FOR INFORMATION
NGĀ MŌHIOTANGA

To	Mayor and Councillors
Author	Michelle Matich Community Protection Manager
Meeting date	13 October 2026
File reference	Document:4152501
Subject	**Section 10A Dog Control Act 1996 Report on Dog Control Activity for the 2025/26 Year**

1 TE WHAIKUPU | RECOMMENDATIONS

THAT Council

a) Receives the report titled Section 10A Dog Control Act 1996 Report on Dog Control Activity for the 2025/26 Year – Document Number MDN: 4152501.

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 2025 to 30 June 2026.

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 2025 to 30 June 2026. 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. The Dog Control Act 1996 provides for the impounding of dogs and the prosecution of their owners (when necessary). In order to enforce this Act, the Council has a Dog Control Policy and a Dog Control Bylaw.

At present, the Council contracts out its Animal Control responsibilities except for administration and billing.

Animal Control Contract

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

In May 2026 the current contract for Animal Control was renewed for a further two one-year periods and now expires 30 June 2028.

The contractor employs two (2) full time animal control officers, one casual on-call officer and one 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 contractors are passionate about rehoming suitable dogs and have established an adoption programme and Facebook page – Hauraki Pound Pups.

Registration Fees

Dog registration fees cover one year from 1 July until 30 June. The following fees applied from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026.

Dog Registration Fees

Item	Fee	Penalty Fee	Maximum Fee
General Dogs – Entire	$145.00	$72.50	$217.50
General Dogs – Desexed	$110.00	$55.00	$165.00
Dogs in excess of three (3)	$50.00	$25.00	$75.00
ROL Dogs – Entire	$85.00	Loss of licence	Loss of licence
ROL Dogs – Desexed	$70.00	Loss of licence	Loss of licence
Dangerous Dogs – Entire	$217.50	$108.75	$326.25
Dangerous Dogs – Desexed	$165.00	$82.50	$247.50

Impounding fees

Item	Registered Dog	Unregistered Dog
First impounding	$100.00	$155.00
Second impounding	$135.00	$185.00

Third impounding	$190.00	$250.00
Sustenance fee (additional charge)	$18.00 per day	$20.00 per day
Microchipping fee for dogs released from the pound	$40.00	$45.00

Other dog fees

Miscellaneous dog fees	Fee
Consent to keep more than two dogs in an urban area in accordance with the Dog Control Bylaw	$60.00
Responsible Owner Licence (ROL) application fee	$40.00
Transferred ROL Property Inspection Fee	$30.00
Replacement dog registration tag (for lost or damaged tags)	$5.00
Adoption Fee (includes microchipping and registration fees)	$50.00
Surrender/Unclaimed or Disposal Fee	$100.00
Seizure Fee	$100.00

Dog Control Policy and Bylaw

Council has an operative Dog Control Policy and Dog Control Bylaw. Both of these documents were scheduled to be reviewed by April 2026 although both the Policy and Bylaw have until April 2031 to be reviewed.

Council approved at the 10 December 2025 meeting to initiate the review of the Dog Control Policy and Bylaw and undertake a dog exercise area survey. They also referred the review of the Policy and Bylaw to the Policy, Planning and Emergency Management Committee (the Committee).

Due to the Minister for Local Government Simon Watts announcement in 2026 that a comprehensive review of the Dog Control Act 1996 was going to be undertaken, the Committee made the decision to defer the review of the Policy and Bylaw until more was known regarding the timing for the review of the Act.

In the 2025/26 financial year, funding was approved to make the off-leash area in Morgan Park, Waihī a fully fenced exercise area. The total number of off-leash areas in the district remains at twelve.

Responsible Dog Owner Licensing

Council encourages 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 multi-choice questionnaire. **52** applications for ROL were received in 2025/26 which was slightly down on the previous year of **66** applications.

Dog Pound

The Council currently operates a dog pound in Paeroa. General maintenance has been undertaken at the dog pound this past financial year, but no major improvements have been required.

The total number of dogs impounded this year were **109** which is slightly up than the previous year where **104** dogs were impounded.

