



HERMANUS

R A T E P A Y E R S A S S O C I A T I O N
B E L A S T I N G S B E T A L E R S V E R E N I G I N G

Introduction



The Overstrand Municipality has introduced a new Dog and Cat By-law.

In terms of this by-law there are currently no places where dog owners can walk their dogs off-leash.

However, the by-law does enable the provision of demarcated spaces in which dogs can be exercised off-leash.

The Hermanus Ratepayers Association has undertaken a survey to establish dog owners' interest in suitable demarcated areas, together with suggestions on preferred spaces.

The aim being to support and help accelerate the Municipal process.

Preamble



The Hermanus Ratepayers 'community' has numerous dog owners.

From our survey, it is clear that many/most of them are crying out for the establishment of demarcated areas for their dogs to exercise off-leash.

Without belabouring the point with endless research survey findings, as dog behaviorists will tell you, the main reasons are fairly obvious and self-explanatory.

In summary:

- **Exercise & Freedom:** Off-leash walking allows dogs to explore their environment, run freely, chase a ball, and engage in natural behaviours, which are beneficial for their physical and mental health.
- **Socialisation:** Being off-leash can help dogs socialise with other dogs and people, improving their behaviour and reducing anxiety.
- **Bonding:** Off-leash time can enhance the bond between the dog and the owner, as it allows for more interactive play and exploration.

The above apply to all dogs but particularly herding and working breeds like Border Collies, Spaniels, German Shepherds, Huskies etc.

