

Dog Control Orders 2012

Consultation Report October 2012

Epping Forest District Council
www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk



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1) Introduction

Dog Control Orders Survey

Following a decision by Cabinet on 23 April 2012 the Council carried out a consultation process on the introduction of Dog Control Orders in respect of dog fouling, putting and keeping a dog on the lead when directed to do so by an authorised officer and limiting the number of dogs which a person may take onto any public land to four

The proposals are to make it an offence to:

- Fail to remove dog faeces deposited on any public land within the district.
- Fail to put a dog on a lead when directed to do so by an authorised officer, on any public land within the district.
- Fail to limit the number of dogs, which a person may take onto public land within the district to four.

This report shows the results of an online survey and combined paper based survey.

Methodology

There was a total of 152 respondents to the the survey. The graphs and charts in the findings do not include 'no replies'. The profile questions were not compulsory although over a third of the respondents gave their name and address and other details. Below is a summary of the findings.

Summary

- 80% said that they agreed with the proposal to introduce a Dog Control Order to control dog fouling over the whole of the district, making it an offence to fail to pick up dog faeces deposited on any public land. 18% said no, 2% said they didn't know.
- Most respondents agreed with the proposal to introduce a Dog Control Order that allows an authorised officer to request a dog to be put on a lead on any public land (88%), 8% said no and 4% said they didn't know.

- The majority (74%), agreed with the proposal to introduce a Dog Control Order within the district that restricts the number of dogs a person can have in their control on any public land to four. 24% didn't agree and 2% didn't know.
- For the respondents who didn't agree to a restriction of four dogs per person in their control on public land, they were asked if there should be any restriction at all, the majority said yes (58%), 38% said 'No', and 4% said 'Didn't know'.
- For those respondents who agreed to the restriction but not four, 85% said fewer than four dogs is acceptable. 3% said 5 dogs, 8% said 6 dogs and 3% said 7 or more dogs.

Comments

We asked respondents if they had any other comments on the proposal to introduce a Dog Control Order to control dog fouling over the whole of the district, making it an offence to fail to pick up dog faeces deposited on any public land?" There were overall 131 comments mainly about enforcement issues, other animals, location and not enough bins.

When we asked for other comments on proposals to put dogs on a lead the comments were mainly about enforcement issues or that we should go further or we should use enforcement only within reasonable circumstances.

When asked about the acceptable number of dogs, some comments were about the behavior or dogs and owners, for example:

"The type of dogs, general behavior, the ability of the owners to control these dogs in all conditions need to be accessed. Therefore it needs a clear set of guidelines that are fair to the owners while not penalising them or their dogs."

A full list of comments can be seen in appendix 2.

2) Findings

We asked website users and residents to give their views about the proposed Dog Control Orders to gain an understanding of people’s opinion on the proposals.

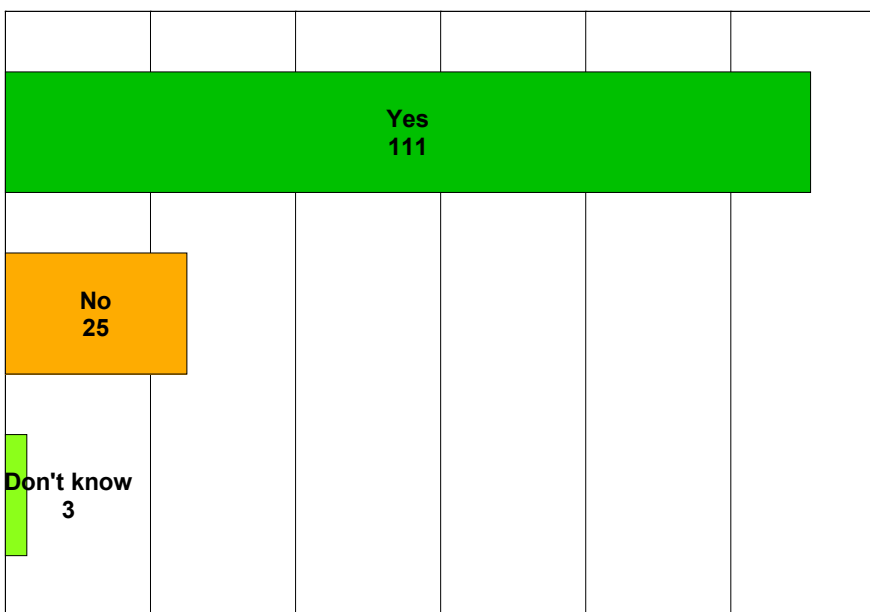
This consultation was recorded online via the council’s website. We asked respondents for their home postcode. We have given a list of these in appendix A. Any replies received by post were entered online.

Dog Control Order - Dog Fouling (Q1)

Figure 1. Base: 139 respondents.

We asked “ Do you agree with the proposal to introduce a Dog Control Order to control dog fouling over the whole of the district, making it an offence to fail to pick up dog faeces deposited on any public land?”

80% said that they agreed with the proposal to introduce a Dog Control Order to control dog fouling over the whole of the district, making it an offence to fail to pick up dog faeces deposited on any public land. 25, (18%) said ‘No’, to the dog control order. 3, (2%) answered ‘Don’t know’.



Comments (Q1a)

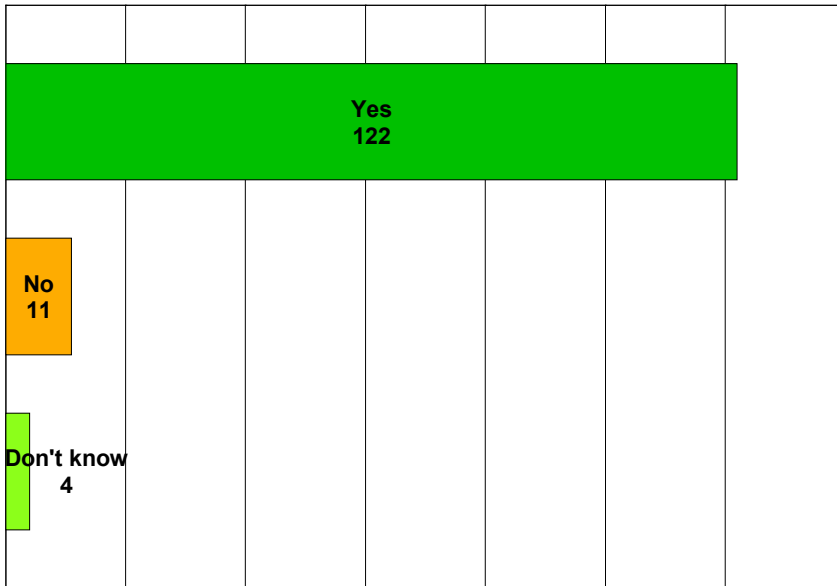
We asked respondents if they had any other comments for “Do you agree with the proposal to introduce a Dog Control Order to control dog fouling over the whole of the district, making it an offence to fail to pick up dog faeces deposited on any public land?”

