



Premier & Cabinet
Division of Local Government

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Department of Premier and Cabinet

COUNCIL REPORTS OF DOG ATTACKS IN NSW

2011/12



OCTOBER 2013

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Explanatory notes

Breeds

- Australian Cattle Dog includes Blue and Red Heeler
- Belgian Shepherd includes Groenendael, Laekenois, Malinois and Tervueren
- Bull Terrier includes American and English
- Chihuahua includes Long and Smooth
- Cocker Spaniel includes American Cocker Spaniel
- Collie includes Rough and Smooth
- Corgi includes Cardigan and Pembroke
- Dachshund (standard) includes Long Haired, Smooth Haired and Wire Haired
- Dachshund (miniature) includes Long Haired, Smooth Haired and Wire Haired
- Fox Terrier includes Smooth and Wire
- German Shepherd includes Alsatian
- Jack Russell Terrier includes Parson Jack Russell Terrier
- Pit Bull Terrier includes American Pit Bull Terrier
- Poodle includes Standard, Miniature and Toy
- Dogs designated to one of the 'Old Classification' breeds have been placed in the corresponding breed (this applies to Australian Cattle Dog, Collie, Heeler), while dogs designated as Old Classification Dachshund have been reclassified pro rata between Dachshund (standard) and Dachshund (miniature)
- To determine the 'breed' of those dogs described as cross-breed dogs, the first breed identified in the animal's record determined the category in which it was placed.
- Breeds where the name commences with 'Cross' have been designated as cross-breeds even where the second breed has been left blank.

1. Introduction

Under the *Companion Animals Act 1998*, a dog attack can include any incident where a dog rushes at, attacks, bites, harasses or chases any person or animal (other than vermin), whether or not any injury is caused to the person or animal. Dog attacks can have serious consequences, and they are of concern to the community. The Division of Local Government, Department of Premier and Cabinet, in partnership with local councils, is taking steps to address this issue.

In 1996, the former Department of Local Government established a database to record council reports of dog attacks. The Director General requested that dog attacks reported to councils be forwarded to the Department for entry into this database. This data from councils assists with compiling profiles of the nature of dog attacks in NSW. Accurate identification of the circumstances of dog attacks also assists the Division in the development of appropriate policy and legislative responses.

In February 2009, the Companion Animals Regulation 2008 was amended to require councils to report any relevant information about dog attacks, using the Companion Animals Register, within 72 hours of receiving the information. The information to be reported includes the initial notification of an attack and also any additional information the council receives in the course of investigating or monitoring an attack incident.

Care should be taken when interpreting any of the following figures received from councils relating to reported dog attacks. In some instances dog attacks have been reported prior to completion of investigation and consequently have provided little or no data. The reporting system has been enhanced to allow councils to update this interim information but the data analysed in this report is for a fixed point in time (ie: for year ending 30 June 2012) when some investigations may not yet be complete (see section 3.4 on action taken which includes the response 'further investigation').

The option to report an "unknown" outcome has been removed from some data categories under the new system (eg: severity of injury). This reflects the ability of councils to update data in these categories as investigations continue. However, there may be other instances where a person has reported an attack but investigating council officers have been unable to locate the dog/s involved or, in some cases, the victim.

Close inspection of this report will identify discrepancies in certain cases between the totals for the same category in different tables. These discrepancies are thought to be due to coding errors when entering primary dog attack data. In particular, some fields may inadvertently have been left blank. The analysis method used in generating this report counts certain categories by detecting non-blank fields and, depending on where the coding errors occur, discrepancies may arise between the totals based on different variables. It is emphasised that the discrepancies are small, and do not affect the validity of the findings presented in this report.

The information presented in the following tables supersedes any previously released data for the periods concerned.

This report also contains trend analysis of the numbers and characteristics of dogs on the Companion Animals Register at 30 June on each of the three years 2010, 2011 and 2012, as well as statistics for dog attacks relating to the three reporting years 2009/10, 2010/11 and 2011/12.

2. Companion Animals Register data

2.1 Companion Animal Registration

On 1 July 1999 the *Companion Animals Act 1998* came into operation and established the NSW Companion Animals Register (the Register).

The Register is a database that lists all companion animals within NSW that have been microchipped and/or registered with the local council.

The *Companion Animals Act 1998* requires that all NSW dog owners have their pets identified and registered for life. There is a two-step process to lifetime registration.

The first step is to have the animal microchipped. In this report a microchipped dog is also referred to as “identified”. The second step is for an owner to register the animal with their local council. In this report a registered dog is also referred to as “lifetime registered”.

2.2 Number of dogs Identified and Registered on the Companion Animals Register at 30 June 2012

Table 1

Register status	No.	%
Identified and Lifetime Registered	1,035,773	61%
Identified only	649,882	39%
Total	1,685,655	100%

Note: In addition to the dogs on the Companion Animals Register in Table 1, a further 6,141 greyhounds are registered by Greyhound Racing NSW.

Table 1 shows that at 30 June 2012, there were in excess of 1.68 million dogs on the Register. Of these, 61% were both identified and lifetime registered while the remainder were identified only.

The total number of dogs on the Register has increased by 8% from 1,562,140 in the 12 months since 30 June 2011, and this continues a rising trend that has been observed over the last five years (the increase in the number of dogs on the Register from 2010 to 2011 was also 8%). The percentage breakdown between dogs that are ‘identified and lifetime registered’ and ‘identified only’ has stayed constant.

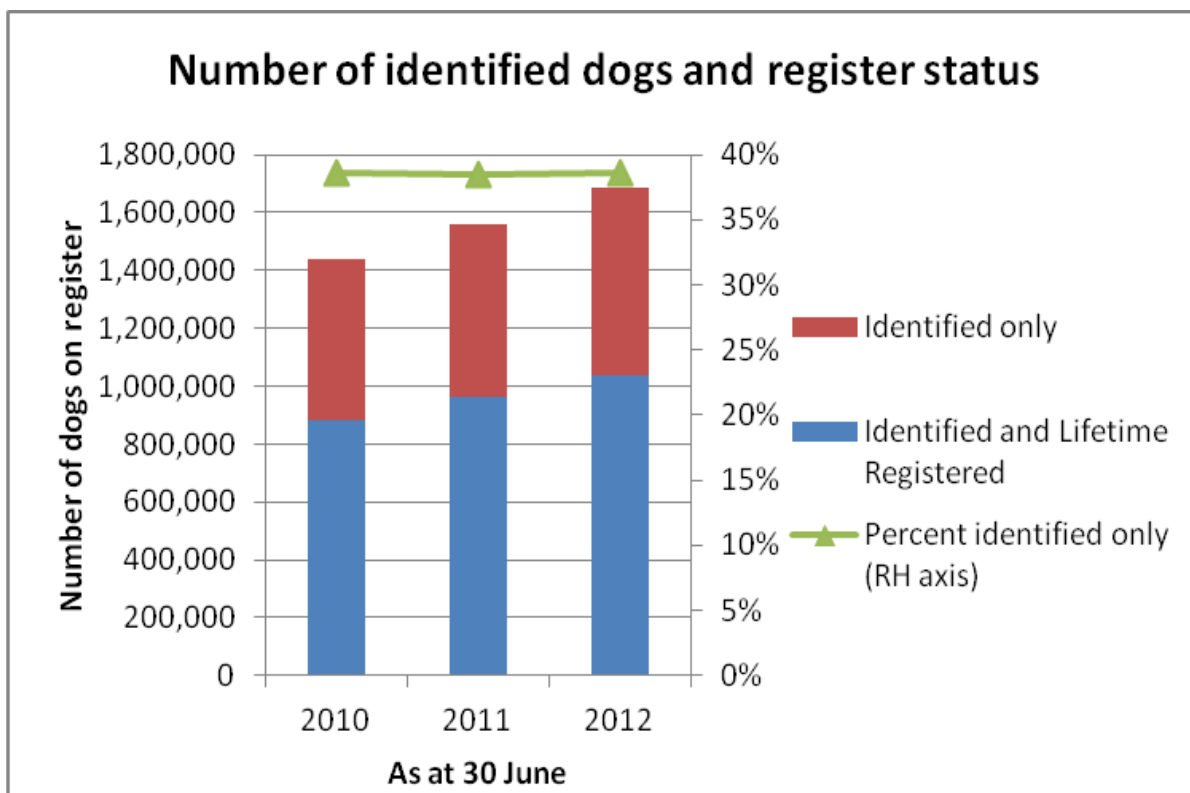


Figure 1

Figure 1 shows that the number of dogs on the Register has grown from 1,441,036 at 30 June 2010 at a roughly constant rate of a little over 120,000 dogs per year, representing an increase of 17% over the two year period to 2012. The proportion of dogs on the Register that are identified only has remained unchanged at 39%.

2.3 Age of dogs on the Register at 30 June 2012

Table 2

Age of dog	Count	%
Less than 6 months old	18,719	1%
6 months to <12 months old	51,644	3%
1 year to <2 years old	112,532	7%
2 years to <5 years old	357,104	21%
5 years to <10 years old	549,848	33%
10 years old and over	595,808	35%
Total	1,685,655	100%

Table 2 shows that there were more dogs in the 10 years and over age group than any other age group (35%). This was followed by the over 5-10 year age group which contains 33% of all dogs on the Register.

There has been a slight ageing of the dog population on the Register since 30 June 2011 and this continues a trend seen in previous years. The effect is observed at the high end of the range, with the 10 years and over age group increasing from 31% to 35% of the total number of dogs, mainly correlating with a decline in the next age group (5-10 years) which has dropped from 35% to 33%. The other age groups have remained relatively unchanged. However, there is a high probability that a significant proportion of dogs in the oldest age group have died but have not been reported to the local council so that the Register can be updated.

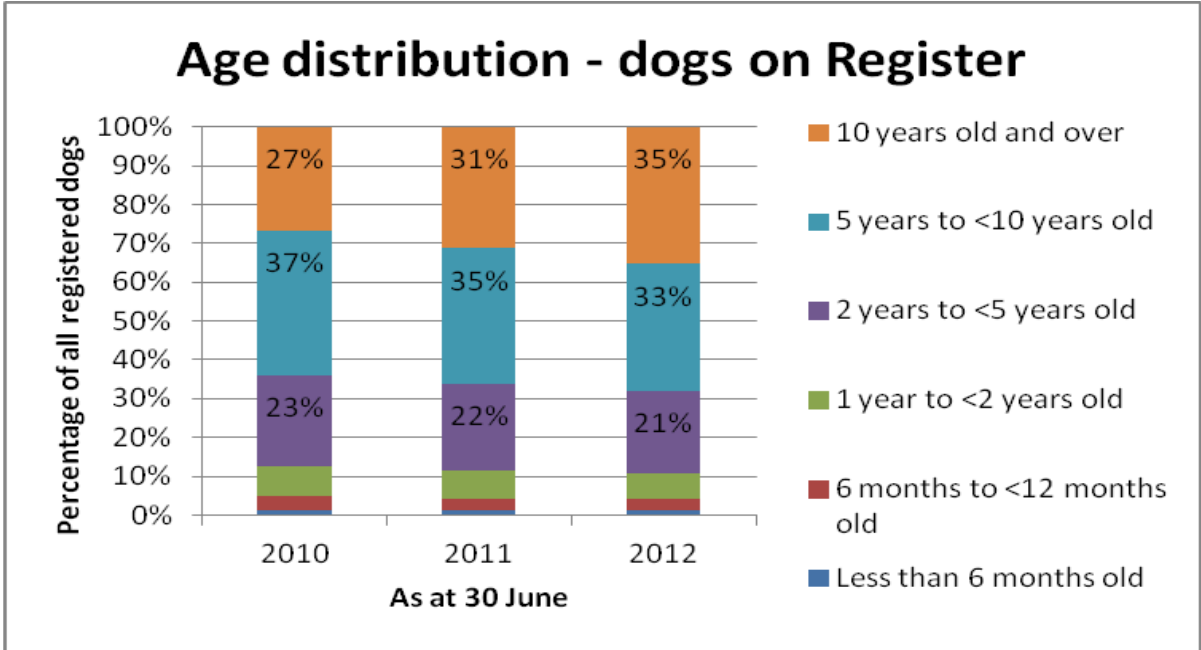


Figure 2

Figure 2 shows the changes over time in the age distribution of dogs on the Register. Since 30 June 2010, there has been an increase of 211,239 or 55% in the number of dogs in the oldest age group, and this accounts for 86% of the total increase in the number of identified dogs over the review period. Increases in the number of dogs in the other age groups since 30 June 2010 have been well below 10% and for dogs aged six months to less than two years old there has been, in effect, no change at all. Dogs aged ten years and over now represent 35% of all dogs on the Register, up from 27% at 30 June 2010.

2.4 Breeds

2.4.1 Pure-breed/cross-breed and desexed/undesexed at 30 June 2012

Table 3

Breed	Number	%
Pure-breed	1,093,487	65%
Cross-breed	592,168	35%
Total	1,685,655	100%

Note 1: Cross-breed total includes 12,750 dogs which would have been classified as pure-breed since the second breed recorded on the Register has been left blank on the Register but where the first breed is unknown. In total, there are 28,375 dogs on the Register with unknown breed and these have all been classified as cross-breed dogs.

Note 2: In addition to the dogs on the Companion Animals Register in Table 2, a further 6,141 greyhounds are registered by Greyhound Racing NSW, and these are presumed to be pure-breeds.

Table 3 shows that the number of pure-breed dogs listed on the Register approaches twice the number of cross-breed dogs. The proportion of pure-breeds has remained the same since 30 June 2011.

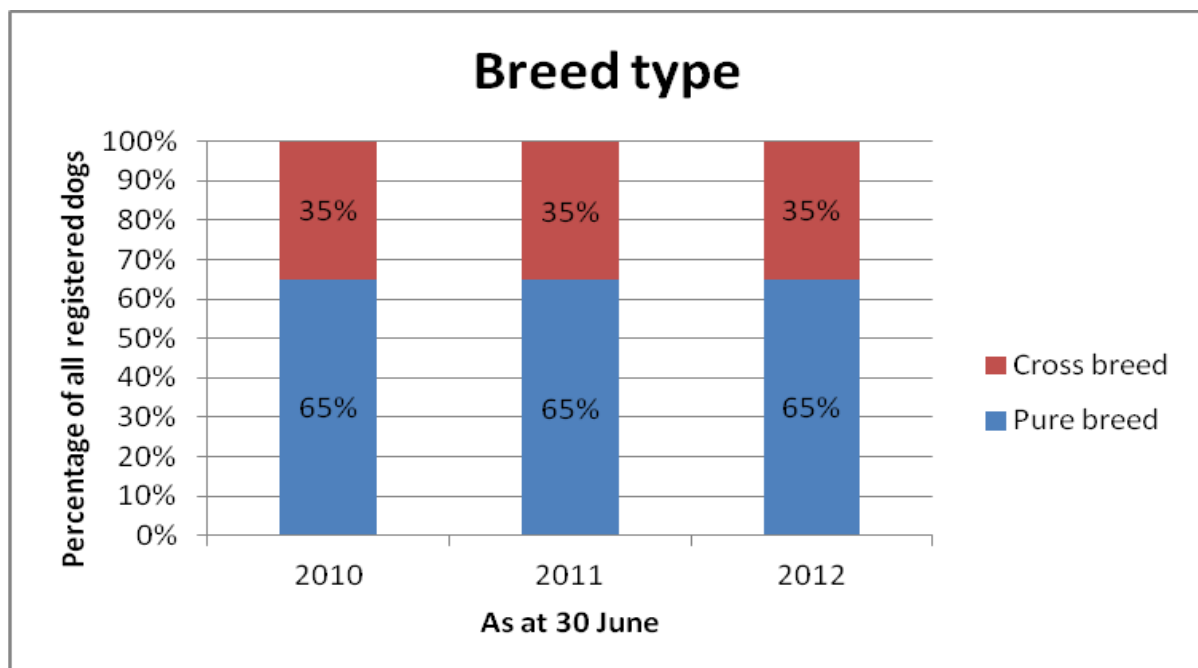


Figure 3

Figure 3 shows that the proportion of pure-breed dogs listed on the Register has remained constant at 65% from 2010 to 2012. Both the number of pure-breed dogs and the number of cross-breed dogs have grown at 17% from 30 June 2010 to 30 June 2012, though the increase in the number of pure-breed dogs on the Register was 10% lower in the first year than in the second year.

