



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 2021 to 30 June 2022.

2. The Council's Dog Control Policy and Practices

2.1. Policy objectives

The current Dog Control Policy was adopted in 2014 and is currently under review. The new Policy, if adopted, will take effect from 1 October 2022.

The objectives of the current 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 current Napier City Council Animal Control Bylaw was adopted in 2014 and is currently under review. The new Bylaw, if adopted, will take effect from 1 October 2022.

The objectives of the current 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 put up for adoption.

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 70% of the costs of the Napier City Council's animal control activity are funded from dog owners and 30% to 35% of costs are funded from rates. Council reviews 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	2020/21	2021/22
Number of dogs registered by Council	8,008	8,088

**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	2020/21	2021/22
Total Dangerous Dogs	24	35

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

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

Category	2020/21	2021/22
Total Menacing Dogs	194	201

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

Infringements

Number of infringement notices issued

Category	2020/21	2021/22
Infringement notices issued	167	232

**The Animal Control team work with dog owners to encourage registration in the first instance rather than issuing infringements.*

Classification of Dog Owners

Number of classified dog owners

Category	2020/21	2021/22
Probationary Owners	1	1
Disqualified Owners	0	3

* Total number of classified dog owners at 30 June.

Prosecutions

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

Category	2020/21	2021/22
Prosecutions	2	3

Complaints

Number and nature of dog complaints received

Category	2020/21	2021/22
Public Safety related complaints		
Dog attack on people – minor	60	45
Dog attack on people – serious	10	9
Dog attack on other animals	77	85
Dog attack on stock	6	3
Dog worrying stock	5	3
Dog chasing	17	8
Dog rushing	75	37
Aggressive dog behaviour other than rushing	50	67
Roaming dogs reported by public	748	668
Non-safety concerns		
Roaming dogs contained by public	451	400
People's dogs that are reported lost	209	187
Barking	662	521
Fouling	19	9
Bylaws breach	27	23
Unregistered dog	18	18
Welfare concerns	26	24
Miscellaneous	12	0
Licence/Permit	95	10
Information requests	238	198
Registration Enquiry	319	118
Refill Dispenser	68	165
Total	3,192	2,598

Impounding and Rehoming

Category	2020/21	2021/22
Total dogs impounded	638	523
Outcomes of impounding¹:		
Dogs returned to owner	440	275
Registered dogs returned home without charge (1 st impounding)	-	53
Dogs rehomed	34	54
Dogs surrendered to SPCA	10	1
Dogs euthanised	139	131
Other (removed from custody)	0	2
Alive and in pound	15	7

**Of the number of dog's euthanised, 68 were surrendered by owner to euthanise due to attacking/biting, aggression or failure to pass the rehoming assessment. In addition to this, 10 due to poor health on arrival at the pound, 26 dogs were notably aggressive or had behavioural issues and were unable to be rehomed, 27 dogs were classified menacing dogs and not suitable for rehoming.*

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