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**To:** Council  
**From:** Gilles Crepeau  
**Date of Meeting:** October 14, 2020  
**Subject:** Responsible Pet Ownership – Public Engagement Phase 1

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**Background:**

As per the report to Council on August 12, 2020, a survey was posted on the Township website in order to receive feedback from residents on the animal services review. The anticipated steps for this project were established as shown below:

1. Staff Research
2. Phase 1 of Public Engagement - Survey
3. Draft Responsible Pet Ownership By-law
4. Phase 2 of Public Engagement to seek input on draft by-law
5. Present Responsible pet Ownership By-law

This project is intended to, upon final delivery and approval, replace the current Dog Licensing and Control By-law and the Cat limit By-law. The intention is to develop a Responsible Pet Ownership Program that focuses on providing guidelines and requirements that will help ensure the health and safety of residents and animals in the Township.

**Discussion:**

The survey was open from September 15 until October 6 on the Township website. The link to the survey was shared on social media, electronic newsletter and in the Seaway News. The survey was only available to Township residents. In order to prevent non-resident responses, the Township included the following steps:

- Responses were limited to 1 per IP address.
- Respondents had to confirm they were a Township resident. If they indicated they were not a resident, they could not complete the survey.
- Respondents who said they were residents, had to enter a valid South Stormont postal code.

The survey received 504 responses. Staff will prepare a series of reports presenting results from the survey along with a summary of staff research and preliminary recommendations.

Staff has also received feedback from residents aside from the survey. This includes the requests to prohibit the feeding of stray/feral cats. It's important to note, that these complaints have also been forwarded to the OPP and they have advised that property owners noticing someone trespassing on their property to feed cats should contact the OPP. We also received the request to allow the feeding of stray/feral cats.

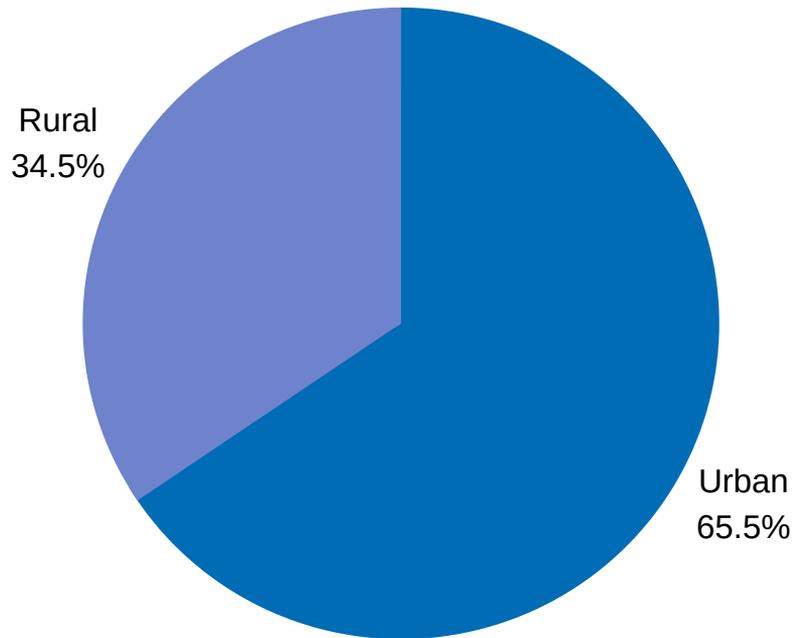
*Prepared by: Administrative Assistant Shelby Martel*

# GENERAL INFORMATION

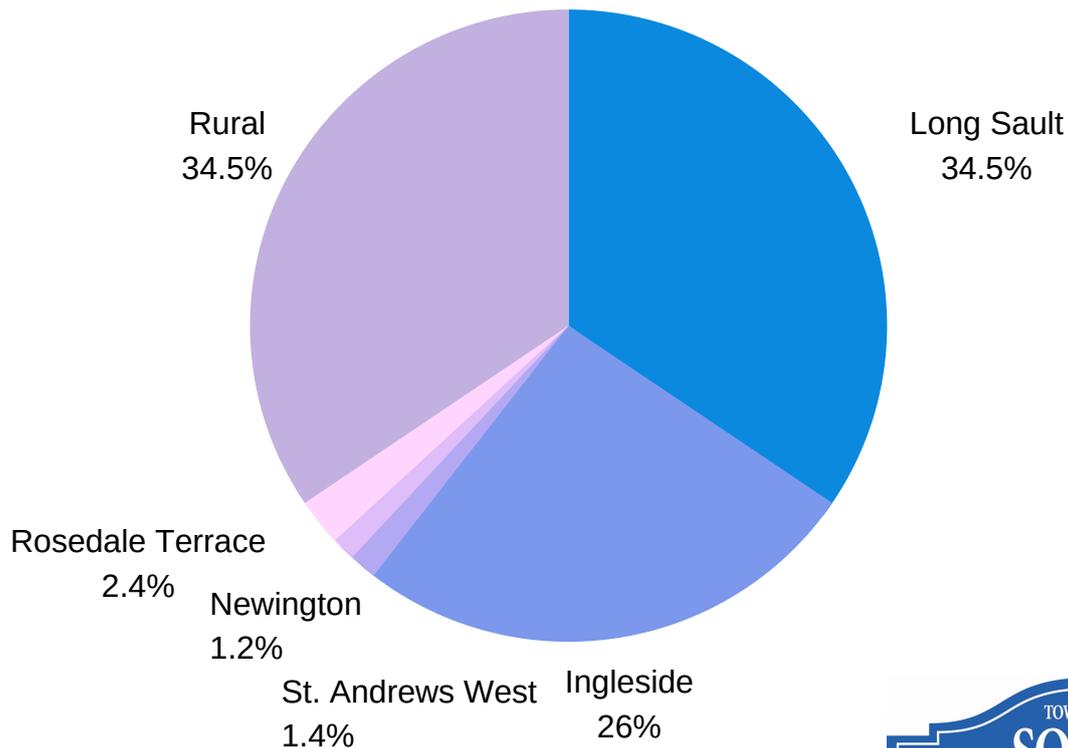
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## Total Number of Responses: 504

