Community Engagement Report

Domestic Animal Management Plan

Overview August 2025



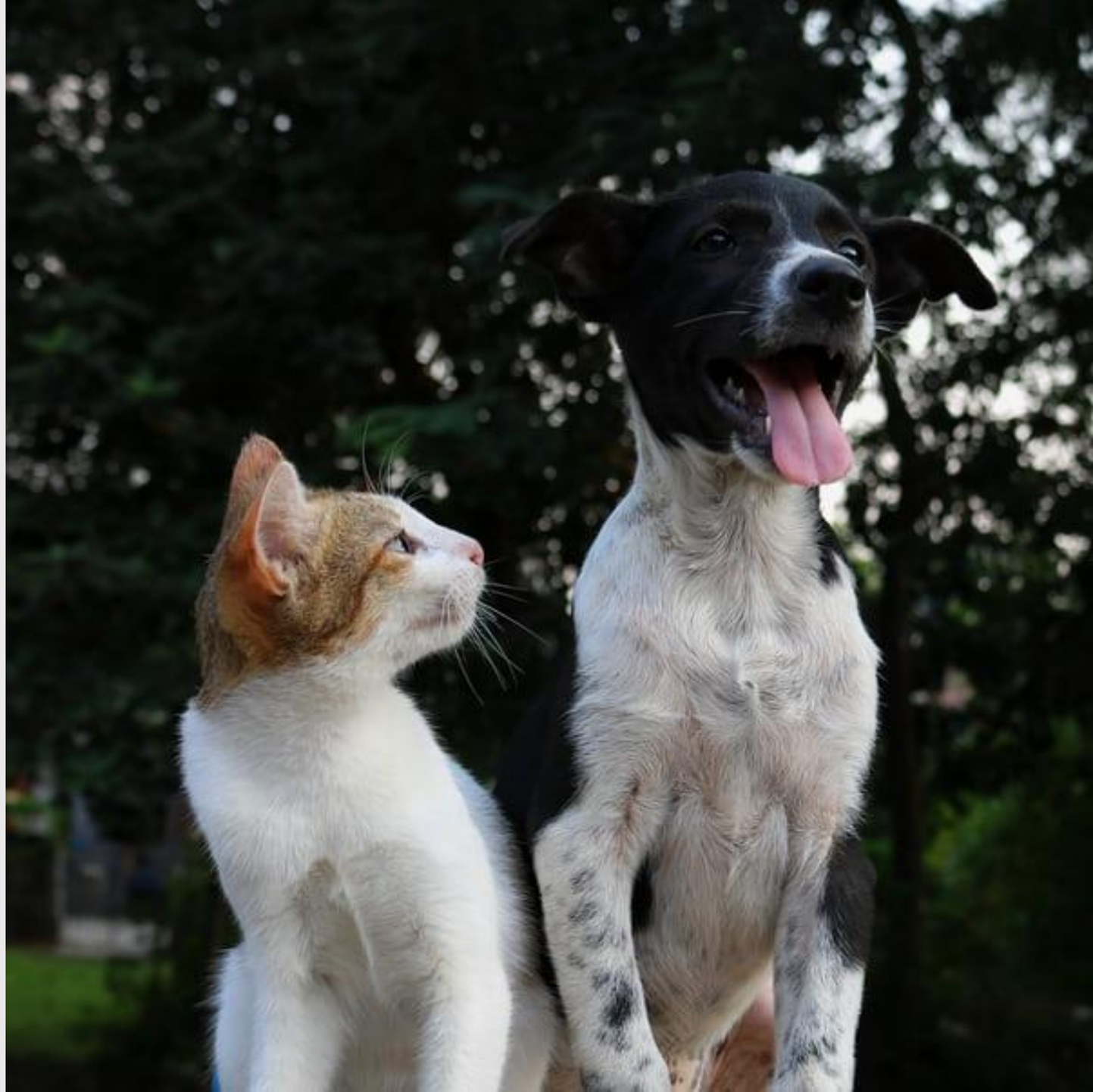
The Domestic Animal Management Plan

Under the provisions of the *Domestic Animals Act 1994* all councils in Victoria have to develop a domestic animal management plan.

The plan is renewed every 4 years.

This plan outlines Council's:

- Services and partnerships for managing our pets
- Programs and policies established to address the administration of the Act
- Management of dog and cat issues in their community.