Executive Summary

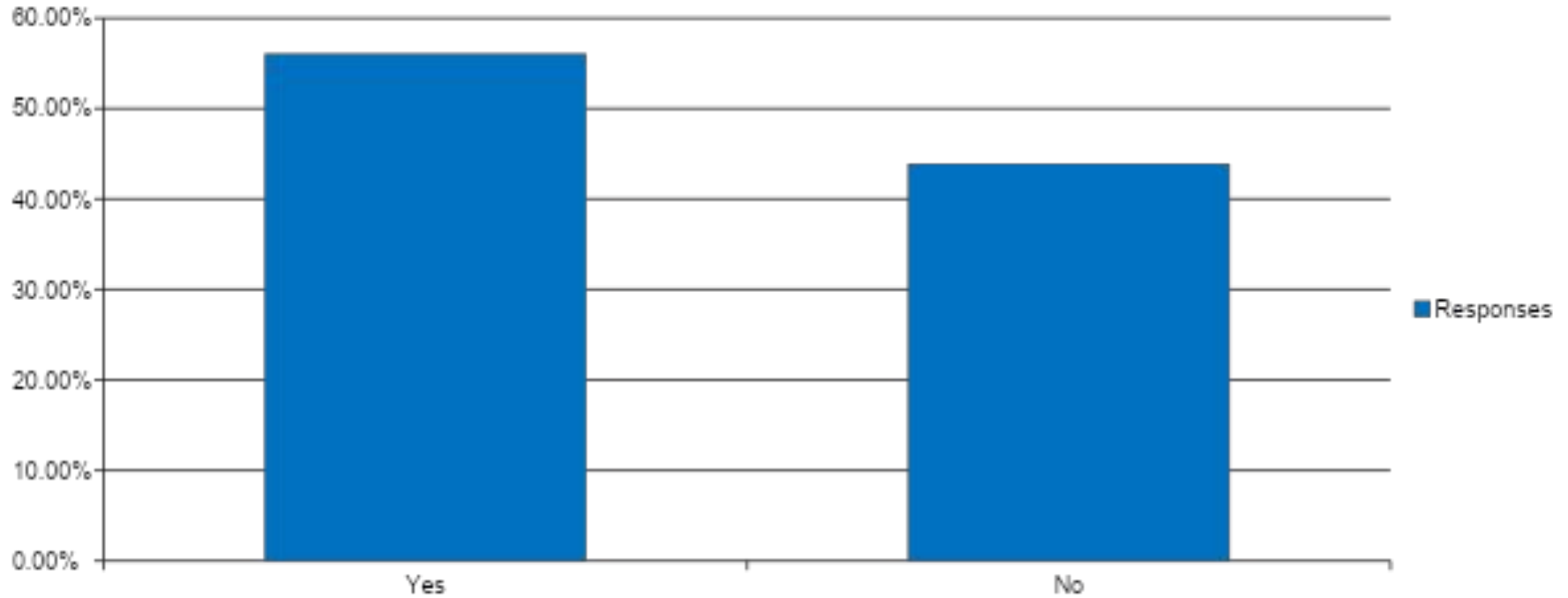


- ❑ 654 Hermanus rate payers completed the survey
- ❑ Of those, 56% were aware and 44% unaware of the Dog & Cat by-law
- ❑ 88% were dog owners
- ❑ 50% had a single dog and a further 41% had 2 dogs
- ❑ Over 50% walked their dog daily, with a further 22% more than once a day
- ❑ Only 37% claimed to walk their dog on a leash always and a further 30% mostly