The number of dogs returned to their owner was slightly down on the previous year with **57** dogs returned to their owner compared to **61** the year prior. Of the remaining **52** dogs

impounded this year, **10** dogs were euthanised with the remaining being adopted or rehomed to rescue organisations.

Relationship with the SPCA
Council staff and the contractors have continued a working relationship with the SPCA. The SPCA's continue to be inundated with dogs and do not have capacity to take dogs that are in our pound. Our contractors, as mentioned above, have had success in rehoming a number of dogs that have been impounded, and have a robust process in place to do this.

Adoption and Rehoming Programme
Our contractors have continued to run a successful adoption programme and Facebook page – Hauraki Pound Pups. They have continued to build relationships with rescue organisations throughout New Zealand.

For the 2025/26 year, **17** dogs were successfully rehomed and **21** were rehomed to a rescue organisation.

Property Visits and Street Patrols
Over the last year **370** properties were inspected. These properties are from random roads/streets selected throughout the District and each house on the road/street is checked to see if the registered dogs match our database and also locate any unregistered dogs. **25** unregistered dogs were located which is an increase on the previous year, which was **10.**

Animal Control Officers also completed over **600** street patrols throughout the District in the past year. In street patrols, roaming dogs can often be sighted and either impounded or returned to the owner; issues may be identified, and owners are educated where needed.

Complaints
The number of complaints decreased in the last year with a total of **680** complaints lodged compared to **708** the previous year.

The number of reported dog attacks on people decreased on the previous year – **24** this year compared with **29** the previous year.

The number of reported dog attacks on other dogs/animals has decreased slightly, with **42** this year, compared with **44** for the previous year.

Roaming dogs continue to be 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 in roaming complaints this last year compared to the previous year with **336** complaints received in the last year compared to **346** in the previous year.

Barking dog complaints are also a district wide issue and can be difficult to resolve. There was a decrease in barking complaints, with **107** complaints received this year compared to **126** in the previous year.

Infringements
Infringements are one of the enforcement tools that are used to encourage dog owners to comply with the rules. In some circumstances, infringements are issued but are cancelled once a dog owner complies with a requirement – such as registration or microchipping their dog.

In the 2025/26 year, **101** infringements that were issued were cancelled once the dog owner complied with a requirement.

The number of infringement notices filed to Court this year was up compared with infringements filed to Court in the previous year. **192** Infringements were filed to Court, as opposed to **157** in the previous year.

Prosecutions
No prosecutions were undertaken in the 2025/26 year.

Hearings
There was a decrease in Hearings held in the 2025/25 year with **10** hearing held compared to **13** the previous year.

5 NGĀ WHIKA | STATISTICS

Registration	**2024/25**	**2025/26**
Total number of known dogs as at 30 June	4334	4202
Total number of registered dogs as at 30 June	4280	4171
Percentage of registered dogs as at 30 June	98.7%	99%

Complaints by type	**2024/25**	**2025/26**
Abandoned dog	10	11
Dog acting aggressively	51	59
Attack/Bite by dog to animal	44	42
Attack/Bite by dog to person – minor	29	24
Attack/Bite by dog to person – serious	Not recorded	0
Barking dog	126	107
Breach of Bylaw – dog	23	22
Cruelty to animal/dog	5	6
Missing dog (missing from owner)	34	1
Dog roaming	346	39
Dog rushing out	25	336
Surrendering dog for destruction	0	20
Classified dog (unmuzzled)	0	1
Unregistered dog	11	7
Dog(s) worrying other animals	4	1
Total number of dog related complaints	**708**	**680**

Complaints by area	**2024/25**	**2025/26**
Kaiaua	24	20
Paeroa Ward	306	251
Plains Ward	125	83
Waihī Ward	253	326
Total number	**708**	**680**

Impounded dogs	2024/25	2025/26
Total number of impounded dogs	104	109
Impounded dogs returned to owner	61	57
Impounded dogs euthanised	7	10
Impounded dogs adopted/rehomed	19	17
Impounded dogs transferred to rescue organisations	15	21
Impounded dogs up for adoption	2	4

