



Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) Dog Survey

The survey ran from 18th September to 30th October 2023

855 responses were received.

Paper surveys have been transcribed into the results.

There was also one emailed response which will be passed to the Environmental Protection team for consideration when analysing the results.

All additional comments provided where the questions allowed for further text to be provided have been forwarded to the Environmental Protection team separately for consideration. These have not been included in this summary due to the large quantity involved.

About you

Are you a dog-owner? Yes 549 (64%), No 306 (36%)

Are you answering this survey as (select all that apply)

- A representative of an organisation 4
- A resident of North Devon 790
- A dog-walking business operator in North Devon 19
- A visitor (leisure/work) to North Devon 55
- A Councillor in North Devon (town/parish/district/county) 10
- Other 25

Dog Fouling

The current PSPO requires the clearing up and appropriate disposal of dog fouling in public spaces. Do you think this should be retained?

Yes	851	(99.53%)
No	1	(0.12%)
Don't Know	3	(0.35%)

Do you agree that North Devon Council should be providing more delegated authority to third parties to help improve the efficiency and effectiveness of enforcing measures to prevent dog-fouling?

Agree	612	(71.58%)
Disagree	96	(11.23%)
Neither agree nor disagree	120	(14.04%)
Don't know	27	(3.16%)

Lead requirements

The current PSPO requires a dog to be on a lead, either by direction by an authorised officer, or when entering a specified area. Do you think this should be retained?

Yes	770	(90.06%)
No	51	(5.96%)
Don't know	34	(3.98%)

Dogs on lead by direction allows an authorised officer to require the person in charge of a dog to put it on a lead in any public space if they believe there is a potential threat, harm or risk. Do you think this should be retained?

Yes	814	(95.20%)
No	27	(3.16%)
Don't know	14	(1.64%)

Do you support an expansion in the number of authorised officers who would be able to instruct a dog to be placed on a lead?

Support	592	(69.24%)
Do not support	137	(16.02%)
Don't know	126	(14.74%)

There are only a very limited number of locations and areas where dogs are required to be kept on a lead at all times. Please indicate whether you think this should be retained at the following locations

Croyde Bay dunes (between 1st May and 30th September)

Retain	562	(65.73%)
Review	236	(27.60%)
Don't Know	57	(6.67%)

Municipal cemeteries, churchyards, and graveyards

Retain	803	(93.92%)
Review	44	(5.15%)
Don't Know	8	(0.94%)

Would you support an extension for 'Dogs on lead' in the following areas?

Council-owned car parks

Support	716	(83.74%)
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Not Support	109	(12.75%)
Don't Know	30	(3.51%)

Council-owned allotments

Support	610	(71.35%)
Not Support	125	(14.62%)
Don't Know	120	(14.04%)

Ornamental and formal gardens

Support	712	(83.27%)
Not Support	105	(12.28%)
Don't Know	38	(4.44%)

Footpaths around lakes and ponds

Support	442	(51.70%)
Not Support	354	(41.40%)
Don't Know	59	(6.90%)

Under these restrictions, the maximum length of a lead is currently stipulated as two metres (six-feet six inches). We are considering reducing the lead length to 1.5 metres (four-feet eleven inches) to ensure tighter control of a dog and the protection of pedestrians, cyclists, dogs, or other animals, as well as the environment. Do you support this proposal?

Support	506	(59.18%)
Don't Support	314	(36.73%)
Don't know	35	(4.09%)

Where there are high incidences of dog-related anti-social behaviour or fouling this would be referred to as a 'Hotspot'. Do you support the proposal of imposing temporary restrictions of 'dogs on lead' in such an area if standard interventions are failing to have an effect?

Support	569	(66.55%)
Don't Support	198	(23.16%)
Don't know	88	(10.29%)

As you have confirmed your support for the above, please confirm what you think would be an appropriate length of time for a temporary restriction to be imposed.

1 month	82	(14.44%)
2 months	43	(7.57%)
3 months	108	(19.01%)
At the Council's discretion	279	(49.12%)
Other	56	(9.86%)

Dog Exclusions

The current PSPO excludes dogs from a limited number of public areas. These are clearly marked 'No Dogs' (or have signage/symbols to that effect).

Would you like the following areas to have this restriction retained?

