



**woodgreen**

Helping pets and their people

# Dog Relinquishment Requests

20/08/2021 to 12/08/2022



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- Data analysed from 1156 relinquishment request cases for dogs from 20<sup>th</sup> August 2021 to 12<sup>th</sup> August 2022
  - Information was collected via owner completed Cognito forms
- Data set includes data from incomplete forms (those that were not submitted) as this still provides useful data from owners who have reached the point of seriously considering giving their dog up
  - Any cases where numerous pieces of data were missing have been excluded



# Reasons for Relinquishment Request

## Behaviour related reasons are most common

Reason	N	%
I can't cope with their behaviour anymore incl. Aggression	495	42.73%
My lifestyle has changed and I am unable to care for them properly	243	21.02%
Ill health of owner or family member	141	12.20%
I am moving soon and I cannot take them	93	8.04%
There is friction with other pets in the home	46	3.98%
They no longer fit our family	33	2.77%
I am homeless and can't care for my pets	31	2.68%
I don't want them, I made a mistake getting them	26	2.25%
I can't feed my pet or pay for their veterinary costs	21	1.73%
The owner has passed away	22	1.90%
They are a stray	3	0.26%
I have too many animals, It was an unexpected litter	3	0.26%
They are a pregnant stray, they are a stray litter	2	0.17%

○ 56% of behaviour related reasons included aggression towards people or other animals

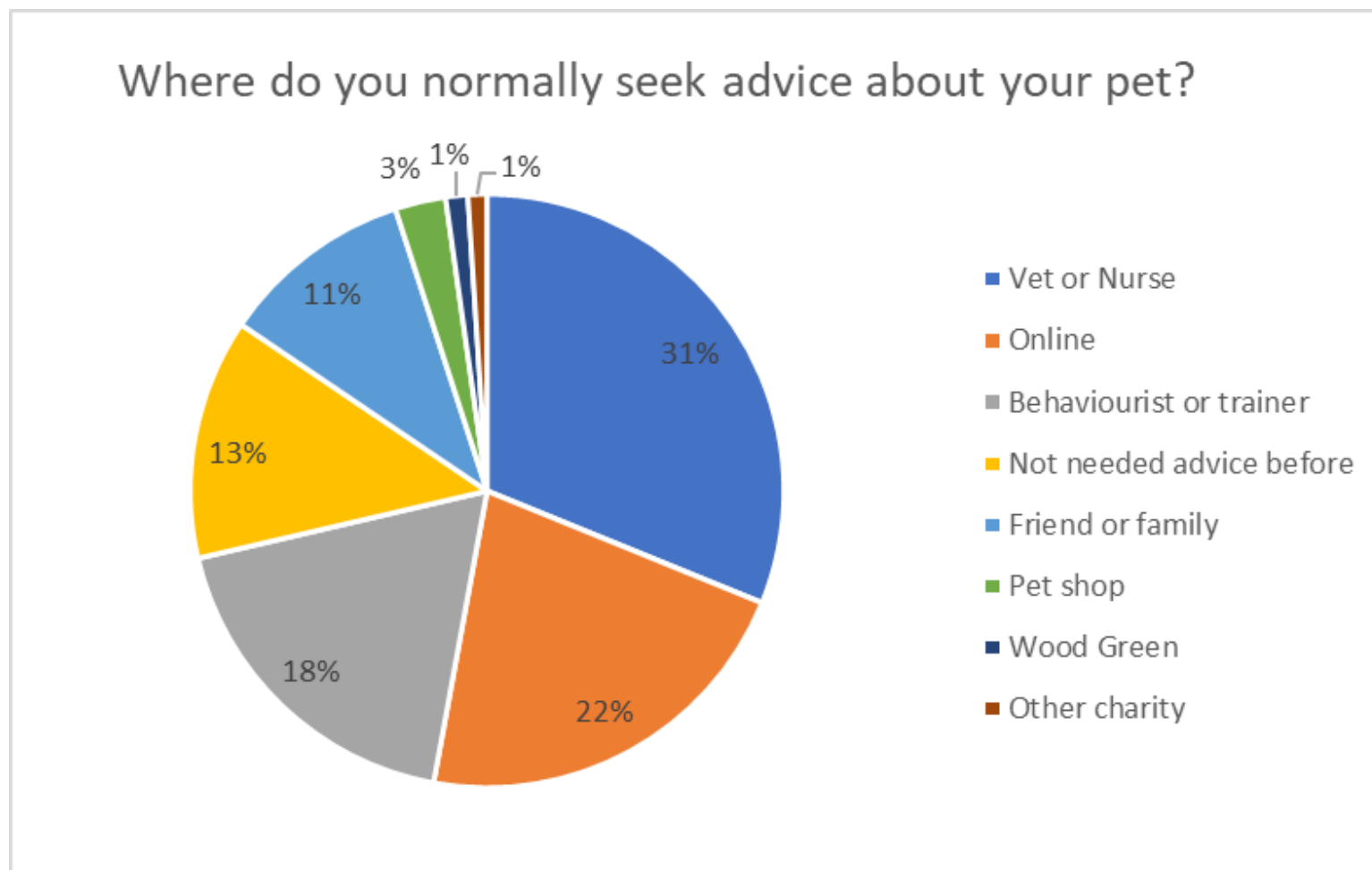
- Aggression towards children was reported as the reason in 6.57% of the total cases
- Aggression towards other pets in the home was reported in 6.23% of the total cases
- Aggression towards people in the home was reported in 5.02% of the total cases

\*Friction with other pets in the home was not considered the same as aggression towards other pets in the home as the direction of the aggression was not clear.