- ❑ The street and the beach were equal first choices, for walking their dogs, at 70%
- ❑ 91% support the idea of Grotto beach at the lagoon as a demarcated area for off-leash dogs
- ❑ Only 9% are aware of the proposed Northcliff fenced dog park
- ❑ And only 43% would definitely take their dog there
- ❑ There were hundreds of suggestions for other demarcated areas and for dog parks

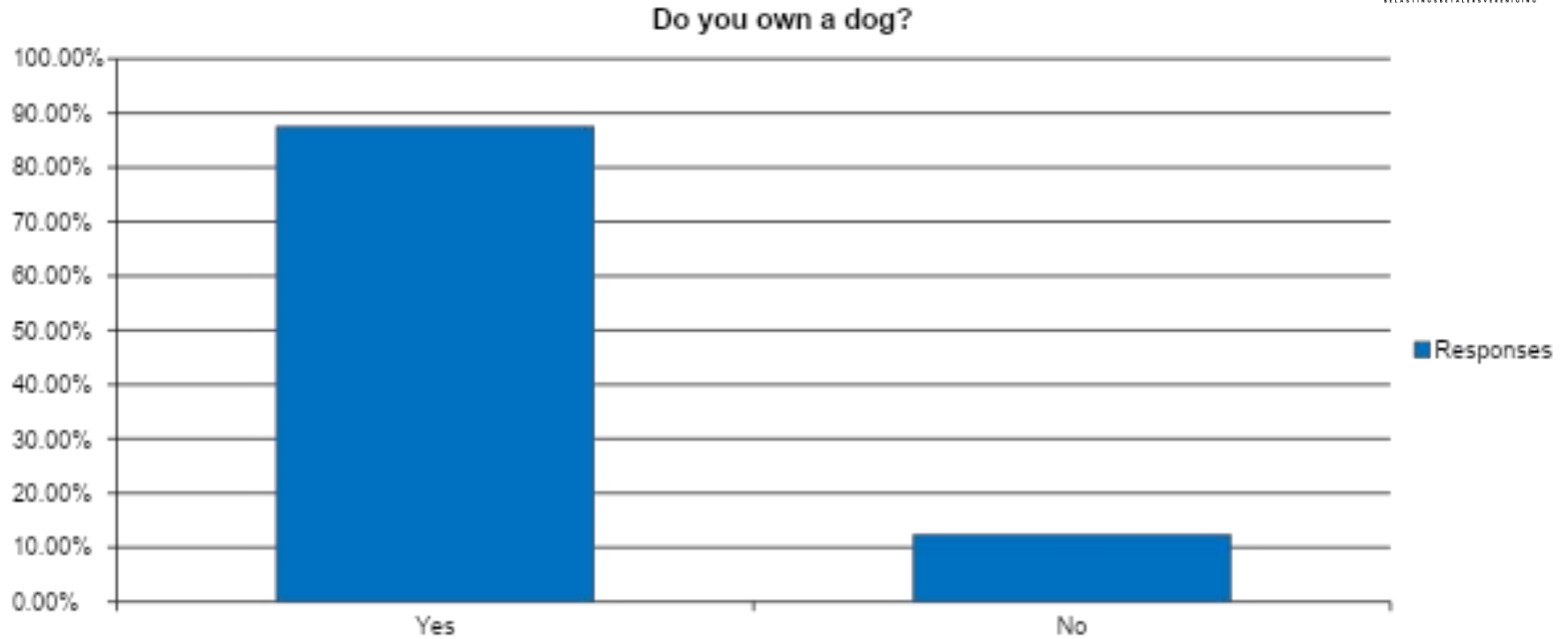
By-Law Awareness



Are you aware of the new Municipal Dog and Cat by-law?

