



**Dogs Trust  
&  
Knowes Housing  
Community Event Summary  
18/07/2018**

# Results

On Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> July we carried out a Responsible Dog Ownership roadshow with Knows Housing Association in Skypoint Community Centre, Faifley.

Our remit is to work with local authorities, stakeholders and the general public across Scotland to address dog-related problems, deliver general awareness campaigns, work within communities, gather baseline data and carry out monitoring and evaluation on a wide range of issues that directly impact on the welfare of dogs across Scotland.

By working together we are able to promote all aspects of responsible dog ownership including:

- The change in the law regarding compulsory microchipping.
- The legal requirement of keeping the microchip owner information up to date.
- The legal requirement for collar and tag.
- The legal requirement to pick up after your dog.
- The importance of proper training/socialisation to prevent anti-social behaviour.
- How to be safe around dogs.
- The importance of the five freedoms (Freedom from hunger and thirst; discomfort; pain, injury or disease; fear and distress and freedom to express normal behaviour.)

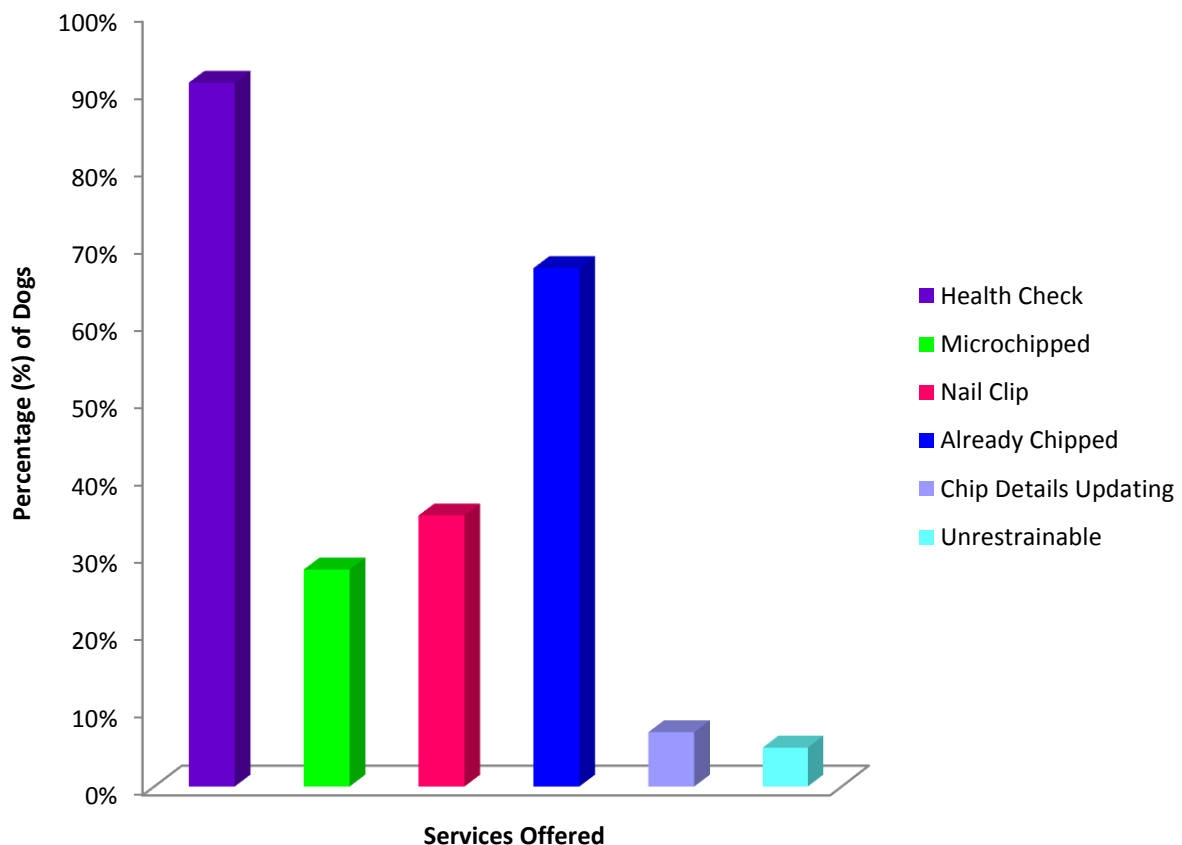
On the day, our Dogs Trust Veterinary Nurse was able to offer free microchipping, nail clipping and carry out a general assessment of a dogs health and where appropriate advise owners if they should visit their vet.