There was a total of 40 comments. Most respondents agreed that in general the area should be kept clean of dog mess. There were concerns about enforcement and how likely would it be to manage or monitor the areas. With regard to the Forest, other animals leaving ‘deposits’ would also complicate the issue and wouldn’t it be more useful to provide more bins in the locations which would benefit from them.

Dog Control Orders - Dogs on a lead (Q2)

Figure 2. Base: 137 respondents.

We asked “Do you agree with the proposal to introduce a Dog Control Order that allows an authorised officer to request a dog to be put on a lead on any public land?” Most respondents agreed (88%), 8% said no and 4% said they didn’t know.



Comments (Q2a)

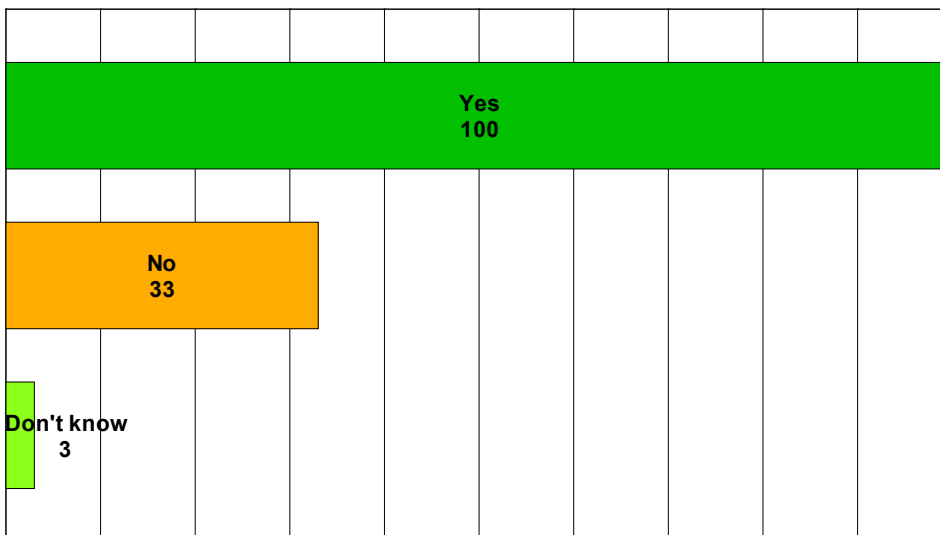
We asked respondents if they had any other comments.

Most respondents agreed that dogs should be put on a lead on public land if asked to do so and some thought the council should go further and ensure all dogs are on lead but some felt that this may be unenforceable, whilst others felt that only under certain circumstances this should be enforced.

Dog Control Orders - Restrict numbers to four? (Q3)

Figure 3. Base: 136 respondents.

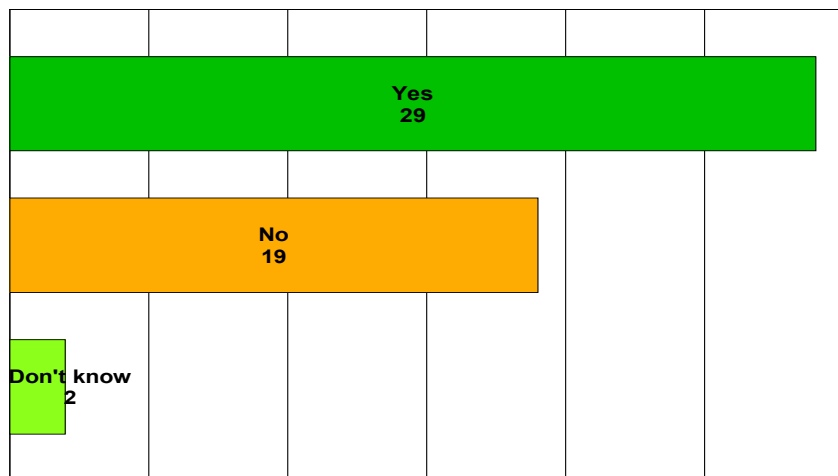
We asked “Do you agree with the proposal to introduce a Dog Control Order within the district that restricts the number of dogs a person can have in their control on any public land to four?”



Most respondents agreed with the proposal to restrict numbers to four dogs (74%), 24% said ‘no’ and 2% said they didn’t know.

Dog Control Orders Restrict the numbers of dogs at all? (Q4)

Figure 4. Base: 50 respondents.

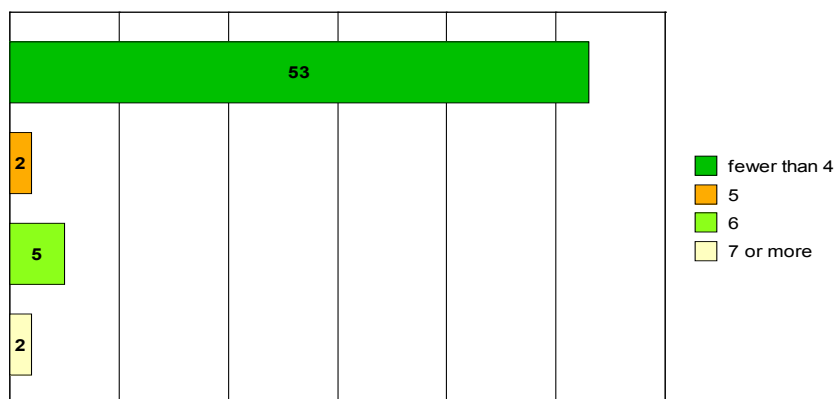


For those respondents who answered 'No' to question 3. We asked, "Do you believe that a restriction on the number of dogs a person can have in their control on public land should be imposed at all?" The majority of respondents said there should be a restriction on the number of dogs (58%), 38% said 'No", and 4% said 'Didn't know'.

