

Dog Post-Rehoming Follow ups

February to May 2022



woodgreen

Helping pets and their people

Sample

3 check in points after rehoming

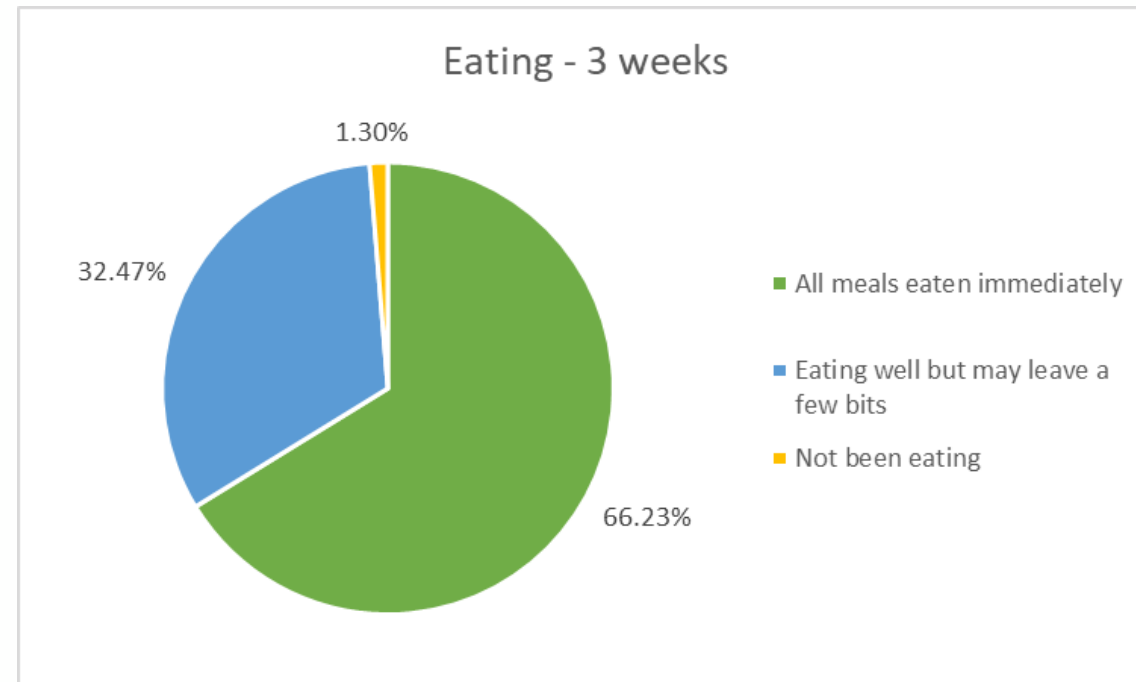
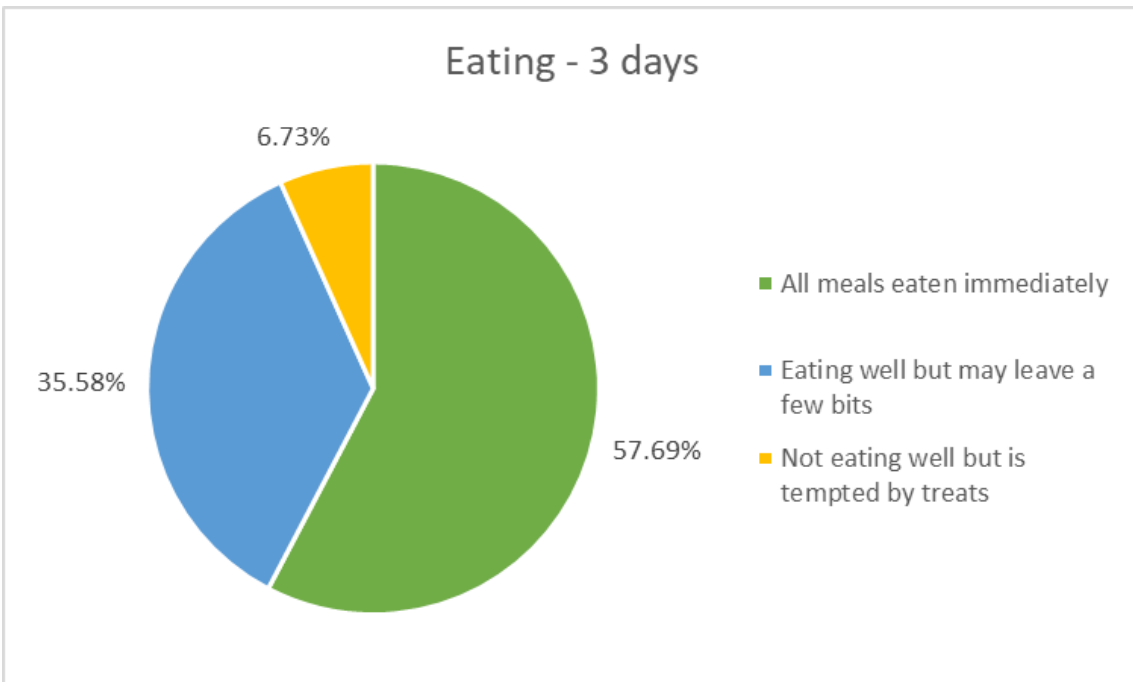
- 3 days = 104 dogs
- 3 weeks = 77 dogs
- 3 months = 51 dogs

- 14th February – 31st May 2022

Not the same dogs at 3 different points
BUT some dogs will be repeated at different stages



Eating and Drinking



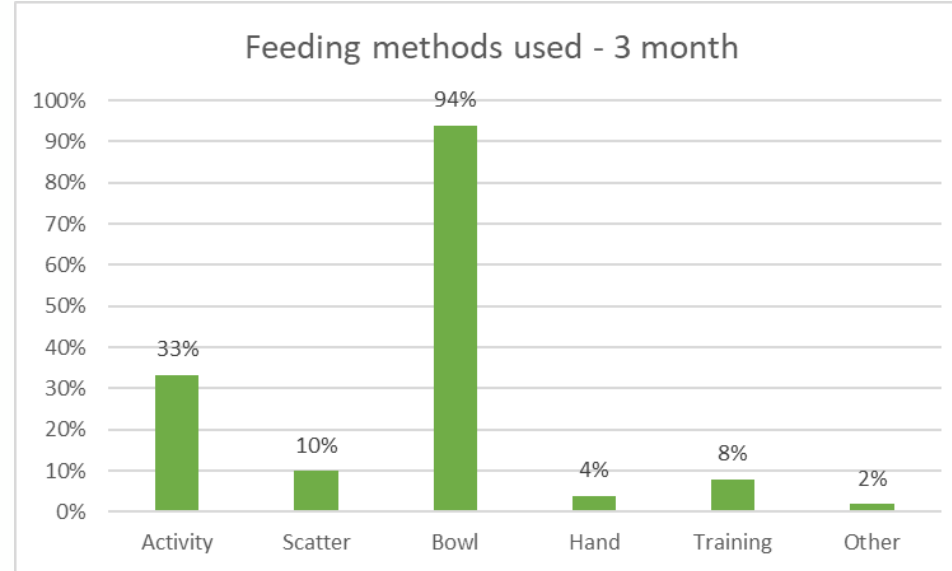
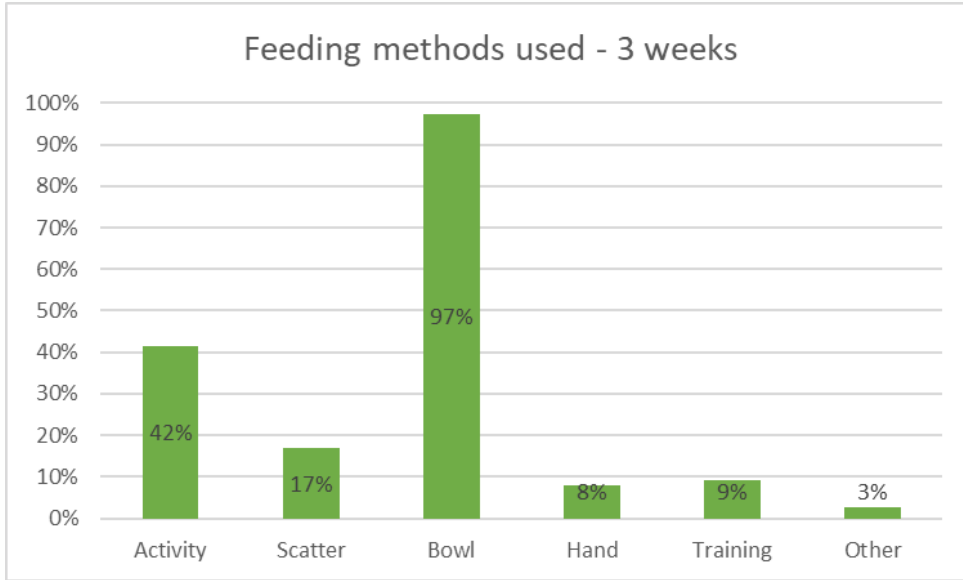
3 days only

Do you have any concerns about how your dog has been drinking since going home with you?	
No concerns	95%
Yes - I'm concerned they're drinking excessively	1%
Yes - I'm concerned they're not drinking enough	4%



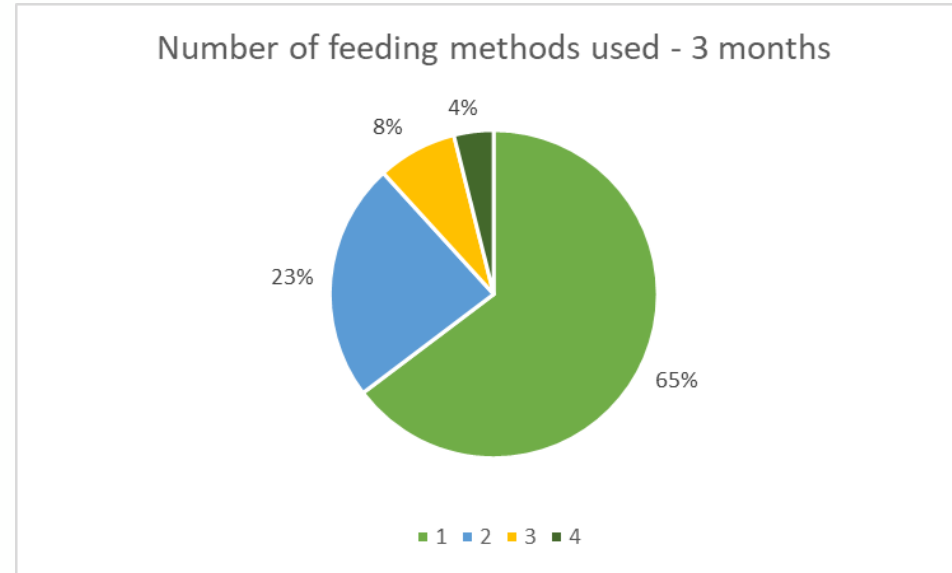
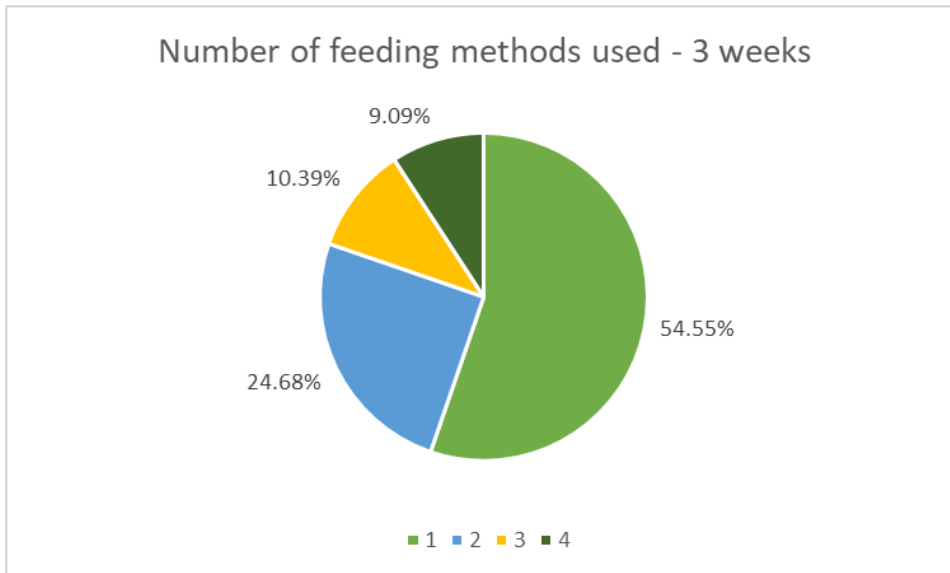
Feeding

○ Asked at 3 weeks and 3 months



Bowl includes slow feeder bowl.