The team were also on hand to provide health & wellbeing advice including promoting the importance of:

- Taking out pet insurance
- Registering with a vet
- Neutering
- Maintaining a healthy weight
- Recognising signs of ill health
- Regular flea/worm treatment
- Annual vaccinations
- Regular dental checks

## At The Roadshow

During the Dogs Trust Responsible Dog Ownership Roadshow, the team met a total of 43 dogs and 62 members of the public. The most popular service on the day proved to be health checks, with 39 dogs (91%) getting a health check from the team (Figure 1). Despite the law change in April 2016, which saw microchipping become compulsory, microchipping was a popular service on the day with 12 dogs (28%) being chipped by the team (Figure 1). A further 2 dogs (5%) could not be chipped as they were unrestrainable and the remaining 29 dogs (67%) were already microchipped (Figure 1). Out of the 29 dogs that were already chipped, 6 (14%) needed their microchip details updating and they were informed of how to do this by the Dogs Trust team (Figure 1). Nail clipping proved to be the second most popular service on the day with 15 dogs (35%) having their nails clipped by the team (Figure 1).

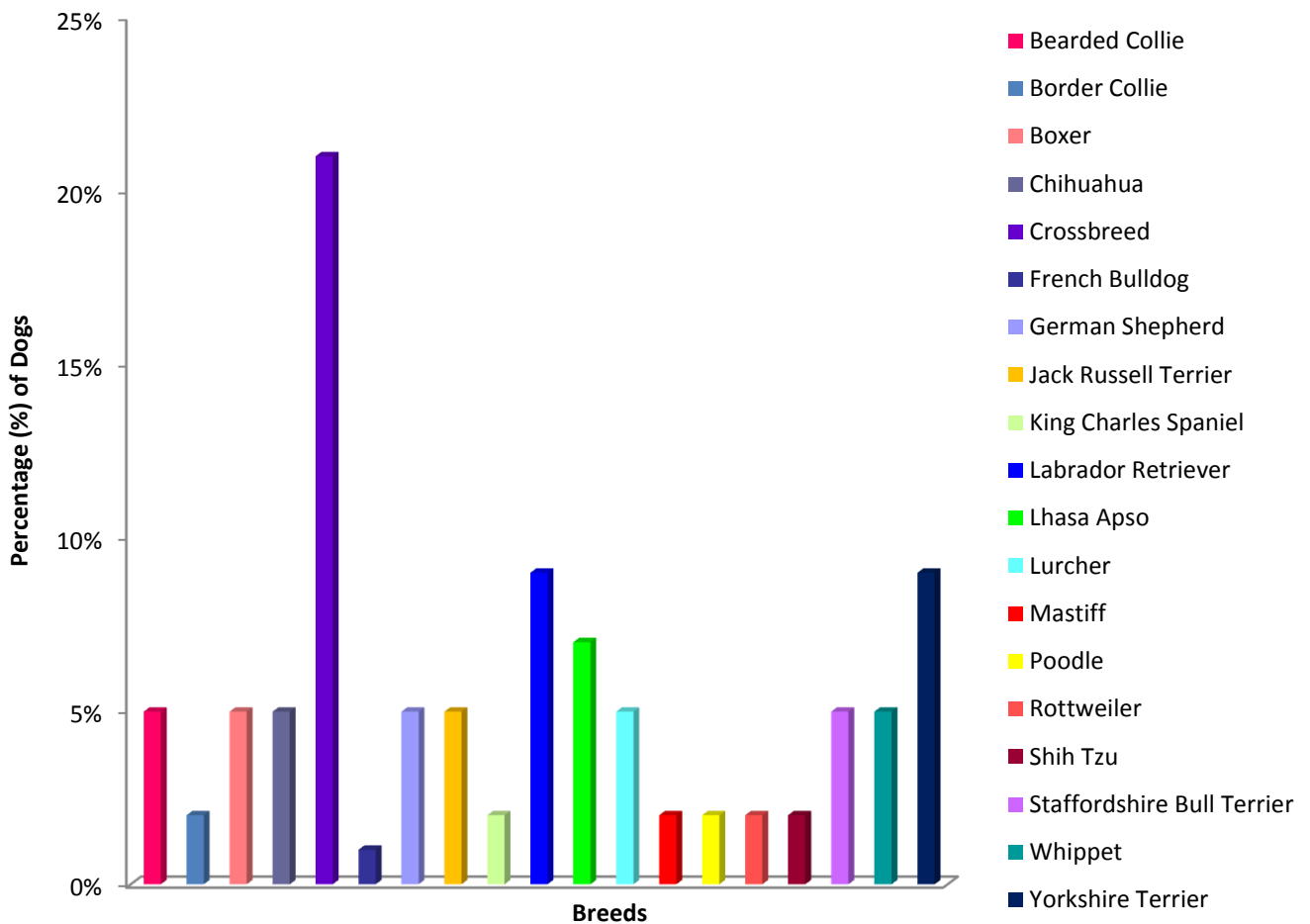


**Figure 1: Percentage of dogs who received a Microchip, Health Check, Nail Clip or updated their Microchip Details**

In total, 19 different dog breeds attended the event in Faifley (Table 1; Figure 2). Of all the breeds that attended the event, Crossbreeds were the most commonly seen breed, with 9 dogs (21%) of this breed coming to see the team (Table 1; Figure 2).

**Table 1: Number of Dogs by Breed who attended the Event**

Breed	Number That Attended
Bearded Collie	2
Border Collie	1
Boxer	2
Chihuahua	2
Crossbreed	9
French Bulldog	1
German Shepherd	2
Jack Russell Terrier	2
King Charles Spaniel	1
Labrador Retriever	4
Lhasa Apso	3
Lurcher	2
Mastiff	1
Poodle	1
Rottweiler	1
Shih Tzu	1
Staffordshire Bull Terrier	2
Whippet	2
Yorkshire Terrier	4



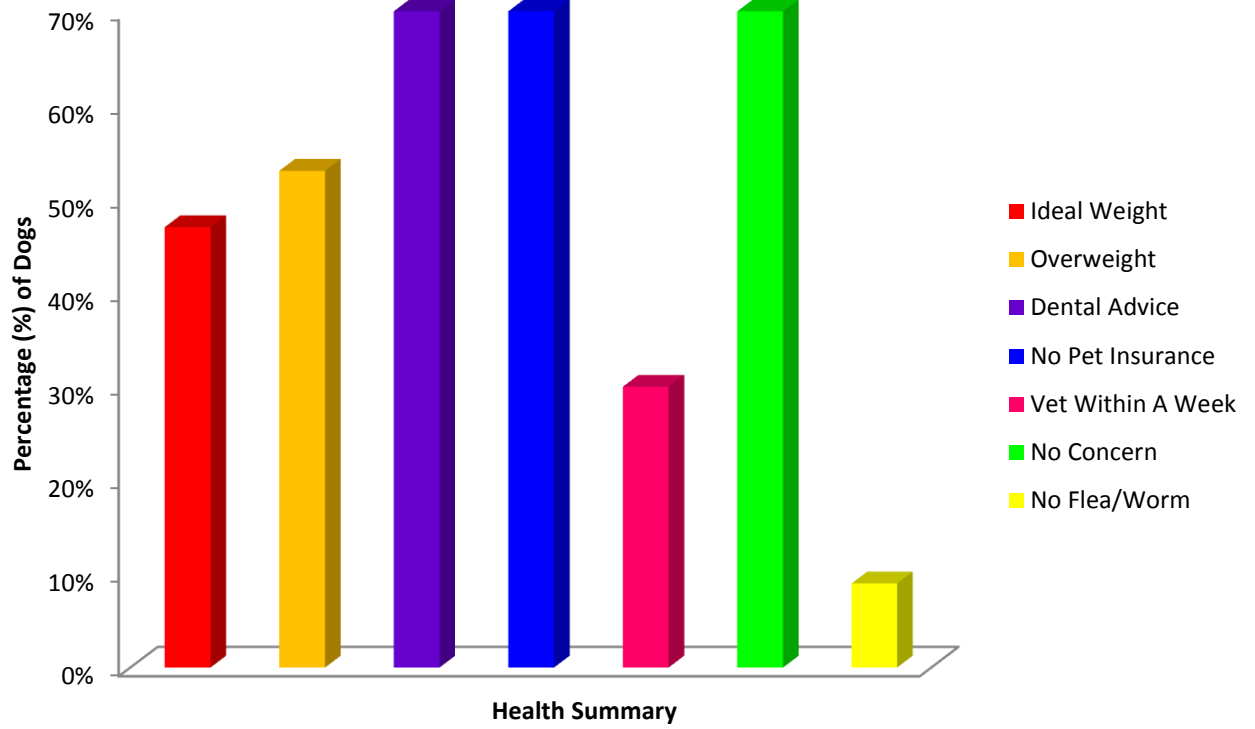
**Figure 2: Dog breeds present at the event at Faifley and their percentage (%) of all breeds seen**