Dog Control Orders Restrict numbers 'Yes' (Q5)

Figure 5. Base: 62 respondents.

If the respondents answered 'Yes', to questions 4. We asked "What is the number of dogs you believe that one person should be restricted to have in their control on public land?" Most respondents said that fewer than four dogs was acceptable (85%). 3% said 5 dogs, 8% said 6 dogs and 3% said 7 or more dogs.



Comments (Q5a)

We asked respondents "what is the number of dogs you believe that one person should be restricted to have in their control on public land?" The comments have been summarised in the Table below. Most respondents said no more than four dogs at one time.

For a full list of comments please see appendix 2.

Respondents were asked for their postcode. There were 61 responses of which there were 2 with a RM prefix, 34 with IG, 14 with EN and 11 with CM post codes.

Comments	Number
Depends on owner controlling the dog(s).	15
Depending on size and breed of dogs.	5
One dog	1
Two dogs	7
Three dogs	2
Four dogs	9
Five dogs	1
Six dogs	1
More than seven	2



Proposed Introduction of Dog Control Orders

Using powers under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005, Epping Forest District Council is proposing to introduce three Dog Control Orders making it an offence to:

- a) Fail to remove dog faeces deposited on any public land within the district.
- b) Fail to put a dog on a lead when directed to do so by an authorised officer, on any public land within the district.
- c) Fail to limit the number of dogs, which a person may take onto public land within the district to four.

Before proceeding any further, the Council is consulting on the proposed Orders. Responses to the consultation will be reported back to District Councillors before a final decision on the proposed Dog Control Orders are made.

Dog Fouling

In 1998 the Council designated the whole of the district under the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996, making dog fouling an offence.

The 1996 Act has a number of limitations, most importantly, there is an exclusion for land used for agriculture or for woodland, including all land in the ownership of the Corporation of London. The proposed dog fouling Dog Control Order would re-designate the whole district, making it an offence for a person to permit a dog in their control to foul and fail to remove faeces immediately, from any public land in the whole of the district, including land owned by the Corporation of London.

1. Do you agree with the proposal to introduce a Dog Control Order to control dog fouling over the whole of the district, making it an offence to fail to pick up dog faeces deposited on any public land?

80% Yes

18% No

2% Don't know

Other, please comment

100%

Dogs on leads when directed

This Dog Control Order would enable officers effectively to carry out dog fouling enforcement work safely by ensuring that the person responsible for a dog can be required to put and keep their dog(s) on a lead(s). It is envisaged that this Order will rarely be used and will have little impact on dog owners but will aid enforcement where necessary. The Corporation of London officers may also use this power if a dog is found to be out of control on their land.

2. Do you agree with the proposal to introduce a Dog Control Order that allows an authorised officer to request a dog to be put on a lead on any public land?

88% Yes 8% No 4% Don't know

Other, please comment

100%

Maximum Number of Dogs

The council receives a number of complaints each year about 'professional dog walkers' taking an excessive number of dogs onto recreational land and public areas. Complaints refer to the dogs being out of control, blocking footpaths and fouling without the person responsible being able to pick up the faeces because of the number of dogs in their control.

Based on guidance and experience, the Council is proposing to introduce a Dog Control Order that restricts the number of dogs a person can have in their control on any public land to four.

3. Do you agree with the proposal to introduce a Dog Control Order within the district that restricts the number of dogs a person can have in their control on any public land to four?

74% Yes 24% No 2% Don't know

4. If you answered 'No' to question 3, do you believe that a restriction on the number of dogs a person can have in their control on public land should be imposed at all?

58% Yes 38% No 4% Don't know

5. If you answered 'Yes' to question 4, what is the number of dogs you believe that one person should be restricted to have in their control on public land?

85% fewer than 4 3% 5 8% 6 3% 7 or more

Other, please comment on the number of dogs that you think is acceptable

100%

About You

In order that we can ensure our services meet all the needs of our community we would be grateful if you would complete the general questions below. You do not have to provide this information but it will be kept strictly confidential if you do.

Are you?

34% Male

66% Female

Age Group?

5% Under 18

19% 46 to 55

2% 18 to 25

25% 56 to 65

7% 26 to 35

12% 66 to 75

25% 36 to 45

5% 75+

To which of these groups do you consider you belong? (please tick one box only)

91% White British

0% Black or Black British - African

0% White Irish

0% Any other Black background

3% Any other White background

3% Asian or Asian British - Indian

0% White and Black Caribbean

0% Asian or Asian British - Pakistani

0% White and Black African

0% Any other Asian background

1% White and Asian

0% Chinese

0% Any other Mixed background

2% Any other ethnic background

1% Black or Black British - Caribbean

What is your religion, even if you are not practising?

67% Christian (including Church of England, Catholic, Protestant and all other Christian denominations)

0% Sikh

1% Hindu

0% Muslim

2% Jewish

0% Buddhist

2% Any other religion

29% None

Do you consider yourself to be?

93% Heterosexual

1% Other

4% Gay or Lesbian

3% Prefer not to say

0% Bisexual

Do you consider yourself to be disabled in any way?

10% Yes

90% No

If yes, please tell us how it affects you?

92% It affects my mobility

0% It affects my vision

8% It affects my hearing

It affects me in another way (please specify)

