



<b>R E P O R T</b>	<b>TO</b>	PLANNING & FINANCE COMMITTEE
	<b>FROM</b>	Russell Bierre, Supervisor (Environmental Services)
	<b>FILE REF</b>	63.100.000 - OC194040.rtf
	<b>DATE</b>	31 May 2004
	<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>DRAFT DOG POLICY 2004</b>

**RECOMMENDATION: That the Draft Policy be received.**

The Dog Control Act 2003 requires Council to review its dog Control Policy. The attached draft policy includes the new legislative requirements.

In adopting a new policy Council has to consider those aspects of the amended legislation namely:

- The exercise and recreational needs of dogs and their owners.
- The need to minimise danger, distress and nuisance to the community.
- The need to avoid potential danger in allowing dogs to have uncontrolled access to public places where children are( whether or not they are accompanied by adults)
- The importance of enabling the public to use streets and public facilities without fear of attack or intimidation by dogs.

A draft of the policy was presented for your consideration at the April meeting and those changes that you requested have been incorporated into this document. The document has also been proofed by Council's lawyers, Brookfields. Changes made are summarised:

- Definition of Private way has been corrected.
- The appropriate means of confining the dog under the Voluntary Owner category has been clarified.
- Voluntary Owner – changed the word good to consistent.
- A distinction between the Probationary and Disqualified owner categories has been clarified with the addition of the words " a serious offence" in the Disqualified category.
- Clarified the section on the Control of Dogs with particular reference to control on an owners property.
- In the section under Control of Dogs, point 2 the words "on an urban or rural residential property" have been added for clarification. It was considered that this section maybe too restrictive for a rural property.
- Definition of leash has been amended to remove the reference to a 2m length.
- The percentage of funding from rates has been removed.
- The definition of Restricted areas includes a new section (3) for areas of intense public use.
- The definition of Exercise areas and in particular the stop bank land owned by Environment Waikato has been clarified.

It is proposed to prepare plans of these exercise areas so as to better inform the public.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT the Draft Dog Control Policy, as amended, be released for public consultation under the Special Consultative Procedure.**

Russell Bierre  
Supervisor (Environmental Services)