



**CENTRAL  
HAWKE'S BAY**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL



# Dog Control Policy and Practices Report

2022/2023

# DOG CONTROL POLICY AND PRACTICES

## ANNUAL REPORT 1 JULY 2022 -30 JUNE 2023

### 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 2022 to 30 June 2023.

### 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 for the 2022/2023 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	\$110.00
Rural/Working Dogs	\$52.00
Responsible Dog Owner (RDO)	\$73.00
Gold Card Holders (Pensioners)	\$50.00

### Key Achievements

#### *Lifelong Tags*

As part of the Waste Free CHB Strategy we have introduced lifelong tags. We have received positive feedback on the change with only a few minor issues with the quality of the tags which our current supplier is working with us on.

#### *Education*

We have had a strong focus on dog safety education. We have offered and presented dog safety presentations to several schools in the district, as well as external businesses.

We have also offered dog safety through our programmes being held at the Te Huinga Wai and the Waipawa Library. We have received positive feedback from those that have attended these sessions, and we will continue to offer this programme.

Education will continue to be a strong focus on for the 2023-2024 year as we have seen an increase in dog attacks in our district.

#### *Community Engagement*

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

We have also had a concerted effort as mentioned above 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.

#### *Regulatory and Compliance Strategy in Action*

The Regulatory and Compliance Strategy (Strategy) has been, and continues to be, a key framework for how we manage compliance across the organisation in a consistent manner. We have a strong focus on education to gain compliance. Within the Strategy there is a graduated approach to compliance, with the ability to utilise other tools within the strategy which range from education, warnings and infringements through to prosecution. These tools ensure that we are meeting our obligations as a territorial authority under the Dog Control Act 1996.

This has gained positive results with our dog registration statistics, achieving 97% of all known dogs were registered in the 2022-2023.

## DOG CONTROL STATISTICS

### Number of Dogs Registered

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

### Dangerous and Menacing

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

Category	2022/2023
Dangerous by owner conviction S31(1)(a)	2
Dangerous by sworn evidence S31(1)(b)	3
Dangerous by owner admitting in writing S31(1)(C)	2
<b>Total dangerous dogs in the district</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Total number of dogs classified in 2022/23 year</b>	<b>2</b>

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

Category	2022/2023
Menacing by behaviour S33A(1)(b)(i)	14
Menacing by breed characteristics S33A(1)(b)(ii)	3
Menacing by Schedule 4 breed S33C(1)	3
<b>Total menacing dogs in the district</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Total number of dogs classified in 2022/23 year</b>	<b>1</b>

### Number of infringements notices issued

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

### Probationary owners and disqualified owners

Probationary	Disqualified
1	3

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

There were no dog owners prosecuted by the Central Hawke's Bay District Council in the 2022/2023 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 has to 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	2022/2023	2021/2022	2020/2021	2019/2020
Attacks on people	13	3	7	14
Attacks on dogs/animals	30	26	29	17
Barking dogs	122	87	103	97
Uncontrolled dogs i.e., rushing	34	45	29	33
Miscellaneous/Bylaw breach i.e., not on lead, fouling, general enquiries	458	434	390	309
Wandering and/or impounded	204	235	219	211
<b>Total</b>	<b>861</b>	<b>830</b>	<b>777</b>	<b>681</b>