

SOUTH WAIRARAPA DISTRICT COUNCIL

21 SEPTEMBER 2022

AGENDA ITEM C6

DOG CONTROL POLICY AND PRACTICES 2021/2022

Purpose of Report

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

Recommendations

Officers recommend that Council:

1. *Receive the 'Dog Control Policy and Practices 2021/2022' Report*
2. *Recommend that pursuant to Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996, the attached report (Appendix 1) on Dog Control Policy and Practices for 2021/2022 be adopted.*
3. *Recommend 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 2021/2022

Contact Officer: Rick Mead, Manager Environmental Services

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

Appendix 1 - Dog Control Policy and Practices 2021/2022

INFORMATION AND STATISTICS ON COUNCILS DOG CONTROL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR 1 JULY 2021 TO 30 JUNE 2022

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 two full time Regulatory Officers whose responsibilities include 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 to cope with the impact of COVID 19 and 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 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 have undertaken an extensive investigation into various options for the design and build of a complaint pound facility. Council has approved the construction of a modern innovative concept for a pound that meets the needs of the local communities within the region.

This project is now being implemented.

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). However, the COVID pandemic has meant this activity was halted.

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		
	2019/20	2020/2021	2021/22
Barking / Whining	24	47	35
Aggressive behaviour / Rushing	11	16	14
Wandering/fouling/uncontrolled	94	134	121
Attack on Person	13	7	7
Attack on stock	3	0	1
Attack on Pet	11	16	12
Welfare concerns	3	4	4
Lost dogs	16	31	13
Found dogs (of which were lost)	16	30	2
Total	191	297	209
	Impact of COVID 19	Impact of COVID 19	Impact of COVID 19

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

Dog Registration, Enforcement and Service Request Statistics	Numbers		
	2019/20	2020/2021	2021/22
Number of dog owners	1941	2022	2088
Number of probationary owners	0	0	0
Number of disqualified owners	0	0	0
Number of registered dogs	3273	3388	3448
Number of rural dogs	2035	2090	2134
Number of urban dogs	1238	1298	1353
Number of dogs classified as dangerous under Section 31	1	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	0
Number of dogs classified as menacing	23	33	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>	9	16	15
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>	10	17	11
Infringement notices issued	120	104	97
Failing to register	92	97	86
Failure to keep dog controlled or confined	5	1	9
Failure to keep dog under control	1	3	0
Failure to implant microchip transponder	19	0	0
Failure to comply with the effect of dangerous classification	0	0	0
Failure to comply with the effect of menacing classification	2	0	2
Failure to carry a leash	0	0	0
Failure to comply with Bylaw	1	3	0
Failure to undertake owner education programme or dog obedience course (or both)	0	0	0
Impounded dogs	76	70	38

