs do need areas to run. Perhaps introduce certain fields/areas where dogs can run free without the complications of children/families who do not have dogs.

Put children on leads too if this is an issue as many cause as many if not more problems

Restricting dogs freedom

Not all dogs are out of control

Dogs need freedom to exercise along with the rest of the family too. After all they are part of the family. As a dog owner you are in trouble for leaving a dog in the car while letting the kids have fun, frowned upon for leaving dogs at home alone for any considerable length of time and now you want dogs banned from just about all other family places. What exactly are dog owners to do???

My dog is very well behaved and will sit when I attend my mother's grave. How can I hold the lead and attend the grave?

Public sports fields are one of the few areas that well trained dogs can run loose and play with the owners. irresponsible dog owners will still use the sports fields, this just restricts decent dog owners from exercising their dogs and would be impossible to manage. Heavier fines could be added to deter the irresponsible owners with badly trained dogs and also with not cleaning up after the dog have fouled. This could also cause local discontent with responsible dog owners and would possibly force dog owners to walk outside of the village and possibly impact the local wildlife when they let their dogs loose. Playing fields are a controlled environment. There could be a caveat introduced that all dogs are to be on leads if the playing fields are being used for sports activities, and this would be a 24hr a day restriction.

See previous answer

My dogs are trained to walk off their leads. Owners shouldn't be punished for walking them the way they have been trained to do

Unnecessary

For the same reason in my previous section.

Dogs were suppose to be on leads anyway 🤔 why make more rules to confuse people

The majority of dog owners already keep their dogs under control and more restrictions cause confusion and won't stop those few owners who already break the rules from continuing to break the rules.

See previous box

PSPO Dog Controls Survey 2024

Why don't you agree with the new proposal of dogs on leads in specified areas to include all areas listed in Schedule 2? (Please write in the box below)

Existing legislation is adequate for irresponsible dog ownership and most dog walkers are responsible. Professional dog walkers would be unduly impacted and it would harm their business disproportionately. Most are insured to walk upto six dogs. Perhaps a permitting system for people wishing to walk more than x number of dogs could be introduced instead which would allow control and regulation (to ensure appropriate insurance and capability) without harm to business

Same as before

I am referring to Copperfield open space. In partucular the proposal of dogs on leads around the keep fit equipment. This is not fenced and will restrict even further areas there where my dog can be off lead. Surely this area lije the play area and multui sports area should be fenced off ti give our dogs a chance. The other half of the open space us not being kept cut and the tyoe of grasses growing have seeds that are dangerous to dogs. My small dog has need two vets procedures to remove dart type seeds from 1. Between her paws and 2. Her ears. Whoever has come up with this scheme has not looked clearly at the dog walking area available and the fact like humans dogs need more exercise than just walking on a lead.

If under control should be owners discretion

There are enough on lead areas already.

See previous answer. Do not penalise responsible dog owners with well trained dogs

Totally in necessary and over reacting

Again unnecessary

Again, it is in a dog's nature to run free in appropriate places. If a dog is trained well and is safe and able to be off leash that should be up to the dog owners discretion

It's a waste of time that can't be enforced

See previous answer

Same as before

There are enough restrictions already

Because the law already states to have control over an animal. I believe out of control children are more of an issue including allowing your child to urinate and defecate in public areas are equally an issue and un sanitary

Previous reason it will be ignored and only responsible dog owners who don't do it are penalised

I would agree with on leads during specific time of year - breeding season and school holidays

There is no description of where these areas are in relation to this question, which makes it impossible to answer.

It is a few exceptions that need managing not the majority. I do not though i should suffer because of a few, nor my dog walker. In reality the minority you want to manage will not listen to enforced restrictions unless a presence is there to enforce and fine. If you intend to continue to restrict you will need to employ such people who have power to enforce.

I dont think there needs to be any change to the current rules

Agree with Capstone amendments but Riverside extension into ponds area does not feel necessary.

If you know your dog misbehaves if not on a lead then you should have been educated by the 'helpers' on site and asked to put them on one but as previously stated not every owner is a bad owner and not every dog misbehaves

you have made it so that the digs cannot use the fields at the top where as a lone female i feel safe walking my dogs - i do not fee safe having to be further into the wooded area so i see this as a huge risk -

It will be difficult for dog owners to keep to, far too easy to accidentally break, and the country parks are one of few areas where dogs can be taken to exercise freely.

PSPO Dog Controls Survey 2024

Why don't you agree with the new proposal of dogs on leads in specified areas to include all areas listed in Schedule 2? (Please write in the box below)

Dogs should be on leads in more places than this. All public places except designated areas, preferably enclosed dog fields, as too many out of control dogs running up to on lead dogs with no recall

Trained and behaved dogs have good owners and should be allowed off lead for the benefit of both pet and owner

The list is inclusive in all the parks and literally no one's lace is left for dog owners in the areas we live. I believe this is unfair and ridiculous idea . We need police officers for drug dealers in parks instead where I see more harm.

No, just as before owners need to take responsibility for their dogs' actions. I wish all parents did the same with children.

can we put badly behaved people on leads as well?

Do you agree with the new proposal to allow an authorised officer to request that a dog is put on a lead no longer than two metres from collar to handle if such restraint is reasonably necessary? (Please select one option only)



Why don't you agree with the new proposal to allow an authorised officer to request that a dog is put on a lead no longer than two metres from collar to handle if such restraint is reasonably necessary? (Please write in the box below)

Because you do not have the right to dictate how people look after their dogs .

Define 'Authorised Officer',

i disagree because you need to be very clear about extendable and training leads which can be reduced in length or extended. Will a over zealous office see this as not complying even if reduced to 2metres for that restricted area as has potential to be increased?.

Always going after an easy target aren't you?

With the way authorised officers currently behave I think this is open to abuse to harass/intimidate and cause issues with a dog walker at will.

Because I don't believe this will be done sensibly and it will just be another way to fine people. If the people requesting this are not target driven then it might work but otherwise no. Sensible dog walkers don't need to be told when to out their dogs on leads

Sort out the electric bikes drugs and antisocial behaviour

I didn't even know an authorised officer existed so perhaps their time would be best spent preventing dog fouling

Agree dog on lead but owner should determine length of lead

You have not defined what you mean by reasonably necessary. It's is far too subjective.

Waste of resource

5m lead is sufficient to keep dog under control

When you can control the people that need controlling first, then you should focus on the rest.

Control the foxes and provide more bins for fouling

PSPO Dog Controls Survey 2024

Why don't you agree with the new proposal to allow an authorised officer to request that a dog is put on a lead no longer than two metres from collar to handle if such restraint is reasonably necessary? (Please write in the box below)

Another draconian measure from labour medway. Seemingly to rake in even more money. Anti car, anti dog and anti exercise. Charge for everything, concrete over everything and fine everyone for any little thing.

As stated previously, 5 meter retractable leads can be bough and provide that little bit of freedom for dogs to roam in a controlled manner. The accountability is with the owner not the dog, this just restricts the exercising of energetic and curious dogs. Dogs need to sniff their surroundings and is good for their mental health. More onus should be on the dog owner accountability, nor restricting well trained dogs little bit of freedom.

So would it be good practice to put a muzzle on a toddler when they are out because they like to eat everything or put them in hand cuffs because they touch everything and put them on a lead if you take your dog responsible owner will allow them off the lead to play with them but your now stopping that and taking away the right of the dog and its owner to potentially have fun

This is going too far. Policing dog owners to this extent is totalitarian.

How is "reasonably necessary" determined and by who?

See previous box. Also flexi leads can go up to 5 metres and I don't see the problem with my dog continuing on lead with me whilst at 5 metres as I still have control.

Survey question is poorly worded and leads respondents to a particular answer. Judgement is subjective and arbitrary. Working dogs will worry animals as part of their work for instance (sheep dog, security, gun dog , pest control etc). Road traffic kills and harms far more animals and measure is disproportionate to the issue caused by dogs (case of proportionality has not been demonstrated in materials provided).

Unnecessary control

It's stupid especially in areas where they should be allowed in a park

See previous answer

Do not trust that this will be enforced fairly at all

How will these officers be trained? What would be the reasonable reason to put a dog on a leash? It is open to abuse from council officers and members of the public who don't like dogs

Because it's ridiculous to say that birds won't be any less worried by dogs if their leads are less than 2 metres long

The length of the lead and restraint should be down to me as the owner of the dog and not up to someone else to restrict.

Basically there is a cost to this. I live on Parkwood Green - more of an issue is the teenagers that constantly throw litter on the green (causing potential injury to dogs, children etc), ride e-scooters and ride motorbikes. Medway Council removed the camera section of the CCTV (they left the pole for some inexplicable reason), and despite repeated questions as to why, no reply has been given. In short, spending money on an officer could be better used for more pressing problems in recreational spaces, mainly littering, anti-social behaviour, dangerous driving of quad bikes, e-scooters and motorbikes. Part of that spend perhaps should come from Kent Police, but the council need to police parks better for all users, not just focus in on dogs - reinstate CCTV, liaise with Kent Police etc for the safety of all parks / recreational spaces.

This should be a police officer and should be done in a lawful way

It's too subjective - she said, they said....

