

# Dog Pounds in the Republic of Ireland

## A Report



**ANVIL IRELAND**

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*Giving Irelands' animals a voice*

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## Dedication and Acknowledgements

This report is dedicated to the many thousands of dogs who have died in Irish pounds; as well as the small band of committed people who endeavour to change the system that oversees this wanton carnage.

ANVIL Ireland would like to acknowledge the local authorities who took the time to return the dog pound survey. This information will help in the overall assessment of the dog pound system.



***“The worst sin towards our fellow creatures is not to hate them, but to be indifferent to them, that is the essence of inhumanity” ~ George Bernard***

***Shaw***



## **Foreword**

ANVIL was established in response to, what many people felt, was an absence of representation of animals, small rescues, and individuals involved in animal rescue and welfare. Our mission is, to raise awareness of the problems at both a public and government level. An important aspect of our work is, to encourage public debate on the present status of all animals, (in particular companion animals) and the questioning of legislation and practices that fail to address their needs, or prevent their suffering.

The organisation intends to, examine the political and legislative system, establish where reform is needed, and push for this reform. We are building a network of compassionate and conscientious citizens who are committed to making animal welfare a social and political issue.

ANVIL Ireland is completely independent and is not a vehicle for any one welfare or interest group, and is an all Ireland organisation. Membership is open to anyone who is interested in achieving positive change for all animals using the democratic process. As a result, our supporters have a wide spectrum of views and expertise which may be called on. The face of animal welfare is changing in Ireland, and ANVIL is an example of this change.

### **The principle objectives of ANVIL Ireland:**

- To Research the existing legislation and structures dealing with companion animals, identify any shortcomings and make recommendations for improvement.
- Carry out studies, make submissions based on our findings, and identify where further information or research is required.
- Raise awareness of the problems faced by animals and rescue groups, and make representations to Government on their behalf.
- Generate public and Government debate on animal welfare issues.
- Make available our information and research to Politicians, others involved in animal welfare and protection, and the public, to enable and improve informed debate.

**Miriam Anderson, MSc, MAMLS,  
On behalf of ANVIL Ireland**

## Background

Since the arrival of the Celtic Tiger, Ireland has taken her place among the most affluent and educated countries in the world. We have however, continued to lag behind more civilised societies in our treatment of animals, including ‘man’s best friend’.

Ireland has one of the highest per capita destruction rates of pound dogs in Europe. In one three year period, 55,650, mainly healthy dogs were killed in Irish pounds. In 2005, a total of thirteen pounds recorded destruction rates of over 80%, with one pound achieving a 100% rate. When one considers the drive to reduce, reuse, and recycle inanimate household waste, it seems an anathema that we find the indiscriminate dumping, killing, and disposal of sentient beings acceptable.

Section 1 of this report deals with the dog control figures for the Republic of Ireland in 2005 and 2006. The figures are collated by local authorities, and returned to the Department of the Environment, Heritage, and Local Government, and then published.

The figures have been analysed and put into some perspective by comparing the figures between local authority areas in terms of population. The graphs give a clearer picture on the differences between geographical areas and highlight the lack of standardisation within the dog control system.

Section 2 deals with the enforcement of the Control of Dogs Act by local authorities and section 3 comprises the dog pound survey which was sent out by ANVIL Ireland to all local authorities. A copy of the original questionnaire is attached as Appendix 1. The questions focused on premises, access, initiatives, operation, as well as the destruction and disposal of dogs.

By analysing the answers to the survey questions, as well as the dog control information, it is hoped to present an in depth and up to date picture of how the service is working, or not, and also to make recommendations for its’ improvement.

A total of 34 questionnaires were sent by post, with follow up by telephone and e-mail in some cases. Eighteen completed questionnaires were returned and we are extremely grateful to the staff in the local authorities and dog pounds who took the time to help with this research.

## 1. Introduction

The main legislation relating to dog control and dog pounds are:

- The Control of Dogs Act, 1986
- Pound Provision and Maintenance Act, 1935

Considering dogs are animals, one must assume The Protection of Animals Act, 1911 also applies.

The Control of Dogs Act, 1986 was originally introduced to protect livestock and the public from uncontrolled dogs. It was a much needed step at the time and dog control is still important today as the public must be protected from dangerous and uncontrolled animals.

In summary, the act deals with, licences, categories and control of dogs, duties of local authorities, powers of dog wardens, offences and penalties. Basically, if you own a dog, you must have a licence and you must keep your dog under effectual control and not allow it to wander, interfere with livestock, or be a nuisance. Other regulations refer to guard dogs and the so called 'restricted breeds'.

If your dog wanders or strays, it may be picked up, either by a dog warden or a member of the public and it may find itself in a dog pound. Once in the pound as a stray, the dog has five days to be reclaimed or rehomed, or failing this, destroyed.

The duty of local authorities to provide dog pounds is also dealt with in the Pounds (Provision and Maintenance) Act, 1935, which states;

***“Every local authority shall provide in the functional area of such authority such pounds as the county registrar shall, with the approval of the Minister”***

In addition, the Control of Dogs Act, states:

***“Every local authority shall employ one or more persons to be dog wardens for the purposes of this Act and every person so employed shall be furnished with a certificate of his appointment and when exercising a power under this Act shall, if requested by any person thereby affected, produce such certificate for inspection by the person.”***

***“Every local authority shall establish and maintain one or more shelters for dogs seized, accepted or detained under any of the provisions of this Act”***

Neither of these Acts is welfare based, although the pounds provision and maintenance Act, stipulates that a pound must be suitable for the purpose intended, i.e. the housing of dogs. The emphasis of the legislation is control of dogs and the duty of local authorities, not the welfare or well being of the animals concerned.

While there are penalties for breaches of the dog control legislation, this is reliant on being able to identify the owner of a particular dog. In the absence of any permanent identification system, this is almost impossible to enforce or police. The enforcement statistics for the various local authorities highlights the lack of enforcement of the existing legislation, at least in relation to holding owners accountable; although in most cases, the dogs pay the ultimate price.



## 2. Dog Control

### 2.1 Pound providers

While local authorities are required to provide a dog pound, under the Control of Dogs Act, they may “enter into arrangements with any other local authority, or with the Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, or, with the consent of the minister, with a person connected with animal welfare, for the exercise of all or any of its functions, other than its functions under section 17 or section 30 of this Act”

Table 1 lists the providers of pounds in the Republic of Ireland for 2005 and 2006. In 2005, 58% of pounds were operated by local authorities; 27% by the Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ISPCA); and 15% by private providers. In 2006, the number of pounds operated by local authorities increased to 67%, while ISPCA involvement decreased to 18%. Private providers remained the same at 15%.

Some local authorities share dog pounds, of the ones listed, Carlow and Kilkenny, who share a facility which is located in Kilkenny. Limerick County Council operates Limerick City pound, while Collon Animal Sanctuary and Louth County Council operated the Meath pound jointly. The South Dublin pound is listed as being operated by the local authority, when in fact it is operated under contract to Blackhall Kennels in Dunboyne Co Meath.



**Table 1 Dog pound providers, ROI, 2005-2006**



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Area	Pound Providers 2005	Pound Providers 2006
Carlow*	ISPCA*	ISPCA*
Cavan	LA	LA
Clare	ISPCA	ISPCA
Cork City	CSPCA	CSPCA
Cork County	LA	LA
Donegal	ISPCA	LA
Dublin City	Ashton pound/ warden service	Ashton pound/ warden service
South Dublin**	LA**	LA**
Fingal	Ashton pound /warden service	Ashton pound/ warden service
Dun Laoghaire/ Rathdown	Veterinary Hospital	LA
Galway City	LA	LA
Galway County	LA	LA
Kerry	LA	LA
Kildare	ISPCA	ISPCA
Kilkenny*	ISPCA*	Warden/ISPCA*
Laois	ISPCA	LA
Leitrim	Leitrim Animal Welfare Trust	Leitrim Animal Welfare Trust
Limerick City***	LA***	Limerick Co Co***
Limerick County	LA	LA
Longford	LA	LA
Louth	LA	LA
Mayo	LA	LA
Meath****	LA****	Louth Co Co/Collon AS
Monaghan	LA	LA
Offaly	LA/ISPCA	ISPCA
Roscommon	ISPCA	LA
Sligo	LA	Dog warden contracted to LA
Tipperary N.R.	LA	LA
Tipperary S.R.	LA	LA
Waterford City & County	LA	LA
Westmeath	LA	LA
Wexford	LA	LA
Wicklow	ISPCA	ISPCA

\*Carlow and Kilkenny share a dog pound facility

\*\*South Dublin pound is listed as LA run, however it is operated by Blackhall kennels in Dunboyne, Co Meath.

\*\*\*Limerick City pound is operated by Limerick County Council

\*\*\*\*Meath County Council do not have a dog pound facility, the service is operated by Louth County Council

## **2.2 Dog Control Figures, ROI, 2005-2006**

The dog control figures for the Republic of Ireland are compiled by the Department of the Environment, Heritage, and Local Government, based on returns from each local authority. In isolation, these figures mean very little and in order to properly compare the categories the figures are analysed in the context of the population of each local authority area. This gives a clearer picture of each region with regard to the number of seized and surrendered dogs, their fate, and the enforcement of the dog control legislation.

The sections in this report will deal with the different aspects of the dog control service.

### **1.0 2.2.1 Dogs coming through dog pounds, ROI, 2005-2006**

The Department of the Environment, Heritage, and Local Government was contacted and asked for a definition of a 'seized dog'. The definition given was; either a dog that is seized from the street, i.e. stray dog, or a dog that is seized due to a breach in the dog control laws. Surrendered/collected refers to dogs surrendered directly to the pound by their owners or collected by a dog warden. Or, a stray dog found by a member of the public, which is collected from them by the warden.

There appears to be some confusion on the part of some local authorities as to what each of these categories mean, for example; in 2005, Kilkenny reported 307 dogs seized and 62 surrendered/collected. In 2006, there was almost a reversal of these figures, with no dogs being seized, and 353 surrendered/collected. Table 2 highlights other councils that have very apparent differences in the numbers reported in these categories between the two years.

This may be due to confusion as to what the different categories mean, or it could be a change in practice between 2005 and 2006. Without further information, it is difficult to establish the actual reason.

In table 3, the total number of seized and surrendered/collected is given for 2005 and 2006. In 2005, 40% of pound dogs were seized and 60% surrendered/collected, in 2006, 32% were seized and 68% surrendered/collected.



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**Table 2: Possible anomalies in numbers of dogs seized and dogs collected/surrendered, ROI, 2005-2006**

<b>Area</b>	<b>Dogs seized, 2005</b>	<b>Dogs surrendered/collected, 2005</b>	<b>Dogs seized, 2006</b>	<b>Dogs surrendered/collected, 2006</b>
<b>Carlow</b>	263	37	1	285
<b>South Dublin</b>	11	1,124	781	320
<b>Kilkenny</b>	307	62	0	353
<b>Laois</b>	337	81	8	463
<b>Limerick City</b>	933	24	0	1,019
<b>Tipperary N.R.</b>	319	97	0	412
<b>Waterford City &amp; County</b>	392	80	0	515

Graphs 1 and 2 illustrate clearly the differences in returns between the two years by some local authorities. In the examples in table 2, Carlow, Kilkenny, Laois, Limerick City, Tipperary North and Waterford City and County report the majority of dogs in 2005 as seized. In 2006, all these areas report the majority of dogs as surrendered/collected.

It could be that there was a total change in the categories of dogs in these areas between one year and the next or, it could be that the personnel making the returns are confused as to what each category means.

South Dublin reported the majority of dogs in 2005 as surrendered/collected, while in 2006, most were seized. Again, this could be due to a change in the population of dogs or confusion as to what the categories are.

**Table 3: Dogs seized and dogs collected/surrendered, ROI, 2005-2006**



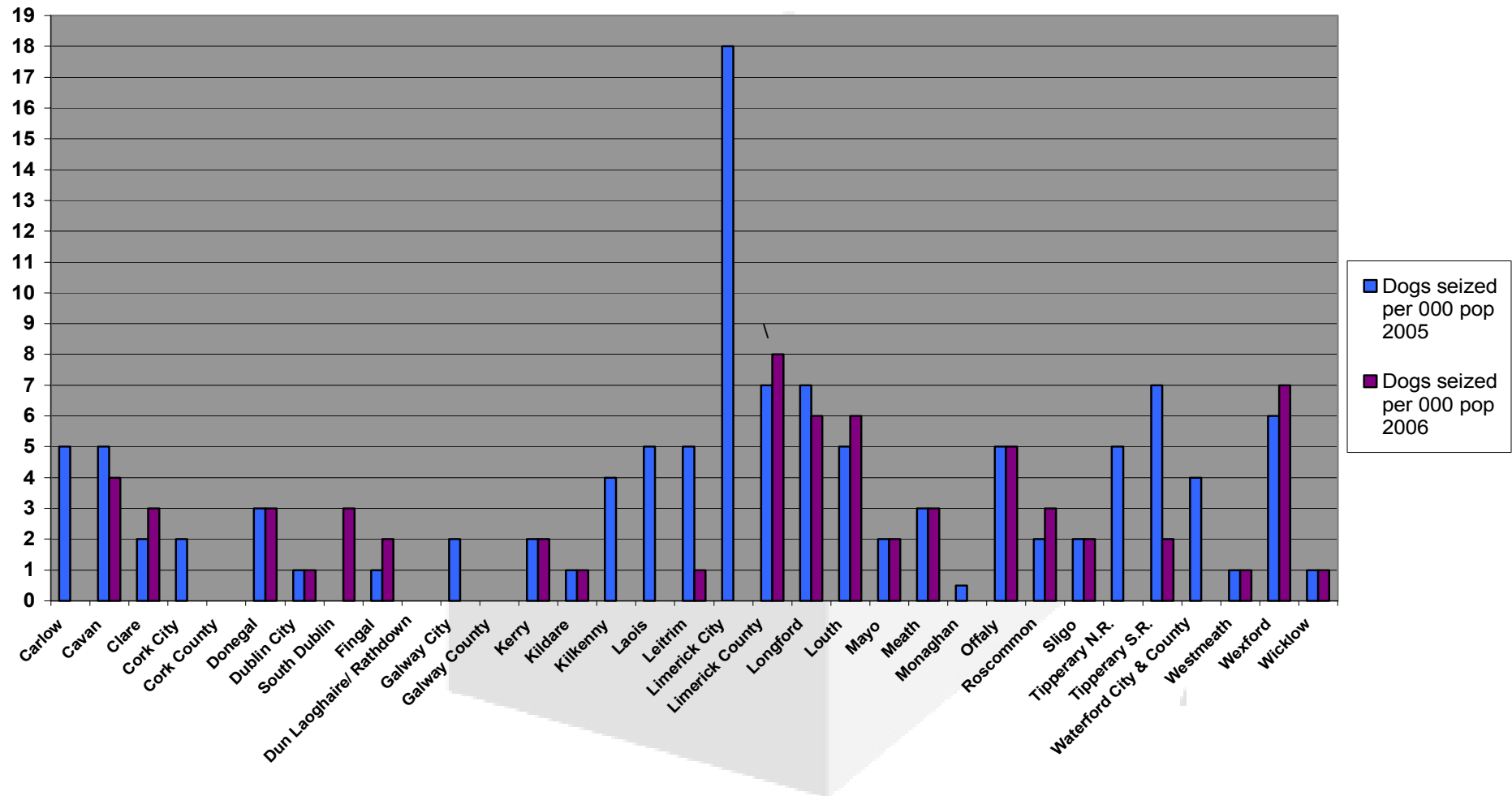
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Area	Dogs seized, 2005	Dogs surrendered/ collected, 2005	Dogs seized, 2006	Dogs surrendered/ collected, 2006
Carlow	263	37	1	285
Cavan	345	268	237	245
Clare	247	1,828	294	1,721
Cork City	257	294	27	425
Cork County	75	1,129	0	1,314
Donegal	502	665	513	639
Dublin City	694	1,040	667	850
South Dublin	11	1,124	781	320
Fingal	299	570	459	369
Dun Laoghaire/ Rathdown	8	374	4	319
Galway City	139	322	22	294
Galway County	12	552	12	612
Kerry	258	1,354	236	1,312
Kildare	114	179	136	69
Kilkenny	307	62	0	353
Laois	337	81	8	463
Leitrim	145	219	23	380
Limerick City	933	24	0	1,019
Limerick County	952	537	997	393
Longford	225	324	211	172
Louth	540	456	625	305
Mayo	268	18	189	45
Meath	399	89	458	221
Monaghan	27	818	25	836
Offaly	317	153	322	143
Roscommon	102	275	154	173
Sligo	140	187	141	260
Tipperary N.R.	319	97	0	412
Tipperary S.R.	537	405	207	672
Waterford City & County	392	80	0	515
Westmeath	77	765	48	525
Wexford	832	649	906	575
Wicklow	181	103	122	102
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>10,254</b>	<b>15,078</b>	<b>7,825</b>	<b>16,338</b>

Graph 1: Dogs seized per thousand of population, ROI, 2005-2006



Dogs seized per thousand of population, 2005-2006

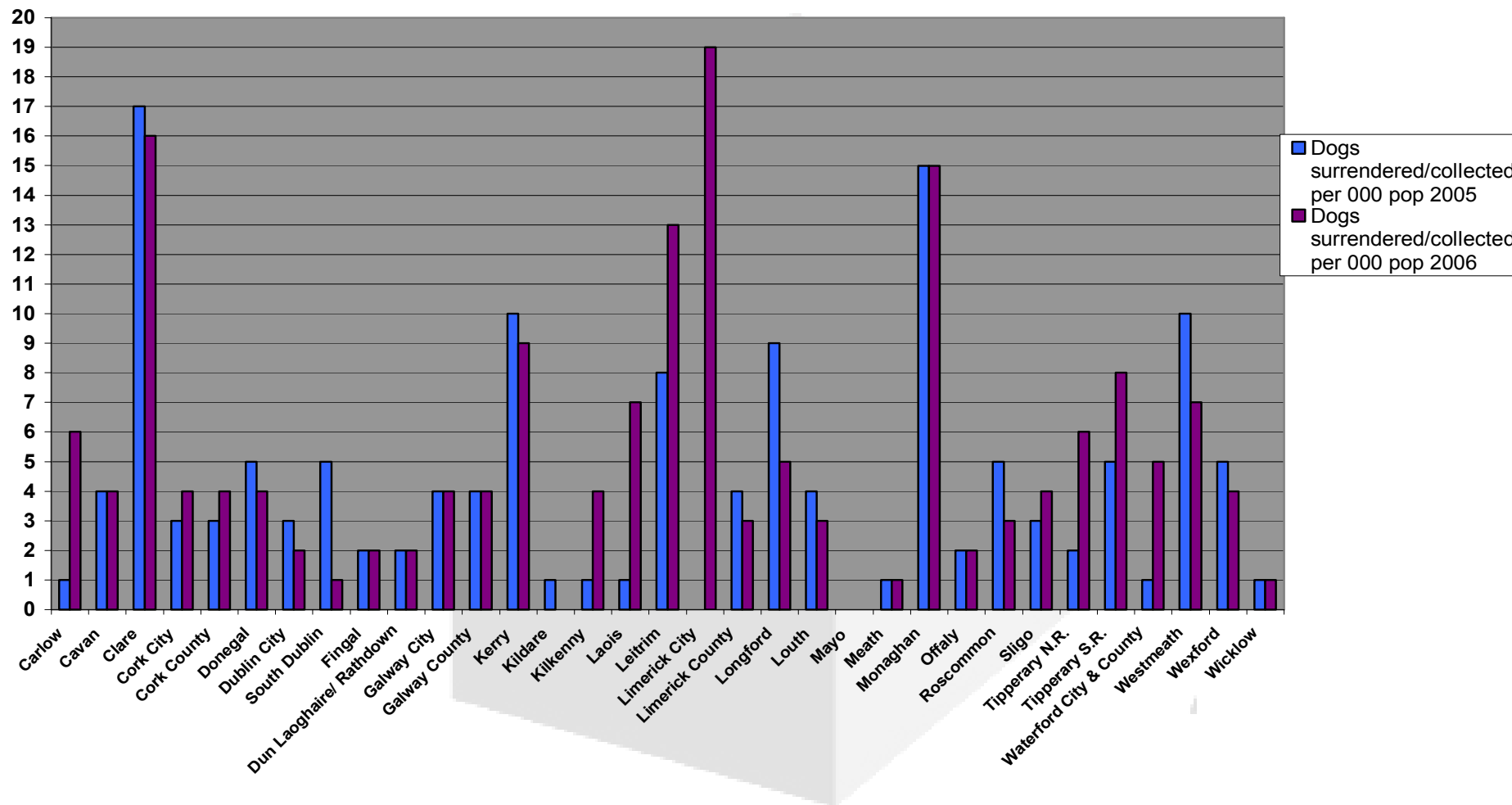


Population figures based on 2006 census. [www.cso.ie](http://www.cso.ie)

Graph 2: Dogs surrendered/collected per thousand of population, ROI, 2005-2006



Dogs surrendered/collected per thousand of population, 2005-2006



Population figures based on 2006 census. [www.cso.ie](http://www.cso.ie)

### **2.2.2 Total dogs entering dog pounds, ROI, 2005-2006**

The total number of dogs in pounds in 2006 was 24,311 which is a 5% reduction on 2005. This seems like a good improvement until you consider that the figure in 2005 was up 3% on 2004. There hasn't been a significant decrease in the number of dogs entering our pounds in recent years. This points to continuing overproduction of dogs, and a 'throwaway' attitude to these animals.

Table 4 lists the total number of dogs entering each dog pound as well as the number destroyed. In table form, these figures do not mean very much. When they are put in the context of population however, stark differences can be seen between the different regions. In graph 3, the problem areas around the country can be clearly seen.

The average number of pound dogs for the country as a whole is approximately 6, yet some areas have twice and three times this figure. Clare, Kerry, Leitrim, Limerick (City and County) Longford, Monaghan, Tipperary South, Westmeath, and Wexford, have from almost twice, up to three times the national average of dogs. The reason for this needs to be investigated and addressed.

There are many sources of dogs; breeders, puppy farms, the Greyhound industry, farm dogs, especially Collies, and owners who do not neuter and spay their animals. While there are no regulations of dog breeding, and while many owners continue to be irresponsible and unaccountable, this overproduction will persist, and the dogs will pay with their lives.

Some pounds report substantial numbers of Collies and Greyhounds or Greyhound crosses entering their premises. Most of the areas reporting higher than average total dogs per thousand of population have large rural and farming areas or are associated with the Greyhound industry. It would be useful to get a rough breakdown of dogs by breed to see if there are trends and to see if these particular breeds are having a major impact on numbers.

