



**2013 - 2014**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**DOG CONTROL  
POLICY AND  
PRACTICES**

# NAPIER CITY COUNCIL

## DOG CONTROL POLICY AND PRACTICES

### ANNUAL REPORT 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014

This is the eleventh Annual Report in respect of Napier City Council's Dog Control Activities.

#### **Dog Control Act 1996**

#### **Section 10A: Territorial authority must report on dog control policy and practices**

1. A territorial authority must, in respect of each financial year, report on the administration of:
  - a. its dog control policy adopted under [section 10](#); and
  - b. its dog control practices.
2. The report must include, in respect of each financial year, information relating to:
  - a. the number of registered dogs in the territorial authority district;
  - b. the number of probationary owners and disqualified owners in the territorial authority district;
  - c. the number of dogs in the territorial authority district classified as dangerous under [section 31](#) and the relevant provision under which the classification is made;
  - d. the number of dogs in the territorial authority district classified as menacing under [section 33A](#) or [section 33C](#) and the relevant provision under which the classification is made;
  - e. the number of infringement notices issued by the territorial authority;
  - f. the number of dog related complaints received by the territorial authority in the previous year and the nature of those complaints;
  - g. the number of prosecutions taken by the territorial authority under this Act.
3. The territorial authority must give public notice of the report:
  - a. by means of a notice published in:
    - i. 1 or more daily newspapers circulating in the territorial authority district; or
    - ii. 1 or more other newspapers that have at least an equivalent circulation in that district to the daily newspapers circulating in that district; and
  - b. by any means that the territorial authority thinks desirable in the circumstances.
4. The territorial authority must also, within 1 month after adopting the report, send a copy of it to the Secretary for Local Government.

## **PART I      ADMINISTRATION**

### **Policy on Dogs**

Pursuant to the Dog Control Amendment Act the Council Policy on Dogs was reviewed in accordance with the consultative procedures under the Local Government Act during the 2013/2014 year. The Council adopted the changes to the Bylaw Policy on 21 May 2014.

### **Accommodation**

The Animal Control Office is located in Napier City's central administration building situated in Central Napier, with an Animal Shelter established at Council's Works Depot in Depot Place, Onekawa. This facility has kennelling for 33 dogs and has 3 exercise yards.

Work has been undertaken during the year to continue to improve security from unauthorised entry to the shelter. Security cameras have now been installed and 4 more roofed exercise areas are in the planning stage for approval to ensure compliance with the Animal Welfare Act requirements for pounds and shelters.

A Memorandum of Understanding exists between the Animal Control Unit and the Napier and Hawkes Bay S.P.C.A. formally recognising their facility as a pound. Use is made of their kennelling facilities for puppies and infirm or aged dogs that are impounded by the Animal Control Officers.

***46 puppies and dogs were transferred to the S.P.C.A. during the year.***

### **Personnel**

The Animal Control team is based within the Planning Department and reports to the Regulatory Services Manager. The team comprises of 1 Team Leader, 4 Animal Control Officers and 1 Administration/Customer Service Officer, all of whom are full time employees.

***Permanent staffing of the Animal Control Team amounts to 6.2 FTE***

### **Hours of Operation**

Officers work on a roster system which provides for an Officer to be on duty for a full working day 8am to 5pm, 7 days a week, 365 days per year. A rostered on call system is also operated to provide an Officer for emergencies and the picking up of secured roaming dogs each night from 5pm to 8am the next day.

The Animal Shelter is open to the public during the following hours:

- Between 8.30 - 9.30am and 3.30 - 4.30pm Monday to Thursday.
- Between 8.30 - 9.00am and 3.30 - 4.30pm Fridays.
- Between 9.00 - 10.00 am weekends and public holidays.

## **PART II SERVICES**

### **Dog Registration**

*During the course of the year 7791 dogs were registered.*

New dogs added during the year (and still current)	1256
Dogs notified deceased during the year	714
<b>Dogs in district and currently registered at year end</b>	<b>7054</b>
Dogs in district and currently not registered at year end	203
Dogs that were transferred out to another district	672
Number of current dog owners at year end	5950

### **Dog Permits**

Permits are required to keep more than 2 dogs in residential and rural residential areas. Permits are issued upon inspection of the property and with the consent of neighbours. Contested applications are heard by Council's Hearings Committee.

*157 permits are currently in force for owners to keep more than 2 dogs.*

### **Neutering Programme**

Whilst no registration discount is offered for neutered dogs, Council offer a one-off subsidy towards the cost of neutering dogs once registered. Vouchers are issued and the discount is deducted from the veterinary surgeons' fees, who then claim the discount from the Council.

