



REVIEW OF ANIMAL WELFARE, KENNELLING & PROTECTION OF PETS

Ensuring humane care and safety
for companion animals



OVERVIEW

Council Responsibilities

The Council balances statutory and discretionary duties to protect animal welfare and public safety effectively.

Service Pressures and Sustainability

Increasing demand and rising costs create pressure, making sustainability essential for ongoing animal welfare services.

Commitment to High Standards

The Council maintains high animal care standards through external recognition and collaborative partnerships.

Future Challenges and Decision-Making

Identifying future challenges ensures informed decisions to keep services effective and aligned with corporate goals.

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Role of Animal Welfare Services

Animal welfare services protect animals and the public through statutory and broader welfare duties.

Complex and Sensitive Work

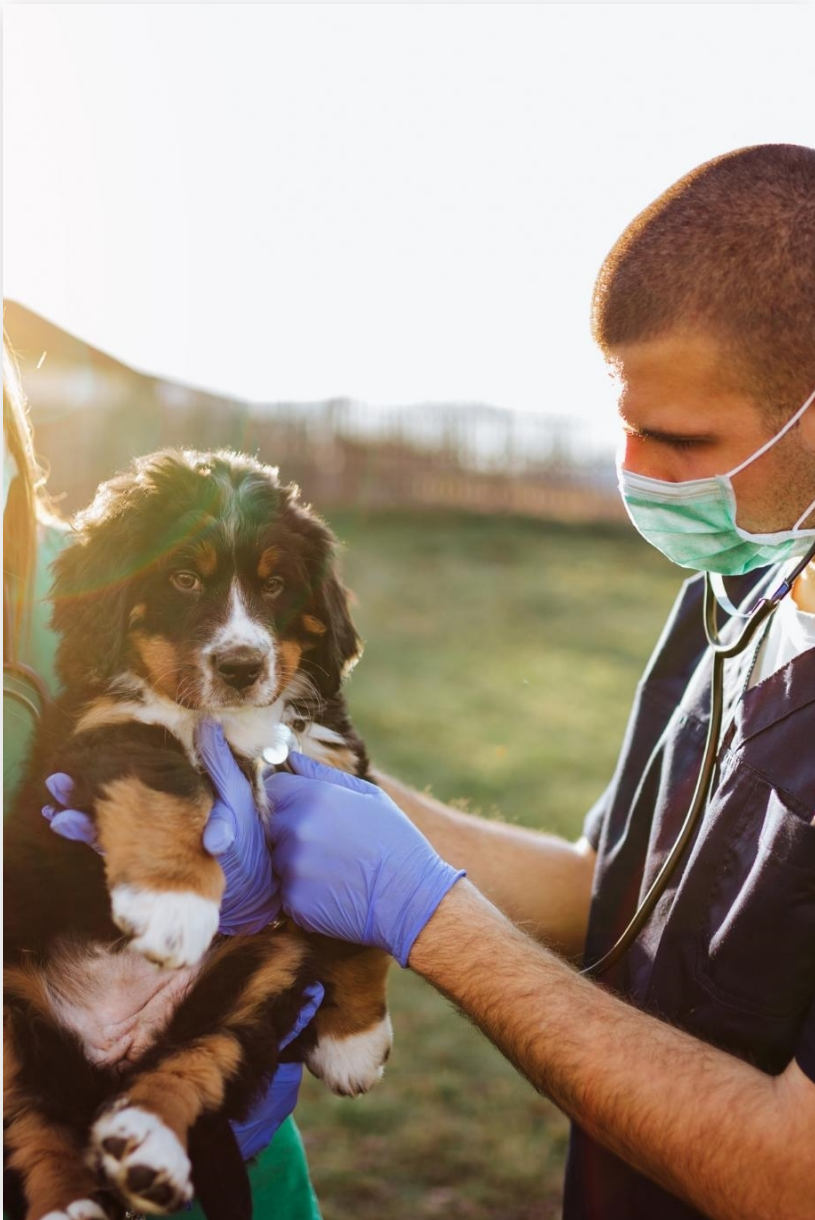
Work involves vulnerable individuals, multi-agency coordination, and handling neglected or dangerous animals.