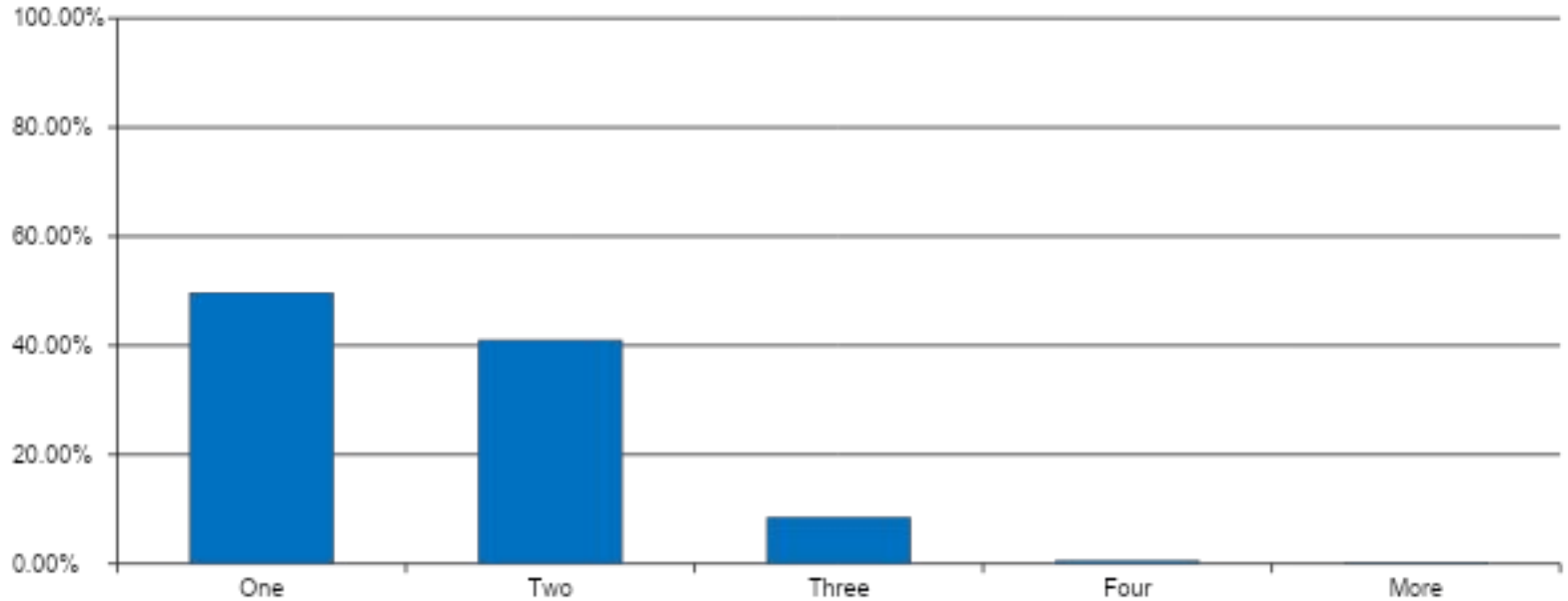


Dog Ownership



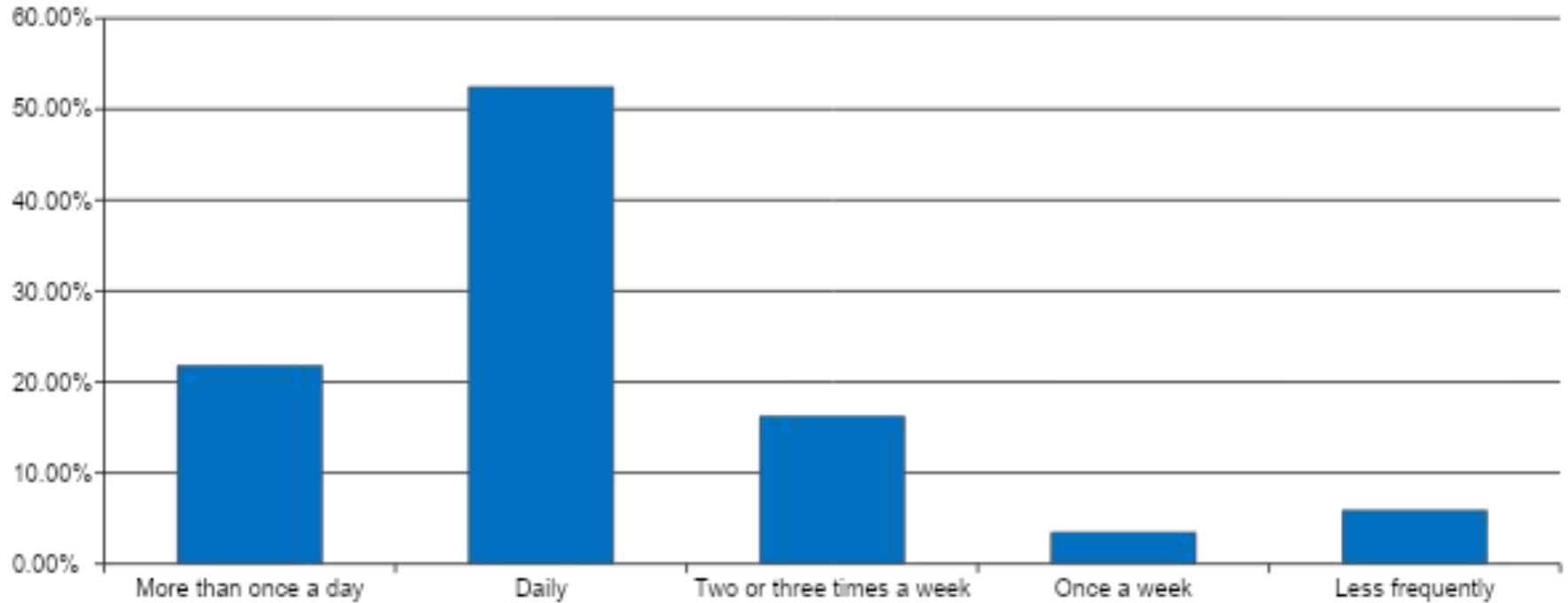
Dog Ownership

How many dogs do you have?



