

A close-up photograph of a white dog with striking blue eyes, looking slightly to the left. The dog has a dark collar and is set against a blurred, light-colored background.

Manawatū District Council

Annual Report on Dog Control

1 July 2019 – 30 June 2020

PART 1 – Dog Control Policy and Practices

Dog Control in the District

The focus of dog control has been on responding to service requests and complaints within the timeframes set by Council through its Long Term Plan and Annual Plan.

Animal Control Officers have, in this period, made concerted efforts at being pro-active in the detection of offences. This was specifically targeted at dogs that were un-registered, and also dogs that were allowed to wander.

Council's approach to owners of unregistered dogs is that the Animal Control Officers conduct property inspections, owners are issued verbal or written warnings followed by the serving of an infringement notice, and as a final measure if absolutely necessary, impounding.

Pro-active efforts were also made to ensure that all dogs were classified correctly in accordance with the provisions of the Dog Control Act 1996.

A joint service agreement is provided in partnership with the Rangitikei and Manawatu Districts. A Senior Animal Control Officer is based between the two areas and two Animal Control Officers are based in Feilding.

Animal Control Officers respond to priority one calls after hours. Priority One calls include dog attacks.

Animal Control Officers have visited properties of 'selected owners' in the district to ensure that the properties are maintained to the appropriate standard required for this type of ownership status.

Nuisance from dogs

Animal Control maintain a list of all dogs classified as dangerous and menacing, this relating to classification by either the provisions of sections 31, 33A and/or 33C of the Dog Control Act 1996. Physical checks have occurred within this period to ensure that all dogs classified as menacing, regardless of the reason why, comply with the requirements of the classification.

Prohibited public places, dog on leash areas and dog exercise areas

There are specific areas within the Manawatu District Council area designated for exercise, lead only and prohibited areas.

Animal Control Officers approach any breaches of these requirements in an educational manner, with any issue of infringements undertaken as a last resort.

The dog control policy and bylaw have been reviewed and were adopted on 10 October 2019. The dog ban area in the centre of town has been removed in favour of a dog friendly town centre following the public consultation process.

Fees for Dog Control and Registration

The registration fees for the 2019 - 2020 financial year were made up as follows:

Fee description	Discounted fee if paid by 1 August 2019	Standard Fee if paid after 1 August 2020
General registration	105	107
Neutered / spayed	67	68
Working dogs / selected owners / gold card	34	35
Dangerous dogs classified under the Dog Control Act 1996	160	164
Menacing dogs classified under the Dog Control Act 1996	160	164
Disability Assist registration	No charge	No charge

Classification of owners and dogs

Registration Type	Number of Dogs as at 30 June 2019	Number of Dogs as at 30 June 2020
General registration	1004	971
Selected owners	2170	1901
Neutered dogs	2,746	2615
Dangerous dogs	5	6
Working dogs	2030	1866
Disability assist dogs	5	9
Menacing dogs	117	91
Gold Card	476	478

Education relating to dogs

The Manawatu District Council provides a dog education programme to schools within the district. The contractor providing the dog education programmes has published a childrens book this year highlighting the dog safety messages which will be used in support of the programmes for schools.

Animal Control Officers make themselves available to assist owners with help or advice on dog obedience and courses available. Animal Control Officers regularly provide advice and guidance in relation to specific behavioural matters.

PART 2 – Statistical Information

Category	For Period 01 July 2018 – 30 June 2019	For Period 01 July 2019 – 30 June 2020
Total Registered Dogs	8553	7937
Total Probationary Owners	0	0
Total Disqualified Owners	0	0
Total Dangerous Dogs	5	6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Dangerous by Owner Conviction Under s31(1)(a)</i> 	1	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Dangerous by Sworn Evidence s31(1)(b)</i> 	2	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Dangerous by Owner Admittance in Writing s31(1)(c)</i> 	2	2
Total Menacing Dogs	117	91
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Menacing under s33A(1)(b)(i) – i.e. by behavior</i> 	47	34
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Menacing under s33A(1)(b)(ii) by Breed Characteristics</i> 	4	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Menacing under s33C(1) by Schedule 4 Breed</i> 	66	54
Total Infringement Notices issued	152	70
Total Complaints Received	1334	1530
Dog Attacks – People	13	13
Dog Attacks – Animals	24	36
Dog Barking	286	208
Dog Roaming	297	228
Dog Rushing/Aggressive	11	24
Property Inspections	204	47
Dog Found/Secured	249	276
Dog Registration/Request for Information	74	51
Miscellaneous Animal Complaint/Welfare/Stock	176	151
Total Prosecutions Taken	0	0

Prepared by: Karel Boakes

Date: 25/8/2020

Regulatory Manager

Signature:  _____