

Tackling dog-related anti-social behaviour.

Appendix 5

Data

It is estimated that there are 10.6 million dogs in the UK. Data from the Animal and Plant Health Agency estimates around 9% of UK adults own a dog in London, lower than the UK average of 28%. It's not known how many dogs there are in Tower Hamlets.

According to the Paw Report 2024, there has been an increase in dog bite cases in recent years. The number of dog bite-related hospital admissions in England between 1998 and 2018 showed an increase in adult cases. In 2024 there has been significantly more dogs that have bitten a stranger in the home where professional medical care has been needed (1.2%) compared to 2022 (0.55%). It is important to note that it is not known in what context any of these reported bites occurred, and there are multiple potential factors, both human and dog related, involved in the increase in dog bite incidents.

What behaviours does your dog show? (Paw Report 2024)	
Jumping up at people	30%
Barking or vocalising	22%
Showing signs of fear	12%
Growling, snapping or biting unfamiliar dogs	11%
Growling, snapping or biting familiar dogs not in the household	4%
Growling, snapping or biting familiar dogs in the household	3%
Growling, snapping or biting owners / carers	2%
Behaviour towards my children that worries me	2%

In Tower Hamlets incidents and complaints about dog behaviour is reported through a number of avenues.

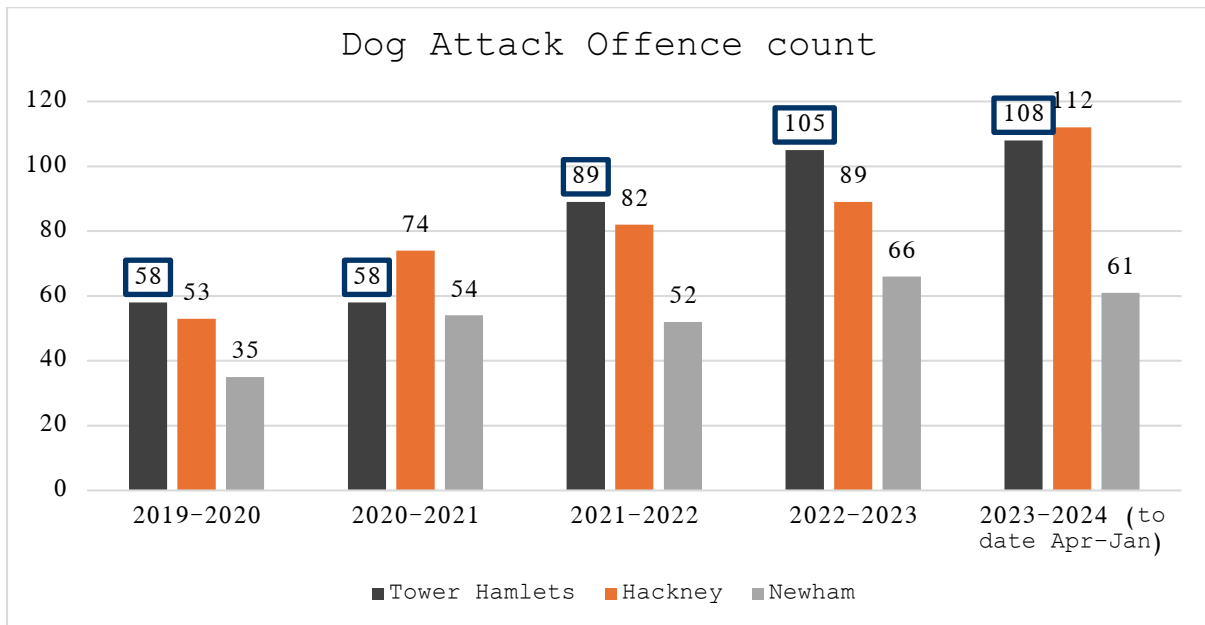
Member Enquiry / Complaints data: Between 2022-2024 there have been 101 member enquiry, or complaints about dog behaviour. This includes eight were about dogs off the lead; 43 were about dog fouling; 24 were about general nuisance / ASB; and 23 were to report a dangerous dog (actual or perceived).

Enforcement activity: During the same reporting period, enforcement officers dealt with 690 incidents, with the majority being dealt with by the council's animal warden team, with community safety, noise, out of hours and housing teams picking up some. The top five issues were:

- Stray dogs (195 incidents)
- Barking dogs (172 incidents)
- Dog fouling (118 incidents)
- Dangerous dogs (103)
- Non-specific complaint about dogs (65)

Dog fouling reported through the council's find it fix it app amount to 182.

FPN / Arrest data: Fixed Penalty Notice / arrest data shows that the dog attack offence rate in Tower Hamlets is 0.3 per 1,000 population. This is comparable to the London average. However there has been a 20.2% increase compared to the previous twelve months (leading to January 2023).



Hospital incidents: In response to a media request for data relating to dog bites and reconstructive surgery the NHS provided a count of finished consultant episodes with an external cause code of bitten or struck by a dog, 2007-08 to 2022-23 (provisional data Apr-Nov 2022). In 2021-22 there were 8,819 such incidents compared to 7,443 the previous year. Not a count of people as it is possible for an individual to have had more than one episode of care in any given time period.

Accident and Emergency hospital episode statistics for dog bites (coded W540) indicate that in 2021-22 there were 2,887 incidents in England, 195 in London and 7 in Tower Hamlets.