



**Dogs Trust
&
Friends of Duchess Wood
Community Event Summary
25/03/2018**

Results

On Sunday 25th March, we carried out a Responsible Dog Ownership roadshow with Friends of Duchess Wood in Duchess Woodland.

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 31 dogs and their owners. The most popular service on the day proved to be health checks with 27 dogs (87%) having a health check (Figure 1). Despite the law change in April 2016, which saw microchipping become compulsory, microchipping was also a popular service with 3 dogs (10%) being microchipped by the team (Figure 1). The remaining 28 dogs (90%) were already chipped, with 1 owner (3%) needing their dogs microchip details updating and they were informed of how to do this by the Dogs Trust team (Figure 1). Nail clipping was also a utilised service on the day, with 2 dogs (6%) having their nails clipped by the team (Figure 1).

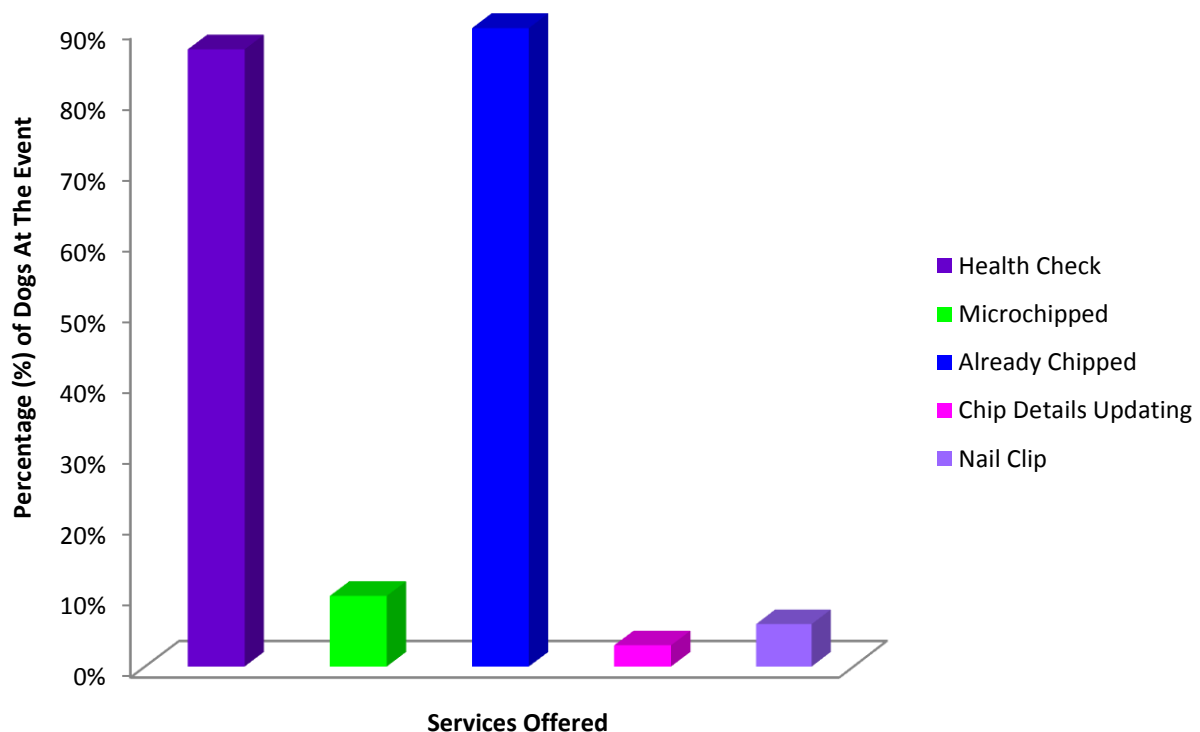


Figure 1: Percentage of dogs who received a Microchip, Health Check, Nail Clip or updated their Microchip Details

In total, 12 different dog breeds attended the event in Duchess Woods (Table 1). Of all the breeds that we saw at the event, Border Collies and German Shepherd Dogs were the most commonly seen breeds, with 5 (16%) of each breed coming to see the team (Table 1; Figure 2). Crossbreeds and Cocker Spaniels were the second most popular breed, with 4 (13%) of each breed attending the event (Table 1; Figure 2).

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

Breed	Number That Attended
Border Collie	5
Cocker Spaniel	4
Crossbreed	4
Dogue de Bordeaux	3
English Springer Spaniel	1
German Shepherd	5
Golden Retriever	2
King Charles Spaniel	2
Labradoodle	1
Mastiff	2
Pointer	1
Staffordshire Bull Terrier	1