Other included Lickimat and Snuffle mat



61% of owners only feeding from a bowl or slow feeder bowl at 3 month check in



Health

- Asked at all check in points

Have you had any concerns about your dogs health?	Yes	No
3 days	12%	88%
3 weeks	10%	90%
3 months	10%	90%

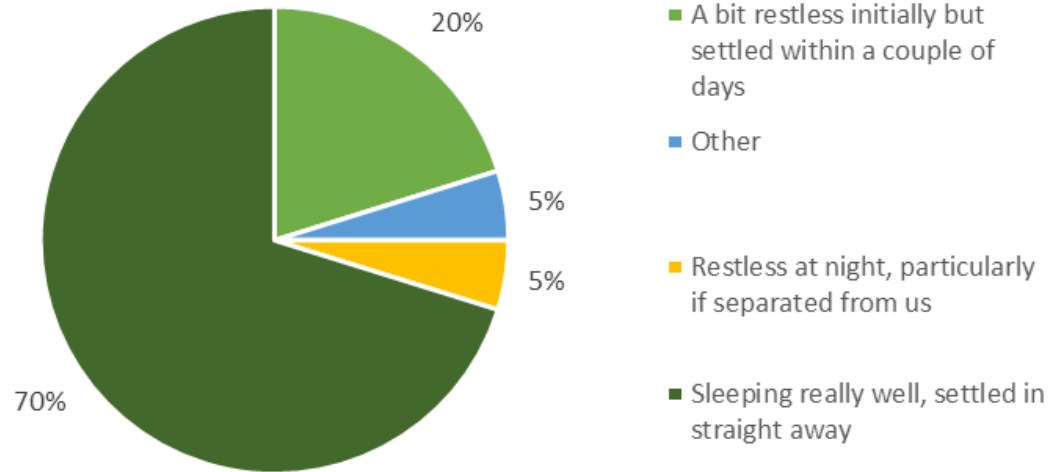
Main concerns include:

- Skin and itching – 3 dogs at 3 months undergoing allergy testing
- Diarrhea
- Lameness
- Lumps