The owner should be risk aware and control their dog appropriately

Because as long as the dog is under control and why does it matter if it's 2metres or 5metres long. Shorter leads provide more control correct but this will not help with training techniques and other measurements can be implemented instead such as educating dog owners and muzzles for dogs causing issues

PSPO Dog Controls Survey 2024

Why don't you agree with the new proposal to allow an authorised officer to request that a dog is put on a lead no longer than two metres from collar to handle if such restraint is reasonably necessary? (Please write in the box below)

Cats are more of a nuisance then any dog I've seen yet they are allowed to freely roam, poo anywhere they like and no consequences come to the owner as "cats are free to roam"

As previously stated the new lead definition, is arbitrary, unnecessary and apparently unevidenced as to it's utility as a means of control.

As per my last answer

I would like to be protected from foxes that come and bring diseases as our dogs are immunised and treated for worms and fleets, not to say that each month we pay for pet plan that includes regular visits to the vet and proper care for our dogs to stay healthy and not be spreading diseases as the wild live for example.

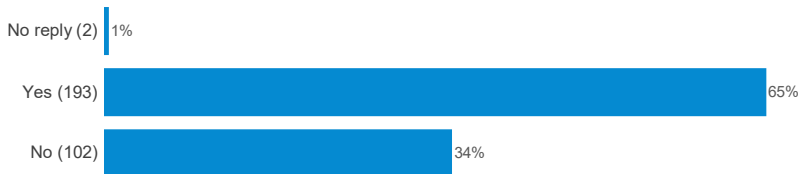
This may be a training aid for new dog that can't be off the lead.

I don't see how any authorised official from Medway can enforce such a rule. I do not support policing by council officials, if a law is being broken it's a police matter.

A lot of money to be spent on a busybody telling people what to do. No, thank you, not in a free country.

I don't want to pay a stranger to come up to me telling me how to live my life!

Do you agree with the new proposal to control the maximum dogs walked at any one time by a single person to four dogs? (Please select one option only)



Why don't you agree with the new proposal to control the maximum dogs walked at any one time by a single person to four dogs? (Please write in the box below)

My dog is walked by a dog walker on a weekly basis if you reduce the number of dogs she can walk you are going to impact her livelyhood and increase costs to people like myself. I'm extremely against this proposal

It's unnecessary, I've never seen it as an issue. Let's not have controls where they aren't needed, that's just government for the sake of it.

Are you becoming dictators ?

Silly suggestion. I can't walk my 2 dogs together as one is reactive on lead and requires one to one. My bright has 5 little Pomeranians that he walks together. It all depends on the situation and the dogs themselves.

If the dogs are under control then more than 4 shouldn't be an issue

This is none of your business

Nanny state

Because it is about controlling the dogs not the number of dogs

Some owners have perfect control over their dogs. The more dogs generally the more control they have. I have only ever experienced problems with people with one or two dogs. Never owners who walk packs

PSPO Dog Controls Survey 2024

Why don't you agree with the new proposal to control the maximum dogs walked at any one time by a single person to four dogs? (Please write in the box below)

I think it should be 6 - again you are penalising people who may have 5 well behaved dogs over 3 poorly behaved and not in control. I understand the idea of this but again, I think it won't have the impact you hope for.

I think 4 dogs could be difficult to control in some situations, especially large dogs

This restriction doesn't correlate with my extensive experience of dog walking, where I tend to find that dog owners walking more than four dogs tend to be more responsible. Extend that to professional dog walkers, and I don't believe this restriction is tackling an actual issue. I am in favour of a dog limit based on the combined weight of the dogs walked, as that reflects a very real concern about the owners' physical ability to manage their animals.

There are professional walkers who take many dogs at once with no issue and this would harm their livelihood

I don't think this is a big enough issue in the area. Most irresponsible owners have one or two dogs I think it would be disproportionate to those who run businesses even if they are exempt as they would be stopped while checks were made.

Agree to the number, but all dogs should be on leads. No one can control 4 off-lead dogs if one of them misbehaves.

3 is enough for one person in my opinion

There is no logical reason as to why this would be needed

I think it should be less. 1 person cannot control that amount of dogs, especially if there are signs of aggression either from or towards these animal's

Should be limited to three as per professional guidance. Google will return advice on matter

I have 5 dogs so I am not allowed now to walk them !!

Limited dog ownership is not fair . Many people foster dogs and you are restricting them

Four dogs is not a lot

As long as the dogs are under control I have no problems with the number of dogs a person can walk at once.

I think the restriction should be less than 4 dogs. I think there should be larger fines for dog walkers who don't put the faeces in the appropriate bin, such as collecting the faeces in a bag and then throwing the bag on the ground.

It unfairly targets genuine responsible dog walkers

It would disproportionately affect professional dog walkers

Fully trained dog walkers can manage more than four dogs. I agree to the limit for non qualified dog walkers. qualified dog walkers would just put the price up which could stop some dogs from being exercised correctly due to numerous reasons as to why the dog owner cannot regularly walk their dog. This would be to the detriment of the dog and not the owner.

Because your messing with someone's life what if I stopped paying my taxes and council tax and everything else because I don't use the services

This will badly effect the livelihood of dog walkers. Having pets is known to improve mental health, which in a world with poor work life balance can easily be effected. In order to both work and have a dog many people rely on a dog walker

A professional dog walker should be able to walk more than four dogs at once. A better way to do ensure safety is to create dog walkers licence so only those who show that they have the skills and training to control many dogs at once are permitted to provide this service in Medway.

PSPO Dog Controls Survey 2024

Why don't you agree with the new proposal to control the maximum dogs walked at any one time by a single person to four dogs? (Please write in the box below)

I understand why this may be put in place, however each owner and each dog is different; therefore I feel a blanket punishment is unfair. Also dog walkers make a living out of such and sometimes walk multiple dogs at once. There are too many varying factors; I.e. how well the dog is or isn't trained, the size of said dogs, everyone owns a different amount of animals and it would hinder dog walkers making a profit.

I don't believe this is a problem in Medway. Most people would not have heard of this PSPO let alone seen one until they fall foul of it so what happens when someone with five or more dogs is confronted with no means to reduce the number.

Why can't an owner have more than 4 dogs and be able to walk them all at the same time. For some this is their whole family and it's not fair to all involved.

Not feasible for dog walkers. Our dog has a dog walker once a week and this restriction would mean an increase in prices. Our dog walker is responsible and keeps dogs on lead in designated areas and on a lead at all times if they've poor recall. You're putting this profession at a huge disadvantage.

Harmful to legitimate and responsible businesses (such as dog walkers). Most are insured and other measures would be more appropriate such as licensing to demonstrate capability and responsibility.

It will affect the local dog walkers who are responsible and take good groups out that cause no bother - you're going to affect businesses and that's unfair

I feel like the majority of people with this many dogs under their ownership are responsible persons and often it is their profession. Limiting the number of dogs to 4 restricts many of their livelihoods and will have a negative impact on those of us who rely on their services. 6 seems like a more reasonable number. Or a free permit available to people with more....

Experienced dog walkers can comfortably walk up to 6 dogs safely at one time

Dog walkers are insured to walk up to 6 dogs at a time. Dogs remain under control at all times or on a lead. Reducing the limit to 4 when their insurance allows 6 would seriously affect their livelihood in a detrimental way

If someone has 5 dogs and they work full time they may not have the time to take 2 trips out with dogs. This could lead to potential neglect of the dog or owners having to give their dogs up

Depends on the breed and size of dog. For larger breeds the limit should be one.

Dog owners should have control over dogs they own/walk

As a dog owner who uses a dog walker regularly, I completely disagree with this. Not only will it affect the livelihood of the dog walker, it would also cause issues for those that use them. With the four dog limit, their income would be lower. It would also affect me personally as they will need to drop clients, and in turn affect my livelihood because I rely on dog walkers to allow me to go to work. I've used numerous people over the past four and a half years and not once has there been an issue. They are licenced and legal. The dogs are always under control. They do due diligence to ensure that the dog is suitable to walk with them before they start. The dogs whose recall is lacking, stay on a lead at all times. The issue lies with untrained dogs and careless owners. Not the dog walkers who have them under control at all times who are very strict with who they take out. This will affect an awful lot of people.

Again, it is up to the person walking the dogs. If the dogs are well trained, and the owner competent. Then there is no problem. Also dogs used to being walked in a pack will find it difficult being separated for walks. If people have to work and don't have time for multiple dog walks you will see an increase in dog shelters receiving dogs.

Because not all dogs are the same size. All that will happen is that there will be fewer dogwalkers, and I humbly suggest that it's easier to control 5 Chihuahua dogs on leads than 4 Alsatian dogs!

It should be up to the owner to determine how many dogs they can walk safely at once.

PSPO Dog Controls Survey 2024

Why don't you agree with the new proposal to control the maximum dogs walked at any one time by a single person to four dogs? (Please write in the box below)

I've never seen people with more than 4 dogs, which don't have control over their dogs. I'm a dog walker & can & do walk 6 dogs at a time & I am constantly complimented on how well behaved they are & how I control them better than most people can control one dog. I already have my dogs on lead in all the places suggested & under control when off lead. They are not allowed in play areas & I don't take them round the pond off lead or into cemeteries off lead. I have taught all dogs under my care "not in there", for keeping them out of restricted areas. I move my dogs to the side for people, with their new command of "move over" and then they all sit and stay while people and dogs come pass. If I am walking a dog who doesn't listen to commands, they are kept on a lead. I would be more than happy to be observed walking 6 dogs, so they can be seen as under control. Through the summer I am very busy and will normally walk 2 groups of 6 dogs separately. If I was unable to walk more than 4 dogs, than I would have to turn away clients, cause I wouldn't have time to get all the dogs walked before the weather is too hot.