### Urban vs. Rural

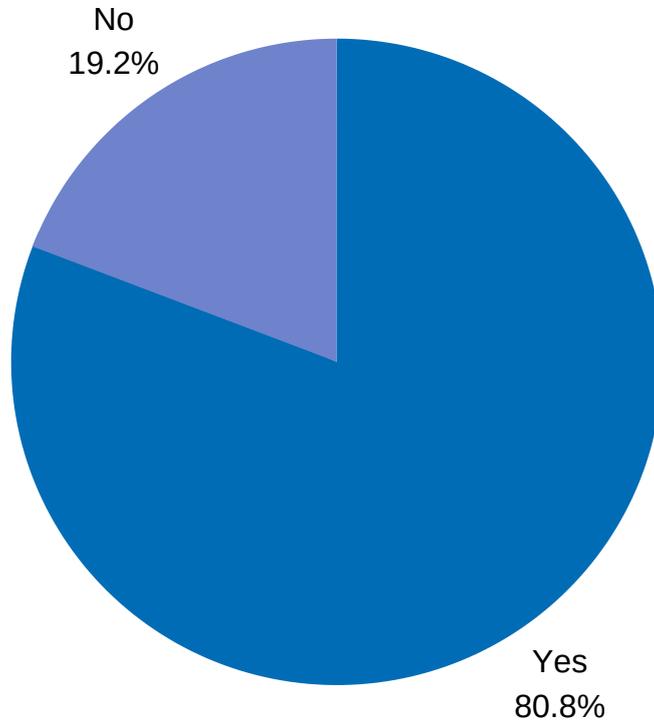


### Rural vs. Urban Villages

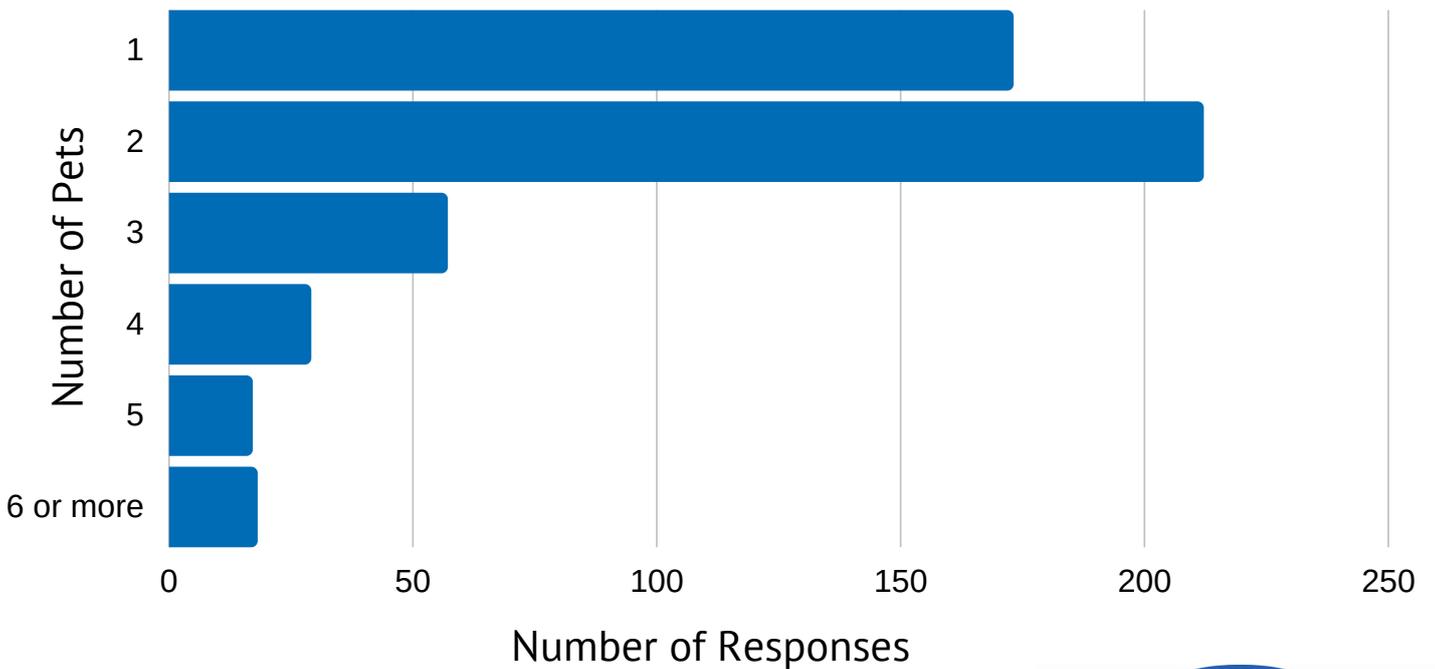


# HOUSEHOLD PETS

Do you have household pets?



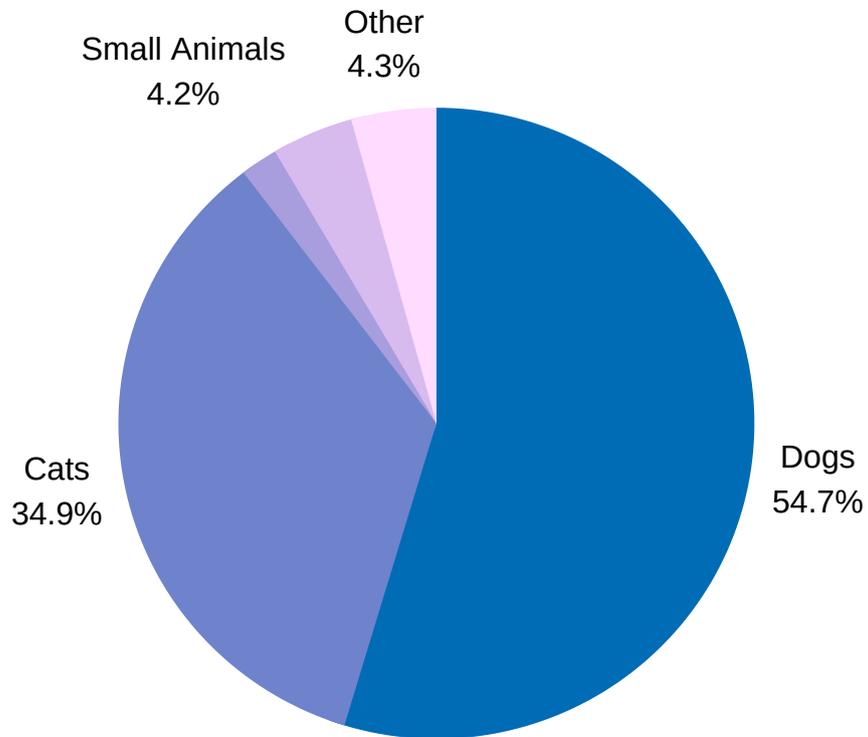
If yes, how many?



\*Average number of pets per household is 2.

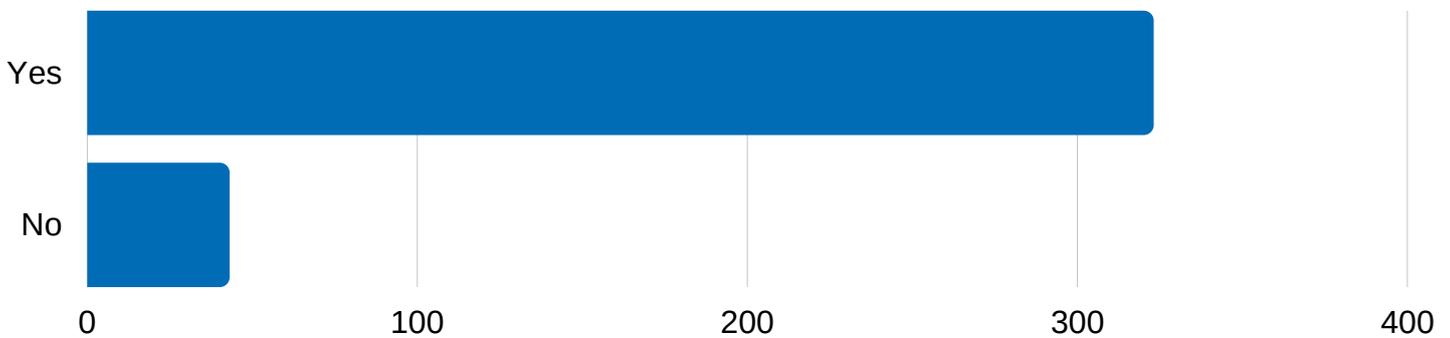
# HOUSEHOLD PETS

Please select all types of pets you have in your home?



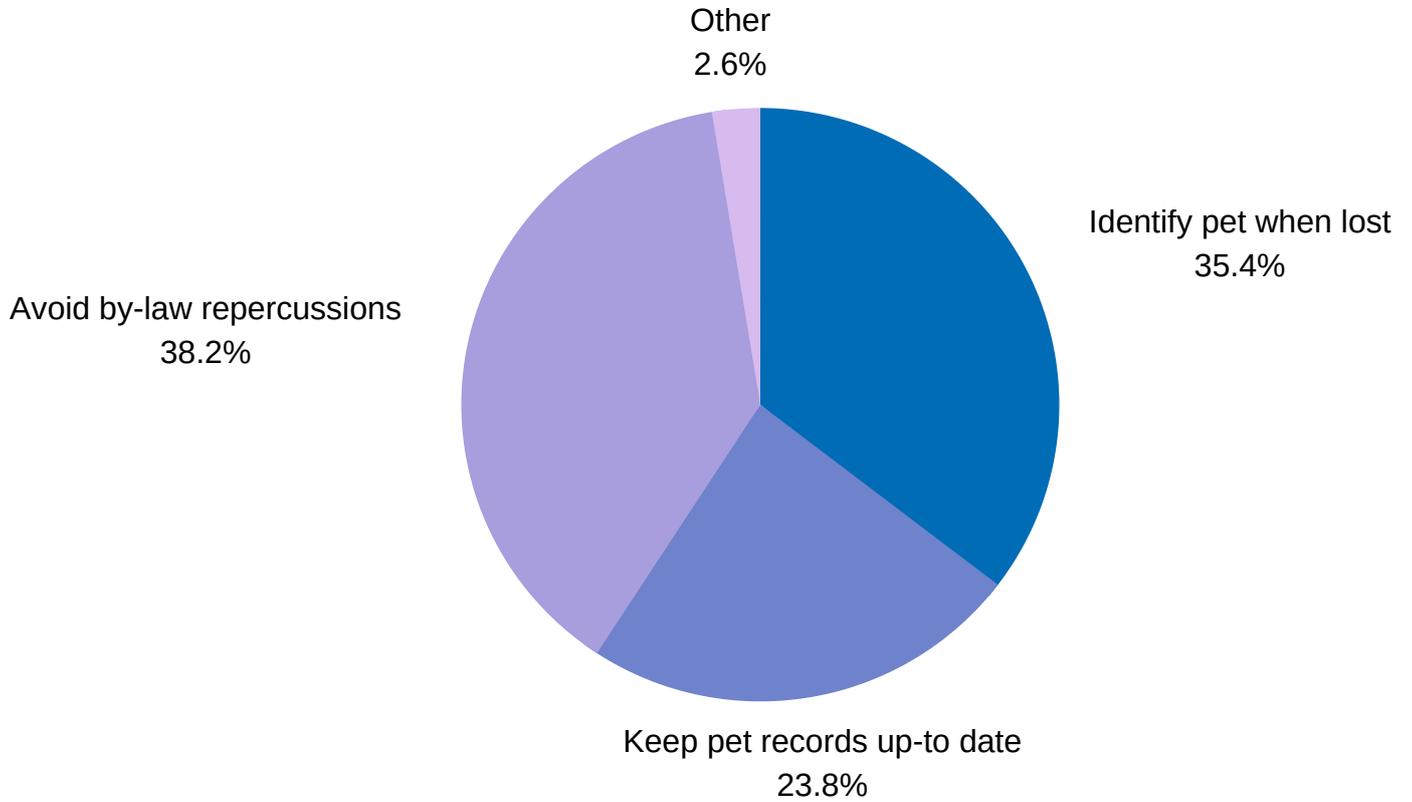
\*Other includes: fish, birds, pigs, hens and other livestock.

Do you license your dogs with the Township?

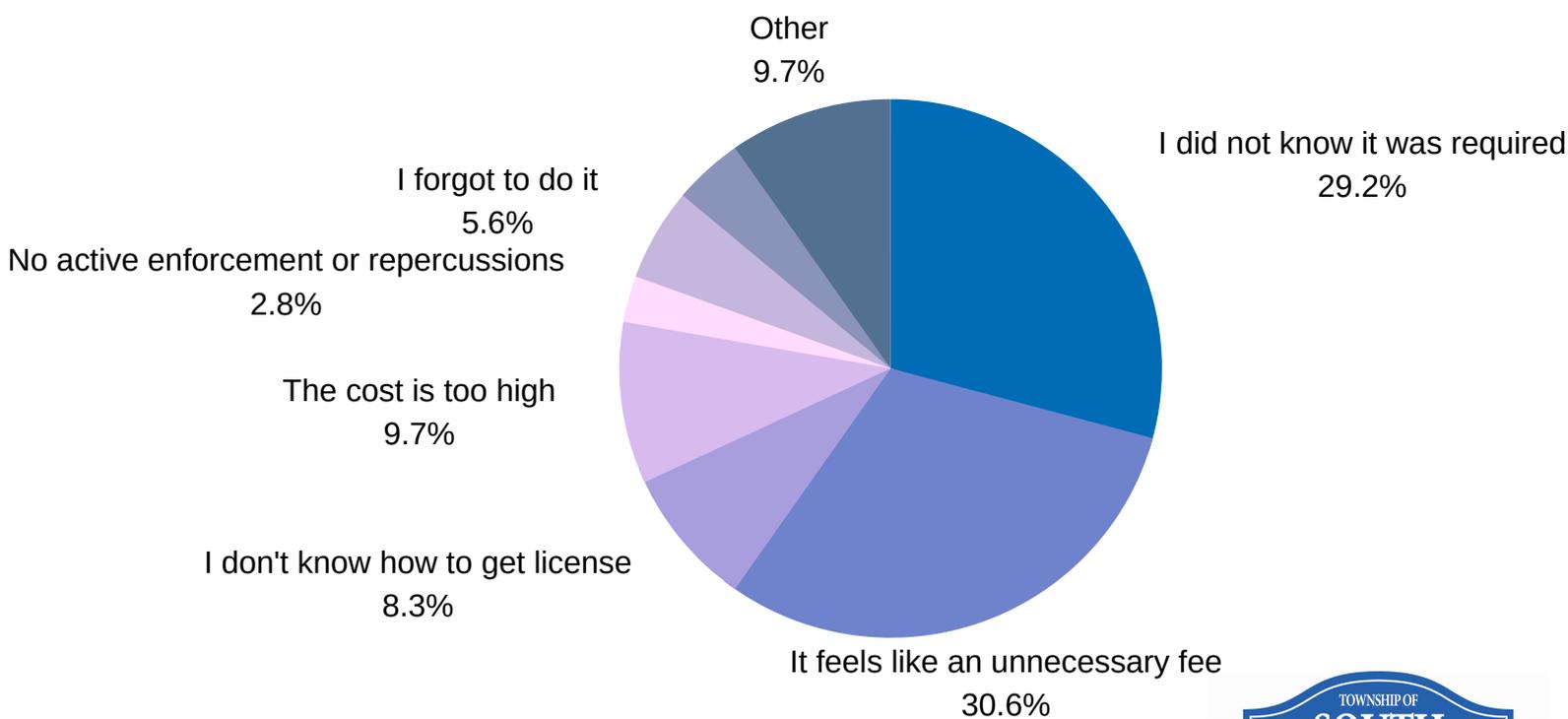


# DOGS AND KENNELS

What are the reasons your dog currently has a license?  
Check all that apply.

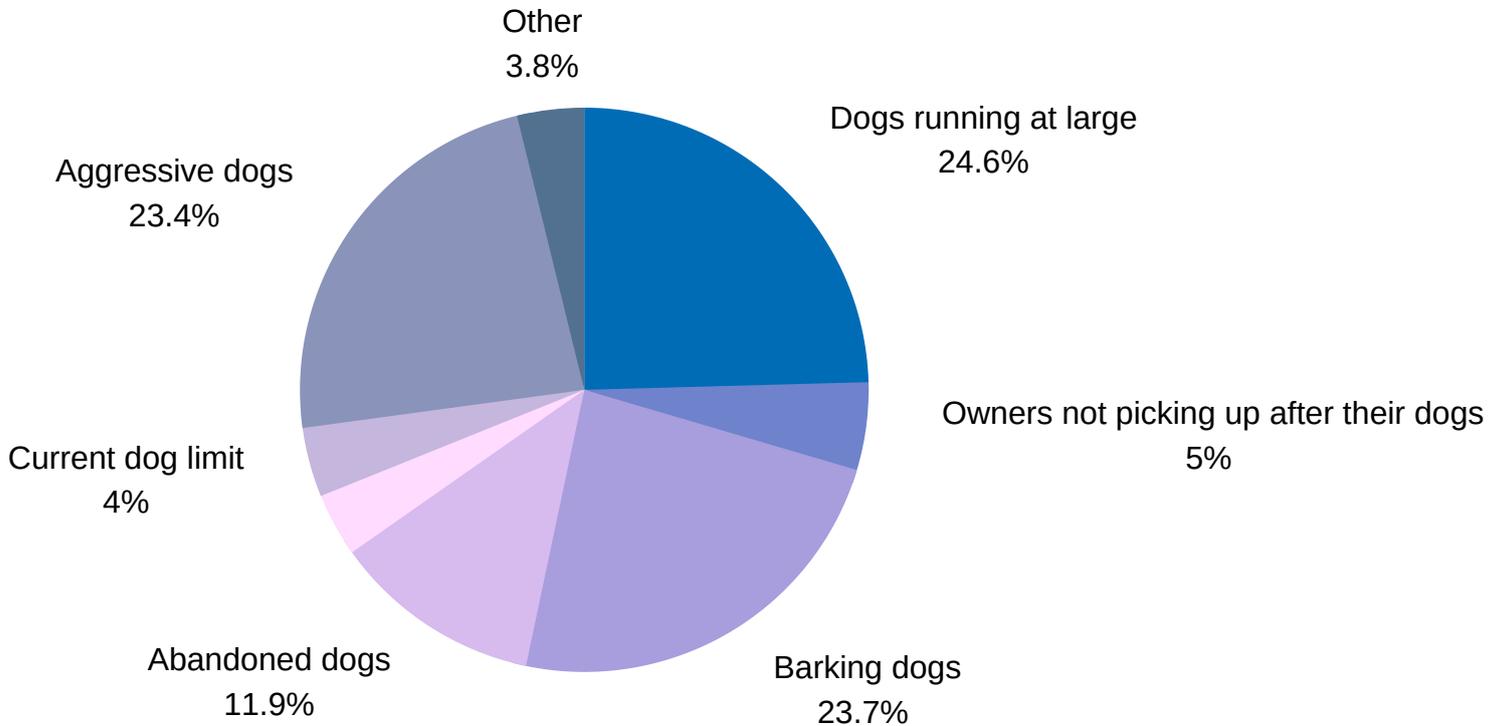


What are the reasons your dog does not currently have a license?



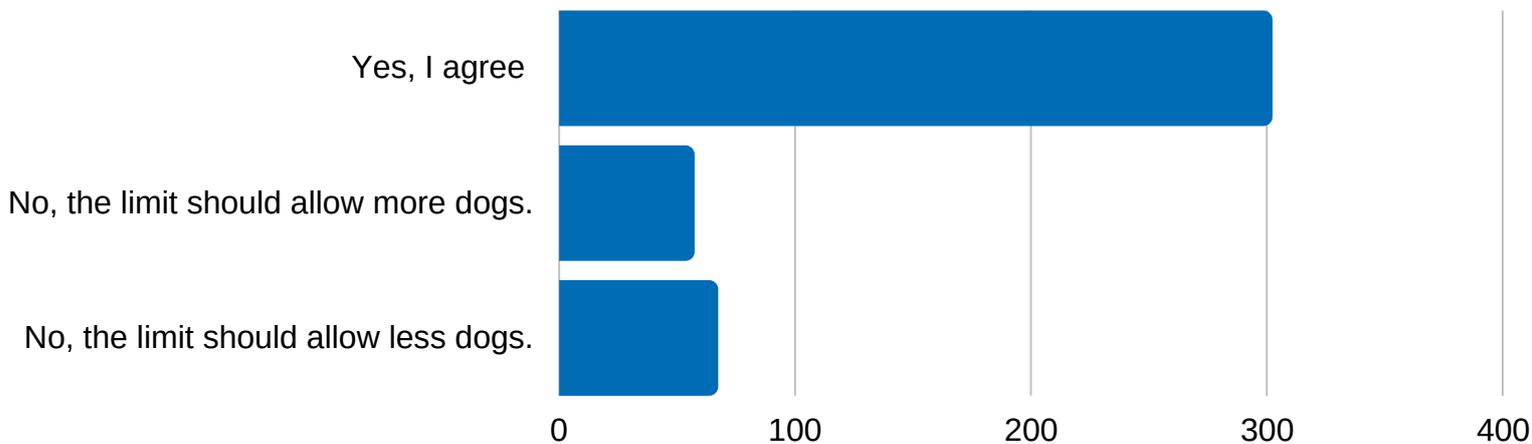
# DOGS AND KENNELS

## What are your concerns with regards to dogs in the Township?



\*Other includes: puppy mills, dogs off leash in parks, unlicensed dogs, animal neglect and pitbulls.