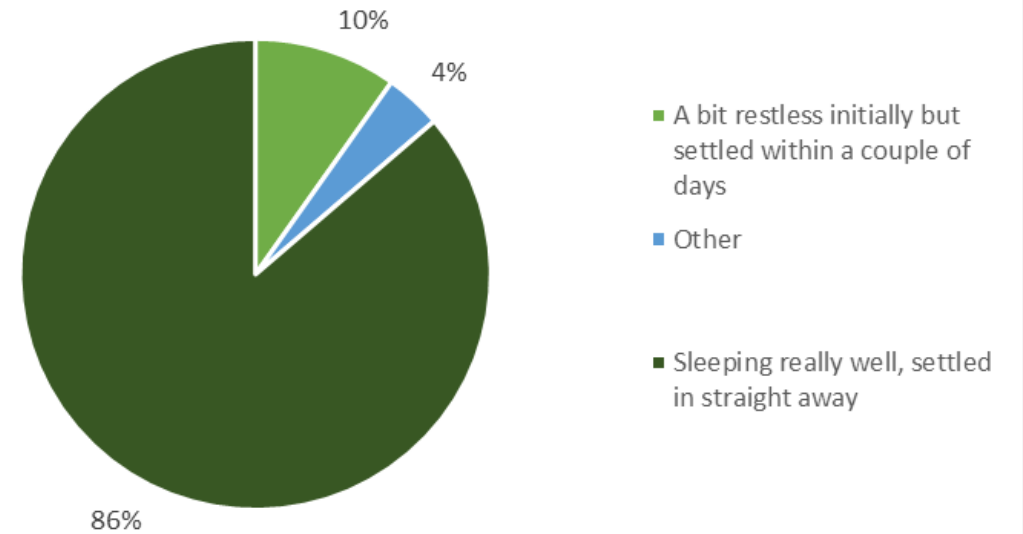


Sleeping

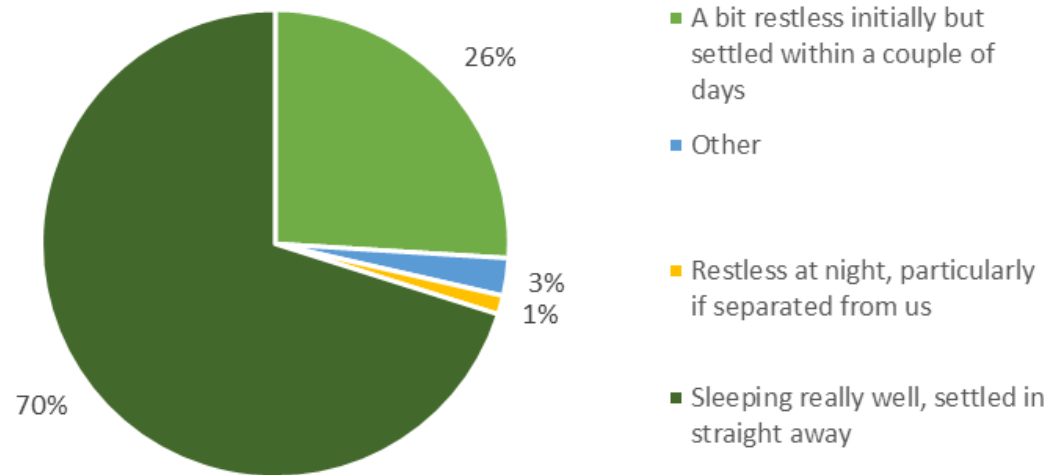
Sleeping - 3 days



Sleeping - 3 months

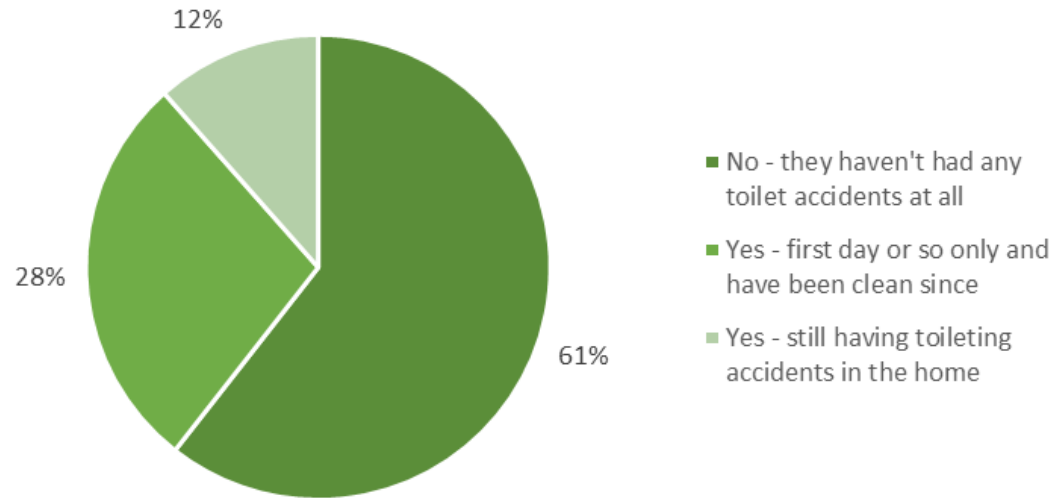


Sleeping - 3 weeks

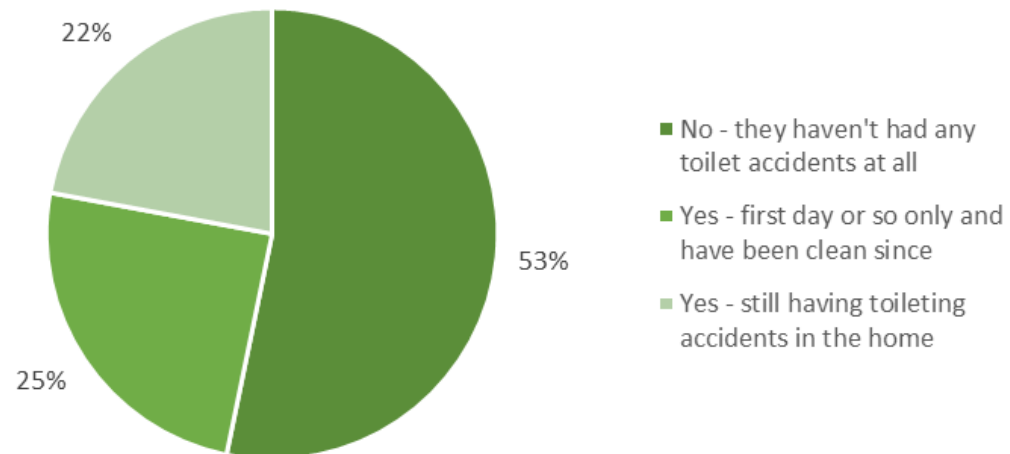


Toileting

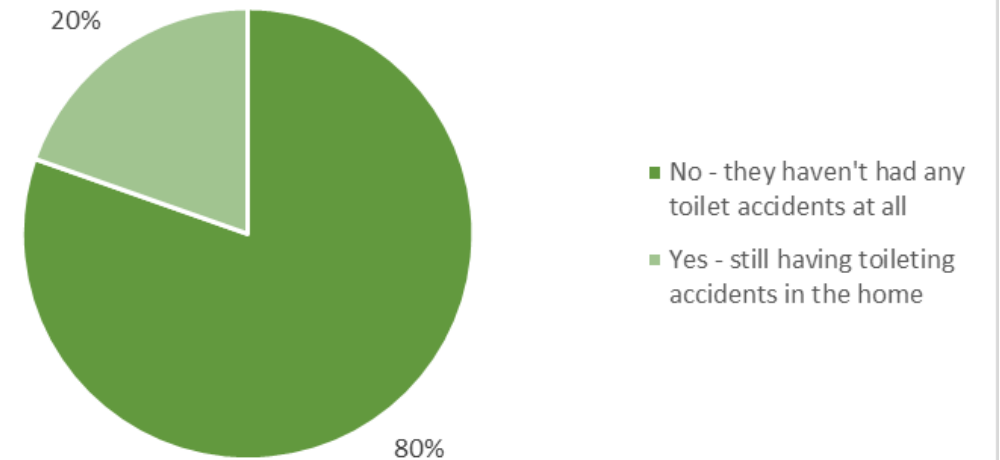
Toileting since going home - 3 days



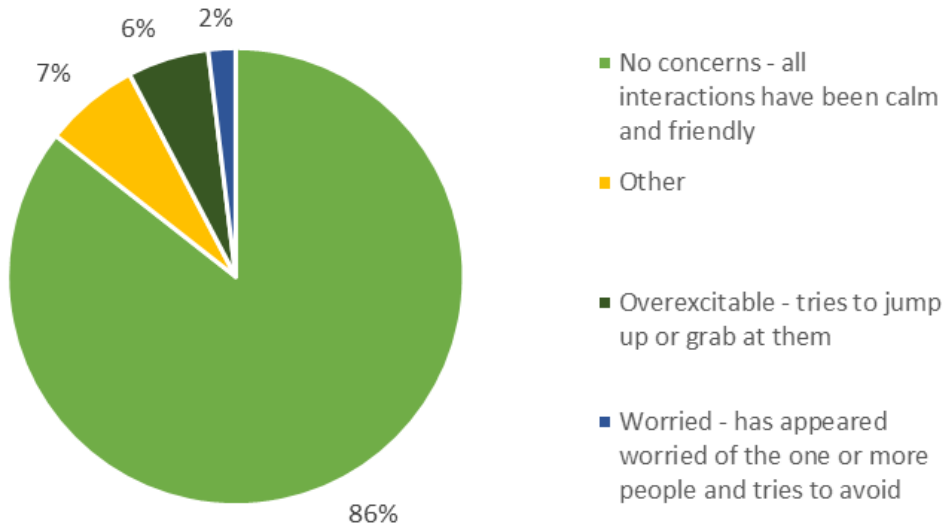
Toileting since going home - 3 weeks



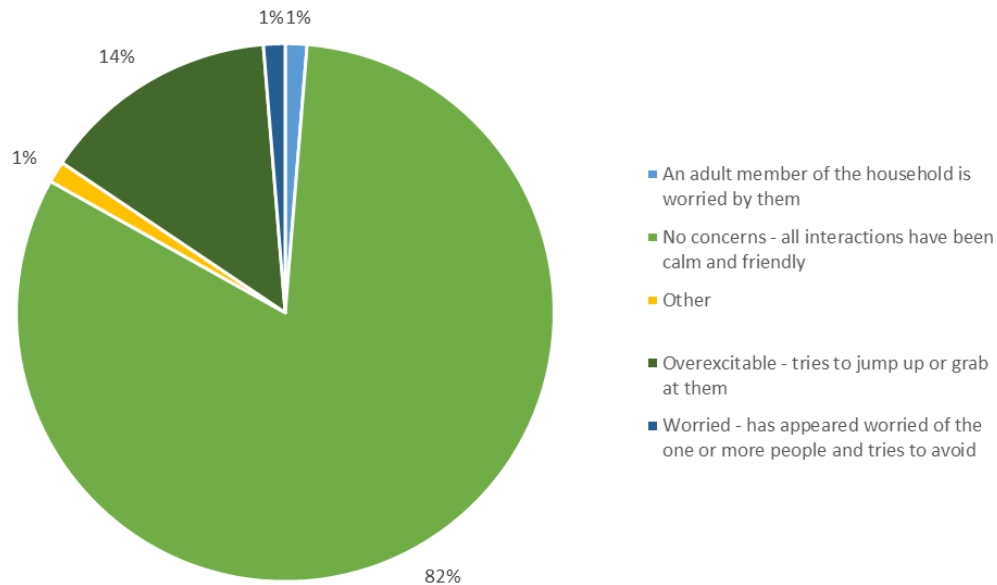
Toileting since last check in - 3 months



Interactions with adults in the home - 3 days

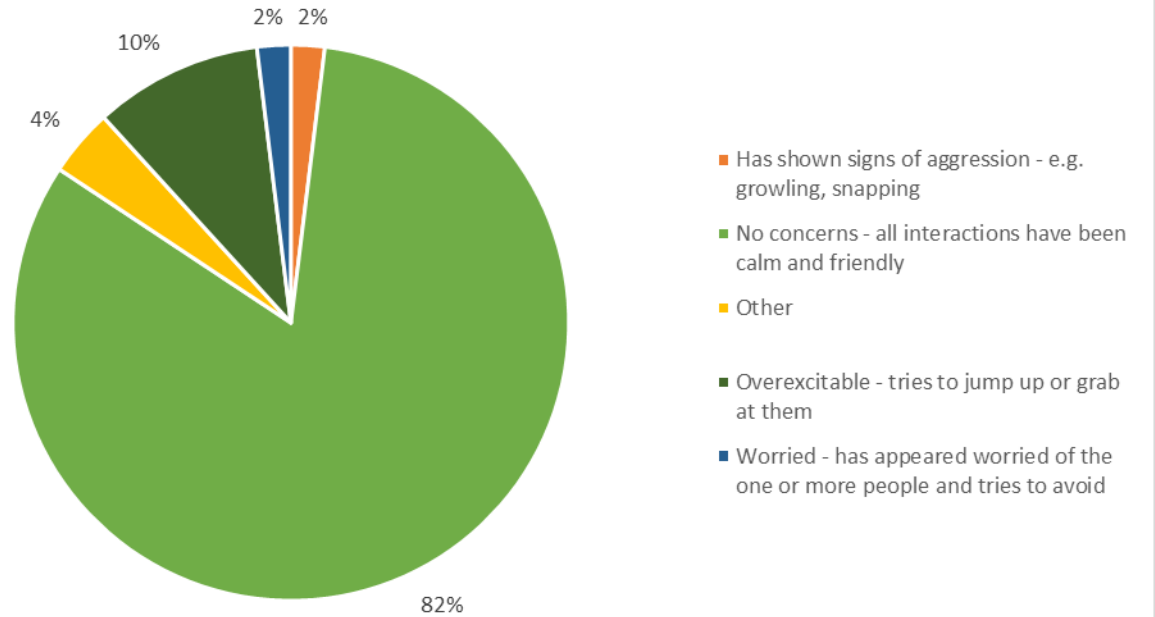


Interactions with adults in the home - 3 weeks



Interactions with adults in the home

Interactions with adults in the home - 3 months

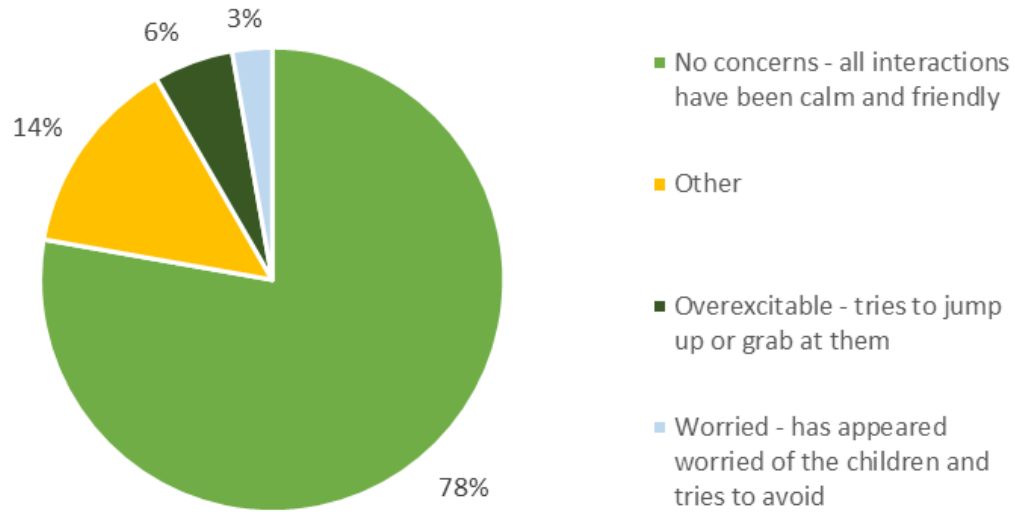


Other included..

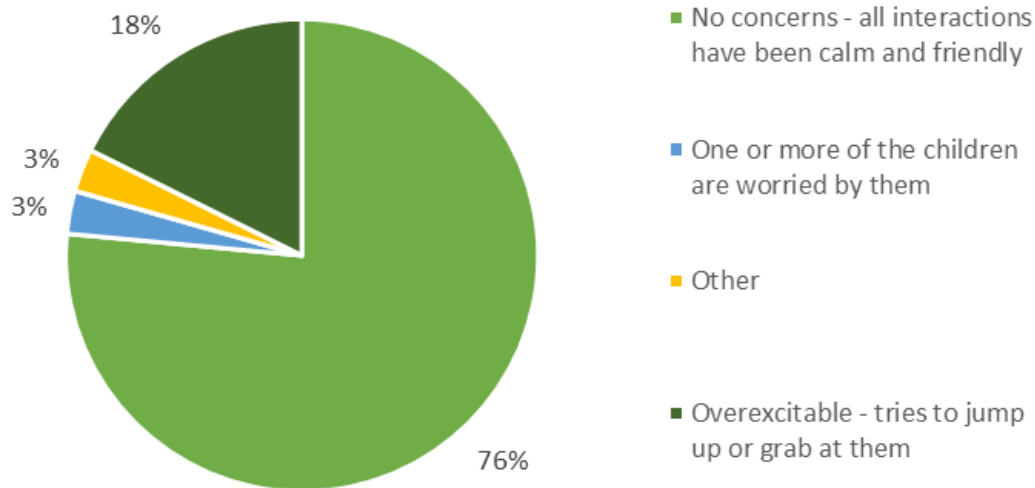
- Being very happy to see everyone
- At times being calm and at others being OTT
- Being vocal
- Reacting differently to different family members



Interactions with children in the home - 3 days



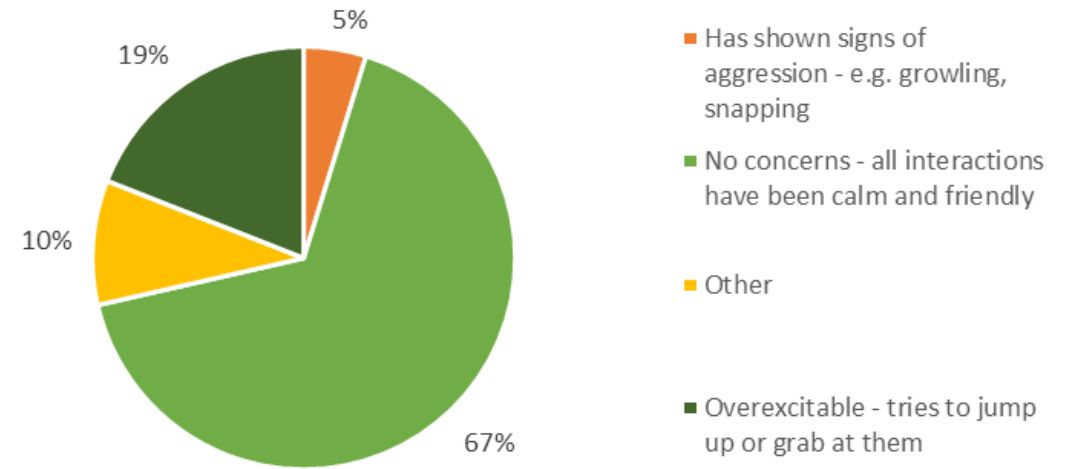
Interactions with children in the home - 3 weeks



Interactions with children

- 35% (36) of homes in 3 day sample
- 45% (34) of homes in the 3 week sample
- 41% (21) of homes in the 3 month sample

Interactions with children in the home - 3 months

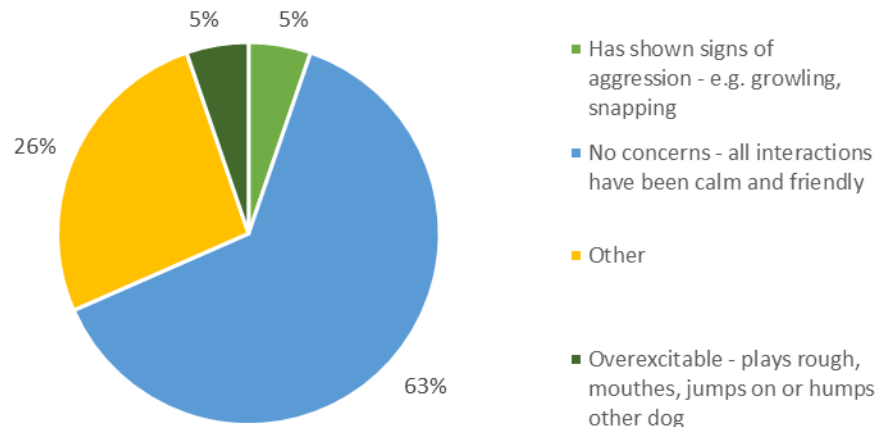


Other included...

