

# SOUTH WAIRARAPA DISTRICT COUNCIL

1<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021

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## DOG CONTROL POLICY AND PRACTICES - REPORT FOR 2020/2021

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### **Purpose of Report**

To enable Council to adopt the report on dog control policy and practices so as to meet the requirements of Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996.

### **Recommendations**

Officers recommend that the Council:

1. *Receive the Dog Control Policy and Practices Report for 2020/2021*
2. *Recommend to Council that pursuant to Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996, the attached report (Appendix 1) on Dog Control Policy and Practices for 2020/2021 be adopted.*
3. *Recommend to Council that officers be authorised to publicly notify the report.*

## **1. Background**

Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996 requires Council to publicly report, at the end of each financial year, on the implementation of our Dog Control Policy, our dog control practices and relevant statistics on dog control related matters for the district.

The report must be available to the public and notified by a public notice.

## **2. Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Dog Control Policy and Practices Report for 2020/2021.

Contact Officer: Rick Mead, Manager Environmental Services

Approved by: Russell O'Leary, Group Manager Planning and Environment

**Appendix 1 - Dog Control  
Policy and Practices - Report  
for 2020/2021**

# ***INFORMATION AND STATISTICS ON COUNCILS DOG CONTROL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR 1 JULY 2019 TO 30 JUNE 2020***

## **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.

Council employs three full time Bylaws/Animal Officers who are responsible for carrying out day-to-day dog and animal control activities as well as bylaws compliance monitoring and enforcement. These officers provide 24 hour 7 days per week coverage as required.

During this period Council has had no interruptions to staffing of the roles.

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

## **2. Dog Registration and Other Fees**

The registration fees for dogs were approved in June 2021 and publicly notified.

Small adjustments to our fees were made across the board in order to cover increased operating costs.

Council has maintained different registration categories and fees for urban and rural dogs as well as desexed or entire dogs.

### **2.1 Control of Dogs Policy and Bylaw**

The Policy and Bylaw were adopted by Council on 19 September 2013. These are up for review in the forthcoming year. A review of the Wairarapa Combined Bylaw was undertaken with Carterton and Masterton District Councils. A wider bylaw review for the non-consolidated bylaws is due to take place in conjunction with reviewing the Dog Control Policy.

### **2.2 General**

Council continues to provide some auxiliary items such as Dog collars, Bark collars, etc., which are available for purchase for all dog owners at Council's Martinborough office, Featherston and Greytown service centers.

Officers and management are now placing greater emphasis on a graduated response model when looking at enforcement activities. The fees associated with impoundment include a tiered impounding fee which escalates for subsequent impoundment.

## **3. General comments on animal management**

### **3.1 New Pound**

Officers are continuing to investigate the establishment of a new compliant dog pound facility. Currently, officers are investigating the feasibility of

options which include a combined facility with other local Councils or a standalone option within the South Wairarapa District.

### 3.2 Community education

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 and tradespeople).

## 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".

## 5. Complaints Commentary

Number of complaints received.

Complaints	Numbers		
	2018/19	2019/2020	2020/21
Barking / Whining	41	24	47
Aggressive behaviour / Rushing	17	11	16
Wandering/fouling/uncontrolled	137	94	134
Attack on Person	6	13	7
Attack on stock	0	3	0
Attack on Pet	14	11	16
Welfare concerns	0	3	4
Lost dogs	22	16	31
Found dogs (of which were lost)	18	16	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>297</b>
		<b>Impact of Covid 19</b>	

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

Dog Registration, Enforcement and Service Request Statistics	Numbers		
	2018/19	2019/2020	2020/21
Number of dog owners	1863	1941	2022
Number of probationary owners	0	0	0
Number of disqualified owners	0	0	0
Number of registered dogs	3125	3273	3388
Number of rural dogs	1941	2035	2090
Number of urban dogs	1184	1238	1298
Number of dogs classified as dangerous under Section 31	1	1	1
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	20	23	33
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>	9	9	16
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>	11	10	17
Infringement notices issued	184	120	104
Failing to register	128	92	97
Failure to keep dog controlled or confined	3	5	1
Failure to keep dog under control	4	1	3
Failure to implant microchip transponder	46	19	0
Failure to comply with the effect of dangerous classification	0	0	0
Failure to comply with the effect of menacing classification	0	2	0
Failure to carry a leash	0	0	0
Failure to comply with Bylaw	3	1	3
Failure to undertake owner education programme or dog obedience course (or both)	0	0	0
Impounded dogs	95	76	70