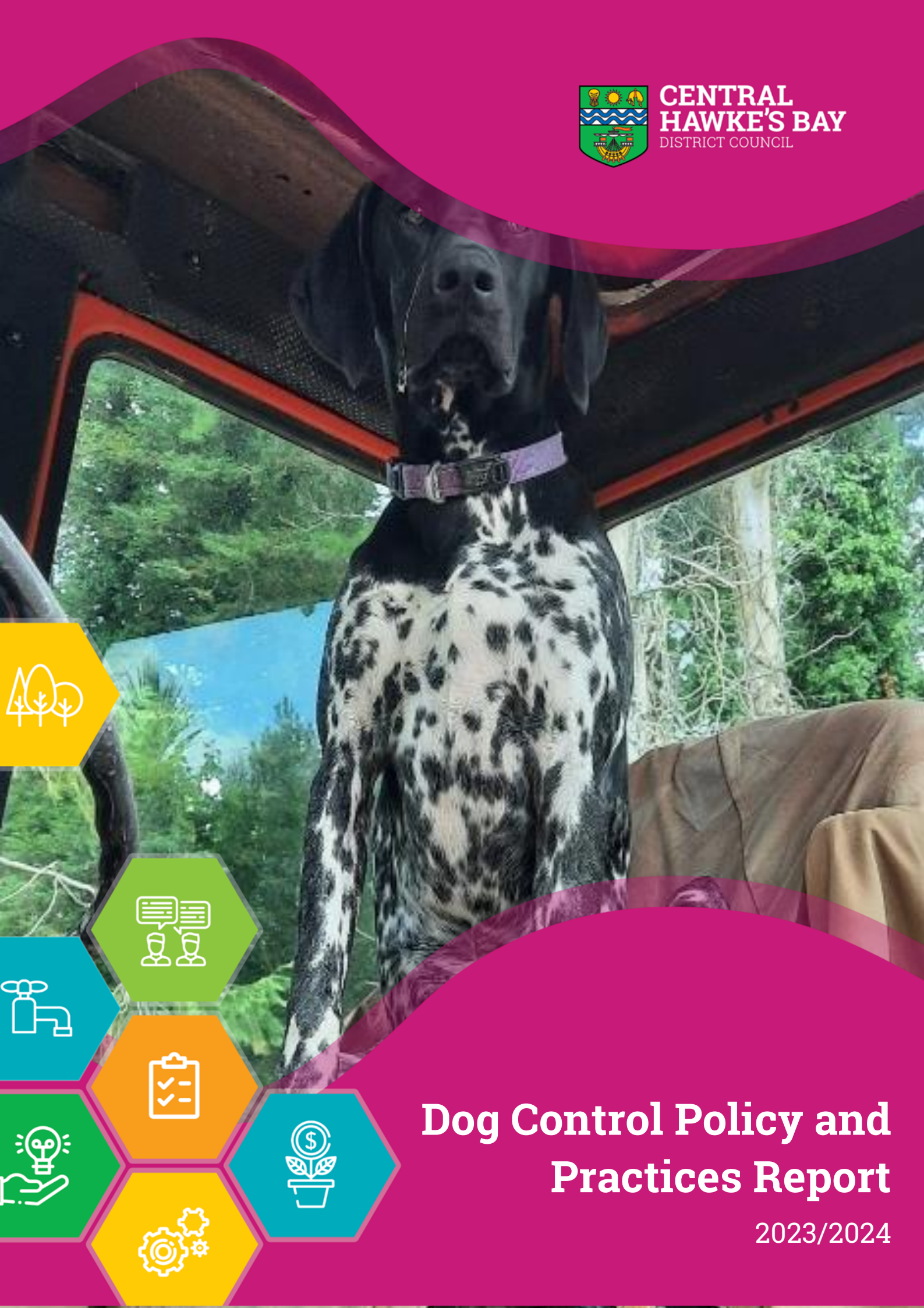




**CENTRAL
HAWKE'S BAY**
DISTRICT COUNCIL



Dog Control Policy and Practices Report

2023/2024

DOG CONTROL POLICY AND PRACTICES

ANNUAL REPORT 1 JULY 2023 -30 JUNE 2024

Introduction

The Central Hawke’s Bay District Council, as a territorial authority, is required to manage and enforce provisions pursuant to the Dog Control Act 1996 (the Act) and subsequent amendments in 2003, 2004, 2006 and 2010.

S10A of the Act requires the Council to report annually to the Secretary of Local Government on its Dog Control Policy and practices. This report fulfils this statutory requirement for the dog registration year: 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024.

The Animal Services focus area for the 23/24 year has been the alignment of Dog Policy and Practices with the Regulatory and Compliance Strategy. The main objective being to ensure consistency for the customer and to use the leavers afforded to Council by the legislation appropriately and proportionately. This priority has seen the team effect internal reviews to enable a continuous improvement model that promotes concise and appropriate outcomes for community.

For the effective implementation of policy, strategy and legislative alignment, a high level of staff training has been a priority over the previous 12 months. Across the compliance portfolio the team have completed advanced investigative training to understand the critical information collection process, which lead to a successful prosecution in the 23/24year. The ongoing internal reviews as have been implemented by the team in an aim to develop a comprehensive understanding of Central Hawke’s Bay District Council’s policies, procedures, and strategies.

Council’s Dog Policy and Practices

Council adopted its Dog Control Policy in June 2017. The objectives of the policy are to:

1. Provide a practical framework for the care and control of dogs throughout the district while minimising any danger, distress, and nuisance to the community in general.
2. Integrate control measures passed through the Dog Control Act and Council’s Dog Control Bylaws together with targeted education to modify the behaviour of both dogs and their owners to avoid nuisance situations.
3. Encourage owners to make better provision for the control and care of their dogs and to clarify why Council undertakes Dog Control functions, the way those functions are undertaken and how Council intends to make changes to continually improve the service.

Council’s Regulatory and Compliance Strategy

The Regulatory and Compliance Strategy sets out high-level guidance to regulatory compliance activities undertaken by Council’s Regulatory and Compliance Teams.

- The Enforcement Response Guidelines guides the Regulatory and Compliance team’s approach to enforcement in regard to decision-making and responses covering the range of compliance and enforcement tools available.
- The Prosecution Policy within the strategy sets out the principles and guidelines that managers (and delegation holders) will consider when deciding whether or not to initiate criminal or civil proceedings for offences under legislation enforced by Council.
- The Dog Control Act Diversion Scheme Policy in this strategy sets out the principles and guidelines that managers (and delegation holders) will consider when deciding whether or not to proceed with diversion vs criminal proceedings for offences under legislation enforced by the Council.

Fees for the 2023/2024 registration year

We offer a Responsible Dog Owner (RDO) status for owners who have lived in the area for one registration year. This status qualifies the owner for a discounted registration rate as noted below.

Category	Fees
Urban	\$124.00
Rural/Working Dogs	\$59.00
Responsible Dog Owner (RDO)	\$84.00
Gold Card Holders (Pensioners)	\$59.00

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

This year we have continued to focus on proactive communication around what our Animal Services and Compliance Team provides to the Community.

We have also had a concerted effort to ensure that all known dogs are registered in the District. This has been reflective in the total number of dogs now registered in the District. We have been active in the community throughout the year attending the community roadshows and other community events, engaging in dog safety education at schools and our facilities.

With the additional resources in the Animal Services team, we have seen a measured increase across all metrics that we measure. The greatest increase being the impounding of dogs. The team proactively engages in mobile patrols, whilst one of the team prioritises incoming requests. This has gained positive results with our dog registration statistics, achieving 97% of all known dogs being registered in the 2023-2024 year.

DOG CONTROL STATISTICS

Number of Dogs Registered

2023/2024	2022/2023	2021/2022	2020/2021	2019/2020
5584	5451	5295	5091	5224

Dangerous and Menacing

The number of dogs classified as dangerous (under section 31 Dog Control Act 1996)

Category	2023/2024
Dangerous by owner conviction S31(1)(a)	9
Dangerous by sworn evidence S31(1)(b)	19
Dangerous by owner admitting in writing S31(1)(C)	
Total dangerous dogs in the district	32
Total number of dogs classified in 2023/24 year	20

The number of dogs classified as menacing (under section 33A or section 33C Dog Control Act 1996)

Category	2023/2024
Menacing by behaviour S33A(1)(b)(i)	14
Menacing by breed characteristics S33A(1)(b)(ii)	1
Menacing by Schedule 4 breed S33C(1)	
Total menacing dogs in the district	15
Total number of dogs classified in 2023/24 year	10

Number of infringements notices issued

2023/2024	2022/2023	2021/2022	2020/2021	2019/2020
161	162	407	33	75

Probationary owners and disqualified owners

Probationary	Disqualified
1	5

Number of dog owners prosecuted by Central Hawke’s Bay District Council

There was 1 dog owner prosecuted by the Central Hawke’s Bay District Council in the 2023/2024 year. Within our Regulatory and Compliance Strategy we have a framework which has three key elements;

- Monitoring compliance – developing strategic compliance monitoring programmes to assess compliance and detect potential non-compliance.
- Encouraging compliance – engaging, educating and enabling regulated parties, and utilising appropriate enforcement options to bring about positive behaviour change when non-compliances are detected.
- Dealing with non-compliance – utilising a range of enforcement tools to deal with non-compliance.

This ensures a consistent approach in the way that we manage non-compliance in the animal services and compliance activity. Whilst prosecution is one of the tools that Council must ensure compliance, we have used other compliance tools for dealing with the attacks that have occurred in the district. We have also sought legal advice with several attacks to ensure we are meeting our obligations under the Dog Control Act 1996.

Dog-related complaints

Category	2023/2024	2022/2023	2021/2022	2020/2021	2019/2020
Attacks on people	13	13	3	7	14
Attacks on dogs/animals	33	30	26	29	17
Barking dogs	105	122	87	103	97
Uncontrolled dogs i.e., rushing	20	34	45	29	33
Miscellaneous/Bylaw breach i.e., not on lead, fouling, general enquiries	541	458	434	390	309
Wandering and/or impounded	254	204	235	219	211
Total	953	861	830	777	681

PARTNERSHIP WITH THE RUAHINE ANIMAL RESCUE (RAR)

With the closure of the SPCA site locally, a need has arisen that falls outside of the statutory obligation of the Council’s scope regarding animal welfare. The RAR is made of volunteers that work tirelessly for the welfare of animals and wish to maintain that valuable work. They have been formally operational for 6 months and in that time, they have received 105 requests for welfare assistance. The RAR have had 60 animals through their care and 46 rehomed. Both the RAR and the Animal Services staff maintain a good working relationship with the SPCA.