



**CENTRAL
HAWKE'S BAY**
DISTRICT COUNCIL



Dog Control Policy and Practices Report

2021/2022

DOG CONTROL POLICY AND PRACTICES

ANNUAL REPORT 1 JULY 2021 -30 JUNE 2022

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 2021 to 30 June 2022.

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 2021/2022 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 you for a discounted registration rate as noted below.

Category	Fees
Urban	\$108.00
Rural/Working Dogs	\$51.00
Responsible Dog Owner (RDO)	\$71.50
Gold Card Holders (Pensioners)	\$45.00

Key Achievements

Customer Service

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. These

‘pop ups’ are a great opportunity to be present in the community and these ‘pop’ ups have rolled over to the month of August.

Education

Last year we rolled out our ‘Dog Safety’ messaging to our internal contractors and some external businesses. We have received positive feedback on the quality of the presentation and key messages provided, as noted in the most recent Residents Opinion Survey Results.

Whilst we have not delivered the ‘Dog Safety’ messaging to any new external businesses in the last financial year, we are planning to promote this to ensure that the community are aware of what we can offer.

We have not been able to have an active presence in promoting ‘Dog Safety’ in our schools due to the restrictions with COVID-19 and resourcing.

Now that we are back to a full complement of staff in this activity, we are preparing to actively promote and engage with our local schools on what we can provide to our young tamariki about keeping themselves safe around dogs.

Nationally, and locally there has been a significant increase in the dog population and “rushing” incidences noted. Dog safety and awareness education is an effective tool that our Animal Services Team can offer to the community to ensure they are best placed to keep themselves safe.

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.

The Animal Services Team has been fortunate enough to resource two additional Animal Services and Compliance Officers for the registration period of 1 July – 30 June 2022. Their priority and focus being proactive engagement with dog owners and the wider community. Consequently, due to this proactive engagement the team have actively found 132 unregistered dogs, in a brief period, and whilst this is concerning, it is an indication of the work required within this space. We have made it a priority to assist these dog owners in getting these dogs fully compliant.

This positive interaction within the community with the Animal Services and Compliance Team goes a long way to destigmatize our team as we continue to ensure we are living the thrive values, while ensuring we meet our obligations under the Dog Control Act 1996 (Act).

With a new Regulatory and Compliance Strategy approved late last year, this has also enabled our team to continue focusing on educating our dog owners around their responsibilities under the Act, which has allowed us to work in a positive space to gain greater awareness, as opposed to retrospective non-compliance action.

DOG CONTROL STATISTICS

Number of Dogs Registered

2021/2022	2020/2021	2019/2020	2018/2019
5295	5091	5224	5211

Dangerous and Menacing

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

Category	2021-2022
Dangerous by owner conviction S31(1)(a)	1
Dangerous by sworn evidence S31(1)(b)	3
Dangerous by owner admitting in writing S31(1)(C)	0
Total number of dogs classified in 2020/21 year	4
Total dangerous dogs in the district	10

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

Category	2021/2022
Menacing by behaviour S33A(1)(b)(i)	11
Menacing by breed characteristics S33A(1)(b)(ii)	
Menacing by Schedule 4 breed S33C(1)	1
Total number of dogs classified in 2020/21 year	12
Total menacing dogs in the district	24

Number of infringements relating to dog behaviour

2021/2022	2020/2021	2019/2020	2018/2019
94	33	75	85

Number of infringements relating to failure to register

2021/2022
313

Probationary owners and disqualified owners

Probationary	Disqualified
0	0

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 2020/2021 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	2021/2022	2020/2021	2019/2020	2018/2019
Attacks on people	3	7	14	8
Attacks on dogs/animals	26	29	17	11
Barking dogs	87	103	97	85
Uncontrolled dogs i.e., rushing	45	29	33	10
Miscellaneous/Bylaw breach i.e., not on lead, fouling, general enquiries	434	390	309	237
Wandering and/or impounded	235	219	211	142
Total	830	777	681	493