*358 vouchers were issued to dog owners towards the cost of neutering their dogs.*

### **Education**

#### **1. Dog Owner Licence**

A Dog Owner Licence scheme was adopted by Council in 1989. A licence is issued to a dog owner who successfully completes and passes a general knowledge test on dog related issues and passes a property inspection to ensure fencing is sufficient to contain the dog. Faeces recovery and kennelling also must meet the required standard.

This licence entitles the holder to a considerable discount on their dog registration fee.

*Napier City had 1376 Licenced Owners with currently registered dogs at year end. This figure represents 23% of current dog owners as at 30/06/14.*

#### **2. Obedient Dog Certificate**

Dog owners who are prepared to educate their dogs and gain an Obedience Certificate above that of the puppy class, are also offered a discount on their registration fee. Dog obedience courses are undertaken by a number of local private contractors.

***654 dogs hold an Obedience Certificate at year end.***

3. Schools

This year only 2 Pre-school were able to be included in Council's "safety around dogs" education programme and we also attended 2 community safety information seminars.

4. Bite Safety Seminars

A local meter reading company has undertaken our bite safety training programme for their officers during the year. Feedback from these sessions has been very positive.

5. EIT Vet nursing and animal care

Students participate in work experience at the shelter and dog handling/safety instruction is given to each intake as part of their curriculum.

**Dog Sales**

Suitable dogs are offered for sale from the shelter following the completion of the compulsory impounding period. The dogs are assessed by at least two dog control Officers and if suitable they have a basic Vet check and are wormed, treated for fleas and inoculated as required before offering for adoption. It has been Council's policy since 1997 to microchip all dogs sold from the pound, and sales are subject to a satisfactory property inspection.

***56 dogs were rehomed from the shelter.***

**Roaming and unregistered dogs**

Roaming dogs are targeted during proactive patrols of streets especially during rubbish collection days as Officer availability allows. The problem still continues and is an issue for the Refuse collectors; however Infringements are being issued where dog owners are identified, and offending dogs impounded if caught in the act.

## **PART III ENFORCEMENT**

### **Complaints**

3357 complaints were registered as a Request for Service from the public during the year 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014.

Nature of Complaints	2013/14	2012/13	2011/12
Attack on humans	48	36	47
Attack on animals or poultry	101	111	78
Rushing/Chasing	70	76	103
Worrying (stock)	28	17	4
Barking	614	581	560
Fouling	12	12	17
Impound or Return to owner	646	673	764
Roaming	587	548	633
Miscellaneous enquiries	410	463	584
Property visits	32	23	39
Dog trap	4	2	-
Other stock	60	96	109
Request for information	500	385	384
lost dogs	247	184	250
<b><u>Total no. of service requests</u></b>	<b>3357</b>	<b>3207</b>	<b>3572</b>
Total after-hours complaint enquiries	710	571	633
<i>Of which:</i>			
Resulted in a call-out by the Officer	232	221	190

### **Impounding**

***A total of 985 dogs were impounded to the shelter during the year.***

Dogs surrendered to the SPCA	46
Dogs returned to its owner	597
Dogs euthanized	269
Dogs rehomed	56
Dead on arrival	9
Other (still on hand as at 30 June 2013)	8
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>985</u></b>

***250 dogs were seized for non-compliance.***

Attacked person or animal	72
Dangerous dog	1
Non-compliance of Section 42 (failing to register)	115
Police custody/request	3
Not being supplied with food/shelter	6
Request from SPCA	35
Rushing	18
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>250</u></b>

## Legal Action

### Court Proceedings

1 Court Hearing of an infringement offence of failing to register a dog was taken and Council's position was upheld and costs were awarded to Council.

12 Prosecutions were taken for offences under the Dog Control Act 1996.

Date	Dog owner's name	Section of DCA	Result
18/09/2013	A. Kirk	Sect 57	Convicted and fined
1/11/2013	R. Gray	Sect 57	1/11/13 Pled guilty and convicted
24/01/2014	Delamere	Hearing Sect 42	4/02/14 Failed to attend - Court confirmed fine
12/03/2014	E. Papanui	Sect 57	12/03/14 Pled guilty
9/04/2013	S. McCormack	Sect 57	Pled not guilty - case review 06/06/14 - defended hearing set for 3 July
12/04/2014	K. Hepere	Sect 32	Dangerous dog signed over for destruction so proceedings cancelled.
23/04/2014	R. Johnson	Sect 57	29/05/14 Dog signed over for destruction by DO - disputed facts Hearing 28/05/14 - Sentenced to pay Reparation as sought and reparation
30/04/2014	M. Kati	Sect 57	30/04/14 Pled guilty
30/04/2014	W. Huata	Sect 57 X 2	30/04/14 Pled guilty to both charges
25/06/2014	C. Puna	Sect 57	Sought remand without plea until 2 July
25/06/2014	E. Puna	Sect 57	Pled guilty and Convicted
4/06/2014	R. Shillingford	Sect 57	Appeared and entered a not guilty plea - case review hearing set for 21 July.

