

Decision Report



To: Mayor & Councillors
From: Wendy Harris – Manager Regulatory Services
Date: 01 July 2019
File reference: MDN: 2518705
Meeting date: 31 July 2019
Subject: Section 10A Report to the Department of Internal Affairs - Dog Control – 2018/2019 Year

Recommendation:

THAT the report be received, and

THAT pursuant to section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996, the Hauraki District Council report on Dog Control Policy and Practices for 2018/2019 be adopted and forwarded to the Department of Internal Affairs.

Purpose

Section 10A of the 2003 amendment to the Dog Control Act 1996 requires Council to report to Central Government on its Dog Control Policy and Practices for the period 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019. Once Council has adopted the report, public notice must be given of the report and a copy sent to the Secretary for Local Government.

Background

Council has responsibilities for dog registration and animal control and aims to promote public safety, responsible dog ownership and the welfare of dogs.



It has a statutory requirement to be involved in the Animal Control activity with a particular emphasis on:

- dog registration systems and implementation,
- education of dog owners and the public,
- development and review of animal control bylaws and policies,
- public safety,
- enforcement of dog control issues to minimise danger, distress or nuisance from dogs,
- the provision and maintenance of pounds,
- impounding of wandering dogs, and
- prosecution of offenders.

The Dog Control Act 1996 is the legislation governing the control of dogs in the District. In order to enforce this Act the Council has a Dog Control Policy, as well as the Public Safety section of the Consolidated Bylaw, which in part pertains to restrictions imposed on dog owners.

The Dog Control Act 1996 provides for the impounding of dogs and the prosecution of their owners (when necessary). At present, the Council contracts out its Animal Control responsibilities except for administration and billing. The current contract for Animal Control includes the control of dogs and the warden duties required to implement the Consolidated Bylaw with respect to Whiritoa Beach. The private company employs two (2) full time animal control officers. The contractor provides a 24 hour, 7 days a week service. Animal Control issues such as wandering dogs are notified to the Council offices and these are then dealt with by the contractor and Council staff as necessary. The Council currently operates a dog pound in Paeroa.

Levels of Service

Community Outcome	Levels of Service	Method of measurement	Baseline	Targets 2012 - 2022
Council will ensure compliance with the Dog Control legislation and consolidated bylaw to provide public safety.				
	<u>Measure:</u> All known dogs in the District are registered annually.	Registration records	100% 2018/19	100% of known dogs registered.
	<u>Measure:</u> Dog attack complaints are responded to within two hours.	Contractor's monthly report	100% 2018/19	100% of complaints responded to within two hours.
Dog and stock owners are aware of their rights and responsibilities.				

The level of service targets were fully achieved for the period.

Registration Fees

Dog registration fees cover one year from 1 July until 30 June. The following fees applied from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019.

Dog Owner Classification	Fee (incl GST)	Fee If Paid After 31 July
General Dogs - Entire	\$100.00	\$150.00
General Dogs - De-sexed * Vet Certificate required	\$75.00	\$112.50
ROL (Responsible Owner Licence) Dog - Entire	\$57.00	Loss of licence
ROL Dog- De-sexed * Vet Certificate required	\$42.00	Loss of licence
Dogs in excess of three (3)	\$35.00	\$52.50
Dangerous Dogs - Entire	\$150.00	\$225.00
Dangerous Dogs - De-sexed * Vet Certificate required	\$112.50	\$168.75
Replacement Tag	\$5.00	
Consent to keep more than two dogs in urban area (Hauraki)	\$52.00	
ROL Scheme Application Fee	\$32.00	

Dog Fees - Other

	Fee
Replacement Tags	\$5.00
Impounding	
*First offence	\$70.00
*Second Offence	\$100.00
*Third Offence	\$160.00

Sustenance Fee (per day)	\$12.00
Microchipping fee for dogs released from the pound	\$47.00
ROL Scheme Application Fee	\$32.00
Consent to keep more than two dogs (urban area)	\$52.00
Property Inspection Fee	\$25.00

Responsible Dog Owner Licensing

We encourage dog owners to become Responsible Dog Owners by applying for Responsible Dog Owner License (ROL). ROL licensing allows dog owners a reduction in registration fees, if they can show a good history of dog control and registration payment, a securely fenced section and they are able to pass a Dog Control written examination.

Relationship with the SPCA

Council staff and the contractors have continued a good working relationship with the SPCA and in particular with the Thames branch which re-homes abandoned dogs suitable for fostering to new owners.

Property Visits

Over the last year 300 properties were inspected to locate any unregistered dogs.

Dog Attacks

Over the last year the number of reported dog attacks on people has been similar to the previous year (16) compared with (15) the previous year. There has been a slight decrease in the number of roaming dogs. The number of dog attacks on other animals shows a decrease (22) compared with (39) for the previous year. The nationwide problem of dog attacks on people remains a significant issue.

Lost & Roaming Dogs

Roaming dogs are a district wide issue, which can frighten, intimidate or annoy others, in addition to attacking other animals and people. There has been a slight decrease from 271 in the previous year (2017/18) to 260 (2018/19) in the number of complaints received regarding roaming dogs, which is pleasing.

Prosecutions

Hauraki District Council is currently in the process of prosecution of a dog owner whose dog severely attacked a person in December 2018. The offending dog is currently impounded pending the prosecution.

Infringements

The number of infringement notices filed to Court this year is slightly down compared with infringements filed to Court in the previous year.

Barking dogs

There has been an increase (16 %) in the number of barking dog complaints, compared to last year.

Statistics

Number of registered dogs	4446 (4498)
Number of probationary owners	11 (5)
Number of disqualified owners	4 (5)
Number of dogs classified as dangerous under Section 31	10 (11)
§ s.31 1(a) due to owner conviction	(0)
§ s.31 1(b) due to sworn evidence	10 (11)
§ s.31 1(c) due to owner admittance	(0)
Number of dogs classified as menacing under Section 33A	39 (40)
§ s.33A 1(b)(i) observed or reported behaviour	39 (40)
§ s.33A 1(b)(ii) characteristics associated with breed	0
Number of dogs classified as menacing under Section 33C	75 (79)
Number of infringement notices issued – for failing to register a dog.	207 (204)
Number of dog related complaints (Total)	622 (577)
§ Aggressive or rushing at fence	52 (53)
§ Barking dogs	167 (140)
§ Dog bites/attack on people	16 (15)
§ Dog bites/attack on animals	22 (39)
§ Bylaw breach (eg: dog fouling in public)	3 (9)
§ Miscellaneous (eg: unregistered, or other general complaints)	55 (45)
§ Wandering/Roaming dogs	261 (271)
§ Dogs worrying other animals	2 (5)
Number of prosecutions (Infringements)	116 (128)

() – are the figures for the previous year of 2017/18

Wendy Harris
Manager Regulatory Services