

# "WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST ISSUES WITH CANINE HEALTH AND WELFARE?"

The top eight types of problem for dogs and people, according to a UK panel of experts



## CANINE BEHAVIOUR

Dog behavioural issues are often linked to inappropriate early socialisation, human lifestyles, limited understanding of canine body language and the use of poor training methods. These issues often cause distress to dogs and people



## OWNERSHIP ISSUES

Owners with unsuitable lifestyles, unrealistic expectations or who don't understand or meet dogs' needs were considered a major problem for canine welfare

## SOCIETAL ISSUES

Societal impacts of problems such as dog bite attacks and the cost of living crisis on dogs and people, and how social media and popular culture affect canine welfare



## BREEDING AND SUPPLY ISSUES

Poor breeding practices and ill-informed puppy buying behaviours were considered major linked problems for canine welfare - participants wanted to find ways to increase the supply of healthy ethically-bred dogs

## BREED-RELATED DISEASES

Physical diseases linked to the dog's breed or body shape - a common problem both for pedigree and non-pedigree dogs



## ISSUES RELATED TO IMPORTATION

Canine welfare problems linked to importation practices, such as rehoming of street dogs and smuggling: the risk of emerging infectious diseases can also impact people



## CLINICAL PRACTICE

Priority issues included the high cost and limited availability of veterinary care, the ethics of veterinary overtreatment and euthanasia decisions and the impact of common long-term diseases on canine welfare

## SHELTER WELFARE

Welfare concerns for dogs that are long-term residents in rescue centres

Most of the **highest priority** points of concern focus on the **human-canine relationship**, highlighting how our **human decisions can often negatively impact dogs' lives**.

This shows the **importance of investigating human behaviour in canine health research**.

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