
TO Mayor and Councillors

AUTHOR Michelle Matich
Regulatory Services Team Leader

FILE REFERENCE Document: MDN: 3449331

MEETING DATE 30 August 2023

SUBJECT Section 10A Report of Dog Control Act 1996 for the 2022/23 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 2022 to 30 June 2023.

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 2022/2023 be adopted and forwarded to the Department of Internal Affairs, by 30 October 2023.

1 PURPOSE | TE ARONGA

Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996 requires Council to report to on its Dog Control Policy and Practices for the period 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023. 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.

Animal Control Contract

In 2023 the existing tender for Animal Control was to expire on 30 June. A tender process was undertaken, utilising government tender platform 'Getz'. A tender was successfully awarded, and began on 01 July 2023.

The contract for Animal Control 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 successful tender is a private company that employs two (2) full time animal control officers, a part-time officer and pound assistant. 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. 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.

| 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. | | | | |

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 2022 to 30 June 2023.

| Dog Owner Classification | Fee (incl GST) | Fee If Paid After 31 July |
|--|----------------|---------------------------|
| General Dogs - Entire | 115.00 | 172.50 |
| General Dogs - De-sexed * Vet Certificate required | 85.00 | 127.50 |
| ROL (Responsible Owner Licence) Dog - Entire | 70.00 | 172.50 |
| ROL Dog- De-sexed * Vet Certificate required | 55.00 | 127.50 |
| Dogs in excess of three (3) | 40.00 | 60.00 |
| Dangerous Dogs - Entire | 172.50 | 258.75 |
| Dangerous Dogs - De-sexed * Vet Certificate required | 135.00 | 202.50 |

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 | \$30.00 |
| 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

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. 65 applications for ROL were received in 2023 compared with 37 in the previous year.

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.

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 decreased considerably on the previous year - 14 this year compared with 22 the previous year. Again, reported dog attacks on other dogs/animals has decreased, with 23 this year, compared with 31 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 205 in the previous year to 269 in the 2022/23 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 2022/23 year.

Infringements

The number of infringement notices filed to Court this year is slightly down compared with infringements filed to Court in the previous year. 59 Infringements were lodged to Court, as opposed to 74.

Barking dogs

There was a slight decrease of barking dog complaints this year. 141 as opposed to last year's 143.

Statistics – 01 July 2022 – 30 June 2023 - (figures in brackets are previous year)

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|
| Number of registered dogs | 4457 (4434) |
| Number of probationary owners | 3 (1) |
| Number of disqualified owners | 3 (3) |

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Number of dogs classified as dangerous under Section 31 | 13(15) |
| • s.31 1(a) due to owner conviction | 0 (0) |
| • s.31 1(b) due to sworn evidence | 13 (15) |
| • s.31 1(c) due to owner admittance | 0 (0) |
| Number of dogs classified as menacing under Section 33A | 49 (36) |
| • s.33A 1(b)(i) observed or reported behavior | 49 (36) |
| • s.33A 1(b)(ii) characteristics associated with breed | 0 |
| Number of dogs classified as menacing under Section 33C | 37 (65) |
| Number of infringement notices issued – for failing to register a dog. | 71 (102) |
| Number of prosecutions (Infringements to Court) | 59 (74) |
| Number of dog related complaints (Total) | 565 (485) |
| • Abandoned Dog | 5 (6) |
| • Dog acting aggressively | 48 (36) |
| • Attack/Bite by dog to Animal | 23 (31) |
| • Attack/Bit by dog to Person | 14 (22) |
| • Barking Dog Complaint | 141 (143) |
| • Breach of Bylaw – Dog | 5 (12) |
| • Cruelty to Animal/Dog | 8 (1) |
| • Missing Dog (missing from owner) | 32 (15) |
| • Dog Roaming | 269 (205) |
| • Dog Rushing Out | 8 (10) |
| • Surrendering dog for Destruction | 0 (0) |
| • Classified Dog – Unmuzzled | 0 (0) |
| • Unregistered Dog | 7 (0) |
| • Dog(s) worrying other animals | 5 (4) |

3 NEXT STEPS | TE ARA KI MUA

| Timeframe | Action | Comments |
|------------|--|----------|
| 15/09/2023 | Report is uploaded to Council Website | N/A |
| 30/09/2023 | Send report link to Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) | N/A |

Approval

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