# Where do you normally seek pet advice?

Vet or Nurse is the most commonly used source for advice

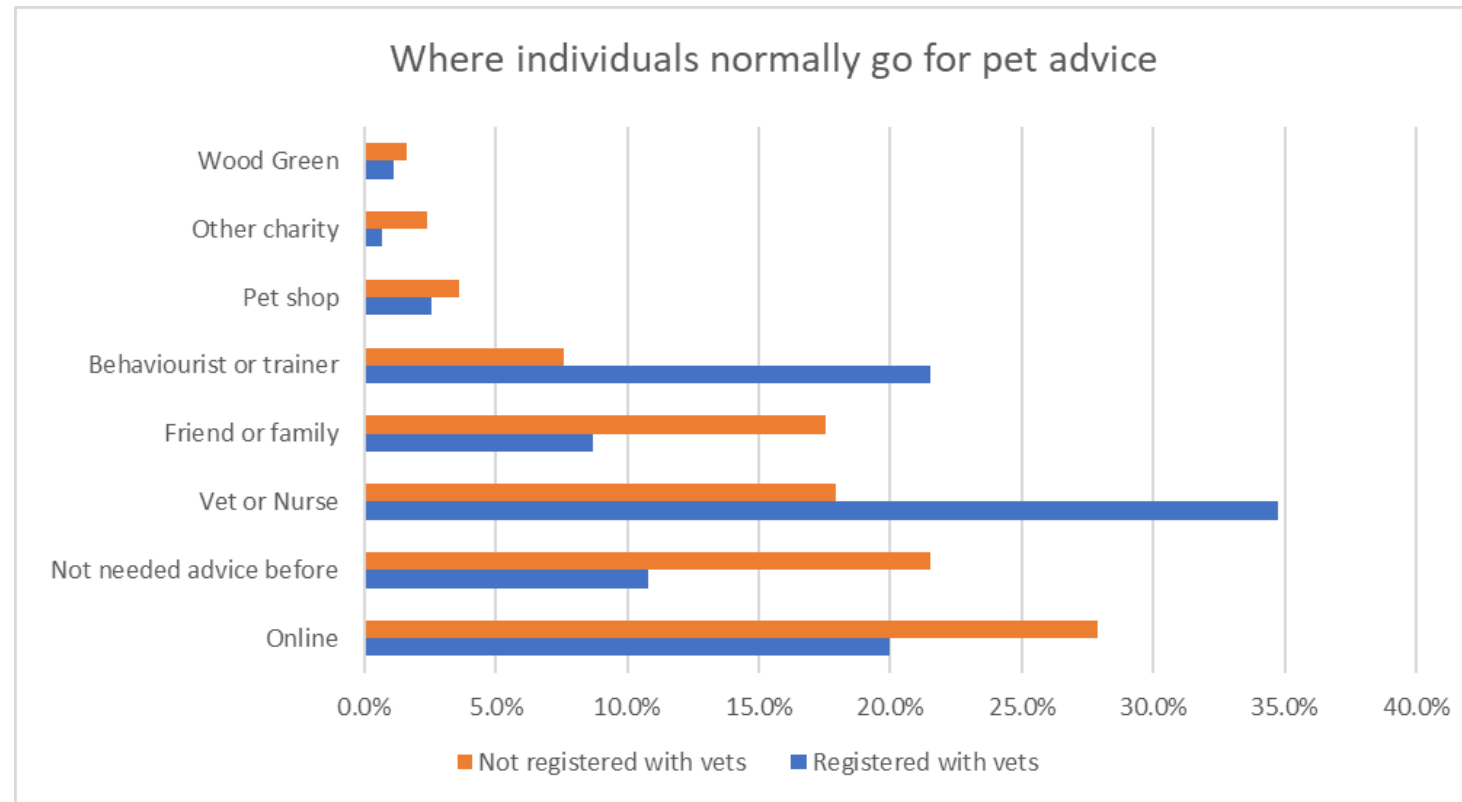


# What if you're not registered with a vet?

There are differences in where those registered with a vet and those who are not look for pet advice

- A higher percentage of those registered with a vet go to a vet or behaviourist/trainer than those who are not.
- Those who are not registered with a vet appear to be more likely to turn to the internet or friends and family for advice than those who are registered with a vet.

\*Not tested for statistical difference



# Where did you hear about Woodgreen?

Where did you hear about Woodgreen?	%
Search engine/social media	23.5%
Word of mouth	17.1%
Recommendation from friend/acquaintance	17.1%
Recommendation from another charity	11.9%
The Dog House television programme	9.3%
Previously rehomed a Wood Green pet or used other service	7.9%
Referral from vet/council or agency	4.0%
TV advert	3.6%
Pet shop	1.9%
Wood Green advertising/fundraising appeal	1.5%
Wood Green charity shop	1.5%
Wood Green poster	0.3%
Wood Green community event, school or community talk	0.3%
Wood Green school assembly or talk	0.1%



# Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD)

The IMD combines information from the seven domains to produce an overall relative measure of deprivation.

