

Appendix 3: Evidence to support the detrimental effect of irresponsible dog ownership

In general terms the local authority data collection is focused on activities where the Council can take direct action. If we cannot directly assist the customer then the caller is advised to contact another organisation where it is applicable and the corresponding detail is therefore not recorded. However, the local authority had been aware for some time that there were aspects of irresponsible dog ownership in the City that were not being addressed. Park rangers have regularly been contacted by 'park users' citing dog related incidents, which again were not recorded in computer systems, but these general concerns were raised with the Animal Welfare service; consequently we have been made aware of this latent demand. By comparison, this is a demand which our neighbouring local authorities have been fulfilling for some time.

Data Collection

Irrespective of the above mentioned statement, the following data has been identified:

Animal Welfare

In the last financial year (2012/13) the service received **1,260** complaints from members of the public concerning dog fouling or stray dogs.

Parks and Leisure

In the past 12 months (prior to November 2014) officers working in this service received **13** emails directly from customers reporting incidents of dog anti-social behaviour. This can be broken down as follows:

Aggressive dogs:	8
Damage to the park:	2
Dog fouling:	2
Dog walking companies:	1
Total:	13

The quantity of play equipment that has been damaged and is attributable to dogs: 15 (costing £3,600).

Specific examples can be seen in Appendix 4: Specific damage by dogs.

Street Services

In the last financial year (2012/13), the number of dead dogs received from roads: **22**

Police Data

TYPES OF BEHAVIOUR	NUMBER
Neighbour / acquaintance dispute (<i>using dog in menacing way / for protection or intimidation, used as backup in neighbour dispute, neighbours frightened due to dog not controlled, dog going onto other's property, neighbours frightened to go out</i>)	50
Stranger(s) dispute (<i>groups with dogs fighting, groups gathering with dogs hanging around, people with dogs chasing other people</i>)	18
Dispute with another dog walker (<i>dogs off the lead, out of control, attacking other dogs</i>)	4
Stray dog	3
Noise (<i>howling, barking, crying</i>)	8
Dog owner reporting ASB incident (<i>2- possible DVA related – shouting/arguing and dogs howling at incidents, 17 more mixed asb/ nuisance incidents - some involving dogs and groups intimidating people, others including mopeds and dangerous driving affecting dog walkers</i>)	19
Dog fouling	2
Stolen dog	1
Miscellaneous	1
Beggars (<i>beggars arguing with other beggars with aggressive dogs present, beggars gathering dogs present</i>)	2
Grand Total	108