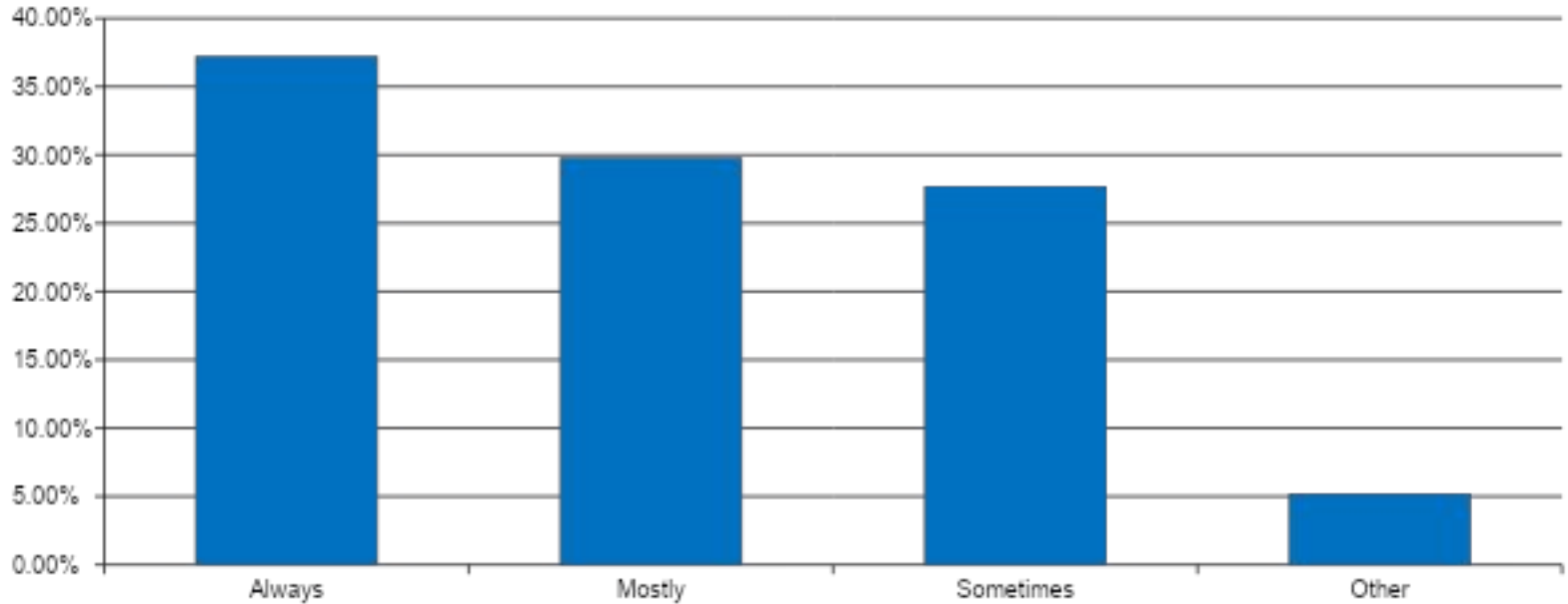
Dog Walking Frequency

How frequently do you walk your dog(s)



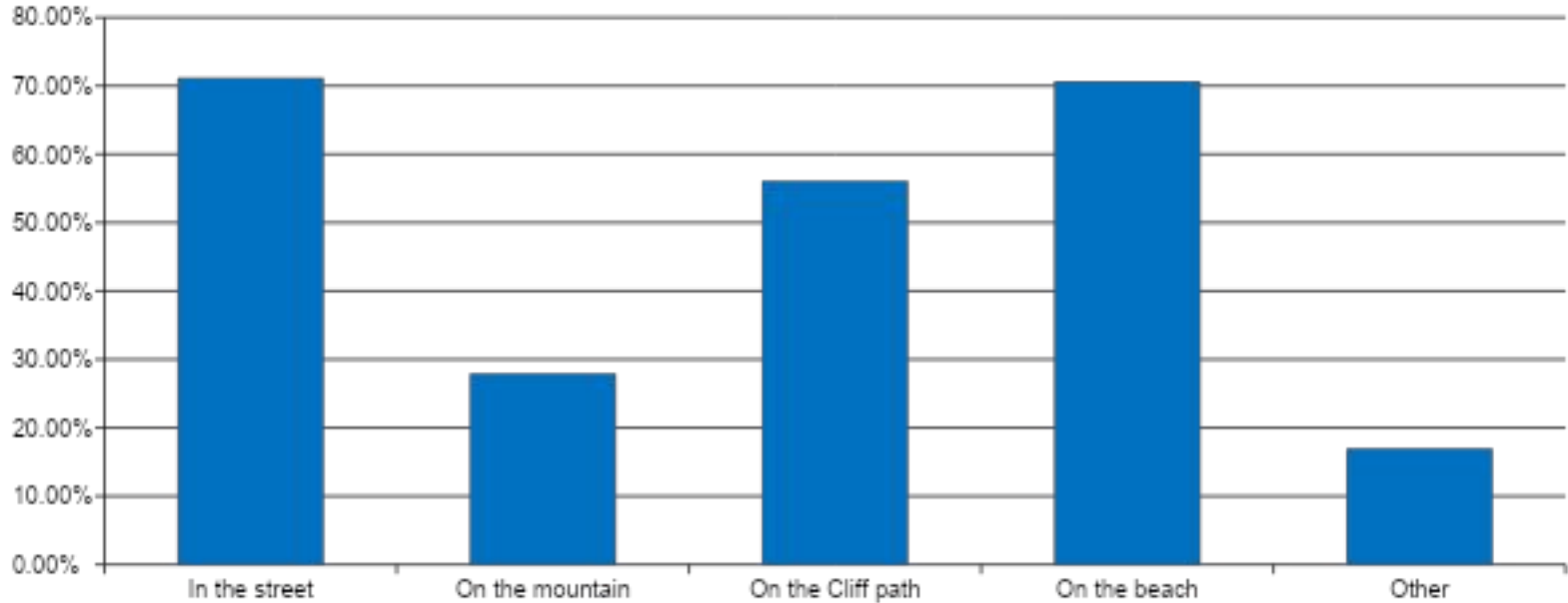
Use of Leash

Do you walk your dog(s) on a leash?