Our Approach

“Take the Lead” was the name of this year’s DAMP program



Community Engagement

- Public Education and feedback program
- Sharing top issues we see and hear about in public spaces



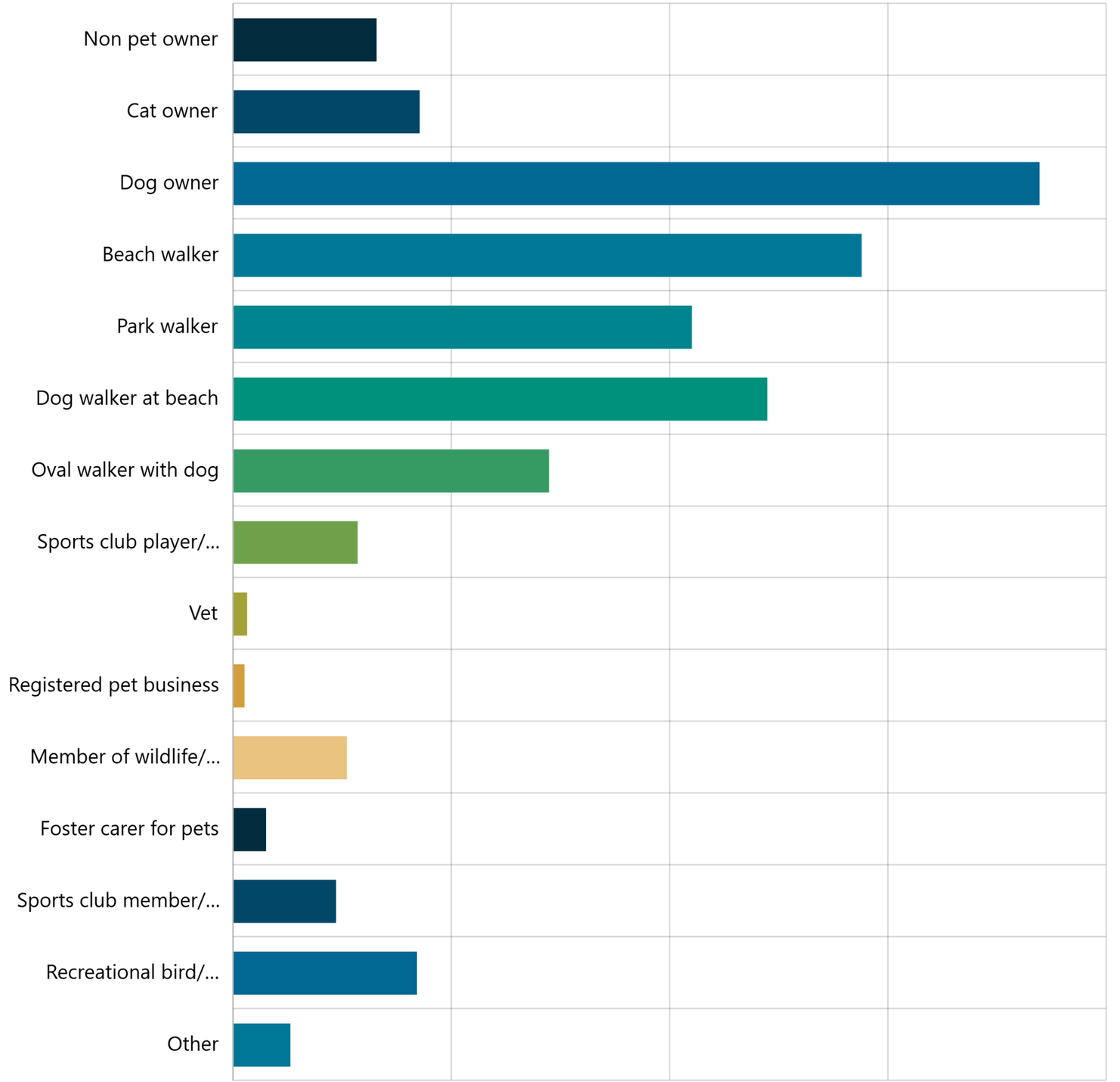


Take the lead summary of communication

- Take the lead opened mid -July to mid- August
- 485 Surveys completed
- 2500 comments
- 4 weeks of social media to SCS FB and Local FB pages
- 4 weeks of local print advertising

Who participated?