Table 4 Pure-breed dogs on the Companion Animals Register

<i>Numbers of dogs</i>	Desexed	Not desexed	Unknown if desexed	Total
Male	199,483	124,246	217,663	541,392
Female	237,568	86,029	207,969	531,566
Sex unknown	6,823	3,710	9,996	20,529
Total	443,874	213,985	435,628	1,093,487
Percentages				
Male	37%	23%	40%	100%
Female	45%	16%	39%	100%
Sex unknown	33%	18%	49%	100%
Total	41%	20%	40%	100%

Note: In addition to the dogs on the Companion Animals Register in Table 4, a further 6,141 greyhounds are registered by Greyhound Racing NSW, and these are presumed to be pure-breeds.

Table 4 shows that, of the pure-breed dogs where the desexed status was known, approximately twice as many dogs were desexed as not desexed. A significantly higher proportion of female dogs was desexed compared to male dogs. There has been no significant change in the breakdown of pure-breed dogs by desexed status since 30 June 2011.

Interpretation of Table 4 is made uncertain by the substantial proportion (40%) of dogs on the Register where it is not known if the dog is desexed or not. A major reason for this is that the statutory age requirement for identification of a dog is six months. At this age many dogs have not yet been desexed.

Table 4 shows that the number of male dogs is 2% greater than the number of female dogs for pure-breed dogs on the Register.

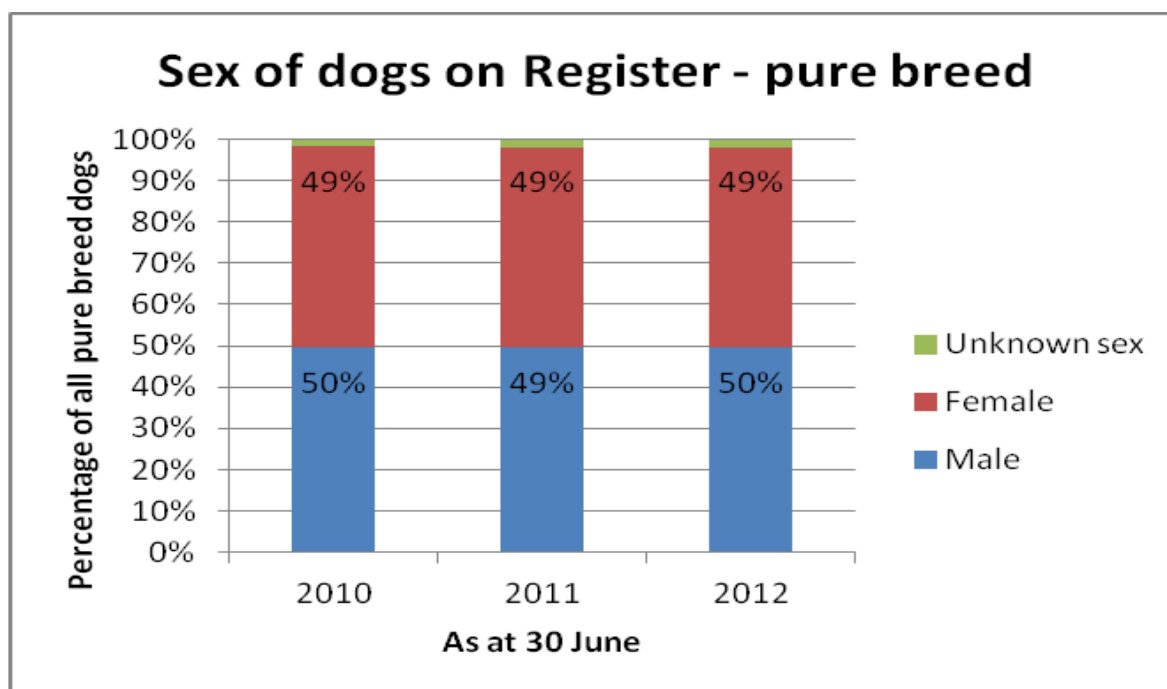


Figure 4A

Figure 4A shows that there has been little change in the breakdown by sex for pure-breed dogs on the Register in the period 2010 to 2012. The numbers of both male and female pure-breed dogs have increased by 17% since 30 June 2010 and the proportion of male dogs remains at 50% of all pure-breed dogs.

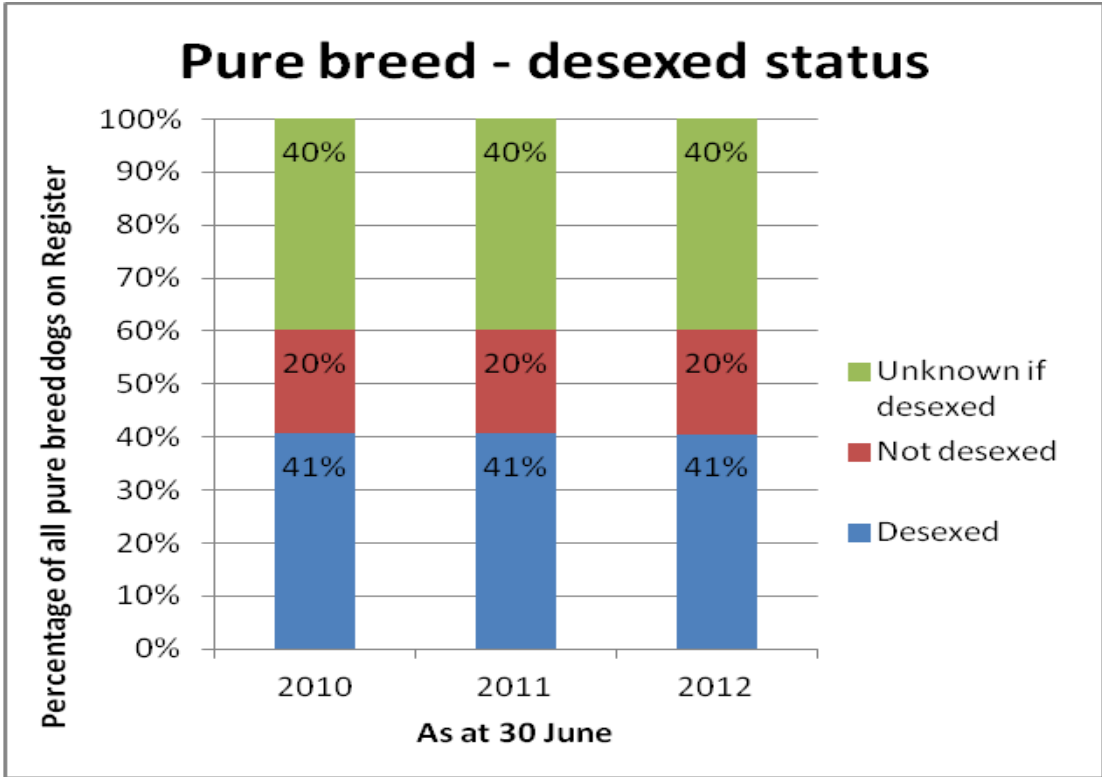


Figure 4B

Figure 4B shows that there has been little change in the breakdown by desexed status for pure-breed dogs on the Register in the period 2010 to 2012. The numbers of both desexed and not-desexed pure-breed dogs have increased by 17% since 30 June 2010, and the proportion of desexed dogs remains at 41% of all pure-breed dogs. Note the large number of pure-breed dogs where the desexed status was not known.

Table 5 Cross-breed dogs on the Companion Animals Register

<i>Numbers of dogs</i>	Desexed	Not desexed	Unknown if desexed	Total
Male	136,993	47,389	106,707	291,089
Female	157,889	28,002	102,653	288,544
Sex unknown	5,339	1,778	5,418	12,535
Total	300,221	77,169	214,778	592,168
Percentages				
Male	47%	16%	37%	100%
Female	55%	10%	36%	100%
Sex unknown	43%	14%	43%	100%
Total	51%	13%	36%	100%

Table 5 shows that, overall, more than half of the cross-breed dogs on the Register are desexed and this is a significantly greater proportion than is the case for pure-breed dogs. A significantly higher proportion of female dogs was desexed compared to male dogs, and the difference is similar to that for pure-breed dogs. There has been no significant change in the breakdown of cross-breed dogs by desexed status since 30 June 2011.

These results need to be interpreted with caution due to the relatively high proportion of both pure-breed (40%) and cross-breed dogs (36%) where it was unknown if the dog was desexed or not desexed, and this is a continuation of the proportion of 'unknowns' from 30 June 2011. A contributor to the high rate of unknowns is the significant number of dogs on the Register who are identified only. As these dogs haven't been registered yet, the desexed status remains unknown.

Table 5 shows that the number of male dogs is 1% greater than the number of female dogs for cross-breed dogs on the Register.

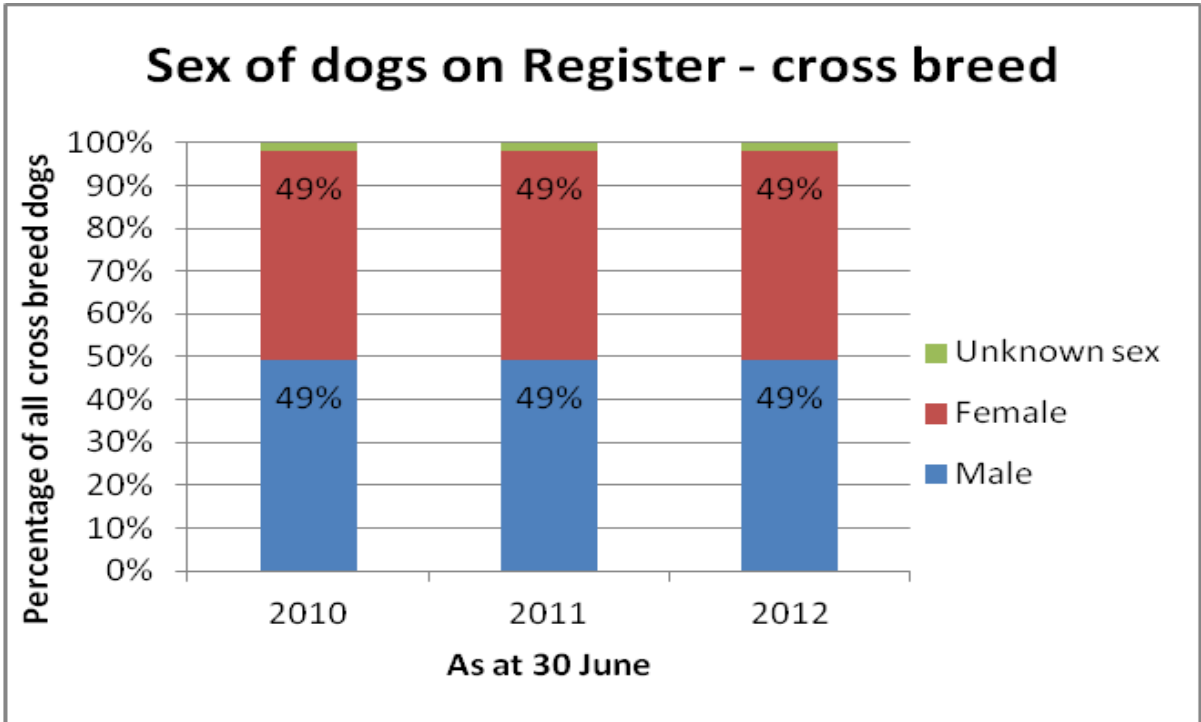


Figure 5A

Figure 5A shows that there has been little change in the breakdown by sex for cross-breed dogs on the Register in the period 2010 to 2012. The numbers of male and female pure-breed dogs have increased by approximately the same proportion (17.7% and 17.1% respectively) since 30 June 2010, and the proportion of male dogs remains at 49% of all cross-breed dogs.

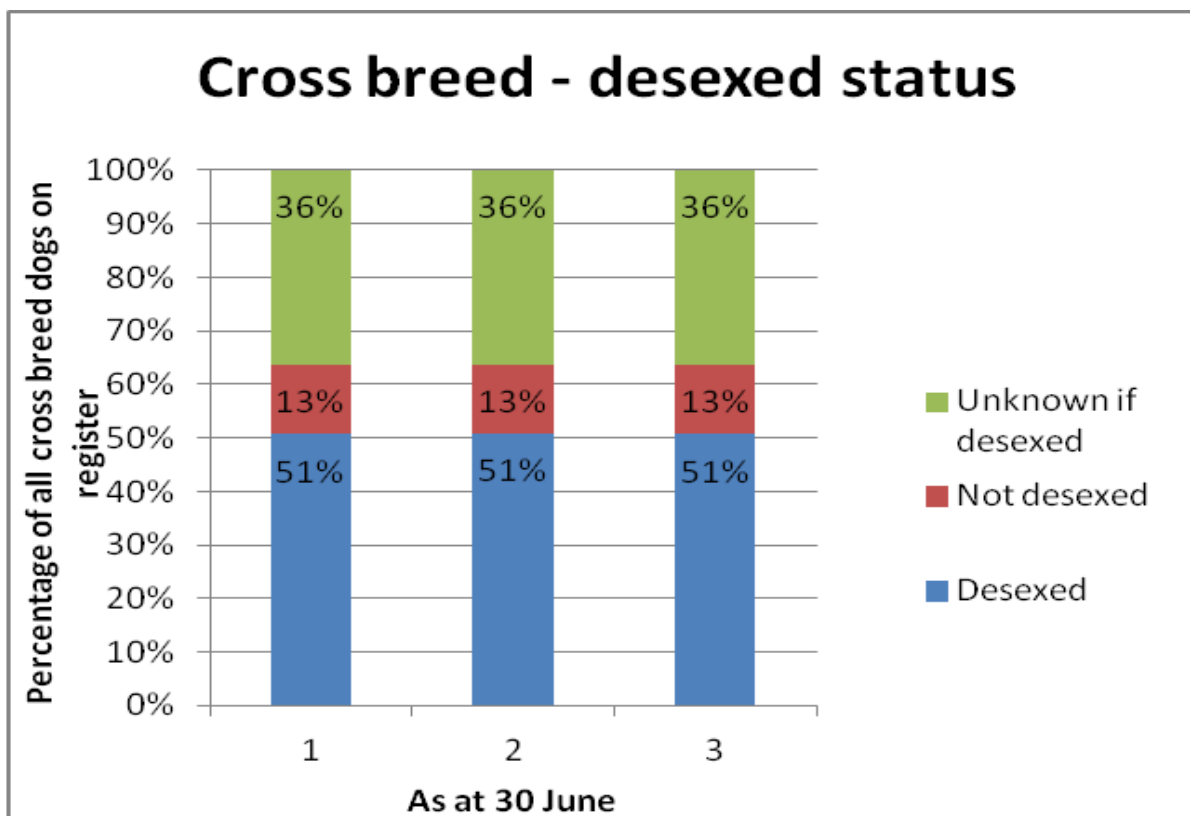


Figure 5B

Figure 5B shows that there has been little change in the breakdown by desexed status for cross-breed dogs on the Register in the period 2010 to 2012. The numbers of both desexed and not-desexed cross-breed dogs have increased by 18% since 30 June 2010 and the proportion of desexed dogs remains at 51% of all cross-breed dogs.

