



Whanganui District Council Annual Dog Control Report 2018/19

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 2018/2019 financial year, 1 July 2018 – 30 June 2019.

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

The Whanganui District Council has a Dog Policy, adopted 27 May 2015, commencing on 8 June 2015 with the objectives being:

- To ensure the protection of public health and safety in areas used by the general public as well as dog owners and their dogs.
- To provide for exercise and recreational needs of dogs and their owners.
- To minimise the fear of dogs attacking or intimidating people.
- To avoid danger from uncontrolled dogs entering children's play areas.
- To minimise danger, distress and nuisance caused by dogs.
- To have all dogs registered and micro-chipped.

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 which acts as a welfare centre for day to day housing and care of 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 174 Ridgway Street 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 1500 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 Policy.

In January 2019, Whanganui District Council employed an Animal Education Officer. The role of the Animal Education Officer involves engaging with the dog owner community and using a proactive approach to responsible dog ownership. This includes educating dog owners on how to best look after their pet, thereby minimising the chance of nuisance behaviours.



Part 2 Statistical Information

- **Dog registration.**
 - In May 2019 an audit was completed on active dogs in our system. This saw the removal of dogs due to data corrections such as deceased dog or moved area.
 - As at 30 June 2019, registration statistics for the District were;
 - Number of active dogs (known) - 8384
 - Number of registered dogs - 8288 (98.9%)
- **Probationary and Disqualified owners.**
 - In 2018/19 period, one owner was disqualified.
 - There were no owners classified probationary.
- **Classified Dangerous dogs.**
 - Eight dogs were classified during 2018/19 period.

Dangerous by owner conviction under s31(1)(a)	0
Dangerous by sworn evidence s31((1)(b)	4
Dangerous by owner admittance in writing s31(1)(c)	4
TOTAL (2018/19)	8

- **Classified Menacing dogs.**

- 62 dogs were classified during 2018/19 period.

Menacing under s33A(1)(b)(i) (Behaviour)	15
Menacing under s33A(1)(b)(ii) (Characteristics)	0
Menacing under s33C(1) (Breed)	47
TOTAL (2018/19)	62

- **Infringement notices issued.**

- A large number of infringements were issued in October 2018 and January 2019 for unregistered dogs and failure to micro-chip. A number of these infringements were then withdrawn with the owner gaining compliance by registering and/or micro-chipping their dog. This contributed to a large number of 'write offs' for the period.

Lodged at Court	329
Paid	8
Written of	242
In Process (eg. Recently issued)	6
TOTAL ISSUED	585

- **Dog control requests for service.**

- A total of 5614 animal related request for services were logged during this period of which 3946 were dog related. This is a decrease on 2017/18.
- The most notable increase was seen in registration information. This is due to a focus on Owners contacting us to update their registration information in May and June 2019.

Request type	2017/18	2018/19
Barking Dog	1057	917
Dog attack	159	82
Dog rush	174	125
Ill treatment	74	38
Secured dog*	595	672
Rego/info	411	907
Trap	10	19
Wandering Animal	1210	1186
TOTAL	4314	3946

- **Prosecution**

- There are currently two prosecutions before the Court. One incident involved a dog attack on a horse and the other was a dog attack on a cat.

For any queries on this report please contact:

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