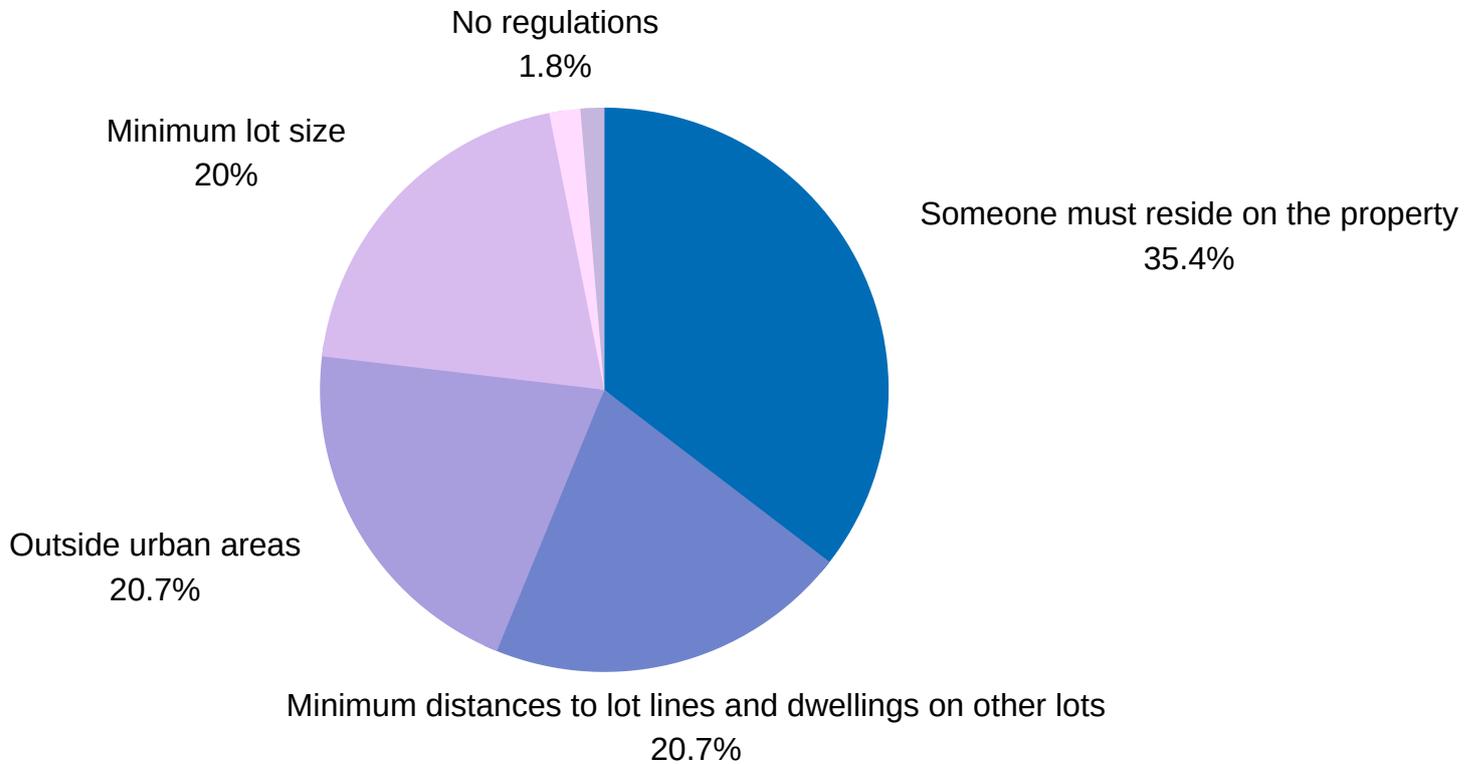
## The Township currently limits dogs to 3 per dwelling unit. Do you agree with this limit?



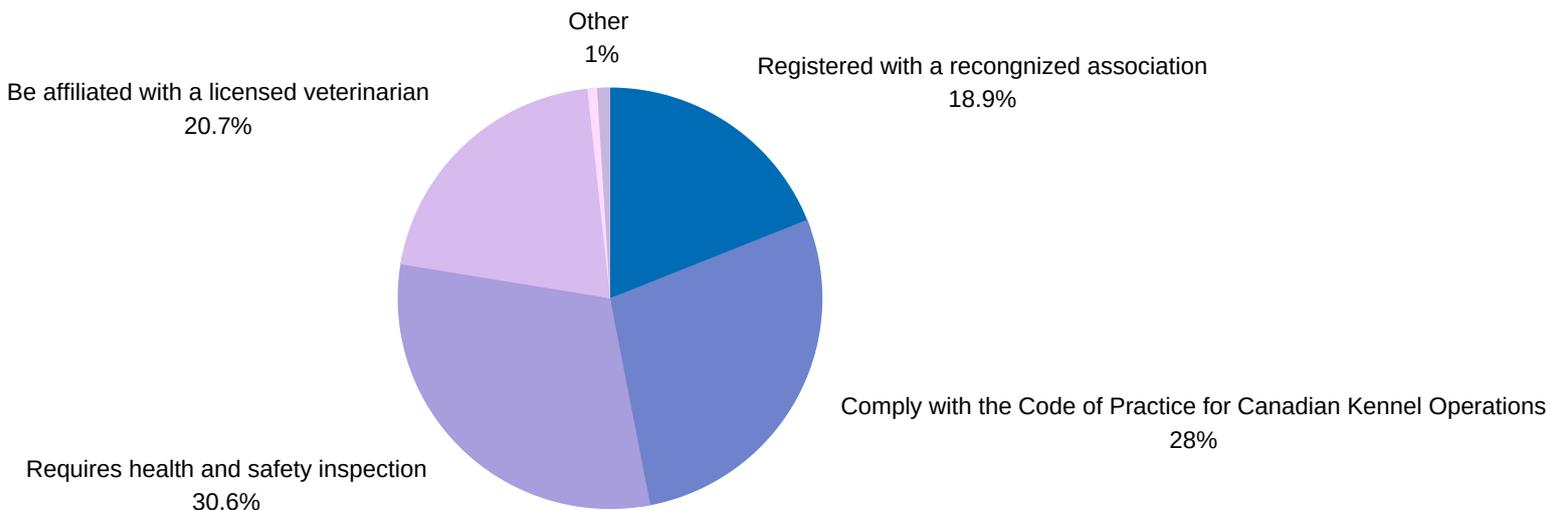
\*If no, the average of suggested dog limit is 3 dogs

# DOGS AND KENNELS

What property regulations should apply to permitted locations of kennels? Check all that apply.

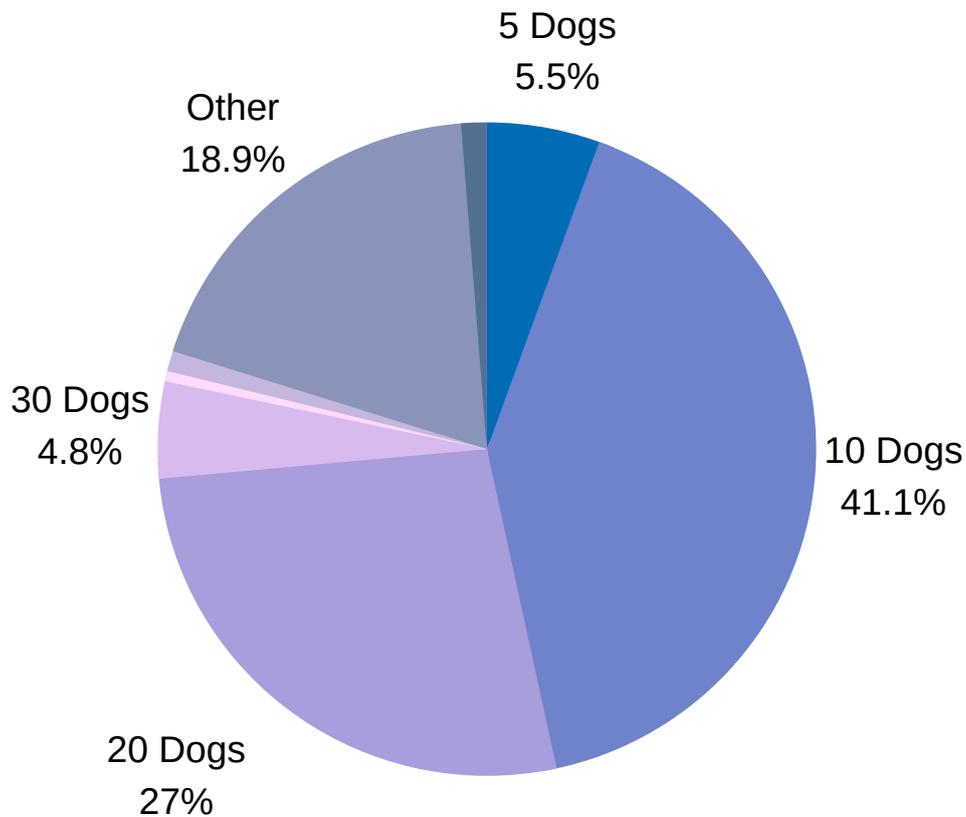


What minimum requirements should be met in order to operate a kennel? Check all that apply.



# DOGS AND KENNELS

How many dogs should kennels be limited to?