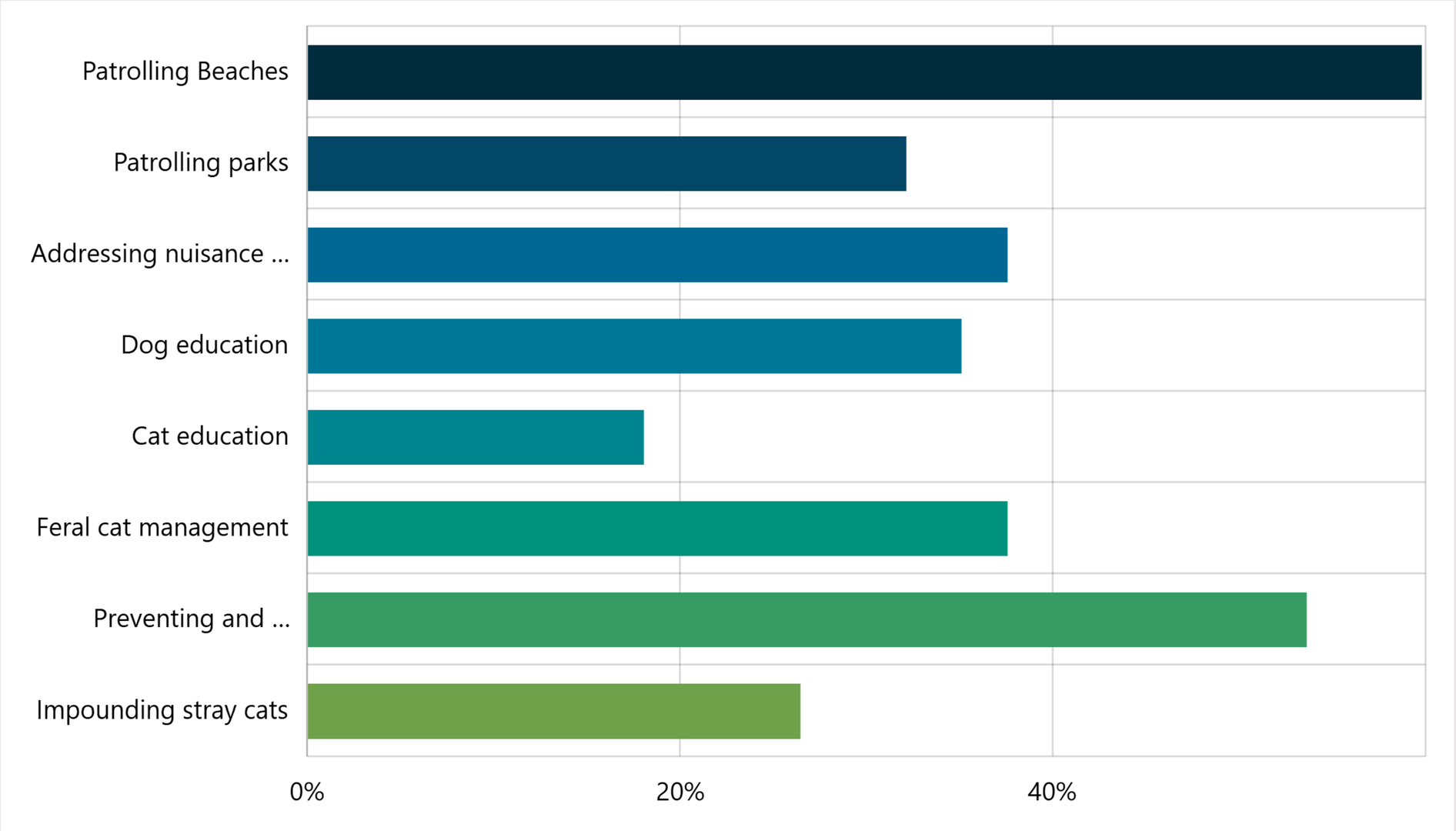


The big issues across the whole Surf Coast Shire area

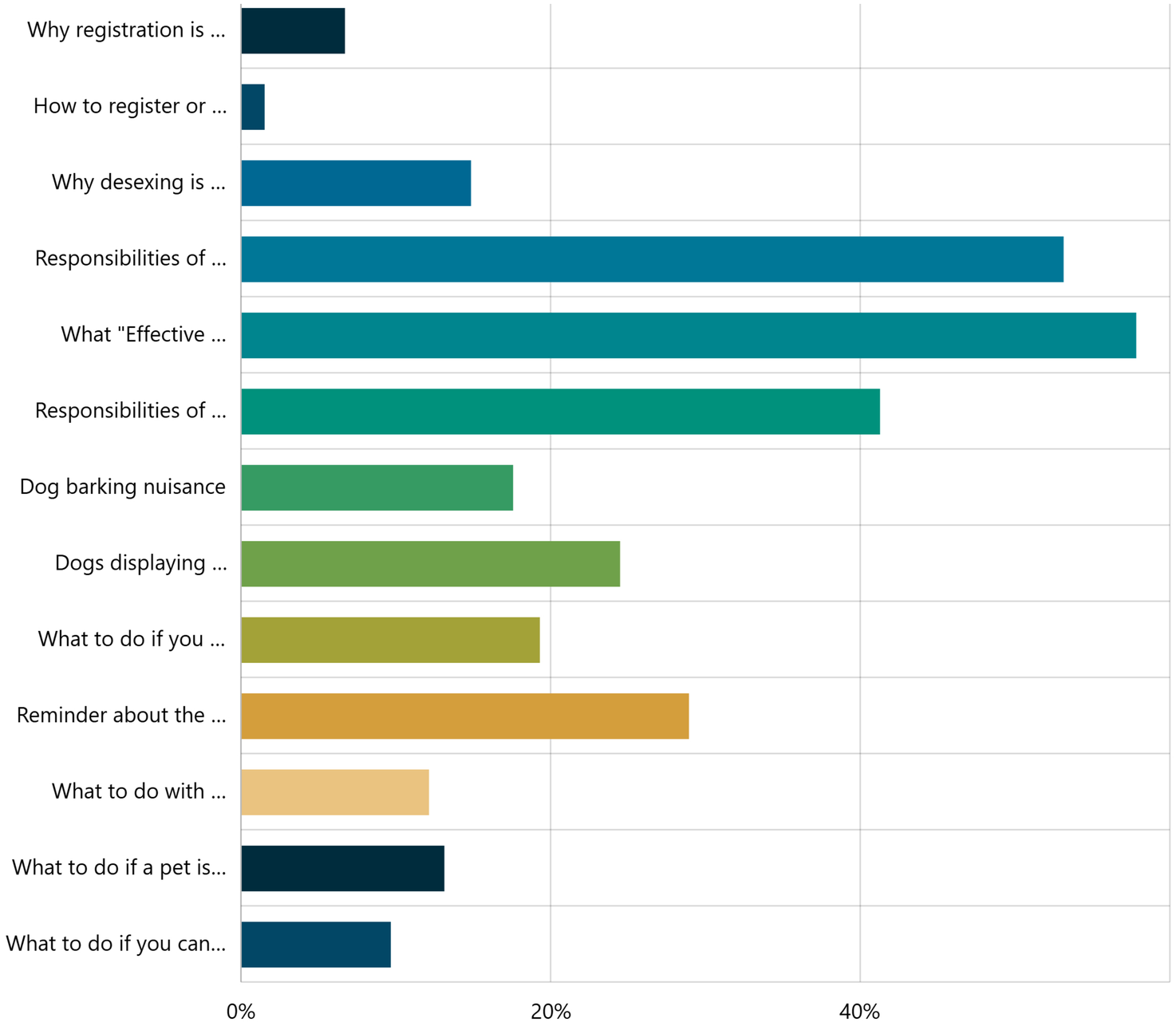
What are the big issues?	
1	Dogs Off Leash / Uncontrolled Dogs
2	Dog Waste Not Picked Up (Dog Poop)
3	Lack of Council Enforcement
4	Irresponsible Pet Ownership
5	Cats Roaming and Killing Wildlife
6	Need for Safe, Fenced, Off-Leash Dog Areas
7	Too Many Dogs in Certain Areas (Especially Beaches)
8	Dogs in Restricted or No-Dog Zones
9	Dog Behaviour Issues (Barking, Attacks, Jumping)
10	Lack of Amenities / Infrastructure for Pets



Where do you want our Rangers Team to spend their time?



What communication and engagement do you want Council to focus on?