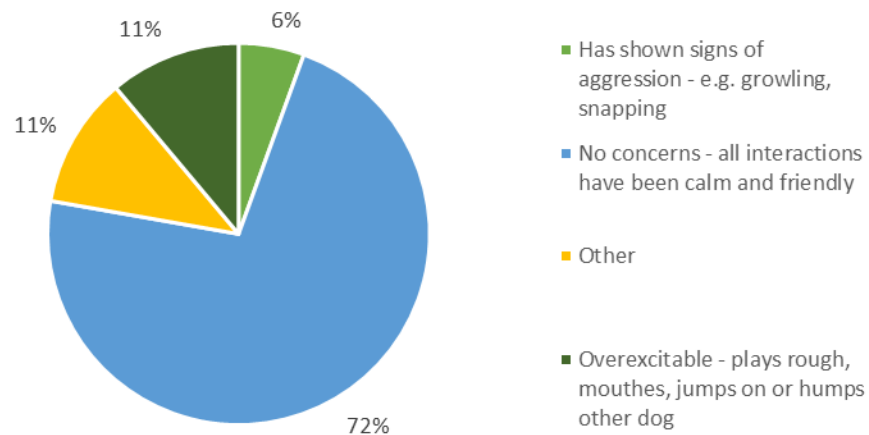
- References to visiting children
- Needing their own space at times



Dog interactions in the home - 3 days



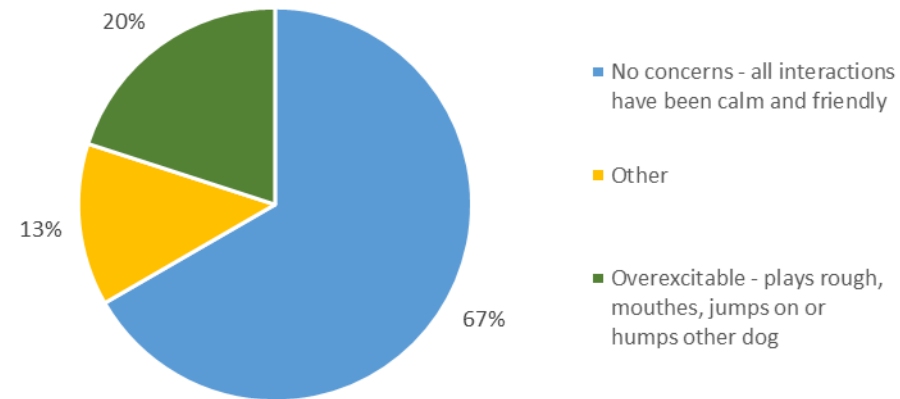
Dog interactions in the home - 3 weeks



Interactions with dogs inside the home

- 19% of 3 day sample
- 24% of 3 week sample
- 29% of 3 month sample

Dog interactions in the home - 3 months

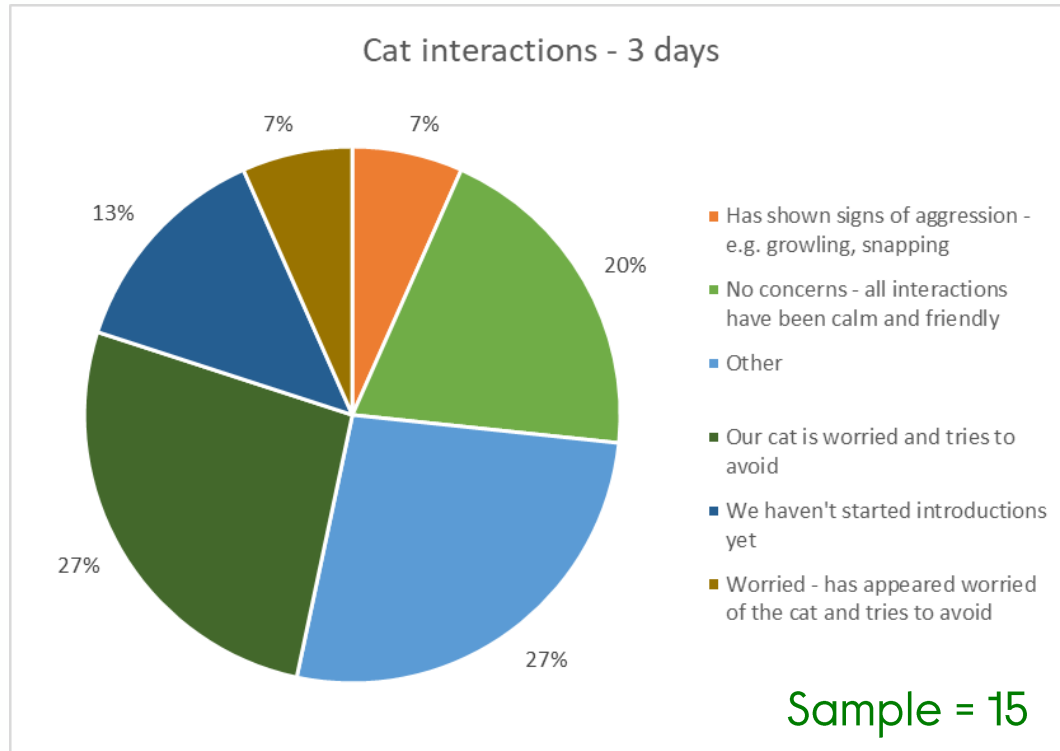


Other included...

- Being tired or hungry impacting behavior
- Playful but stopping if not wanted by other dog
- Different behavior with different dogs
- Possessiveness over valued items
- Initially being worried and then warming up

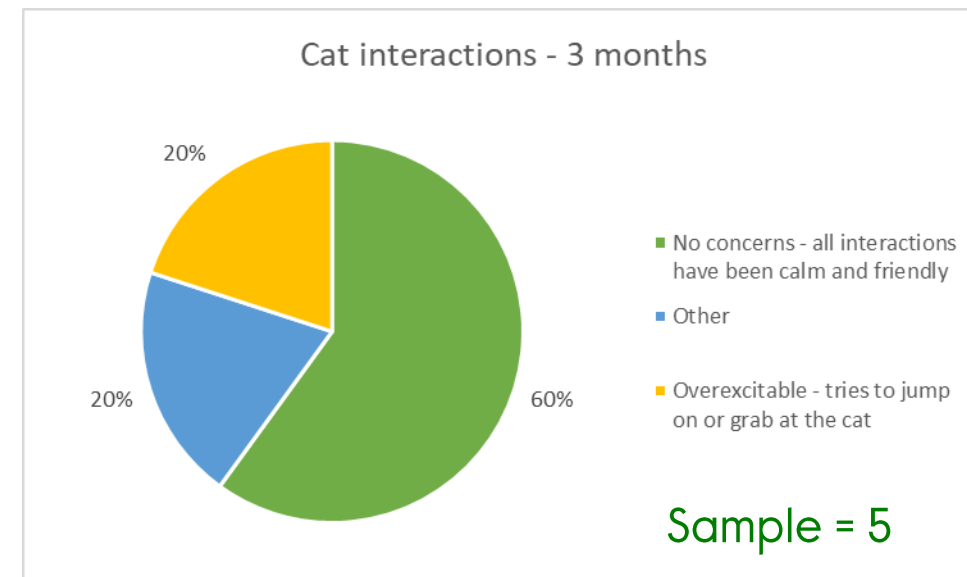
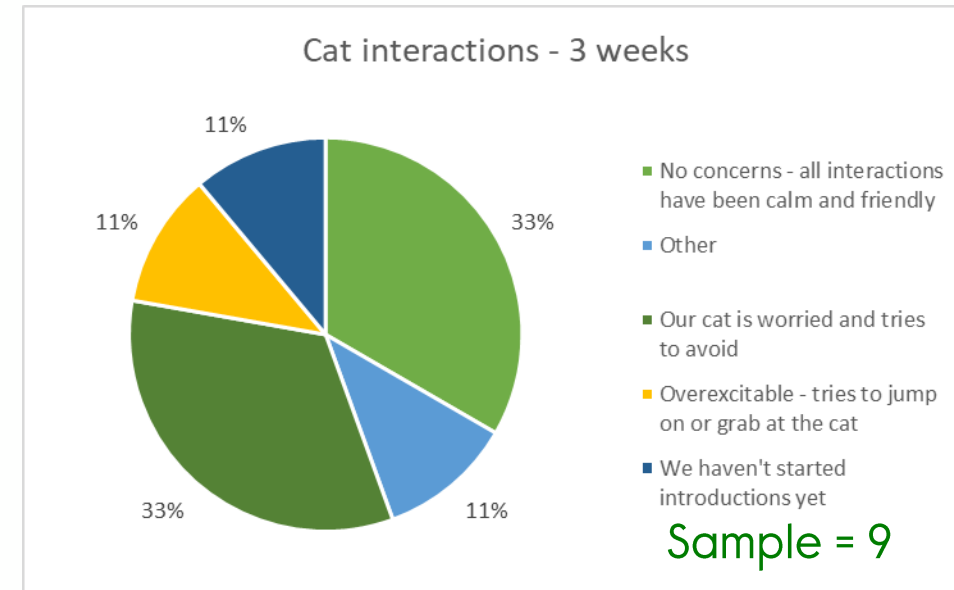


Interactions with cats



Other includes...

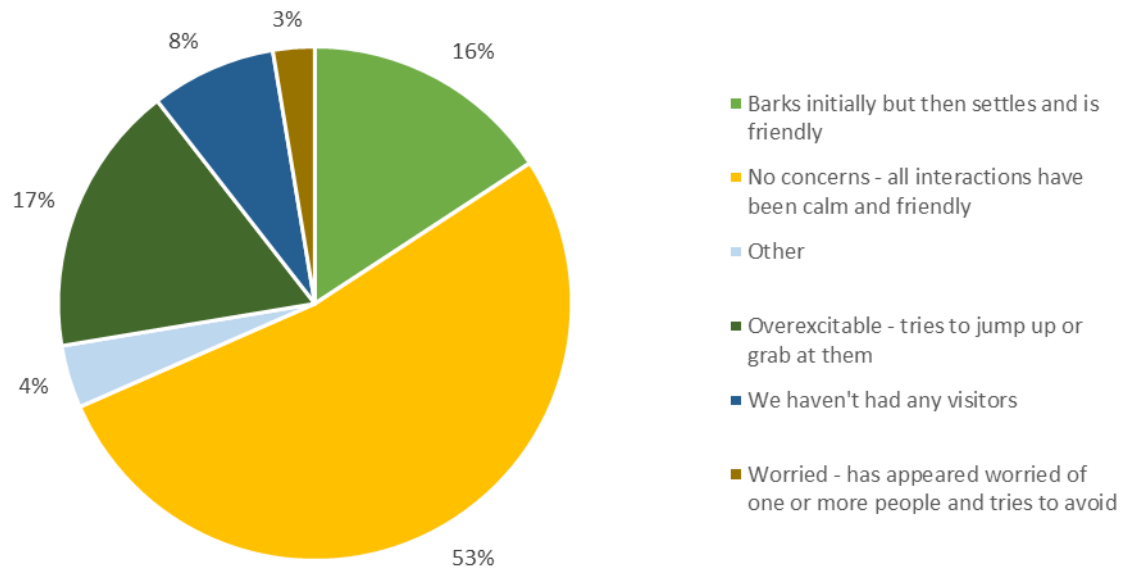
- Cat not spending time around the dog
- Success when things are calm, chasing if moves
- Trying to play with cat
- Cat growling towards the dog



