



Whanganui District Council Annual Dog Control Report 2020/2021

Section 10A report in accordance with the Dog Control Act 1996

1. Introduction

The Whanganui District Council, as a Territorial Authority (TA), is required to manage and enforce the provisions of the Dog Control Act 1996.

This report is to meet the requirements set under Section 10A of that Act which requires a TA to report on its dog control policy and practices.

This report is for the 2020/2021 financial year, 1 July 2020 – 30 June 2021.

2. Dog Policy, Objectives and Practices - Section 10A(1)(a)

The Whanganui District Council has a Dog Control Policy, adopted 27 May 2015, commencing on 8 June 2015. The principle objective is to maintain a high level of responsible dog ownership in the Whanganui District.

The Dog Control Policy is supported by the Dog Control Bylaw 2015. The bylaw specifies standards of control required of dog owners in Whanganui.

Dog registration and fees are charged annually and used to fund Council's dog control functions along with rates funding, given the wider public benefit that is derived by keeping the community safe.

3. Summary of Practices – Section 10A(1)(b)

The Animal Control functions of the Dog Control Act 1996 are managed through our Compliance Team. Animal Management Officers are directly employed as Council Officers with delegated authority under the Act.

A dog pound is operated and maintained by Council for temporary housing of impounded dogs and smaller animals as well as providing a facility for companion animals during a major event such as a natural disaster.

The dog pound is located at 7 Airport Road and is a key source of dog rehoming. Rehoming is also undertaken through work with other animal rescue centres and the Council adopt a dog facebook page which has nearly 3500 followers and has proven very successful.

Low cost micro-chipping is available at the dog pound for \$25 as well as discounted leads, collars and worming tablets.

Relevant campaigns informing dog owners of their responsibilities are displayed through signage on Animal Management vehicles, regular features through the Council Community Link page in local newspapers and radio advertising.

Proactive patrols are undertaken around the District, with a particular focus on public spaces such as beaches and reserves to ensure compliance with the Dog Control Act 1996 and Whanganui District Council Dog Control Policy and Bylaw.

Part 2 Statistical Information

- **Dog registration.**
 - As at 30 June 2021 there were 8490 registered dogs in Whanganui.
- **Probationary and Disqualified owners.**
 - In 2020/2021 period, five owners were disqualified.
 - There were no owners classified probationary.
 - One objection was received to a disqualification classification.

- **Classified Dangerous dogs.**

- 1 dog was classified during 2020/2021 period.

Dangerous by owner conviction under s31(1)(a)	0
Dangerous by sworn evidence s31(1)(b)	1
Dangerous by owner admittance in writing s31(1)(c)	0
TOTAL (2020/21)	1

- **Classified Menacing dogs.**

- 26 dogs were classified during 2020/2021 period

Menacing under s33A(1)(b)(i) (Behaviour)	24
Menacing under s33A(1)(b)(ii) (Characteristics)	0
Menacing under s33C(1) (Breed) (<i>note 1 is breed and behaviour</i>)	2
TOTAL (2020/21)	26

- No objections were received for either Dangerous or Menacing dog classifications.

- **Infringement notices issued.**

- A large number of infringements were issued in October 2020 for unregistered dogs. A number of these infringements were then withdrawn with the owner gaining compliance by registering. This contributed to a large number of 'write offs' for the period.

In Process (eg. Recently issued, reminder issued)	8
Paid	27
Written of	528
Lodged at Court	390
TOTAL ISSUED	953

- **Dog control requests for service.**

- A total of 5353 animal related request for services were logged during this period of which 3562 were dog related. This is a -5.4% decrease on 2019/2020.
- While the largest decreases were reports of wandering animals and secured dogs, there were slight increases in reported attacks and rushing's.

Request type	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Barking Dog	1057	917	859	813
Dog attack	159	82	103	120
Dog rush	174	125	101	118
Ill treatment	74	38	32	53
Secured dog*	595	672	621	488
Rego/info	411	907	1069	1045
Trap	10	19	18	24
Wandering Animal	1210	1186	964	901
TOTAL	4314	3946	3767	3562

- **Prosecution**

- There are currently six prosecutions in process before the Court. Three prosecutions are ongoing from the 2019/2020 period. It is expected these will be resolved soon. The 2020/2021 incidents involved a dog attack on sheep and two dog attacks on a person. These prosecutions are in the early stages and are yet to be resolved.
- Two 2019/2020 dog attacks were resolved in May 2021 with the Court Ordered euthanizing of three dogs.

For any queries on this report please contact:

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