**Table 4: Total dogs in pounds and total dogs destroyed, ROI, 2005-2006**



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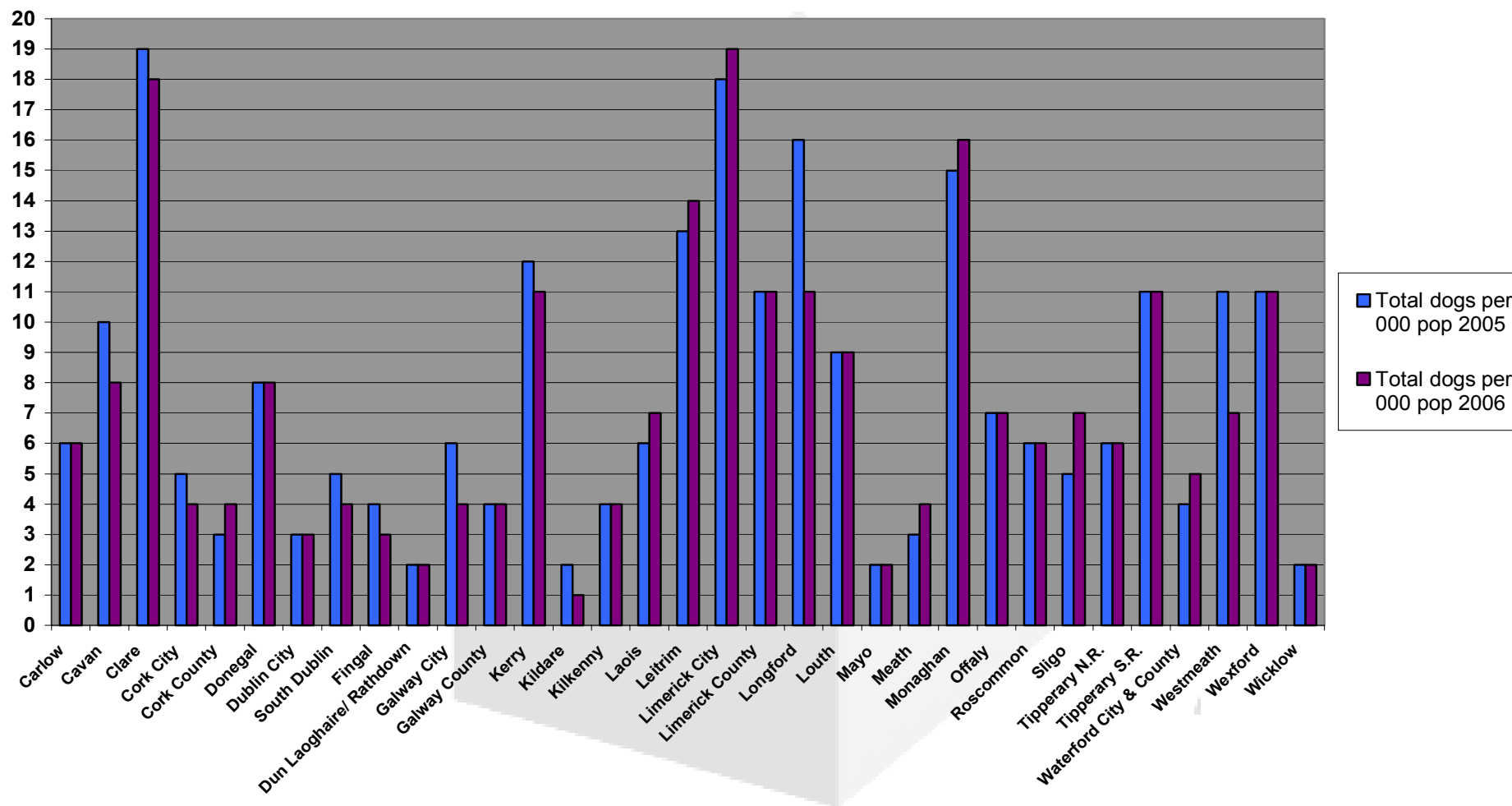
Area	Total dogs* 2005	Total dogs* 2006	Total dogs destroyed 2005	Total dogs destroyed 2006
Carlow	302	286	184	189
Cavan	615	487	511	409
Clare	2,085	2,025	1,535	1,530
Cork City	551	452	268	148
Cork County	1,204	1,314	1,018	1,160
Donegal	1,169	1,159	977	990
Dublin City	1,735	1,538	300	178
South Dublin	1,135	1,103	266	185
Fingal	874	833	178	84
Dun Laoghaire/ Rathdown	385	325	314	232
Galway City	461	316	328	204
Galway County	566	627	470	480
Kerry	1,653	1,561	1,486	1,342
Kildare	296	206	253	154
Kilkenny	375	354	249	263
Laois	429	474	296	315
Leitrim	388	406	13	23
Limerick City	957	1,019	955	961
Limerick County	1,489	1,390	1,232	1,219
Longford	552	388	467	292
Louth	1,000	947	585	246
Mayo	286	234	267	202
Meath	488	679	225	252
Monaghan	862	876	452	421
Offaly	476	465	232	306
Roscommon	377	327	186	101
Sligo	327	401	139	130
Tipperary N.R.	418	416	377	346
Tipperary S.R.	942	879	898	753
Waterford City & County	473	518	182	192
Westmeath	853	588	653	375
Wexford	1,493	1,493	845	779
Wicklow	294	225	205	137
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>25,510</b>	<b>24,311</b>	<b>16,546</b>	<b>14,598</b>

\*Total numbers include any dogs on hand at end of previous year.

**Graph 3: Total pound dogs per thousand of population, ROI, 2005-2006**



**Total pound dogs per thousand of population, 2005-2006**



Population figures based on 2006 census. [www.cso.ie](http://www.cso.ie)

### 2.2.3 Dogs rehomed/reclaimed, ROI, 2005-2006

There were 8,818 or 35% of dogs either reclaimed or rehomed in 2005 and 9,539, or 39% in 2006. In graph 4, these figures are compared in terms of the population of each area. Clare, Leitrim, and Monaghan all have higher than average rehome/reclaim rates, despite having higher than average total numbers. This shows that these pounds are active in trying to rehome or reunite dogs. Dublin City, Fingal, South Dublin, and Louth pounds have rescue groups who work to rehome pound dogs and this is reflected in the figures.

Counties like, Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown, Kildare, Limerick City, and Mayo have the worst record in terms of population. Donegal, Galway County, Kilkenny, Tipperary North and South, and Wicklow, have consistently low rehome/reclaim rates over both years in terms of population, managing to rehome or reunite only one dog per thousand of population.

There is little information to be gleaned from the rehomed/reclaimed category as the figures are not separated into rehomed, reclaimed, or released to rescue. This would help in identifying possible problems with dog pounds like accessibility, opening hours, public awareness etc. These issues are looked at further in the section on the dog pound survey. It would also indicate how many dogs are released to rescue groups and are in fact not rehomed in the strict sense.

Graph 5, which compares all categories, total dogs, dogs reclaimed/rehomed and destroyed illustrates clearly how each pound compares. Areas like Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown, Kildare, Mayo, and Wicklow have very low total numbers but also very low rehome/reclaim figures.

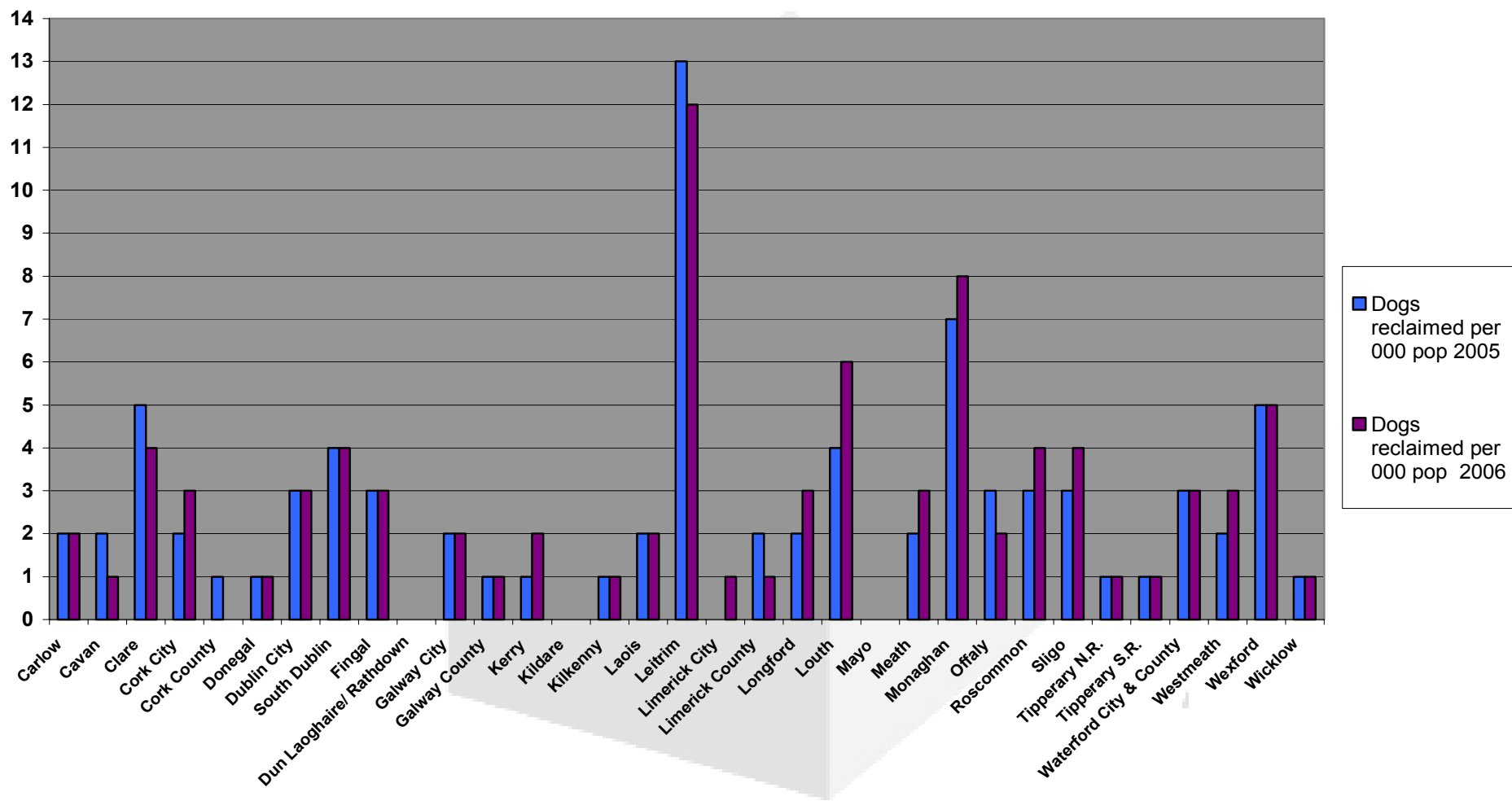
Of the counties with high total dogs, Clare, Leitrim, and Monaghan have good rehome/reclaim rates per thousand of population although while Leitrim manages to rehome almost all the dogs coming through their pound, Clare and Monaghan have destruction rates of 76% and 48% respectively.



Graph 4: Dogs reclaimed/rehomed per thousand of population, ROI, 2005-2006



Dogs reclaimed/rehomed per thousand of population, 2005-2006

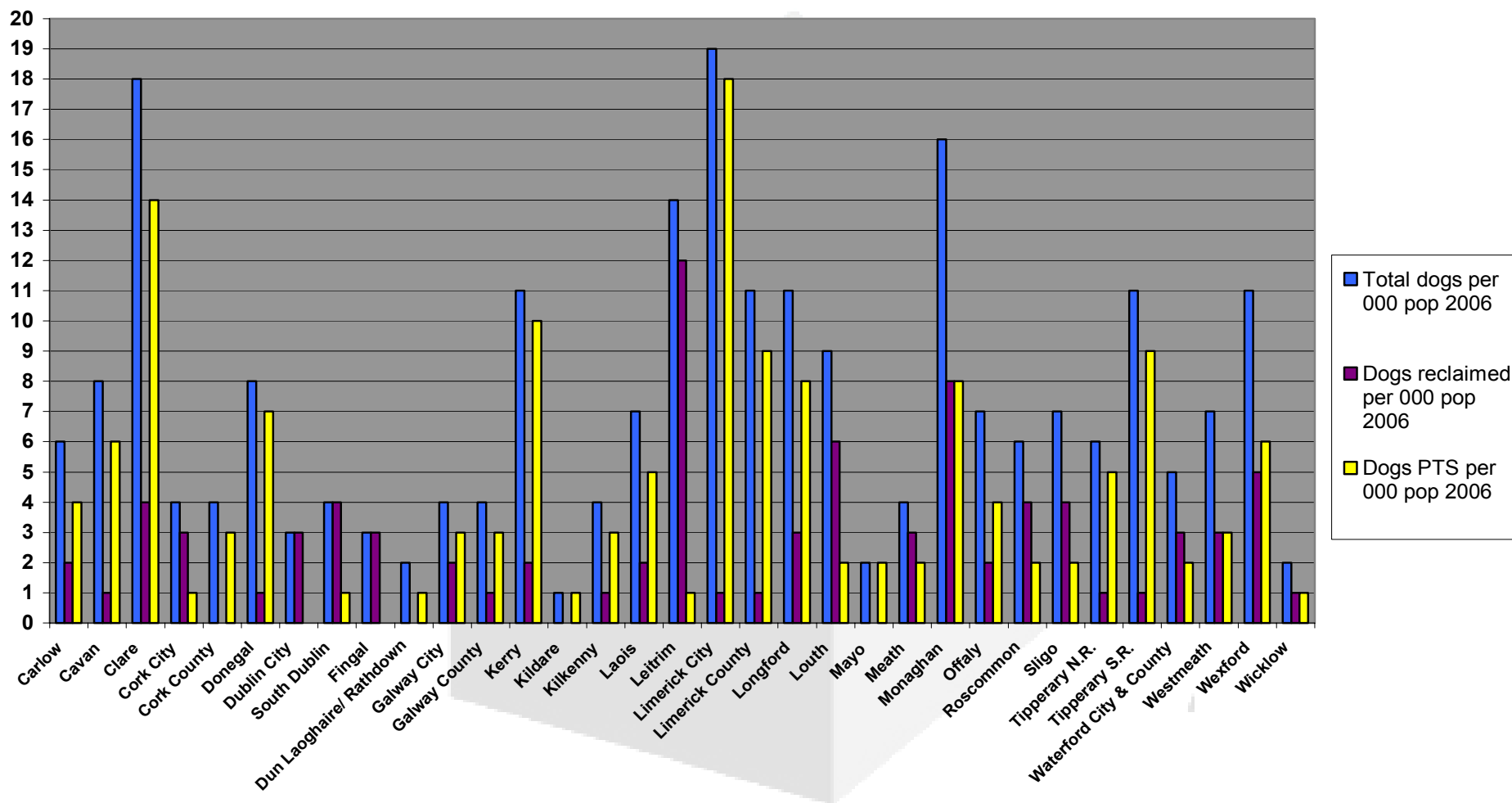


Population figures based on 2006 census. [www.cso.ie](http://www.cso.ie)