Rising Demand and Challenges

Increased demand reflects changes in pet ownership, cost pressures, and reduced rehoming capacity.

Need for Sustainable Services

Planning is crucial to maintain lawful, effective, and compassionate animal welfare services for the future.





STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

Supporting Healthy Communities

Animal welfare services contribute to creating healthy, resilient communities by managing stray and dangerous animals effectively.

Integration with Public Health

Animal welfare intersects with public health, community safety, and social care to promote overall wellbeing in the borough.

Risk Reduction and Confidence

Effective animal welfare fosters public confidence by reducing risks of injury or distress related to animals in the community.

Supporting Vulnerable Individuals

The service supports vulnerable individuals who struggle to care for pets, enhancing social care and wellbeing outcomes.



AIM OF THE REVIEW

Sustainability and Care Quality

Assess long-term sustainability of animal welfare and kennelling services while maintaining high standards of care.

Operational and Financial Assessment

Examine financial pressures and operational capacity to handle growing demand and service complexity effectively.

Improvement and Innovation

Identify opportunities for efficiency, innovation, and improvement without compromising animal welfare or statutory duties.

Governance and Community Alignment

Ensure the service is resilient, well-governed, and aligned with the needs of the community it serves.



CORE FUNCTIONS

Stray Dog Control

The service manages statutory stray dog control to ensure public safety and animal welfare in the community.

Welfare Enforcement

Enforcement of animal welfare laws involves cooperation with police, vets, and charities to protect animals in complex cases.

Kennelling Services

Provision and commissioning of kennelling services provide safe shelter for seized or stray animals requiring care.

Collaborative Case Management

Officer collaboration with multiple agencies ensures effective response to complex animal welfare situations.



STRAY DOG PRIORITY

Stray Dog Control Importance

Stray dog control is essential for reducing risks and preventing aggression and injuries in the community.

Reuniting Lost Pets

Effective services reunite lost dogs with owners, minimizing distress for animals and residents.

Humane Care for Unreunited Dogs

When reunification fails, dogs are cared for safely and humanely to protect their welfare.

Community Safety and Confidence

Effective stray dog management supports public confidence and promotes community safety.



SERVICE STRENGTHS

High Performance Record

The service consistently achieves high standards, demonstrating professionalism and expertise in animal welfare.

Recognition and Awards

Achieving RSPCA Gold and Platinum status reflects the service's sustained excellence and external validation.

Stakeholder Confidence

Recognition reassures residents and stakeholders about the high standard of animal care provided.

Challenges Ahead

Maintaining strengths amid financial constraints and increasing pressures is vital for ongoing success.

DEMAND AND TRENDS

Increasing Service Demand

The service receives around 700 requests yearly, with rising demand and complexity.

Complex Case Challenges

Cases demand more time and resources due to kennelling, legal, and safeguarding needs.