Depends on the dogs/person/

A matter of personal freedom

I'm a dog walker and most walking insurance covers 6-8 dogs. Although my walking route is on private wooded land where the dogs are off leash. Never really had an issues with my pack and the public that walk through, only with dogs who the owners can't recall or who are let off that are known aggressive. This is non council land. Most of the professional walkers have much better control of their group than the general public with one dog. I do feel that places like Capstone and Riverside can be limited to 4 dogs as there are a lot of other users about, I personally wouldn't take 6 dogs off lead to somewhere like that. But other areas - Lordswood woods/fields for example can't see a problem with larger groups off lead.

Every dog walker I have encountered have brilliant control of their dogs.

Generally speaking large groups of dogs are with professional walkers who access and carefully group there dogs together and tend to pick up behind them. I and often owner of multiple dogs seem to be in more control and more respectful than owners of a single dog

It's about controll no numbers! One large dog can be more of a problem then 6 small dogs, it's to blunt a rule

Because some families have more than 4 dogs, how do they make the decision to leave one at home?

2 should be the maximum to ensure full control over the dogs

Some dog walkers walk 6, but generally it is not these that are sn issue, as they are selected and managed well

Many licenced dog walkers appropriately and responsibly walk ground if 5 /6 dogs with out incident . Each dog walker should be licenced and retired and a limit of 6 dogs should be in place , no less as with the parking charges you arely impacting there earning potential and limits dogs drastically will heavily impact the dog walkers earing , leading to and increase in prices and an increase in dogs potentially not getting the walks they require due to the financial implications of price rises.

I feel that will restrict dog walkers and their business. Also people own more than 4 dogs at times. I actually find a dog walker or a multi dog household isn't the problem as the dogs tend to be well trained and full controlled, it is the single dogs with owners who have not trained their dogs at all that are the problem.

My dog walker is very very experoenced and can walk 6 dogs without any issues. I suggest having exclusions for registered dog walkers

Most of the people walking more than 4 dogs are professional dog walkers. Limiting the amount of dogs walked at the same time will put these people out of business which might have a knock on effect with other issues ie not enough dog walkers in the area therefore this could lead to people in full time employment not being able to look after their dogs properly. Could lead to more dogs going to the already overcrowded rescue centres or dogs being abandoned. Professional dog walkers play an important part in a dog owners life without these trusted people life for owners and their pets would be a lot harder and IT WILL BE THE ANIMAL THAT SUFFERS at the end of all this.

PSPO Dog Controls Survey 2024

Why don't you agree with the new proposal to control the maximum dogs walked at any one time by a single person to four dogs? (Please write in the box below)

I believe this should take into other considerations including size and breed. I also believe. That qualifie, licensed dog walkers should be allowed to walk more than 4 dogs of a certain size / breed categories at a time. There is a vast difference between walking 4 Dashunds to 4 Rottweilers. Whilst I believe there is a need for reasonable restrictions for safety of both humans and the animals, it should be set by category and professional qualification.

I strongly disagree with this. Some owners have more than 4 dogs in their possession. And professional dog walkers are allowed and insured for 6 dogs. 6 is a good number of dogs to keep an eye on and control without any issues. It's just about being responsible. Insurance is in place for dog walkers and therefore covers any mishaps. Educating owners to be responsible and identify situations such as chasing wildlife being a risk. Is the more appropriate way forward. 6 well behaved dogs compared to 4 well behaved dogs will not make any difference if anything reducing the number of dogs allowed will make professional workers lives more difficult and those who own more than 4 dogs. I regularly walk a lot of dogs together and meet people with several dogs and have never encountered any issues.

Many people own more than 4 dogs so youde have to split your own dogs up just to walk them it's ridiculous. And it's very unfair on professional dog walkers who are fully capable and trained to handle more than 4 dogs!!

I think it's not about how many dogs it should be about what size those dogs are, as 6 small / medium dogs would be different to 6 large dogs. 4 large dogs sounds appropriate as does 6 small ones (In my opinion).

As pro dog walker who always has their dogs under control 6 would be a better number and also multiple dogs in house holds

I personally think 4 dogs not owned by the same person is too many . If it's a dog walking business they should be limited & they should also have a licence to do so

I don't agree that this is an issue in Medway

Dog walkers will struggle when they are competant and responsible in the job they do. Some families have multiple dogs who will never be able to be walked together. This is targeting the wrong people

I imagine this affects licenced dog walkers?

Dog walkers sometimes take up to 6 out according to their insurance policies, all dogs out with walkers are carefully vetted and assessed to ensure a safe walking experience for both the dogs and members of the public

I have 5 well behaved border collies and I also walk an older German shepherd for a friend who's unable to walk her . If I'm restricted to 4 dogs I will have to leave one of my collies at home and she would cry the house down as used to being together and I'd have to stop walking my friends dog and I walk at Capstone every morning . I have just paid for the yearly parking ticket and I don't have the time to do two separate walks . I also walk in the afternoon so that would be 4 walks a day .

It depends on circumstances. Some dogs may be well trained and easily controlled.

Dog walkers should be able to take as many as they like

What is the evidential basis for the implicit assumption that the ability to control dogs can be reduced to their number. There is already legislation that deals with people with dogs that they cannot control. Use that before resorting to further, administrative regulations.

i OWN five well behaved small dogs so this penalises me for being a dog owner - im a full time carer for a 93 year old and this irder would mean id have to walk four times a day as you wouldnt allow me to walk my well behaved dogs .. i strongly object to being told i cant have this number im a responsible owner mine are well trained . you would be forcing me to leave medway in doing so . In addition you make no comments about a group of friends walking together who between them have re than 4 dogs - it goes completely against human rights to also say you therefore by default cannot walk with friends you cant dictate how many dogs someone can own and therefore walk but at the same time allow groups of friends who have between them more than four -

PSPO Dog Controls Survey 2024

Why don't you agree with the new proposal to control the maximum dogs walked at any one time by a single person to four dogs? (Please write in the box below)

Depends on how the dogs respond to the owner

I often help my friend by walking her 4 dogs which with my own dog means I'll have 5, they are all very well-behaved together and dont cause any other dogs or members of the public any problems. Under the legislation I would be unable to do this .

Don't see why they need to do it. Does not bother me if they have them under control and need education if not.

Why on earth should there be a law about this? If the dogs are kept under control a person should be able to walk as many as they can manage.

Many dog owners have 4 dogs or more which would be difficult for owners to navigate their walks, separating packs causing problems at home. It would also cause a detrimental affect to many dog walking businesses to restrict walking to 4 only would put a lot out of business. There are only so many hours in the darker months to walk dogs safely in daylight hours.

I am a dog walker, have been running my business for over 11 years, in a sign written van, and multiple dogs. I have never had an issue, if there was the rangers would know me and know who to contact. Fouling is an issue and worse in summer months, I pick up all my dogs' foul and multiple others I'm not responsible for. If restrictions are put on the number of dogs I can walk I could not continue my business due to making a loss on fuel costs or having to reduce the dogs I have every day.

4 is too many. Should be two maximum per person

This should only apply to professional dog walkers. Dog owners who already have more than 4 dogs should not be prevented from exercising them. Perhaps a licensing scheme would be appropriate in these circumstances. The welfare of dogs could be negatively impacted by this proposal.

I think it is about the person having control not necessarily how many dogs they have.

My dog has walks with groups of 6 and never had an issue and it encourages him to be sociable

I do not agree as some people own multiple dogs and this would impact them and also in a professional setting this would impact dog walkers and their business along with also impacting dogs socialisation

As per my previous answer

Professional dog walkers know the dogs they walk & can control them. I think the maximum should be 6 dogs walked at any one time

Professional dog walkers should be allowed 6.

This should be revised to 5 dogs maximum as it is more reasonable for professional dog walkers etc whom would have limited business if a limit of 4 at one time were imposed. It may also be worth extrapolating this condition to include some consideration for the breed size of dogs being walked I.e. 2 large breed, 3 medium breed etc. to ensure fairness in accountability of each individual animal, and appropriate level of control by one person.

My dog walker usually walks 6 and is on perfect control. This is not practical to introduce this new rule

Regardless of the amount of dogs being walked at one time, the determining factor should be can the walker control these effectively. Even with one dog, the walker may not be able to control them whereas professional dog walkers can (not all) effectively control more than 4

What about dog walkers who is doing a job?

As long as the dogs are under control then this is safe. Only a responsible trained dog Walker would walk dogs in a pack that are safe and under control. Difficult dogs would automatically be walked alone

While I can't imagine owning more than 2 dogs myself, there are responsible people who own many. I don't see how this tiny amount of people have managed to raise am issue on a publicly paid for consultation. I also do not believe in limiting animal owners' freedoms, nor believe it's worthwhile trying to police such a policy.

PSPO Dog Controls Survey 2024

Why don't you agree with the new proposal to control the maximum dogs walked at any one time by a single person to four dogs? (Please write in the box below)

It should be less dogs than four. We do not consider that it is possible to effectively control four dogs. no number is needed but the walker must be in control of all dogs with them.

Do you have any additional comments about the proposed PSPO that are not already addressed in this survey? (Please write in the box below)

Owners seem to have very little control if their dogs these days and completely unaware of the nuisance they cause. Dogs left alone in houses barking all day long are also a problem

Stop tarring everyone's dogs with the same brush! Why should this apply to people's dogs who are well behaved and obedient. This will impact my ability to walk my dog whilst being with my children,

How about letting people look after their own animals. While you just carry on making sure you that you take away every bit of free pleasure we have . You are already doing a great job at that

Dogs need to be socialised. Years ago there were hardly any dog attacks as dogs roamed freely (I don't advocate that). There are now so many restrictions that people and dogs aren't used to mixing with each other on a regular basis. We are legislating ourselves into these problems by creating an environment where dogs are no longer properly socialised.

I feel it necessary dogs be on lead and under control. I've been subject to attacks by smaller dogs as owners don't seem to think they are a problem!

whilst i agree some controls are needed it needs to be balanced and appropriate. And proportionate. There are large numbers of dogs well controlled and trained in medway and a small number that are not controlled or trained appropriately. I would be more comfortable with targeted enforcement and education rather than the easy restrict the majority because of the minority.

4 dogs per person at one time is too many if the dogs are large or not well controlled. Dog fouling actually needs to be monitored and fines issued.

Concerned that the existing rules are not policed. Without anyone to ensure they are adhered to there's nit much point. But strongly agree with controlling dogs. My teenagers have been scared so many times by out of control dogs & aggressive owners that it limits our enjoyment & I am concerned about the impact on wildlife.

What hateful individual came up this this crock?

Regarding Pottery Road Rec Ground in Hoo. You state the Skate Ramps as an exclusion area but these are not fenced off. Whilst I agree with plans set out I would also like areas to be safe for dog walkers and their dogs. Pottery Road Rec in Hoo for example regularly has motorbikes being ridden by youths around the field when dog walkers are present and I have experienced some frightening times while my dog is off lead in the grassed area. Please can you also address this too and not just target dog owners when thinking about safety of people using parks

I think anyone walking 4 dogs on their own should have them on leads at all times, it is not possible to control 4 off lead dog by one person in a public area

Personally, I think all dogs should be muzzled in any public space. Even a small dog can attack a child.

Waste of time and money far more important things wrong with medway that need sorting. Antisocial behaviour, electric bikes scooters drugs tents on Jackson field. Lack of cctv removed from Jackson field skate park

Gillingham park should be dogs on leads only. There has been a number of dog attacks there and there are also young children using their scooters/bikes around the park. Dog fouling around Barnsole Road, junction road is awful.

No

Why were the Darland Banks not included in the areas where dogs should be kept on leads. Small children are always targeted by dogs off leads and this can be very frightening.

PSPO Dog Controls Survey 2024

Do you have any additional comments about the proposed PSPO that are not already addressed in this survey? (Please write in the box below)

Can the survey include all public spaces? I have a neighbour that lets his dog with absolutely no recall run around on the green (owned by MHS) which restricts me taking out my dogs sometimes as their petrified of off-lead dogs.

Yes.all the rules that are put in place are not with held seems no one enforces the rules how many unclipped dogs are found given to dog warden unclipped that get given back to owner for it to happen again why is this allowed when the law states all dogs and cats by law should be chipped.many times I see dogs off leads in cemeteries but no one around to enforce this.surely you should be enforcing the laws that are in place as as I see it nothing happens as no one enforces it

A lot of these issues are already covered under various laws and the problem is they are not enforced. Police walk past intoxicates people on the high with large breed dogs wandering about. Medway stray dog page is full of dogs not chipped but reunited and not one owner fined according to a recent news article. Dog poo has been a huge issue for years and not enforced. As a dog owner myself I agree with all the rules but I do also believe more enclosed dog areas could be made available like the Bark Parks at Maidstone road and St Mary's Island

More enforcement

I experience a local dog walker who picks up the dogs from the owners and specifically walks them to outside neighbours houses to let them wee/poo before getting in their van (Just Like Home dog Walker). They also let the animals do this at the entrance to alleyways frequently used by school children who then have to walk through it. So maybe an additional change needs to be made that those who chose to have dogs should have then wee/poo on their own properties and not that on neighbours who chose not to have dogs. I understand you can't pick up wee and that it is often unplanned if walking along HOWEVER dog walkers who are persistently doing it to neighbours houses for THEIR business should be punished. Areas are foul smelling, fences are rotting with it being in same places. My other consideration please is large open plan areas in parks where dogs are off leads and allowed to bound over and jump up to children. The upper car park in capstone often has dogs off leads and has lots of fouling in different fields. During lockdown particularly and since, some dog owners seem to feel they own the fields. We couldn't put a picnic rug down for trying to find a space without fouling or a dog bounding over with an owner no where to be seen. With so many fields this would be nice if dogs had their own dedicated field or two so families could chose to avoid those and where We could be comfortable not having to constantly stand in front or lift up children when a dog comes running over without any recall. It's ok for owners to say "it's fine they are friendly" but we don't know the dog and don't want to take chances. We grew up with dogs, we arr not against them but it's very difficult to teach our children not to be scared of them based on the lack of control by dog owners.

Dog owners assume everyone loves dogs and of course their dogs won't hurt you, but many people don't feel this. A dog running at you makes you fearful and scared. It's not excusable to say "oh he won't hurt you" if you are afraid and not a dog lover, you are afraid!

If you want people to stop doing something, don't just tell them to stop doing it. Present a better alternative for them to do instead. I'm happy to be contacted to discuss where I think we need dog runs added to our parks - roxanne.girling@gmail.com

This is a punitive set of measures that penalises good dog owners because of the behaviour of others. I would prefer dog licensing, chipping and insurance to drive poor dog owners away from ownership

I would also support less than 4 dogs as the maximum

Dog fouling is by far the biggest issue and not just in green spaces. No roads or areas seem to be immune to dog fouling.

In my opinion all dogs should be on leads at all times when out in public and the extending leads should be banned

I think 4 dogs is to many to walk at a time . 1 person cannot control this amount of dogs I have 1 dog who is regularly growled at by people who are walking 4 or 5 little dogs . All dogs should be kept on leads . And the XL bully muzzle law needs to be enforced .

PSPO Dog Controls Survey 2024

Do you have any additional comments about the proposed PSPO that are not already addressed in this survey? (Please write in the box below)

None

The current rules are not enforced, so what's going to change?

Should be applicable to all children's play areas including Brompton (Gillingham) where dogs are off the lead in play area despite notices

Four dogs by one walker is too many. It's not just dogs but the owners. Something needs to be done about their behaviour

I think the root issue is too many irresponsible or incapable people with dogs and possibly even there are too many dogs about. This may be linked to the population of Medway expanding quickly and not enough recreation areas available. I understand that dog ownership expanding during lockdown has exacerbated things too.

I know this is needed but it's about time did something about dogs dieing in hot car ovens allow pet animals in stores under restricted terms ie dog buggies no paws on the floors

I feel that all dogs should be on leads in parks as I experience issues with loose dogs in Rainham parks which are not under control and are allowed to jump up at me and I am expected to accept that as they are only being 'friendly'me

The Recreation Open space in Chestnut Avenue is not included in the PSPO. Dogs MUST BE ON LEADS at all times . Continued barking every day from 6.00am onwards .At lot of owners do not control their dogs

None

Dog restrictions should not be blanket. You would not enforce a blanket restriction on other social space users

I have experienced an increased problem with unwanted/agressive interaction with other people's dogs over the ladt 3 years. Dogs seem to be poorly trained and badly controlled. Some Dog owners don't appreciate that not everybody loves dogs or even likes dogs and I myself have had altercations where I have explained that large dogs charging me are disturbing. I once had to defend myself while out running, by kicking a large dog away from me and was then attacked by the owner. Please help me protect myself while out in these public spaces.

I think all dogs should be on leads at all times. If the owners have no area at home to allow their dog freedom to run, then there are dog enclosures to go to. Perhaps Medway could actually accommodate this & have dog enclosures to rent at a nominal price

Children should only walk dogs if they can be responsible for their behaviour and pick up after the dog

Its impossible to picnic, play football, frisby, fly a lit or ride a bike in any of our local parks due to dogs off of leads we no longer feel safe to take the children. These rules are great and would see us taking our children back into the parks where they should be. Next thinv id like you to address is dogs being allowed inside eating places, its un hygenic, unnessacary, and needs to be stopped. One was in Parkwood chemist last week, licking the tablet packs on the shelf. It's time to change and make it unacceptable.

I think this is long overdue, as a birdwatcher who regularly frequents area such as capstone and riverside, I have been subjected to aggressive behaviour from dogs on many occasions, and either indifference or aggression on behalf of the owners.

Should also include restrictions covering breach of order if Dog trespasses into private property without consent

No

I would like to see dogs muzzled and on leads. So many visits to the park are blighted by out of control dogs and owners who do not take responsibility for their dog's behaviour or its mess

I've never seen a dog officer since the 90's but now revenue is required this is a way of taxing folk. Labour are horrific.