**Graph 5: Comparison of total dogs, dogs reclaimed, dogs PTS per thousand of population, ROI, 2006**



**Comparison of total dogs, vs dogs rehomed/reclaimed, vs dogs PTS per 000 pop, ROI, 2006**



Population figures based on 2006 census. [www.cso.ie](http://www.cso.ie)

## 2.2.4 Dogs destroyed, ROI, 2005-2006

Table 5 shows the percentage destruction rates for each of the local authority pounds in 2005 and 2006. Like the other categories, there are substantial differences between local authorities. In 2005, 67% of dog pounds were reporting kill rate of over 50%, in 2006 this figure rose to 70% of pounds with rates of over 50%.

Tables 6 and 7, is a list of the worst pounds in terms of destruction in 2005 and 2006. Limerick City has the worst record over the two years with 100% destruction in 2005 and 94% in 2006. While it is somewhat understandable that it is virtually impossible to rehome such high numbers of dogs, it is beyond belief that almost all dogs were killed over this two year period. All of the pounds in these 'league tables' have destruction rates of 74% and over. This is totally unacceptable in any society, least of all one that is supposedly wealthy, educated, and civilised.

There is a perception that pound dogs are somehow different to 'normal' dogs and are in the pound because they are vicious or there is something wrong with them. The photos on this page are of pound dogs that were destroyed in an Irish pound because they were not rehomed or rescued before their five days were up. These dogs were, young, healthy and very homeable but in our society they are 'disposable'.



**Table 5: Percentage dogs destroyed, ROI, 2005-2006**



County	% Dogs Destroyed 05	% Dogs Destroyed 06
Carlow	61	66
Cavan	83	84
Clare	74	76
Cork City	49	33
Cork County	85	88
Donegal	84	85
Dublin City	17	12
South Dublin	23	17
Fingal	20	10
Dun Laoghaire/ Rathdown	82	71
Galway City	71	65
Galway County	83	77
Kerry	90	86
Kildare	85	75
Kilkenny	66	74
Laois	69	66
Leitrim	3	6
Limerick City	100	94
Limerick County	83	88
Longford	85	75
Louth	59	26
Mayo	93	86
Meath	46	37
Monaghan	52	48
Offaly	49	66
Roscommon	49	31
Sligo	43	32
Tipperary N.R.	90	83
Tipperary S.R.	95	86
Waterford City & County	38	37
Westmeath	77	64
Wexford	57	52
Wicklow	70	61
<b>Average %</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>60</b>

**67% of dog pounds in 2005, and 70% in 2006 had destruction rates of 50% and above**

**Tables 6 +7 : League table of destruction of pound dogs, ROI,  
2005-2006**



League Table of Destruction 2005		
1	Limerick City	100%
2	Tipperary South	95%
3	Mayo	93%
4	Tipperary North, Kerry	90%
5	Longford, Cork County, Kildare	85%
6	Donegal	84%
7	Cavan, Limerick County, Galway County	83%
8	Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown	82%
9	Westmeath	77%
10	Clare	74%

**67% of dog pounds in the ROI had destruction rates of 50% and above in 2005**

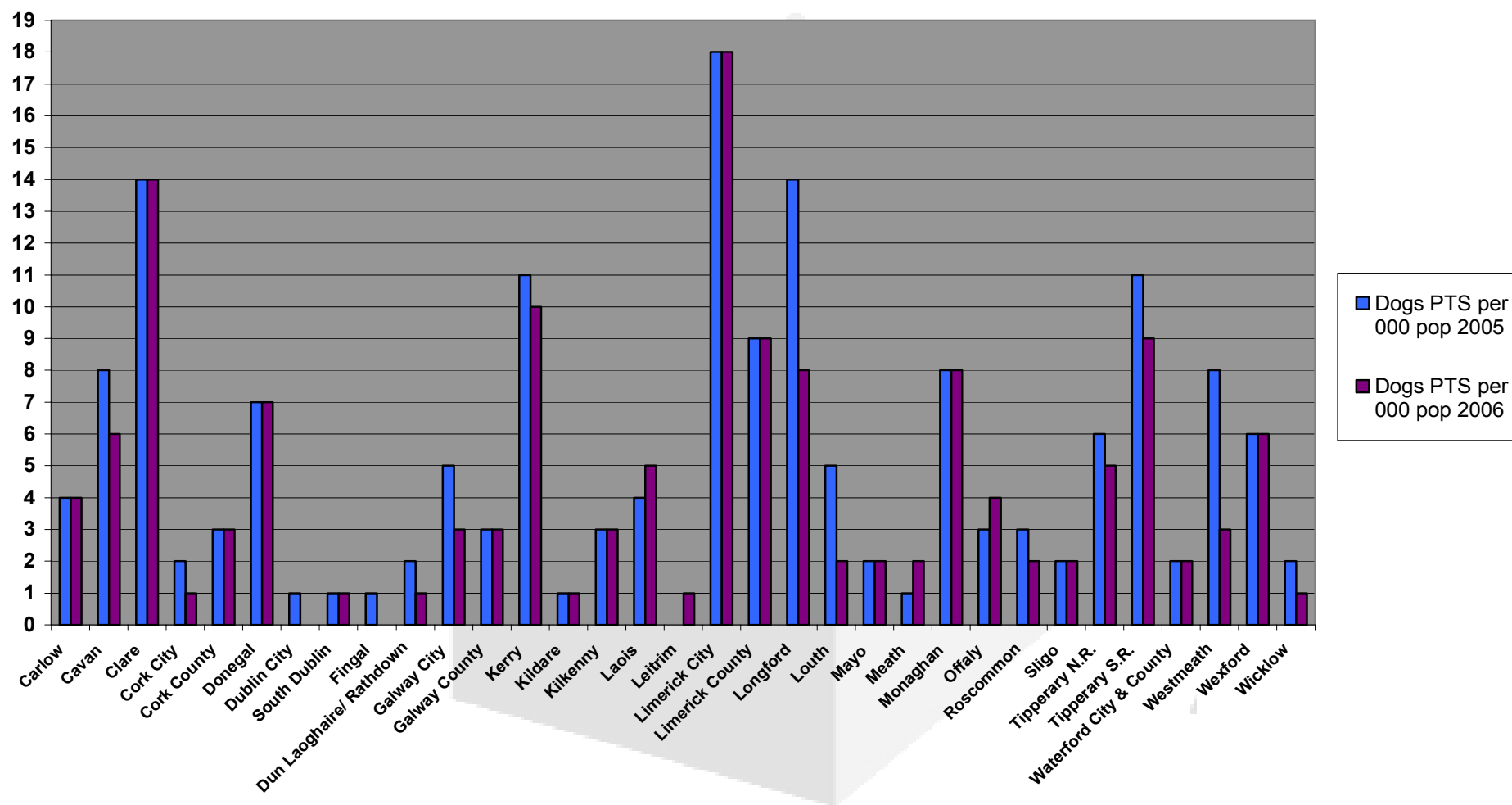
League Table of Destruction 2006		
1	Limerick City	94%
2	Cork County, Limerick County	88%
3	Kerry, Mayo, Tipperary SR	86%
4	Donegal	85%
5	Cavan	84%
6	Tipperary NR	83%
7	Galway County	77%
8	Clare	76%
9	Kildare, Longford	75%
10	Kilkenny	74

**In 2006, 70% of dog pounds in the ROI had destruction rates of 50% and above**

Graph 6: Dogs destroyed per thousand of population, ROI, 2005-2006



Dogs destroyed per thousand of population, 2005-2006

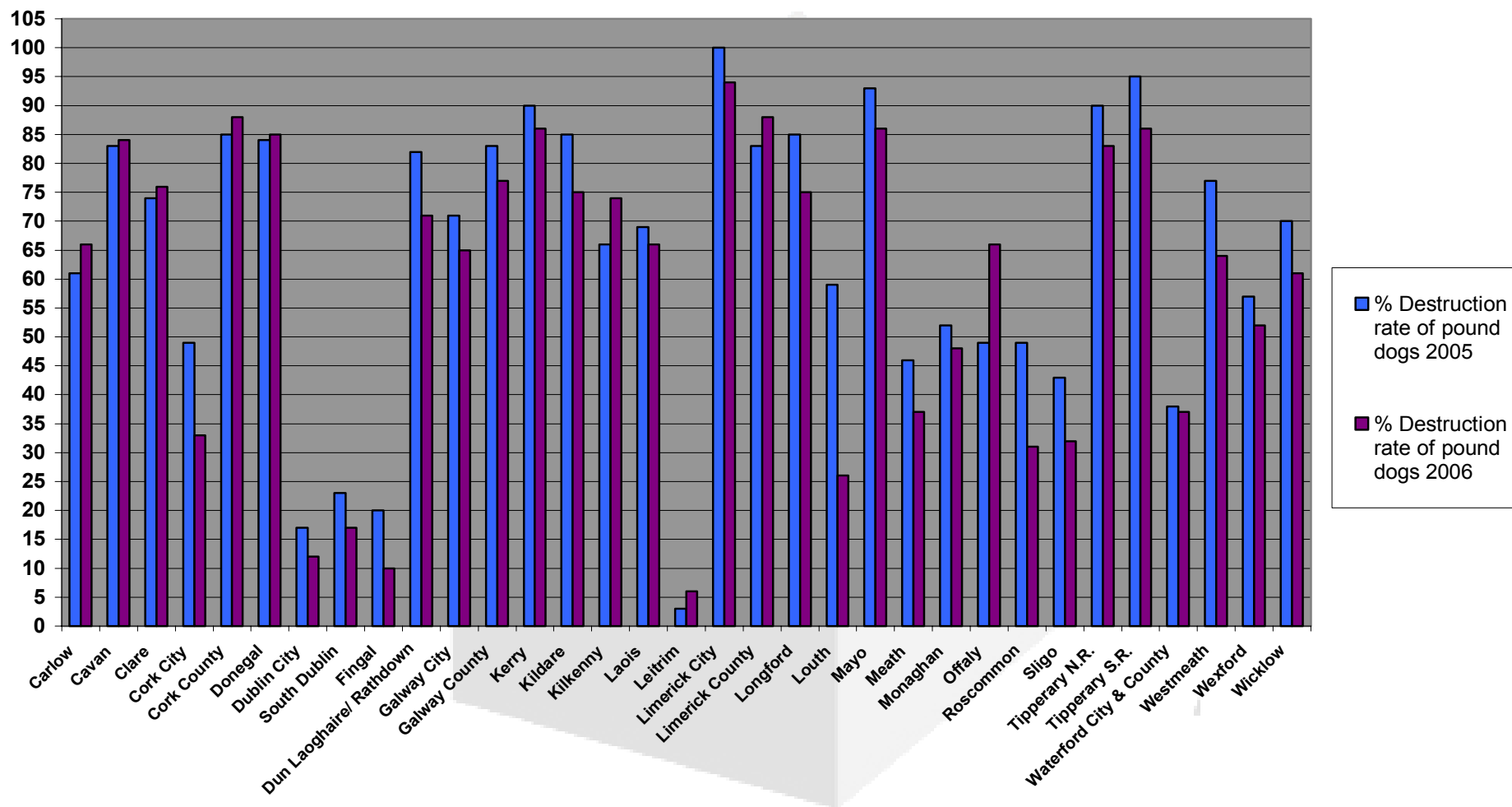


Population figures based on 2006 census. [www.cso.ie](http://www.cso.ie)

Graph 7: percentage destruction rate of pound dogs, ROI, 2005-2006



Percentage destruction rate of pound dogs, ROI, 2005-2006



Population figures based on 2006 census. [www.cso.ie](http://www.cso.ie)

## **2.3 Enforcement of Control of Dogs Act, ROI, 2005-2006**

### **2.3.1 Licensing**

According to the Control of Dogs Act, it is unlawful for any person to keep a dog unless he holds either a dog licence for a particular dog or a general dog licence. One could assume, with so many unwanted dogs in Ireland that dog ownership is quite, high and this should be reflected in the number of licences sold each year. If it is taken that the rate of dog ownership is similar across the country, and that every local authority is enforcing the legislation properly, the distribution of licences per thousand of population should be similar nationwide.

