

FOR DECISION MŌ TE WHAKATAUNGA



TO Mayor and Councillors

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PORTFOLIO HOLDER/S Councillor P Milner

MEETING DATE 17 August 2022

SUBJECT Section 10A Report to the Department of Internal Affairs - Dog Control – 2021/22 Year

SUMMARY | TE WHAKARĀPOPOTANGA

This report has been written to provide Council the report that is required annually by the Department of Internal affairs, under Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996. The report provides information and statistics for the year 01 July 2021 to 30 June 2022.

RECOMMENDATION | TE WHAIKUPU

THAT the report be received.

THAT pursuant to section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996, the Hauraki District Council report on Dog Control Policy and Practices for 2021/2022 be adopted and forwarded to the Department of Internal Affairs, by 30 October 2022.

1 PURPOSE | TE ARONGA

Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996 requires Council to report to Central Government on its Dog Control Policy and Practices for the period 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022. Once Council has adopted the report, the report is to be placed on Council's website, and a link of this sent to the Department of Internal Affairs.

2 BACKGROUND | TE KŌRERO Ā MUA

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, of which has had maintenance work recently undertaken.

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.

Dog Registration and Control Information and Statistics:

Registration Fees

Dog registration fees cover one year from 1 July until 30 June. The following fees applied from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022.

Dog Owner Classification	Fee (incl GST)	Fee If Paid After 31 July
General Dogs - Entire	105.00	157.50
General Dogs - De-sexed * Vet Certificate required	80.00	120.00
ROL (Responsible Owner Licence) Dog - Entire	60.00	157.50
ROL Dog- De-sexed * Vet Certificate required	45.00	120.00
Dogs in excess of three (3)	35.00	52.50
Dangerous Dogs - Entire	152.50	228.75
Dangerous Dogs - De-sexed * Vet Certificate required	120.00	180.00

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	\$52.00
ROL Scheme Application Fee	\$32.00
Consent to keep more than two dogs (urban area)	\$52.00
Property Inspection Fee	\$25.00

Dog Control Policy and Bylaw

We reviewed our dog control policy and bylaw early in 2021, with Council adopting the revised policy and bylaw on 28 April 2021 to become operative from 1 July 2021. The 2021 policy and bylaw includes new dog exercise areas at Leach Field, Paeroa, Kerepehi Domain, River Road, Ngatea (previous stock pound) and Turua Domain. The hours and days for dog exercise off leash on Whiritoa Beach was also amended. The new exercise areas were to become operative from 1 October 2021. The total number of 'Off Leash' areas in the district is twelve.

Animal Control Contractor

Hauraki District Council has had the unique situation of contracting out the services of Animal Control for the past 30 years to the same Contractor. The Contractor is now retiring, after this long service, and he passes the Contract on to a new Contractor, as of 01 October 2021. We are fortunate, the new Contractor, has been working for the past two years under our long standing Contractor, so transition, will be a smooth process. Council thanks this Contractor for his outstanding level of service and commitment over this time.

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 and Tauranga 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 increased considerably to the previous year 21 compared with 11 the previous year, although slightly down on reported dog attacks on other dogs/animals, with 31 this year, compared with 36 for the last year.

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 an increase from 171 in the previous year to 205 in the 2021/22 year in the number of complaints received regarding roaming dogs, which is pleasing. Animal control undertake regular street patrols to check on roaming dogs. It has been pleasing that a high number of dog's that were impounded with no owner coming forward, have been able to be re-homed, and our new Animal Control Contractors are passionate about this.

Prosecutions

No prosecutions were undertaken in the 2021/22 year.

Infringements

The number of infringement notices filed to Court this year is slightly up compared with infringements filed to Court in the previous year. 74 Infringements were lodged to Court, as opposed to 62.

Barking dogs

There was an increase of barking dog complaints this year. 143 as opposed to last year's 98.

Statistics – 01 July 2021 – 30 June 2022 - (figures in brackets are previous year)

Number of registered dogs	4434(4432)
Number of probationary owners	1 (7)
Number of disqualified owners	3 (5)
Number of dogs classified as dangerous under Section 31	15 (12)
§ s.31 1(a) due to owner conviction	0 (0)
§ s.31 1(b) due to sworn evidence	15(12)
§ s.31 1(c) due to owner admittance	0 (0)
Number of dogs classified as menacing under Section 33A	36(45)
§ s.33A 1(b)(i) observed or reported behavior	36 (45)
§ s.33A 1(b)(ii) characteristics associated with breed	0
Number of dogs classified as menacing under Section 33C	65 (57)
Number of infringement notices issued – for failing to register a dog.	102 (187)

Number of dog related complaints (Total)		479 (419)
§	Aggressive or rushing at fence	48 (52)
§	Barking dogs	143 (98)
§	Dog bites/attack on people	21 (11)
§	Dog bites/attack on animals	31 (36)
§	Bylaw breach (eg: dog fouling in public)	12 (7)
§	Miscellaneous (eg: unregistered, or other general complaints)	15 (39)
§	Wandering/Roaming dogs	205 (171)
§	Dogs worrying other animals	4 (6)
Number of prosecutions (Infringements to Court)		74 (62)

3 NEXT STEPS | TE ARA KI MUA

Timeframe	Action	Comments
30 October 2022	Send link with report to Department of Internal Affairs (DIA)	Report is also placed on Council website.

4 Approval

Prepared by	Michelle Matich Regulatory Services Team Leader
Approved by	Peter Thom GM Community Development