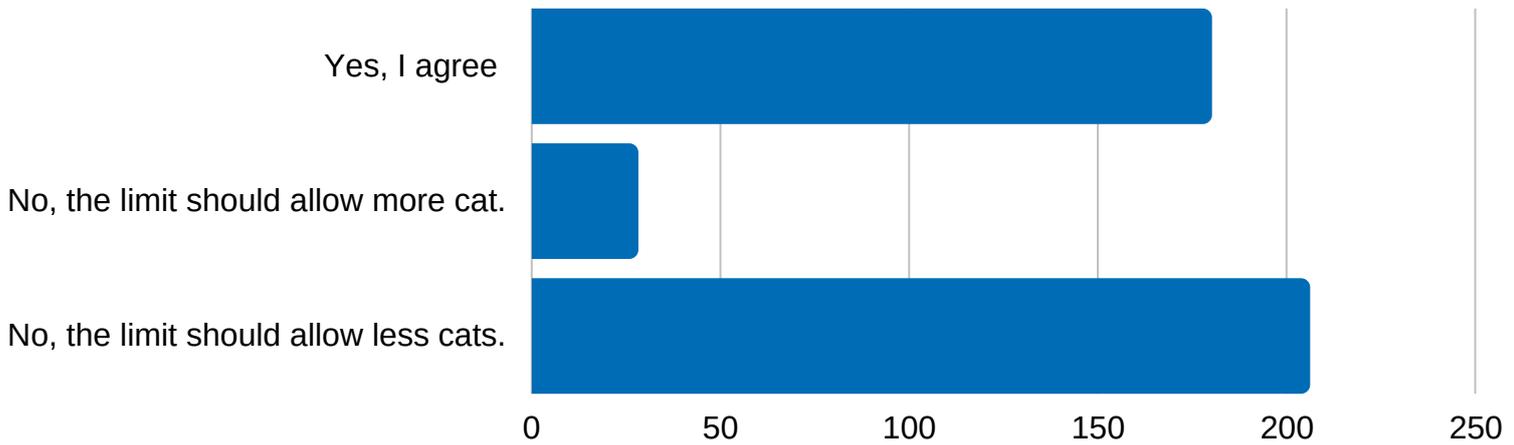


\*Other: Depends on size of facility, number of staff, lot size and medical/financial resources available.

\*Average maximum number of dogs suggested is 15 dogs.

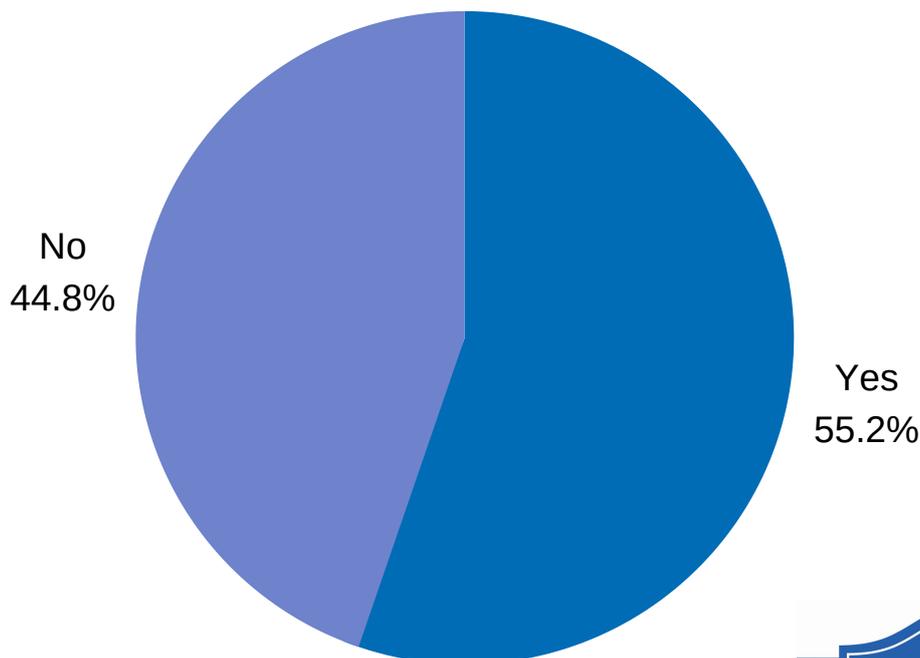
# CATS AND CATTERIES

The Township currently limits the number of cats per dwelling unit in urban settlement areas to 5 cats. Do you agree with this limit?



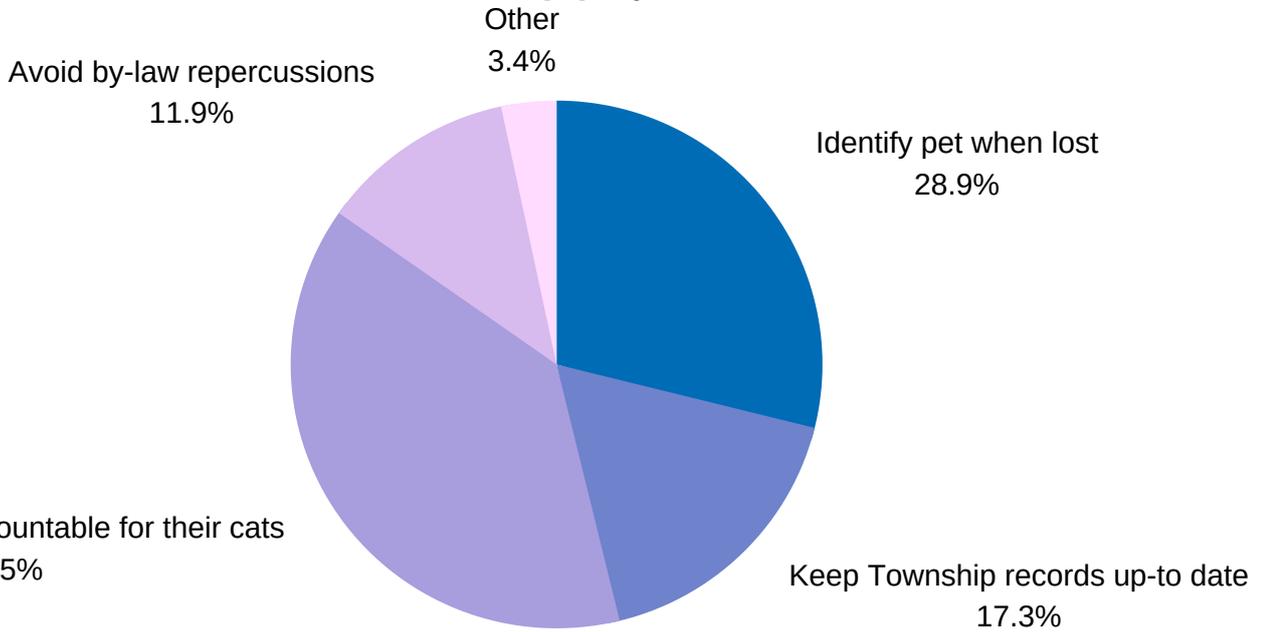
\*If no, the average of suggested cat limit is 3 cats.

The Township does not currently license cats, should the Township license cats?



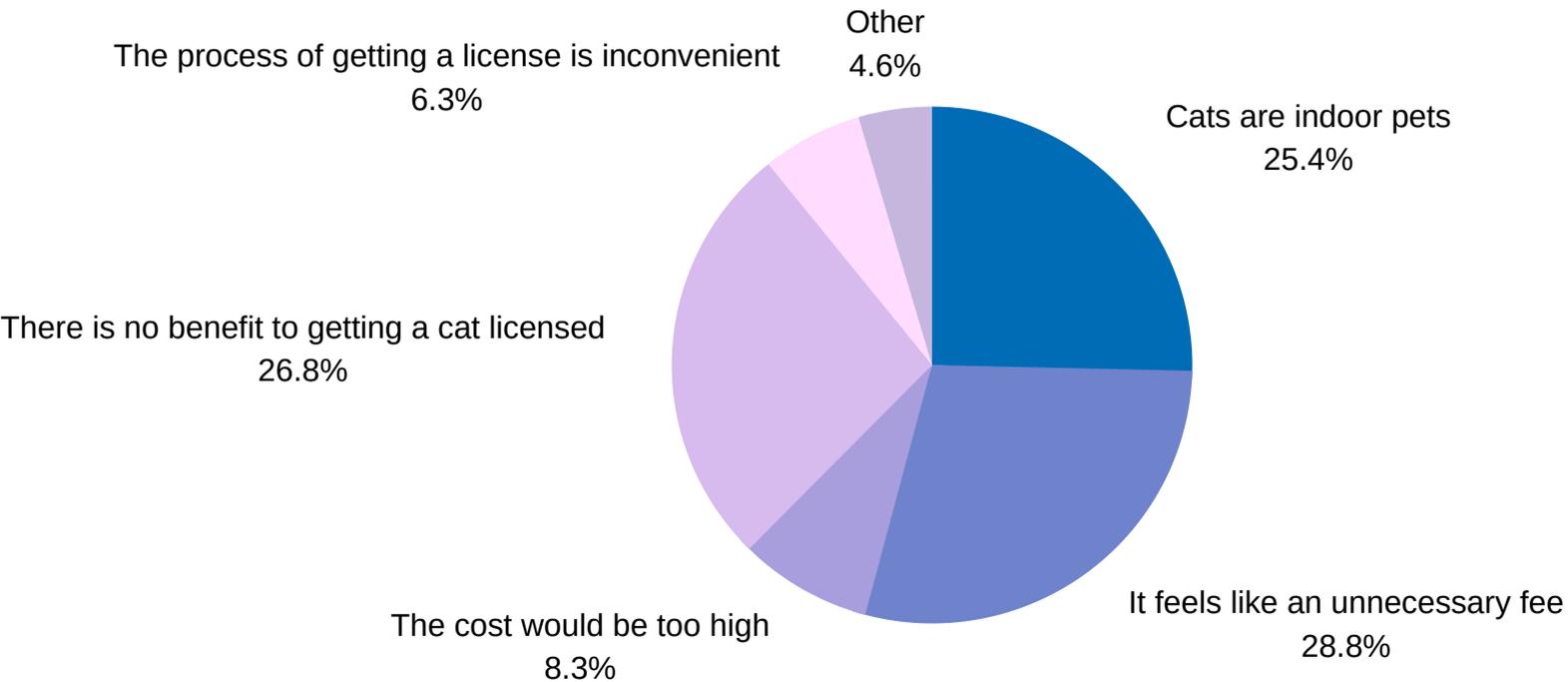
# CATS AND CATTERIES

Why should the Township require cat licensing? Check all that apply.