Note the large number of cross-breed dogs where the desexed status was not known.

2.4.2 Pure-breed dogs on the Register at 30 June 2012 – top 20 most popular

Table 6

Rank	Pure-breed	No. on Register	% of all dogs
1	Labrador Retriever	81,641	5%
2	Bull Terrier (Staffordshire)	80,718	5%
3	Jack Russell Terrier	68,401	4%
4	Maltese	56,948	3%
5	Border Collie	52,528	3%
6	Australian Cattle Dog	50,626	3%
7	German Shepherd Dog	49,708	3%

Rank	Pure-breed	No. on Register	% of all dogs
8	Poodle	37,921	2%
9	Australian Kelpie	33,409	2%
10	Fox Terrier	31,077	2%
11	Cavalier King Charles Spaniel	30,059	2%
12	Golden Retriever	29,336	2%
13	Rottweiler	28,717	2%
14	Chihuahua	27,931	2%
15	Boxer	22,331	1%
16	Shih Tzu	19,698	1%
17	Beagle	19,261	1%
18	American Staffordshire Terrier	19,168	1%
19	Cocker Spaniel	18,833	1%
20	Pomeranian	16,800	1%
	Total 20 most popular pure-breeds	775,111	46%

Table 6 shows that, at 30 June 2012, the two most popular pure-breeds are the Labrador Retriever and the Staffordshire Bull Terrier, each of which account for 5% of the total of dogs on the Register. The 20 most popular breeds accounted for nearly half (46%) of all dogs on the Register and this is unchanged from 30 June 2011.

There has been no change in the composition of the 20 most popular pure-breeds since 30 June 2011. The eight most popular breeds have retained their ranking and most of the changes have occurred as interchanges between breeds close together in the Table.

2.4.3 Cross-breed dogs on the Register at 30 June 2012 – top 20 most popular

Table 7

Rank	Cross-breed (first breed listed)	No. on Register	% of all dogs
1	Maltese	92,921	6%
2	Australian Kelpie	37,496	2%
3	Australian Cattle Dog	31,953	2%

Rank	Cross-breed (first breed listed)	No. on Register	% of all dogs
4	Jack Russell Terrier	29,495	2%
5	Bull Terrier (Staffordshire)	29,266	2%
6	Shih Tzu	27,255	2%
7	Labrador Retriever	25,957	2%
8	Border Collie	23,924	1%
9	Fox Terrier	23,650	1%
10	Chihuahua	16,791	1%
11	German Shepherd Dog	14,604	1%
12	Terrier	14,147	1%
13	Poodle	12,868	1%
14	Australian Silky Terrier	12,403	1%
15	Rottweiler	11,711	1%
16	Mastiff	10,894	1%
17	Bullmastiff	10,677	1%
18	Pomeranian	8,958	1%
19	Cavalier King Charles Spaniel	8,174	<0.5%
20	Australian Terrier	8,106	<0.5%
	Total 20 most popular cross-breeds	451,250	27%

Table 7 shows that the most popular cross-breed at 30 June 2012 was the Maltese which accounted for 6% of all dogs on the Register. The 20 most popular breeds accounted for about one-quarter (27%) of all dogs on the Register, which was unchanged from 30 June 2011.

There have been no changes in the composition of the 20 most popular cross-breeds since 30 June 2011. The ranking of the 7 most popular cross-breeds has remained unchanged.

3. Reported attacks

3.1 Number and victims of attacks for 2011/12

Table 8

Total no. attacks reported	No. dogs involved in an attack	No. human victims	No. animal victims
5,650	7,381	3,323	5,340

Table 8 shows that the number of dog attacks in 2011/12 was 5,650. The total number of attacks represented a 10% increase on the 5,140 reported in 2010/11.

The total number of dogs involved in attacks is higher than the number of attacks. This is because more than one dog can be involved in a single attack. The average number of dogs involved in an attack was 1.3, approximately the same as in 2010/11.

The number of victims, combined human and animal, is also higher than the number of attacks. This is because there may be more than one victim in a single attack. Animal victims include livestock as well as cats, dogs and other pets. Since 2011/12 the number of reported human victims of dog attacks has increased by 10% from 3,017) and the number of reported animal victims has increased by 13% from 4,729.

On average there was one human victim for approximately every 1.7 attacks and this is close to the figure reported for 2010/11.

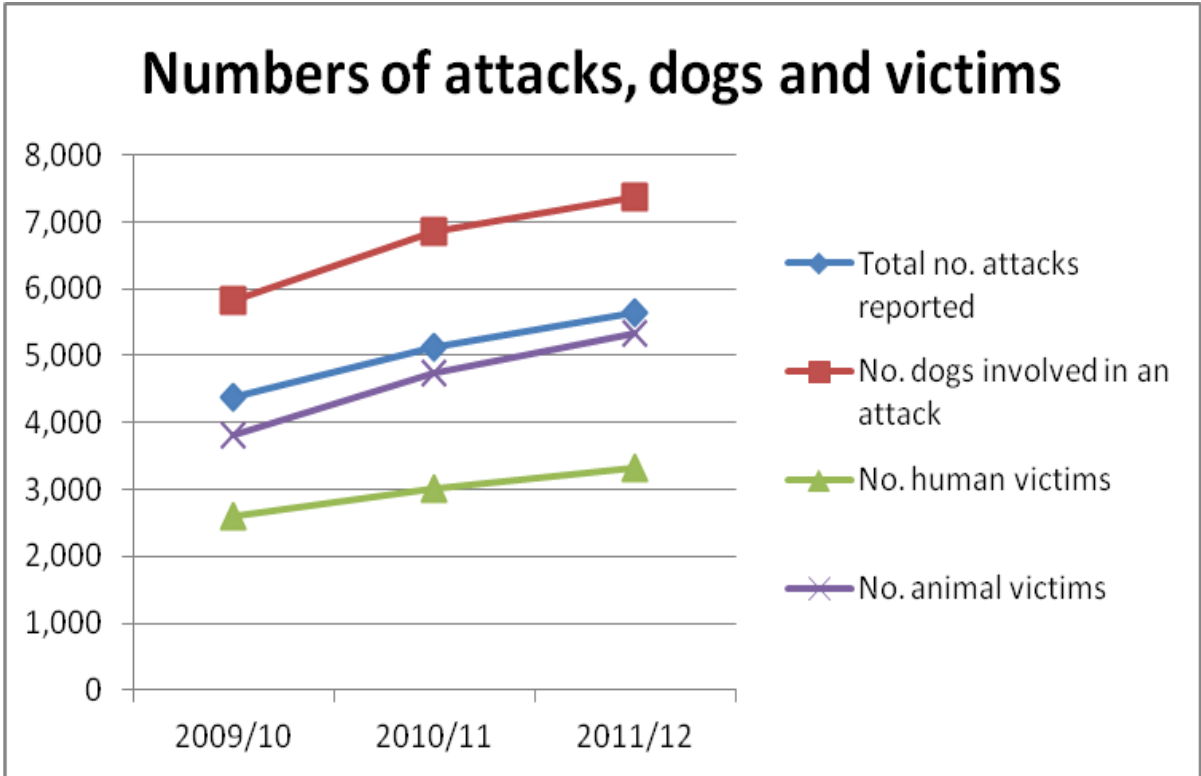


Figure 8

Figure 8 shows that each of the annual summary statistics describing dog attack reports has grown substantially between 2009/10 to 2011/12:

- the total number of dog attacks reported has increased by 29% from 4,381
- the number of dogs involved in an attack has increased by 27% from 5,818
- the number of human victims has increased by 27% from 2,610
- the number of animal victims has increased by 40% from 3,825.

3.2 Breeds involved

3.2.1 Breed type for dogs involved in dog attacks for 2011/12

Table 9

Breed type	Dogs that attacked	
	No.	%
Pure-breed	3,752	51%
Cross-breed	2,386	32%
Unknown	1,265	17%
Total	7,403	100%

Table 9 shows that many more pure-breed dogs were involved in attacks than cross-breeds in 2011/12. This is consistent with the predominance of pure-breed dogs which make up almost two-thirds of the total dog population on the Register (Table 3).

These results need to be interpreted with caution due to the relatively high percentage (17%) of dogs that attacked where it was unknown whether the dog was pure-breed or cross-breed.

The breakdown of dogs involved in attacks known to be pure-breeds, cross-breeds or unknown has changed little since 2010/2011, with a small increase from 31% to 32% for cross-breed dogs, correlating with a similar fall from 18% to 17% for the unknown category.

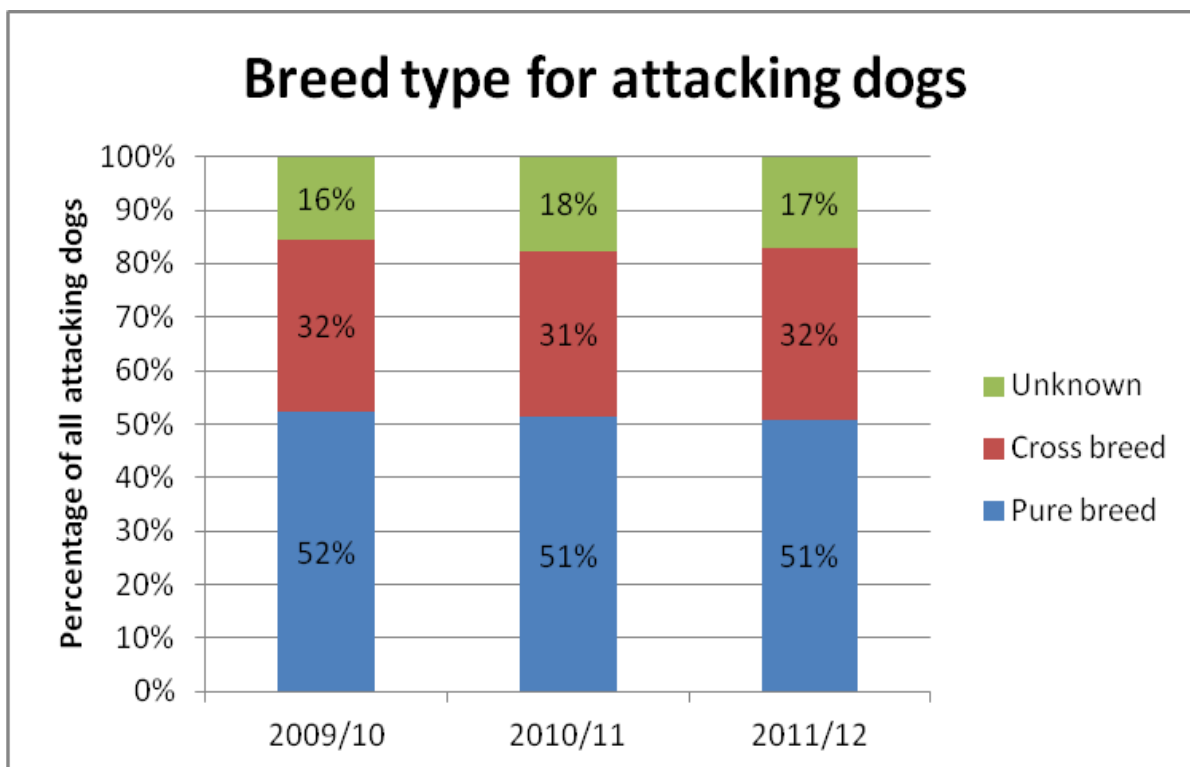


Figure 9

Figure 9 shows that the increase in the number of pure-breed dogs involved in attacks (23%) has been smaller than the increase in the number of cross-breed dogs involved in attacks (28%). Pure-breed dogs now account for 51% of all dogs involved in attacks compared with 52% in 2009/10. There has been a disproportionate increase in the number of dogs where the breed was unknown of 39% from 909 in 2009/10.

