

DOG CONTROL POLICY AND PRACTICES 2024/2025

INFORMATION AND STATISTICS ON COUNCILS DOG CONTROL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR 1 JULY 2024 TO 30 JUNE 2025

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.

The council works with local veterinarians, SPCA and Police, when carrying out its functions.

Dog Registration and Other Fees

The registration fees for dogs were approved on 30 April 2025 and were publicly notified.

An adjustment of 3% was made to all fees and charges.

The 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.

Control of Dogs Policy and Bylaw

In 2023 a wider bylaw review for the non-consolidated bylaws took place in conjunction with reviewing the Control of Dogs Policy. This was adopted on the 27 September 2023 with one amendment.

The Control of Dogs Policy is next due for review 27 September 2028.

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.

GENERAL COMMENTS ON ANIMAL MANAGEMENT

Online declaration process for dog registration

For the 2025/2026 dog registration year council provided dog owners the ability to complete their applications online. Owners completing their dog registration online were able to

complete and sign an online declaration along with their payment. A total of 271 declarations were completed online as of 30 June 2025.

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. This year officers completed two sessions. One with a local community group and another at a publicly run dog event.

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

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". Discrepancies in the by-law and the policy were rectified and reported on in the end of year report for 2023.

Complaints Commentary

Number of complaints received.

Complaints	Numbers		
	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025
Barking / Whining	30	41	24
Aggressive behaviour / Rushing	8	3	5
Wandering/fouling/uncontrolled	73	83	35
Attack on Person	6	6	5
Attack on stock	4	6	7
Attack on Pet	5	3	4
Welfare concerns	4	0	2
Lost dogs	5	5	1
Found dogs (of which were lost)	4	5	0
Total	139	152	83

DOG REGISTRATION, ENFORCEMENT AND SERVICE REQUEST STATISTICS FOR SOUTH WAIRARAPA DISTRICT COUNCIL

Dog Registration, Enforcement and Service Request Statistics	Numbers		
	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025
Number of dog owners	2110	2117	2040
Number of probationary owners	0	0	0
Number of disqualified owners	0	0	0
Number of registered dogs	3388	3410	3328
Number of rural dogs	2184	2091	2021
Number of urban dogs	1333	1319	1307
Number of dogs classified as dangerous under Section 31	2	1	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	1
Number of dogs classified as menacing	26	25	23
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>	18	19	17
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>	7	6	6
Infringement notices issued	132	145	118
Failing to register	123	101	89
Failure to keep dog controlled or confined	0	0	8
Failure to keep dog under control	7	10	0
Failure to implant microchip transponder	0	34	0
Failure to comply with the effect of dangerous classification	0	0	0

Dog Registration, Enforcement and Service Request Statistics	Numbers		
	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025
Failure to comply with the effect of menacing classification	1	0	0
Failure to carry a leash	0	0	0
Failure to comply with Bylaw	0	0	1
Failure to undertake owner education programme or dog obedience course (or both)	0	0	0
Impounded dogs	28	37	21