National Trends Impact

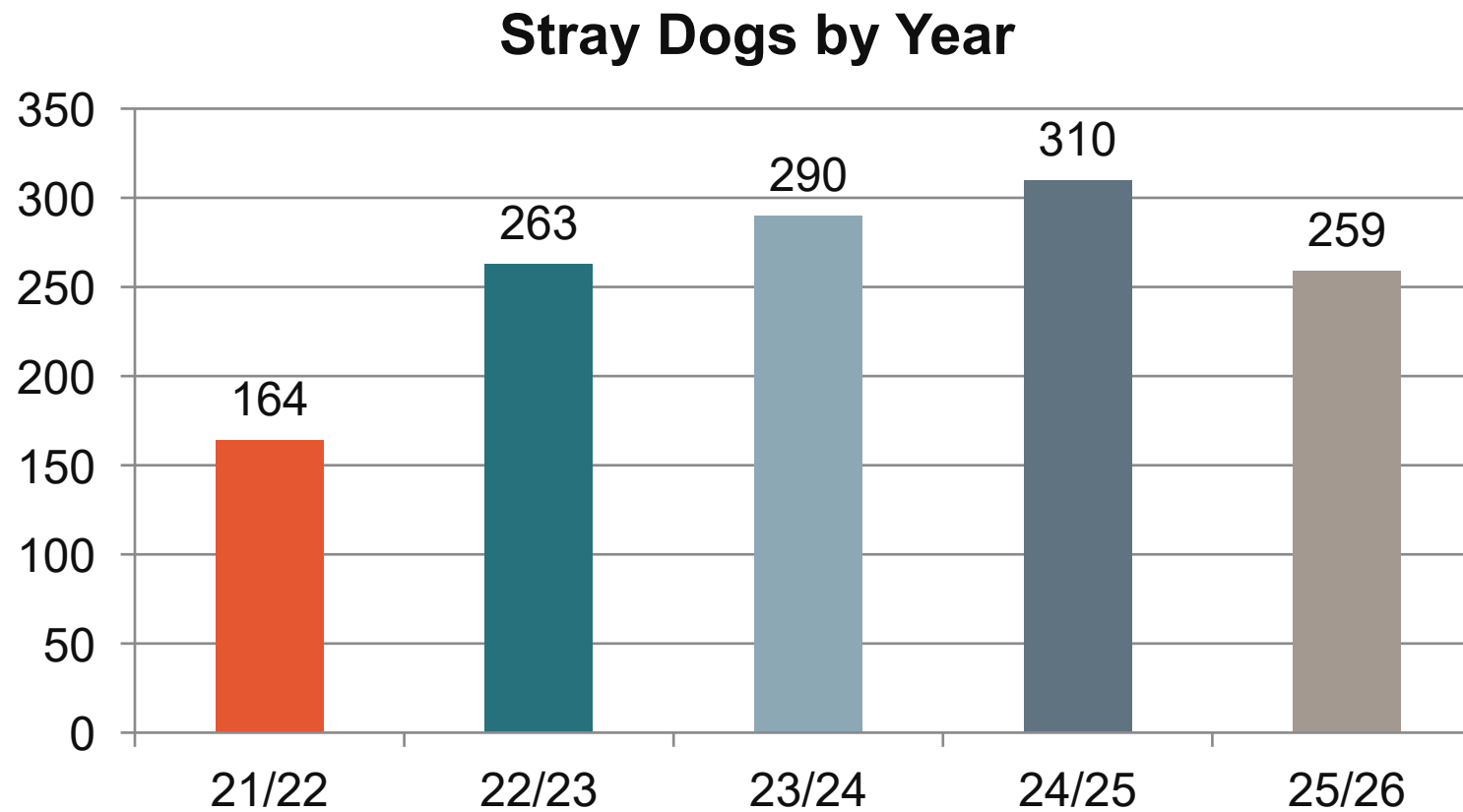
Challenges stem from changing pet ownership, reduced rehoming, and increased costs.

Planning for Sustainability

Understanding trends aids in resource allocation and developing preventative partnerships.