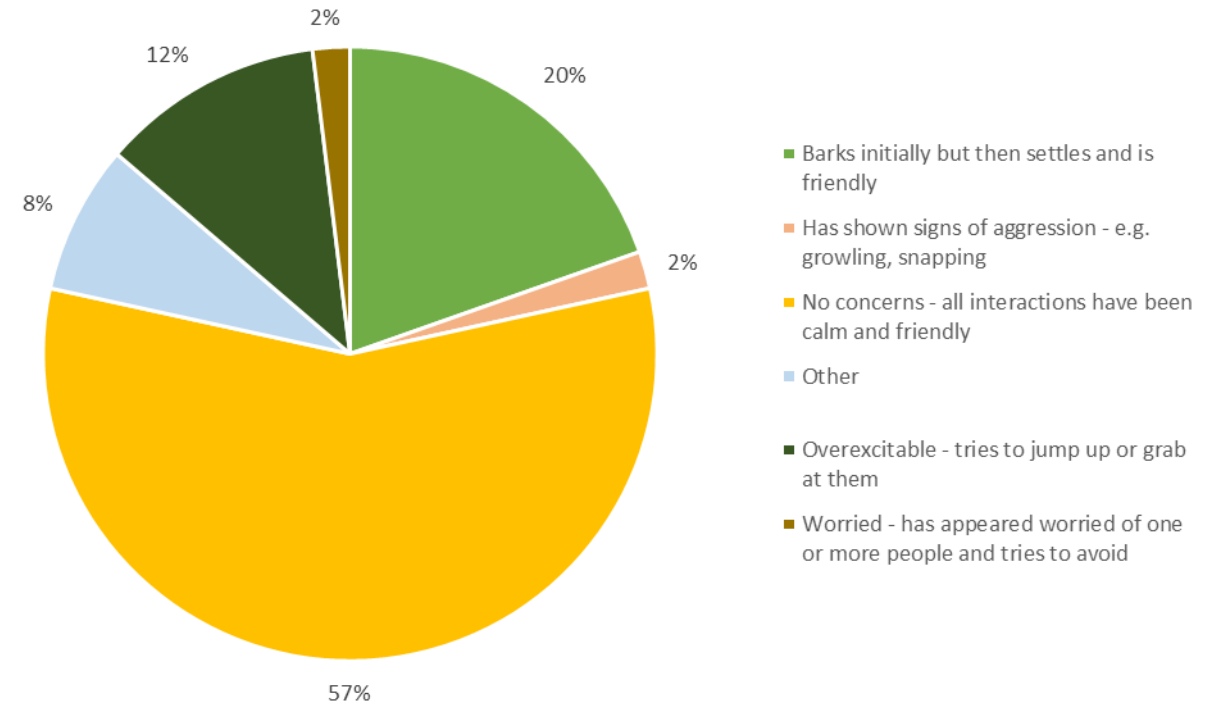
Interactions with visitors to the home

- Asked at 3 week and 3 month check in

Interactions with visitors - 3 weeks



Interactions with visitors - 3 months



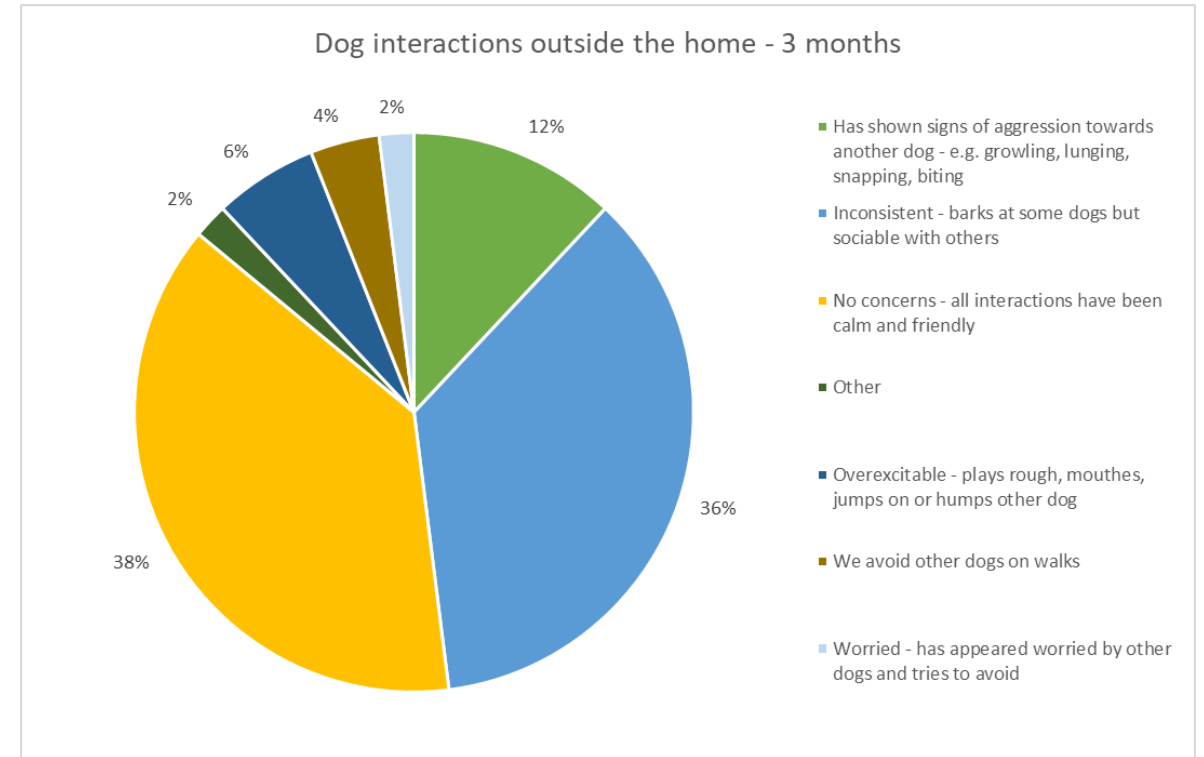
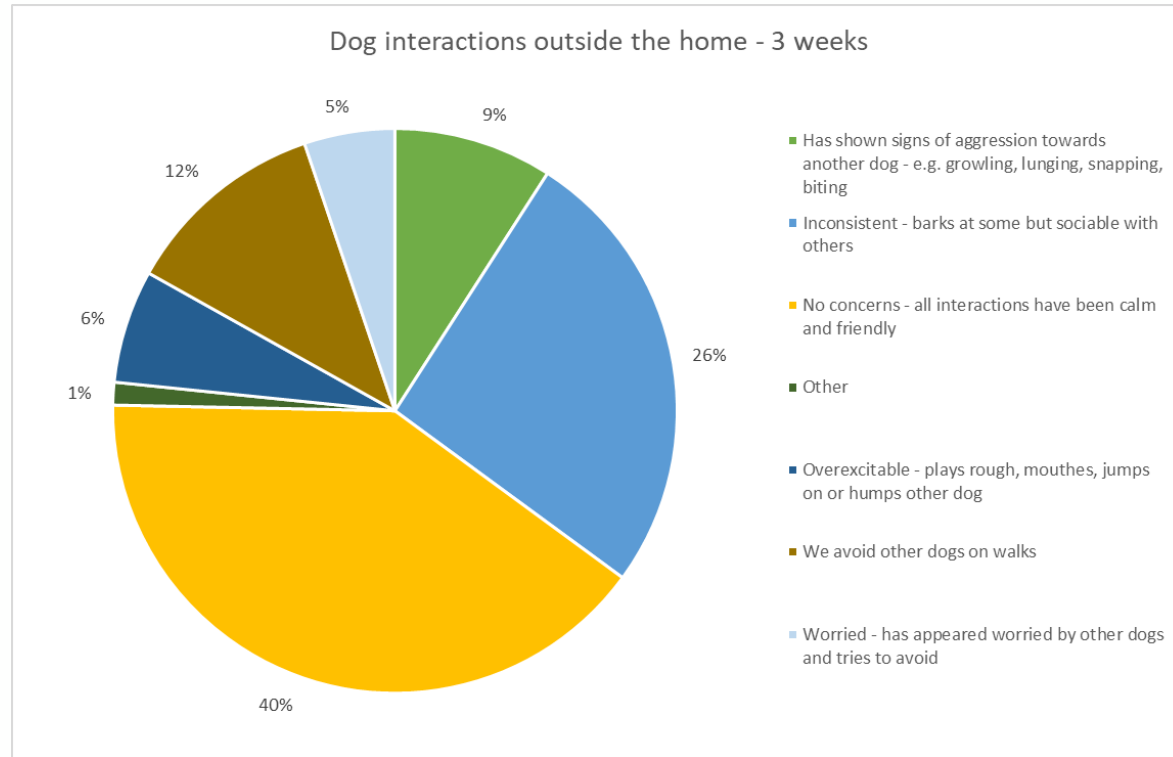
Other included...

- Growling when paws were touched
- Starting off really excitably and then calming down
- Interactions varying with different people



Interactions with dogs outside of the home

○ Asked at 3 week and 3 month check in

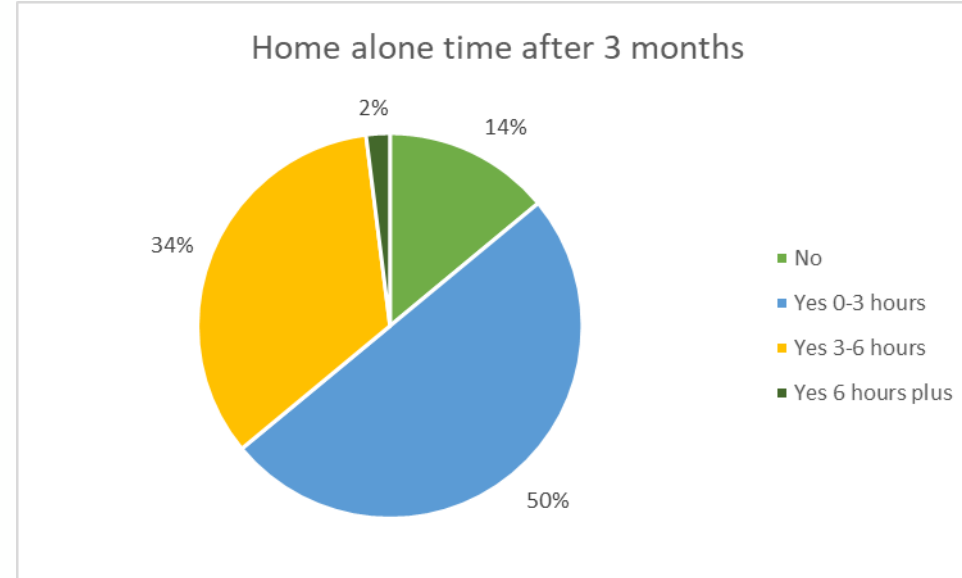
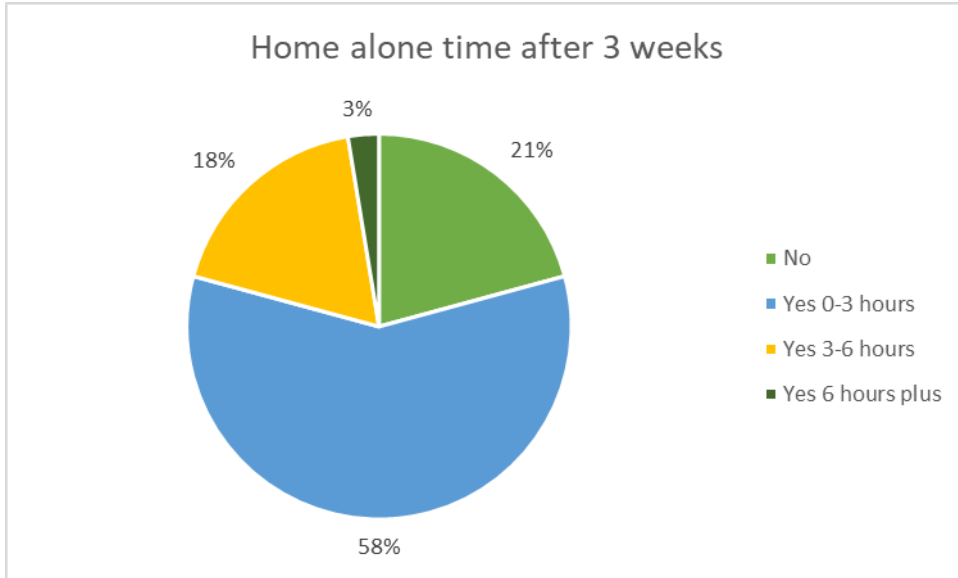


Other mainly included varied responses to different dogs



Home alone time

Have you left your dog home alone yet? How long for?



