

Whanganui District Council

Report on Dog Control Policy and Practices

This report has been prepared to satisfy the requirements of Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996('the Act').

The report covers the 2015/2016 financial year.

Part 1 Dog Control Policy and Practices

1. Dog Control Policy and practices

- The new Dog Control Policy came into effect 22 days prior to the reporting year. The new policy that all dogs must be on a leash unless in a designated off leash area has been slow in the uptake. When advertising it showed an increase in compliance but officers noticed a slip back into old habits of holding the leash, allowing the dog in front under control.
- Limiting the number of dogs per property to three has been one message successfully complied with. Officers still encounter 'flatting' situations where more than three dogs are exceeded as another flatmate enters the house. We find many of these flats have frequent changes of occupants and fluctuating dog numbers.
- Enforced neutering of dogs deemed menacing by behaviour has worked really well. Most dogs were already impounded and left the pound for neutering before going home.

2. Dog control in the District

- Whanganui experienced a weather event on 20 June with a 10 day Civil Defence Emergency. Some urban areas remained no entry zones for over three weeks and there was an increase in reporting of lost dogs, found dogs and wandering dogs in these areas. We held 10 Huntaway's for a short term stay period in the pound.
- Registration was slow as a result of the event, but numbers caught up by November, although there was a decrease in dog numbers from the previous year. We delayed sighting of known dogs unregistered in our area until December/ January.
- Whanganui employs three full time officers who cover the 24/7 365 roster, by working one weekend three. Our part time pound assistant have had their hours increase to assist officers and a casual officer was employed and trained from late February as a backup, this has enabled us to provide better cover and quicker response times.
- Whanganui reduces what they attend after hours. These hours are from 5pm to 8am, cover includes;
 - i. Police call for assistance,
 - ii. Secured dogs,
 - iii. Stock on road,
 - iv. Dog attacks.

3. Dog registration and other fees.

- Non- working dog fees were increased along with impounding fees for the registration year.
- After our sightings were completed in January, infringement notices were issued to any known dog owner who had an unregistered dog in our database. They were given 28 days to pay the infringement in full to have the infringement waived. Only 29% of those infringed paid in full during that period.
- Registration statistics for the District were;

Number of dog owners 5,216

Number of registered dogs 7,266, comprising of;

7 guide dogs,

1,676 working dogs

5,583 non- working dogs.

From the total number of registered dogs, 5,078 had a status of 'good dog' which is 70%.

4. Dog control requests for service.

- A total of 6,845 request for services were logged during this period of which 6,437 were dog related. This is an increase on last year and we know not all requests are logged.

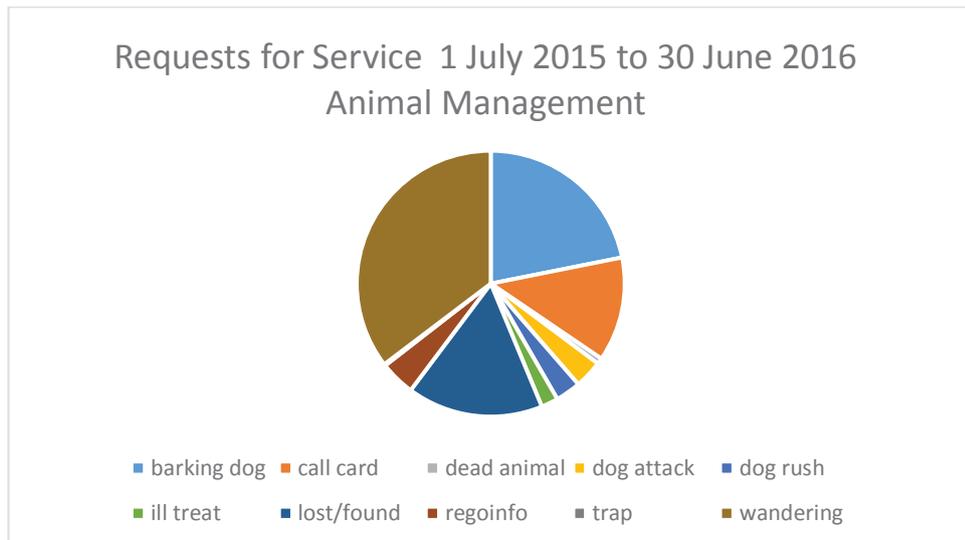
Type	
Barking dog	1406
Callcard	818
Dead animal	46
Dog attack	219
Dog rush	197
Ill treatment	132
Lost/found	1057
Rego/info	273
Trap	12
Wandering Animal	2277
	6437

Dog attacks were broken down into;

Dog attacks person 63

Dog attacks dog 57

Dog attack other 99



5. Dog education

- A two hour session on dog safety was provided in October 2015 to children at the library, and the opportunity was provided for those children who were unsure of dogs, to approach a dog and be individually instructed on safety around approaching dogs. This was combined with a colouring in competition around dog safety.
- Wells meter readers were provided with dog health and safety instructions in December 2015.
- Our dog hand book has been completely reviewed and rewritten providing all dog owners need to know and education for people who do not own dogs. Targeted distribution to the community was commenced.

6. Prosecution, disqualification and probationary status of dog owners

- Three successful prosecutions of owners were conducted during the year.
- Two disqualified owners for a period of two years.
- No owners made probationary.

7. Menacing by behaviour and dangerous dogs.

- No menacing by behaviour classifications given. Whanganui's Dog Control Policy and Bylaws require any dog deemed menacing by behaviour to be de-sexed.
- Six dangerous dog classifications.

Part 2 Statistical Information

Category	As at 30 June 2016
Total number of registered dogs	7611
Total number of probationary owners	0
Total number disqualified owners	3
Total number of dangerous dogs	25
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dangerous by owner conviction under s31(1)(a) 	0
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dangerous by sworn evidence s31((1)(b) 	16
Dangerous by owner admittance in writing s31(1)(c)	9
Total number menacing dogs	258
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Menacing under s33A(1)(b)(i) 	41
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Menacing under s33A(1)(b)(ii) 	0
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Menacing under s33C(1) 	217
Total number of infringement notices	607
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lodged at court 	233
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paid 	10
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Written off 	363
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In process 	0
Total number of dog related requests	6437
Total number of prosecutions taken against owners	3

Impounding statistics

A total of 724 dogs were impounded for the year. Wandering dogs made up 66% of all dogs impounded, owners need to be more aware that their dogs must be kept secure on the property. Whanganui accepts all dogs handed in by owners, we rehomed 7% of all dogs impounded.

