



CONTROL OF DOGS

	Total 2022	Year to Date 2023
Number of dogs to enter the shelter	286	59
Number of dogs rehomed to charities	163	11
Number of dogs euthanised (court order / medical recommendation)	10	8
Number of dogs on hand	15	23 & 7 pups
Number of dogs returned to owners	98	10
Number of dog licences issued	9203	1898

Dog Breeding Establishments Dog Breeding Establishments Act 2010	Total 2022	Year to Date 2023
Reports received of suspected DBE (call & emails)	19	6
Inspections of reported properties	11	3
Dogs removed from inspected properties	4	0
Official application for DBE Boarding Kennel	1	0
DBE certificates issued in 2022	0-one improvement notice	0

Dog Shelter Capacity

The demands on the Dog Warden service continues to increase and this is placing a continuous strain on kennel space and operational capacity at Hollygrove. There is regularly no headroom for incidents of seizure of multiple dogs and this is likely to impact on our ability to provide a full service into the coming months. We are exploring options to increase space at Hollygrove and potential for alternative overflow capacity at other locations.

CONTROL OF HORSES

Statistical information

	Total 2022	Year to date 2023
Number of horses seized	43	3
Number of horses transferred to My Lovely Horse Rescue	36	3
Number of horses returned to owners	7	0
Number of horses in Pound @ 15/03/2023	0	0

Number of horses euthanised	0	0
Number of horse licences issued	12	0 (21 applications)

Site Visit to HMS Horse Pound

Staff of the Animal Welfare Unit visited the offices of HMS and the Horse Pound facility in Dunboyne on 17th February 2023. The discussion with the operators and the opportunity to view the animals and the facility itself were useful and can be arranged for other members of the Committee if requested.

Procurement Process for New Control of Horses Contract

A procurement process has been initiated for a multi-supplier framework for the “*Provision of Services for the Control of Stray, Abandoned and Unidentified Horses for DAFM*”. The first phase of the process is a pre-tender ‘Request for Information’ from potential suppliers and the open call was published on e-tenders on 7th March with a closing date of 28th March 2023. The nationwide tender process will be run, by OGP appointed company Education Procurement Service on behalf of Local Authorities, the Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine (DAFM) and Coillte. It is proposed that Dublin City will be included in a new LOT structure under the heading ‘Cavan / Monaghan / North Leinster’ (comprising Louth, Meath, Fingal and Dublin City). DCC Animal Welfare Unit was invited by EPS to input into the process and this opportunity was welcomed. It is anticipated that the new Framework will be in place by autumn 2023.

[Public RFT - Provision of Services for the Control of Stray, Abandoned and Unidentified Horses for DAFM \(eu-supply.com\)](#)

Horse Drawn Carriages Bill

Following the last report to the Committee there has been no further contact from the Public Transport Regulation Division, Department of Transport or no indication of any progress on the Heads of Bill prepared in 2021. Further representations have been made by the Chair on behalf of the Committee to Eamonn Ryan T.D., Minister for Transport in this regard.

The proposed **Horse Drawn Carriages Bill** is listed again on the [Government Legislation Programme - Spring Session 2023](#) (Pg. 17) published on 18th January 2023. The purpose of the legislation is to *repeal the Dublin Carriage Acts 1853-55 and relieve An Garda Síochána of responsibility for the regulation and licensing of horse-drawn carriages in Dublin and assert the power of local authorities, including Dublin City Council.* The status is listed on the Programme as “Work is ongoing”. It is not included in the ‘Legislation for Priority Drafting this Session – Spring 2023’ category.

Multi-agency checkpoints

A series of Garda led multi-agency checkpoints have been carried out since the last meeting, both in the busy pre-Christmas period and more recently with further operations planned in the coming weeks. The agencies requested to support An Garda Síochána were Revenue, Social Protection, Dublin City Council, and Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. Further checkpoints will be arranged on an ongoing basis as resources permit. Operational details of (times, dates, locations) will remain confidential.

ANIMAL WELFARE UNIT STAFFING

The revised optimum Staff Structure for the Animal Welfare Unit reporting to Senior Executive Officer and Executive Manager, Housing & Community Services is as follows:

Administration	Operations
1 Administrative Officer (Gr. 7) 1 Staff Officer (Gr 5) 1 Assistant Staff Officer 1 Clerical Officer	1 Animal Welfare Inspector (Gr. 6) 1 Assistant Animal Welfare Inspector (Gr. 5) 5 Animal Welfare Officers / Dog Wardens

At present 5 of the 11 posts are filled (1 temporary). Status updates as follows:

Posts Filled:

- **1 Administrative Officer (Gr. 7)** – Post Filled w.e.f. 20th February
- **1 Assistant Animal Welfare Inspector (confined to Dublin City Council)**
Recruitment completed w/e 10th March – Assistant Inspector post filled
- 1 Staff officer – post filled
- 1 Clerical Officer – post filled
- 1 Temporary Dog Warden

Posts pending:

- **Animal Welfare Inspector (open competition)** – 95 applications received, shortlisted to 20, Interviews held 13th-15 March. Offer made to successful candidate.
- A request has been submitted for assignment of an additional **administrative post** to the AWU from the new Gr. 4 panel (DCC competition underway)
- **5 no. Animal Welfare Officers / Dog Wardens** – (see note below*). Business case submitted to HR, process underway for sanction of posts. 1 Temporary Dog Warden in place.

***Note:** The process of Dog Warden recruitment remained on hold pending outcome of Labour Court proceedings initiated by former employees of Ashton Dog Pound. Those proceedings concluded on 21st December 2022 in Dublin City Council's favour in respect of one of the former employees (Determination Nos.; TU/22/9; TU22/10 and TU/22/11 refer). In summary, the Court has determined that no transfer of undertakings took place between Ashton Pound and Dublin City Council therefore there are no legal grounds for transfer of former employees of Ashton Dog Pound and Warden Services to Dublin City Council.

Joint Dublin City Council / An Garda Síochána Animal Welfare Training

A program of training will be developed by Dublin City Council, Animal Welfare Section in association with An Garda Síochána and the Department of Agriculture, Food and the marine. The program will draw from existing training content delivered to Gardaí and Dog Wardens and will be based on current legislation. It is hoped that the target audience will extend beyond staff currently active in the Animal Welfare sphere to encompass community Gardaí, Parks staff and Housing & Community personnel.

DCC will engage with its partners in other Local Authorities and the DAFM to draw from the expertise of as large a pool of Animal Welfare professionals as possible.

HOURS OF SERVICE – Temporary Reduction

Pending filling of staff vacancies it remains necessary to reduce the hours of service to prevent breaches of Organisation of Working Time Act, 1997 and overtime thresholds. This will be reviewed as daylight hours increase and new appointments are in place.

The Animal Welfare Unit are examining other available channels including Internet and Social Media platforms to reach a larger audience outside of standard office hours.

For clarification the current contact details and hours of operation for the Animal Welfare Unit are

Office Hours: Tel. **01 222 3368 / 5441** E-Mail animalwelfare@dublincity.ie
Monday – Friday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Out of Hours: Tel. **01 222 6060**
Monday – Friday 5.00p.m. – 7.00p.m.
Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holiday 12:00 noon – 4:00 p.m.

All other hours are **voicemail only**. All voicemails will be dealt with on the following working day.

The Animal Welfare Service is **not an Emergency Service**. A **life-threatening** Emergency incident involving an animal should be reported to An Garda Síochána via **999**
