



To Mayor and Councillors

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Subject **Section 10 A Dog Control Act 1996 Report on Dog Control Activity for the 2023/24 Year**

1 TE WHAIKUPU | RECOMMENDATIONS

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 2023/2024 be adopted and forwarded to the Department of Internal Affairs, by 30 October 2023

2 TE WHAKARĀPOPOTANGA | SUMMARY

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 2023 to 30 June 2024.

3 TE ARONGA | PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to meet Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996 which requires Council to report to on its Dog Control Policy and Practices for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024. Once Council has received the report, the report is to be placed on Council's website, and a link of this sent to the Department of Internal Affairs.

4 WHAKAPAPA | BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

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.

Animal Control Contract

The current contract for Animal Control which began on 01 July 2023 includes the control of dogs and the warden duties required to implement the Dog Control Policy and Bylaw 2021 with respect to Whiritoa Beach.

. The contractor employs two (2) full time animal control officers, a part-time officer and pound assistant and 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. The contractors are passionate about re-homing suitable dogs, they have developed an adoption programme and Facebook page, and have had good success thus far with re-homing of suitable dogs.

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 2023 to 30 June 2024.

Dog Owner Classification	Fee (incl GST)	Fee If Paid After 31 July
General Dogs - Entire	135.00	202.50
General Dogs - De-sexed * Vet Certificate required	100.00	150.00
ROL (Responsible Owner Licence) Dog - Entire	75.00	(loss of licence) 202.50
ROL Dog- De-sexed * Vet Certificate required	60.00	(loss of licence) 150.00
Dogs in excess of three (3)	45.00	67.50
Dangerous Dogs - Entire	202.50	303.75
Dangerous Dogs - De-sexed * Vet Certificate required	150.00	225.00

Dog Fees - Other

	Fee
Replacement Tags	\$5.00
Impounding	
*First offence	\$75.00
*Second Offence	\$120.00

*Third Offence	\$180.00
Sustenance Fee (per day)	\$15.00
Microchipping fee for dogs released from the pound	\$35.00
ROL Scheme Application Fee	\$40.00
Consent to keep more than two dogs (urban area)	\$60.00
Property Inspection Fee	\$30.00

Dog Control Policy and Bylaw

Council has an operative Dog Control Policy and Bylaw, which include dog exercise areas at Leach Field, Paeroa, Kerepehi Domain, River Road, Ngatea (previous stock pound) and Turua Domain, and Whiritoa Beach. The hours and days for dog exercise off leash on Whiritoa Beach was also amended in 2021. The total number of 'Off Leash' areas in the district is twelve. These documents are due to be reviewed by April 2026.

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. 61 applications for ROL were received in 2024 on par with the previous year with 65.

Relationship with the SPCA

Council staff and the contractors have continued a good working relationship with the SPCA and in particular with the Tauranga branch which re-homes abandoned dogs suitable for fostering to new owners. The SPCA's are inundated with dog's currently and do not have much capacity to take on re-homing. Our contractors, as mentioned above, have had success in re-homing a number of dogs that have been impounded, and have a robust process in place to do this.

Rehoming Programme

Our new contractors have been pro-active in implementing a rehoming programme and for the 2023/24 year 44 dogs were successfully rehomed or homed to a rescue organisation.

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 slightly on the previous year - 18 this year compared with 14 the previous year. Again, reported dog attacks on other dogs/animals has increased significantly, with 50 this year, compared with 23 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 269 in the previous year to 328 in the 2023/24 year in the number of complaints received regarding roaming dogs. Animal control undertake regular street patrols to check on roaming dogs. It has been pleasing that the majority of dogs that were impounded with no owner coming forward, have been adopted or rehomed to a rescue organization.

Prosecutions

No prosecutions were undertaken in the 2023/24 year.

Infringements

The number of infringement notices filed to Court this year was up compared with infringements filed to Court in the previous year. 90 Infringements were lodged to Court, as opposed to 59 in the previous year.

Barking dogs

There was a decrease of barking dog complaints this year. 113 as opposed to last year's 141.

Statistics – 01 July 2023 – 30 June 2024 - (figures in brackets are previous year)

Number of registered dogs	4434 (4457)
Number of probationary owners	1 (3)
Number of disqualified owners	3 (3)
Number of dogs classified as dangerous under Section 31	14 (13)
• s.31 1(a) due to owner conviction	0(0)
• s.31 1(b) due to sworn evidence	14 (13)
• s.31 1(c) due to owner admittance	0(0)
Number of dogs classified as menacing under Section 33A	50 (49)
• s.33A 1(b)(i) observed or reported behavior	50 (49)
• s.33A 1(b)(ii) characteristics associated with breed	0 (0)
Number of dogs classified as menacing under Section 33C	52 (37)
Number of infringement notices issued – for failing to register a dog.	153 (71)
Number of prosecutions (Infringements to Court)	90 (59)
Number of dog related complaints (Total)	645(565)
• Abandoned Dog	9 (5)
• Dog acting aggressively	47 (48)
• Attack/Bite by dog to Animal	50 (23)
• Attack/Bit by dog to Person	18 (14)
• Barking Dog Complaint	113 (141)
• Breach of Bylaw – Dog	9 (5)
• Cruelty to Animal/Dog	5 (8)
• Missing Dog (missing from owner)	25 (32)
• Dog Roaming	328 (269)
• Dog Rushing Out	28 (8)
• Surrendering dog for Destruction	0 (0)
• Classified Dog – Unmuzzled	2 (0)
• Unregistered Dog	5 (7)
• Dog(s) worrying other animals	6 (5)

5 TE ARA KI MUA | NEXT ACTIONS

The table below sets out the next key steps:

Action	Responsibility	By When
Report is uploaded to Council Website	Regulatory Services Team Leader	30/09/2024
Report is sent to the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA)	Regulatory Services Team Leader	30/09/2024

6 WHAKAPAI | APPROVAL

Prepared by	Michelle Matich Regulatory Services Team Leader
Reviewed by	Peter Thom Group Manager – Community Development
Approved by	Peter Thom Group Manager – Community Development