The domains are combined using the following weights:

- Income Deprivation (22.5%)
- Employment Deprivation (22.5%)
- Education, Skills and Training Deprivation (13.5%)
- Health Deprivation and Disability (13.5%)
- Crime (9.3%)
- Barriers to Housing and Services (9.3%)
- Living Environment Deprivation (9.3%)
  
- This sample is from a smaller subset of the relinquishment data where postcode data is available (N=117)
  - 22/07/22 to 12/08/22
- When a larger sample is available it will be interesting to look at the reasons for relinquishment and types of dogs being relinquished within each decile.

IMD Decile	Decile description	% of sample
1	10 % most deprived	7%
2	10% to 20%	5%
3	20% to 30%	12%
4	30% to 40%	14%
5	40% to 50%	9%
6	50% to 60%	5%
7	60% to 70%	15%
8	70% to 80%	11%
9	80% to 90%	9%
10	10% least deprived	12%





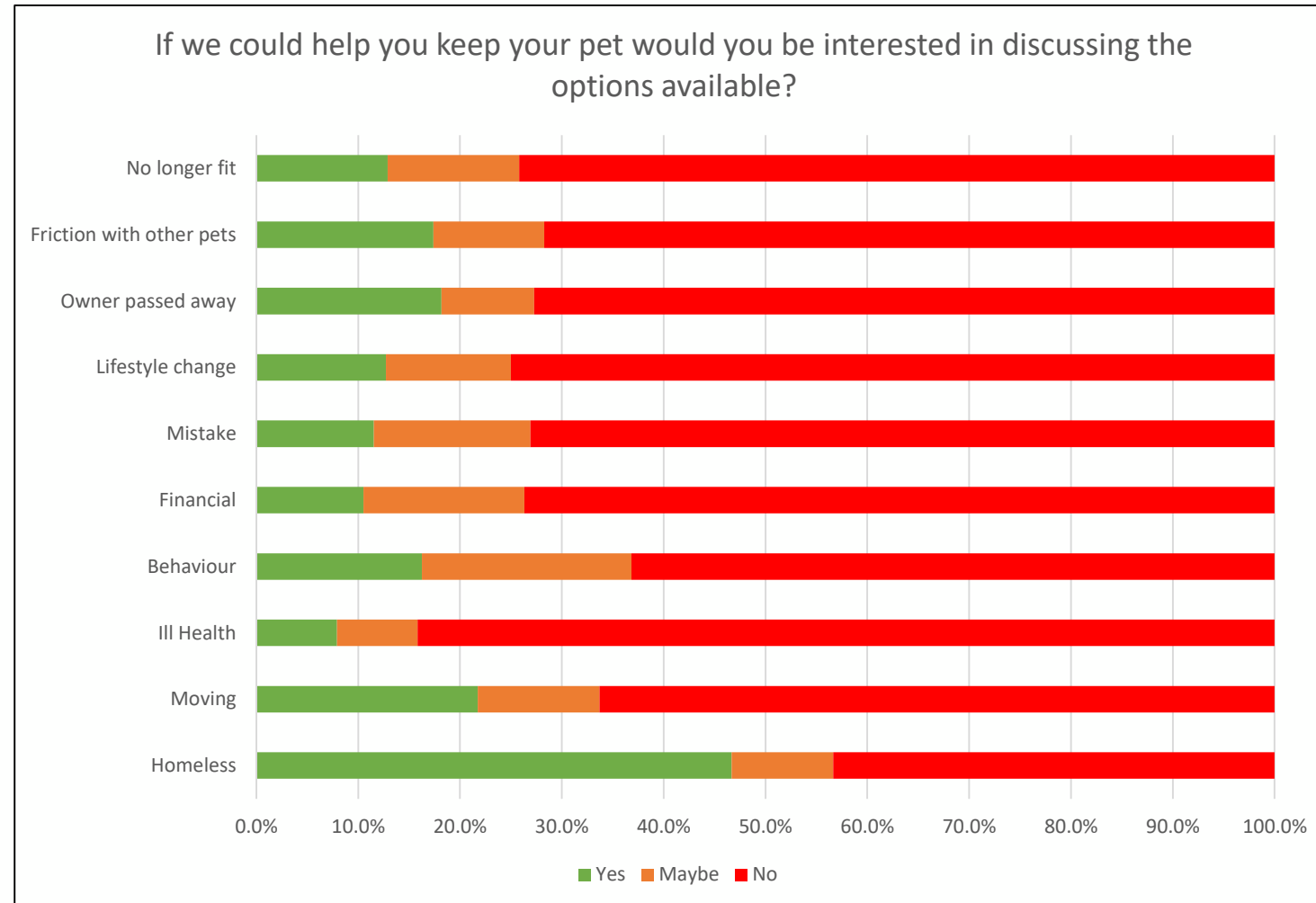
# If we could help you to keep your pet, would you be interested in discussing the options available?