100%

Enforcement	
1.	Care should be taken for enforcement officers not to be too 'quick off the mark' - e.g. if a person has more than one dog with them and both pass faeces, then 1 set will obviously be left for a few minutes whilst the other set is taken care of! Also, if the person with the dog is disabled (even if the dog is not a 'registered charity' dog, then that person may not be able to move very quickly to remove the faeces, but will do so before moving on.
2.	Although it is pointless making something an offence that no one is prosecuted for, as seems to be the present situation.
3.	Agreed, as long as the DCO is in line with regulations set out by Defra. Owners need to take responsibility for their dogs. It may need to be made clear to members of the public that dog faeces can now be thrown in to waste bins rather than dedicated dog bins, as long as it is in a sealed bag. Some may not know this and if they do not see a dog bin for a while may risk just throwing in a bush etc rather than taking it home with them.
4.	All dog mess should be cleaned up. As an experienced dog walker I witness in a majority of cases MEN never pick up after their dogs and merely stroll along and let the dog do whatever it wants without even watching for it. I also note that these offences are usually early morning and late evening walkers. Every female I know picks up after their dog(s).
5.	<p>I think the idea of a dog control order to control dog fouling is missing the point entirely. I know many people who walk more than four dogs who are obsessed with picking up the poops, and I know plenty of people who walk one and are happy to leave it. I think the problem is that not enough is done to encourage people to pick up their dog mess and make it easier for them. On Sunday I walked three dogs from Chingford plains, around Connaught waters, towards the biker hut and back to the plains. All three dogs fouled within 100 yards, I picked it up and carried it hoping to find a bin. NOT ONE.</p> <p>A five mile round trip holding a bag of crap and not a single bin to get rid of it. I can easily see why people decide to leave it, or hang the bags on trees! There are picnic benches at Connaught, and people take food to feed the ducks, not a single bin to put the rubbish in. No one likes carrying rubbish, or bags of dog mess, so if you want to encourage people to pick it up it needs to be made easy for them. Regular bins, with a bag dispenser, at regular intervals would make a huge difference. Or what about an enclosed area for dogs to do their business, like they have in America.</p> <p>Most dogs will go to the toilet pretty soon after starting their walk, and they like to do it where others have been, so a dedicated area to let them do their thing before setting off on the walk might be an idea. Let them get it out of the way in an area where members of the public don't have to enter. If its an offence to not pick up your dogs mess on public land, enforce that, but it's irrelevant whether the person has one or ten dogs.</p>
6.	Nothing wrong with the theory, but completely unenforceable, therefore pointless.
7.	How will this be monitored ?
8.	There are parts of the Corp. of London forest land where I do not see this as a problem. No bins are provided for faeces and what will happen is many plastic bags with faeces will appear in public car parks etc
9.	Sick of cleaning off shoes and carpets. Have reported this Previously.
10.	Where land is designated as play areas or parks then existing laws should cover this, new laws are not required. Additionally the district public land cannot be exclusively for one section of the community. For example Forest land not parkland, is for all the people and their dogs. There must not be any coercion for it is a freedom of the people. Encouragement and facilities in some area of land are the only way. Those who are not dog people or forest people need to understand this is a very dangerous precedent that will lead to exclusion of other activities.

Other Animals	
11.	It is farcical to require people to pick up faeces in Epping Forest. What with the cattle, deer, horses, foxes etc all depositing it seems a bit over the top to require dog owners to pick up. I worked for five years in Epping Forest as a Litter Picker and we constantly found that where dog owners picked up their dog's faeces they then threw the bags into the trees as there are no facilities to deposit the waste - this created a worst problem than leaving the faeces on the ground where they would eventually degrade.
12.	What about cats and other pets, I always pick up after my greyhound but then I find piles of disgusting, filthy cat mess because their owners cannot be bothered to control their cats which should only be let out on leads.
13.	Who will deal with cat and fox faeces? It also depends on where a dog fouls - if on a public footpath or grassed play/picnic area the rules should apply, but if in an area not likely to be walked upon then it would not constitute a health threat. Rules once in place can be applied too stringently and cause confrontation. As costs are also a factor, it should be balanced with the need for finance elsewhere in the public services areas.
Not Enough Bins	
14.	I believe that if a dog fouls on a path owners should either pick up or flick and faeces into the bushes but I do not agree that all faeces have to be collected. If a dog is off lead and in the bushes how can I see and pick up? Furthermore, there are no bins provided for poo bags to be deposited.
15.	I agree but more bins should be provided to allow dog walkers to get rid of waste.
16.	Agree totally to enforce in parks and on pavements etc but not within Epping Forest unless adequate bins are provided by the Corporation of London - as per Roding Valley Nature Reserve run by Essex Wildlife Trust. Plastic poo bags littering the forest are already a common sight (hanging in trees or just left on the ground) and if a DCO is enforced on forest land this will become a bigger problem. These bags not being biodegradable are more harmful to the environment than allowing the faeces to break down naturally.
17.	Place more bins at locations that are regularly used by dog walkers i.e. a bin stand in a corner of a field, overgrown and not used at School Green Lane, North Weald on the 1st large field. Bins need to be emptied regularly as well. Signs to say its an offence not to pick up dog poo as well may help to deter.
18.	Will there be an increase in the provision of dog waste bins across the District and will co mingling of dog waste in EFDC litter bins be introduced. Co mingling of dog waste has been in place on City of London land at Epping Forest for 2 years now with no problems. Extra provision of facilities to dispose of bagged dog waste would help encourage dog owners to clean up after their dogs.
19.	Unless bins are provided the dog waste will be left in bags dumped at entrances or hanging in trees, this presents more of an environmental and visual nuisance than the dog waste.
20.	If the powers are to be introduced, members are of the view that there needs to be effective enforcement. Anecdotally Youth Councillor are aware of areas where fouling control already exists, around public open spaces used by young people, where dog owners already flout the rules. They question whether the District will be able to put in place cost effective meaningful enforcement which will deter fouling. The Council should give consideration to those areas where there will be the greatest effect on dog walkers (these areas will already be known to the Council) and provide sufficient dog bin facilities to encourage use. The Council currently provide free waste bags for residents. They should also provide free or subsidised dog poo bags for use by dog walkers.
Location/Forest	
21.	In general of course dog owners should pick up but if a dog goes in an inaccessible area where it is impossible to reach then no.