\*Other: ensures cats are vaccinated, helps reduce feral cat population, cat and dogs owners should be treated the same, cat owners should contribute to animal services

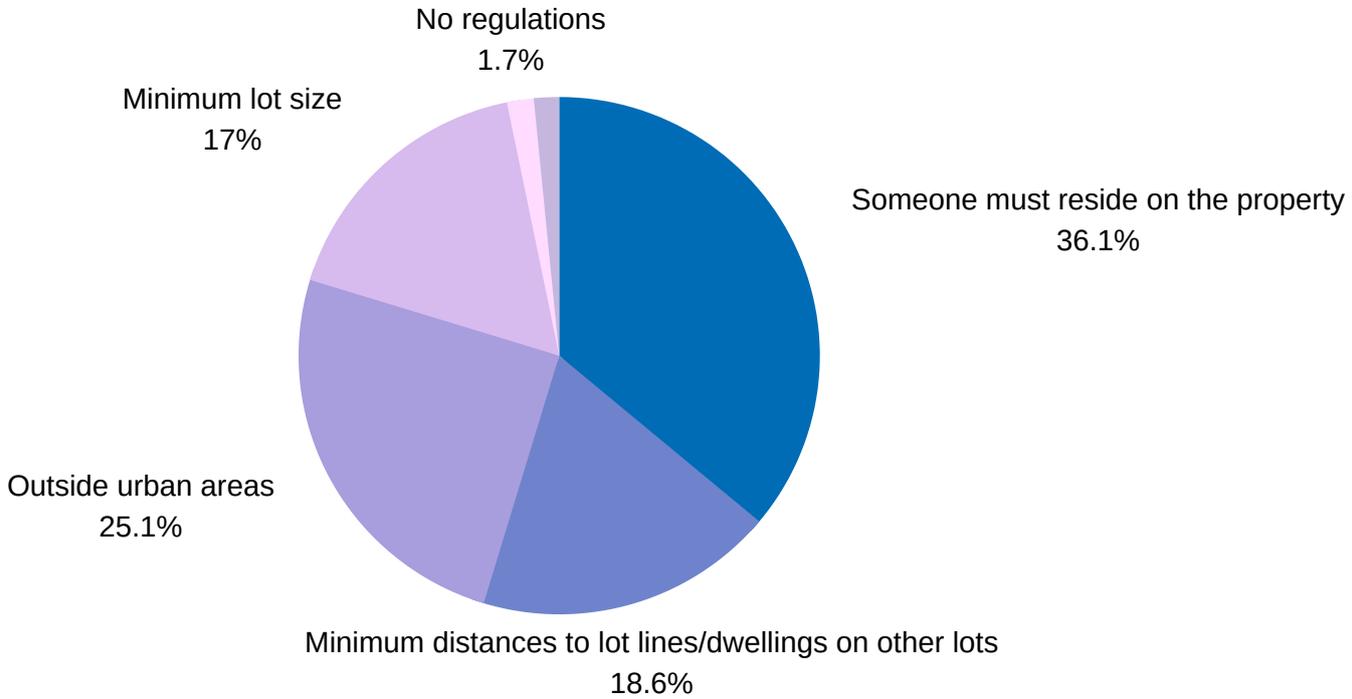
Why shouldn't the Township require cat licensing. Check all that apply.



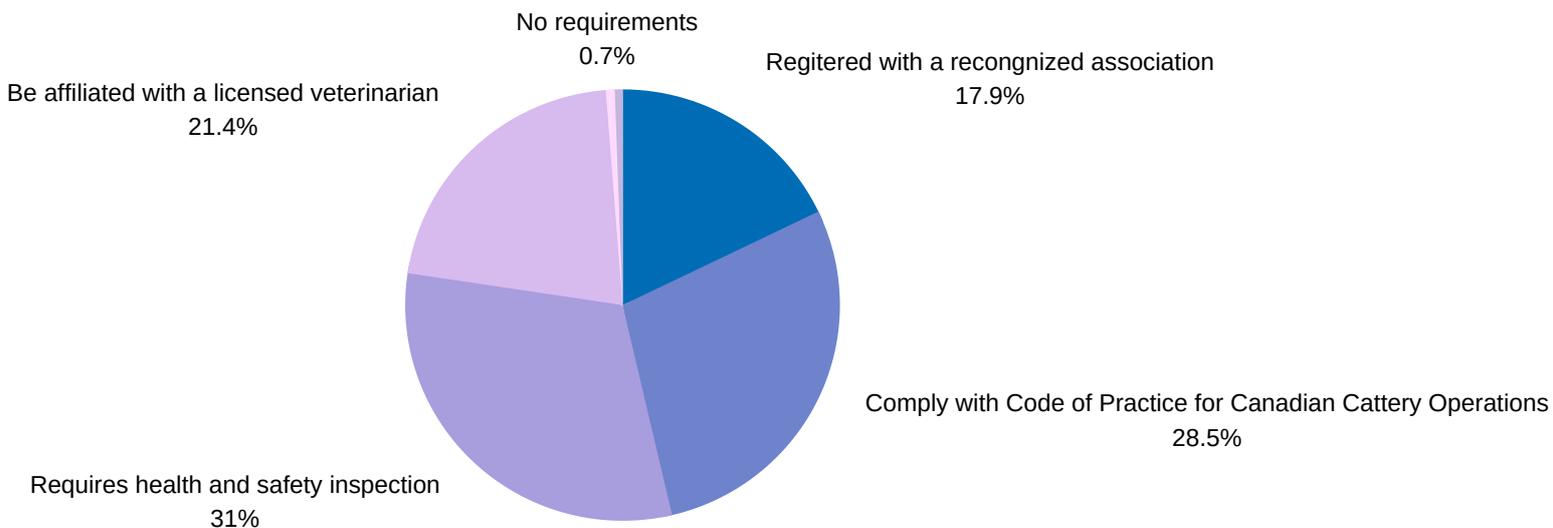
\*Other: cats don't wear collars for safety reasons, difficult to enforce

# CATS AND CATTERIES

What property regulations should apply to permitted locations of kennels? Check all that apply.



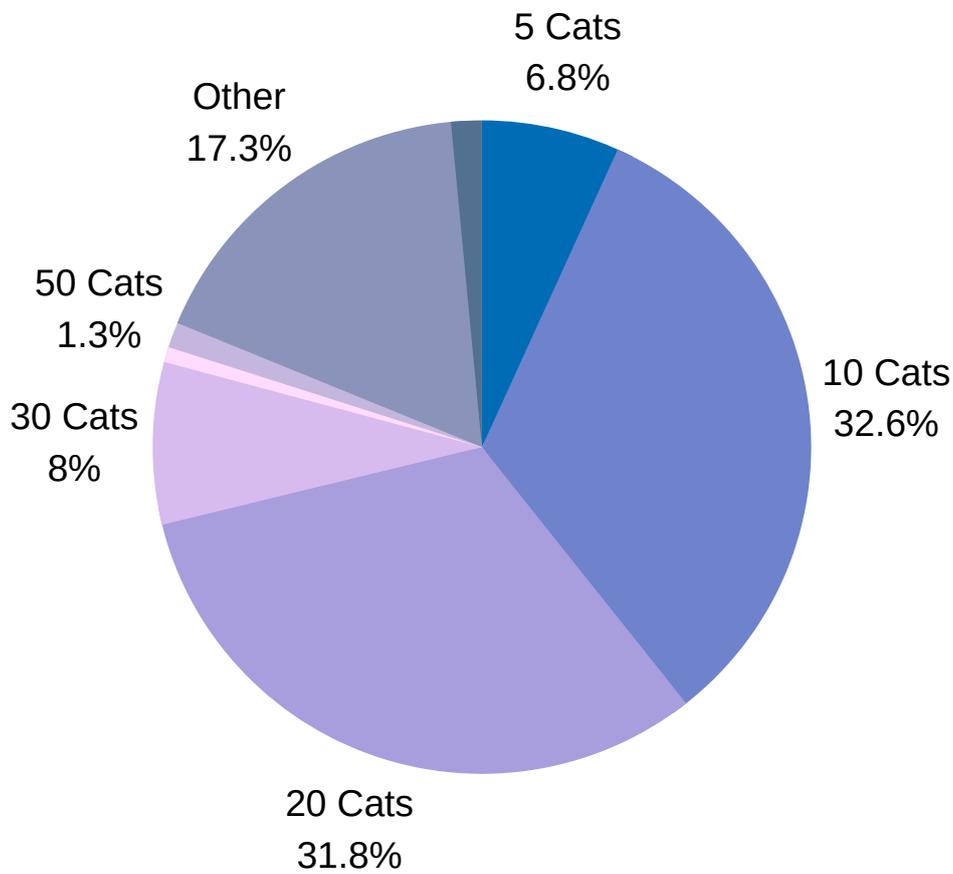
What minimum requirements should be met in order to operate a kennel? Check all that apply.



