

SOUTH WAIRARAPA DISTRICT COUNCIL

15 OCTOBER 2014

AGENDA ITEM C2

REPORT ON DOG CONTROL POLICY AND PRACTICES – 2013/2014 YEAR REPORT NO 10

Purpose of Report

To report on the Dog Control Policy and practices for 2013/2014 for adoption by Council.

Recommendations

Officers recommend that the Council:

1. *Receive the report.*
2. *That pursuant to Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996, the attached report on Dog Control Policy and Practices for 2013/14 year be adopted, publicly notified, and forwarded to the Secretary for Local Government.*

1. Background and Discussion

Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996 requires Council to publicly report each financial year on the administration of our Dog Control Policy and practices, along with the relevant statistics related to dog control.

The report must then be made available to the community and publicly notified.

Council is also required to provide a copy of the report to the Secretary for Local Government within one month after adopting the report.

2. Appendices

Appendix 1 – South Wairarapa District Council Report on Dog Control Policy and Practices for 2013/14 year Report No 10.

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Reviewed by: Murray Buchanan, Group Manager Planning and Environment

**Appendix 1 - South
Wairarapa District Council
Report on Dog Control Fees
and Policy 2013/14 Year**

THIS REPORT CONTAINS INFORMATION AND STATISTICS ON THE COUNCIL'S DOG CONTROL ACTIVITY OR THE YEAR 1 JULY 2013 TO 30 JUNE 2014.

1. Dog Control in the South Wairarapa

The South Wairarapa District Council is situated at the southern most corner of the North Island and has an area of approximately 248,455 hectares (2484 square kilometres). It is a rural area, which is reflected in the 1925 rural dogs currently registered.

Council employs one Bylaws Officer who undertakes dog control activities as part of his role and a part time administrator who provides support services. A casual Bylaws officer was employed to assist during the holiday periods and during staff leave.

Council in order to better manage workloads intends to employ a permanent but part time Bylaws officer by December 2014.

24 hour 7 day coverage is provided to Martinborough, Greytown and Featherston, (the 3 main towns). On weekends and public holidays Council employs a contractor to provide dog control services. Council works closely with local veterinarians, the SPCA branch in Masterton and the Police.

Council continues to make significant effort to follow up unregistered dogs and dogs required to be microchipped.

2. Dog Registration, Enforcement and Service Request Statistics for South Wairarapa District Council

Dog Registration, Enforcement and Service Request Statistics	Numbers
Total number of dog owners in the district	1612
Number of probationary owners	0
Number of disqualified owners	0
Number of registered dogs in the South Wairarapa District	2784
Number of rural dogs	1925
Number of urban dogs	945
Number of dogs classified as dangerous under Section 31	2
Section 31 1(a) due to owner conviction	0
Section 31 1(b) due to sworn evidence	2
Section 31 1(c) due to owner admittance	0
Total number of dogs classified as menacing	28
Dogs classified as menacing under Section 33A <i>(Section 33A 1(b) - the territorial authority considers the dog may pose a threat to any person, stock, poultry, domestic animal, or protected wildlife).</i>	

Dog Registration, Enforcement and Service Request Statistics	Numbers
Dogs classified as menacing under Section 33C	13
<i>(Section 33C (1) - the territorial authority has reasonable grounds to believe that the dog belongs wholly or predominantly to one or more breeds or types listed in Schedule 4 of the amendment Act 2004).</i>	15
Number of infringement notices issued	119
Failing to register a dog	82
Failure to keep dog controlled or confined	2
Failure to keep dog under control	7
Failure to implant microchip transponder	25
Failure to comply with the effect of Dangerous classification	1
Failure to comply with the effect of Menacing classification	1
Failure to carry a leash	1

3. Complaints Commentary

Number of complaint requests received.

Complaints	Numbers
Barking / Whining	34
Aggressive behaviour / Rushing	14
Wandering/fouling	73
Attack on Persons	5
Stock complaints	39
Attack on Pets	15
Welfare concerns	2
Found dogs	31
Lost dogs	24

4. Dogs Prohibited, Leash Only and Dog Exercise Areas

The Dog Control Bylaw 2013 sets out the areas in the district which are "Dog Prohibited", "Leash Only" and "Dog Exercise Areas".

A new off leash dog exercise area has been completed for Greytown. All 3 towns in South Wairarapa now have suitable areas for exercise and recreational needs of dogs. All off leash areas have free dog "poo" bags and suitable disposal receptacles.

5. Dog Registration and Other Fees

Registration fees for dogs are set each year in April and publicly notified at the beginning of June.

2014/2015 registration fees are \$80.00 for Urban Dogs and \$44.00 for Rural Dogs, which include the fees to cover the National Dog Database costs. Owners on rural properties pay a flat fee for multiple dogs on the property. Discounts are given to neutered dogs.

5.1 Control of Dogs Policy and Bylaw Review

Council has reviewed its Control of Dogs Policy and Bylaw. The Policy and Bylaw were adopted by Council on 19 September 2013.

5.2 Other Services

Dog barking collars are available to dog owners. Council has encouraged use of the collars on dogs subject to complaints of persistent barking. These have been effective.

Dog "poo" bags and sanitizer are available at a nominal cost to the public to encourage dog owners to "do the right thing" and reduce fouling in public places.

5.3 Annual Property Visits

Annual property inspections have not been routinely undertaken for all properties. Property inspections are completed as a part of complaint investigations and tracking down unregistered dogs and owners who fail to meet their obligations.

5.4 Owner Education

Every opportunity to inform and educate the public about responsible dog ownership is taken. Planned school education programs have had to be deferred. It is anticipated that Council will address this in 2014-2015.