### Infringements

***345 Infringements were issued during the year.***

Of these 98 were cancelled after compliance was achieved and 202 have proceeded to Court.

## Hearings

Council's Hearing Committee sat three times this year to hear an appeal to an Officer's decision under the Dog Control Act 1996.

A summary of those decisions is below with full details available in Council archives.

30/01/2014	Bobbi Rowe	Menacing dog	Appeal against menacing classification successful and the classification rescinded at rescheduled Hearing 15/04/14
13/05/2014	R. Mitchell	Abatement of barking dogs	Notice to abate barking rescinded and permit to have more than 2 dogs cancelled.
27/05/2014	T & P Tuhaka	Abatement of barking dogs	Notice stands but will be rescinded 27/05/15 if no further complaints received

## Classification of dog owners

Upon verification via the National Dog Database, a territorial authority may classify a dog owner as probationary or disqualified after they commit 3 or more infringement offences (not relating to a single incident or occasion) within a continuous period of 24 months (depending on severity of offence and prosecution method used).

***17 Probationary Owners on file at year end***

***19 Disqualified Owners on file at year end***

The menacing dog classification has produced a stable number of dogs being classified, most of which are of the pit bull terrier type of dog. Most owners of newly registered menacing dogs have now accepted their responsibility to have their pets neutered. Council Officers regularly visit owners of menacing dogs to ensure continuing compliance is enforced. Reports of litters of a potential menacing dog is investigated quickly to ensure compliance of both the pups and the breeding pair if confirmed a menacing breed or type of dog.

## Classification of dogs

***16 classified Dangerous Dogs all under section 31 (1)(b) on file at year end***

***233 classified Menacing Dogs on file at year end***

77 are classified under section 33A (1) (b) (i) – observed behaviour

8 are classified under section 33A (1) (b) (ii) - characteristics

148 are classified under section 33C (1) – breed or type



**PART IV FINANCE**

**End of Year Balance**

Council has recognised the value of the animal control service to the community generally. The majority of funding for this activity comes from dog registration fees with the public good component of the service being 24% (covering other elements of animal control or broader dog control services). The preliminary unaudited end of year financial cost centre report shows the following income and expenditure for the dog control component of the Animal Control Unit. The additional work undertaken by the team to identify unregistered dogs has resulted in strong income figures and has allowed Council to effectively freeze registration fees over the last two years. It is hoped to at least maintain this in the coming year.

Expenditure (see figure 1)	\$758,490
Income excluding the public good (general rates) contribution	\$665,190