22.	I have 2 dogs and feel that if they are running free in the forest it could be quite difficult for me to remove faeces I may not have seen deposited. Any that I am aware of I always pick up.
23.	This is unrealistic in Epping Forest where one's dog goes in the undergrowth.
24.	On some open space areas within the forest it would be good for families with children to know that dog-fouling isn't an issue.
25.	Yes, you should pick it up in any areas with a concrete path or mowed area, eg football pitches picnic areas but to pick up in the forest is not practical. There are no bins and people will not carry it around the forest also some people do already pick it up and leave it in the bushes which will take years to disappear whereas now the slugs have something to eat which in turn feeds the wildlife. As nature intended!!!
26.	Delighted that this consultation is finally taking place and hope that the DCO will be introduced as quickly as possible. We have the good fortune to live in a flat overlooking the cricket field, High Road, Buckhurst Hill and see daily evidence of the urgent need for a DCO especially from 7.30am onwards. I trust that there will be a degree of frequent and regular inspection - at least initially - by Corporation Officers - but who are these?
27.	Hope public land includes our pavements.
28.	In Abridge, where I live, there is a children's' play area where there are signs up stating 'no dogs allowed'. These are blatantly ignored by some people (of all ages) and they bring their dogs there to exercise and to do their toilet. Sometimes these are not picked up. Even if they are picked up there will be traces left behind which children can get on themselves etc.
29.	We are especially keen to see the order making it an offence to fail to remove dog faeces deposited on public land thereby reducing the risk to public health. Our only comment is that The District Council refer to the fact that the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996 does not create an offence of dog owners/keepers failing to provide personal details when asked to do so - which must make enforcement under that statute extremely difficult. This new proposed dog control order is to be made under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 but the papers do not state whether there is to be an effective power for those enforcing the order to ascertain the personal details of the alleged offender.
30.	Agree, as public land should be kept clean.
31.	If penalty introduced more people are likely to pick up faeces.
32.	This form is being completed on behalf of the Friends of Epping Forest. Dog control is one of our concerns, following a recent survey of our members (1,765) and the Committee. We welcome these proposals. Whilst four is still a considerable number, we consider that limiting the number of dogs under one person's control to four is a very good start.
33.	It is not clear what you mean by public land. Does it include the forest, or the forest buffer land, or Linders Field, for example? I am happy for such an order for roads and what we might call parks and greens, but not for "wild" public land where cows, deer, rabbits etc will not be subject to such an order.
34.	I do agree with this order and in fact that was law everywhere already! I didn't know that land used for agriculture or woodland was exempt. It would be horrible to walk in faeces wherever you are.
35.	The original provision excluding agricultural land and woodland is adequate.

36.	<p>My area of concern is Epping Forest. At the main areas where the public visit eg Chingford Plains or High Beach, the wheelchair path and the car parks, it is sensible to have dog faeces picked up if there are bins to deposit said faeces in and if these are frequently emptied. In other areas of the Forest it is impractical to expect dog walkers to clear up after their dogs and carry bags of faeces on their walk. This will lead to unhygienic and unsightly bags of faeces being left hung in trees.</p> <p>Bins could possibly be placed on the multi user paths but how will these be emptied? The paths will be damaged by vehicles used to empty these bins. While it is impossible to control the faeces from the wild animal inhabitants of the Forest and the grazing cattle (not to mention humans using the Forest as a toilet)it is unreasonable to expect dog faeces to be removed.</p>
37.	<p>Regarding land owned by the Corporation of London, I would agree to areas of high public use such as High Beech and Chingford Plane being included. However to try to enforce the whole of the Forest land would seem to be unenforceable and self defeating. If something is seen not to be enforced it will soon be ignored. If bins are not provided and emptied frequently the area will become festooned with small plastic bags. a worse scenario than the thing being addressed.</p>
38.	<p>Not practical in the forest area - could lead to other problems eg: plastic bags with dog faeces in being hung on trees (this already happens so could make it increase) - attractive to children - frightening/ distracting to horses if they are moving about in wind. Should apply to areas in forest such as car parks, around tea huts etc.</p>
39.	<p>In respect of the requirement to pick up dog waste I heartily agree with the proposal in respect of footpaths, parks and other urban open spaces but not in Epping Forest itself. I would agree to those parts that are classed as honey pot areas, the wheel chair paths and within a sensible distance of car parks so long as there bins available in which to deposit the waste. However, in the Forest itself, I feel that the requirement is ridiculous, unenforceable and lacking in common sense. apart from all the animals in the Forest depositing around the place, dogs running loose are often behind bushes and away from their owners and thus the deposit would not be seen.</p> <p>Furthermore, having worked in the Forest for 5 years as a litter picker, I can attest to the practice which has become common and that is the removal of dog waste and then throwing the bags into the trees for them to hang down with the contents rotting in mid-air. It would be far better to leave the waste on the ground where it can decompose naturally.</p>
40.	<p>Firstly, I would like to remind you of the intention of the Clean neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 to give local authorities the powers to implement Orders only that are necessary and proportionate responses to problems caused by dogs. Defra's guidance on the Act states that It is important for any authority considering a dog control order to be able to show that this is a necessary and proportionate response to problems caused by the interest of those in charge of dogs against the interests of those affected by the activities of dogs and that a failure to give consideration to these factors could make any subsequent dog control order vulnerable in the Courts.</p> <p>The Kennel Club does not necessarily oppose the introduction of these orders, as this measure can help by sensibly ensuring that dog owners act responsibly. However, we would encourage the Council to adopt more proactive measure which tend to help more when promoting responsible dog ownership throughout local area.</p> <p>Based on our previous work and funded research on this issue, there are numerous reason why dog fouling may be occurring in the first place. These include; There may be a lack of signs and/or understanding amongst the dog owners in the area regarding the legal requirements which can differ depending on the needs of the land owner or of the type of land, Dog bins may not be conveniently located or sighted for dog owners and are therefore undiscovered or disregarded, Existing bins may not be regularly emptied and cleaned; There may be a small number of persistent offenders. We have found that other local authorities which have similar problems have typically experienced a reduction in dog fouling by holding an event such as a Responsible Dog Day, where officers can discuss the needs of dog owners in relation to the citing of bins or existing signs which advise the public on where to dispose of dog faeces. Such events can be run for a small incurred cost of £500 - which is often deemed to be cheaper than setting up public display notices, running a public consultation and acquiring signs displaying information about new orders in your council.</p>