Enclosed Childrens' Play Areas

Retain	821	(96.02%)
Review	30	(3.51%)
Don't Know	4	(0.47%)

Combe Martin Beach (Between 1st May and 30th September)

Retain	496	(58.01%)
Review	286	(33.45%)
Don't Know	73	(8.54%)

Land used as High Tide Roosting sites (Between 1st October and 31st March)

Retain	670	(78.36%)
Review	133	(15.56%)
Don't Know	52	(6.08%)

Designated Sports Pitches

Retain	738	(86.32%)
Review	102	(11.93%)
Don't Know	15	(1.75%)

Croyde Beach (Between 1st May and 30th September)

Retain	517	(60.47%)
Review	273	(31.93%)
Don't Know	65	(7.60%)

Where there are high incidences of dog related anti-social behaviour or fouling this would be referred to as a 'Hotspot'. Do you support the proposal of imposing temporary restrictions of 'Dog Exclusion' in such an area if standard interventions are failing to have an effect, and a temporary restriction for "dogs on a lead" has not brought about a change in behaviour?

Support	503	(58.83%)
Don't Support	258	(30.18%)
Don't Know	94	(10.99%)

As you have confirmed your support for the above, please confirm what you think would be an appropriate length of time for a temporary restriction to be imposed. (501 responded)

1 Month	65	(12.97%)
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2 Months	28	(5.59%)
3 Months	103	(20.56%)
At the Council's discretion	258	(51.50%)
Other	47	(9.38%)

New Proposed Limits

We are considering setting a limit on the maximum number of dogs ONE PERSON can walk at any time. There are concerns that it becomes increasingly difficult to manage and scrutinise the behaviour as the numbers of dogs increase. What do you think is reasonable?

3 dogs per person	388	(45.38%)
4 dogs per person	235	(27.49%)
5 dogs per person	31	(3.63%)
6 dogs per person	122	(14.27%)
Don't know	79	(9.24%)

We are considering a limit to the maximum number of dogs which can be exercised 'off lead' or on extendable leads at any time in the restricted area. This does not mean those under 'immediate control and close control'. The restriction is being considered as monitoring behaviours and reacting to triggers becomes more challenging with a larger group of dogs. Do you support this restriction?

Yes	558	(65.26%)
No	183	(21.40%)
Don't Mind / ambivalent	41	(4.80%)
Don't know	73	(8.54%)

What do you feel would be the appropriate limit to the number of dogs which can be exercised 'off-lead' or on extendable leads at any time in a public space?

3 dogs	388	(73.35%)
4 dogs	110	(20.79%)
5 dogs	8	(1.51%)
6 dogs	23	(4.35%)

Paw Print Signage

Do you feel this signage would be appropriate and easy to understand?

Yes	756	(88.42%)
No	56	(6.55%)
Don't know	43	(5.03%)

Equality Information

Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 applies to public sector organisations, whereby Local Authorities must have due regard to the 8 protected characteristics (age, disability, sex, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion/belief, sexual orientation (and marriage and civil partnership in employment) in its decision making.

Not all questions were answered – percentages based on number who did respond

What is your age?

- 19 and under 2 (0.24%)
- 20 to 24 13 (1.53%)
- 25 to 34 49 (5.76%)
- 35 to 49 140 (16.47%)
- 50 to 64 334 (39.29%)
- 65 to 74 201 (23.65%)
- 75 to 84 79 (9.29%)
- 85 and over 4 (0.47%)
- Prefer not to say 28 (3.29%)

Do you consider yourself to have a disability (according to the Equality Act 2010)?

- No 722 (85.04%)
- Yes 77 (9.07%)
- Prefer not to say 50 (5.89%)

How would you describe your ethnicity?

- White 748 (87.90%)
- Prefer not to say 83 (9.75%)
- Asian, Asian British, or Asian Welsh 11 (1.29%)
- Mixed or multiple ethnic groups 5 (0.59%)
- Other ethnic group 4 (0.47%)

What is your religion or belief?

- No religion 411 (48.41%)
- Christian 294 (34.63%)
- Prefer not to say 121 (14.25%)
- Other religion 15 (1.77%)
- Buddhist 6 (0.71%)

- Jewish 1 (0.12%)
- Hindu 1 (0.12%)

Sex

- Female 519 (61.28%)
- Male 266 (31.40%)
- Prefer not to say 60 (7.08%)
- Other 2 (0.24%)

Please confirm if this is the same as registered at birth

- Yes 775 (91.93%)
- Prefer not to say 67 (7.95%)
- No 1 (0.12%)

Sexual orientation

- Straight or Heterosexual 645 (76.51%)
- Prefer not to say 168 (19.93%)
- Bisexual 12 (1.42%)
- Gay or Lesbian 11 (1.30%)
- Other 4 (0.47%)
- Pansexual 2 (0.24%)
- Other sexual orientation 1 (0.12%)

The results of the equality information responses will be considered alongside the census information for the North Devon Council area. Equality and diversity monitoring can help identify current and future needs, possible inequalities including problems accessing or using services and information, as well as checking that a cross-section of people have been reached and given their views. Results have been published in an anonymised way.

Please note that percentage figures provided are approximate and shown to up to two decimal places.