

INFORMATION AND STATISTICS ON COUNCILS DOG CONTROL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR 1 JULY 2022 TO 30 JUNE 2023

1. Dog Control in the South Wairarapa

The district is situated in the southern part of Wairarapa and the southeastern most part of the North Island. It covers an area of 2,484 square kilometers. It is mainly a rural area, although it contains three small towns, Featherston, Martinborough and Greytown.

The Council employs two full-time Regulatory Officers who are responsible for carrying out day-to-day dog and animal control activities as well as bylaws compliance monitoring and enforcement.

Council works with local veterinarians, the SPCA and the Police, when carrying out its functions.

2. Dog Registration and Other Fees

The registration fees for dogs were approved on 15 June 2022 and publicly notified.

No adjustments to our fees were made.

Council has maintained different registration categories and fees for urban and rural dogs as well as desexed or entire dogs. These categories generally reflect that rural dogs require less work for Council officers and desexed dogs are less likely to roam and display aggressive behaviours.

2.1 Control of Dogs Policy and Bylaw

The Policy and Bylaw were adopted by Council on 19 September 2013. These were overdue for review. A review of the Wairarapa Combined Bylaw was undertaken as a priority with Carterton and Masterton District Councils. A wider bylaw review for the non-consolidated bylaws has taken place in conjunction with reviewing the Dog Control Policy and was adopted on the 27 September 2023 with one amendment.

2.2 General

Dog collars are available for purchase for all dog owners at Council's. Martinborough office, Featherston and Greytown service centers.

Bylaws Officers and management are now placing greater emphasis on impounding dogs. The fees associated with impoundment include a tiered impounding fee which escalates for subsequent impoundment. This approach has started now that Council's new dog pound facility is operating.

3. General comments on animal management

3.1 New Pound

The new off the grid Dog Pound was completed in April 2023 and became operational on 29 May 2023. On 28 July 2023 Council received a national super idea award for the new Pound concept and facility.

3.2 Community education

The council has a key performance indicator in our dog control area that requires three community education sessions to be undertaken each year.

Officers are looking to do wider offerings of these education courses to businesses who may be involved with accessing private property (e.g. rental managers, tradespeople, meter readers)

4. Dogs Prohibited, Leash Only and Dog Exercises Areas

Council's Bylaw sets out the areas which are "Dog Prohibited", "Leash Only" and "Dog Exercise Areas".

Officers discovered there were on/off leash discrepancies between Council's Control of Dogs Bylaw 2013 and the Control of Dogs Policy 2013. These were reviewed and aligned on the 27 September 2023.

5. Complaints Commentary

Number of complaints received.

Complaints	Numbers		
	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023
Barking / Whining	47	35	30
Aggressive behaviour / Rushing	16	14	8
Wandering/fouling/uncontrolled	134	121	73
Attack on Person	7	7	6
Attack on stock	0	1	4
Attack on Pet	16	12	5
Welfare concerns	4	4	4
Lost dogs	31	13	5
Found dogs (of which were lost)	30	2	4
Total	297	209	139

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

Dog Registration, Enforcement and Service Request Statistics	Numbers		
	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023
Number of dog owners	2022	2086	2110
Number of probationary owners	0	0	0
Number of disqualified owners	0	0	0
Number of registered dogs	3383	3493	3388
Number of rural dogs	2090	2180	2184
Number of urban dogs	1298	1313	1333
Number of dogs classified as dangerous under Section 31	1	2	2
Clause 1(a) due to owner conviction	1	1	1
Clause 1(b) due to sworn evidence	0	0	0
Clause 1(c) due to owner admittance	0	0	0
Number of dogs classified as menacing	33	29	26
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>	16	16	18
Dogs classified as menacing under Section 33C <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>	17	10	7
Infringement notices issued	104	129	132
Failing to register	97	121	123
Failure to keep dog controlled or confined	1	0	0
Failure to keep dog under control	3	6	7
Failure to implant microchip transponder	0	0	0
Failure to comply with the effect of dangerous classification	0	0	0
Failure to comply with the effect of menacing classification	0	1	1
Failure to carry a leash	0	0	0
Failure to comply with Bylaw	3	1	0
Failure to undertake owner education programme or dog obedience course (or both)	0	0	0
Impounded dogs	70	26	28