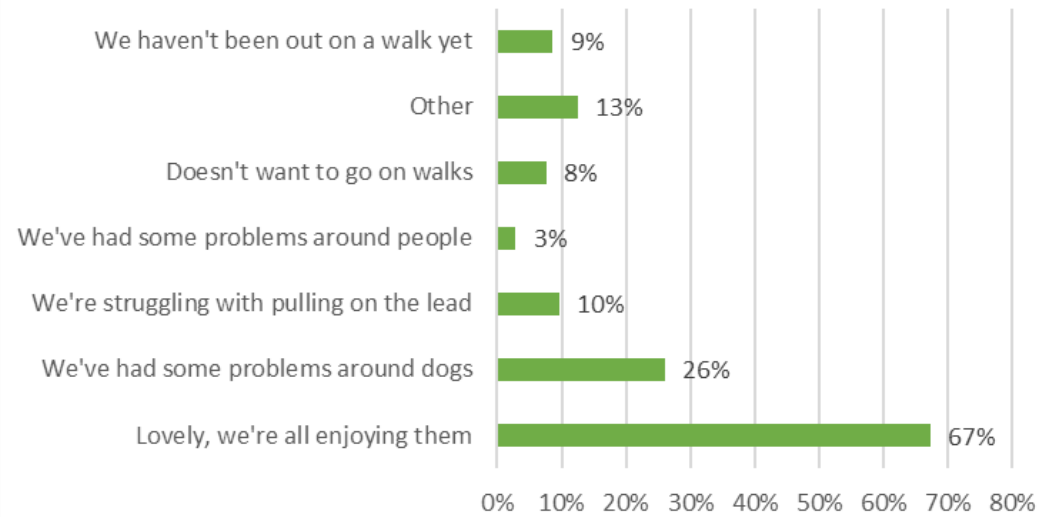
3 weeks	0-3 hours	3-6 hours	6+ hours
A little unsettled and then settled	33%	21%	
Appears stressed when left home alone	13%		
We have no concerns – seemed calm and settled	53%	79%	100%

3 months	0-3 hours	3-6 hours	6+ hours
A little unsettled and then settled	24%	12%	
Appears stressed when left home alone	8%	6%	
We have no concerns – seemed calm and settled	68%	82%	100%

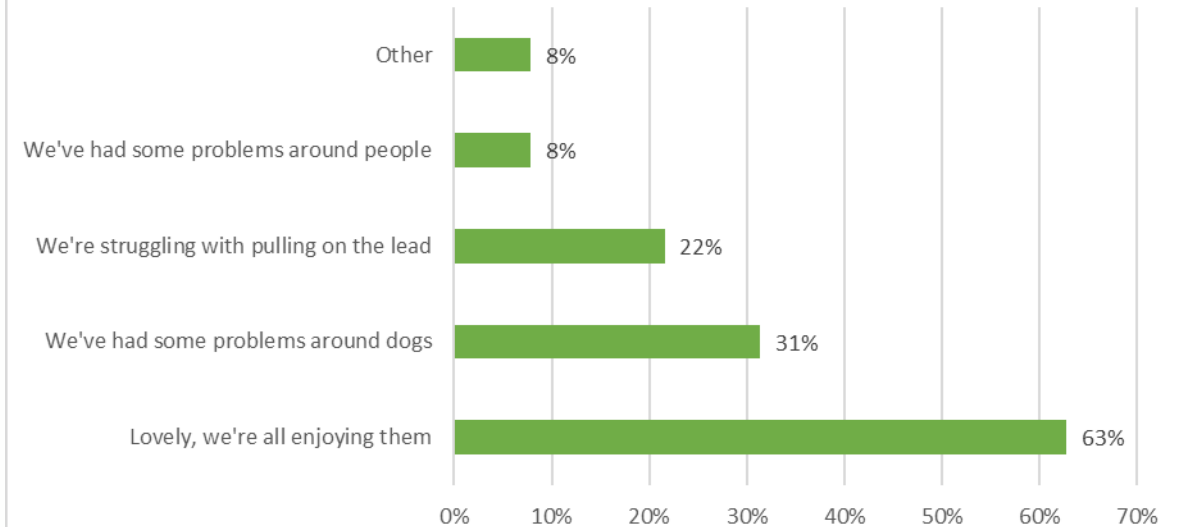
Behaviours shown by dogs left for different amounts of time



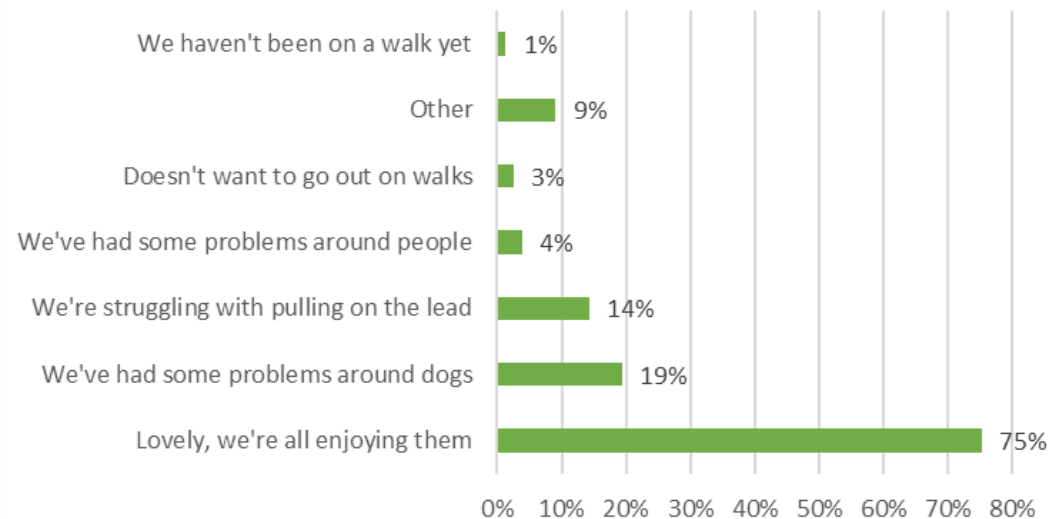
How have walks been? 3 days



How have walks been? 3 months



How have walks been? 3 weeks



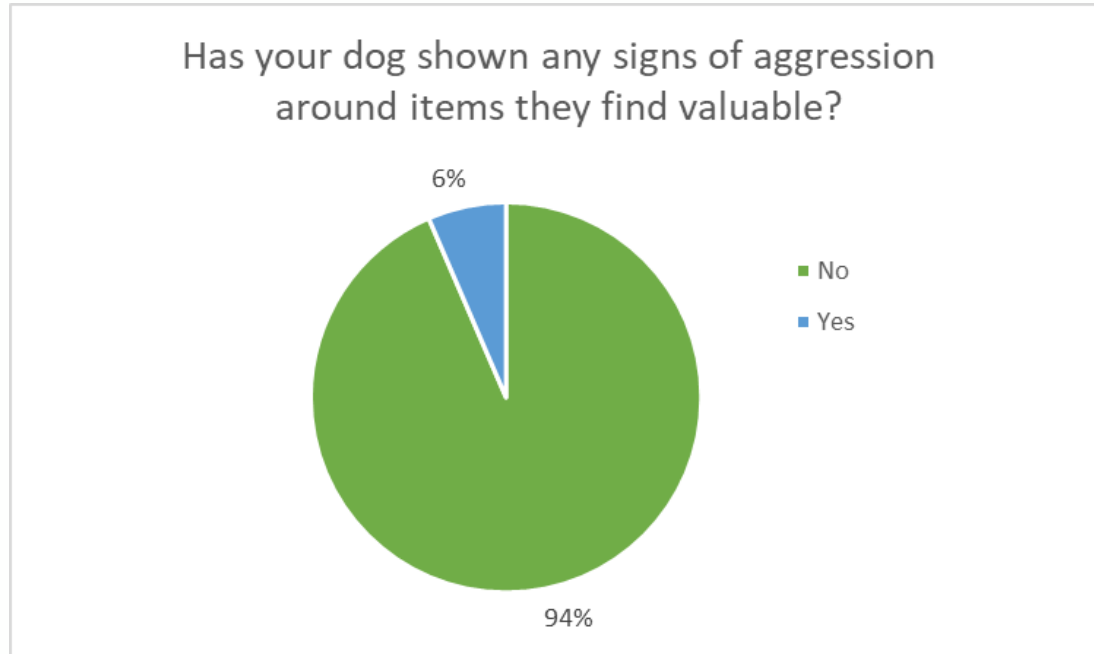
Other included...

- Issues around traffic or roads
- Barking at cats
- Issues with putting on harnesses
- Recall concerns

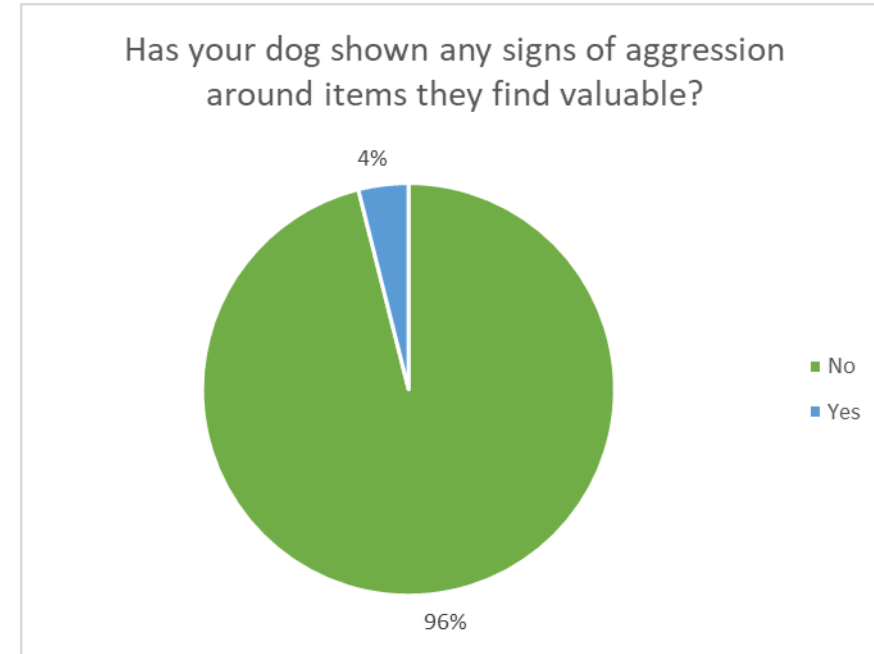
Most people report enjoying their walks even if they experience some problems.



Resource guarding



3 weeks



3 months

Details given include...

- Guarding of food items
- Not being keen on other dogs playing with particular toys
- Using swapsies so that the behavior isn't a problem
- Taking items they shouldn't have e.g. socks and things from the garden



Has your dog displayed any of the following behaviours since you've had them?