In total

15.6% said yes

15.3% said maybe

69.1% said no

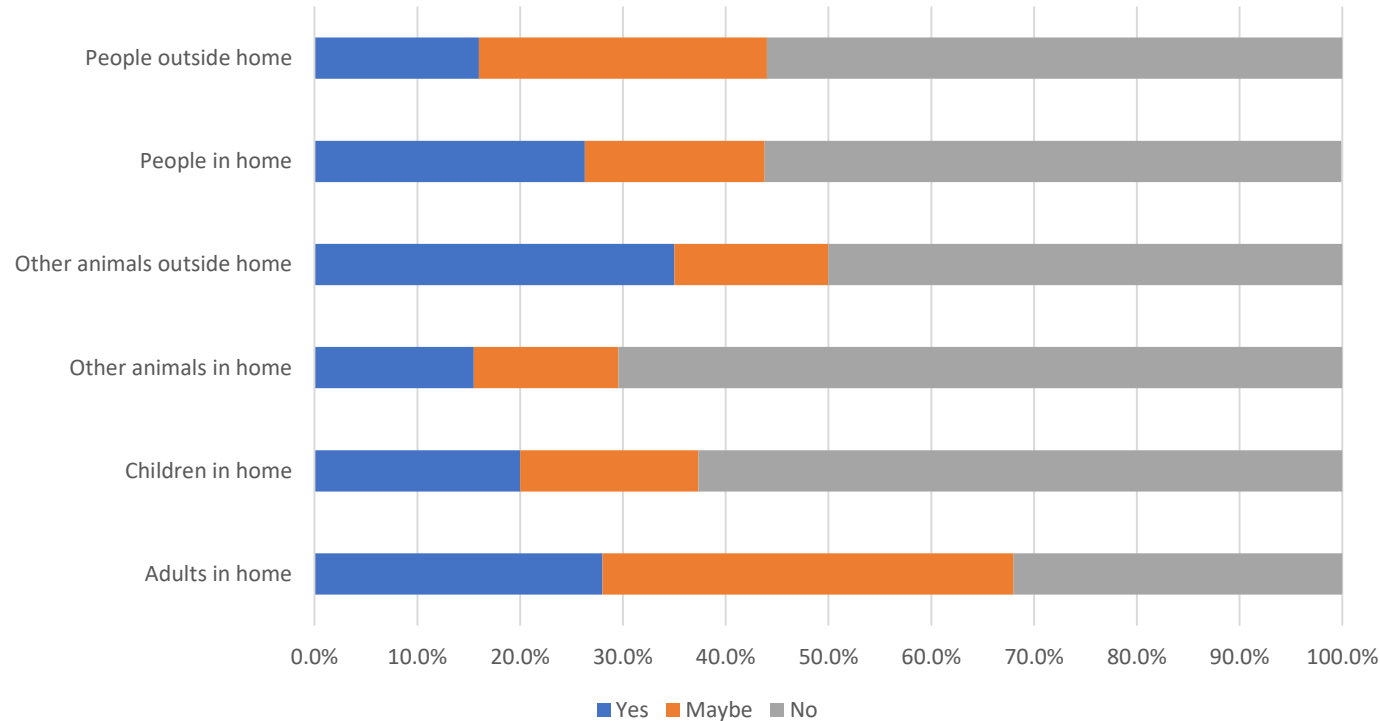


3 reasons were excluded from the breakdown by reason as they had less than 5 responses each



# Options to help you keep your pet – Aggression cases

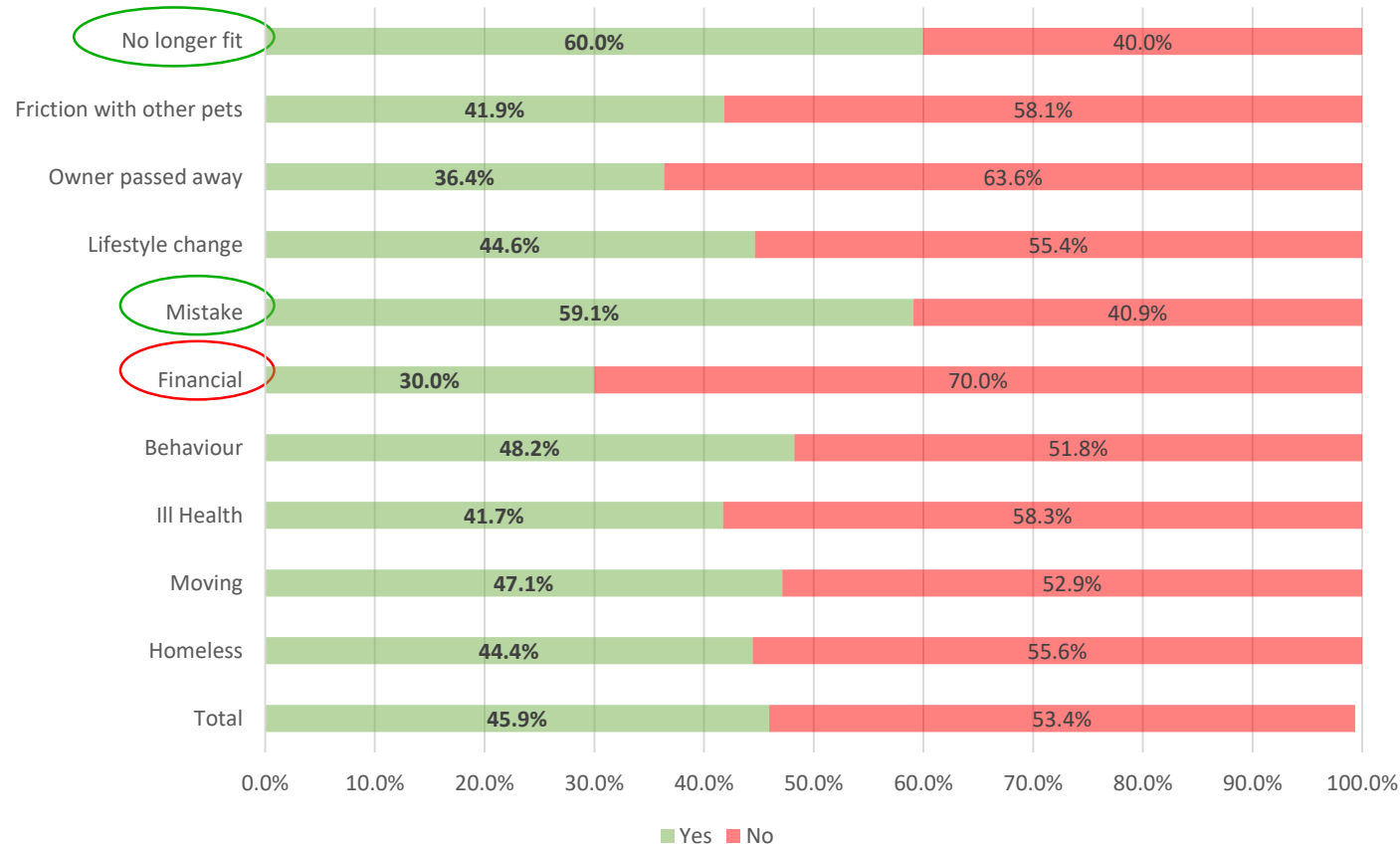
Options to help you to keep your pet - Aggression reasons