You have not provided enough bins and are blaming the dogs

PSPO Dog Controls Survey 2024

Do you have any additional comments about the proposed PSPO that are not already addressed in this survey? (Please write in the box below)

Dogs are treated like wild animals and are seen as nuisance generally. But most dogs are well behaved. There should be more constraints on inexperienced bad owners and fines for people that have put out control dogs. A lot of people don't understand dog behavior and take normal behavior as aggression such as people treat dogs as babies and not animals and that is where the problem lies. More education for inexperienced dog owners

Leave things alone. Things are working perfectly well as they are. I have never encountered an issue in any playground I have taken my children to, on any walk around any country park or cemetery. There is no need to waste money on wardens and signs that address a problem that doesn't exist

Just making sure that the scheme is staffed well enough to make it enforceable and also publishing names of offenders that can be accessed on the council's website.

No

The area listed as Allhallows Road Play area has not existed for many years and was converted to allotments. Play equipment is located at Allhallows Recreation Ground (listed as Shelduck Close, but pedestrian access at multiple points). This does move the problem to the Parish Council open space at Cross Park, Avery Way, Allhallows

There are no allocations on Halling Parish Council land (Lower and Upper Recreation Grounds), but see that other parish council areas are included

Just wondering why the coastal path and playgrounds on St Mary's Island aren't included given that there is a dedicated dog run area. Also, what provision has been given to support such dog run areas given that they are likely to become more popular?

What is the point of a PSPO when they are not managed.....no dog wardens, so reliant on neighbours or persons living on the boundary of these restricted areas reporting others, which could bring them in conflict with the rest of the community. There are already laws for fouling and uncontrolled dogs and these are not managed so these updates will just restrict responsible dog owners even more. The fines are already costly however without wardens, there is no deterrent. Any money available should be utilised on actual bodies on the ground implementing the existing rules and laws, focused targeting on existing problem areas would certainly be of a benefit instead of just criminalising responsible dog owners and wasting money on more restrictions that just increase the cost of managing a non-managed process. Look at a solution for stopping people filling public bins with a week's worth of garden dog waste, ensure that there are plenty of bins in these areas.....justified heavy fines for not complying to the law. Start prosecuting these irresponsible owners and the dog community will happily support the council.

I think dog free days should be introduced at country parks so people who have issues with dogs can enjoy these areas unpestered.

I think this is a joke of all jokes why don't Medway council try making a change to the actual place rather than taking stuff out on pets and owners and also wasting about £2 million on that eyesore of a garden thing behind the pentagon no one asked for that to change and as always you can't polish a turd what's the point

No

Need more dog poo bins especially on new estates

I would strongly support fenced areas specifically for dogs on recreation grounds (like the one on St Mary's Island) where there is space, such as on the Great Lines. This would allow dogs to run freely in a safe manner.

Pls monitor Gillingham High Street so many people let their dogs off the lead there and fouling is a big problem also introduce something to do with walking dogs in heat

I've personally been bitten by two dogs when out running once and the other time walking home from work. One was on a lead and I was still bitten. One cut my leg open. Dog fouling is another constant annoyance. I'd like to see as many restrictions as possible as it seems totally unfair to me that dogs can spoil my life and I have no control over it.

PSPO Dog Controls Survey 2024

Do you have any additional comments about the proposed PSPO that are not already addressed in this survey? (Please write in the box below)

Dog owners seem to have become more irresponsible since Covid. Dogs are lovely but need to be under control.

Good ideas if resources are available to police them. If people see them not being enforced, I think it might encourage them to ignore other rules as well. I was a dog owner for over 30 years until I lost my last one earlier this year. For at least the last couple of years, my dog refused to go into the nearby park because of people with uncontrolled dogs.

These proposals need to be implemented as soon as possible to protect the public and make owners accountable

There should be more enclosed, safe areas for dog owners to take their dog. If you plan to remove places dogs are welcome then it's only right to make more places where they are welcome!

I agree that all play areas should be dog free- in parks. The one that stands out for me as excessive control is Deangate around the nonmaintained track and football areas- all other parks listed are maintained by the council. The running track is very run down and I have never come across any dog fouling as there are a good number of dog waste bins around the Deangate athletics/football area. There is a lovely expanse of grass for dogs to run on and keeps them away from the children's play areas in the rest of Hoo. If you take away this area then please can you consider providing an alternative dog friendly, short grass, even ground area suitable for older people to walk their dogs. I have never seen dog fouling at Deangate- because it is people making the effort to travel there I believe them to be more responsible for liners- from what I have experienced there. A field that is barely used taken away from the community is a travesty. I notice there are no similar restrictions in the rugby fields at priestfields or the football areas at Borstal. Let us have one field please that is away from children's play areas that is therefore ideal for walking a dog near Hoo.

I do feel it is unfair to penalise all dog owners for the actions of the minority. The majority of dog owners are responsible owners. I also feel the people who currently act irresponsibly with their dogs will not follow the enforced rules.

I think rather than exclude dogs from a lot of areas if you implemented more dogs on lead zones this would be better. As someone with a dog I think the biggest problem you find when out with dogs is people are too happy to have their dogs off lead all the time when they don't have loads of control over them. Most of the time these dogs are friendly but the issue is other people who keep their dogs on the lead might not be hence why they're on the lead and I have seen loads of times dogs (friendly) run up to people who just don't like dogs and are a bit scared.

The majority of dog owners are responsible. Some of the PSPO proposals are punishing responsible owners but will have no impact on the small minority of owners who already break the rules. Also there seems to be no consideration to the wellbeing of the animals here. Dogs need space and freedom around people. Too much restriction can cause dogs to become anxious and fearful of social environments. This could cause even more issues that it solves as dogs pull and act up due to lead anxiety.

Is it possible to have more enclosed areas across the borough where dogs can be free and run around. This is to assist dog owners living in flats and don't have use of an enclosed garden space.

Limit number of dogs per person if they are above certain size. Only two big dogs per adult. There is no way a grown adult can control 4 big violent dogs

It would be immensely beneficial if there were more free enclosed dog parks available especially in the villages (Allhallows, High Halstow, Stoke etc) as then dog owners and walkers would have a space specifically for dogs and hence away from those who do not care to be around dogs.

PSPO Dog Controls Survey 2024

Do you have any additional comments about the proposed PSPO that are not already addressed in this survey? (Please write in the box below)

I am a parent carer to two autistic children. They are very scared of dogs because we have had incidents of dogs chasing them in Kings Frith park. This actually stopped them from wanting to go out for a few weeks. Now we try to stick to areas and times when we hope there's not too many dogs about. We can only go out to a play area or walk along the road when both me and my husband can guide the boys in case there is a dog and they have a meltdown. Walking in our area is difficult because one woman walks three dogs and takes up all the pavement. People just do not realise how debilitating it is for us to have so many rules on our life because simply because they don't have their dog on a lead.

I don't believe I have anymore comments.

I can see no reasons why someone needs to walk x 4 dogs

Extension leads are a big problem with owners of out of control dogs thinking they are the answer. Dog training is the answer and extension leads are not easy to control

A completely unnecessary waste of council time and resources.

Don't do it.

This seems totally over the top, do we really have a problem with dogs running wild? Who's is going to police it, who is going to determine what "irresponsible dog ownership" is? Why do you not spend the money on controlling irresponsible behaviour by young people within our parks.

My issue is that people ignore this guidance. Dogs frighten my children and we can't leave the house without stepping in dog poo. However, owners can be very aggressive if challenged. How will this be enforced?

How will you manage a dog exclusion control at Crestway play area when there is no fence around the childrens play area due to lack of funds when the playground was upgraded 2022

No thank you I have voiced my feelings previously. I take dog ownership seriously and agree changes do need to be made. I am also happy to share my views one to one. sidney.mennie.sm@gmail.com

None

No, except as a dog owner visiting many parks etc in Medway, I haven't really seen any problems - the consultation suggests this is an issue of significant magnitude and a response to national issues experienced with certain breeds of dog. One size does not fit all.

I really appreciate that this is being taken into account. There doesn't seem to be many places to go at all without dogs chasing our children, damaging picnics etc. It has led to both my children having quite strong phobias about it, they don't leave the playgrounds at the moment, while the dogs seem to take over having all the room. The other issue we encounter daily is dog walkers causing chaos outside schools during the school run. Despite the schools continuously asking parents to keep their dogs away, the pavements are heaving with them, people tripping over them, blocking pavements, dog mess outside the schools and not to mention the scared children having to face getting past them just to get into the playground.

No but i have been bitten on two occasions so i have a fear of dogs and it would be nice to be able to sit in a park without fear of dogs

This is atrocious! Penalise those individuals that leave dog waste and do not care for their animals. Fine those individuals. Not the majority of responsible dog owners

This is a complete waste of time and residents council tax which is already been increased while local services and events are being cancelled. It's incredulous to me that council would consider this, which will discourage people from attending local spaces. Yet can waste money on the paddock project in Chatham and claim that is a outdoor community space

No

Professional dog walkers should be restricted to 4 dogs. There is no way anyone can control 4 dogs but if that's the limit set by this PSPO for owners then it should be set for Professional walkers too. Who is going to monitor. In 14 years walking in Medway I have never seen officers or wardens?