# CATS AND CATTERIES

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How many cats should catteries be limited to?

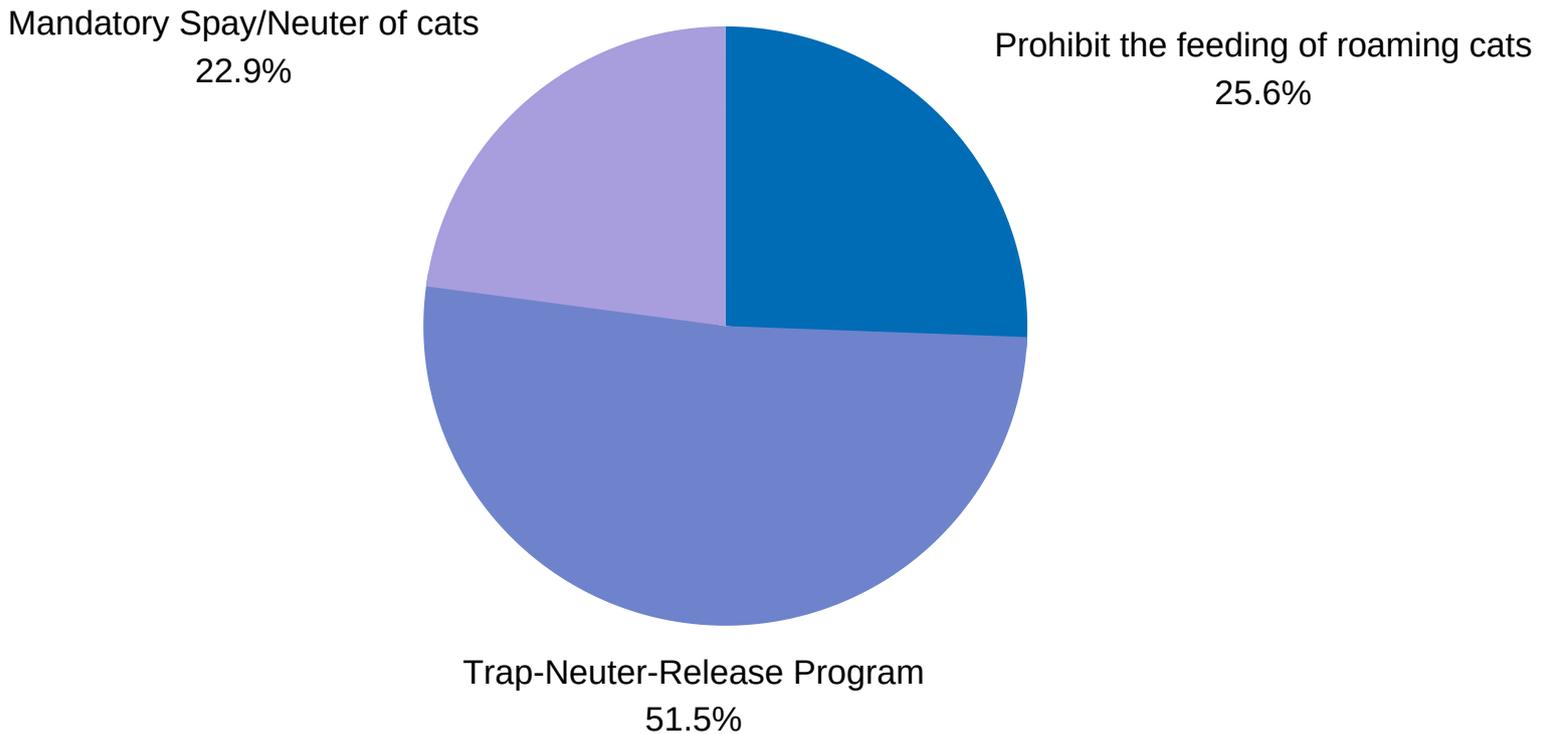


\*Other: Depends on the size of the lot/facility, number of staff and financial resources

# FERAL, STRAY AND/OR ROAMING CATS

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What do you believe is an appropriate way to deal with feral, stray and/or roaming cats?