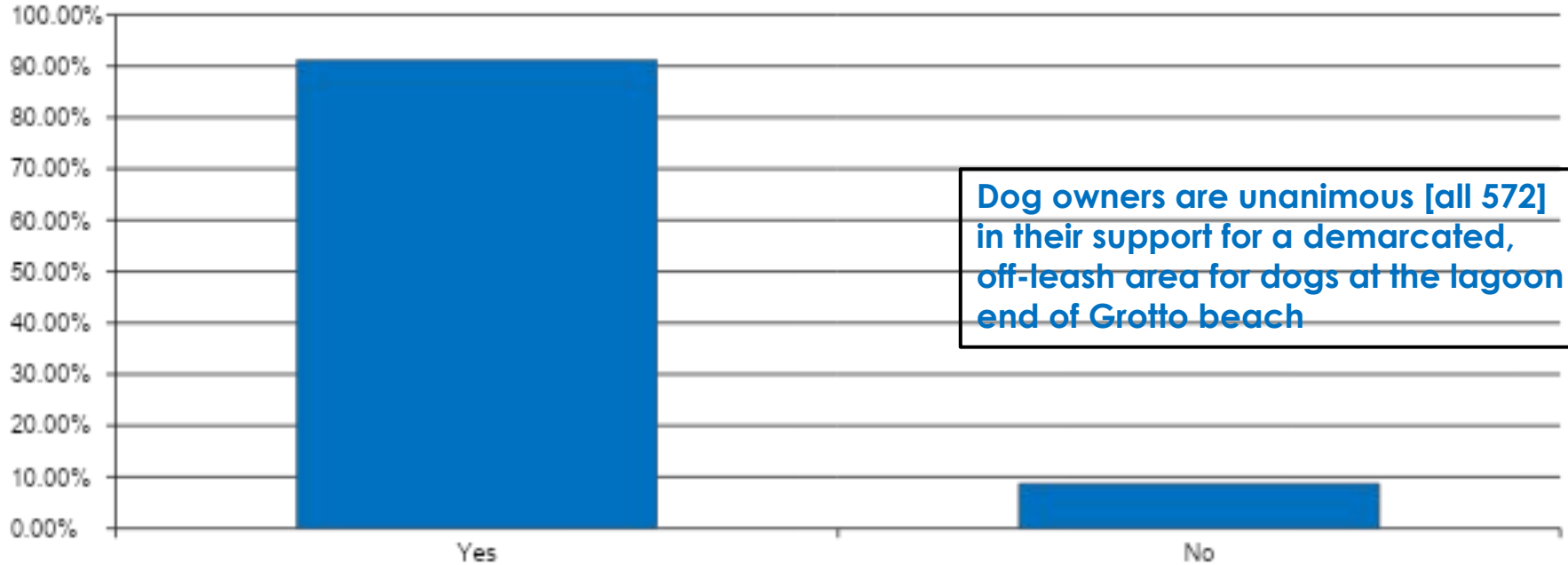
Dog Walking Locations

Where do you walk your dog(s)?



Grotto Beach Support

Would you support a demarcated area for dogs off-leash on Grotto beach at the lagoon mouth?