Q2a. Other, please comment

Go further	
1.	While I agree with your proposal, I think it would be much safer if all Dogs were kept on their lead in all public places at all times.
2.	Please visit Springfields estate in Waltham Abbey, you will see for yourself that enforcement is needed, there is an increase of owners (using the large grassed area behind the car park)walking the dog on or off lead the dog fouls and a majority DO NOT clean up afterwards. Not all of the dog walkers live on the estate.
3.	But if riding/walking a horse and there is no authorised officer in the near vicinity and the dog is being a nuisance and not controlled anyone should be able to request the dog is put on a lead.
4.	All dogs should be kept on leads in public land. Recently a dog which was not on a lead came into my front garden and killed my cat in front of several young children who were quite traumatised. The owner did not care at all. I would therefore like to see all dogs on leads and in certain cases muzzled.
5.	I believe this request should be recorded and binding from the moment it is made, henceforth at any time in any public place within the District.
Enforcement Issues	
6.	<p>Yes in theory but would like to see under what circumstances people will be asked to put their dog on a lead. No one will object to dangerous and out of control dogs being ordered to be put on lead. My reservations stem entirely from my experience of trying to take my dog on London buses.</p> <p>Bus drivers have the power to stop people coming on buses with unruly, dirty, dangerous dogs and also when the bus is too full. However in a large number of cases this now means that bus drivers do not allow any dogs on buses irrespective of the behaviour of the dog or their owners or how many people are on buses.</p> <p>This has happened on lots of occasions with my very well behaved dogs (and to other dog owners) as drivers either do not like dogs or come from cultures where dogs are regarded as duty. I quote this to demonstrate how a bye law which has been in place forever on London buses is now been used to change the way dog owners can travel as a result of prejudice. No amount of complaining to TFL seems to make any difference in the way the policy is being implemented. In the event of the enforcement service being privatised I would have concern that this could be a consequence of this by-law hence my pleas for very clear guidelines as to when this would be required.</p>
7.	Surely common sense should prevail and any so called officers should also have the authority to stop cyclists mowing down pedestrians on footpaths motorcyclists using parkland and footpaths etc.
8.	It depends for what purpose. If a dog is charging or threatening to a member of public, horse, cyclist etc then yes of course. However, dogs love to run and play and I have a particularly vocal dog that loves to bark and run around which I do not consider a threat to anyone and I would not feel it fair to restrict her to a lead.
9.	Fine in theory, but again who is going to enforce it and when - too many variables.
10.	I agree but I can tell you it is a complete waste of time. There are never any authorised officers around and a very good friend of mine is now in the Royal London Hospital having surgery on her eye socket after two dogs caused her horse to bolt on Saturday, she also sustained a broken vertebra in her back and will be immobile for several months and a broken nose which has to be re set. The whole dog issue is now out of control. This is one of many incidents that i have been involved with involving dogs it is the owners not the dogs. I have had problems riding and when walking my own dogs which are under control. I and others are sick to death of it and I am seriously thinking of giving up riding in the forest and walking my dogs there. I was born in Loughton and moved back after university mainly because I love Epping Forest and now I am being driven out by irresponsible people. My friend will never ride again and will have a long road to recovery. Not a forest keeper in sight !
11.	I constantly see people walking their dogs off leads on pavements, along busy roads, and I have never once seen anyone stopped, although I've seen police cars drive passed at same time.. I fail to see how this will be policed. Nothing is ever done if you report a dog on dog attack anyway, and the dogs that are out of control belong to the owners who aren't responsible so someone telling them to put their dog on the lead will just be ignored.
12.	This is very important as safety is an issue many are worried about, especially recently considering dog control.

13.	This will be an important enforcement tool and enable difficult situations, involving dogs not under effective control, to be handled. This would include all situations where enforcement is taking place and to put an end to, or prevent other situations such as conflict with other site users or wildlife disturbance. Will a maximum lead length be included in the order, some local authorities have set a maximum length but this would be very difficult to enforce and also may encourage owners to have a dog off a lead to give it some freedom.
14.	I do not agree with this order as the Forest is a great place that everyone should be able to enjoy freely. I feel this order could be abused and restricted to people walking their dogs on lead, thereby not enjoying the full extent of the land. I don't have an issue with putting dogs on leads when horses (for example) go by, which we always do, but I think this would open the way to being on the lead all the time. For some reason I am unable to comment on the issue of the number of dogs being walked as four so have commented here. I do not agree with this order. My partner and I have 7 dogs between us and sometimes walk a friend's 2 as well. Four of these are cavaliers plus a Papillon and 2 Border Collies. All the dogs are well behaved and compete nationally in dog agility, including at Crufts. The number of dogs is not the issue as in general the more dogs people have the better they are behaved. The issue that should be addressed is the "status" dogs that people have and often they have 2 dogs so this order would not address these people.
15.	As far as I can see from personal experience these orders will make absolutely no difference at all as there is no-one to monitor or police them. As a rider and dog walker I have been on the receiving end of some horrid incidents involving out of control dogs due to the ignorance of their owners and there has been no help at all. These orders will make no difference unless irresponsible dog owners are apprehended and dealt with and this will not happen as there is no policing or Health and Safety monitoring in the forest whatsoever. It is now a free for all area where people are allowed to behave exactly as they please regardless of the impact that this has on other forest users.
Within reason/under certain circumstances	
16.	Only if a good reason exists to do so, not just 'because I said so' type of reaction.
17.	Only where a dog is not being controlled by the owner properly or is perceived to be a concern.
18.	Could allow dogs off lead for a run providing they have a muzzle. We put muzzle on greyhound in park to prevent it getting to squirrels.
19.	Within reason, the time an authorises officer should request a dog is put on a lead is in designated areas clearly notified to the public where dogs should be on a lead. These areas should include when near/on a road, pavements, car parks and heavily used public paths, children play areas, around live stock, housing i.e. estates etc. Areas dogs can be off leads include Open fields/spaces (no live stock) where a dog can not cause harm or a disturbance. An exception to the latter (within the open spaces) that a request for a dog to be put on the lead is if the owner is unable to control their dog and causing a disturbance.
20.	It is the responsibility of the owner to control any dog. Designated dangerous breeds demand extra control but we cannot have law that prevents any dog to be off the lead, simply because someone demands this. If and only if there is a clear and dangerous behaviour by the dog and or it owner.
21.	Only if complaints have been received against any dog(s)for attacking other dogs, humans or troubling horses.
22.	Only where the animal is aggressive or out of control.
23.	Unless the request can be shown to be reasonable
24.	Again, it isn't one thing or the other. Might be best that dogs are put on leads in certain areas where families with children are picnicking but well-behaved dogs and responsible owners are not a problem generally and it is nice to see the dogs run around etc. However, some types of dog frighten children and could pose a risk.
25.	If there is a practical reason for doing so, but not just because they don't want dogs enjoying themselves, this is why we live here and not in the countryside where dogs often have to stay on the lead.
26.	Not on all public land but maybe around high streets but not in parks.
27.	In general I don't have a problem to put my dog on the lead if requested as long as the request is reasonable and not an outright request to put dogs on lead everywhere within Epping Forest.
Dog behaviour	