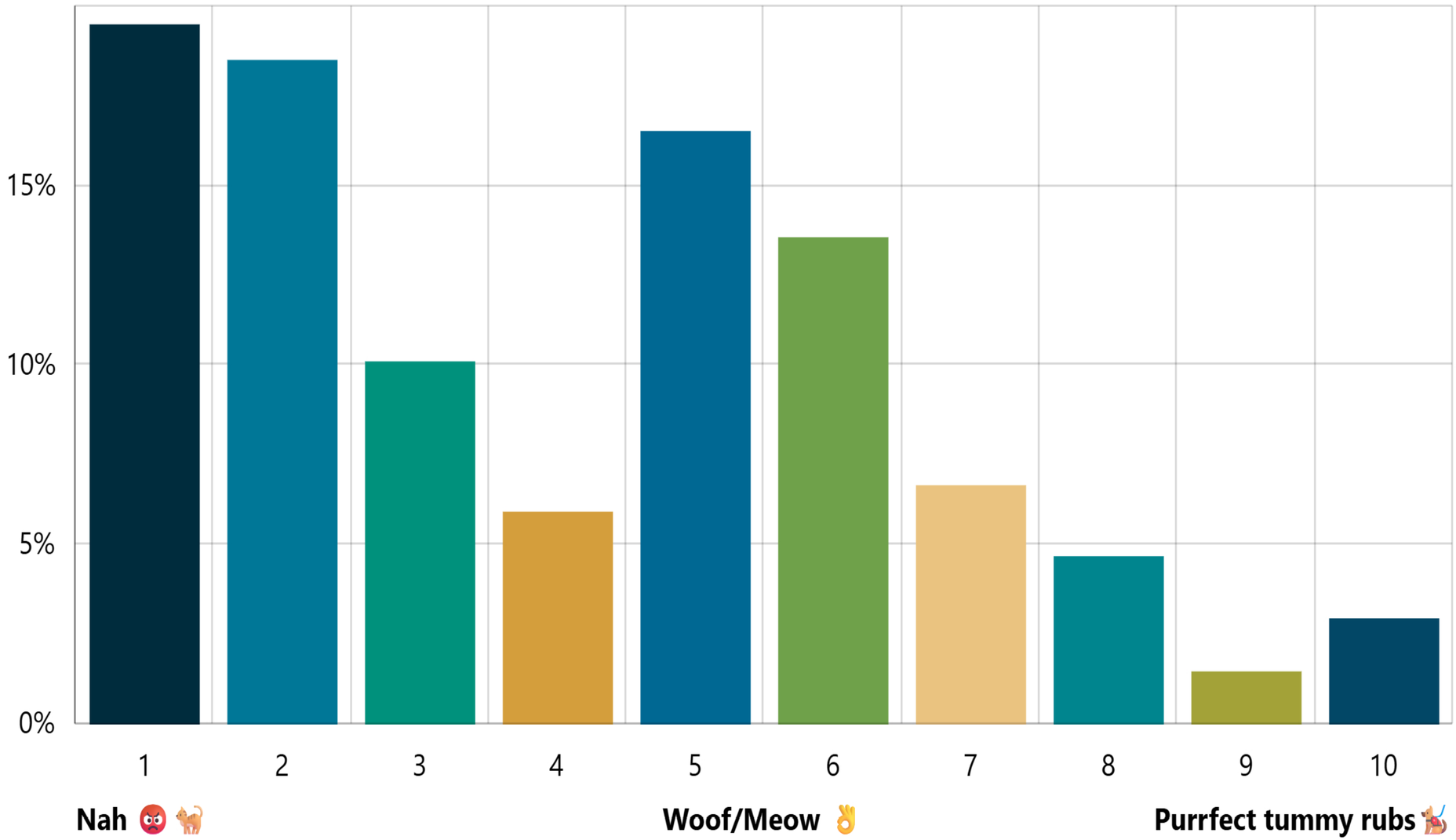


Top 10 Issues for Pet Owners – Behaviour | Cost | Infrastructure

1. Uncontrolled / Off-Lead Dogs & Poor Owner Behaviour
2. Lack of Secure, Fenced, or Safe Off-Leash Areas
3. Inadequate Dog Waste Facilities (Bins & Bags)
4. Confusing, Overly Restrictive, or Poorly Communicated Regulations
5. Cost & Financial Barriers to Pet Ownership
6. Lack of Council Support, Infrastructure & Enforcement
7. Lack of Public Awareness / Education Around Responsible Pet Ownership
8. Limited Accessibility Due to Urban Growth, Tourism, or Location
9. Fear & Anxiety Caused by Other Dogs (Attacks, Barking, Aggression)
10. Barriers for Cat Owners (Containment & Curfew Restrictions)



Have things changed much in the last 4 years?





Summary
What are the key takeouts

1. We need to change our approach to warnings and enforcement
2. Community find signage confusing, mostly for time share
3. More signage around towns to talk about on leash
4. More off leash spaces for dogs
5. Reminder of the rules for ongoing communication
6. The community who own pets say they know most of the rules especially the poo bag one!
7. More education on breeds, and effective control
8. Pet registration cost