



Whanganui District Council Annual Dog Control Report 2023/2024

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

1. Introduction

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 2023/2024 financial year, 1 July 2023 – 30 June 2024.

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

Whanganui District Council has a Dog Control Policy, commencing on 1 July 2021. The principal 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 2021. 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. There has been an increase in dog registration fees from 1st July 2024.

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.

An animal 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 more than 6695 followers and has proven very successful.

Low-cost micro-chipping is available at the dog pound for \$30 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 of 30 June 2024, there were 7915 registered dogs in Whanganui.
- **Probationary and Disqualified owners.**
 - In 2023/2024 period, two owners were disqualified from owning dogs.
 - There were no owners classified as probationary dog owners.

- **Classified Dangerous dogs.**

- No dogs were classified as dangerous during 2023/2024 period.

Dangerous by owner conviction under s31(1)(a)	0
Dangerous by sworn evidence s31(1)(b)	0
Dangerous by owner admittance in writing s31(1)(c)	0
TOTAL (2023/24)	0

- **Classified Menacing dogs.**

- 45 dogs were classified as menacing during 2023/2024 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>	21
TOTAL (2023/24)	45

- No objections were received for menacing dog classifications.

- **Infringement notices issued.**

In Process (eg. Recently issued, reminder issued)	2
Paid	29
Written off	46
Ready for Court	6
Lodged at Court	106
TOTAL ISSUED	189

- **Dog control requests for service.**

- A total of 4454 animal related request for services were logged during this period which 3126 were dog related.
- This is a 4.8% decrease of animal related requests compared to 2022/2023.
- Reports of secured dogs and dog attacks showed the largest decrease, while the largest increases were reports of Barking dogs and dog rushing.
- The largest calls for service were regarding Registration and Information which related to registration enquires, information required or relayed and stock on the road.

- Please note increase in requests for Wandering animals for 2023/2024 in graph below includes Tracked Wandering dogs, Wandering dogs and stock. Stock was not incorporated in previous total in 2021/22 and 2022/23 total. 157 stock requests were made for 2023/24.

Request type	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Barking Dog	859	813	794	578	639
Dog attack	103	120	198	116	92
Dog rush	101	118	81	117	129
Ill treatment	32	53	27	27	26
Secured dog*	621	488	392	502	438
Rego/info	1069	1045	1088	1223	1079
Trap	18	24	41	42	50
Wandering Animal	964	901	698	561	830
TOTAL	3767	3562	3319	3166	3283

- **Prosecution**

- There are currently three prosecutions in process before the Court.
- One 2023/2024 dog attack on a dog and person was resolved in March 2024.

For any queries on this report please contact:

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