3.2.2 Pure-breeds involved in attacks – 2011/12

Table 10

Rank	Pure-breed	No. of attacks breed was involved in	No. of registered dogs for breed	Rate of attack (per 100 registered dogs) ¹
1	Pit Bull Terrier	67	2,498	2.7
2	Basset Griffon Vendeen	1	44	2.3
3	Tibetan Mastiff	1	47	2.1
4	Mastiff	67	3,359	2.0
5	American Staffordshire Terrier	343	19,168	1.8
6	Bouvier des Flandres	1	59	1.7
7	Leonberger	1	65	1.5
8	Toy Fox Terrier	2	148	1.4
9	South African Boerboel	2	159	1.3
10	Bulldog (american)	26	2,170	1.2

Rank	Pure-breed	No. of attacks breed was involved in	No. of registered dogs for breed	Rate of attack (per 100 registered dogs)¹
11	Australian Dingo	7	586	1.2
12	Flat Coated Retriever	2	178	1.1
13	Irish Wolfhound	17	1,544	1.1
14	Bullmastiff	84	7,796	1.1
15	Bull Terrier	125	11,962	1.0
16	Siberian Husky	132	12,915	1.0
17	Belgian Shepherd Dog	22	2,276	1.0
18	Great Dane	60	6,520	0.9
19	Alaskan Malamute	73	8,075	0.9
20	Bull Terrier (Staffordshire)	718	80,718	0.9
21	Airedale Shepherd	1	113	0.9
22	Australian Stumpy Tail Cattle Dog	12	1,473	0.8
23	Bloodhound	2	247	0.8
24	Neapolitan Mastiff	11	1,370	0.8
25	Coolie (German)	3	392	0.8
26	Australian Cattle Dog	382	50,626	0.8
27	Anatolian Shepherd Dog	2	272	0.7
28	Akita	7	1,012	0.7
29	Bearded Collie	2	305	0.7
30	Brittany	2	311	0.6
31	Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier	2	317	0.6
32	Maremma Sheepdog	17	2,747	0.6
33	Dogue de Bordeaux	9	1,475	0.6
34	Pointer	6	1,015	0.6
35	Irish Terrier	2	347	0.6
36	Weimaraner	19	3,362	0.6
37	Hungarian Puli	1	177	0.6
38	German Shepherd Dog	278	49,708	0.6
39	Deerhound	1	179	0.6
40	Rottweiler	160	28,717	0.6
41	Australian Bulldog	26	4,760	0.5
42	Lakeland Terrier	1	196	0.5
43	Affenpinscher	4	810	0.5
44	Rhodesian Ridgeback	39	8,163	0.5
45	St. Bernard	5	1,051	0.5
46	Shar Pei	30	6,863	0.4
47	Basenji	4	957	0.4
48	Cockapoodle	2	511	0.4
49	Briard	1	260	0.4

Rank	Pure-breed	No. of attacks breed was involved in	No. of registered dogs for breed	Rate of attack (per 100 registered dogs)¹
50	Dobermann	26	6,879	0.4
51	Border Terrier	3	811	0.4
52	Australian Kelpie	115	33,409	0.3
53	Italian Corso Dog	1	300	0.3
54	Boxer	73	22,331	0.3
55	Italian Greyhound	4	1,306	0.3
56	Chow Chow	3	1,008	0.3
57	Bernese Mountain Dog	3	1,026	0.3
58	Hungarian Vizsla	4	1,369	0.3
59	Australian Shepherd	4	1,377	0.3
60	German Pinscher	1	354	0.3
61	Bulldog (British)	3	1,065	0.3
62	Irish Setter	2	711	0.3
63	Coolie	2	789	0.3
64	Whippet	15	5,919	0.3
65	Gordon Setter	1	419	0.2
66	Old English Sheepdog	2	840	0.2
67	Dachshund (standard)	9	3,818	0.2
68	Labradoodle	13	5,583	0.2
69	Airedale Terrier	2	866	0.2
70	Bull Terrier (Miniature)	2	878	0.2
71	Border Collie	117	52,528	0.2
72	Samoyed	6	2,768	0.2
73	Dalmatian	15	7,191	0.2
74	Greyhound	18	8,693 ²	0.2
75	Afghan Hound	1	504	0.2
76	German Shorthaired Pointer	8	4,251	0.2
77	German Spitz (Mittel)	1	547	0.2
78	Jack Russell Terrier	114	68,401	0.2
79	Japanese Spitz	5	3,201	0.2
80	British Bulldog	4	2,611	0.2
81	Corgi	8	5,549	0.1
82	Dachshund (miniature)	13	9,159	0.1
83	Labrador Retriever	107	81,641	0.1
84	Curly Coated Retriever	1	934	0.1
85	Fox Terrier	33	31,077	0.1
86	Boston Terrier	1	967	0.1
87	Bulldog (French)	2	1,943	0.1
88	Golden Retriever	30	29,336	0.1
89	King Charles Spaniel	2	2,073	0.1

Rank	Pure-breed	No. of attacks breed was involved in	No. of registered dogs for breed	Rate of attack (per 100 registered dogs) ¹
90	Australian Terrier	6	6,396	0.1
91	Newfoundland	1	1,077	0.1
92	Chinese Crested Dog	1	1,121	0.1
93	Maltese	48	56,948	0.1
94	Poodle	31	37,921	0.1
95	Shih Tzu	16	19,698	0.1
96	Pekingese	1	1,311	0.1
97	Mini Foxie	6	8,808	0.1
98	Chihuahua	18	27,931	0.1
99	Scottish Terrier	1	1,571	0.1
100	Beagle	12	19,261	0.1
101	West Highland White Terrier	3	4,898	0.1
102	Australian Silky Terrier	7	12,329	0.1
103	Collie	3	5,390	0.1
104	Pomeranian	9	16,800	0.1
105	Dachshund	2	3,977	0.1
106	Miniature Fox Terrier	2	4,104	<0.05
107	English Springer Spaniel	1	2,256	<0.05
108	Tenterfield Terrier	7	16,277	<0.05
109	Schnauzer	1	2,610	<0.05
110	Bichon Frise	2	5,776	<0.05
111	Cocker Spaniel	6	18,833	<0.05
112	Cavalier King Charles Spaniel	8	30,059	<0.05
113	Cavoodle	2	9,095	<0.05
114	Schnauzer (Miniature)	1	10,009	<0.05
115	Pug	1	11,239	<0.05
	Breeds not involved in attacks	0	31,478	0.0
	Total	3,752	1,099,628³	0.34⁴

Notes to Table 10:

¹ The rate of attack is the number of attacks each breed was involved in divided by the number of dogs of that breed on the Register multiplied by 100. Higher rates indicate that dogs from a breed are expected to be more liable to attack. The pure-breeds listed in the Table are ordered by decreasing rate of attack.

² This includes 6,141 dogs registered in 2011/12 by Greyhound Racing NSW under the *Greyhound Racing Act 2009*.

³ This number is the total number of pure-breed dogs on the Companion Animals Register at 30 June 2012 plus the number of dogs registered by Greyhound Racing NSW. Accordingly this total is 6,141 greater (see note 2 above) than the total in Table 3.

⁴ This number is the rate of attack for all pure-breeds combined in 2011/12.

Table 10 shows that the five pure-breeds that were responsible for the highest number of attacks in 2011/12 were the Bull Terrier (Staffordshire), Australian Cattle Dog, American Staffordshire Terrier, German Shepherd Dog, and Rottweiler breeds. These breeds were involved in 1,881 attacks, which represented half of all instances where pure-breeds were involved in dog attacks. The same pure-breeds were the most heavily represented in dog attacks in 2010/11 but the rankings for American Staffordshire Terrier and German Shepherd Dog have interchanged.

The five pure-breeds that had the highest rates of attack in 2011/12 (as a proportion of the number of those pure-breeds recorded on the Register) were the Pit Bull Terrier, Basset Griffon Vendéen, Tibetan Mastiff, Mastiff and American Staffordshire Terrier. The Basset Griffon Vendéen and Tibetan Mastiff breeds were each involved in only a single attack, and the small numbers of these breeds makes it difficult to make any definitive statement regarding their liability to attack. There have been substantial changes in the ranking in terms of attack rates when compared to 2010/11. The reasons for these changes are unknown.

In total, 16 pure-breeds had attack rates in excess of 1 dog attack per 100 dogs of that pure-breed on the Register, a decrease from 17 breeds in 2010/11.

3.2.3 Cross-breeds involved in attacks – 2011/12

Table 11

Rank	Cross-breed	No. of attacks cross-breed was involved in	No. of registered dogs for cross-breed	Rate of attack (per 100 registered dogs)¹
1	Weimaraner (Long Haired)	1	1	100.0
2	Italian Spinone	1	3	33.3
3	Sealyham Terrier	1	3	33.3
4	Pharaoh Hound	1	12	8.3
5	Pit Bull Terrier	73	1,271	5.7
6	Elkhound	1	30	3.3
7	Airedale Terrier	2	71	2.8
8	Dogue de Bordeaux	4	156	2.6
9	Pugaliar	1	42	2.4
10	Welsh Springer Spaniel	1	46	2.2
11	Australian Bulldog	9	426	2.1
12	Australian Wire Haired Terrier	3	153	2.0
13	British Bulldog	2	113	1.8
14	Neapolitan Mastiff	10	568	1.8
15	St. Bernard	1	58	1.7
16	Bull Terrier	112	6,841	1.6
17	American Staffordshire Terrier	92	5,780	1.6
18	Mastiff	163	10,894	1.5

Rank	Cross-breed	No. of attacks cross-breed was involved in	No. of registered dogs for cross-breed	Rate of attack (per 100 registered dogs)¹
19	Shar Pei	31	2,207	1.4
20	Irish Wolfhound	42	3,023	1.4
21	Bull Terrier (Staffordshire)	393	29,266	1.3
22	Bulldog (American)	7	542	1.3
23	Akita	2	155	1.3
24	Bullmastiff	134	10,677	1.3
25	Belgian Shepherd Dog	6	493	1.2
26	Labradoodle	3	264	1.1
27	Great Dane	58	5,310	1.1
28	Rhodesian Ridgeback	77	7,395	1.0
29	Alaskan Malamute	13	1,259	1.0
30	Australian Dingo	5	500	1.0
31	Pointer	5	575	0.9
32	Old English Sheepdog	1	117	0.9
33	Australian Stumpy Tail Cattle Dog	2	235	0.9
34	Australian Shepherd	2	246	0.8
35	Boxer	51	6,310	0.8
36	Siberian Husky	19	2,403	0.8
37	German Shorthaired Pointer	4	510	0.8
38	Whippet	7	933	0.8
39	Rottweiler	84	11,711	0.7
40	Greyhound	4	580	0.7
41	Maremma Sheepdog	2	330	0.6
42	Bulldog (British)	1	170	0.6
43	Deerhound	1	173	0.6
44	Australian Cattle Dog	184	31,953	0.6
45	Dalmatian	6	1,119	0.5
46	Boston Terrier	1	187	0.5
47	English Springer Spaniel	1	199	0.5
48	German Shepherd Dog	64	14,604	0.4
49	Weimaraner	1	235	0.4
50	Australian Kelpie	153	37,496	0.4
51	Chow Chow	1	266	0.4
52	Dachshund (standard)	4	1,098	0.4
53	Labrador Retriever	92	25,957	0.4
54	Border Collie	80	23,924	0.3
55	Doberman	4	1,314	0.3
56	Corgi	9	3,085	0.3
57	Beagle	9	3,442	0.3

Rank	Cross-breed	No. of attacks cross-breed was involved in	No. of registered dogs for cross-breed	Rate of attack (per 100 registered dogs) ¹
58	Scottish Terrier	1	384	0.3
59	Terrier ²	36	14,147	0.3
60	Keeshond	1	413	0.2
61	Cairn Terrier	1	448	0.2
62	Golden Retriever	9	4,075	0.2
63	Fox Terrier	49	23,650	0.2
64	Collie	5	2,420	0.2
65	Schnauzer	3	1,491	0.2
66	Samoyed	1	500	0.2
67	Australian Terrier	16	8,106	0.2
68	Miniature Fox Terrier	2	1,093	0.2
69	Jack Russell Terrier	53	29,495	0.2
70	Coolie	1	618	0.2
71	Dachshund (miniature)	1	622	0.2
72	West Highland White Terrier	1	628	0.2
73	Tenterfield Terrier	5	3,429	0.1
74	Bichon Frise	5	3,547	0.1
75	Cocker Spaniel	9	7,773	0.1
76	Poodle	18	24,249	0.1
77	Australian Silky Terrier	13	12,403	0.1
78	Mini Foxie	4	4,392	0.1
79	Maltese	77	92,921	0.1
80	Shih Tzu	19	27,255	0.1
81	Pomeranian	5	8,958	0.1
82	Chihuahua	9	16,791	0.1
83	Lhasa Apso	1	2,090	<0.05
84	Pug	2	5,409	<0.05
85	Cavalier King Charles Spaniel	3	15,247	<0.05
	Breeds not involved in attacks	0	12,962	0.0
	Total	2,386	563,793³	0.42⁴
	Unknown	1,265	28,375	N/A ⁵

Notes to Table 11:

¹ The rate of attack is the number of attacks each cross-breed was involved in, divided by the number of dogs of that cross-breed on the Register, multiplied by 100. Higher rates indicate that dogs from a cross-breed are expected to be more liable to attack. The cross-breeds listed in the Table are ordered by decreasing rate of attack.

² "Terrier" was used where it was unknown what type of terrier was responsible for the attack, but which is coded as "Cross (Terrier)" in the Register dog attack data.

³ This number is the total number of cross-breed dogs on the Companion Animals Register at 30 June 2012.

⁴ This number is the rate of attack for all cross-breeds combined in 2011/12.

⁵ It is not valid to compute rates of attack where the breed for the attacking dog is unknown in view of differences in the way that the classification 'unknown' is arrived at for attacking dogs and for dogs on the Register.

Table 11 shows that the five cross-breeds that were responsible for the highest number of attacks in 2011/12 were the Bull Terrier (Staffordshire), Australian Cattle Dog, Mastiff, Australian Kelpie and Bullmastiff breeds. These cross-breeds were involved in 1,027 attacks, which represents 43% of all cross-breed dogs involved in attacks). The same cross-breeds were the most heavily represented in dog attacks in 2010/11, but there has been some re-ordering in positions three to five.

The five cross-breeds that had the highest rates of attack in 2011/12 (as a proportion of the number of those cross-breeds recorded on the Register), were Weimaraner (Long Haired), Italian Spinone, Sealyham Terrier, Pharaoh Hound and the Pit Bull Terrier. Only the Pit Bull Terrier also featured in the top five cross-breeds in 2010/11.

It is to be noted that, apart from the Pit Bull Terrier, no breed with a rate of attack in the top ten has been involved in more than four attacks, and it is difficult to make statistically valid conclusions from the data. Overall, 30 cross-breeds had rates of attack of one dog attack or more per 100 dogs on the Register, an increase from 23 in 2010/11.

3.3 Characteristics of attacks

3.3.1 Month of attacks for 2011/12

Table 12

Month	No.	%
July	537	10%
August	619	11%
September	486	9%
October	484	9%
November	449	8%
December	395	7%
January	473	8%
February	447	8%
March	475	8%
April	407	7%
May	427	8%
June	451	8%
Total	5,650	100%

Table 12 shows that the highest number of dog attacks (619 or 11% of the total) occurred in August 2011, followed by July 2011. The lowest number of attacks occurred in December (395), and in the remaining months of 2011/12 the number of attacks was below 500.

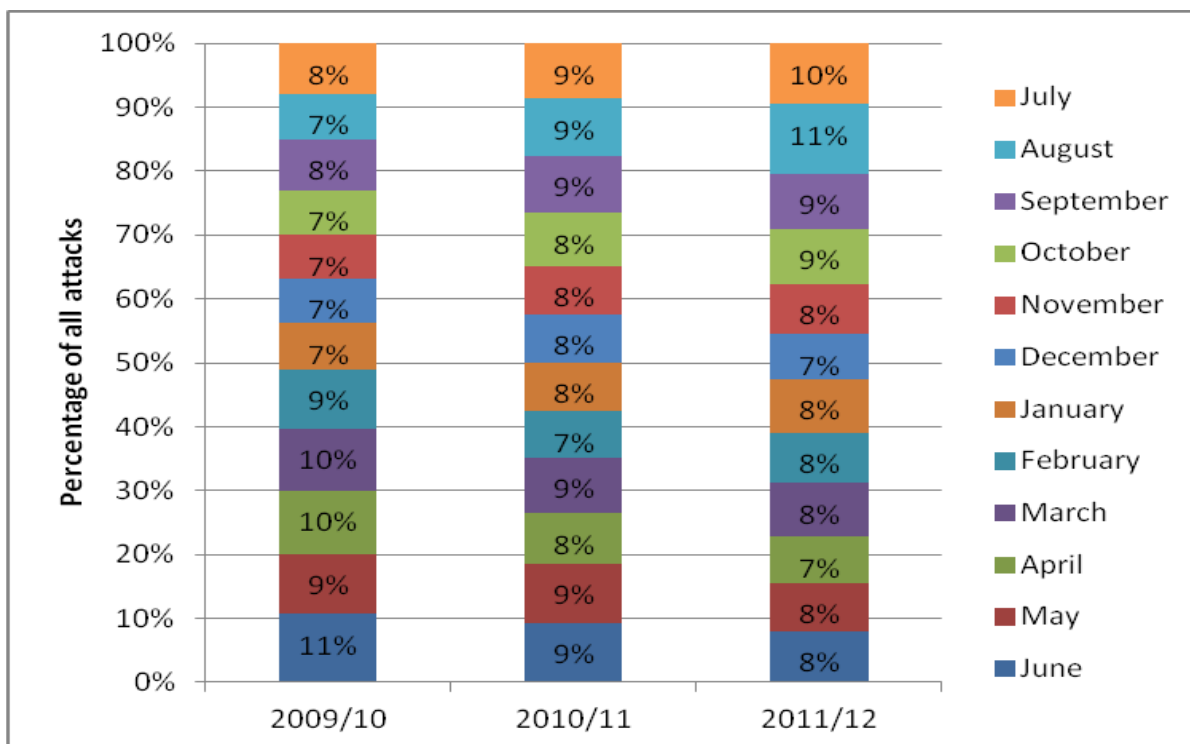


Figure 12

Figure 12 shows that, as part of the broader increase seen in Figure 8, there have been some substantial increases in monthly totals of dog attacks in the period 2009/10 to 2011/12. In particular, the number of dog attacks in the month of August has almost doubled from 315 to 619.

