



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 2018 to 30 June 2019.

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	2017/18	2018/19
Number of dogs registered by Council	7,640	7,804

**Data counted for the registration year being 1 June through to 31 May*

Dangerous and Menacing Dogs

Total number of dogs classified as dangerous (Section 31)

Category	2017/18	2018/19
Dangerous by owner conviction S31(1)(a)	3	
Dangerous by sworn evidence S31(1)(b)	7	
Dangerous by owner admitting in writing S31(1)(c)	3	
Total Dangerous Dogs	13	20

**Total number of dogs classified as dangerous at 30 June. New reporting method no longer provides a breakdown of each section of the Act.*

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

Category	2017/18	2018/19
Menacing by behaviour S33A(1)(b)(i)	73	
Menacing by breed characteristics S33A(1)(b)(ii)	14	
Menacing by Schedule 4 breed or type S33C(1)	127	
Total Menacing Dogs	214	180

**Total number of dogs classified as menacing at 30 June. New reporting method no longer provides a breakdown of each section of the Act.*

Infringements

Number of infringement notices issued

Category	2017/18	2018/19
Infringement notices issued	704	228

** In 2017/18 a decision was made to issue infringement notices to all dog owners with unregistered dogs which accounted for a high number reported for that year.*

Classification of Dog Owners

Number of classified dog owners

Category	2017/18	2018/19
Probationary Owners	0	2
Disqualified Owners	5	2

* Total number of classified dog owners at 30 June.

Prosecutions

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

Category	2017/18	2018/19
Prosecutions	2	3

Complaints

Number and nature of dog complaints received

Category	2017/18	2018/19
Public Safety related complaints		
Dog attack on people – minor	46	51
Dog attack on people – serious	4	9
Dog attack on other animals	78	104
Dog attack on stock	1	3
Dog worrying stock	10	3
Dog chasing	6	15
Dog rushing	61	53
Aggressive dog behaviour other than rushing	18	49
Roaming dogs reported by public	720	698
Non-safety concerns		
Roaming dogs contained by public	535	571
People's dogs that are reported lost	296	349
Barking	522	702
Fouling	6	17
Bylaws breach	8	60
Unregistered dog	9	43
Welfare concerns	2	28
Miscellaneous	207	812
Licence/Permit	9	17
Information requests	218	71
Total	2,756	3,655

*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. Overall, however, the total number of complaints per year is increasing.

Impounding and Rehoming

Category	2017/18	2018/19
Total dogs impounded	803	769
Outcomes of impounding¹:		
Dogs returned to owner	456	506
Dogs rehomed	46	27
Dogs surrendered to SPCA	15	1
Dogs euthanised	177	232
Other (death by natural causes etc)	3	3

**Of the number of dog's euthanised, 82 were surrendered by owner to euthanise due to attacking/biting, aggression or failure to pass the rehoming assessment. In addition to this, 3 dogs were euthanised following court order, 87 dogs were aggressive or had behavioural issues and unable to be rehomed, 38 dogs were classified menacing dogs and not suitable for rehoming, 20 dogs were carrying parvovirus at the time of impounding, and 7 dogs came into the pound in poor health and were euthanised on humane grounds.*

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