PSPO Dog Controls Survey 2024

Do you have any additional comments about the proposed PSPO that are not already addressed in this survey? (Please write in the box below)

Keeping of dogs as pets should be banned.

Just seems unfair and unnecessary.

There should be promotion of spaces where dogs are allowed offlead.

Please could you extend the dog exclusion zones to some green/grass spaces in parks. For children who don't like dogs grass spaces are unusable because dogs can always come into the area you are in. I made the same point at the cozenton park improvement consultation. In cozenton park the small grass area opposite the kids play area could be fenced off and made a no dog area

This is nothing but another attempt from Medway to screw money out of residents. They have run out of ways to target drivers so are now picking on dog owners. Bins in Medway are overflowing, perhaps if the council maintained them regularly then people would be able to clear up dog mess more. Place more bins. Educate people and parents on keeping there children under control in public places and not to approach animals they don't own as it leads to issues.

Please spend time on fixing more important issues like constant roadworks and potholes

Fine or warning for people who continually let their dogs out of their homes to roam free down the streets

The exclusion zone element only covers 2 definitions of Assistance Dog provided for disabilities and must be expanded to cover the full suit of disability and medical assistance dogs, including but not limited to - Guide Dogs, Hearing Dogs, Mobility Dogs, Medical Alert Dogs, Autism Assistance Dogs, Psychiatric Assistance Dogs. It is the responsibility of the Council to represent and consider the needs and equity of all it's residents and the [presumed] unintentional omission fails to provide appropriate accommodation. The proposal fails to set out how the potential restrictions will be upheld. Many of these locations lack regular presence of council officials - how does the councils plan top uphold and enforce the proposal outside of signage?

Irresponsible dog owners will still be Irresponsible. People should have to under go training courses if their dog is out of control.

The option should be considered to limit dogs in green spaces to specific dog areas as many of Medway's green spaces cannot be enjoyed by anyone else without significant risk due to poorly controlled dogs.

For you to ban dogs at Wainscott (liberty park) park, the play park needs to be fenced off.

There are lots of sensible dog owners in Medway but the few who leave dog mess on pathways and public spaces is a real issue. More dog bins should be available. I also think that dogs not on leads in public spaces like the high street is also an issues and needs to be addressed. I do wonder how the PSPO will be policed.

More parks to be no dog area - we have 2 parks in Wigmore one should be for dogs on leads and one should be for children and sports then everyone can enjoy the space - I am a dog owner but would like dogs to be more controlled

All dogs should be on a lead in all public areas.

The curr3nt laws and restrictions that apply to dogs are sufficient

Dog fouling- is a huge problem in the ME1 area. I have had to buy a warning sign to place in my front window, along St Williams Way to stop dog walkers allowing their dogs to foul my front garden and the public bank, both where my young grandson plays. I have had to shout after some to pick up their dog mess from my garden, which their long dog leads stretch across. The walk from St W W, through The Delce , to the High St, is offensive. Tourists must be horrified. I have reported this twice to the council. I love dogs and kept both working and pet dogs for 40 years. Any 'accidents' in public were immediately dealt with. The behaviour of some local dog walkers is unacceptable. I firmly believe they should be prosecuted for disrespecting this law. I thought it was a criminal offence to allow dogs to foul public places?

PSPO Dog Controls Survey 2024

Do you have any additional comments about the proposed PSPO that are not already addressed in this survey? (Please write in the box below)

As long as dogs are on lead on paths and people shorten flexi leads to pass I can't see why the lead has to be 2m. This seems to be a follow on from the xl bully ban. A 2m lead is still too long for an aggressive dog. I understand that it's probably to prevent dogs going into the road but they can still do that on a 2m lead. As a walker my group are on 1.2 M leads antta to a walking waist belt until they are let off in woodlands. I also have a solo who is flexi walked but always on a short lock to pass people the given a little longer length. Lots of professional walkers will lose money if limited to 4 dogs. Plus as professionals we all have insurance in place. There are still lots of owners who don't have any liability insurance. It's already currently known that dogs should not be in play parks and this isn't policed. People know that dogs should be on lead on streets by not policed. I agree that in high traffic public parks like riverside and capstone where there are lots of families it will be a good idea to limit packs but not in the whole of Medway.

I feel that dogs should be kept on a lead in all public areas unless it is a specific fenced area for dogs such as on St Mary's Island. No dog is fully under someone's control when off lead.

As part of your exclusion proposals you mention child play areas and sporting areas that dogs shouldn't be allowed in. I totally agree with this, but please will you actually do something about the gates to these areas? They used to be spring loaded, but now the kids (and adults) leave them open allowing dogs to easily enter. Further to my point earlier, CCTV needs reinstating in some areas - i'm fed up with seeing broken glass bottles in the children's play area.

I fail to see why dog owners are being treated like 2nd class citizens and are totally discriminated against. The council needs to look at litter droppers and anti social behave. Plus target early/late dog walkers who do not pick up

An increasing minority of dog owners appear to think that the rights of other human beings and wild life are secondary to their own dog. My children have been attacked multiple times by dogs including being scratched on the leg outside school at drop-off time and on one occasion a dog actually jumping in the buggy of my sleeping infant. Unbelievably, in the scond incident the owner started a confrontation because I had touched their dog (to remove it from the buggy). It is impossible to walk anywhere looking up because dog faeces on just about every residential road in Medway. It is disgusting.

I believe children urinating and defecating in these areas are also a problem as its a public space. I believe capstone does not have enough bins around the country park area I agree with current on lead and off lead area. I believe that taking away and limiting areas dogs are allowed is unkind and unacceptable on spot fines should be handed to people not picking up faeces animal or human. Taking away and limiting open spaces from people and animals is not ok. Ot also forces people to drive further to exercise there animals in an appropriate space Impacts on pollution and carbon footprint

Think how you will enforce it and if you can't don't ruin the pleasure of responsible owners.

Maybe think about banning the use of play area car parks for driving lessons. It's bloody dangerous when you've got 3 learners going around the car park and children walking around !!!

Please consider whether you have enough dog poo bins which are not overflowing and whether there are enough suitable areas to walk dogs off of leads (if owners should want to). If there were suitable walks locally I believe this would reduce the number of dog walking in less suitable places. I would love to see outdoor spaces where I can freely walk my dog and play with my children, thinking non fenced natural obstacles and trails. Enforcing areas which are dog free is important, but also providing accessible and enjoyable dog friendly places is too and they are few and far between.

As a Gillingham resident we use the parks riverside and the strand a lot the fouling is beyond a joke there are bags of poo chucked in the bushes and lots not cleared up !!! its disgusting however I don't think that putting officers out to man the situation will have that much of a effect as people will become abusive when approached. dogs running off leads have knocked me off my bike on the cycle path, also dogs on leads can be just as much of a pain! may be we need to re educate the owners introduce licensing as I know of 2 large dogs never walked and a garden full of shit that you are willing to do nothing about even tough I cant sit in my garden because of the stench of poo!!!!

PSPO Dog Controls Survey 2024

Do you have any additional comments about the proposed PSPO that are not already addressed in this survey? (Please write in the box below)

A COUPLE OF MONTHS AGO IN RAINHAM RECREATIONAL GROUND. I WAS ATTACKED BY RHODESION RIDGBACK CANINE FORTUNATLY I HAD THE COMMON SENSE TO GET OUT THE CANINES WAY VERY QUICKLY. I MANAGED TO SHOUT AT IT TO SAVE MYSELF FROM A BAD INJURY. THE LADY HAD THE CANINE ON A HARNESS AND WAS HOLDING IT BY THE HANDLE ON IT

Love the idea of this. Fully support every aspect. Far too many dogs around which is detrimental to our public spaces and remaining wildlife. Couldn't support this more strongly.

PSPO should not be used for the general penalisation of law abiding dog owners. Instead proper enforcement of government laws on dog ownership should be put in place to deal with rule breakers instead of a blanket ban applied to law abiding dog owners, many of whom pick up litter left by others and keep the environment safe for everyone.

How will you enforce this ? Will this mean one officer covering the whole Medway area which is clearly unworkable. Will there be fines if so who will enforce this. For any restriction to be effective it must be clearly understood and enforceable which the proposed restrictions are not

No

There is a limited provision of poo bins ant riverside and capstone. Instead of implementing a PSPO which punishes people who want to appropriately exercise their dogs. Why not make it easier for us to dispose of the dog poo. Also maybe a child pspo would be great ad the parks are left in an awful state after football matches / training on the capstone top feild and the rubbish in the play area. On that note Beechings park is often in an unsanitary condition after travelers leave their waste being hand the football teams leave waste across the feild. Maybe manage people.. and not punishing their animals and responsible owners.

I think there needs to be no change in the rules at all. As a single dog owner myself i want to be able to walk my dog where I want and not be punished because people are unable to train or control their dog. Why should I be punished for that. It is one or two individuals who then ruin it for everyone else who sticks to the current rules and leaves our safe places in good condition while respecting other dog owners. This is not the way to fix the problem as you are punishing the good people for bad peoples actions. The type of people who also won't listen to these new rules anyway so yet again another punishment for people who follow the rules.

Having a register for dog walkers with a reg number that can be looked up would be good so people can register complaints about untrained dog walkers. Having local police enforce the order in chatham and gillingham high st would be good.

