



**WHANGANUI  
DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
Te Kaunihera a Rohe o Whanganui

# Whanganui District Council Annual Dog Control Report 2022/2023

## 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 2022/2023 financial year, 1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023.

### 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 principal 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 of 30 June 2023 there were 8022 registered dogs in Whanganui.

### Probationary and Disqualified owners.

- In 2022/2023 period, two owners were disqualified.
- There were no owners classified probationary.
- Two objections were received to a disqualification classification.

### Classified Dangerous dogs.

- 1 dog was classified during 2022/2023 period.

Dangerous by owner conviction under s31(1)(a)	0
Dangerous by sworn evidence s31(1)(b)	1
Dangerous by owner admittance in writing s31(1)(c)	0
<b>TOTAL (2022/23)</b>	<b>1</b>

### Classified Menacing dogs.

- 31 dogs were classified during 2022/2023 period

Menacing under s33A(1)(b)(i) (Behaviour)	12
Menacing under s33A(1)(b)(ii) (Characteristics)	0
Menacing under s33C(1) (Breed) ( <i>note 1 is breed and behaviour</i> )	19
<b>TOTAL (2022/23)</b>	<b>31</b>

- No objections were received for menacing dog classifications.

### Infringement notices issued.

- Bulk infringements were issued for unregistered dogs during November 2022.
- Most were written off once compliance was obtained and those not paid were lodged at court.

In Process (eg. Recently issued, reminder issued)	3
Paid	36
Written off	551
Ready for Court	12
Lodged at Court	445

**TOTAL ISSUED****1047****Dog control requests for service.**

- A total of 4680 animal related request for services were logged during this period of which 3166 were dog related. This is a 4.6 % decrease on 2021/2022.
- Reports of barking dogs, wandering dogs and dog attacks showed the largest decrease, while the largest increases were reports of dog rushing and secured dogs.
- The largest calls for service were in regards to Registration and Information which related to registration enquires, information required or relayed and stock on the road.

Request type	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Barking Dog	917	859	813	794	578
Dog attack	82	103	120	198	116
Dog rush	125	101	118	81	117
Ill treatment	38	32	53	27	27
Secured dog*	672	621	488	392	502
Rego/info	907	1069	1045	1088	1223
Trap	19	18	24	41	42
Wandering Animal	1186	964	901	698	561
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3946</b>	<b>3767</b>	<b>3562</b>	<b>3319</b>	<b>3166</b>

**Prosecution**

- There are currently three prosecutions in process before the Court.
- One 2020/2021 dog attack on a dogs was resolved in July 2022. The defendant had appealed the decision on two occasions, in both instances these were upheld. The dog owner has been disqualified and this is currently under appeal.

For any queries on this report please contact:

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