Since 1992 it has been compulsory for any dog in a public place to wear both a collar and an ID tag, which should include the owners name, telephone number and home address. At the event in Faifley, 38 dogs (88%) were not wearing an ID tag on their collar. Owners were subsequently provided with a temporary Dogs Trust ID tag, as well as being informed of the legal requirement for both collars and ID tags and the importance and relevance of this legislation.

There are numerous and considerable health benefits for neutered dogs. Therefore, educating owners on the importance and benefits of neutering is another main objective of the Dogs Trust team. Out of all the dogs who visited us in Faifley, 10 (23%) were already neutered, whilst 31 (72%) were not neutered. Out of all these dogs, 12 owners (28%) did not want to neuter their dogs and their reasons for this varied, with 4 owners (9%) claiming it reduced their dogs man/womanhood, 4 owners (9%) wanting to breed from their dog and a further 4 owners (9%) believing it to be cruel. All owners were informed of the benefits of neutering and were provided with the relevant information on neutering. The Scotland Campaigns team has recently launched a subsidised neutering scheme whereby owners of benefits, with specific breeds of dog, can take their dog to a participating vet and have their dog neutered for £35. All owners who qualified for this scheme were informed of it and given relevant information on the scheme. In total, 13 dogs (30%) were referred to the Dogs Trust neutering scheme.

Out of the 43 dogs that attended the event, 30 (70%) did not require a visit to their vet (Figure 3). However, 13 dogs (30%) were advised to visit their vet within the week with health issues (Figure 3). Dog obesity has become a serious issue across the UK in recent years and is now a major canine care problem. At the event in Faifley, 20 dogs (47%) were believed to be of an ideal weight, whilst 23 dogs (53%) (Figure 3). Diet and nutritional information and advice was given to all of these dog owners in order to help them address any weight issues their dog was experiencing. Dental issues were a commonly seen issue on the day, with 30 dogs (70%) needing dental advice from the team (Figure 3).

Dogs Trust advocates the use of both flea and worm treatments as these parasites can cause dogs to suffer from certain illnesses. On the day it was found that 4 dogs (9%) did not give their dog regular flea and worm treatment (Figure 3). These owners were therefore informed of the importance of these treatments and were guided as to how to administer these products and where they could purchase them from. Pet insurance is also an integral part of responsible dog ownership and in Faifley, it was found that 30 dogs (70%) were not covered by pet insurance (Figure 3). These owners were therefore informed of the benefits of pet insurance and its potential to help both them and their dog with veterinary costs.



**Figure 3: Health Summary of Dogs That Attended the Dogs Trust RDO Event in Faifley**