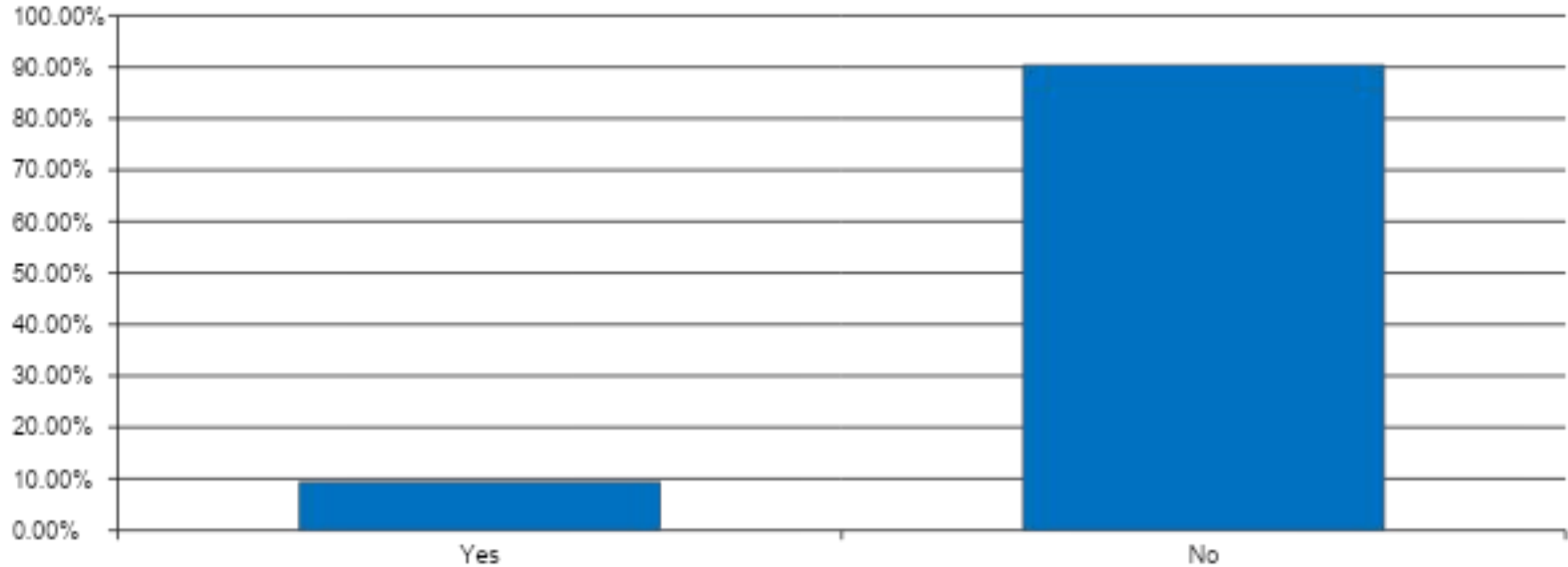
Main Alternative Off-Leash Area Suggestions

Conditional that dogs are under constant supervision and care.

- Designated comanages and greenbelts in the neighbourhoods
- Fee based access to designated fields of the Hermanus Sports Club
- Fee based access to designated areas within school grounds
- Open fields adjoining cemeteries
- All non-blue flag beaches with scheduled off-lead times e.g. before 9am and after 5pm
- Fee based access to a dedicated area within the De Mond property
- Contour trial and paths below urban fringe
- Piet se Bos path to lagoon
- Specific designated trials in lower mountain areas, Maanskyn Baai and Klein River lagoon
- Gravel road extension of Fernkloof Drive

