

ANIMAL WELFARE SCHEME (AWS)

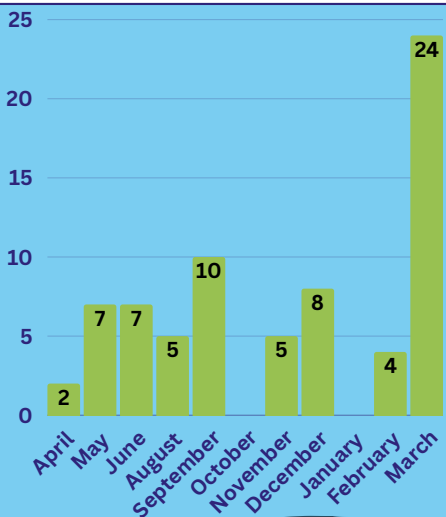
The Animal Welfare Scheme (AWS) provides independent oversight of the welfare of police dogs within Dyfed-Powys. During 2025–26, AWS members conducted regular visits to kennels and reviewed dog handling arrangements to ensure compliance with animal welfare legislation, promote good practice, and support public confidence.



25-26 STATISTICS



Frequency of visits conducted per month:



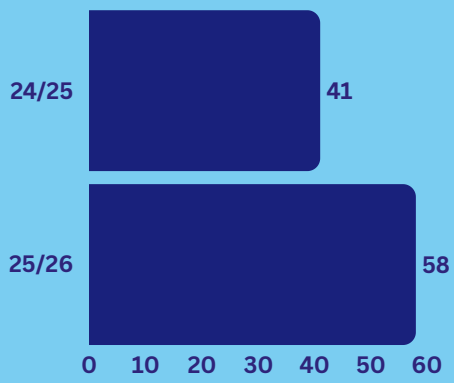
THE SCHEME IS RECOGNISED AND MONITORED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE DOGS TRUST.



A TOTAL OF
87 POLICE DOGS WERE SEEN
DURING THE
58 VISITS CONDUCTED



Visits Conducted:



SUMMARY OF ACTIVITY

Increase in members and frequency of visits

The expansion of AWS lay membership during the year enabled more frequent visits, strengthening assurance and allowing welfare matters to be identified and addressed at an earlier stage.

- Increase from **41 visits** in 2024–25

The move from six-monthly to quarterly visits improved monitoring of welfare standards, seasonal impacts (such as heat management and winter nutrition), and follow-up on issues previously raised.



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Welfare Standards and Compliance

Across kennel visits and dog handler home visits, AWS members consistently observed dogs to be in good or excellent condition, with kennels assessed as clean, safe, and appropriate environments. Dogs were observed to have appropriate access to exercise, rest, and enrichment.

AWS scrutiny provided assurance of compliance with the Animal Welfare Act, including:

- Provision of a suitable environment
- Access to a suitable diet
- Ability to exhibit normal behaviour patterns
- Appropriate housing arrangements
- Protection from pain, injury, and disease



No systemic or widespread welfare concerns were identified during the reporting period.

KEY THEMES IDENTIFIED

While overall standards were positive, AWS members identified a number of recurring themes for monitoring and improvement. These included:

1. Resilience and staffing within kennel facilities.
2. Vehicle and transport condition.
3. Suitability of equipment and safety arrangements.
4. Estates and maintenance matters; and
5. Improvements to recording and data quality.



All matters raised were escalated appropriately and remain subject to ongoing oversight.

Conclusion

The Animal Welfare Scheme provided robust and consistent independent oversight throughout 2025–26. Increased visit frequency strengthened assurance, supported continuous improvement, and confirmed that high standards of welfare are being maintained for police dogs across Dyfed-Powys.