**Animal Control Expenditure**

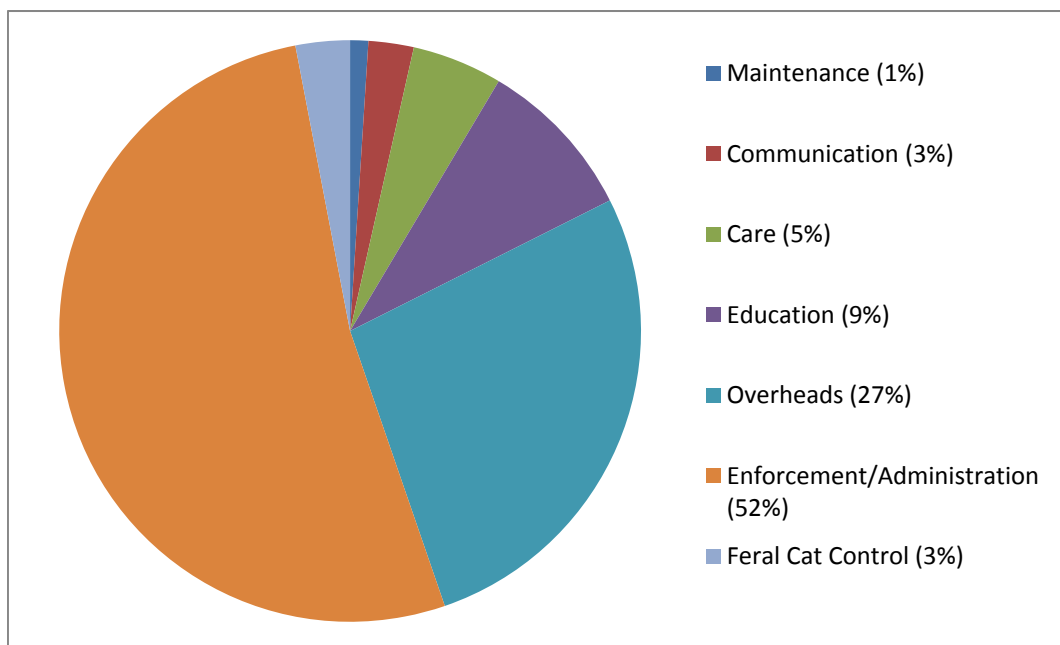


Figure 1

**PART V PERFORMANCE**

The Council contract the National Research Bureau to carry out an annual survey on the 'Public perceptions and Interpretations of Council Services and Representation'. The Dog Control service has featured in every survey undertaken.

The findings can be compared with both the National average and similarly constituted Peer Group averages. In general the Napier City Council Animal Control Team compares favourably with their peers.

The 2013 survey figures for the Dog Control operation in terms of satisfaction levels is shown in Figure 2 along with the previous 12 years' results. The results indicate 84% of people are satisfied or very satisfied with Animal Control activities. The more focussed approach to enforcement maintained this year did not unduly impact on satisfaction levels. Comments from the survey indicate a strong desire for sustained strong regulatory action on roaming dogs in particular.

Percentage satisfaction with Animal Control services

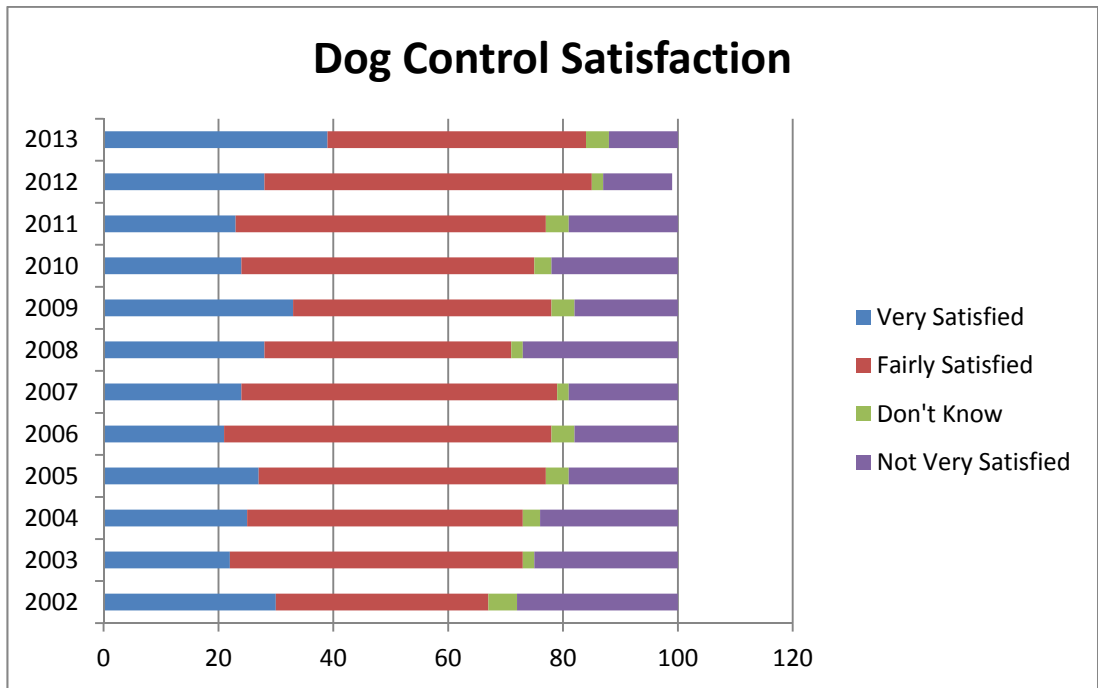


Figure 2

National Research Bureau Satisfaction Survey 2000 - 2012.

A table of key performance measures from the Animal Control Teams' Activity Management Plan are set out below.

<b>No.</b>	<b>Performance Measures</b>	<b>Target 2013/14</b>	<b>Achieved</b>
1	Number of Service Requests/Number of licensed dogs.	42%	48.7%
2	Proportion of licensed dog owners (demonstration of responsible dog ownership required).	20%	15.8%
3	Resident satisfaction rate for dog control in the NRB public opinion survey.	75%	84%

Presented by:

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