Graph 8 shows the number of dogs licences sold in each local authority area per thousand of population. One would expect the areas with larger populations would have more licences. This however, is not the case. Fingal has the lowest with 14 licences per thousand, followed by Cork City with 14, Dublin City with 15 and Limerick City with 16. These figures are based on returns for 2006.

The areas with the best enforcement of licensing in terms of population are, Kerry, Cavan, Waterford City and County, and Cork County. The average number of licences for the country is 47 per thousand of population. The variation in this category suggests a lack of enforcement on the part of some local authorities, or, it could be argued that some areas have higher dog ownership/production/abandonment than others.

To address this, we have compared the number of licences against the number of dogs in each pound, and also the total number of dogs against the total licences per thousand of population.

Graph 9 shows the number of licences sold for every pound dog in each pound. In this category, the counties with the highest number of licences are not the ones with the highest number of pound dogs. Kildare is one of the local authorities with the lowest number of pound dogs per thousand of population, yet it has the highest number of licences per pound dog at 29 in 2006. Cork County had a total of 4 dogs per thousand of population in 2006, and have the second highest number of licences sold per pound dog with a figure of 24 in 2006.

Conversely, the areas with the highest number of pound dogs per thousand of population in 2006; Limerick City with 19 and Clare with 18, have just 1, and 2, licences per pound dog respectively.

Graph 10 compares the total licences and pound dogs per thousand of population. Once again, Kerry, Cavan, and Cork City have the highest have the highest number of licences. The interesting feature on this graph is Limerick City who actually had more pound dogs per thousand of population than licences issued in 2006!

The variations in these graphs highlight the lack of standardisation and also the lack of information which is important in order to address these issues. More information on the categories of dogs entering dog pounds might indicate why some areas have such high numbers yet have low numbers of licences.

It may be a total lack of enforcement or it could be that a high proportion of the dogs entering the pounds are not 'originating' from the general public. It may be that some areas have a higher concentration of kennels, for example, dog breeding kennels or greyhound kennels which may account for the higher numbers of dog. As most kennels would be covered by a general licence, the total licences would not reflect the number of dogs in such an area.

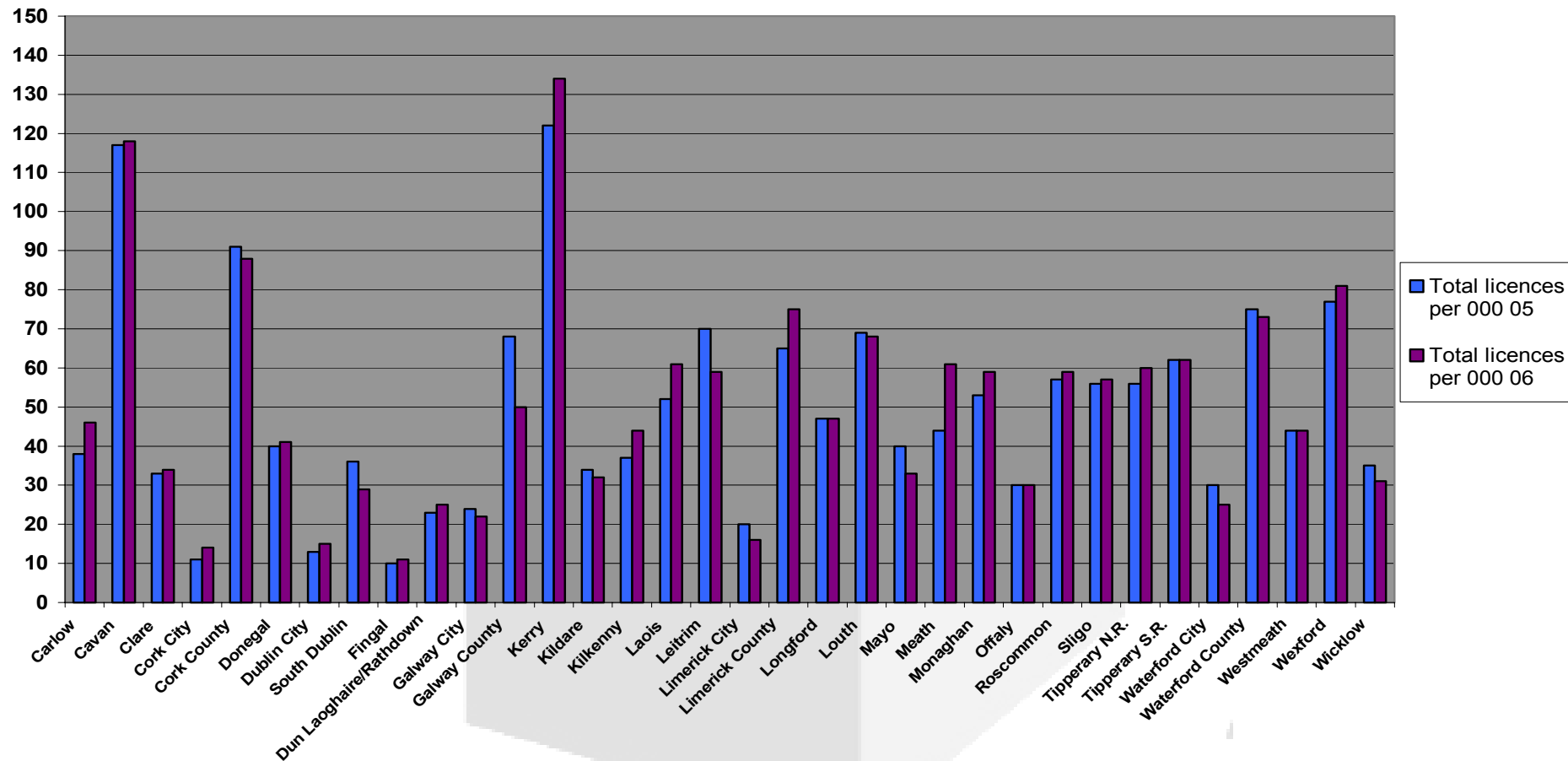
Some local authorities have very high concentrations of Collies and Collie crosses entering their pounds. Given the rural nature of some of these areas, at least some of these dogs are possibly originating from the farming community. Again, without more information on the dogs, i.e. breeds or types, we can only speculate.

Table 8 highlights the number of general licences issued in the Republic in 2005 and 2006.

Graph 8: Total licences per thousand of population, ROI, 2005-2006



Total licences per thousand of population, ROI, 2005-2006

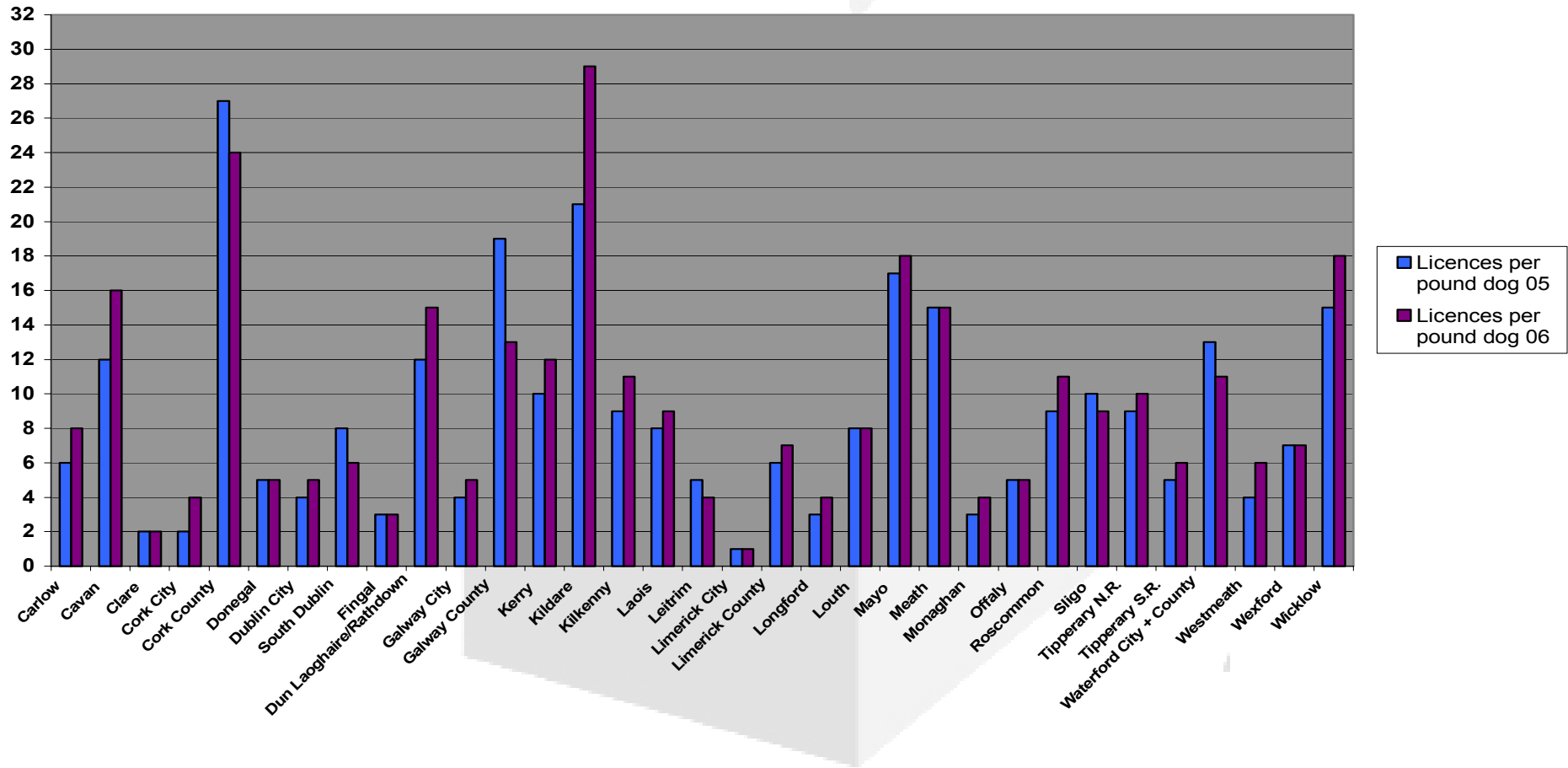


Population figures based on 2006 census. [www.cso.ie](http://www.cso.ie)