	Adults in home	Children in home	Other animals in home	Other animals outside home	People in home	People outside home
Yes	28.0%	20.0%	15.5%	35.0%	26.3%	16.0%
Maybe	40.0%	17.3%	14.1%	15.0%	17.5%	28.0%
No	32.0%	62.7%	70.4%	50.0%	56.1%	56.0%



We may be able to help your pet sooner if you are able to keep them in your home whilst we look for a new owner. Is this something you would like to know more about?



Of the total sample

**46% said yes**

**54% said no**

Where relinquishment was due to the pet no longer fitting the family or because the owner felt they had made a mistake by getting the pet, the owners seemed more open to OHC option

Where relinquishment was for financial reasons owners seemed less open to OHC option

3 reasons were excluded from the breakdown by reason as they had less than 5 responses each



# Where did you get your dog from?

Source of Dog Acquisition	%		%
Breeder	39.50%	A breeder	29.20%
		A registered breeder	10.40%
Family / Friend / Acquaintance	20.80%		
Internet / Social Media	17.40%		
Other	8.80%		
Rescue Charity bringing pets from abroad	6.10%		
UK based Charity incl. WG	4.80%	Other UK based Charity	3.10%
		Woodgreen	1.70%
Own litter	1.00%		
Stray	0.80%		
Stray Pound	0.40%		
Pet Shop	0.40%		



# Breeds

- Difficult to interpret due to the way the question was asked and combinations
  - 167 different breed combinations
  - For crossbreeds, the first named breed was used e.g. Jack Russell x Poodle = Jack Russell cross
- 52.3% of dogs were breeds
- 47.6% were crossbreeds

Cocker spaniels  
and crosses (incl.  
cockerpoos) =  
8.27%

SBTs and SBT  
cross = 7.92%

GSDs and GSD  
cross = 6.95%

Border Collies  
and collie  
cross = 4.13%

Top 20 breeds / breed types	N	%
Mongrel	60	5.3%
Terrier (Staffordshire Bull)	47	4.1%
Cockerpoo	47	4.1%
Staffie Cross	43	3.8%
Bulldog (French)	42	3.7%
German Shepherd Dog (Alsation) Dog (Alsation)	41	3.6%
German Shepherd Cross	38	3.3%
Spaniel (Cocker)	36	3.2%
Collie (Border)	29	2.6%
Retriever (Labrador)	26	2.3%
Terrier (Jack Russell)	26	2.3%
Bulldog (American)	24	2.1%
Siberian Husky	23	2.0%
Lurcher	21	1.9%
Jack Russell cross	21	1.9%
Cane Corso	20	1.7%
Collie Cross	18	1.6%
American Bulldog cross	18	1.6%
Bulldog (British)	16	1.4%
Chihuahua	15	1.3%