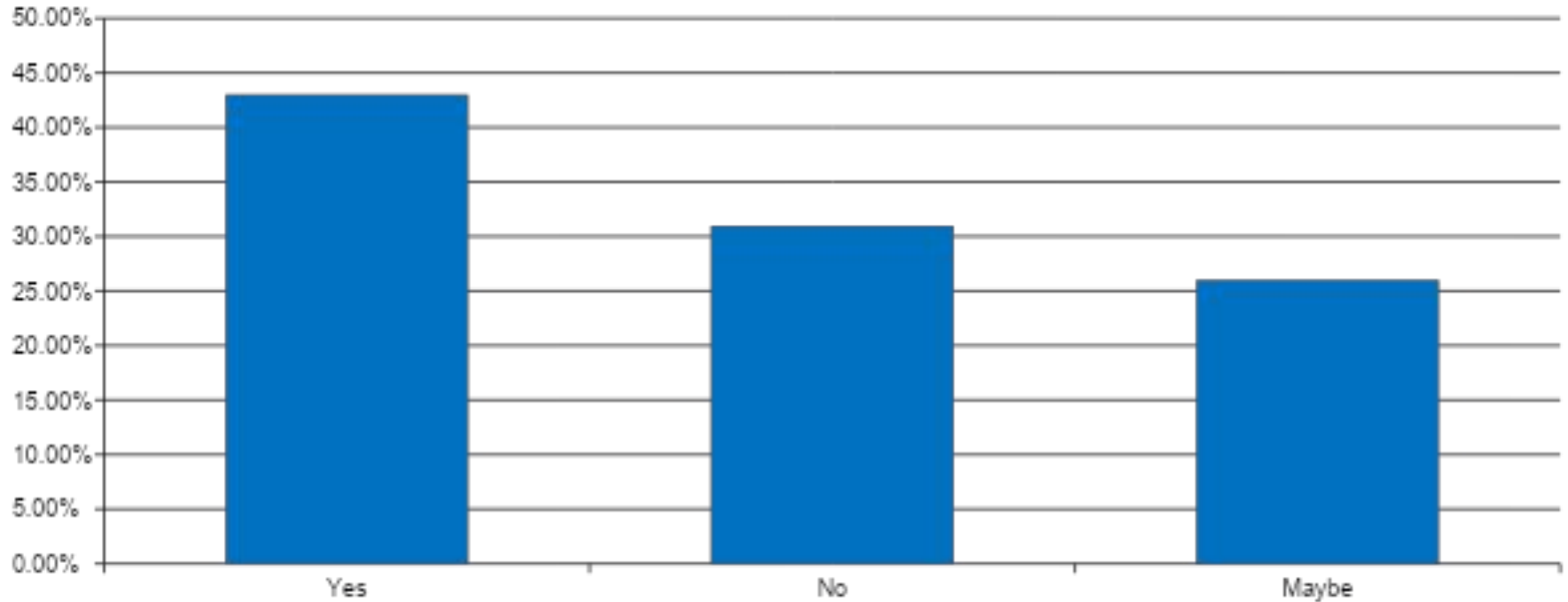
Northcliff Fenced Dog Park

Are you aware of the plan to establish a fenced dog park, of approximately 1500 square meters, in Northcliff?



Attraction of Northcliff Dog Park

Would you take your dog to a dog park in Northcliff?



Alternative Dog Park Sites

The general view is that dedicated, fenced-off dog parks are restrictive, expensive to establish and maintain, and not ideal, given the scarcity of suitable land.

- Designated comanages and greenbelts in the neighbourhoods
- Areas adjacent to Onrus and Hermanus cemeteries
- Designated area in the park behind Dutchies

Selection of General Comments

- ❑ “I would suggest a designated time slot in the morning and evening (ie. 6am to 8am and 6pm to 8pm) where dogs are allowed off leash on different beaches...”
- ❑ “Please supply more public dustbins and maybe poo-bags to throw away doggy poo”
- ❑ “Dogs on leads tend to be more aggressive. Most dogs off lead are pretty social with each other”
- ❑ “There needs to be a parking area for off loading dogs, not on the street” – [dog parks]
- ❑ “De Waal park in Cape Town is a beautiful park to pull inspiration from”
- ❑ “I believe during weekdays (excluding school holidays and peak periods) dogs should be walked off leach on Cliff path and Grotto...”
- ❑ “A centrally located dog park would be awesome, especially for older owners who cannot walk on beach sand or climb over sand dunes”

Selection of General Comments

- ❑ “If we cannot have a demarcated area on Grotto at the lagoon, can we at least have a time period for dogs off-leash? Say 06h00 to 09h00 every day”
- ❑ “I believe there should be times in which dog owners can allow dogs to be off leash and these times can be when the cliff paths are traditionally quieter such as off-peak months and during specific time periods for peak months before 7am and after 6pm”
- ❑ “Pls don't only do this in Hermanus”
- ❑ “We need this urgently and is something that is available in other areas. The rules here are too old fashioned and inflexible”
- ❑ “If you allocate a fenced area for off-leash dogs it has to be big. There is no such space available. All dog lovers who regularly gather and walk in the Davies Pool area will tell you that off-leash dogs get on well without problems”

Thank You



HERMANUS

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