Graph 9: Total licences per pound dog, ROI, 2005-2006



Number of licences per pound dog, ROI, 2005-2006

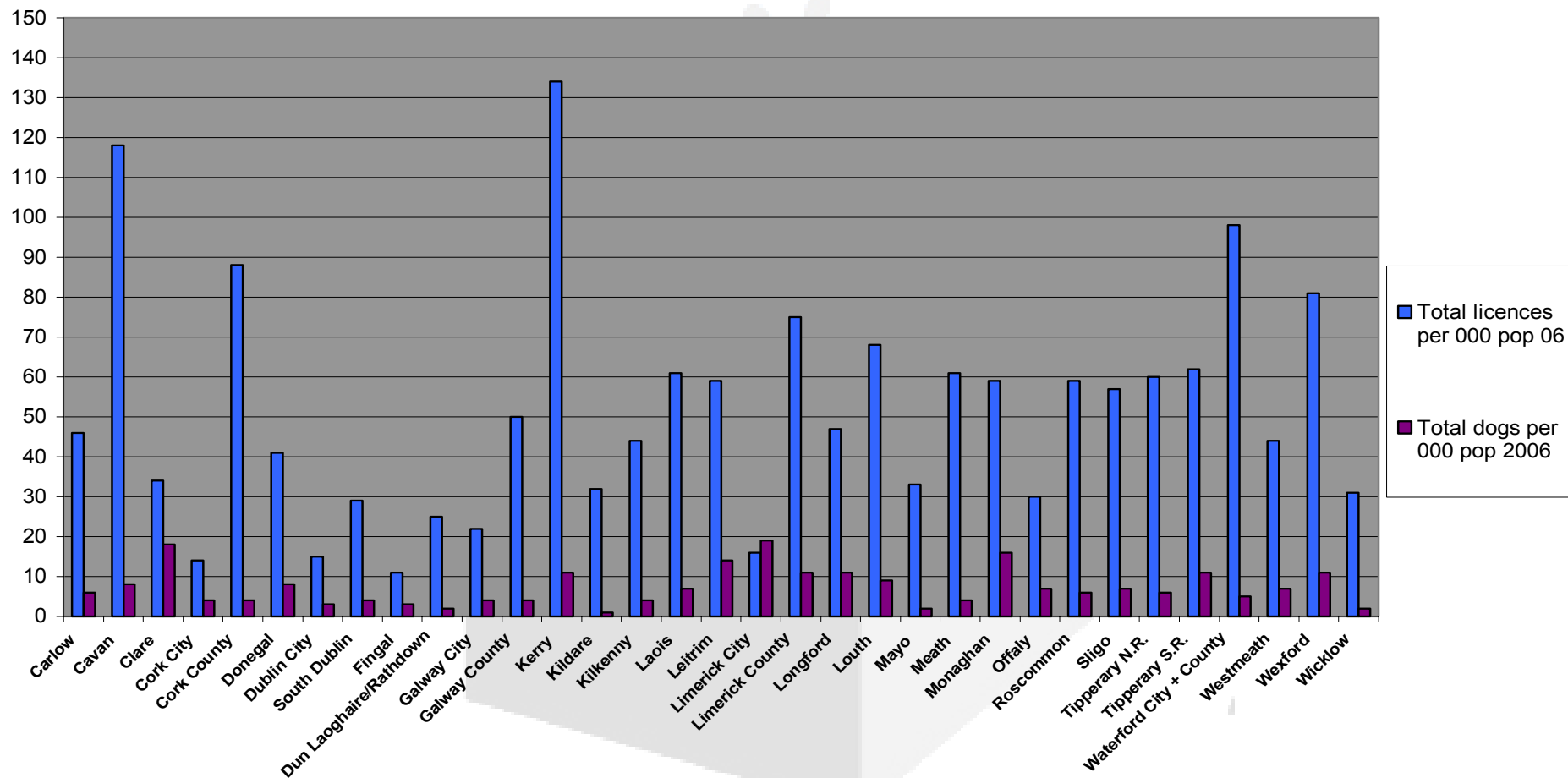


Population figures based on 2006 census. [www.cso.ie](http://www.cso.ie)

Graph 10: Total licences vs total dogs per thousand of population, ROI, 2006



Total licences vs total dogs per thousand of population, ROI, 2006



Population figures based on 2006 census. [www.cso.ie](http://www.cso.ie)

**Table 8: Number of general licences issued, ROI, 2005-2006**



County	General Licences issued 2005	General Licences issued 2006
Carlow	9	8
Cavan	9	9
Clare	3	4
Cork City	0	0
Cork County	95	97
Donegal	6	10
Dublin City	0	1
South Dublin	1	0
Fingal	3	6
Dun Laoghaire/ Rathdown	0	2
Galway City	0	1
Galway County	10	8
Kerry	32	38
Kildare	14	11
Kilkenny	6	10
Laois	2	7
Leitrim	7	2
Limerick City	0	0
Limerick County	35	38
Longford	3	3
Louth	8	6
Mayo	8	8
Meath	15	12
Monaghan	7	5
Offaly	0	0
Roscommon	6	9
Sligo	4	5
Tipperary N.R.	14	9
Tipperary S.R.	24	25
Waterford City	1	1
Waterford County	27	18
Westmeath	7	11
Wexford	22	24
Wicklow	13	7

### **2.3.2 Fines**

The total number of fines and fines paid are outlined in table 9. In 2005, only 55% of fines were paid, this percentage dropped to 49% in 2006. In graph 12, the number of fines in each area is compared in the context of population, i.e. fines per ten thousand of population. This graph clearly demonstrates the huge variation between local authorities in terms of fines. Apart from a small minority, most local authorities have either none, or very small numbers of fines.

It could be argued that the general population in these areas is more law abiding although this is highly unlikely. Graph 13 shows the percentage of fines paid in each local authority area.

### **2.3.3 Prosecutions and convictions**

The numbers of prosecutions under the Control of Dogs Act are shown in table 10. In 2005, there were 399 prosecutions and of these, 150 led to a conviction. That is just 38% successful prosecutions. There were 383 prosecutions in 2006 and of these, 179, or 47% were successful.

Given the amount of negative publicity in the media and from some local authorities on the problems associated with dog fouling, wandering dogs, and restricted breeds, it is somewhat surprising that there are not more prosecutions and convictions. One would expect, if there is such a big problem, more prosecutions.

While there scope under the Control of Dogs Act to deal with these issues, they will continue to be a problem until local authorities take dog control seriously and allocate the funding and properly trained staff to deal with it.

**Table 9: Number of fines and number paid, ROI, 2005-2006**

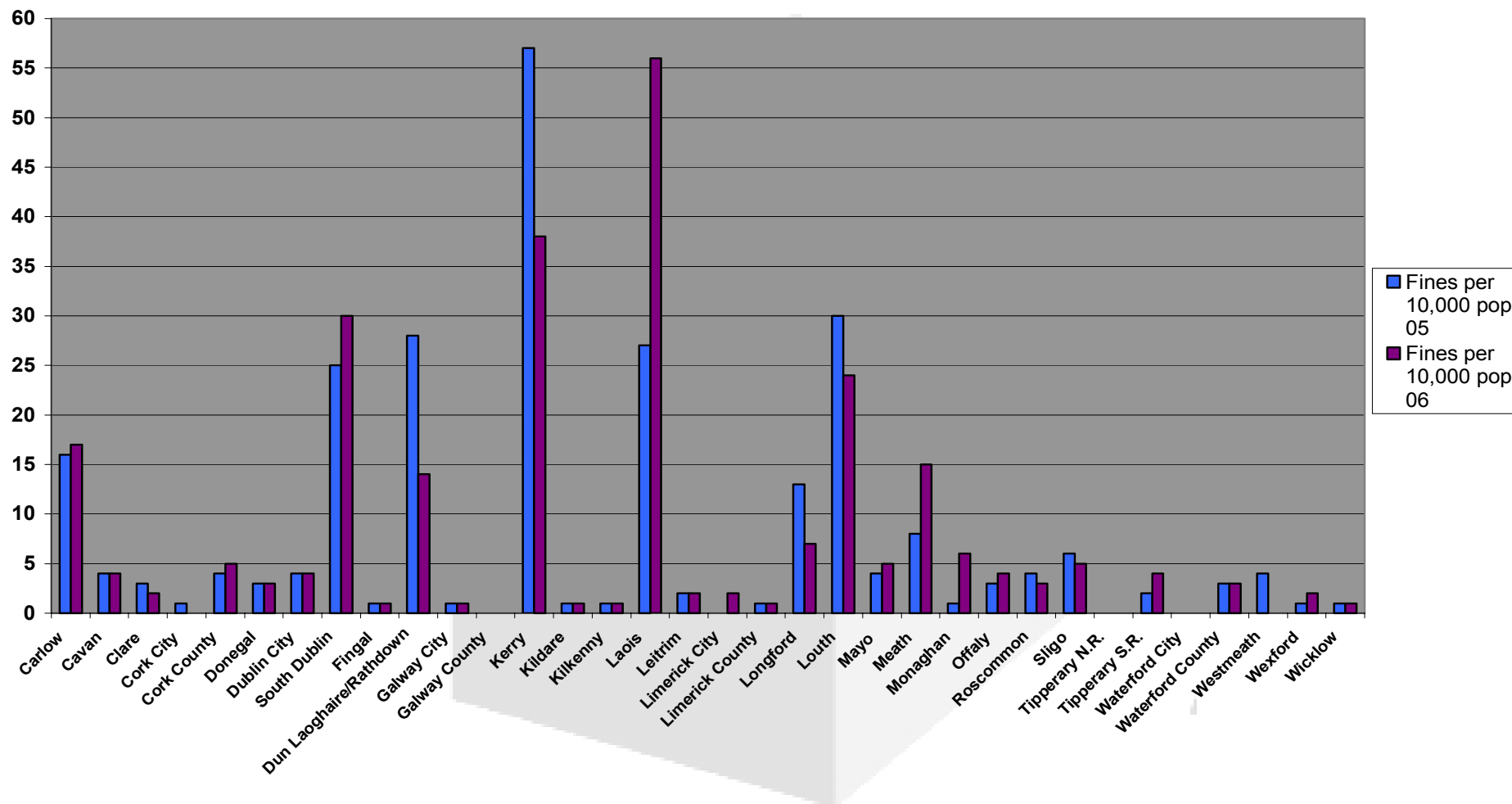


County	Number of fines 2005	Number of fines 2006	Fines paid 2005	Fines paid 2006
Carlow	79	87	15	13
Cavan	25	24	9	18
Clare	31	27	27	25
Cork City	8	0	5	0
Cork County	150	198	158	131
Donegal	49	48	29	27
Dublin City	224	217	51	57
South Dublin	606	746	106	45
Fingal	27	24	16	16
Dun Laoghaire/ Rathdown	548	263	402	168
Galway City	6	6	0	6
Galway County	2	0	2	0
Kerry	793	526	485	336
Kildare	23	9	1	0
Kilkenny	6	7	6	7
Laois	184	375	139	201
Leitrim	6	7	1	7
Limerick City	0	10	0	10
Limerick County	16	9	13	9
Longford	43	25	18	2
Louth	335	262	185	184
Mayo	55	58	40	42
Meath	123	240	102	220
Monaghan	7	31	2	26
Offaly	21	25	12	22
Roscommon	26	20	20	10
Sligo	34	30	32	30
Tipperary N.R.	0	1	0	1
Tipperary S.R.	16	29	6	20
Waterford City	0	0	0	0
Waterford County	21	20	13	0
Westmeath	30	0	30	0
Wexford	14	20	13	17
Wicklow	8	15	5	6
<b>Totals</b>	<b>3,516</b>	<b>3,359</b>	<b>1,943</b>	<b>1,656</b>