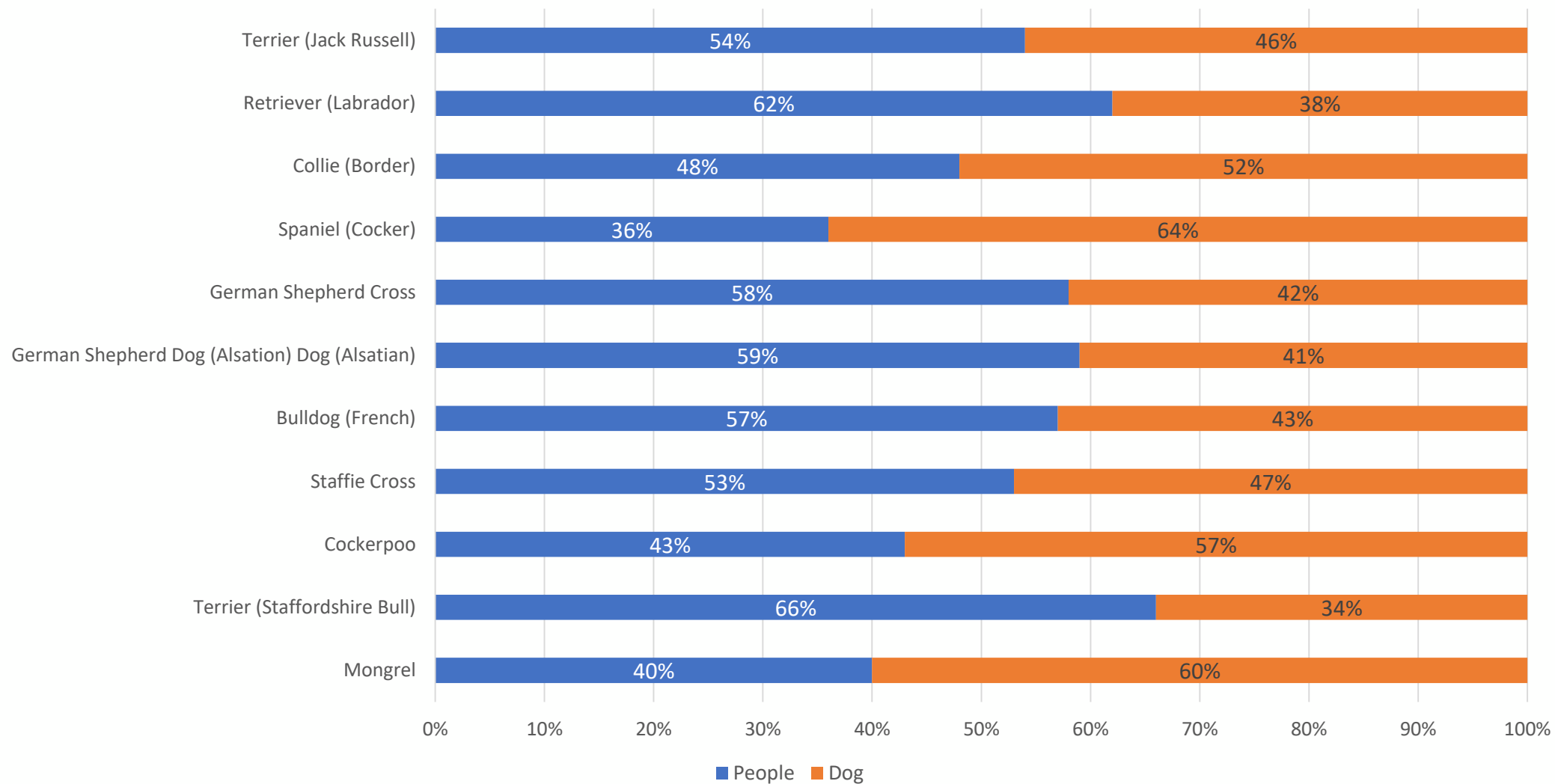
# Breed and Reason for Relinquishment

Dog Relinquishment Requests

Top 3 reasons by breed	1	2	3	Behaviour incl. Aggression
Mongrel	I can't cope with their behaviour anymore (25%)	My lifestyle has changed and I am unable to care for them properly (17%)	They are aggressive to children in the home (12%)	58.30%
Terrier (Staffordshire Bull)	My lifestyle has changed and I am unable to care for them properly (23%)	I can't cope with their behaviour anymore (13%)	I am moving soon and I cannot take them (11%)	31.90%
Cockerpoo	I can't cope with their behaviour anymore (36%)	Ill health of owner or family member (15%)	My lifestyle has changed and I am unable to care for them properly (13%)	57.50%
Staffie Cross	My lifestyle has changed and I am unable to care for them properly (26%)	I can't cope with their behaviour anymore (21%)	Ill health of owner or family member (12%)	41.90%
Bulldog (French)	I can't cope with their behaviour anymore (17%)	I am moving soon and I cannot take them (14%)	They are aggressive to people in the home (10%)	42.90%
German Shepherd Dog (Alsation) Dog (Alsation)	My lifestyle has changed and I am unable to care for them properly (22%)	I can't cope with their behaviour anymore (15%)	They are aggressive to other animals in the home (12%)	41.40%
German Shepherd Cross	My lifestyle has changed and I am unable to care for them properly (34%)	I can't cope with their behaviour anymore (21%)	I am homeless and can't care for my pets (11%)	39.47%
Spaniel (Cocker)	I can't cope with their behaviour anymore (22%)	They are aggressive to people in the home (14%)	They are aggressive to adults in the home (11%)	58.30%
Collie (Border)	My lifestyle has changed and I am unable to care for them properly (24%)	They are aggressive to other animals in the home (17%)	I can't cope with their behaviour anymore (10%)	51.70%
Retriever (Labrador)	I am moving soon and I cannot take them (19%)	My lifestyle has changed and I am unable to care for them properly (19%)	Ill health of owner or family member (15%)	34.60%
Terrier (Jack Russell)	My lifestyle has changed and I am unable to care for them properly (15%)	Ill health of owner or family member (12%)	They are aggressive to children in the home (12%)	38.50%



## Relinquished for Dog or People Related Reasons?



# Ages

44.4% of Relinquishment Requests are for dogs under 2 years old

Ages	%
Under 6 months	4.0%
6 to 11 months	16.1%
12 to 17 months	15.2%
18 to 23 months	9.2%
2 years	11.8%
3 years	8.9%
4 years	7.0%
5 years	5.1%
6 years	4.9%
7 years	4.5%
8 years	3.7%
9 years	2.6%
10 years	2.0%
11 years	1.5%
12 years +	3.5%