In percentage terms, there have also been changes in the distribution of dog attacks across the year. As a proportion of dog attacks over the year, August has increased by 3.8 percentage points since 2009/10, while April and June have both declined by more than 2.7 percentage points. Dog attacks in the first four months of the reporting year (July through October) have gone from 30% to 38% of the annual total, while dog attacks in the last four months (March through June) have decreased from 40% to 31%.

3.3.2 Location of attacks for 2011/12

Table 13

Location	Number	% of total attacks
Public place	3,510	62%
Private property	2,140	38%
Total	5,650	100%

Table 13 shows that in 2011/12, 62% of dog attacks occurred in a public place, which is the same as for the 2010/11 period.

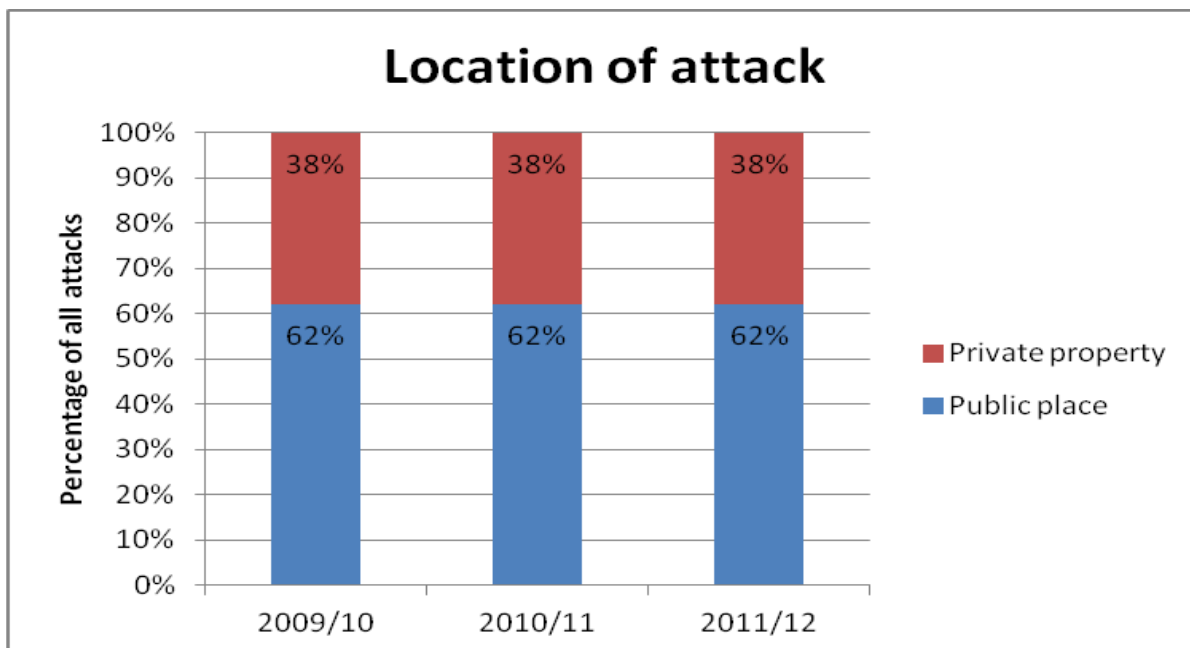


Figure 13

Figure 13 shows that, while the number of dog attacks on private property and in a public place has increased in line with the broader increase in the number of attacks from 2009/10 to 2011/12 (see Figure 8), the proportion of attacks occurring on private property has remained unchanged at 38%.

3.3.3 Control of dog for 2011/12

Table 14

	Number of attacking dogs	% of total attacks
Not under control	5,551	75%
Allegedly under control	183	2%
Unknown if under control	1,675	23%
Total	6,875	100%

Table 14 shows that in 2011/12 75% of attacking dogs were known to be not under the control of their owner or some other competent person, which is the same as in 2010/11.

Table 14 should be interpreted with care since for 23% of attacking dogs it was not known if the dog was under control.

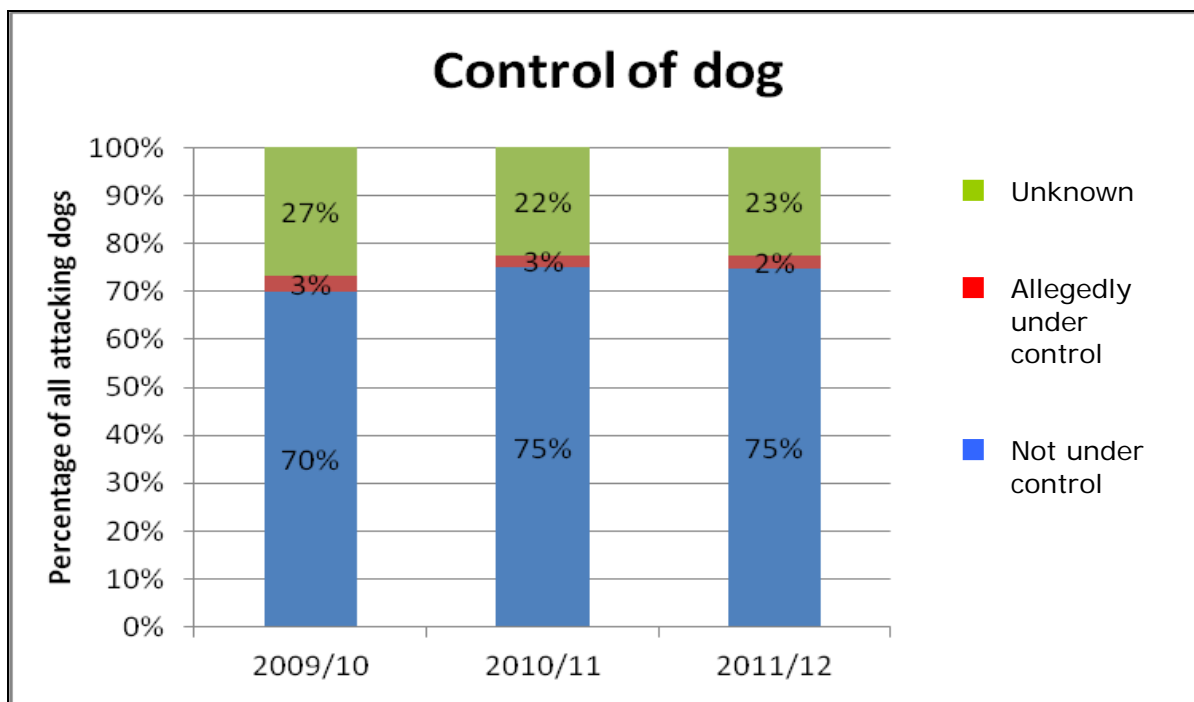


Figure 14

Figure 14 shows that over the review period the number of dogs involved in attacks where the dog was known not to be under control has increased by 36% from 1,557 dogs in 2009/10, and the proportion has grown from 70% to 75% of all attacking dogs. At the same time the number of attacking dogs allegedly under control of the owner has declined by 8% from 199, and now accounts for 2.5% of all attacking dogs (down from 3.4% in 2009/10).

In view of the significant number of attacking dogs where it was not known if the dog was under control, changes of a small magnitude should be interpreted with caution.

3.3.4 Sex of attacking dogs for 2011/12

Table 15

Sex	Number of attacking dogs	%
Male	2,869	39%
Female	2,089	28%
Unknown	2,373	32%
Total	7,331	100%

Note to Table 15: the discrepancy between the totals in Table 14 and 15 arises from 456 dogs that were not assigned a sex, primarily as the sex of these dogs was not known by the reporting council.

Table 15 shows that in 2011/12 substantially more male dogs (1.4 times as many) were involved in attacks than female dogs, which is the same as in 2010/11.

These results need to be interpreted with caution because of the high proportion of attacking dogs where the sex was unknown (almost one-third of all attacking dogs).

The ratio of male dogs to female dogs involved in attacks has remained the same as in 2010/11. The proportion of attacking dogs coded as 'unknown' has decreased

from 36% to 32%, and this decrease has been distributed roughly proportionally between male and female dogs.

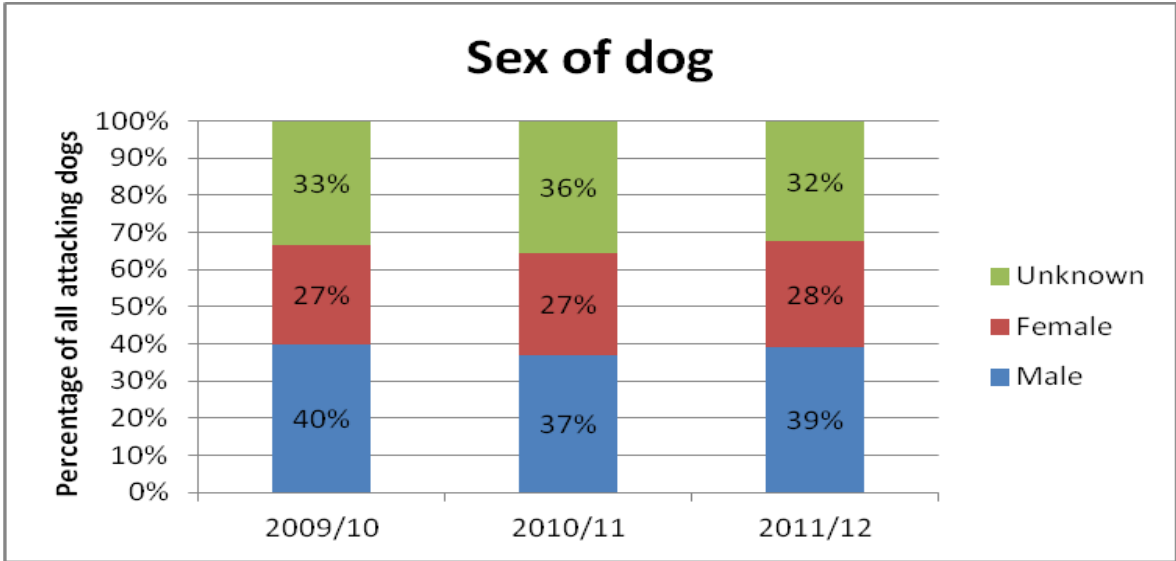


Figure 15

Figure 15 shows that in the period 2009/10 to 2011/12 there have been small changes in the sex of dogs involved in attacks. The number of female attacking dogs increased by 35%, while the number of male attacking dogs increased by 24%. The proportion of all attacking dogs known to be male has decreased from 39% to 38% and the proportion known to be female has increased from 27% to 28%.

In view of the significant number of attacking dogs where the sex was unknown changes should be interpreted with caution.

3.3.5 Desexed status of attacking dogs for 2011/12

Table 16A Numbers of dogs

Sex	Desexed status			Total
	Desexed	Not desexed	Unknown if desexed	
Male	842	1,737	290	2,869
Female	709	1,149	231	2,089
Unknown	30	60	2,361	2,451
Total	1,581	2,946	2,882	7,409

Table 16B Percentages for desexed status

Sex	Desexed status			Total
	Desexed	Not desexed	Unknown if desexed	
Male	29%	61%	10%	100%
Female	34%	55%	11%	100%
Unknown	1%	2%	96%	100%
Total	21%	40%	39%	100%

Table 16C Rate of attack per 100 dogs on Register

Sex	Desexed status			Total
	Desexed	Not desexed	unknown	
Male	0.25	1.01	N/A	0.34
Female	0.18	1.01	N/A	0.25
Unknown	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total	0.21	1.01	N/A	0.44

Note to Table 16C: It is not valid to compute rates of attack where the sex or the desexed status for the attacking dog is unknown in view of differences in the way that the classification 'unknown' is arrived at for attacking dogs and for dogs on the Register.

Note: In addition to the dogs on the Companion Animals Register, Greyhound Racing NSW has registered 6,141 greyhounds which are pure-breeds. The sex and desexed status for these dogs is unknown, and they have been excluded from the computations presented in Table 16C.

Table 16A shows that in 2011/12, 1.9 times as many dogs that were known not to be desexed were involved in attacks than dogs that were known to be desexed. The ratio of the number of not desexed dogs to desexed dogs involved in attacks (where this is known) is higher for male dogs (2.1) than for female dogs (1.6).

Table 16B shows that in 2011/12, dogs known not to be desexed were involved in 40% of all dog attacks, while dogs known to be desexed were involved in approximately 20% of all attacks. The percentages have remained relatively unchanged since 2010/11, with a slight increase in the percentage of dogs that were not desexed (from 37% in 2010/11) and a slight increase in the percentage of dogs that were desexed (from 20% in 2010/11).

Table 16C shows that in 2011/12, the rate of attack for desexed dogs is approximately 4.8 times lower than the rate of attack for dogs that are not desexed, and this is the same as in 2010/11.

These findings should be treated with caution since the desexed status of attacking dogs was unknown for almost 40% of the dogs involved in attacks.