	None	Barked at, lunged or bared teeth at a human	Growled or snapped towards a human	Bitten a human making contact but left no damage	Bitten a human inflicting bruising or minor damage	Bitten a human leaving a puncture wound
3 day	88%	6%	6%	2%	2%	1%
3 week	84%	6%	9%	3%		3%
3 month	88%	6%	6%		2%	

12% of dogs were reported to have displayed one or more of the above behaviours within the first 3 days

16% of dogs were reported to have displayed one or more of the above behaviours within the first 3 weeks

12% of dogs were reported to have displayed one or more of the above behaviours within the first 3 months



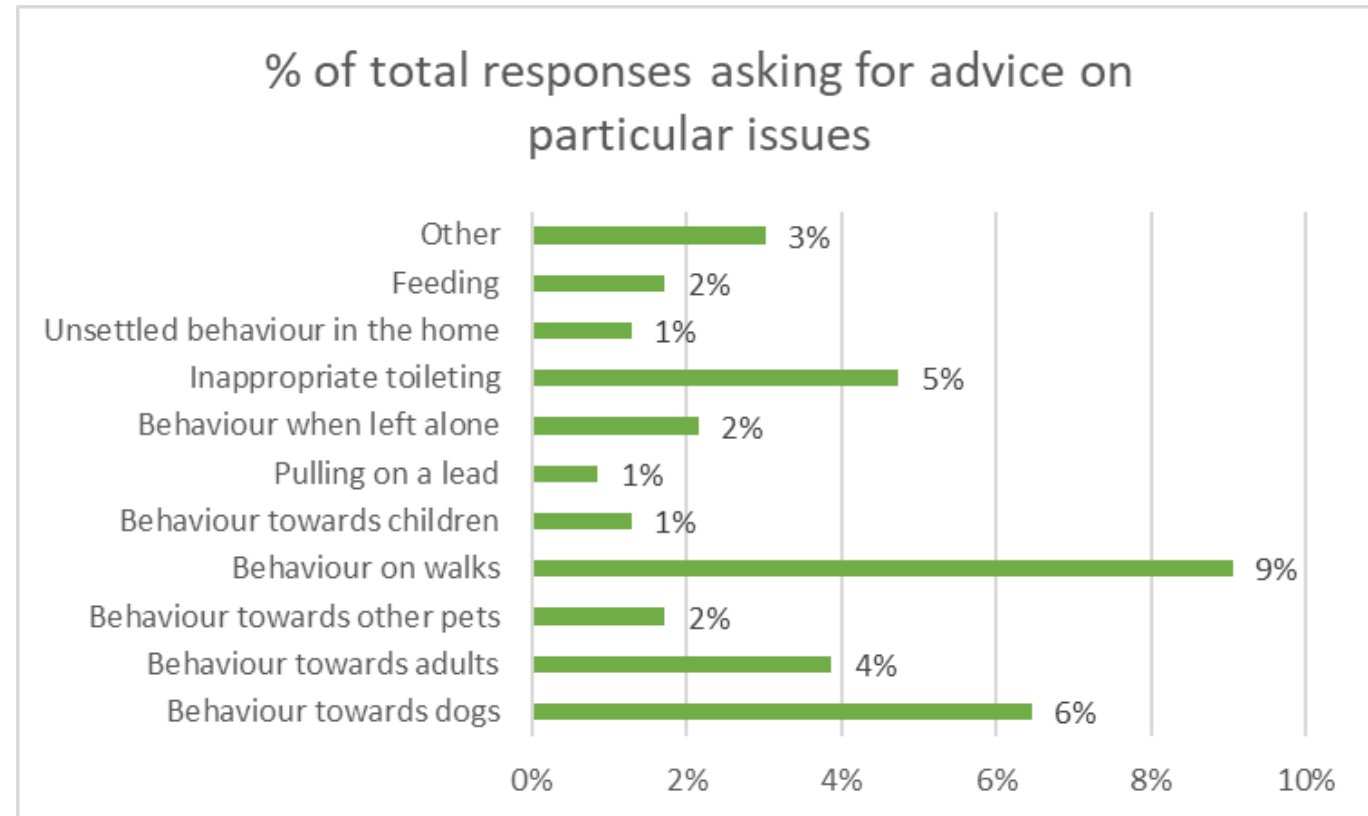
Behaviour advice

Would you like to speak to a member of our behavior and training team about any problems you've encountered?

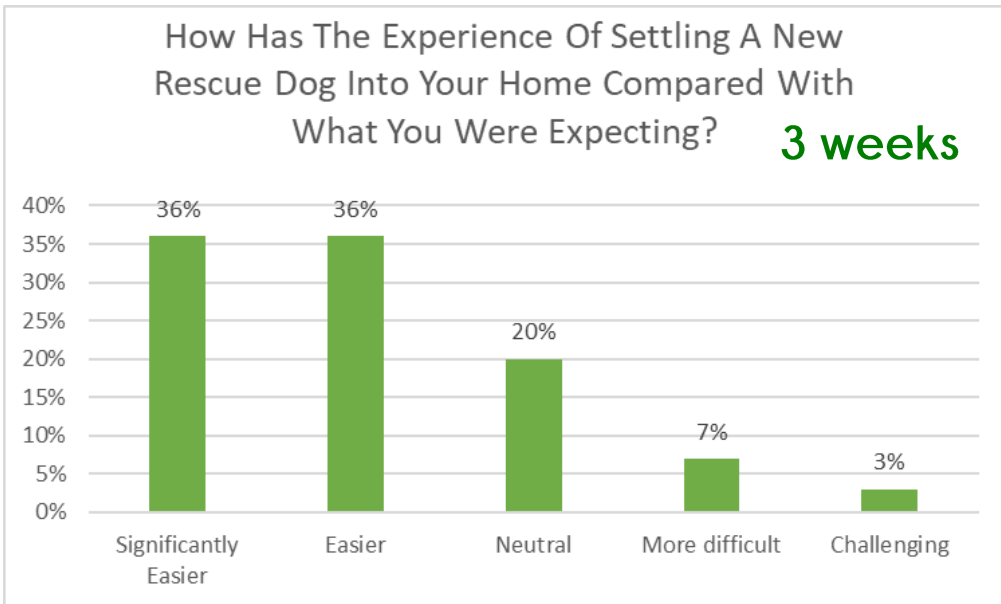
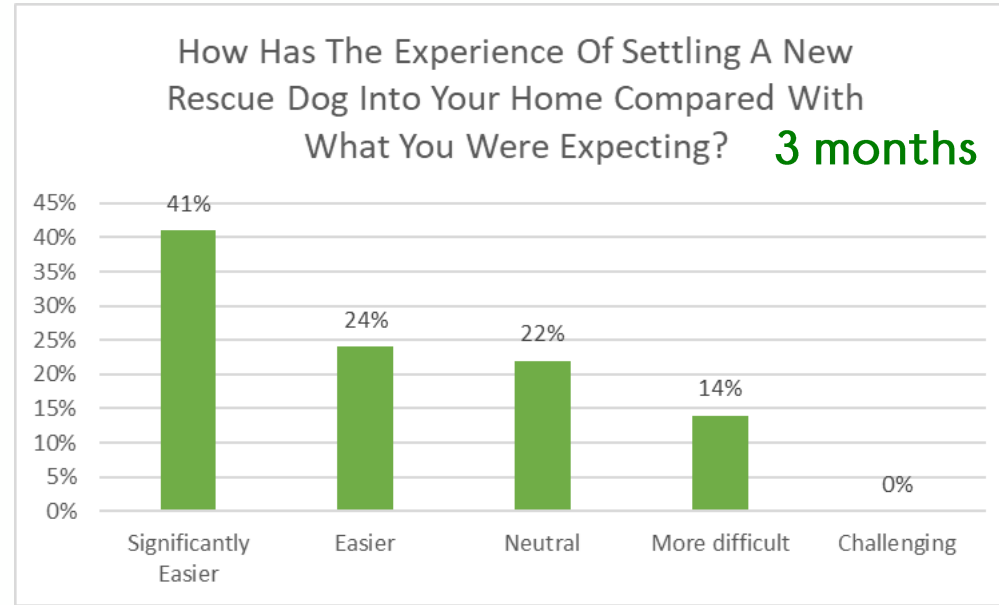
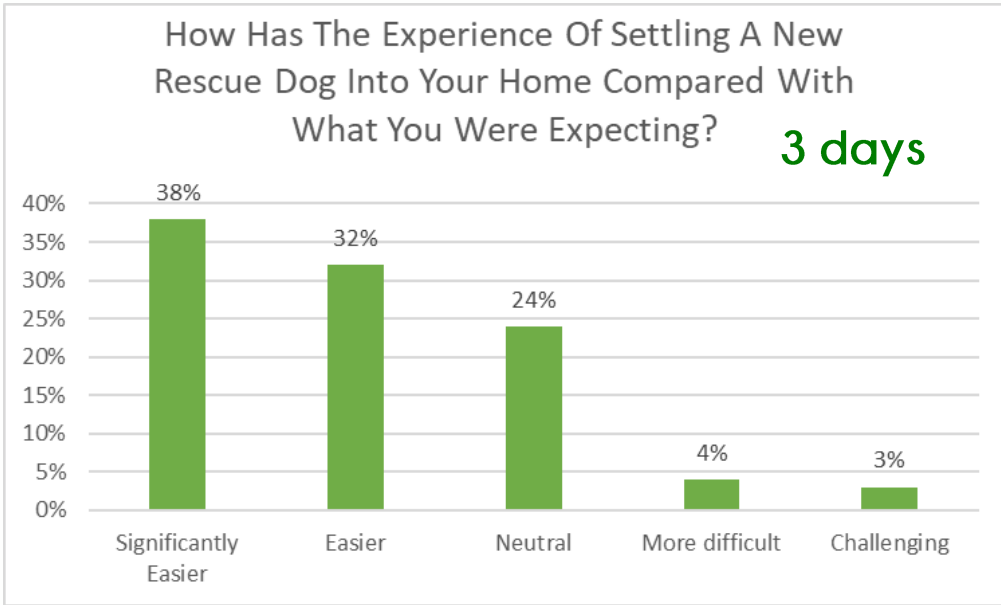
	Yes	Already working with	No
3 days	27%	1%	72%
3 weeks	21%	12%	68%
3 months	16%	10%	75%

Advice on feeding was only sought at the 3 day check in

58% of adopters who didn't want advice said this was because they weren't experiencing any problems and 29% reported that 'It's still early days and we're happy to continue working on it ourselves'.



Expectations



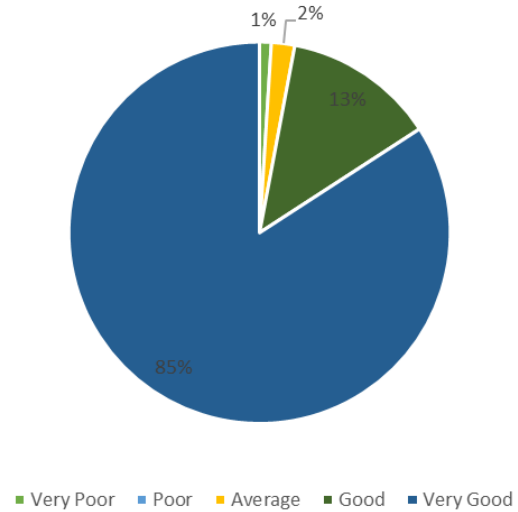
Not all owners who reported that the experience was more difficult or challenging than they expected asked for BaTS help.

2 of the 4 dogs rated as more challenging than expected were returned to Woodgreen.

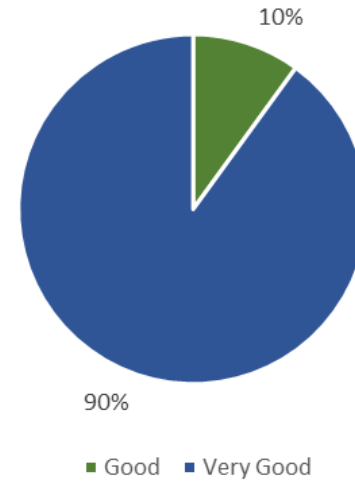


How would you rate your relationship with your new dog?

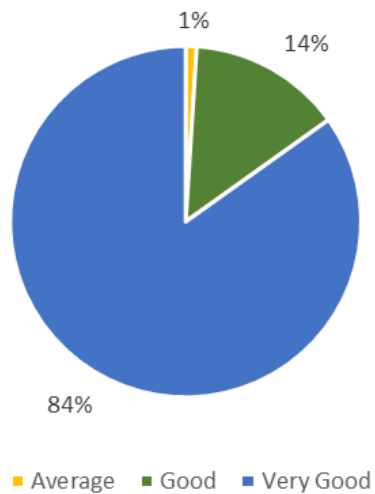
Relationship after 3 days



Relationship after 3 months



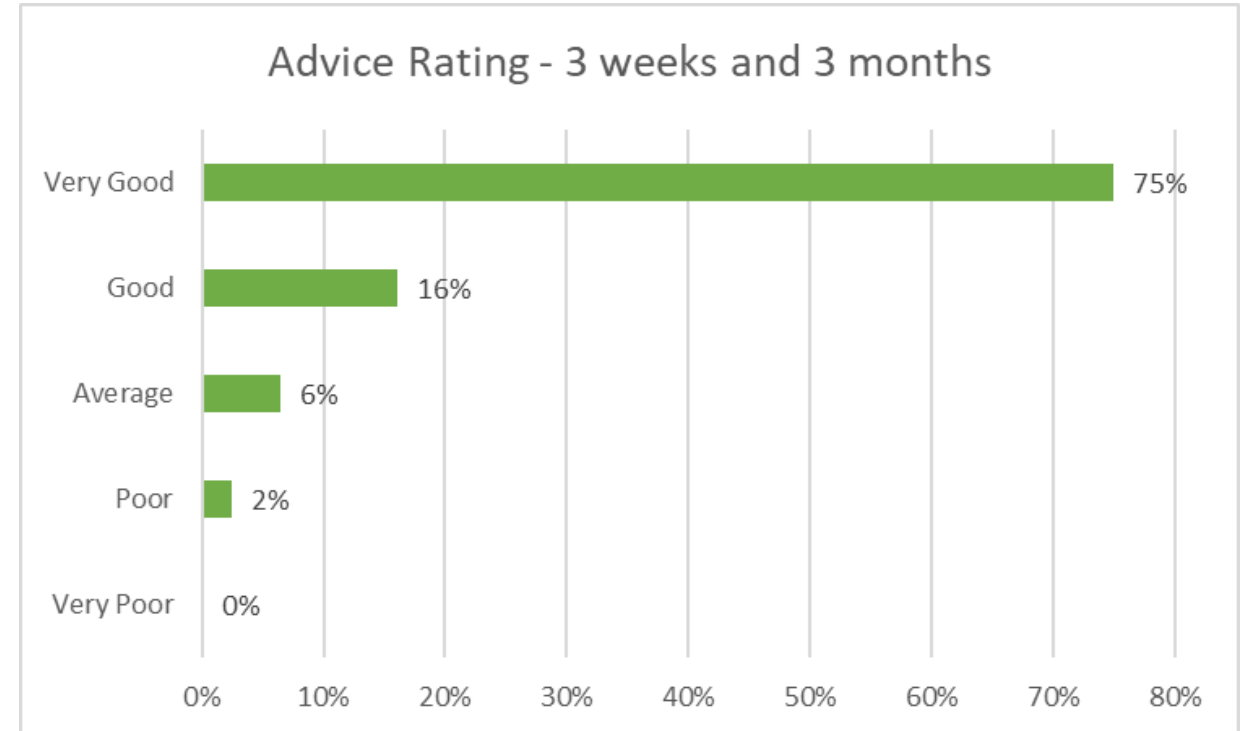
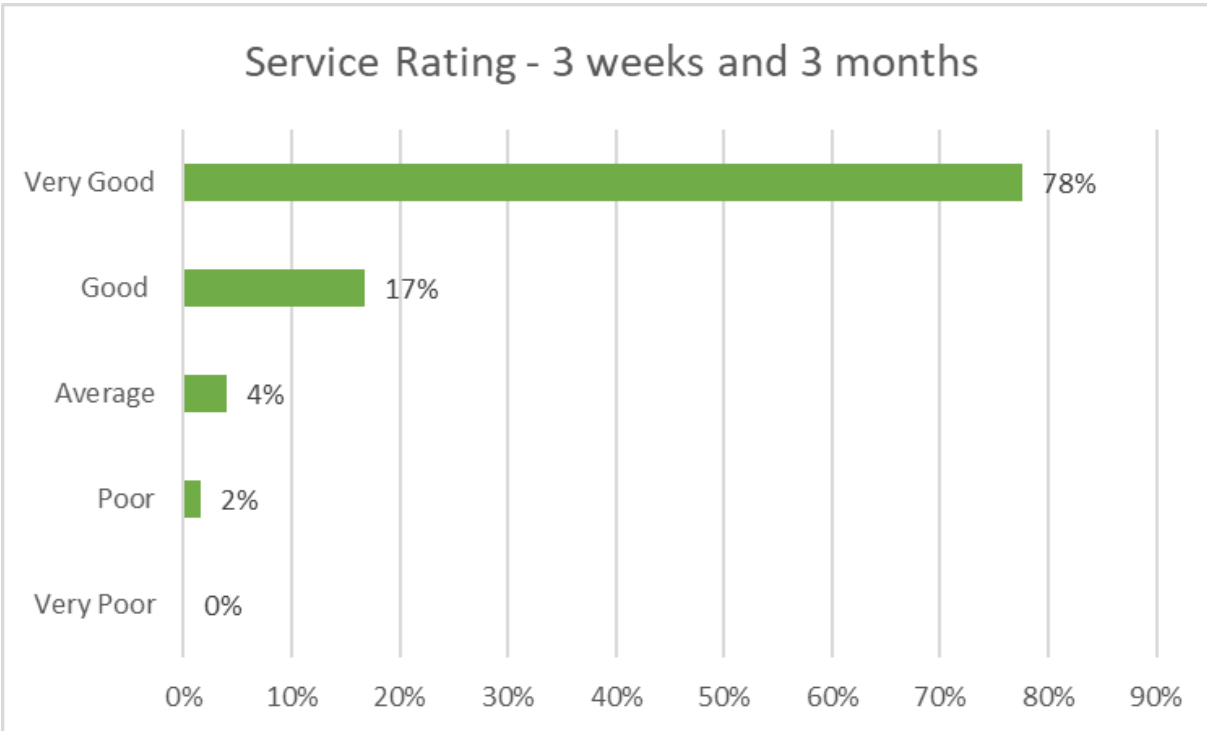
Relationship after 3 weeks



Details in the answers for the 'Very Poor' relationship don't suggest any reasons. May have been a wrongly selected answer as the rest of the form appears ok and the dog is still in the home.



Service and Advice Ratings



Reasons given for 'Poor' ratings

- “I did ask for help early on but non was forthcoming!”
- “Since becoming our dog and being under our supervision, Prince has drastically changed behaviour and habits.”
- “Freda’s fact sheet and past behaviour of events does not in our opinion reflect her behaviour with us even in the short time. Her bite and previous dog association report needed to explain further the situation she was placed in and taking owners past skills in handling her breed.”



Is there any other information that would have been helpful to you?

- Better information on handling some of his behaviours that were being exhibited at the time he was with you. Unsure whether the full picture was given as many of the behaviours he has shown he has done since we had him. The techniques we've been given does not always work.
- More about Pickle's history
- **Multiple mentions of more information about the dogs behaviour with other dogs**
- Secure fields suitable for letting Edna run or further info on the breed itself – however can easily google both of these!
- We probably wouldn't have listened because we wanted her so much, and maybe you weren't even fully aware, but her reaction to other dogs when out on a walk is very extreme - this could possibly have been stressed a bit more as walks were a nightmare in the beginning and are far from stress free even now. Fortunately, in the house and garden she's an absolute dream so that makes everything else worthwhile.
- We hadn't considered that Rosie would have difficulty with eating her food and this cause us some worry but she has continued to settle and so eating food other than treats is steadily improving.
- The health problems I was not aware of
- We were not advised about his loud wail when he hears a sudden noise! Everybody takes cover!



Is there any other information that would have been helpful to you?

- I think I wasn't quite prepared for the total loss of my own privacy but it's a process and once we start separation training in earnest it'll hopefully help. Bramble has had a sleepover with friends and their dogs last Saturday which went very well and gave me a necessary break. She will be staying with those friends for a week when I have to go to the South of France this coming Sunday.
- We think it would of been useful to know if he presented with any chewing or wood related liking as it has been hard to get over this
- Having a single point of contact, virtually every communication we had was from a different person.
- Dottie was given her first jabs, we have had to pay £44 for her second lot of jabs. It would have been better if she had received both at Wood Green as this was a cost that we were not expecting.
- Slightly more information on his past. e.g. Was he a 'working dog' , how much previous training has he had. He seems to know things like 'roll over' 'shake hands'. Any strange or unusual behaviours?
- More information to cope with biting / mouthing
- The gender of the previous owner
- Yes, I did ask for the pedigree of the dogs, and was told someone would look into getting them, and then they would get back to me, so far silence. I am not sure which dog is the cross, and which the pure blood, hence the request for the pedigree.
- I think being told more about her medical history ie be that she's sensitive to NSAIDs should have been flagged to us. Also more info about her behaviour ie she attacks the hoover and that she wasn't properly toilet trained. Not that we wouldn't have had her but I think it would have been useful to know.



Rehoming pack

Rating	Very Poor	Poor	Average	Good	Very Good
Percentage of responses	1%	0%	7%	25%	67%

Here are some of the comments:

- “The pack is very useful, we even sometimes refer to it now”
- “I guess it’s what we would expect when re-homing”
- “Everything is very useful and still being used and enjoyed”
- “It tells me all I want and need to know”
- “The pack is very useful especially as this is our first dog and we weren’t sure where to start”
- “The rehoming pack was extremely informational and helped a lot initially”
- “We couldn’t believe how many things we were given, it is absolutely fantastic and so helpful”
- “It is obvious to see the professionalism that your staff have and show towards animals and new owners”
- “It was put together with a LOT of thought”
- “Rosie has used everything included in the pack”
- “Suzy loves her kong, the recall lead has been a real benefit, in fact we were really pleased with the pack”
- “The contents were all helpful and the right size for Emily, we have found them all useful and use on a daily basis”
- “Very informative. We are dog owners already and there are bits in there that we were never told.”

*Very Poor score given because they didn’t get one (Prince’s fosterer)



Is there anything else you wish you'd known?

This was asked at the 3 day and 3 month check in

Not everyone answered – this might be because there answer was no?

Of the answers provided many respondents said there wasn't really anything else they wish they'd known and several focused on not knowing how much joy it would bring or how delightful their new dog is.

Some other key themes included;

- More information on training or particular behaviour issues e.g. separation anxiety and dog reactivity
- Toileting habits e.g. not toileting when on lead
- More information about how the dog travels in the car
- How overwhelming and emotional it can be (all at 3 days)
 - “How overwhelming it can feel to adopt especially when you have never had dogs before. However, Wood Green has been fantastic”
 - “I wasn't prepared for the initial settling period. I felt as though I had to be doing something all the time and that's how it was going to be for the rest of our lives together but since that has passed everything else has been significantly easier.”
 - “Just that it would be emotional!”
- More information about foods that the dog will eat



What is the best thing about welcoming a rescue dog into your family?



“Affection, making progress together, companionship”

“Companionship and another “body” round the house. He is very affectionate. We were a tiny family of two “oldies”. Now we are two oldies and one youngster.”

“Freddie!! He has brought sunshine, laughter and a bright business into our home! He has also brought new life into our existing wee dog who had been grieving the loss of her previous companion”

“Jonah has brought so much joy to us as a family. We seem to spend more time together now that we have Jonah than we used too. We love to see his grinning face when we take him on his walks.

“Knowing that life for them is now going to be a happy one, filled with lots of love. “



Key takeaways

- Welcoming a dog to their home is easier or significantly easier than many of the adopters were expecting
- Ratings of advice given, service received and the rehoming packs are positive
- Behaviour on walks seems to be the area where advice is most sought
- Even with the rehoming pack and advice given surrounding enrichment feeding, many adopters end up using only 1 feeding method
- 1/5 of dogs are still having toileting incidents in the home between 3 weeks and 3 months post-rehoming
- Resource guarding doesn't appear to be a big issue for dogs in homes
- Adopters flagged how overwhelming and emotional the process of adopting a rescue dog can be and how they weren't aware of this before

What next?

- Share with appropriate teams to help inform operational practices
- Revisit the data set in 3 months time
 - Repeat same measures
 - Consider evaluating changes across the 3 time periods for individual dogs

