



Whanganui District Council Annual Dog Control Report 2021/2022

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 2021/2022 financial year, 1 July 2021 – 30 June 2022.

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

The Whanganui District Council has a Dog Control Policy, commencing on 1 July 2021. The principle 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.

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 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 5500 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 Control Policy and Bylaw.

Part 2 Statistical Information

- **Dog registration.**
 - As at 30 June 2022 there were 7775 registered dogs in Whanganui.
- **Probationary and Disqualified owners.**
 - In 2021/2022 period, five owners were disqualified.
 - There were no owners classified probationary.
 - No objections were received to a disqualification classification.

- **Classified Dangerous dogs.**
 - 3 dogs were classified during 2021/2022 period.

Dangerous by owner conviction under s31(1)(a)	0
Dangerous by sworn evidence s31(1)(b)	3
Dangerous by owner admittance in writing s31(1)(c)	0
TOTAL (2021/22)	3

- **Classified Menacing dogs.**
 - 43 dogs were classified during 2020/2021 period

Menacing under s33A(1)(b)(i) (Behaviour)	15
Menacing under s33A(1)(b)(ii) (Characteristics)	0
Menacing under s33C(1) (Breed) (<i>note 1 is breed and behaviour</i>)	28
TOTAL (2021/22)	43

- No objections were received for either Dangerous or Menacing dog classifications.
- **Infringement notices issued.**
 - Due to Covid and staff shortages bulk infringements were not issued for unregistered dogs during October 2021.

In Process (eg. Recently issued, reminder issued)	4
Paid	19
Written off	19
Lodged at Court	65
TOTAL ISSUED	107

- **Dog control requests for service.**
 - A total of 5280 animal related request for services were logged during this period of which 3319 were dog related. This is a 6.9% decrease on 2020/2021.
 - While the largest decreases were reports of wandering animals and secured dogs, there were increases in reported attacks many off these were incorrectly classified as attacks and dealt with accordingly.

Request type	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Barking Dog	1057	917	859	813	794
Dog attack	159	82	103	120	198
Dog rush	174	125	101	118	81
Ill treatment	74	38	32	53	27
Secured dog*	595	672	621	488	392
Rego/info	411	907	1069	1045	1088
Trap	10	19	18	24	41
Wandering Animal	1210	1186	964	901	698
TOTAL	4314	3946	3767	3562	3319

- **Prosecution**

- There is currently one prosecution in process before the Court. This case was finalised in July 2022 but has been appealed by the defendant.
- Two 2019/2020 dog attacks on a person/s was resolved in February 2022 with the Court Ordered euthanizing of two dogs.
- One 2021/2022 dog attack on a dog was resolved in June 2022. The defendant pleaded guilty at the first appearance. The Court never ordered euthanizing as the owner handed the dog over for euthanizing during the investigation.

For any queries on this report please contact:

Jason Shailer – Compliance Operations Manager

Jason.Shailer@whanganui.govt.nz