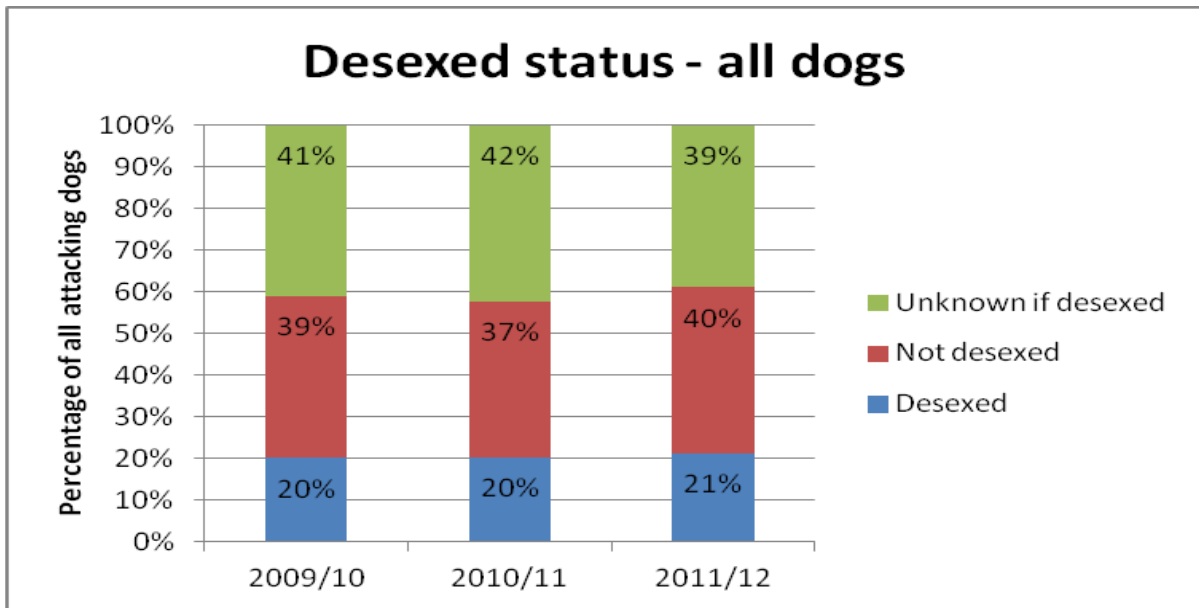


Figure 16A

In the period 2009/10 to 2011/12, the *number* of attacking dogs that were desexed grew by 36%, compared to growth of 31% for the *proportion* of attacking dogs that were not desexed. Figure 16A (above) shows that, expressed as a proportion of total attacking dogs, each of the desexed and not desexed categories has increased by approximately one percentage point with a correlating fall in the unknown category.

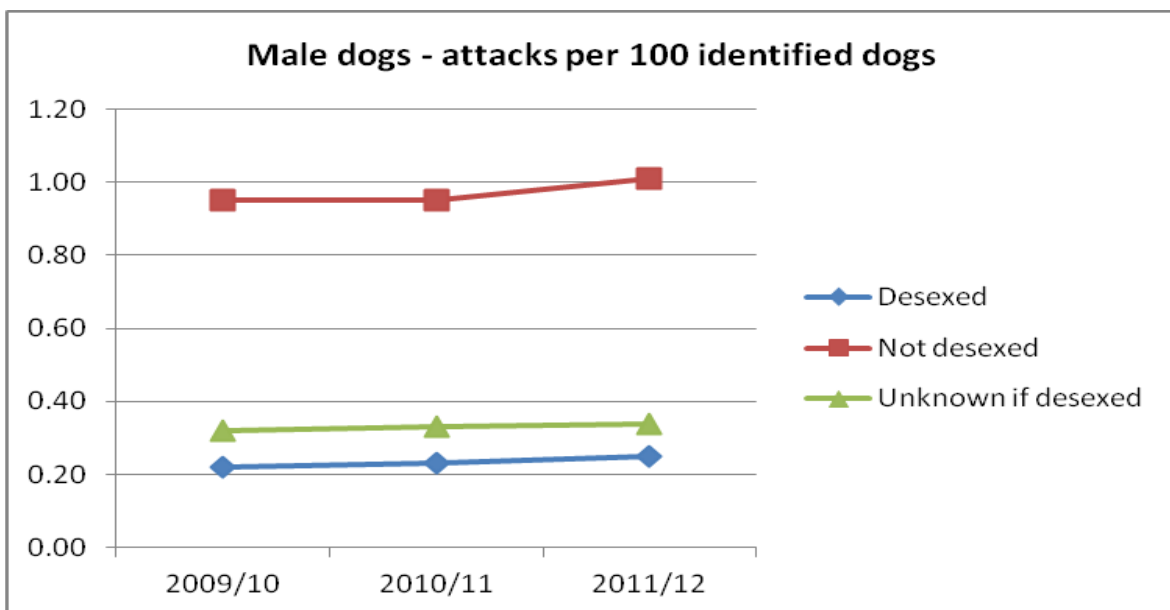


Figure 16B

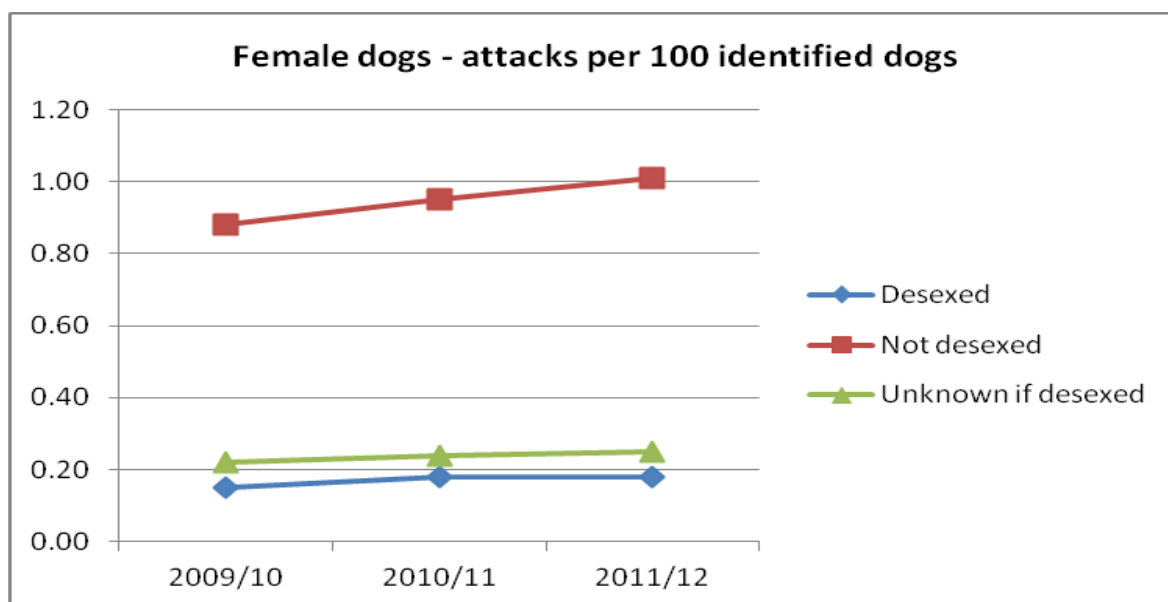


Figure 16C

Figure 16B shows that, for male dogs in the period 2009/10 to 2011/12, there has been a larger increase in the number of not-desexed dogs involved in attacks than for desexed dogs (0.06 versus 0.03 attacks per hundred identified dogs). However, the percentage increase since 2009/10 has been greater for desexed dogs (14%) than for not-desexed dogs (6%).

A similar situation occurs for female dogs (Figure 16C, above), though the difference between desexed and not-desexed dogs is larger for female dogs. In the period from 2009/10 to 2011/12, the increase in the number of female not-desexed dogs involved in attacks has been greater than for female desexed dogs (0.13 versus 0.03 attacks per hundred identified dogs). The percentage increase since 2009/10 has been greater for desexed dogs (20%) than for not-desexed dogs (15%).

Notwithstanding the consistency of these results, the significant number of attacking dogs where the desexed status was not determined reduces the confidence in any trends that can be identified.

3.3.6 Registration status of attacking dogs for 2011/12

Table 17

	Number	% of total attacks
Identified and lifetime registered	2,598	35%
Identified only	546	7%
Information unavailable	4,265	58%
Total	7,409	100%

Note to table 17: In the case of "Information unavailable", the attacking dog was either not identified on the Companion Animals Register or this information was not recorded by the reporting council.

Table 17 shows that in 2011/12, 42% of all attacking dogs were known to be on the Register. The number of attacking dogs that were identified and registered was more than 4.7 times the number of attacking dogs that were identified only. This is much

greater than the ratio of the total number of 'identified and registered' versus 'identified only' dogs on the Register (refer Table 1).

The proportion of attacking dogs known to be on the Register has increased slightly from 39% for attacks reported in 2010/11. The ratio of dog attacks by dogs that were 'identified and registered' to dog attack by dogs that were 'identified only' has increased from 4.1 since 2010/11.

These findings should be treated with caution since the registration status of attacking dogs was unknown for almost 60% of the dogs involved in attacks.

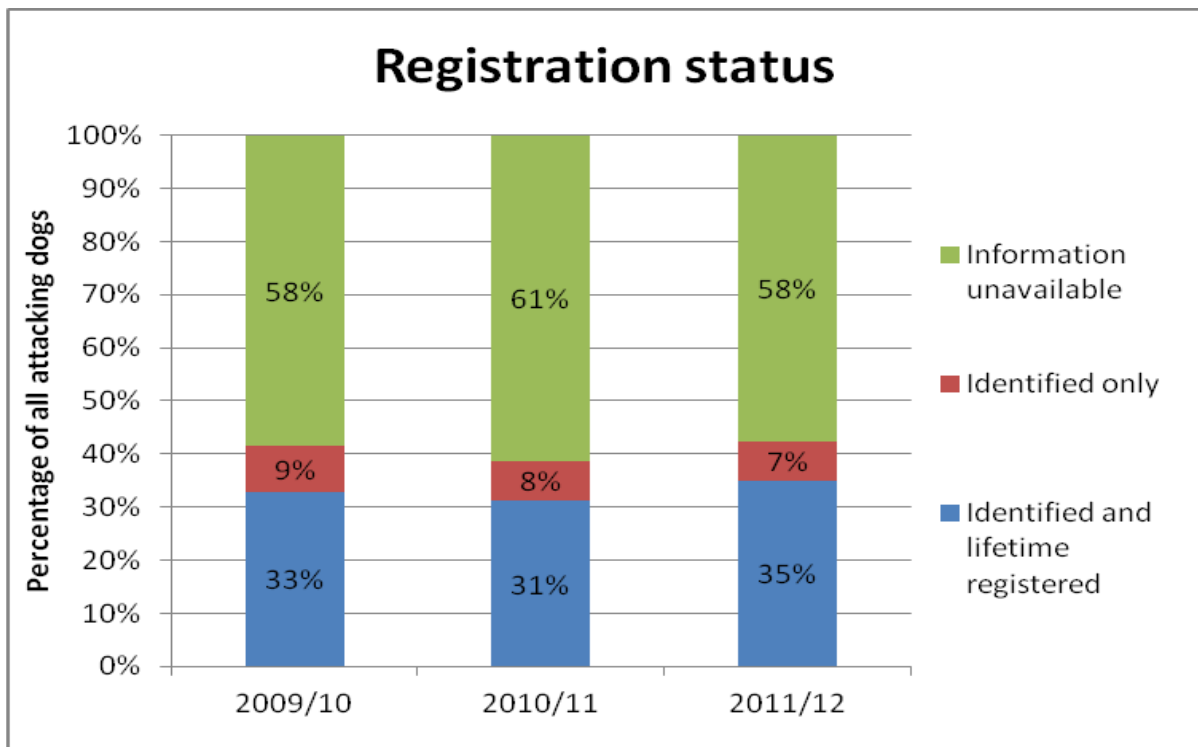


Figure 17

Figure 17 shows that the proportion of attacking dogs where registration status is unavailable has remained above 55% in each of the three years of the review period. Clearly registration status is a problematic data item to collect, since it can be determined only if the dog can be examined after an attack. Accordingly, the results shown in Figure 17 should be interpreted with caution.

Over the period from 2009/10 to 2011/12, there have been increases in each year for all three categories in line with overall growth in the number of dogs involved in attacks (see Figure 8). The number of attacking dogs that were 'identified only' has grown by 7%, much below the growth of 36% for dogs that were 'identified and lifetime registered'. As a result, the proportion of all dogs involved in an attack that were 'identified only' has reduced by 1.4 percentage points accounted for by an increase of 2.3 percentage points in the proportion of dogs that were 'identified and lifetime registered'.

3.3.7 Dangerous dog and restricted breed status of attacking dogs for 2011/12

Table 18

Dangerous dog/Restricted breed status	No. of attacks	% of all attacks
Restricted breed	12	0.2
Previously declared dangerous	46	0.6
Total no. of dogs involved in attacks	7,409	0.8

Note to Table 18: the terminology 'previously declared dangerous' means that the dog was known to have been declared dangerous prior to the time of the reported attack.

Table 18 shows that approximately 0.8% of all dogs involved in attacks were either previously declared dangerous or belonged to a restricted breed.

The number of dogs involved in attacks that belong to a restricted breed has decreased from 15 since 2010/11, and the number of previously declared dangerous dogs has increased from 25, reversing trends observed in earlier years..

The small percentage of total dog attacks recorded for these dogs indicates that the laws in regard to restricted breeds and dogs declared to be dangerous dogs are working effectively.

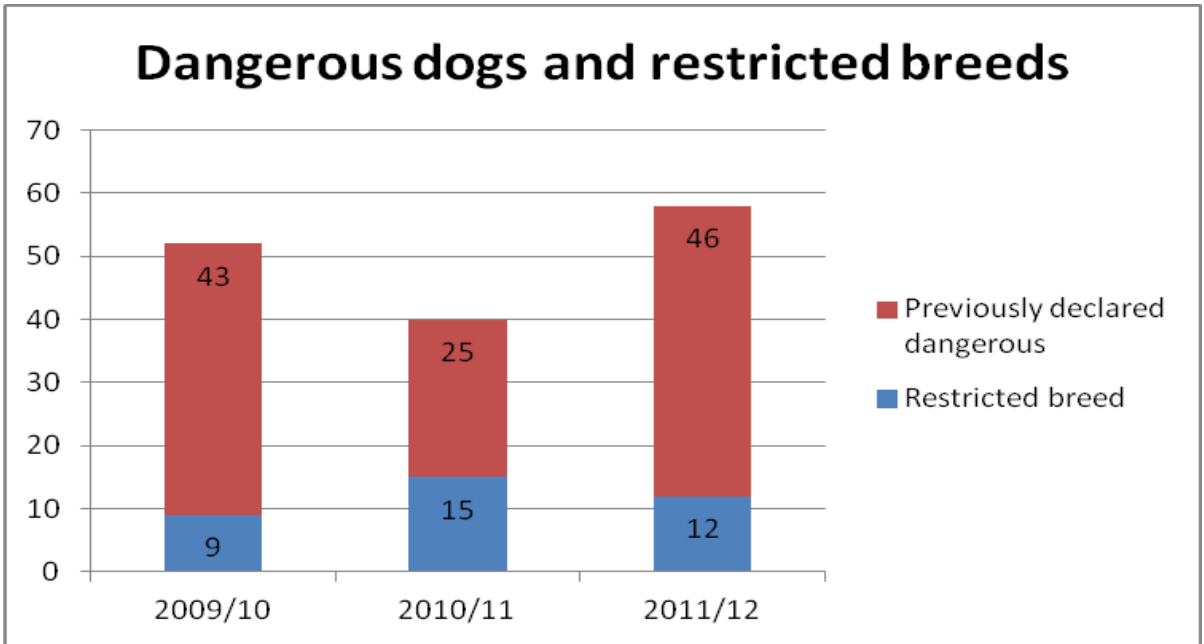


Figure 18

Figure 18 shows the number of dogs involved in attacks where the dog has been previously declared dangerous or was of a restricted breed.

No clear trends can be identified, and the relatively small numbers make it difficult to reach any robust conclusions.

3.3.8 Number of attacking dogs involved in an attack for 2011/12

Table 19

No. attacking dogs involved in the attack	No. of attacks	% of all attacks
1	4,128	73%
2	1,352	24%
3	142	2.5%
4	21	0.37%
5	5	0.09%
6	0	0.00%
7	2	0.04%
Total	5,650	100%

Table 19 shows that in 2011/12, dog attacks were dominated by attacks that involved only one dog (73%). The next largest group are attacks involving two dogs, which account for almost one-quarter of all attacks, with the remaining categories combining to make up approximately 3% of the total.

There have been no significant changes in the distribution of the number of dogs involved in attacks since 2010/11.

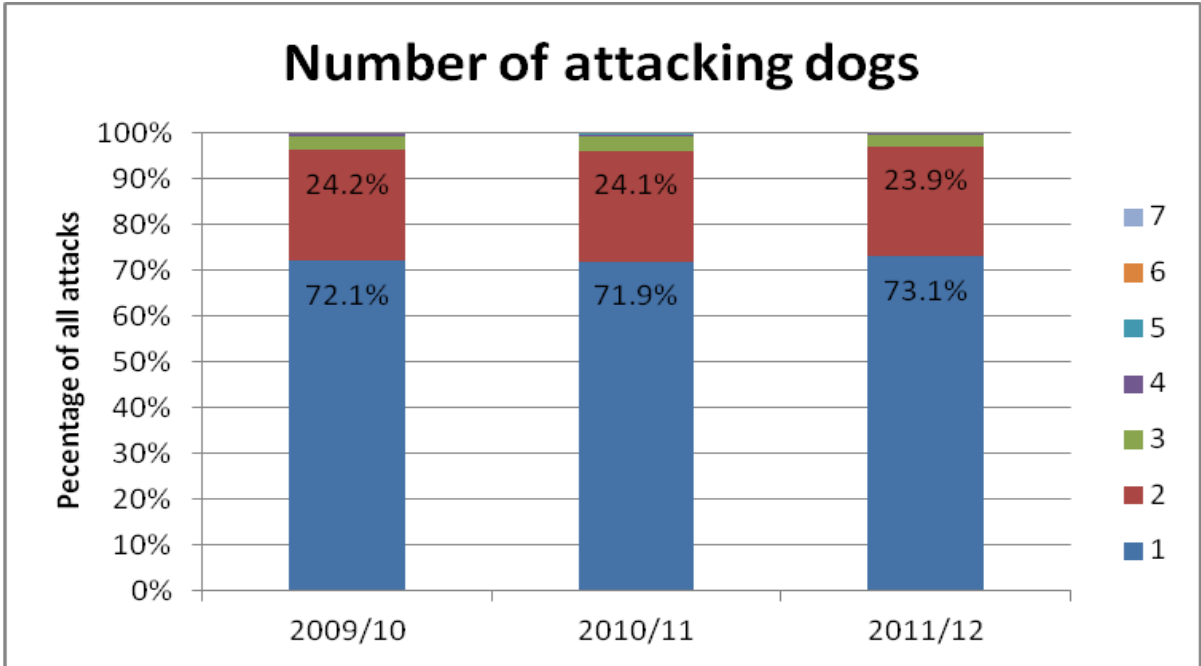


Figure 19

Figure 19 shows that in the period from 2009/10 to 2011/12, there have been only minor changes in the percentage breakdown of attacks according to the number of dogs involved in each attack.

There has been a small increase of attacks involving just one dog (up from 72% to 73% of total attacks), with a correlating small reduction of attacks involving more than two dogs. The proportion of attacks involving two dogs has remained unchanged.

3.4 Action taken for 2011/12

Table 20A Action taken against owner

	Number	%
Further investigation	1,785	28%
Penalty notice	1,517	24%
Warning issued	1,450	23%
No action taken	1,346	21%
Police action	127	2%
Court action	46	1%
Owner total	6,271	100%

Note to Table 20A: More than one action may be taken against an owner in relation to a single attack. Accordingly the total number of actions is higher than the total number of attacks.

Table 20B Action taken against dog

	Number	%
Dog/s destroyed	903	43%
Dog/s seized and taken to pound	601	28%
Dangerous Dog Declaration made	506	24%
Dog/s seized and returned to owner	101	5%
Dog total	2,111	100%

Note to Tables 20A and 20B: In addition to the entries in Tables 20A and 20B, there were a further 719 actions taken recorded as 'other'. These generally relate to additional action taken by the council as part of their investigation and do not necessarily relate specifically to owners or animals.

Tables 20A and 20B show that the number of actions against owners was approximately three times the number of actions against dogs, which is slightly lower than in 2010/11. The most common action taken against the owner was further investigation, followed by issue of a penalty notice and issuing a warning. The most common action taken against dogs was destroying the dog, followed by seizure of the dog and taking it to pound, and declaring the dog dangerous.

Overall, the results are consistent with 2010/11. The most stringent actions against owners (police action and court action has decreased since 2010/11) remain at low levels. There has been a decrease in the percentage of further investigation from 32%, accounted for largely by a roughly proportional increase in the percentages of the other major categories.

The percentage of dogs destroyed has increased from 36%. There has been a fall in the percentage of dangerous dog declarations from 33%, and this category has now been overtaken by the percentage of dogs seized and taken to the pound.

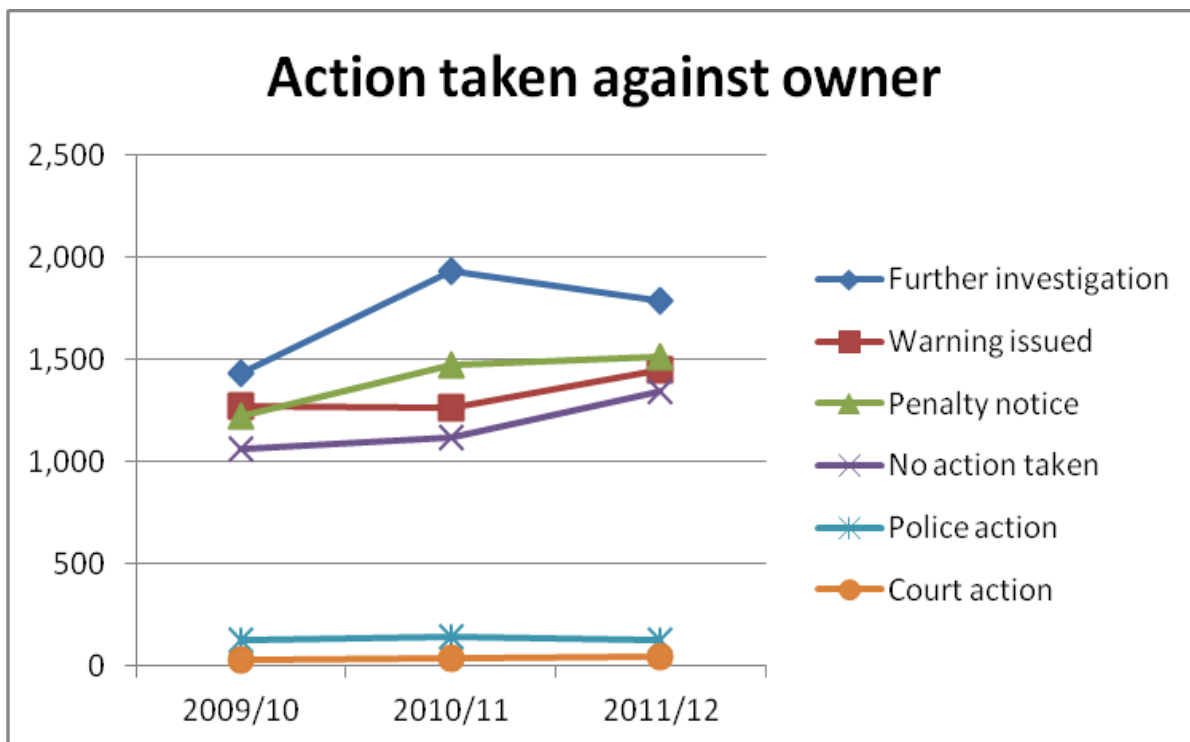


Figure 20A

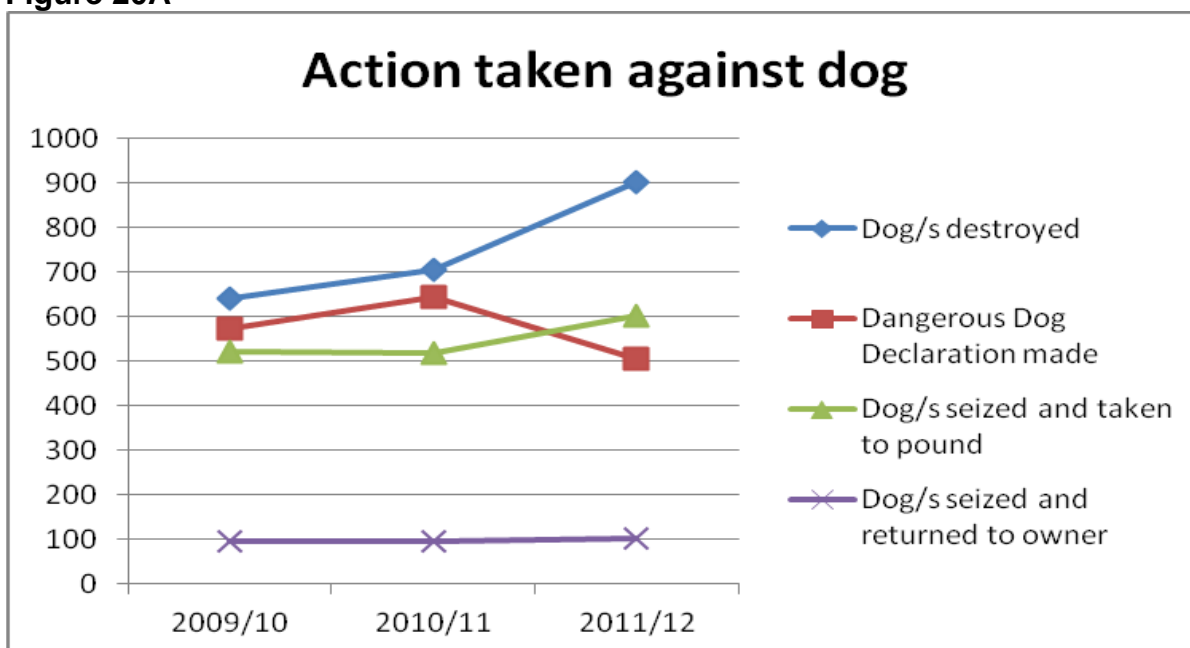


Figure 20B

Note that the numbers of instances of action taken against the owner and/or the dog do not relate directly to the number of attacking dogs.

Nevertheless, in the period 2009/10 to 2011/12, the number of instances of action against the owner has grown by 22% from 5,150, and the number of instances of action against the dog has grown by 15% from 1,833. Reference to Figure 8 indicates that these rates of increase are below the growth in number of attacking dogs (27% over the review period), suggesting that action against owners and, in particular, dogs has become less intense over time.

In the case of action against the owner, there has been relatively little change in the relative proportions of the four most common types of action taken (including 'no action taken'). The proportion of the total which was accounted for by 'warning issued' has declined by 1.5 percentage points, while 'further investigation', 'penalty notice' and 'no action taken' have each gained approximately 0.5 percentage points. Counter-trend results were reported over the review period (the individual graphs are significantly 'bent'). The number of police actions has remained constant, while the number of court actions has grown from 33 to 46.

In the case of action against the dog, there has been a 41% increase in 'dog destroyed' from 641 in 2009/2010. The percentage increase is well above the 15% increase for all instances of action against the dog, and the proportion of the total for 'dog destroyed' has grown from 35% to 43%. This increase mainly correlates with a decline by 12% of dangerous dog declarations made from 574 in 2009/10, and has dropped below 'dog seized and taken to pound'. For dogs seized, 'taken to pound' increased by 15% and 'returned to owner' increased slightly from 97 to 101.

4. Reported injuries

4.1 Severity of attacks on people for 2011/12

Table 21

Severity of attack	Number ¹	% of total attacks ³
No injury	1,763	53%
Injury:		
Minor injury	799	24%
Medical treatment required	621	19%
Hospitalisation	146	4%
Death	0	0%
Total injuries	1,566	47%
Total responses²	3,329	100%

Notes to Table 21:

¹ As there may be multiple injuries in a single attack, the numbers in Table 21 represent the number of types of injury reported, not the number of incidents.

² Total responses equals the total of 'No injury' plus 'Total injuries'.

³ Percentages are calculated in relation to total responses.

Table 21 shows that just under half (47%) of dog attacks on people resulted in some form of injury. Over half of injuries to people were classified as 'minor'. Of the non-minor injuries, most required medical treatment, though more than one in five resulted in hospitalisation. No dog attacks in this period resulted in the death of a person.

The percentage breakdown of injuries to people is broadly consistent with that found in 2010/11.

On average, there were 28 reported injuries to people for every 100 dog attacks, and this has not changed since 2010/11.

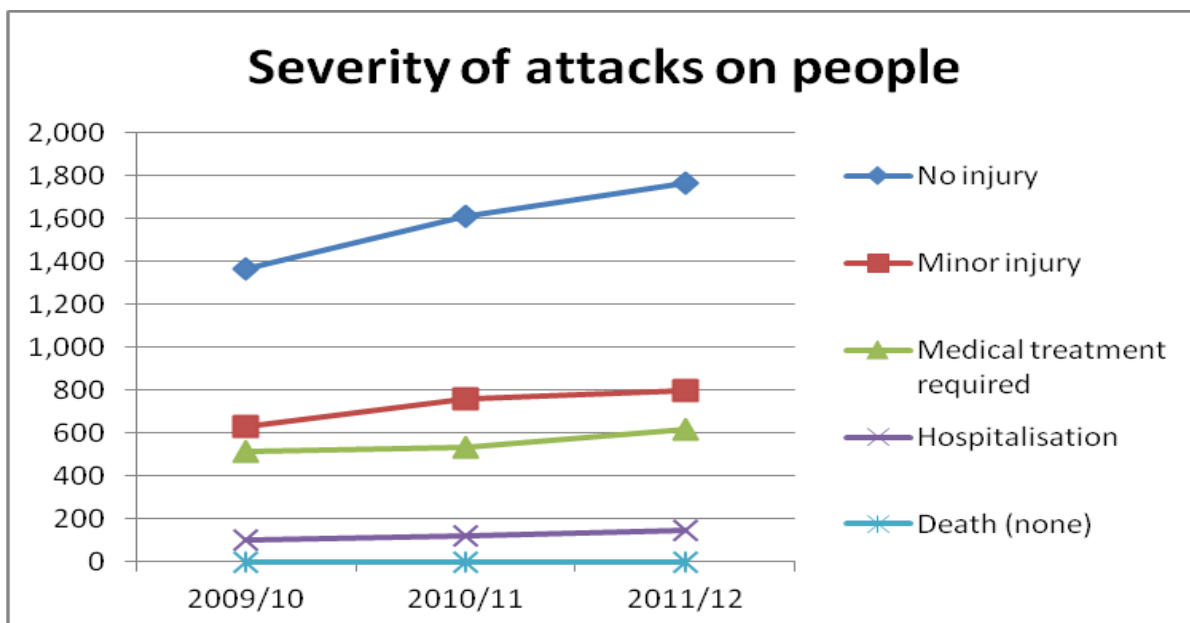


Figure 21

Note that the numbers of attacks on people or animals (see section 4.2 below) do not relate directly to the number of dog attacks.