Graph 12: Fines per ten thousand of population, ROI, 2005-2006



Fines per 10,000 of population 2005-2006

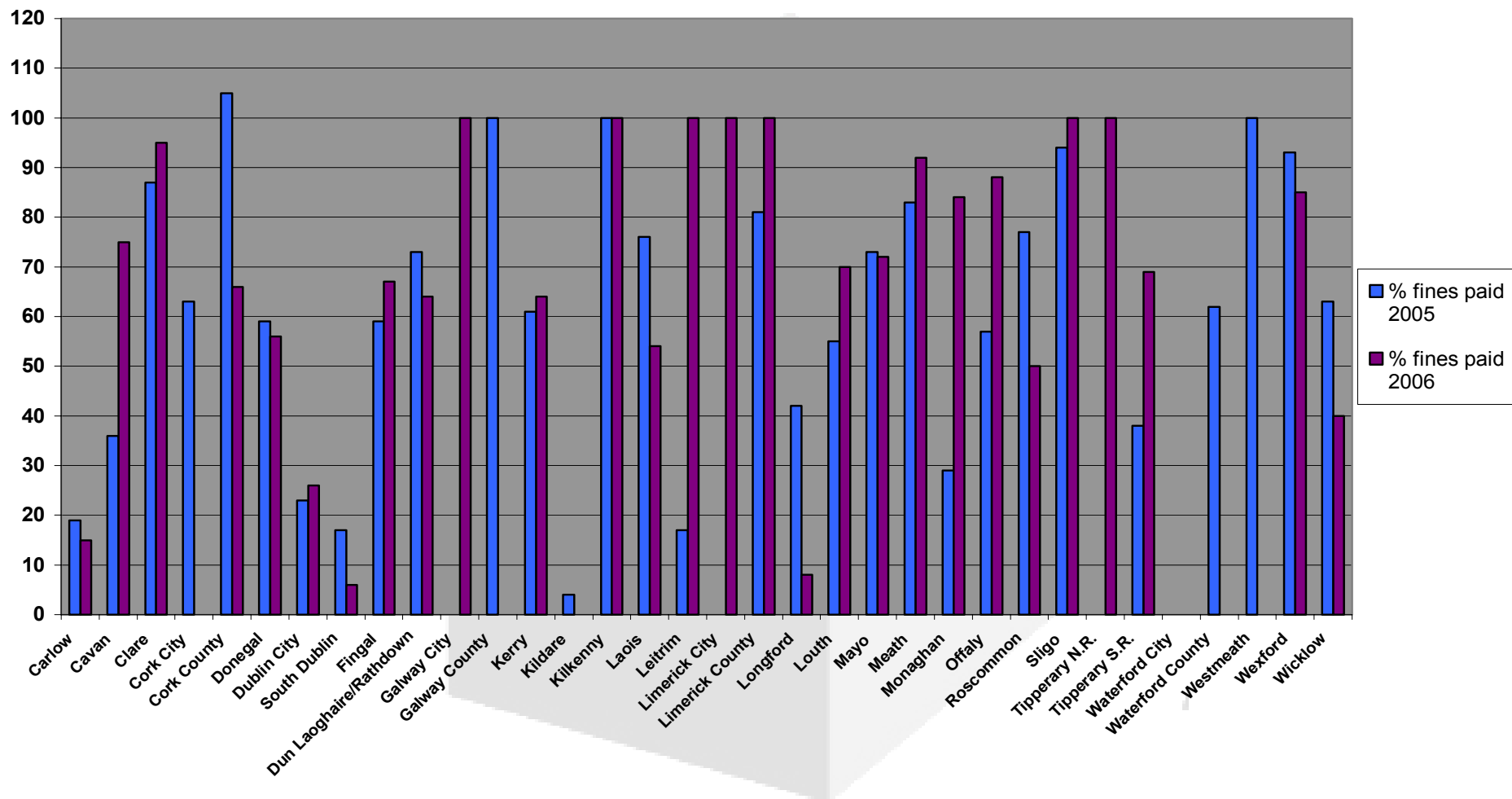


Population figures based on 2006 census. [www.cso.ie](http://www.cso.ie)

Graph 13: Percentage fines paid, ROI, 2005-2006



Percentage fines paid 2005-2006



Population figures based on 2006 census. [www.cso.ie](http://www.cso.ie)

**Table 10: Number of Prosecutions and convictions, ROI, 2005-2006**



County	Prosecutions 2005	Prosecutions 2006	Convictions 2005	Convictions 2006
Carlow	0	0	0	0
Cavan	6	6	5	6
Clare	4	6	4	6
Cork City	0	0	0	0
Cork County	19	20	13	20
Donegal	4	3	3	3
Dublin City	23	22	1	14
South Dublin	73	115	37	41
Fingal	11	7	7	2
DunLaoghaire/Rathdown	22	15	16	11
Galway City	0	0	0	0
Galway County	0	0	0	0
Kerry	42	41	17	20
Kildare	0	0	0	0
Kilkenny	0	0	0	0
Laois	0	0	0	0
Leitrim	0	0	0	0
Limerick City	0	0	0	0
Limerick County	0	0	0	0
Longford	1	3	1	3
Louth	135	107	27	32
Mayo	4	4	4	3
Meath	6	4	6	4
Monaghan	0	2	0	2
Offaly	0	2	0	2
Roscommon	0	0	0	0
Sligo	1	0	1	0
Tipperary N.R.	42	13	8	4
Tipperary S.R.	1	1	0	1
Waterford City	0	0	0	0
Waterford County	5	2	0	2
Westmeath	0	0	0	0
Wexford	0	1	0	1
Wicklow	0	9	0	2
<b>Totals</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>383</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>179</b>

## **Section 3: Results of dog pound questionnaire**

### **3.1 Pound provision and premises**

#### **Question 1: Do you provide a dog pound facility in your area of responsibility?**

100% of respondents answered yes to this question

#### **Question 2: Is the facility situated within your area of responsibility?**

89% of respondents answered yes, 11% said no.

#### **Question 3: Is the pound operated by: Local authority, ISPCA, other**

41% of pounds are private, 35% are operated by the ISPCA and 24% by the local authority.

#### **Question 4: Does each dog have a separate living area/kennel?**

56% said each dog has a separate area, 44% answered no.

##### **Feedback on question 4:**

*“It depends on the number of dogs in the pound. I only have 5 kennels”*

*“No individual kennels, dogs kept in groups of 4 or 5 unless there is a vicious dog which would be put in its own kennel”*

*“No, open and individual kennels”*

#### **Question 5: Are provisions made to care for dogs at weekends and during holidays?**

100% of respondents answered yes to this question. It is not altogether clear however, the amount of care given. Some replies mention part time cover or food, clean water and kennels. The length of time the dogs were left unattended was not specified. For instance, if the dogs were fed and cleaned at midday on Sunday and not checked again until the pound reopens on Monday, that would mean dogs, which could include puppies pregnant bitches, and sick animals, could be left for 21 hours.

### 3.2 Access

#### **Question 1: Is the pound open to the public, please state opening hours.**

83% answered yes, 17% no. Of the 17% who answered no, all said access was by appointment only. One pound said they provide appointments over 7 days.

Of the 83% who said they were open to the public,

- 14% open between 1 and 10 hours
- 50% open between 11 and 20 hours
- 15% open between 21 and 30 hours
- 21% open between 31 and 40 hours

Generally, the opening times are during working hours and only 36% open at weekends. One pound offered one evening opening per week.

#### **Question 2: Are people facilitated outside these hours?**

71% said they did facilitate people outside of hours and one quarter of these said this was by arrangement with the warden. Of the 29% who did not facilitate people outside of hours, one fifth said they would occasionally do so by appointment.

#### **Question 3: approximate distance of pound from main centre of population**

The distances ranged from 0 to 40 km with the average being 12 km.

### 3.3 Rehoming of dogs

#### **Question 1: Do you rehome dogs to members of the public?**

100% of respondents said they do rehome dogs to the public. However, 11% of these said only in conjunction with the ISPCA or local SPCA.

**Question 2: Do you have any initiatives to reunite dogs with their owners?**

78% of respondents answered yes, 22% no. Those who said yes listed the following initiatives;

- 33% scan for microchips
- 39 keep a register of stray/lost dogs
- 17% have dogs listed on a rescue website
- 6% intend setting up their own website to list dogs
- 11% use radio advertising
- 6% co-operate with their local SPCA
- 6% use newspaper advertising

**Question 3: Do you rehome to rescue groups?**

78% said yes, 16% said no, 6% said occasionally. Of the respondents who answered yes;

- 11% only homed to rescue groups approved by the ISPCA
- 6% charged a fee to rescue groups
- 6% only rehomed to the rescue group operating the pound

**Question 4: When rehoming dogs do you (a) Microchip, (b) neuter/spay, (c) home check?**

17% said they microchip dogs and of these, 7% said they gave a voucher. Of the 83% who do not microchip, 7% said they would like to.

Only 6% of pounds neuter dogs prior to homing. Of the 94% who don't neuter or spay, 12.5% gave a voucher to cover 100% of the cost of neutering/spaying. 12.5% gave a voucher covering part of the cost, 6% encouraged new owners to have their dogs done and 6% said they sometimes neutered or spayed.

39% of respondents said they carry out home checks prior to rehoming dogs. 6% of these said home checks were carried out through their local SPCA. 50% of the pounds who replied said they don't home check, and 11% said they sometimes home check.

### **3.4 Enforcement of dog control**

#### **Question 1: Do you seize dogs from the street?**

94% said yes, 6% said no

#### **Question 2: Is there a charge for owners wishing to surrender their dogs?**

39% answered yes, charging between €10 and €30. 50% said no, although 8% of these charge €30 each for greyhounds

#### **Question 3: Are owners allowed to surrender dogs continually?**

71% said yes, of these, 17% said it would depend on the circumstance, 8% said such actions would be queried, and 8% such actions would be strongly discouraged.

#### **Question 4: Do people surrendering a dog have to produce proof of identity?**

56% said yes, with 30% accepting a dog licence as proof and 30% accepting the signing of a surrender form. 44% said they don't ask for proof.

#### **Question 5: Do people surrendering a dog have to produce proof of ownership?**

61% said yes, of these 45% accept a dog licence as proof, while 18% accept a surrender form. One respondent said "*non-production of licence doesn't mean refusal*". Of the 39% of pounds who don't ask for proof of ownership, 14% said owners have to sign a surrender form.

#### **Question 6: What is the total figure of dogs seized and surrendered for 2004/2005**

Please see section on control of dogs statistics

#### **Question 7: Is this number up or down on previous year?**

Please see section on control of dogs statistics.

**Question 8: When enforcing the 5 day rule, (a) is the day the dog comes into the pound counted as the first day? (b) are weekends and bank holidays (or any day the pound is not open to the public counted as the first day?**

56% said the day the dog enters the pound is counted as the first day although 20% of these said only if the dog comes in before noon.

56% said weekends and bank holidays are included, with 10% of these saying the pound is open 7 days and a further 10% said dogs are usually held for more than 5 days.

### **3.5 Killing and disposal of dogs and cost of service.**

**Question 1: Which form of euthanasia is used to destroy the dogs?**

100% said lethal injection.

**Question 2: Is euthanasia carried out by, a vet, pound operator, or 'other'?**

100% said euthanasia is carried out by a vet.

**Question 3: what is the cost of euthanasia per dog?**

Only 28% of respondents answered this question and of those, the price ranged from €10 to €22.70, with an average of €17.

**Question 4: Which method is used to dispose of the bodies?**

79% send the bodies for rendering, 21% for cremation.

**Question 5: What is the cost of disposal per dog?**

Only 47% of respondents answered. The price ranged from 5 to €30, the average was €12.

**Question 6: what is the cost of the service?**

84% of respondents answered, costs ranged from €61,000 to €400,000, the average was €146,336.

## **Section 4: Discussion and Recommendations.**

There is a significant problem in the Republic of Ireland in relation to stray and unwanted dogs and the numbers destroyed. While there is legislation in place to deal with the control of dogs there is very little in the way of public awareness of the problem or what is required of owners. There have been public campaigns to encourage people to reduce, reuse and recycle their household waste or pay for the privilege of dumping it. The same however, doesn't apply to sentient animals and dogs may be acquired and got rid of on a whim.

The root cause of the problem is overproduction; there simply are not enough homes in Ireland for all the dogs being produced. This overproduction is a result of uncontrolled breeding and a lack of knowledge on the part of the public as to the scale of the problem and the outcome for the dogs concerned. This is not acceptable in civilised society. This is not an issue of animal welfare, but one of human responsibility.

The dog control system itself is flawed. The legislation is about control of dogs and while the dogs pay the ultimate price, the owners by and large, are not held accountable. Unless there is accountability on the part of owners and indeed councils, dogs will continue to die in the unacceptable numbers we have at present.

