



ANNUAL DOG CONTROL *Report*



NAPIER
CITY COUNCIL
Te Kaunihera o Ahuriri

1. Introduction

The Napier City Council, as a territorial authority, is required to manage and enforce provisions of the Dog Control Act 1996 (the Act). Section 10A of the Act requires the Council to report annually to the Secretary of Local Government on its Dog Control Policy and practices.

This report fulfils this statutory requirement for the dog registration year:

- 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020.

2. The Council's Dog Control Policy and Practices

2.1. Policy objectives

The council adopted the Dog Control Policy in 2014.

The objectives of the policy are to:

- provide clear guidance to the public and staff in the administration of the Dog Control Act 1996,
- provide a safe and healthy environment for citizens and visitors,
- minimise dog attacks by appropriate enforcement of the policy, bylaw and Act, and
- provide for the general welfare of dogs and ensure dogs kept under human care are well cared for.

The Council adopted the Napier City Council Animal Control Bylaw in 2014. The objectives of the bylaw are to:

- enhance the safety of the public and children by minimising the distress, nuisance and intimidation caused by dogs to the community,
- avoid the inherent danger of uncontrolled dogs in public places, and
- provide dogs and their owners with the ability to satisfy their recreational needs.

2.2. Summary of Practices

The operational functions of the Act are carried out by our Animal Control team within the City Services Directorate. Regulatory decisions are separated from operations and decided by our regulatory team in the City Strategy Directorate.

A dog pound is operated by Council and acts as a safe holding place for dogs. Those dogs that are suitable to be rehomed are held at the pound until their new home can be found.

The team maintain the Park Island and Taradale dog agility parks, the dog shower at Park Island, and keep the poo-bag dispensers topped up.

A large proportion of their work is responding to public safety issues and taking necessary action to keep people and dogs safe following an incident. To prevent these incidents from occurring, the Animal Control team proactively patrol reserves and beaches, parks and playgrounds to ensure compliance with the Act and Napier City's Dog Control Policy.

Educating people – of all ages – is a big part of what the team do to promote a culture of responsible dog ownership. The education they provide to schools and kindergartens isn't just to teach children how to be safe around dogs, but how to be better, gentler dog owners themselves.

They also provide advice, help check fences and gates, help install running wires to keep dogs contained, and help dog owners understand their dog's behaviour.

2.3. Fees

The Government has made councils responsible for the implementation of the Dog Control Act 1996.

Councils meet its requirements under the Act by the development of a policy on dog control and by applying appropriate resources to implement and enforce the policy.

Council's dog control services apply to all owners and members of the public and the annual registration fee is the mechanism provided through the legislation to enable Council to fund the share of dog control activities that Council determines are to be funded by owners.

The determination of the portion of costs paid by owners and that funded from rates is a policy matter that is determined by each Council.

Currently approximately 80% of the costs of the Napier City Council's animal control activity are funded from dog owners and 20% of costs are funded from rates. Council review this mix every 3 years as part of the development of a Revenue and Financing Policy that is included in the Council's Long-Term Plan.

3. Dog Control Statistics

The information provided below sets out the statistical information required by Section 10(A)(2) of the Act.

Number of Registered Dogs

Category	2018/19	2019/20
Number of dogs registered by Council	7,804	8,262

**Data counted for the registration year being 1 July through to 30 June*

Dangerous and Menacing Dogs

Total number of dogs classified as dangerous (Section 31)

Category	2018/19	2019/20
Total Dangerous Dogs	20	11

**Total number of dogs classified as dangerous at 30 June.*

Total number of dogs classified as menacing (Section 32A and 33C)

Category	2018/19	2019/20
Total Menacing Dogs	180	187

**Total number of dogs classified as menacing at 30 June.*

Infringements

Number of infringement notices issued

Category	2018/19	2019/20
Infringement notices issued	228	343

Classification of Dog Owners

Number of classified dog owners

Category	2018/19	2019/20
Probationary Owners	2	0
Disqualified Owners	2	1

* Total number of classified dog owners at 30 June.

Prosecutions

Number of prosecutions taken for offences under the Dog Control Act 1996

Category	2018/19	2019/20
Prosecutions	3	1

Complaints

Number and nature of dog complaints received

Category	2018/19	2019/20
Public Safety related complaints		
Dog attack on people – minor	51	41
Dog attack on people – serious	9	10
Dog attack on other animals	104	81
Dog attack on stock	3	4
Dog worrying stock	3	6
Dog chasing	15	8
Dog rushing	53	61
Aggressive dog behaviour other than rushing	49	44
Roaming dogs reported by public	698	623
Non-safety concerns		
Roaming dogs contained by public	571	431
People's dogs that are reported lost	349	234
Barking	702	503
Fouling	17	28
Bylaws breach	60	70
Unregistered dog	43	43
Welfare concerns	28	35
Miscellaneous*	812	260
Licence/Permit	17	46
Information requests *	718	210
Registration Enquiry*	-	85
Refill Dispenser*	-	85
Total	3,655	2,908

* Improvements have been made to complaint categories within our system to report complaints more accurately. This has resulted in larger variations between 18/19 and 19/20 as which complaints go into each category has changed.

Impounding and Rehoming

Category	2018/19	2019/20
Total dogs impounded	769	610
Outcomes of impounding¹:		
Dogs returned to owner	506	388
Dogs rehomed	27	19
Dogs surrendered to SPCA	1	3
Dogs euthanised	232	189
Other (death by natural causes etc)	3	4
Alive and in pound		7

**Of the number of dog's euthanised, 38 were surrendered by owner to euthanise due to attacking/biting, aggression or failure to pass the rehoming assessment. In addition to this, 1 dog was euthanised following court order, 4 due to poor health on arrival at the pound, 64 dogs were notably aggressive or had behavioural issues and were unable to be rehomed, 23 dogs were classified menacing dogs and not suitable for rehoming, and 24 dogs were carrying parvovirus at the time of impounding or contracted the virus on entering the pound.*

¹ The outcome date may not have occurred until the next reporting year, however it is reported against this reporting year for completeness