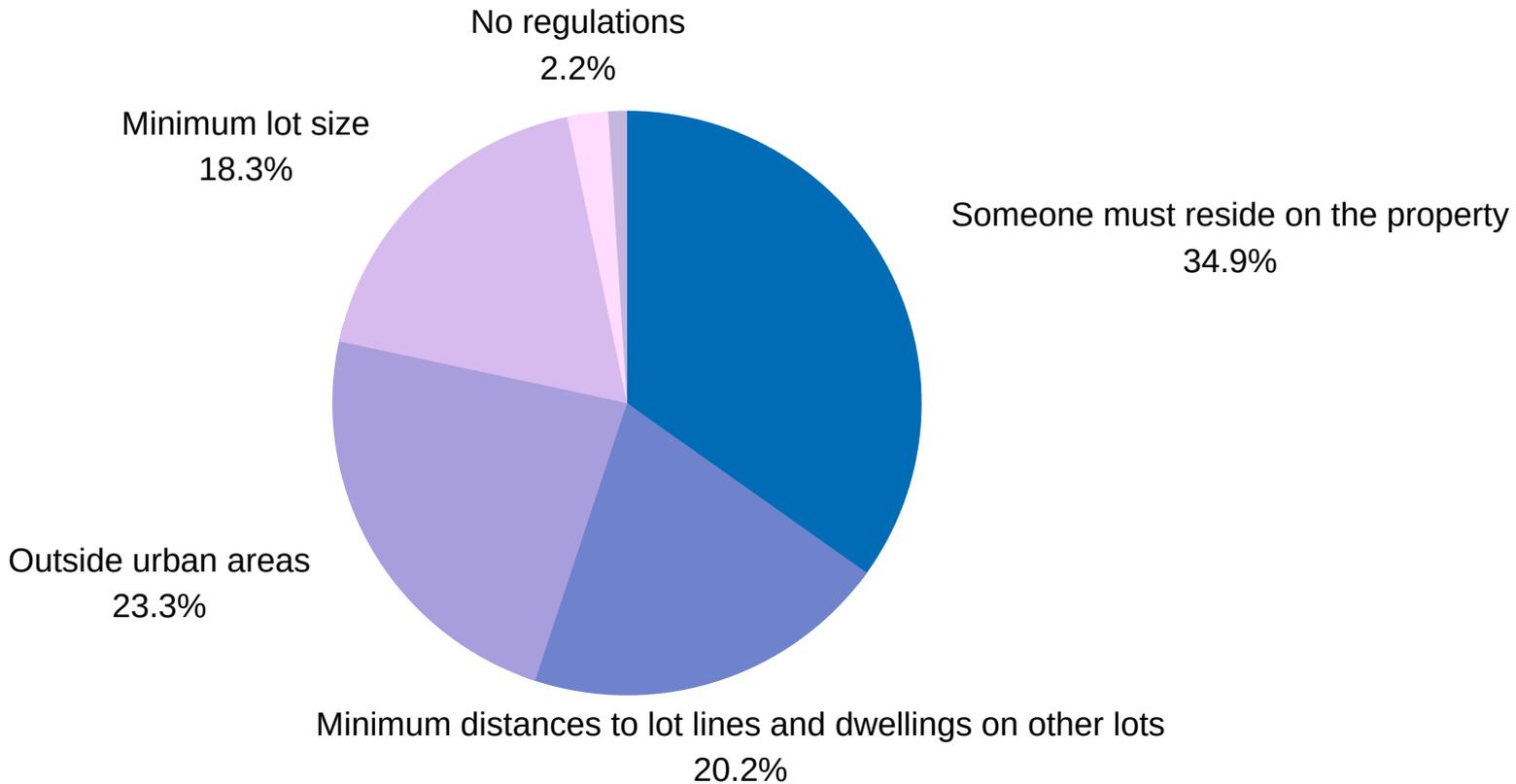


## Other Suggestions:

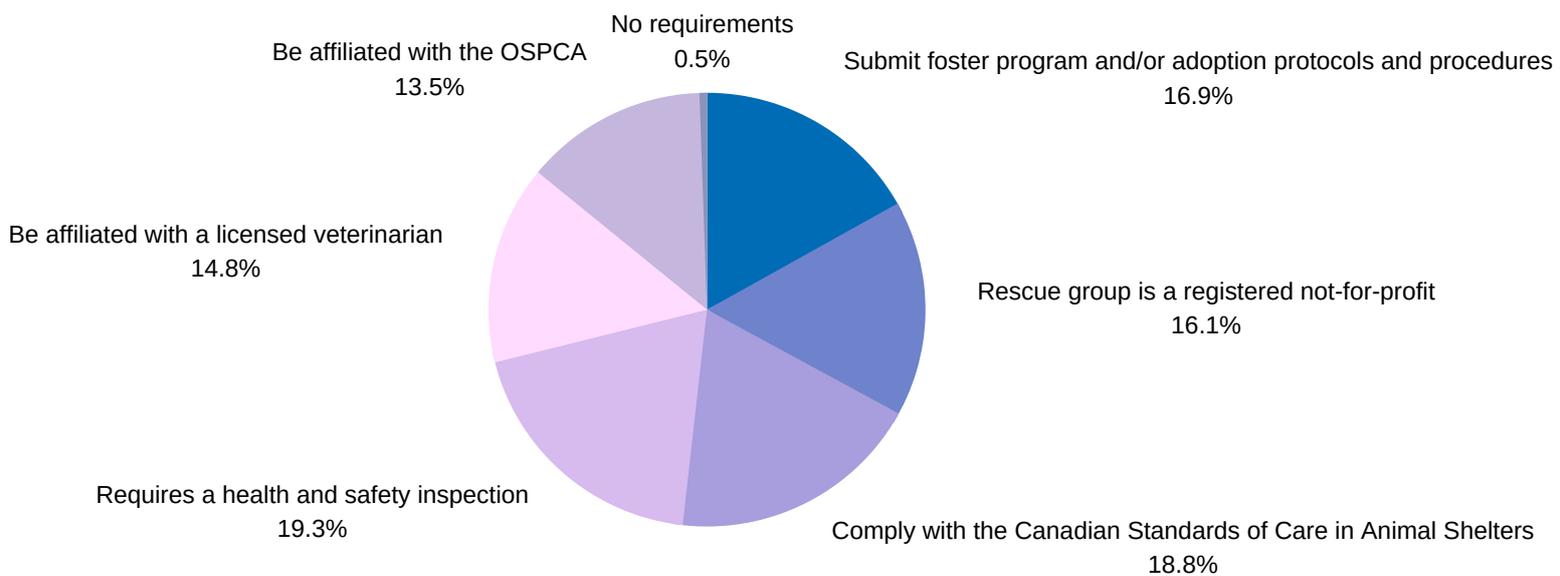
- Public education on being a responsible cat owner
- Prohibit owners from allowing their cats to roam
- Require cats to be a leash when off their property

# ANIMAL SHELTERS

What property regulations should apply to permitted locations of animal rescue groups? Check all that apply.



What minimum requirements should be met in order to operate an animal rescue group? Check all that apply.



Other Suggestions: mandatory to spay/neuter pets prior to rehoming



# OTHER ANIMALS/URBAN AGRICULTRE

Should the Township allow the keeping of hens in urban settlement areas?



What do you think is the appropriate maximum number of hens per property?

- Average answer: 6 hens per property, No Limit: 22 people

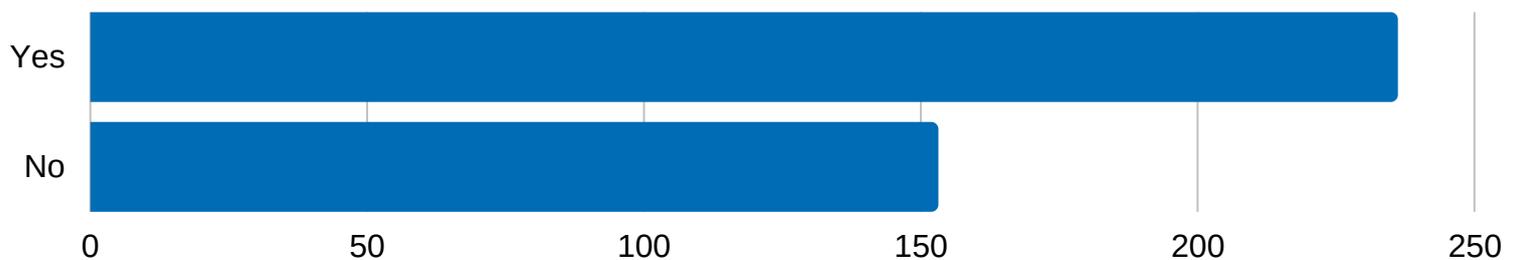
Should the Township allow the keeping of bees in urban settlement areas?



What do you think is the appropriate maximum number of hives per property?

- Average answer: 4 hives per property, No Limit: 36 people

Should the Township allow the keeping of rabbits in urban settlement areas?

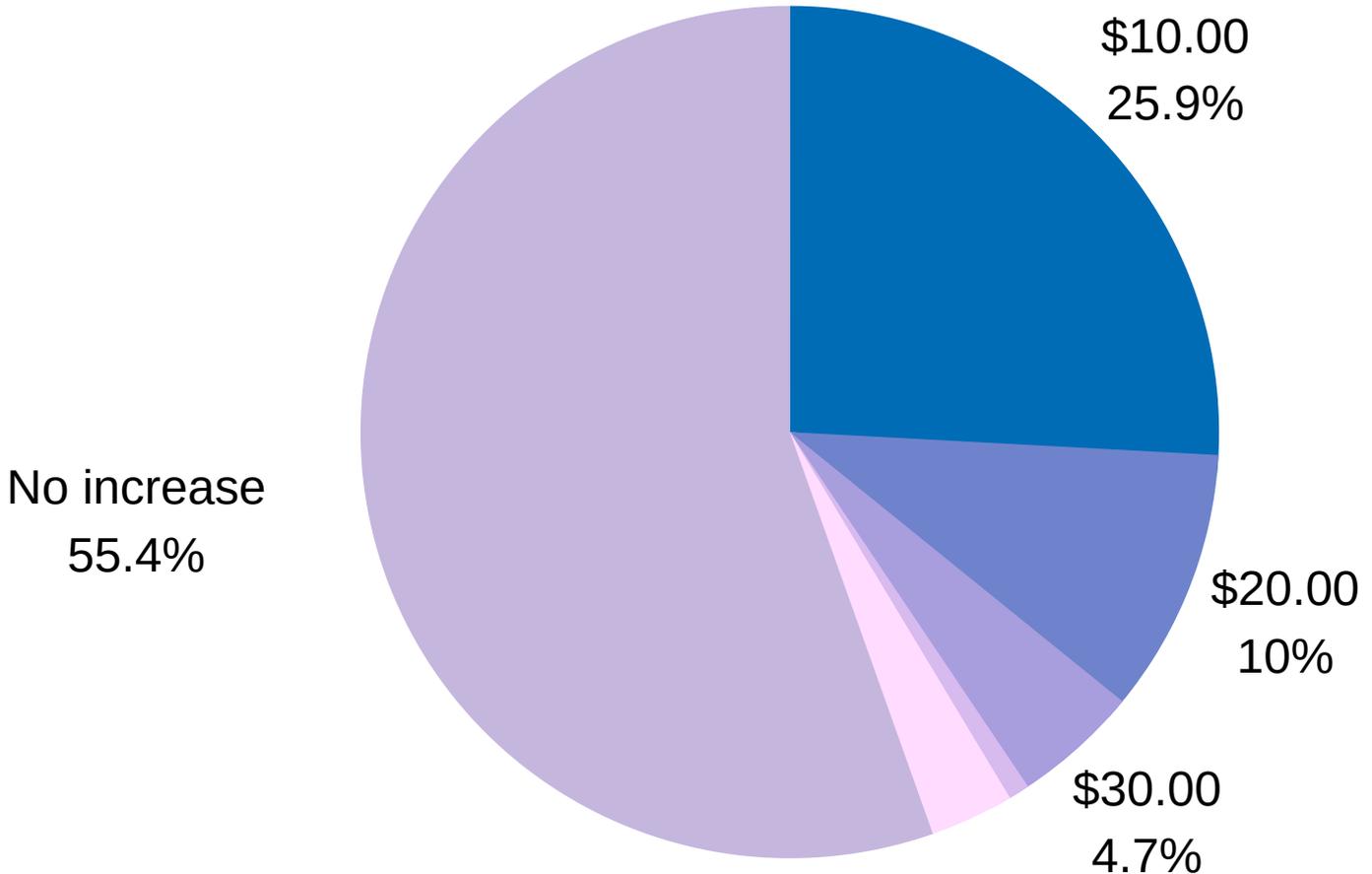


What do you think is the appropriate maximum number of hives per property?

- Average answer: 7 rabbits per property, No Limit: 21 people

# RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERSHIP

How much of a tax increase do you feel is appropriate to improve the current Responsible Pet Ownership Program?



## COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS RECEIVED FROM THE PUBLIC

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- More enforcement on dogs running at large and barking (fines),
- Hire additional staff to monitor and service the new program,
- Revenue from pet licensing should be enough to cover improvements to Responsible Pet Ownership Program,
- More public education,
- Request for an off-leash dog park,
- Increase licensing fees instead of a tax increase for all residents,
- Limit the number of litters per dog for breeding purposes,
- Request for ducks in urban settlement areas,
- Allow Dog catcher to access dog owner information to ensure a fast reconnection of the owners and dogs,
- Implement the same rules for dog and cat owners,
- Prohibit cat owners from allowing their cats to roam.
- Prohibit the feeding of stray cats.