While the problem is primarily one of lack of owner responsibility and awareness, local authorities, generally have ignored the problem over the years. This has resulted in a situation which sees Ireland as having one of the worst destruction rates of pound dogs in Europe. While local authorities are reliant on funding to operate the dog control service in their area of responsibility, there seems to be little attempt to collect licences or enforce the existing legislation. The issue needs to be taken more seriously, otherwise, the situation will not improve and dogs will continue to die needlessly and owners will not be held accountable.

#### **4. Recommendations**

- In order to reduce the number of dogs being produced, neutering/spaying of all pet dogs should be encouraged by way of a lifetime licence for neutered/spayed dogs.
- To ensure traceability, mandatory microchipping and registration of all dogs. Registration should be through a central database. Microchipping and neutering could be attached to a lifetime licence. Concessions should be made for pensioners and those on benefit.
- Those who fail to neuter/spay their dog would be required to pay a yearly licence which should be far more substantial than at present.
- Public awareness campaign to highlight the problem and advertise the locality of pounds.
- Dog pounds should be governed by regulations and the welfare of the animals taken into pounds should be a priority.
- Wardens and pound staff should be adequately trained.
- The restricted breeds list should be revoked in favour of generic dangerous dogs legislation with the emphasis on responsible ownership and adequate fines and penalties for breaches of such legislation.

## **Appendix 1: Results of dog pound questionnaire**

**The dog pound survey, based on questionnaires sent to local authorities, is divided into four parts:**

### **Section 1: Pound provision and premises**

- Dog pound provision
- Dog pound provider
- Accommodation of dogs
- Weekend care of dogs

### **Section 2: Access**

- Public access
- Hours of opening
- Distance from main population centre

### **Section 3: Rehoming of dogs**

- Rehoming to public
- Rehoming to rescue groups
- Initiatives to reunite/rehome dogs
- Neuter/spay
- Microchipping
- Home checks

### **Section 4: Enforcement of dog control**

- Dogs seized from street
- Charge for surrendering dogs
- Proof of ownership
- Proof of identity
- Application of 5 day rule

### **Section 5: Killing and disposal of dogs and cost of service**

- Method of euthanasia
- Method of disposal
- Cost of service

## Section 1, Pound provision, and premises

**Question 1: Do you provide a dog pound facility in your area of responsibility?**

Percentage	Answer
100	Yes

**Question 2: Is the facility situated within your area of responsibility?**

Percentage	Answer
89	Yes
11	No

**Question 3: Is the pound operated by: local authority, ISPCA, other**

Percentage	Answer
41	Private
35	ISPCA
24	Local authority

**Question 4: Does each dog have a separate living area/kennel?**

Percentage	Answer
56	Yes
44	No

**Feedback on question 4:**

*“It depends on the number of dogs in the pound. I only 5 kennels”*

*“No individual kennels, dogs kept in groups of 4 or 5 unless there is a vicious dog which would be put in its own kennel”*

*“No, open and individual kennels”*

**Question 5: Are provisions made to care for dogs at weekends and during holidays?**

Percentage	Answer
100	Yes*

\*100% of respondents said they provided out of hours care for dogs. It is not altogether clear the amount of care. Some replies mention part time cover or food, clean water and kennels, however, the length of time the dogs were left unattended was not mentioned. For instance, if the dogs were fed and cleaned at midday on Sunday and not checked again until the pound reopens on Monday, that would mean dogs, including puppies, pregnant bitches and sick dogs, could be left for 21 hours.

## **Section 2, Access**

### **Question 1: Is the pound open to the public, please state opening hours**

<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Answer</b>
83	Yes**
17	No*

\*Access to pounds not open to the public is by appointment only. One pound said they provide appointments over 7 days.

\*\*Of the 83% of pounds that are open to the public,

<b>Percentage</b>	<b>No of hours</b>
14	1-10
50	11-20
15	21-30
21	31-40

Generally, the opening times are during working hours and only 36% open at weekends. One pound offered one evenings opening per week.

### **Question 2, Are people facilitated outside these hours?**

<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Answer</b>
71	Yes*
29	No**

\*Yes (Of these, 25% said by arrangement with warden)

\*\*No (Of these, 20% said occasionally, by appointment)

### **Question 3, Approximate distance of pound from main centre of population**

The distances ranged from 0Km to 40 km, the average is 12 km.

## **Section 3: Rehoming of dogs**

### **Question 1, Do you rehome dogs to members of the public?**

<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Answer</b>
100	Yes*

\*11% said in conjunction with either the ISPCA, or local SPCA

**Question 2, Do you have any initiatives to reunite dogs with their owners?**

Percentage	Answer
78	Yes*
22	No

\*Those who answered yes listed the following initiatives:

Percentage	Initiative
33	Scan for microchips
39	Register of stray/lost dogs
17	Dogs listed on rescue website
6	Setting up own website to list dogs
11	Radio advertising
6	Cooperate with local SPCA
6	Newspaper advertising

**Question 3, Do you rehome to rescue groups?**

Percentage	Answer
78	Yes*
16	No
6	Occasionally

\*Those who answered yes listed the following conditions:

Percentage	Conditions
11	Only groups approved by ISPCA
6	Fee is charged to groups
6	Only to rescue group operating pound

**Question 4, When rehoming dogs, do you (a) Microchip, (b) neuter/spay, (c) home check?**

**(a) Microchip**

Percentage	Answer
17	Yes
83	No*

\*Of these, 7% gave a voucher for microchipping, and 7% said they would like to microchip.

**(b) Neuter/spay**

Percentage	Answer
------------	--------

6	Yes
94	No*

\*Of these, 12.5% gave a 100% voucher to cover the cost of neutering/spaying, 12.5% gave a voucher to cover part of the cost of neutering/spaying, 6% said they encouraged new owners to do it, 6% said they sometimes neutered/spayed

**(c) Home check**

Percentage	Answer
39	Yes*
50	No
11	Sometimes

\* Of these, 6% said home checking was carried out through the local SPCA

**Section 4: Enforcement of dog control**

**Question 1, Do you seize dogs from the street?**

Percentage	Answer
94	Yes*
6	No

**Question 2, Is there a charge for owners wishing to surrender their dogs?**

Percentage	Answer
39	Yes (€10-€30)
50	No *

\* Of these, 8% charged €30 each for greyhounds)

**Question3, Are owners allowed to surrender dogs continually?**

Percentage	Answer
71	Yes*
29	No

\*Of these, 17% said depending on circumstances,  
8% said such actions would be queried  
8% said such actions would be strongly discouraged

**Question 4, Do people surrendering a dog have to produce proof of identity?**

Percentage	Answer
56	Yes*
44	No

\*Of these, 30% accepted a dog licence as proof of identity  
30% accepted the signing of a surrender form)

**Question 5, Do people surrendering a dog have to produce proof of ownership?**

Percentage	Answer
------------	--------

61	Yes*
39	No**

\* Of these, 45% accepted a dog licence as proof of ownership, while 18% accepted a surrender form. One respondent said *“Non-production of licence doesn’t mean refusal”*

\*\*Of these, 14% said owners have to sign a surrender form

**Question 6, What is the total figure of dogs seized and surrendered for 2004/2005**  
Please see section on Dog Control statistics

**Question 7, Is this number up or down on previous year?**  
Please see section on Dog Control statistics

**Question 8, When enforcing the 5 day rule,**

(a) Is the day the dog comes into the pound counted as the first day?

Percentage	Answer
56	Yes*
44	No

**\*Of these, 20% said if the dog comes in before noon)**

(b) Are weekends and bank holidays )or any day the pound is not open to the public) included in the 5 days?

Percentage	Answer
56	Yes*
44	No

**\*Of these, 10% said the pound is open 7 days, 10% said dogs are usually kept for more than 5 days)**

## **Section 5: Killing and disposal of dogs and cost of service**

**Question 1, Which form of euthanasia is used to destroy the dogs?**

Percentage	Answer
100	Lethal injection

**Question 2, Is euthanasia carried out by, a vet, pound operator or ‘other’?**

Percentage	Answer
100	Vet

**Question 3, What is the cost of euthanasia per dog?**

Only 28% of respondents answered this question and of those, the price ranged from €10 to €22.70, the average being €17

**Question 4, Which method is used to dispose of the bodies?**

Percentage	Answer
79	Rendering
21	Cremation

**Question 5, What is the cost of disposal per dog?**

Only 47% of respondents answered this question and of those, the price ranged from €5 to €30 Euro the average being €12

**Question 6, What is the cost of the service?**

84% of respondents answered this question. Cost ranged from €61,000 to €400,000, the average being €146,336



## Appendix 2: Dog pound questionnaire



**They can't vote, you can, make it count!**

**[www.anvillireland.ie](http://www.anvillireland.ie)**

C/O PO box 10914  
Dublin 22

### Questionnaire on provision of dog pound service.

#### **Premises:**

**Q1: Do you provide a dog pound facility in your area of responsibility?**

**A1: (yes/no)**

**Q2: Is the facility situated within your area of responsibility?**

**A2: (yes/no)**

**Q3: Is the pound operated by**

- 1. Local Authority (yes/no)**
- 2. ISPCA/Local (yes/no)**
- 3. Other (please state)**

**Q4: Does each dog have a separate living area/kennel?**

**A4: (yes/no) (if no, please state living arrangements)**

**Q5: Are provisions made to care for dogs, at weekends and during holidays?**

**A5: (yes/no) (please state what provisions are made)**

#### **Access:**

**Q1: Is the pound open to the public, if yes please state opening hours.**

**A1: (yes/no) (Hours of opening)**

**Q2: Are people facilitated outside these hours, if yes please state arrangement.**

**A2: (yes/no) (other arrangement)**

**Q3: Approximate distance of pound from main centre of population.**

**A3: (Km)**

**Rehoming of dogs:**

**Q1: Do you rehome dogs to members of the public?**

**A1: (yes/no)**

**(if you do not rehome dogs to the public, please state why)**

**Q2: Do you have any initiatives to reunite dogs with their owners? If yes please give details of initiative.**

**A2: (yes/no) (details of initiative)**

**Q3: Do you rehome dogs to any rescue groups? If the answer is no, please state why.**

**A2: (yes/no) (reason)**

**Q4: When rehoming dogs, do you:**

**1. Microchip (yes/no)**

**2. Neuter/spay (yes/no)**

**3. Home check (yes/no)**

**Q5: What are your figures for dogs rehomed from your pound in 2004/2005**

**A5:**

**Q6: Are your rehoming figures higher or lower than the previous year?**

**A6:**

**Dogs seized/surrendered:**

**Q1: Do you seize dogs from the streets?**

**A1: (yes/no)**

**Q2: Is there a charge for owners who wish to surrender their dogs?**

**A2: (yes/no) (if yes, please state amount)**

**Q3: Are owners allowed to surrender dogs continually?**

**A3: (yes/no)**

**Q4: Do people surrendering a dog have to produce proof of identity?**

**A4: (yes/no)**

**Q5: Do people surrendering a dog have to produce proof of ownership of dog?**

**A5: (yes/no)**

**Q6: What is the total figure of dogs, seized and surrendered for 2004/2005?**

**A6:**

**Q7: Is this number up or down on the previous year?**

**A7:**

**Q8: When enforcing the 5 day rule:**

- (a) Is the day the dog comes into the pound counted as the first day? (yes/no)**
- (b) Are weekends and bank holidays (or any day the pound is not open to the public) included in the 5 days? (yes/no)**

**Destruction and disposal of dogs:**

**Q2: Which form of euthanasia is used to destroy the dogs?**

**A2:**

**Q3: Is euthanasia carried out by:**

- 1. A vet (yes/no)**
- 2. Pound operator (yes/no)**
- 3. Other (yes/no) (if other, please state)**

**Q4: What is the cost of euthanasia per dog?**

**A4:**

**Q5: Which method is used to dispose of the bodies?**

**A4:**

**Q6: What is the cost of disposal per dog?**

**A6:**

**Q7: What is your percentage destruction rate for 2004/2005?**

**A7: (please state if this figure is up or down on the previous year)**

**Cost of service:**

**Please state the total annual cost of providing a dog pound service, including premises, care of animals, staff, vehicles, destruction, and disposal.**

**Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire.**