

SOUTH WAIRARAPA DISTRICT COUNCIL

20 NOVEMBER 2019

AGENDA ITEM B1

DOG CONTROL POLICY AND PRACTICES REPORT FOR 2018/2019

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 2018/2019.*
- 2. That pursuant to Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996, the attached report (Appendix 1) on Dog Control Policy and Practices for 2018/19 be adopted.*
- 3. That Officer's be authorised to publicly notify the report and forward it to the Secretary for Local Government.*

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 public notice.

Council is also required to service a copy of the report to the Secretary for Local Government, Department of Internal Affairs, within one month of adopting the report.

2. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Dog Control Policy and Practices Report for 2018/19

Contact Officer: Russell O'Leary, Group Manager Planning and Environment

Appendix 1 - Dog Control Policy and Practices - Report for 2018/2019

INFORMATION AND STATISTICS ON COUNCILS DOG CONTROL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR 1 JULY 2018 TO 30 JUNE 2019

1. Dog Control in the South Wairarapa

The district is situated in the southern part of Wairarapa and the south eastern 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 two full time Bylaws 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 two roles.

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 in June 2018 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. 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 are overdue for review in the forthcoming year. 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 are due to take place in conjunction with reviewing the Dog Control Policy.

2.2 General

Dog collars are available for purchase for all dog owners at Council's Martinborough office.

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 is anticipated to begin in earnest once a new dog pound facility is built (in the coming year).

3. General comments on animal management

3.1 New Pound

Council has approved a doubling of the budget for the new dog pound facility to a total of \$240,000. This continues to be an on-going point of discussion for Councillors. A decision on the new pound will be for the new Council to determine after the local government elections. The feasibility of a joint pound facility is being explored in conjunction with Carterton District Council. Progress on the matter will be on an agenda item for the next Planning and Regulatory Committee.

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".

Officers have discovered there are discrepancies between Council's Control of Dogs Bylaw 2013 and the Control of Dogs Policy 2013. These are due for review and will begin in early 2020. The misalignments will be corrected. One such example relates to where a dog is required to be leashed, with one document requiring leashing in all public places while the other document only requires leashing in urban public places.

5. Complaints Commentary

Number of complaints received.

Complaints	Numbers		
	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Barking / Whining	43	36	41
Aggressive behaviour / Rushing	17	9	17
Wandering/fouling	138	161	137
Attack on Person	6	6	6
Attack on stock	0	6	0
Attack on Pet	16	12	14
Welfare concerns	6	7	0
Found dogs	0	28	18
Lost dogs	42	29	22
Total	268	294	255

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

Dog Registration, Enforcement and Service Request Statistics	Numbers		
	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Number of dog owners	1753	1821	1863
Number of probationary owners	0	1	0
Number of disqualified owners	0	0	0
Number of registered dogs	2974	3040	3125
Number of rural dogs	1866	1885	1941
Number of urban dogs	1108	1155	1184
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	23	20	20
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>	12	8	9
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	12	11
Infringement notices issued	149	125	184
Failing to register	102	95	128
Failure to keep dog controlled or confined	7	7	3
Failure to keep dog under control	1	10	4
Failure to implant microchip transponder	36	10	46
Failure to comply with the effect of dangerous classification	0	0	0
Failure to comply with the effect of menacing classification	2	0	0
Failure to carry a leash	0	0	0
Failure to comply with Bylaw	1	1	3
Failure to undertake owner education programme or dog obedience course (or both)	0	0	0
Impounded dogs	65	103	95