28.	Yes if a dog is running around it could jump up and knock a person or child over, that is jumping with excitement not anger.
29.	There are already provisions in place stating that dogs should be under control at all times. It is impractical for dogs that are trained to be under control from commands issued from horseback to then but led from a horse.
30.	Mixed feelings about this one - would agree if a dog was out of control it should be put on a lead, but I fear such an order could be mis-used by over-zealous officials and would result in officials insisting ALL dogs - even those kept under control - should be put on lead which I would not agree with.
31.	For safety reasons the lead must be a short restraining lead. An out of control dog on an extending lead is more of a danger than that dog not being on a lead at all. A dog bounding around on the end of 26 feet of lead can entangle pedestrians, cyclists, horses and other dogs.
32.	Some limitation of length of lead should be enforced. One dog on a twenty foot lead can cause more havoc than four dogs on four foot leads.
33.	As long as there is a proviso that the length of the lead is controlled as well. A dog on an extendable lead is not necessarily 'under control'. The very long extendable leads can cause problems of their own with badly trained dogs, especially if they are around horses - if a dog is around a horse's legs on one of these leads it can wrap around the horse's legs - dangerous to horse, rider, dog & dog owner.
34.	I can understand if it is for reasons of safety i.e. if the dog is aggressive but not if the dogs are just playing.
35.	Definition of public land would be helpful.
36.	The areas being covered will be much wider than those currently covered and the Youth Council are concerned that the orders will place a greater burden on the current Enforcement Officers.
37.	With regard to the dogs on lead by direction order proposed, we commend Epping Forest District Council's proposal of implementing this order as this allows responsible dog owners to exercise their dogs off lead without restriction providing their dogs are under control, whilst all owing the authority powers to restrict dogs not under control. Furthermore, in order to help Epping Forest District council and your authorised officer with defining what an out of control dog is, we have provided our definition below: Given that a dog under control is one that will be its owner on command, whether on the lead or off the lead, Kennel Club considers an out of control dog to be one behaving in such a way that would cause personnel trained in dog behaviour to reasonably believe that there was a significant possibility that through the actions of the owner in not controlling the dog, it would cause damage, distress, or physical harm (accidental or otherwise) to people or other dogs. We would also like to stress that the authorised officer enforcing the order must be properly trained in dog behaviour in order to determine whether restraint is necessary. We would also recommend that the authorised officer only be able to direct a person to put their dog on a lead if the dog is not under proper control. There is a danger that, through no fault of its own, a dog could be a nuisance or annoyance to another person who simply does not like dogs. Ultimately, any proposal to restrict or exclude access for dogs to public spaces should simultaneously establish dog friendly areas of open land within the same location, the accessibility of alternative routes already available and potential negative effects on government targets for health and reducing congestion.

Q5a. Other, please comment on the number of dogs that you think is acceptable.

One	
1.	You can only be in control of one dog at a time, therefore no more than one dog, which should be on a lead in a public place, two if they are 'tiny dogs'.
Two	
1.	I think two would be appropriate.
2.	Two per person max.
3.	Two unless you have special reason such as a guide dog trainer.
4.	Maximum of two dogs as four dogs cannot easily be controlled by one person unless they are very small.
5.	Two
6.	Two
7.	Two dogs unless an experienced dog walker with well trained dogs mainly on leads in which case four.
Three	
1.	No more than three
2.	I believe that three dogs is the maximum number of dogs one person should have under their control.
Four	
1.	Four dogs per person - not per group; so a couple of people walking together could have more.
2.	Four or fewer is reasonable. Those who have more are generally running a business.
3.	I used to be a dog walker and I know that the National Association of Registered Pet sitters only insure for a maximum of four dogs to be walked at once. This is enough for any person to be in control of.
4.	I am a professional dog walker, and I am totally fed up with getting a bad name because of other dog walkers who have no care or consideration for the public. I will only ever walk a maximum of four dogs at one time, as that is what our insurance cover. Some insurance companies allow six dogs which, in public I do not agree with. I see plenty of dog walkers who walk anything up to 12 dogs at one time, and this must be stopped, but again I fail to see how this will be policed.
5.	Four not 'fewer than four'.
6.	A person with four dogs in enough, anymore and you would not have control of them as you can not hold all the dog leads in both hands.
7.	There is a neighbour near me who has more than four and is scrupulous about picking up after them and controlling them and it seems unfair to punish her but then I also see a lot of "professional" dog walkers and I do wonder if they genuinely pick up after all of them. Happy to go with the councils experience / research on this.
8.	Four seems okay to me. Certainly no more.
9.	Four maximum and not on long extendable leads.
Five	
1.	I personally own five rescue dogs who all suffer health issues and would otherwise have been euthanized. I am a long time fosterer and take on whatever dog(s) in urgent need of a family home until a permanent one can be found. These dogs enjoy living in a pack situation and soon learn to re-trust humans who have abused, neglected and emotionally damaged them. I have never had a failure yet and walking them in a group is essential for their learning to stay with their pack leader. My number of dogs fluctuate and I personally limit myself to 6 maximum. There is also the matter of professional dog walkers who do a great service and again, these dogs walking in a pack manner behave well. They need to maximise their earnings by taking more dogs for a walk, this proposal would limit that and also leave many dogs without vital exercise. I also wonder how you would implement these proposals as people will just take their dogs out before and after the working hours of your enforcement officers. I fail to understand why you are considering this as an issue when there are so many more important issues to be addressed in the borough.
Six	