No

I feel whatever rules are implemented unless they are enforced people will ignore them . I purposely sit in the on lead areas to train my dog to ignore and repeatedly have off lead dogs approach without any recall which is unacceptable and deemed as an out of control dog . Sadly it is the owners that are ignorant . I feel strongly that no more than 4 dogs should be walked off lead by one person . I feel intimidated at platters park with an owner of 5 dogs that approach in a pack mentality at my on lead dog . I think all parks / green spaces should have signage to instruct all dogs to be on lead unless recall trained and that it should be an offence to approach an on lead dog - I would gladly volunteer to provide video evidence at any park as representative of the council . I have never seen any enforcement or Dog warden attendance so request how these rules will be enforced bearing in mind the cost of the consultations and proposed implementation .

PSPO Dog Controls Survey 2024

Do you have any additional comments about the proposed PSPO that are not already addressed in this survey? (Please write in the box below)

For the most part, and since the Pandemic, despite media claims, dog owners in and around Medway, particularly the Rainham / Gillingham area have become more attuned to their animals and their needs. I have seen a distinct shift towards better trained animals, better socialised animals and better care taken whilst walking animals (there are a few that ruin it for the rest of us) - the vast increase in dog fouling bins and mixed use bins is welcome and has made a difference. I do believe on the whole that changes proposed under PSPO are unrealistic or are introducing anything that a responsible dog owner is already doing. I support the capstone core area PSPO - this is an area full of wildlife, people fish and it is right to prevent dogs from being a nuisance to those enjoying other activities in a relatively confined space. For areas, such as the wider Riverside pond area, has seasonal restrictions been considered? Canterbury council do this very effectively.

No. I just feel that irresponsible dog owners and challenging dogs should not be allowed to affect those who are responsible and those dogs who are obedient and well mannered

If the ruling does happen make it so it's members of public only, and if so keep professional dog walkers at 6 dogs even if they was to have a licence if stopped. Otherwise this will cause a massive problem to people's businesses.

No

I have a beagle and walk him off lead wherever I can, his recall is 85% positive he's friendly and safe around other dogs and children and I believe in letting dogs be dogs and explore if safe to do so. However I also believe there are not enough places for dog owners to take their dogs if they are nervous for example or even aggressive. So many people rescue dogs and provide a safe loving home for them but struggle to find appropriate places to take them (without being charged). Just as we have children play areas where dogs aren't allowed, it would be nice to see 'dog only' areas, free to use by members of the public who try to train their dogs or even just to provide safe areas to let their dogs off away from others. This not only helps the dog owners with nervous/aggressive dogs feel safe but it also protects people, dogs and wildlife from any unwanted incidents. This is something I think is a big problem, a bigger problem than say dog fouling in my opinion.

No

I am a dog trainer in the Medway area and have met multiple out of control dogs (no recall or basic training) whilst trying to work with and train dogs, so totally agree with the restrictions being imposed.

How will you police all these changes when you have so few dog wardens and officers??

We live in Lower Stoke and the dogs that are taken continuously into our parks is terrible. Fouling, mostly owners pick up but lots dont

There is a strong dog walking lobby that fights to allow more than 4 dogs, most are professional dog walkers. It is utterly irresponsible and unfair on other park users.

A lot of areas have been added overtime after the park was created for all members of the public. The placement of many of these added things would reduce the available spaces for responsible dog owners

Easier ways to report XL bullies nor being walked in accordance to the exceptions in place.

I would suggest that a lead 2m long is too long to control a dog properly and constitutes a trip hazard for other pedestrians.

Biggest issue is dog poo not being picked up,.

All fair

Fine people for allowing dog to foul and not clear up. Disposal of poo bag's correctly

No

PSPO Dog Controls Survey 2024

Do you have any additional comments about the proposed PSPO that are not already addressed in this survey? (Please write in the box below)

i am in agreement in principle of the fouling and the kids areas etc BUT please consider those owners like myself and im not alone who have more than four , are responsible owners and you are penalising good honest dog owners who know ehat they are doing with their pets at the very least if this is brought in you need to offer a license AS OTHER boroughs have for people like myself !! i was unable to have children so i have five dogs and you are discriminating against me for that fact i see that as totally unfair and unjustified ive seen owners of a SINGLE dog unable to control their dogs - its not the number that matters its the control that matters .. some humans seem to treat their dogs like kids and then wonder why they misbehave .. please do not penalise those of us who arent like that

I think the current regulations go far enough to control dogs in public areas

I would like to add that I encounter dog fouling on a DAILY basis at Chatham Quays (Maritime) where I live. I live in a block of flats and it is deposited and left at the main entrance of my tower and / or on the jetty every day and the person(s) responsible do not use the 2 x dog waste bins provided. It is depressing, affects quality of life, and is obviously a health risk. I have recently reported the issue to my management company. I hope this issue, which has become widespread in the locality / county / country is taken seriously and higher fines are issued for dog fouling. I realise it is difficult to 'police'. I believe that we need a recruitment initiative of PCSOs back on the streets to help curb / reduce this issue and also anti-social behaviour in general. I believe it would make many think twice before committing anti-social behaviour type offences. Thank you for reading.

Authorised officers in dog walking areas who can advise and instruct if a dog is causing a nuisance is a far better idea than imposing blanket bans. Advice to owners on how to manage and train their dogs should come before fines and penalties.

Dogs should be on leads in all public places except for designated areas, preferably enclosed fields. Too many out of control dogs with no recall running up to on lead dogs

These rules are still loose, given prevailing poor attitudes and responsibilities of a minority of dog owners.

How will you enforce this as no there is a lot of people in my area that just let their dogs run rambnt

The dogs on leads areas should be expanded to include public footpaths. There have been several violent incidents of aggressive and out of control dogs attacking people and other dogs, scaring children and preventing people from walking/responsible dog walking in the local areas. The brimp in allhallows being a prime example. Aggressive owners with out of control dogs regularly use this area as a off lead area.

Four dogs is still too many for a single person to control. The limit should be one dog at a time.

I do hope that it is going to be recognised what an effect on mental health dog walking is for a lot of the population. I would hate to see parks where dog owners would not be free to walk their dogs off lead to enable them to get enough exercise. There are a lot of play areas and skate parks , most of which have huge litter problems I hope that that will be addressed too.

I agree that dogs should be excluded from play areas but it would be nice if some seating outside of the play areas could be provided so that guardians who have dogs and children can watch their children play while also retaining control of their pet instead of tying the dog up outside which can cause them to get stressed out. Lots of families have dogs and like to take them out with their children so providing this seating so that guardians can watch their children in the play area would benefit those families.

Dog ownership increased during Covid and we are now seeing too many irresponsible owners that have not given their dogs any training so they let their dogs run out of control. I agree with the proposals and hope that the necessary resources are made available to enforce the PSPO

PSPO Dog Controls Survey 2024

Do you have any additional comments about the proposed PSPO that are not already addressed in this survey? (Please write in the box below)

Out of control dogs are a threat to birds and other wildlife in certain areas within Medway and north Kent. Disturbance to wildlife from out of control dogs is often caused by owners not knowing the consequences of their dogs behaviour so Bird Wise work to raise awareness through positive engagement and education. We are pleased to see the proposals to limit the number of dogs a person can walk and hope this will be enforced, particularly at Riverside Country Park which is one of our most important site for protected birds along our coastline. Bird Wise North Kent are happy to work with the team at Medway to raise awareness of issues related to irresponsible dog ownership and encourage responsible behaviours through our coastal canine club. The proposed exclusion zones should be enforced sufficiently to ensure they make a difference as we often see dogs running off lead in areas they are not supposed to.

No

Responsible owners and walkers are the majority and the minority or irresponsible dog owners are getting the rest of punished.

No

I don't find it reasonable and it purely will have any effect on environment and nuances that no one else complains about. It is just a poor idea not very well thought.

Everything needs to be taken into consideration with animals. Responsible owners know there dogs and will make the right decision at the right time.

I think its great that we have dog cotrols to remind people to control animals in public so as not to cause a nuisance. However i feel educatiuon is far more effective than policing and leveing fines by officials. Clear and precise signing informing dog owners of what is expected is far more effective an dcost effective than policing by officials.

We do not think that Medway Council will have enough staff to effectively implement this policy in any way that will make any difference to the community whatsoever.

Could be stronger. Shorter leads, choke chains, one dog per walker, dogs only walked by their owners, all walkers must carry proof of insurance, all animals microchipped, no dogs allowed in any buildings serving food or drink, no dogs allowed off leads in spaces used by children including playing fields

PSPO should have more powers. Furthermore, dogs should be excluded from more areas - it is not my fault that dog owners purchased dogs and do not have private land large enough for their dog to run around off-lead. My taxpayer money should be for human usage only, not for poorly trained dogs to chase children in.

A set number is not needed but the walker must be able to be in control of all dogs with them. If they can not keep all dogs under control then they have too many.