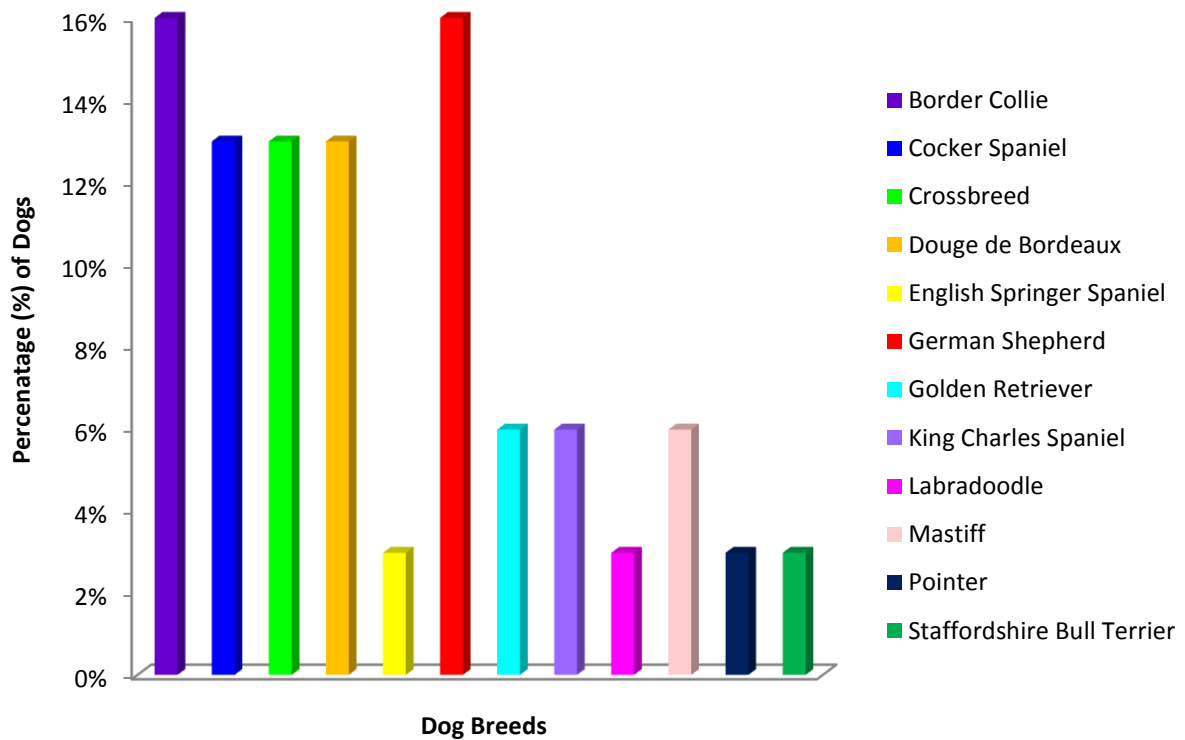


Figure 2: Dog breeds present at the event in Duchess Wood and their percentage (%) of all breeds seen

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 Duchess Wood, 17 dogs (55%) 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 at Duchess Wood, 15 (48%) were already neutered, whilst 16 (52%) were not neutered. Out of all these dog owners, 2 owners (6%) did not want their dog neutered and the reason for this was that they believed it would reduce their dogs man/womanhood. 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 on 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 the relevant information on the scheme. In total, 3 dogs (10%) were referred to the Dogs Trust neutering scheme.

Out of the 31 dogs that attended the event, 28 (90%) did not require a visit to their vet (Figure 3). However, 1 dog (3%) was told to visit the vet at the owners convenience with minor health issues, whilst another 2 dogs (6%) were advised to visit their vet within the week (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 Duchess Wood, 20 dogs (65%) were believed to be of an ideal weight, whilst 1 dog (3%) was considered underweight and 10 (32%) were considered overweight (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 also a commonly seen problem on the day, with 11 dogs (35%) 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 all owners (100%) gave their dog regular flea and worm treatment. Pet insurance is also considered an integral part of responsible dog ownership and in Duchess Wood, it was found that 8 dogs (26%) 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.

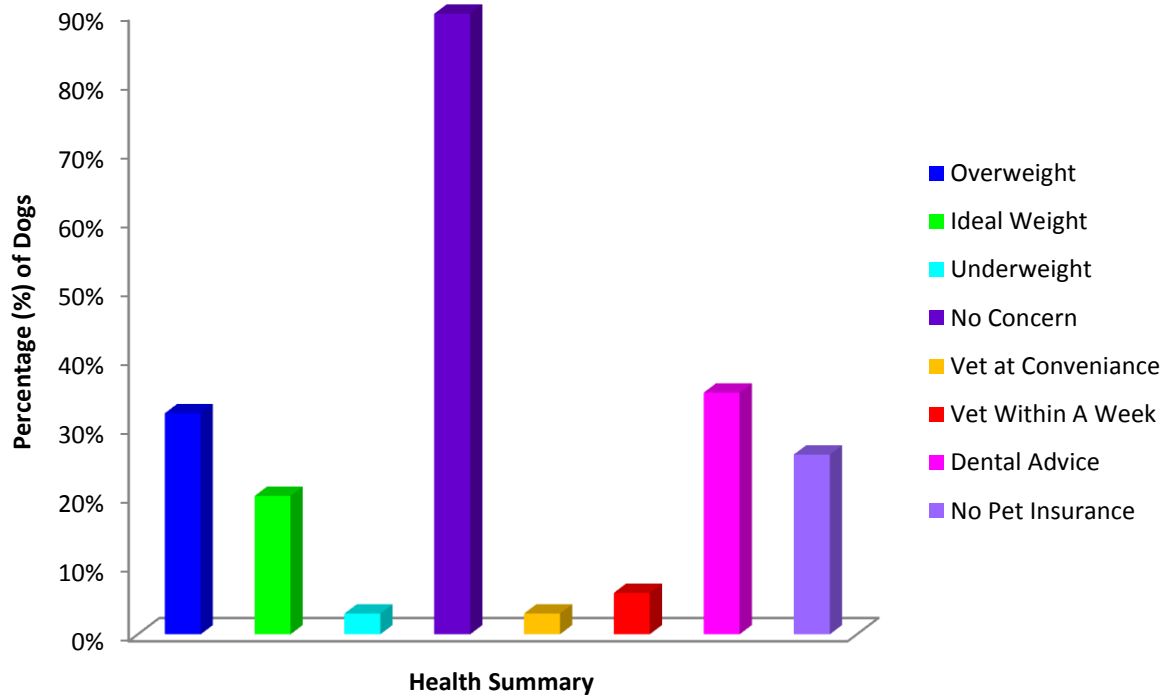


Figure 3: Health Summary of Dogs That Attended the Dogs Trust RDO Event in Duchess Wood