1.	I know some people who have several rescue dogs who are all walked at once sometime with the aid of a doggy pushchair as some of these dogs are quite infirm . If the number was restricted then these lovely little dogs would possibly have to be put down or never have been rescued in the first place. I know several professional dog walkers who do their jobs well and obviously provide a service and earn a living many of these are young people who may otherwise have been unemployed please don't rob people of a living.
Seven or more	
1.	More than 10.
2.	If the dogs are under control then there should not be a limit.
Depends on owner controlling the dog(s).	
1.	This is dependent on whether the owners/professional dog walkers can control their dogs, there should not be a limit. They will need to ensure all dogs are on leads in the required areas, are able to call dogs back and to clean up after them all - it is the owners/ professional dog walkers responsibility.
2.	I think this depends on the behaviour and breed of the dogs. If the dog owner/handler is competent and the dogs are under control I believe the number of dogs does not matter whatever the breed. There are just as likely to be problems with an owner with one dog if the dog is not trained. Any legislation/ruling should then be promoted as ' A dog warden has the authority to restrict the number of dogs taken into public spaces by a member of the public if the dog/dogs are not seen to be under control'.
3.	Delighted to know action is now being taken. I have been a strong campaigner on restricting the number of dogs at any one time on Roding Valley Nature Reserve mainly due to safety aspects regarding Chigwell Riding Trust for Special Needs horses and riders who use the area regularly. Any more than four dogs, I feel, becomes a pack.
4.	Again this is a subjective decision. The type of dogs, general behaviour, the ability of the owners to control these dogs in all conditions need to be accessed. Therefore it needs a clear set or guidelines that are fair to the owners while not penalising them or their dogs.
5.	It is greatly dependent on how well controlled the dogs are and also the type and size.
6.	One cyclist with one free running dog can cause more problems than a responsible person with six dogs. To specify a certain number of dogs would seem to make enforcement more difficult (e.g. I've only got three dogs so I am alright !!!).
7.	As many as a person wishes as long as they are under control!
8.	It seems that if a person walks more dogs than they effectively control, other offences will be committed.
9.	I think the number of dogs that one person can have is a difficult one. One dog out of control is a bad as five small well behaved dogs. I recently had six dogs surrounded my dog, the owner arrived and called them and they went to him, no problem but a few weeks earlier I met a one boxer dog who attacked my dog.
10.	It totally depends on the person exercising the dogs. If they are under control then there should be no restrictions. For some people two can be too much to handle, others can easily handle six or even more.
11.	It depends on the dog trainer/walker and how many they are physically capable of controlling.
12.	Too many problems with walkers and multiply dogs not having control, in effect walking in a pack.
13.	It not the number of dogs people have that's an issue its the behaviour of the dogs that matters. One out of control aggressive dog is far more hazardous that five or six well behaved dogs.
14.	With regards to the specified number of dogs on land, we would like to highlight the associated welfare implications and dog theft implications of leaving dogs in cars while other dogs are walked - every year dogs die in cars in the warn weather. The Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) sets a limit of six dogs. I would like to ask the Council to bear in mind that the control of dogs also depends on the owner, ie, issues such as owners age and familiarity to the dog have a direct effect to what extent the owner is able to control one dog or six. Therefore, blanket bans limiting the number of dogs walked are unreasonable.
15.	There is one particular dog walker, [REDACTED] who regularly walks six plus dogs at any one time. She has absolutely no control of any of the dogs who are always off lead and is often quite aggressive and offensive towards other people out walking their own dog(s).

Depending on size and breed of dogs.	
1.	Depending on size and breed of dogs.
2.	The acceptable number depends on how many the person can effectively control; six Yorkshire Terriers on a joining lead may be acceptable but three Huskies trying to chase a rabbit may not be.
3	As I stated in answer to question two as I did not see where I could comment I do not think the number of dogs being walked is an issue. We have walked with a group of people with many dogs and never had a problem. It is a lovely way to meet up with like minded people and enjoy the countryside. the issue is the "status" dogs that people have and mainly have two dogs, sometimes one, never more than that so this order would not stop these problems.
4.	I agree on limiting the amount of dogs, but as I have seen when Dog Control Orders have been brought in, professional dog walkers just move to the next borough, so think that how these orders are brought in should be thought about carefully so that all people know what the law is!! Also Epping Forest is an area which people come to from other areas, so again I don't feel that adverts in local papers will reach these people. I would also like to know if a survey has been carried out to how many dogs are walked together, at a given time, so it would give a better idea to the amount of dogs which is deemed acceptable.
5.	A question : If one person is allowed four dogs can two people together have eight dogs? So can a family of father, mother and two children (ie four people) have 16 dogs?
6.	No comment.
7.	1) I am a dog walker and I am insured to walk six dogs at once, I think this is an acceptable amount. I have heard from my friend [REDACTED] that there have been a number of complaints about dog fighting from members of the public regarding dog walkers. I would like to raise the following issues:
	2) In order for a dog walker to be able to do pack walks all the dogs must be friendly otherwise I would get two minutes from the van and have a fight on my hands!
	3) Members of the public often get intimidated by dog walkers and this is often because they are unable to control their own dog! These are the people who often become abusive and shout and swear at me for no reason!
	4) I had two of my dogs bitten by members of the public's dogs in January. I lost one client which cost me £200 per month. The second client I still walk their dog but I did manage to get their vet bill paid for by the guilty party. Dog walkers do not like incidents to happen because we loose clients and therefore money! We also do not like any of our dogs to get harmed in our care!
	5). My clients all want their dogs to be exercised off lead so they do not come home to a dog that is 'bouncing of the walls' that is why they pay for such a service! These owners are the responsible ones who are not leaving their dogs alone all day to walk around in their own faeces!
	6). I was informed that the four dog rule was to be ON LEAD, this would be impossible with already such a physical job and I feel that if this was the case it would without a doubt impact on my health and my ability to do my job.
	7) Having had these distressing incidents at the beginning of the year I now go out of my way to walk my dogs where there are no people or other dogs, I have experienced NO problems and it has been nice to escape the aggravation that you can be subjected to if say you were to walk over Roding Valley Nature Reserve, the level of abuse I get subjected to is quite literally a JOKE and this job is not for the faint hearted!
	8) I was under the impression that we were trying to boost the economy and putting these restrictions upon my business which I have invested a lot of money into is restricting my earnings as everybody wants their dogs walked at lunchtime and it is already impossible trying to keep all my customers happy and manage to earn an income out of it!
	9) To be honest if I do come across any dog in the field I turn in the opposite direction and try to avoid contact as while I can vouch for my own dogs I cannot for this stranger dog! I make sure that a dog is muzzled in my care if necessary, I am sensible and do everything in my power to ensure my dogs come to no harm!

7.	10) If there are any dog walkers responsible for dog fights then why isn't this being investigated and the guilty party being punished? There are a number of people who do it under the radar and I would very much doubt if it is any of the more professional companies like myself Pet Paws Dog Walking and Pet Care, West Essex Pet Care, West Essex Animals At Home, Pet Chums or Patis's Pooches were involved at all, we are all very caring girls who really care about the animals in our care.
	11) I walk any dogs that are not suitable for pack walks individually later on in the day (i.e. any dogs who have been attacked by another dog) are road walked on the lead.
	12) If you bring in any legislation at all why dont you specify that ANY DOG who is NOT FRIENDLY MUST be MUZZLED AND WALKED ON THE LEAD! This would put an immediate stop to any incidents happening at all which is something that all dog walkers would favour!