



**Manawatū District Council**

# **Annual Report on Dog Control**

**1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023**

# ANNUAL SECTION 10A Dog Control Act 1996 Report 2022/2023

## **PART 1 – Dog Control Policy and Practices**

### **Dog Control in the District**

The requirements of the Dog Control Act 1996 and the Council's Dog Control Policy 2019 are monitored and enforced by the Council's Animal Control Team via a joint service agreement with the Rangitikei District Council. Two Animal Control Officers are based in Feilding covering the Manawatu with assistance from other Rangitikei officers as and when needed.

The Animal Control Team have been responding to service requests and complaints within the timeframes set by Council through its Long Term Plan and Annual Plan.

Animal Control Officers have made concerted efforts at being pro-active in the detection of offences, in particular targeting un-registered dogs and wandering dogs and responding to complaints of aggressive dog behaviour including dog attacks.

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.

### **Selected Owner Status**

An Owner may apply for Selected Owner status and if approved the owner benefits by a reduction in the annual registration fee.

In determining if an Owner qualifies for Selected Owner status Council will consider, but not be limited to, the following

- a) whether the Premises is adequately fenced;
- b) whether the dog(s) have been Neutered;
- c) the applicant's record of dog ownership, including history of compliance with the Bylaw, the Act and whether there have been any Nuisance complaints;
- d) whether the dogs have been registered before the due date; and
- e) the appropriate level of care for the dogs and whether the kennel is weatherproof, of sufficient size, clean and sanitary.

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

## Hours of Operation

Normal working hours are 8am to 5pm on weekdays. Animal Control Officers work an on-call shift to respond to priority one calls after hours including weekends. Priority One calls include dog attacks.

## Menacing and Dangerous 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.

During the 2022/2023 period 9 dogs have been classified as Menacing. 3 of those classifications are currently under appeal.

No dogs were classified as Dangerous in the 2022/2023 year due to aggressive behaviour by the dog or due to its breed.

## 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.

## Infringements

In 2022/2023 there were 177 infringements issued for the following offences

Offence	Number
Wilful Obstruction	2
Failed to Comply with Bylaw	3
Failed to Advise Change of Address	1
Failed to Keep Dog under Control	3
Failed to Register Dog	108
Failed to Comply with Disqualification	2
Failed to Implant Micro-chip	8
Failed to Keep Dog Controlled/Confined	43
Failed to Use/Carry Lead	1
Failed to Comply with Dangerous Classification	2
Failed to Comply with Menacing Classification	4

## Prosecutions

One prosecution was undertaken in the 2022/2023 year. Charges of failing to register a dog and owning a dog that attacked another dog were laid following a dog attack on another dog resulting in the death of that dog. The Defendant was convicted and the destruction of the dog was ordered by the Courts along with fines and court costs against the Defendant.

### Disqualification of Owners

For the period 2022/2023, 3 owners of dogs were disqualified from owning a dog under the provisions of Sect 25 of the Dog Control Act 1996 which provides that any Owner of a dog that receives 3 or more infringements within a 24 month period must be disqualified from owning a dog for a period up to 5 years. Of those 3 disqualifications 2 are still under appeal.

### Dog Registrations

There were 8268 dogs registered during the 2022/2023 year. This is an increase of 24 from the previous year.

A breakdown of the types of dog registrations is contained under Part 2 of the report.

### Fees for Dog Control and Registration

The registration fees for the 2022 - 2023 financial year were made up as follows:

<b>Fee description</b>	<b>Discounted fee if paid by 1 August 2022</b>	<b>Standard Fee if paid after 1 August 2022</b>
General registration	\$112	\$168
Neutered / spayed	\$72	\$106
Working dogs / selected owners / gold card	\$37	\$52
Dangerous dogs classified under the Dog Control Act 1996	\$172	\$254
Menacing dogs classified under the Dog Control Act 1996	\$172	\$254
Disability Assist registration	No charge	No charge

## Classification of owners and dogs

Registration Type	Number of Dogs as at 30 June 2022	Number of Dogs as at 30 June 2023
General registration	990	1179
Selected owners	1861	1781
Neutered dogs	2678	2639
Dangerous dogs	14	11
Working dogs	1809	1732
Disability assist dogs	9	7
Menacing dogs	100	78
Gold Card	783	843

## Education relating to dogs

The Manawatu District Council provides a dog education programme to schools within the district.

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.

Animal Control Officers have undergone specialist training on Dog psychology and behaviour.

## PART 2 – Statistical Information

Category	For Period 1 July 2021 – 30 June 2022	For Period July 2022 – 30 June 2023	1
Total Registered Dogs	8244	8,268	
Total Probationary Owners	0	0	
Total Disqualified Owners	6	5	
Total Dangerous Dogs	<b>16</b>	<b>11</b>	
• <i>Dangerous by Owner Conviction Under s31(1)(a)</i>	5	3	
• <i>Dangerous by Sworn Evidence s31(1)(b)</i>	10	8	
• <i>Dangerous by Owner Admittance in Writing s31(1)(c)</i>	1	0	
Total Menacing Dogs	<b>102</b>	<b>78</b>	
• <i>Menacing under s33A(1)(b)(i) – i.e. by behavior</i>	44	34	
• <i>Menacing under s33A(1)(b)(ii) by Breed Characteristics</i>	7	7	
• <i>Menacing under s33C(1) by Schedule 4 Breed</i>	51	37	
Total Infringement Notices issued	173	177	
<b>Total Complaints Received</b>	<b>1490</b>	<b>1637</b>	
Aggressive Roaming Dog	24	38	
Animal Attacked	46	31	
Animal Rushed At	7	6	
Animal Welfare	3	8	
Barking Dog	212	222	
Contractor Feedback	176	140	
Inspections	380	484	
Miscellaneous Animal Complaint (not dog)	6	4	
Person Attacked	13	22	
Person Rushed At	15	15	
Request for Information/Advice from ACO	55	87	
Roaming Dog	226	212	
Secured Dog	172	185	
Selected Owner Inspection	43	56	
Selected Owner Reinspection	7	6	
Stock Wandering	499	113	
Worrying Stock	6	8	
Total Prosecutions Taken	1	1	

Prepared by: Paul Greig

Date: 19 October 2023

Compliance and Planning Manager

Signature:

