



DOG CONTROL POLICY AND PRACTICES REPORT

ANNUAL REPORT 2019 - 2020

ANNUAL REPORT 1 JULY 2019 -30 JUNE 2020

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: 1st July 2019 to 30 June 2020.

The Council’s Dog Policy and Practices

The 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

Fees

The dog control fees increased in the 2019/20 year. There was an early bird discount of \$10.00 per dog available to those customers who paid their registration by 1 July.

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

Category	Fees
Urban	\$110.00
Rural	\$54.00
Responsible Dog Owner (RDO)	\$75.00
Gold Card Holders (Pensioners)	\$37.00

Key Achievements

Community engagement

This year we continue to have a focus on proactive communication around what our animal services and compliance team provide to the Community.

This year we have continued to improve our overall engagement with the community, including holding our first ‘Doggie Day Out’ event. The ‘Doggie Day Out’ was a great chance for the community to come and see what animal services is all about and for us to provide key messages about safety and the responsibility of being a good dog owner. We had a number of stalls set up on the day, which included a range of animal services. Due to the success of last year’s event we are hosting another ‘Doggie Day Out’ in November.

We also were a main attraction at the ‘Children’s Day’ event held at Russell Park where we had a fun and interactive stall where kids could come and learn about dog safety and how to safety approach a dog with key messaging around “*check its sweet before you meet*”.

We got out into the community around dog registration time and offered ‘pop-ups’ in the community to come and register your dog as well as offering microchipping services.

Education

We completed our first ever ‘All Ears Programme’ at the Waipawa Library, working with students from the Waipawa Primary School to gain confidence in their reading by reading to a dog in the library on a weekly basis. We are looking at how we can offer this to other schools in the district over the coming year.

We have recently rolled out our ‘Dog Safety’ messaging to our in-house contractors and have also provided dog safety training at our local Waipukurau Health Centre. We have received positive feedback on the quality of the presentation and key messages provided. We are now offering this community wide to organisations that are out and about in our community where they may encounter dogs on properties.

Our next step is to work with other local providers like vet services to ensure that we are not duplicating services offered in regards to dog safety in schools. We are also looking at focusing on pre-school providers to see what additional safety messages we can provide around keeping yourself around dogs.

DOG CONTROL STATISTICS

Number of Dogs Registered

2019/2020	2018/2019	2017/2018	2016/2017
5224	5211	5117	5047

Dangerous and Menacing

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

Category	2019/2020
Dangerous by owner conviction S31(1)(a)	0
Dangerous by sworn evidence S31(1)(b)	4
Dangerous by owner admitting in writing S31(1)(C)	3
Total number of dogs classified in 2019/20 year	7
Total dangerous dogs in the District	5

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

Category	2019/2020
Menacing by behaviour S33A(1)(b)(i)	9
Menacing by breed characteristics S33A(1)(b)(ii)	0
Menacing by Schedule 4 breed S33C(1)	1
Total number of dogs classified in 2019/20 year	10
Total menacing dogs in the District	26

Number of infringement notices issued

2019/2020	2018/2019	2017/2018	2017/2016
75	85	24	72

Probationary owners and disqualified owners

Probationary	Disqualified
0	0

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

1. Council versus McIntyre

Dog-related complaints

Category	2019/2020	2018/2019	2017/2018*	2016/2017
Attacks on people	14	8	3	6
Attacks on dogs/animals	17	11	7	16
Barking dogs	97	85	172	81
Uncontrolled dogs i.e rushing	33	10		27
Miscellaneous / Bylaw breach i.e. wandering, not on lead, fouling	309	237		136
Wandering and/or Impounded	211	142	68	105
Total	681	493	250	371