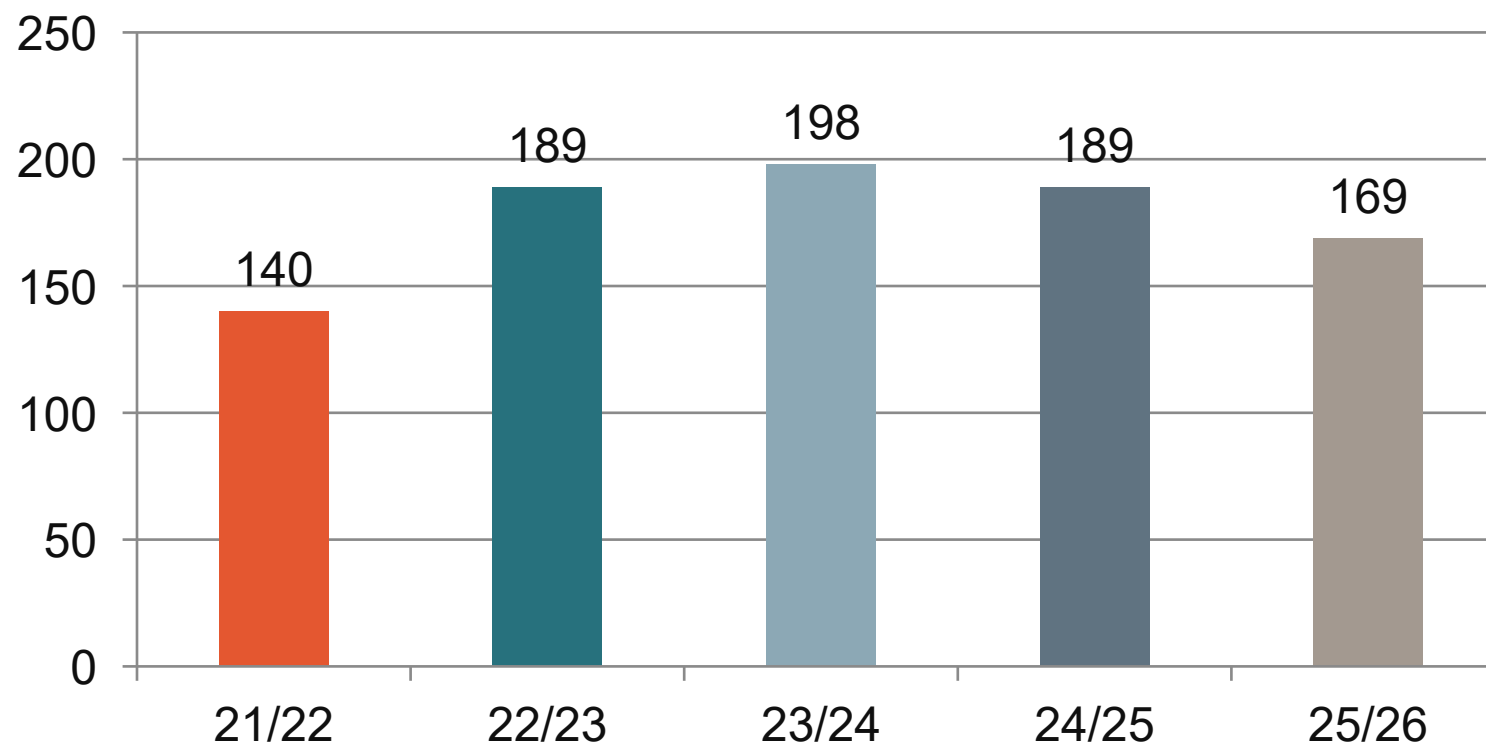


TOTAL STRAY DOGS BY YEAR



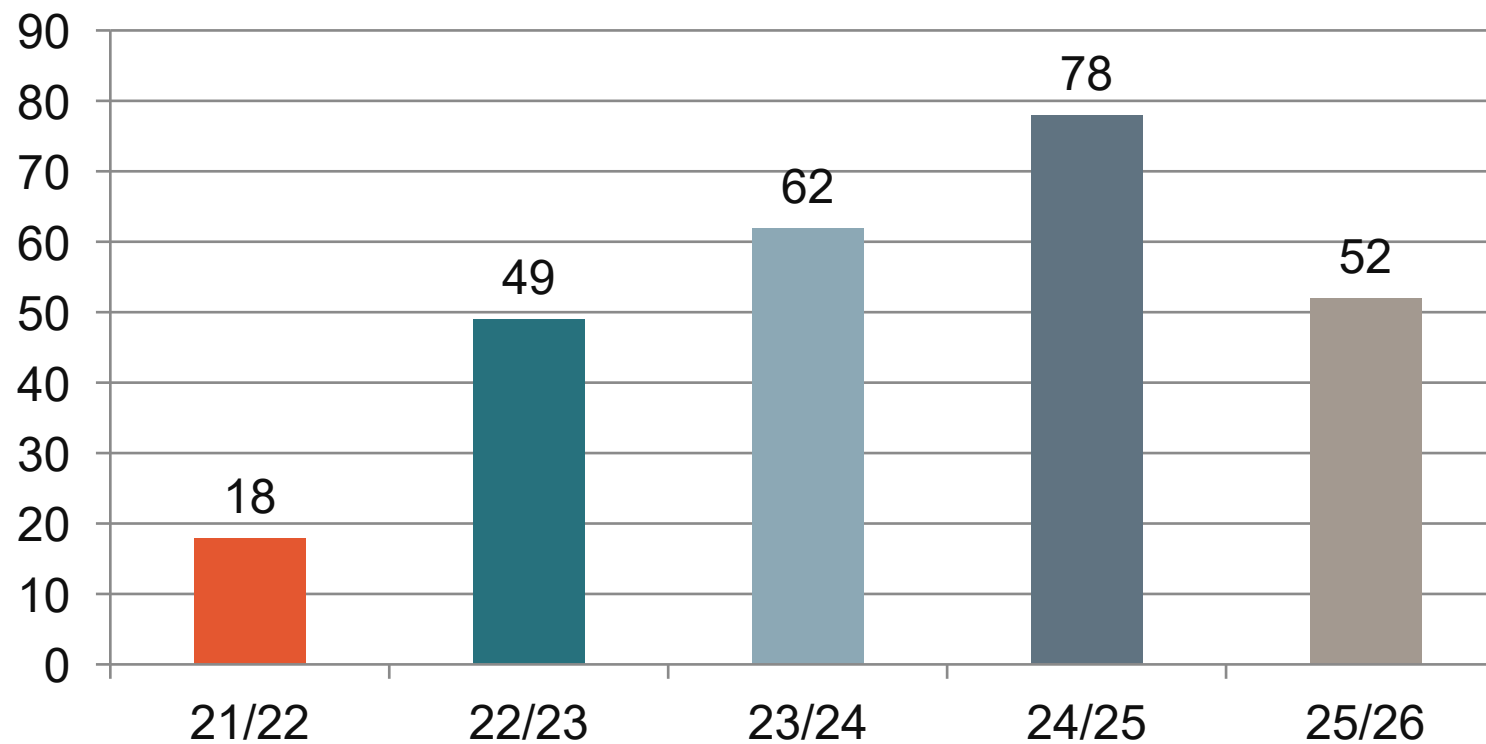
DOGS RETURNED TO OWNER

Returned to Owner

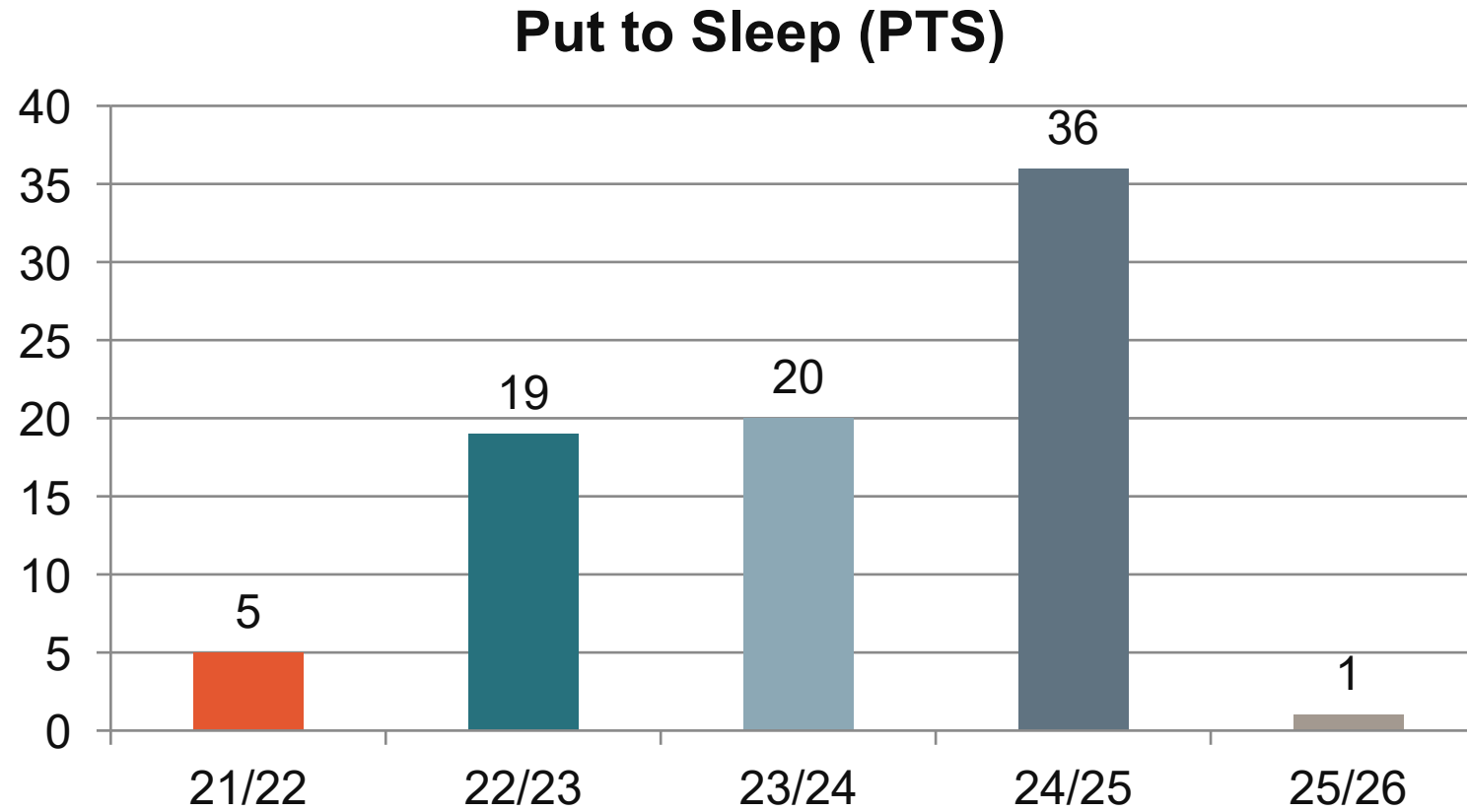


DOGS SENT TO DOGS TRUST

Dogs Trust Rehomed



DOGS PUT TO SLEEP





KENNELLING PRESSURES

Extended Kennelling Duration

Animals often stay in kennels longer due to limited long-term provision availability, increasing pressure on resources.

Rising Operational Costs

Operational and veterinary expenses are increasing, creating financial challenges for managing kennelling services effectively.

Sustainability and Welfare

Improving kennelling arrangements is essential to ensure sustainability and maintain high animal welfare standards.



KEY CHALLENGES

Financial Sustainability

Maintaining adequate funding is crucial to support ongoing animal welfare operations and services.

Capacity and Staffing Pressures

Limited capacity and staff shortages create challenges in effectively managing animal welfare cases.

Ongoing Training and Development

Continuous training is essential for officers to handle complex and sensitive animal welfare situations.

Partnership and Collaboration

Collaborative efforts among multiple organizations are key to addressing animal welfare challenges effectively.

STAKEHOLDERS AND PARTNERS

Diverse Stakeholders

Animal welfare services involve officers, police, local authorities, vets, and charities working together.

Collaboration Benefits

Effective partner collaboration helps manage demand, share expertise, and provide proper animal care.

Public Engagement

Engaging the public promotes responsible pet ownership and helps prevent animal abandonment.

Strengthening Relationships

Reviewing and improving stakeholder relationships supports better future animal welfare service delivery.





OUTCOMES AND NEXT STEPS

Continuous Improvement Focus

The review targets clear outcomes that foster ongoing improvement and sustainability in animal welfare services.

Strengthening Partnerships

Efforts to build stronger collaborations aim to increase efficiency and enhance community engagement.

Evidence-Based Decisions

Findings and recommendations will inform Cabinet decisions in January 2027 for future service direction.

Protecting and Supporting Communities

The review ensures animal welfare services continue to protect animals and support local communities effectively.