Are you responding as: (Please select one option only)



PSPO Dog Controls Survey 2024

Please state the name of the organisation you are responding on behalf of: (Please write in the box below)

Allhallows Parish Council	ABC For Dogs, dog training
Halling Parish Council	A Walk In The Park
Canine paws academy	Bird Wise North Kent
Not Allowed to Disclose that information	Friends of Rede Common

Please provide the postcode for the organisation that you are responding on behalf of: (Please write in the box below)

clerk@allhallowskent-pc.gov.uk	ME3 8LE
clerk@halling-pc.gov.uk	ME5 8PL
Me23pd	ME4 4TR
ME4	ME1 2UB

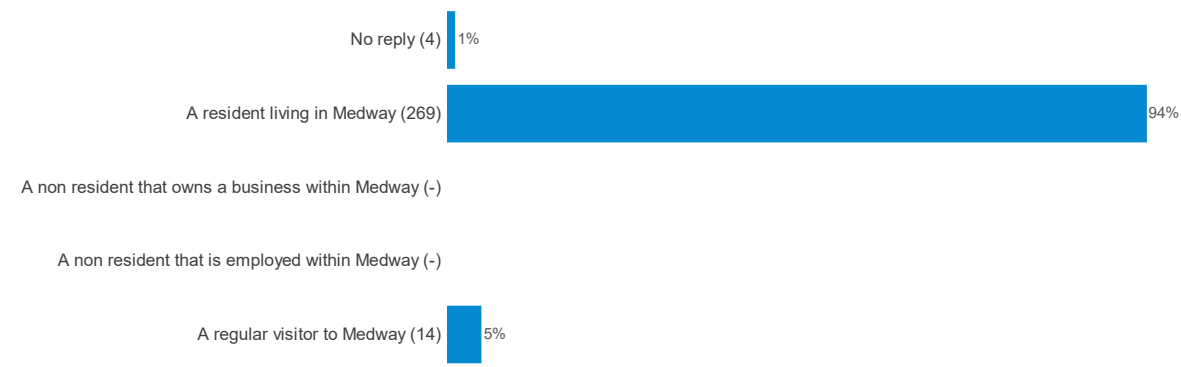
As an elected representative, are you: (Please select one option only)



Other, please state:

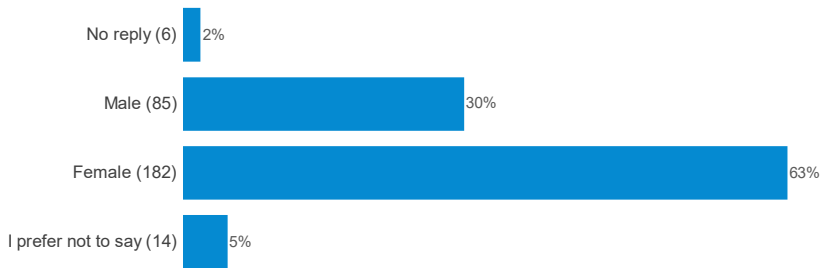
On behalf of all the dog owners in my area who have moaned to me about this

Which of the following best describes you: (Please select one option only)

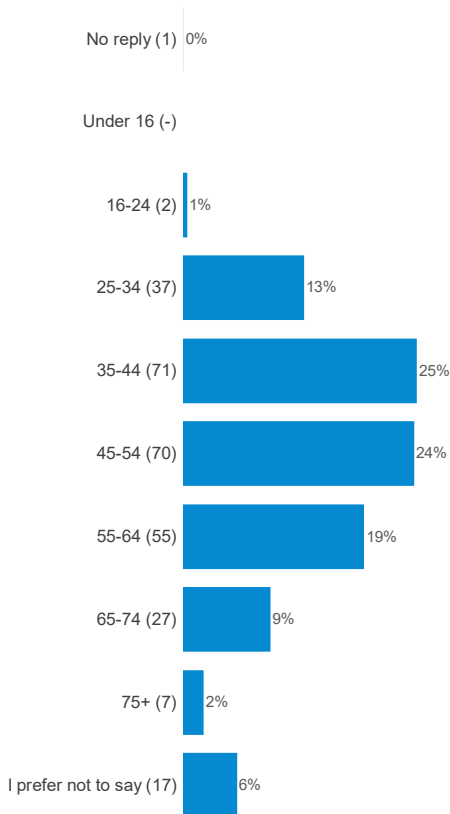


PSPO Dog Controls Survey 2024

What is your sex? You are registered with a sex at birth, the only recognised options for sex in the UK are 'female' and 'male', which is why these are the only options to choose from. If you're not sure how to answer, you can choose not to give a sex or use the sex registered on your birth certificate or Gender Recognition Certificate. (Please select one option only)

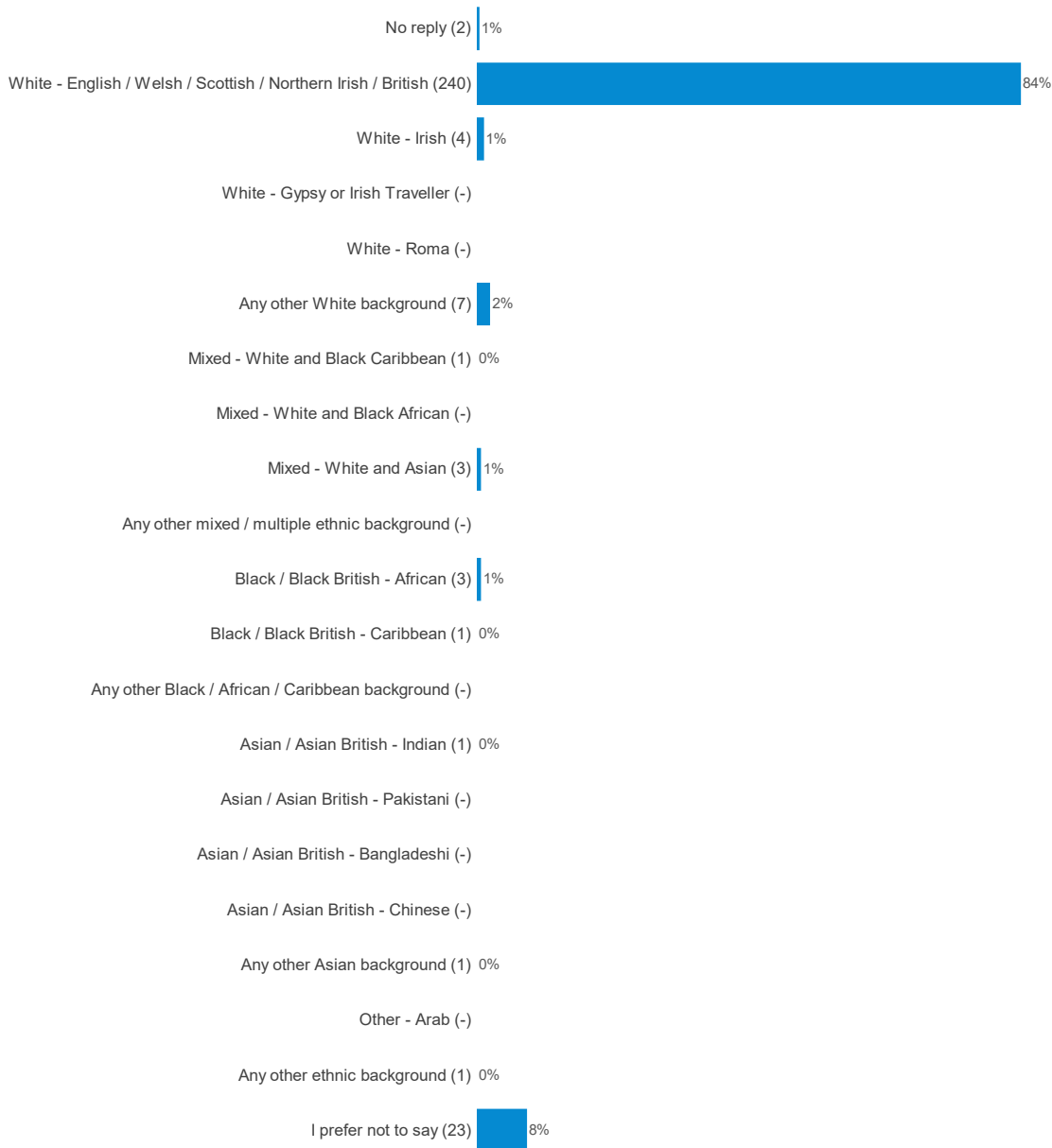


In which of the following age bands do you fall? (Please select one option only)



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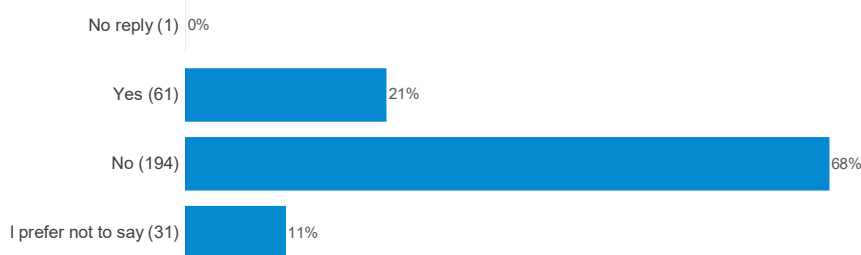
What is your ethnic group? **(Please select one option only)**



Other, please state below:

mixed black and asian

Do you have any physical or mental health conditions or illnesses lasting or expected to last 12 months or more? **(Please select one option only)**



PSPO Dog Controls Survey 2024

In which area do you live? (Please select one option only) (Do you live?)