Age category	%
Puppy Up to 6m	4.00%
Adolescent 6-23m	40.44%
Adult 2-5y	32.80%
Mature 6-10y	17.78%
Senior 11y+	4.98%





# Why are different age categories being relinquished?

	1	2	3	4	5
Puppy	Ill health of owner or family member (27%)	My lifestyle has changed and I am unable to care for them properly (18%)	I don't want them, I made mistake getting them (13%)	I can't cope with their behaviour anymore (7%)	They no longer fit in our family (7%)
Adolescent	I can't cope with their behaviour anymore (23%)	My lifestyle has changed and I am unable to care for them properly (21%)	Ill health of owner or family member (8%)	They are aggressive to other animals in the home (8%)	They are aggressive to people in the home (7%)
Adult	My lifestyle has changed and I am unable to care for them properly (21%)	I can't cope with their behaviour anymore (19%)	Ill health of owner or family member (11%)	I am moving soon and I cannot take them (9%)	They are aggressive to other animals in the home (7%)
Mature	My lifestyle has changed and I am unable to care for them properly (21%)	I can't cope with their behaviour anymore (18%)	I am moving soon and I cannot take them (14%)	Ill health of owner or family member (10%)	They are aggressive to children in the home (10%)
Senior	Ill health of owner or family member (27%)	My lifestyle has changed and I am unable to care for them properly (18%)	I am moving soon and I cannot take them (14%)	The owner has passed away (11%)	I can't cope with their behaviour anymore (7%)



	Puppy	Adolescent	Adult	Mature	Senior
Mongrel	2%	47%	35%	12%	5%
Terrier (Staffordshire Bull)	0%	13%	35%	43%	9%
Cockerpoo	11%	49%	19%	21%	0%
Staffie Cross	5%	48%	19%	19%	10%
Bulldog (French)	3%	28%	63%	8%	0%
German Shepherd Dog (Alsatian) Dog (Alsatian)	0%	38%	41%	18%	3%
German Shepherd Cross	3%	43%	38%	16%	3%
Spaniel (Cocker)	12%	30%	39%	12%	6%
Collie (Border)	0%	48%	38%	14%	0%
Retriever (Labrador)	8%	58%	12%	19%	4%
Terrier (Jack Russell)	4%	19%	8%	35%	35%

# At what ages are the different breeds being relinquished?

Highest percentage for each breed is highlighted



# How long have you owned your pet?

How long have you owned your pet?	%
Less than 1 month	7.17%
1 - 6 months	15.15%
6 - 12 months	17.54%
1 - 5 years	42.78%
5 - 10 years	14.35%
10 years +	3.01%

Just under 40% of dogs have been owned for less than a year

55% of dogs have been in the home since they were a puppy (approx. 8 weeks)

Less than 25% of the dogs owned for less than 1 month are puppies under 6 months of age.



Have you owned your dog since they were a puppy?	How long have you owned your pet?					
	Less than 1 month	1 - 6 months	6 - 12 months	1 - 5 years	5 - 10 years	10 years +
Yes	11%	34%	56%	63%	68%	79%
No	89%	66%	44%	37%	32%	21%

- Suggests that individuals having challenges in the early months are not having problems with puppies they have recently acquired
- Potential that people who have taken on puppies are starting to encounter problems at 6-12 months post-acquisition
- Those who have owned their dog for less than a month most commonly got their dog from friends/family/acquaintance (27%) or via the internet/social media (23%)



		How long have you owned the dog?					
Age Category		Less than 1 month	1 - 6 months	6 - 12 months	1 - 5 years	5 - 10 years	10 years +
	Puppy	23.38%	14.46%	0%	0.21%	0%	0%
	Adolescent	37.66%	57.23%	84.29%	34.18%	0%	0%
	Adult	22.08%	21.08%	10.99%	56.26%	13.84%	0%
	Mature	16.88%	6.63%	4.19%	7.22%	76.73%	17.65%
	Senior	0%	0.60%	0.52%	2.12%	9.43%	82.35%

- The majority of dogs being relinquished after 6-12 months of ownership are adolescents (6 months to 23 months)
- More than 75% of owners wanting to relinquish after less than a month of ownership are not looking to give up puppies



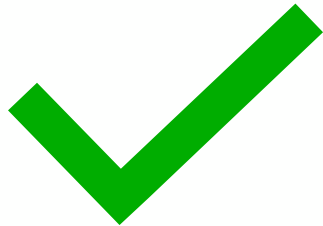
# Does the reason for relinquishment vary with time in the home?

	Top 5 relinquishment reasons				
	1	2	3	4	5
Less than 1 month	I can't cope with their behaviour anymore (19%)	They are aggressive to other animals in the home (12%)	Ill health of owner or family member (11%)	My lifestyle has changed and I am unable to care for them properly (11%)	I don't want them, I made mistake getting them (9%)
1 - 6 months	I can't cope with their behaviour anymore (26%)	My lifestyle has changed and I am unable to care for them properly (19%)	Ill health of owner or family member (15%)	They are aggressive to other animals in the home (6%)	There is friction with other pets in the home (6%)
6 - 12 months	My lifestyle has changed and I am unable to care for them properly (20%)	I can't cope with their behaviour anymore (18%)	They are aggressive to children in the home (9%)	Ill health of owner or family member (9%)	They are aggressive to people in the home (7%)
1 - 5 years	My lifestyle has changed and I am unable to care for them properly (24%)	I can't cope with their behaviour anymore (18%)	Ill health of owner or family member (10%)	I am moving soon and I cannot take them (8%)	They are aggressive to other animals in the home (7%)
5 - 10 years	My lifestyle has changed and I am unable to care for them properly (20%)	Ill health of owner or family member (17%)	I am moving soon and I cannot take them (15%)	I can't cope with their behaviour anymore (15%)	They are aggressive to children in the home (7%)
10 years +	My lifestyle has changed and I am unable to care for them properly (24%)	Ill health of owner or family member (24%)	I am moving soon and I cannot take them (21%)	I can't cope with their behaviour anymore (12%)	I am homeless and can't care for my pets (6%)