Classifications	2024/25	2025/26
Total Number of Probationary Owners	7	6
Total Number of Disqualified Dog Owners	4	4
Dangerous by Owner Conviction under S31(1)(a) Dangerous by Sworn Evidence S31(1)(b) Dangerous by Owner Admittance in Writing S31(1)(c)	0 14 1	0 14 1
Total Number of dogs classified as Dangerous	**15**	**15**
Menacing under S33A(1)(b)(i) by Behaviour Menacing under S33A(1)(b)(ii) by Breed Characteristics Menacing under S33C(1) by Schedule 4 Breed	46 0 47	46 0 42
Total Number of Dogs Classified as Menacing	**93**	**88**

Infringements		2024/25	2025/26
Infringements Issued (does not include infringements notices that were subsequently withdrawn or cancelled)			
Section	**Description**		
18	Wilful obstruction of dog control officer or ranger	0	3
19(2)	Failure or refusal to supply information or wilfully providing false particulars	0	1
19A(2)	Failure to supply information or wilfully providing false particulars	0	1
20(5)	Failure to comply with any bylaw authorised by the section	1	4
23A(2)	Failure to undertake dog owner education programme or dog obedience course (or both)	0	0
24	Failure to comply with obligations of probationary owner	0	0
28(5)	Failure to comply with the effects of disqualification	1	2
32(2)	Failure to comply with the effects of classification of dog as dangerous dog	1	4
32(4)	Fraudulent sale or transfer of dangerous dog	0	0
33EC(1)	Failure to comply with effects of classification of dog as menacing dog	25	17
33F(3)	Failure to advise person of muzzle and leashing requirement	0	0
36A(6)	Failure to implant microchip transponder in dog	111	31
41	False statement in relation to dog registration	0	0
41A	Falsely notifying death of dog	0	0
42	Failure to register dog	158	82

Infringements		2024/25	2025/26
Infringements Issued (does not include infringements notices that were subsequently withdrawn or cancelled)			
Section	**Description**		
46(4)	Fraudulent procurement or attempt to procure replacement dog registration label or disc	0	0
48(3)	Failure to advise change of ownership	4	0
49(4)	Failure to advise change of address	0	0
51(1)	Removal, swapping, or counterfeiting of registration label or disc	0	0
52A	Failure to keep dog controlled or confined	106	109
53(1)	Failure to keep dog under control	3	0
54(2)	Failure to provide proper care and attention, to supply proper and sufficient food, and to provide adequate exercise	0	0
54A	Failure to carry a leash in public	0	0
55(7)	Failure to comply with barking dog abatement notice	0	1
62(4)	Allowing dog known to be dangerous to be at large unmuzzled or unleashed	0	0
62(5)	Failure to advise of muzzle and leashing requirements	0	0
72(2)	Releasing dog from custody	0	0
	Total number of infringements issued	**410**	**255**
Note: 2024/25 year included cancelled infringements in error. 2025/26 does not include cancelled infringements			
Total Infringements efiled to Court		**157**	**169**

Prosecutions	2024/25	2025/26
Number of prosecutions started (and not completed) over the financial year	0	0
Number of prosecutions still in progress from prior financial years	0	0
Number of prosecutions completed this financial year	0	0
Number of appeals filed this financial year	0	0

Other information	2024/25	2025/26
Registered dog owners	3004	2933
Probationary owners newly classified this financial year	Not required	2
Probationary owners transferred from another TA this financial year	0	0
Disqualified owners newly classified this financial year	Not required	2
Disqualified owners transferred from another TA this financial year	0	0
Dangerous dogs that are neutered	Not required	13

Other information	2024/25	2025/26
Menacing dogs that are neutered	Not required	67
Dangerous dogs new classified this financial year	Not required	6
Dangerous dogs transferred from another TA this financial year	Not required	1
Menacing dogs new classified this financial year	Not required	27
Menacing dogs transferred from another TA this financial year	Not required	4

6 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	Community Protection Manager	30 November 2026
Report is sent to the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA)	Community Protection Manager	30 November 2026

7 WHAKAPAI | APPROVAL

Prepared by	Anna Harris **Administrator Officer – Animal and Food Control**
Reviewed by	Michelle Matich **Community Protection Manager**
Approved by	Peter Thom **Group Manager – Community Development and Regulatory**