Nevertheless, in the period 2009/10 to 2011/12, the number of attacks on people (total responses) has grown by 27% from 2,614, and this is slightly lower than the growth in total number of dog attacks of 29% (as shown in Figure 8). Note that the number of attacks resulting in injuries to people has increased by 26% over this time, while the reporting of 'no injury' also increased (by 29%). The number of attacks on people requiring hospitalisation has increased from 105 to 146. There have been no deaths of people from dog attacks in any of the three years under review.

4.2 Severity of attacks on animals for 2011/12

Table 22

Severity of attack	Number ¹	% of total attacks ³
No injury	1,160	22%
Injury:		
Minor injury	835	16%
Veterinary treatment required	894	17%
Hospitalisation of animal	196	4%
Death	2,267	42%
Total injuries	4,192	78%
Total responses²	5,352	100%

Notes to Table 22:

¹ As there may be multiple injuries in a single attack, the numbers in Table 22 represent the number of types of injury reported, not the number of incidents.

² Total responses equals the total of 'No injury' plus 'Total injuries'.

³ Percentages are based on the total number of responses.

Table 22 shows that fewer than one in four attacks on animals was reported as ‘no injury’, but it is suspected that dog attacks where no injuries are sustained may be under-reported.

Well over half of all animals which were known to be injured as a result of a dog attack died from their injuries, and this represents more than double the number of cases where medical veterinary treatment was required. Hospitalisation of the animal victim was quite rare.

The pattern of injuries is broadly similar to that observed in 2011/12, but there has been an 11% increase in the total number of injuries to animals from 3,759. This is explained by the 11% increase in the total number of animal victims of dog attacks since 2010/11, as noted in Table 8.

On average there were 74 reported animal injuries for every 100 dog attacks, and this is a small increase from 73 animal injuries for every 100 dog attacks in 2010/11.

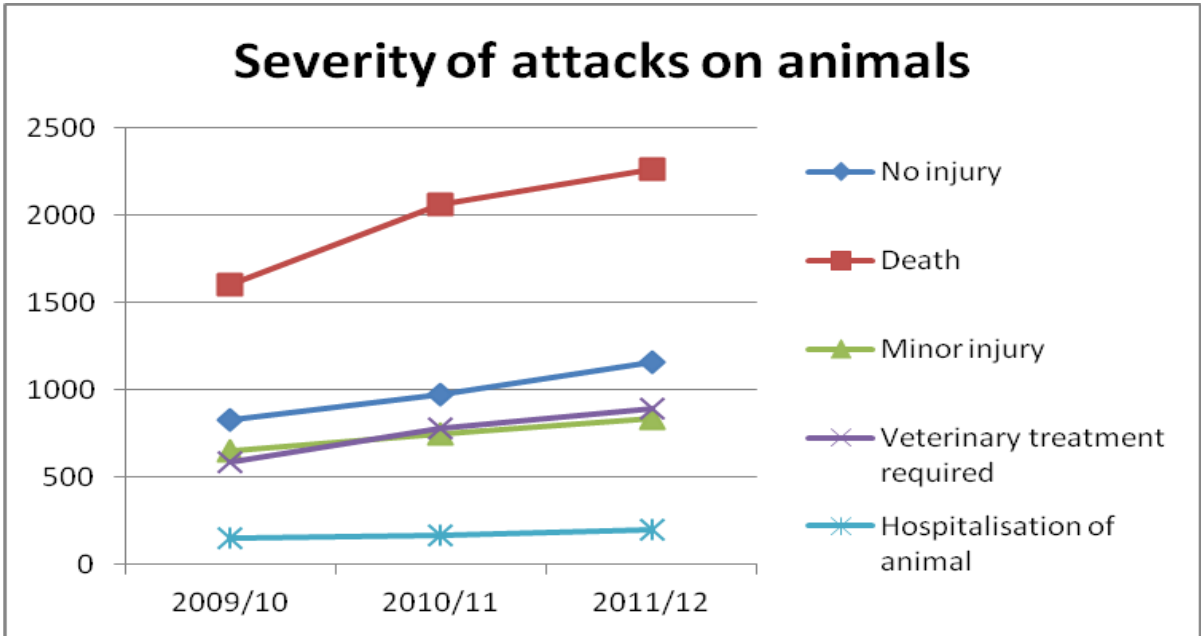


Figure 22

In the period 2009/10 to 2011/12, the number of attacks on animals (total responses) has grown by 40% from 3,815, and this is well above the growth in the total number of dog attacks of 29% (as shown in Figure 8). The increase in injuries to animals has also grown by 40% since 2009/10.

Figure 22 shows that the category ‘veterinary treatment required’ increased by 52% from 687 in 2009/10, and the proportion of total attacks on animals in this category has grown by 1.3 percentage points. This increase correlates with a decrease in the ‘minor injury’ category, where the proportion of the total fell by a similar percentage. ‘Death of animal’ increased by 42%, slightly above the overall rate of increased attacks. The number of attacks requiring hospitalisation of the animal increased from 148 to 196.

5. 2011/12 Summary

Overview

- While the number of reported attacks has increased in the last 12 months, in broad terms there has been little variation in the characteristics of attacks over the review period starting in 2009/10.
- The increase in the overall number of reported attacks may, in part, be as a result of continuing increases in the reporting of attacks by councils following the introduction of mandatory dog attack reporting in February 2009, as opposed to a higher number of attacks taking place.

Companion Animals Register data at 30 June 2012

- There were in excess of 1.68 million dogs on the Register (combined number of dogs that were identified only and dogs that were identified and registered). This represented an increase of some 8% over the previous 12 months. The number of dogs on the Register has grown by approximately 120,000 each year, and is now 17% higher than at 30 June 2010.
- The proportion of dogs that are 'identified only' remains relatively high at 39% and this has been unchanged since 2010.
- There were more dogs in the 10 years and over age group (35%) than any other age group. The number of dogs in this age group has increased by 55% since 30 June 2010 while no other age group has grown by more than 10%.
- The number of pure-breed dogs on the Register is almost twice the number of cross-breed dogs, and the proportion (65%) of pure-breed dogs has remained unchanged since 30 June 2010.
- One half of cross-breed dogs were desexed compared to a little over 40% of pure-breed dogs. Considerable caution is advised in interpreting these statistics since the desexed status was unknown for approximately 40% of dogs on the Register. The proportion of male dogs and the proportion of desexed dogs has remained constant for both pure-breed dogs and cross-breed dogs since 30 June 2010.
- The 20 most popular pure-breeds have remained largely unchanged. The Labrador Retriever, Bull Terrier (Staffordshire), Jack Russell Terrier, Maltese and Border Collie were the most popular pure-breed dogs.
- The 20 most popular cross-breeds have also remained largely unchanged. The Maltese, Australian Kelpie, Australian Cattle Dog, Jack Russell Terrier and Bull Terrier (Staffordshire) were the most popular cross-breed dogs.

Number of attacks and victims

- The number of dog attacks reported by councils in 2011/12 was 5,650, an increase of 10% from the 5,140 dog attacks reported in 2010/11. Over the three-year review period, the number of reported attacks has increased by 29% and the number of dogs involved in attacks has increased by 27%.
- Nearly three-quarters (73%) of dog attacks involved a single dog, and this percentage has increased slightly from 72% in 2009/10.
- The number of victims, human and animal combined, was 8,663. This is higher than the number of attacks because there may be more than one victim in a single attack. Over the period 2009/10 to 2011/12, the number of human victims has increased by 27% and the number of animal victims has increased by 40%.

Breeds involved in attacks

- Pure-breeds were more likely than cross-breeds to be involved in attacks, reflecting the predominance of pure-breed dogs on the Register (approximately twice as many as cross-breed dogs). However, this finding needs to be interpreted with caution due to the high proportion of attacking dogs where the breed was unknown. Over the period 2009/10 to 2011/12, the number of pure-breed dogs involved in attacks has grown at a slower rate (23%) than the number of cross-breed dogs (28%), and there has been a small reduction in the proportion of pure-breed dogs involved in attacks.
- The five pure-breeds that were responsible for the highest *number* of attacks in 2011/12 were the Bull Terrier (Staffordshire), Australian Cattle Dog, American Staffordshire Terrier, German Shepherd, and Rottweiler. These breeds accounted for half of all pure-breeds involved in a dog attack. These five breeds were also responsible for the highest number of reported attacks in 2010/11, though the rankings of the American Staffordshire Terrier and German Shepherd breeds have been reversed.
- The five pure-breeds that had the highest *rates* of attack in 2011/12 were the Pit Bull Terrier, Basset Griffon Vendéen, Tibetan Mastiff, Mastiff and American Staffordshire Terrier breeds. The Basset Griffon Vendéen and Tibetan Mastiff breeds each were involved in only a single attack. The five pure-breeds that had the highest rates of attack in the previous year (2010/11) were the Tibetan Mastiff, Pit Bull Terrier, Chesapeake Bay Retriever, Central Asian Shepherd and Mastiff breeds.
- The five cross-breeds that were responsible for the highest *number* of attacks in 2011/12 were the Bull Terrier (Staffordshire), Australian Cattle Dog, Mastiff, Australian Kelpie and Bullmastiff breeds. These five breeds were also responsible for the highest number of reported attacks in 2010/11, though the rankings of the last three breeds have changed.
- The five cross-breeds that had the highest *rates* of attack in 2011/12 were Weimaraner (Long Haired), Italian Spinone, Sealyham Terrier, Pharaoh Hound and the Pit Bull Terrier. Only the Pit Bull Terrier also featured in the top five cross-breeds in the previous year (2010/11). A considerable number of breeds that were amongst those with the highest rates of attack were involved in very low numbers of attacks. The five cross-breeds that had the highest rates of attack in the previous year (2010/11) were the St. Bernard, British Bulldog, Dogue de Bordeaux, Pit Bull Terrier and Bulldog (American) breeds.

Characteristics of attacks

- The number of dogs that attacked each month in 2011/12 ranged from 395 to 619. The percentage of all dog attacks that occurred in each month ranged from 7% to 11%, which is a larger variation than in 2010/11 (7% to 9%). Since 2009/10, the number of attacks in the first four months of the reporting year (July through September) has grown from 30% to 38%, while the number of attacks in the last four months of the reporting year (March through June) has declined from 40% to 31%.
- A little less than two-thirds (62%) of reported dog attacks occurred in a public place, which is the same as in the previous year. The proportion of attacks in a public place has not changed since 2009/10.

- Only 2.5% of all dogs involved in attacks were known to be under the control of the owner, and this proportion has fallen from 3.4% in 2009/10. Over the same period the proportion of attacking dogs not under control has increased from 70% to 75%. Reporting of this data item has improved, but there remain substantial numbers of attacks where it is not known if the dog was under control.
- Male dogs were more likely than female dogs to attack (39% compared to 28%). In 2010/11, 37% of attacks involved male dogs and 27% of attacks involved female dogs. This suggests that attacks are more likely to involve male dogs than female dogs. However, this finding needs to be interpreted with caution due to the high proportion of attacking dogs where the sex was unknown. Over the period 2009/10 to 2011/12, there has been an increase of 35% in the number of female dogs involved in attacks compared with a 24% increase in the number of male dogs, and this has resulted in closing the gap in the rates of attack between male dogs and female dogs.
- The desexed status of attacking dogs was unknown in over 39% attacks, which is down slightly from the previous year. Therefore, caution needs to be exercised in interpreting the data. Of the dogs where the desexed status was known, the number of not-desexed dogs was almost twice the number of desexed dogs. The attack rate (computed as number of dogs on the Register divided by the number of dogs involved in an attack) for not-desexed dogs was 4.8 times higher than the attack rate for desexed dogs. In the period 2009/10 to 2011/12, for each of male dogs and female dogs (expressed in terms of hundred registered dogs), the number of not-desexed dogs involved in attacks increased at a faster rate than for desexed dogs, but the percentage increases were greater for desexed dogs.
- Over one-third of all attacking dogs were identified and lifetime registered, and 7% were 'identified only'. This finding needs to be interpreted with caution, as the registration status is unknown for 58% of all attacking dogs. Since 2009/10, the number of dogs involved in attacks that were 'identified only' has grown by 7%, well below the rate of growth of 36% reported for dogs that were known to be identified and lifetime registered.
- The percentage of attacking dogs that had previously been declared dangerous or belonged to restricted breeds was a little below 1%. In the period 2009/10 to 2011/12, there have been increases in the number of attacks involving dangerous dogs and dogs from restricted breeds, but the relatively small numbers mean it is difficult to identify any trends.
- Dog attacks were most likely to involve one dog. Fewer than 3% of attacks involved more than two dogs.

Actions taken

- Actions reported to be taken against the owner of an attacking dog were almost three times as numerous as actions against the dog(s). Since 2009/10, the rates of increase in instances of 'action against owner' (22%) and 'against the dog' (15%) have been less than the rate of increase in number of attacking dogs (27%), suggesting that the intensity of action taken has declined over the review period.
- The most common action taken against the owner was 'further investigation', followed by issuing a penalty notice and issuing a warning. There has been little change in the distribution of actions against owners over the review period.
- The most common action taken against dogs was 'destroying', followed by 'seizure and taken to the pound', and being 'declared dangerous'. Since 2009/10,

'dog destroyed' has increased by 41% while 'dangerous dog declaration' has declined by 12%

Injuries

- Of dog attacks where the injury to people was recorded, just under half (47%) resulted in some form of injury. However, over half of injuries to people were classified as 'minor'. Of the non-minor injuries, most required medical treatment. However, one in five non-minor injuries required a more serious level of treatment (ie: hospitalisation). No dog attacks resulted in the death of a person in 2011/12, consistent with the previous two years. There has been little change in the distribution of injuries to people over the period 2009/10 to 2011/12.
- Well over half of all animals known to be injured as a result of a dog attack died from their injuries, which is more than twice the number of cases where medical veterinary treatment (including hospitalisation) was required. About one in five attacks on animals was reported as 'no injury'. However, it is suspected that attacks where no injuries are sustained may be under-reported. Over the period 2009/10 to 2011/12, the number of animal injuries has grown by 40%, well above the 29% increase in number of attacks. Since 2009/10, the largest increase has been in the 'death of animal' category (42%). 'Veterinary treatment required' and 'minor injury' have interchanged rankings, but the numbers remain very close.
- The pattern of injuries for both human and animal victims is broadly similar to that observed in 2010/11.