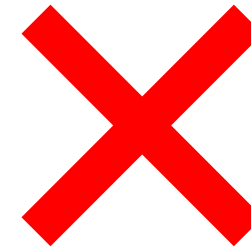


# Has your pet ever been seen by a vet?

79% Yes



21% No

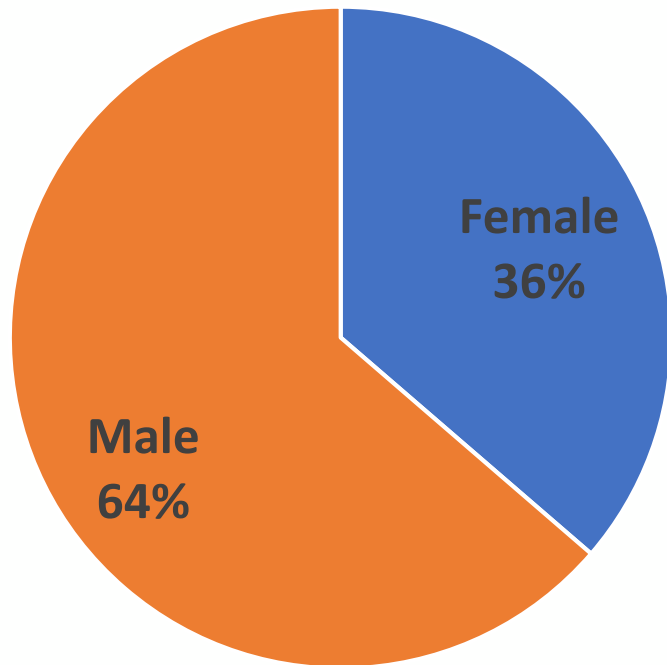


1.87% of owners  
who's dogs have  
seen a vet are  
relinquishing due to  
financial reasons

1.21% of owners  
who's dogs are not  
registered with a vet  
are relinquishing due  
to financial reasons



# What sex is your dog?



- Top 3 reasons for relinquishment are similar across both sexes
  - My lifestyle has changed and I am unable to care for them properly (21.2% F vs 20.98% M)
  - I can't cope with their behaviour anymore (17.14% F vs. 19.89% M)
  - Ill health of owner or family member (10.71% F vs. 11.04% M)
- The % of female dogs being given up for aggression towards other animals in the home is nearly double that of males (8.57% F vs. 4.9% M)
  - Similar pattern for outside the home too (2.86% F vs. 1.09% M)
- The % of male dogs being given up for aggression towards people in the home is nearly double that of females (3.1% F vs. 6.13% M)





# Has your dog been neutered?

Yes = 48.27%

No = 50.61%

Unknown = 1.12%

	Neutered		
	Yes	Unknown	No
Male	51.77%	0.68%	47.55%
Female	42.14%	1.90%	55.95%

		Person or Dog reason	
		People	Dog
Neutered ?	Y	47.85%	52.15%
	N	57.26%	42.74%

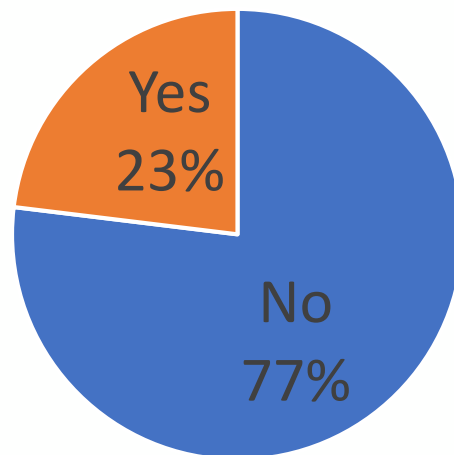
- % of neutered dogs (21.33%) being given up for behaviour reasons is slightly higher than unneutered (16.75%)
- % neutered dogs (7.17%) being given up for aggression to people in the home is more than double that for unneutered dogs (3.08%)

May have been neutered after showing challenging/ aggressive behaviour!?!?

- People related factors appear to feature more commonly in the reasons for unneutered dogs being given up



# Has your dog ever bitten anyone?



		Top 5 relinquishment reasons				
		1	2	3	4	5
Bitten	Yes	I can't cope with their behaviour anymore (29%)	They are aggressive to people in the home (16%)	They are aggressive to children in the home (13%)	They are aggressive to adults in the home (10%)	My lifestyle has changed and I am unable to care for them properly (8%)
	No	My lifestyle has changed and I am unable to care for them properly (23%)	I can't cope with their behaviour anymore (17%)	Ill health of owner or family member (14%)	I am moving soon and I cannot take them (11%)	They are aggressive to other animals in the home (8%)

For dogs who have bitten previously, behaviour appears to be the main reason for relinquishment



Thank you



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