



Annual Report on Dog Control

1 July 2023 – 30 June 2024



Annual Section 10A Dog Control Act 1996 Report 2023/2024

PART 1 – Dog Control Policy and Practices

Dog Control in the District

During the 2023/2024 year, Council's Animal Control Team, through a joint service agreement with Rangitikei District Council, delivered animal control services across a combined area of 7050km². The team enforced the Dog Control Act 1996 and adhered to Council's Dog Control Policy 2019.

Comprising five Animal Control Officers, supported by the Manager Animal Control, the team operated 24/7 to respond to service requests and complaints within the timeframes specified in the Councils' Long Term Plans. Proactive efforts focused on identifying unregistered and wandering dogs and addressing complaints related to aggressive dog behaviour, including attacks.

A graduated enforcement approach was used for unregistered dogs, progressing from property inspections to verbal or written warnings, infringement notices, and impounding as a final measure.

Hours of Operation

Normal hours of operation are 8am – 5pm on weekdays. Animal Control Officers work on rostered shifts to enable 24-hour response to Priority One calls after hours, including weekends and public holidays. Priority One calls include dog attacks.

Selected Owner Status

Dog owners may apply for Selected Owner status which entitles them to a reduced annual registration fee. To qualify for this status owners must meet specific criteria. Council will assess applications based on the following factors:

- Whether property fencing is adequate.
- If the dog(s) have been neutered.
- The owner's compliance history with the Dog Control Act and Council bylaws, including any nuisance complaints.
- If dogs have been registered before the due date.
- Whether there is appropriate dog care, including kennel conditions (weatherproof, size, cleanliness, and sanitation).

Animal Control Officers will conduct property inspections of applicants to verify compliance with Selected Owner requirements.

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.

There are 97 dogs classified as Menacing and 11 dogs classified as Dangerous for the 2023/2024 year. These are because of 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 Manawatū District Council area designated for exercise, lead only and prohibited areas.

Animal Control Officers approach any breaches of these requirements in an educational manner in the first instance.

Infringements

In 2023/2024 there were 70 infringements issued for the following offences

Offence	Number Issued
Failure to Implant Microchip Transponder in Dog	1
Failure to Keep Dog Controlled or Confined	13
Failure to Keep Dog Under Control	1
Failure to Register Dog	54
Wilful Obstruction of a Dog Control Officer or Ranger	1

Prosecutions

There were no prosecutions taken during the 2023/2024 year.

Dog Registrations

There were 7,865 dogs registered for the 2023/2024 year.

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

Fees for Dog Control and Registration

The registration fees for the 2023/2024 financial year were as follows:

Fee Description	Discounted fee if paid by 1 August 2023	Standard fee if paid after 1 August 2023
General Registration	\$116.00	\$174.00
Neutered/ Spayed	\$75.00	\$110.00
Working Dogs / Selected Owner / Gold Card	\$38.00	\$54.00
Dangerous Dogs - Classified under the Dog Control Act 1996	\$178.00	\$263.00
Menacing Dogs - Classified under the Dog Control Act 1996	\$178.00	\$263.00
Disability Assist Registration - Certified as per Schedule 5 of the Dog Control Act 1996	No Charge	No Charge

Classification of Owners and Dogs

Registration Type	Number of Dogs as at 30 June 2023	Number of Dogs as at 30 June 2024
General Registration	1,179	723
Selected Owners	1,781	1,906
Neutered Dogs	2,639	2,516
Dangerous Dogs	11	11
Working Dogs	1,732	1,875
Disability Assist Dogs	7	8
Menacing Dogs	78	97
Gold Card	843	729

Education relating to Dogs

The Manawatū District Council is committed to promoting responsible dog ownership through education and support. A comprehensive dog education program, including a children's book that was published by our contractor, is delivered to local schools to foster safe and positive interactions with dogs.

Animal Control Officers provide valuable resources and guidance to dog owners, including advice on obedience training, behaviour management, and available training courses. The team has undertaken specialised training in canine psychology and behaviour to enhance these services.

A continued focus on dog education and behaviour support will improve dog ownership and community safety.

PART 2 – Statistical Information

Category	For Period 1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023	For Period 1 July 2023 – 30 June 2024
Total Registered Dogs	8,268	7,865
Total Probationary Owners	0	0
Total Disqualified Owners	5	2
Total Dangerous Dogs	11	11
• <i>Dangerous by owner Conviction – s31(1)(a)</i>	(3)	(4)
• <i>Dangerous by Sworn Evidence – s31(1)(b)</i>	(8)	(5)
• <i>Dangerous by Owner in Writing – s31(1)(c)</i>	(0)	(2)
Total Menacing Dogs	78	97
• <i>Menacing by Behaviour – s33A(1)(b)(i)</i>	(34)	(39)
• <i>Menacing by Breed Characteristics – s33C(1)(b)(ii)</i>	(7)	(7)
• <i>Menacing by Breed – s33C(1)</i>	(37)	(51)
Total Infringement Notices Issued	177	70
Total Complaints Received	1637	1537
Aggressive Roaming Dog	38	17
Dog Attacks	53	54
• <i>Attack on Animal</i>	(31)	(35)
• <i>Attack on Person</i>	(22)	(19)
Dog Rushing	21	24
• <i>Animal Rushed at</i>	(6)	(10)
• <i>Person Rushed at</i>	(15)	(14)
Animal Welfare	8	1
Barking Dog	222	296
Contractor Feedback	140	72
Inspections	140	410
Miscellaneous Animal Complaint (non-dog)	4	5
Request for Information/ Advice from Animal Control	87	61
Roaming Dog	212	212
Secured Dog	185	189
Selected Owner Inspection	56	36
Selected Owner Re-inspection	6	11
Stock Wandering	113	147
Stock Worrying	8	2
Prosecutions Taken	1	0

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Date: 29 October 2024

Signature:

