



## *Kapiti Coast District Council*

# **Annual Dog Control Report 2018 – 2019**

## **1. Introduction**

The Kapiti Coast District Council, as a territorial authority, must report on their dog control policy and practices in respect of each financial year. This purpose of this report is to provide the annual report required under section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996 in relation to:

- a) Its dog control policy adopted under section 10; and
- b) Its dog control practices.

## **2. The Council's Dog Control Policy and Practices**

### **2.1 The Policy:**

The Kapiti Coast District Council recently reviewed their Dog Control Bylaw and Policy. The Bylaw and Policy was approved at a meeting of the Kapiti Coast District Council held on 14 March 2019 after completion of the special consultative procedure.

The purpose of the Policy is to outline how the Kapiti Coast District Council will address the requirements set out in section 10 of the Dog Control Act 1996. The Policy is enforceable through the Kapiti Coast District Council Dog Control Bylaw 2008.

The objectives of the policy are to:

1. Ensure all dogs in the District are kept under proper and appropriate control at all times;
2. Prohibit or restrict specific breeds which are known to be dangerous;
3. To eliminate or minimise the distress, danger and nuisance caused by dogs to the general public and their property and sensitive sites;
4. To ensure that the owners of dogs comply with their obligations under the Act;
5. To provide the exercise and recreational needs of dogs and their owners;
6. To recognise good and responsible dog owners and to reward them by reduced fees; to discourage poor dog ownership by applying penalty fees where appropriate;
7. To provide for the welfare of dogs by at least ensuring minimum standards of care are met.

### **2.2 Fees:**

Dog registration fees, fines and impound fees contribute to approximately 60% to the cost of dog control in Kapiti. The Council encourages responsible dog ownership through an approved ownership scheme which provides a discounted rate for dog owners who meet the relevant criteria. Dog fees are set by Council resolution.

Fees are used for:

- Dog control activities including proactive prevention based patrols;
- Investigations, compliance and enforcement;
- Education;
- Responding to requests for service relating to the management of dogs and other animal ;
- Signs and promotions;
- Replacement of dog bags at designated dog parks and dog exercise areas;
- Providing dog bags to registered owners;
- Providing a dog shelter service, which includes veterinarian fees associated with impound and rehome of dogs;
- Running the dog registration programme – this includes administrative support, printing and mailing out forms, dog tags and maintaining the national dog database;
- Administration and Customer Support service at all Service Centres including after hours;
- A seven day per week service with a 24 hour on call and urgent service response.

### 3. Key Achievements

- The Animal management team is continuing to look at new concepts to work closer and be more engaged with the communities' dog owners.
- The mobility devices have been an excellent addition to the ongoing response times to the returning of registered dogs to their owners and being able to look at dog and owner history. It has given the Animal management team the ability to respond more quickly and efficiently.
- This year we have implanted a more hands on approach to education and understanding with a number of different groups throughout the Kapiti area.
- We have also delivered for the first time pop up registration booths throughout the Kapiti Coast.
- The team is still working hard in areas to stop roaming dogs and in the last few months there has been a vast difference to the amount of dogs that are roaming.
- We are still dealing with a number of barking complaints but using the process that we have in place we are starting to see the desired results.
- We are still carrying out investigations from Dog attacks and treating dogs with the new process that have been implemented we are getting the desired outcomes for the Victim and dog owner.
- The team continues to look at new ideas to make owning a dog in the Kapiti Coast an enjoyable and rewarding experience.

#### 3.1 Proactive prevention based patrols

Graduated response, mitigating risk, preventing attacks, educating Dog owners about the Dog Control Act and the Kapiti Cast Bylaws of 2019.

Keeping the sports grounds in the Kapiti Coast district free of dogs and continuing to work with our dog owners throughout the number of dog parks in our area.

#### 3.3 Dog registration

The District currently has **7582** known dogs. At the end of the financial year 98% of all known dogs were registered.

#### 3.4 Quality Assurance Processes (QAS)

The Animal Management team has a robust set of QAS and accompanying forms which are constantly under review through a continuous improvement process.

These processes also continue to act as an 'on the job workplace learning guide for staff to constantly review best practice.

### 3.5 Community partnerships

Council continues to work closely with our partner agencies, the Wellington and Hutt Valley Animal Management Services Team, SPCA, HUHA, the Police and other neighbouring councils' animal management units.

This year one of the Animal Management Officers and four wheel drive was deployed to Nelson to support the Animal Evacuation Team during the Nelson fires.

We are continuing to deliver training with Animal Evac New Zealand nationally in Dog bite prevention and induction course for volunteers.

### 3.6 Community Engagement



The Council continue to work on a community engagement strategy that utilises a characterisation of a dog that is called Marley. He is now the face of the Animal Management Team. The Council Communication Team in partnership with the Animal Management Team are continuing to work on their engagement strategy to build better partnerships with the community

## 4. Dog Control Statistics

STATISTICAL INFORMATION	2018/19	2017/18	2016/17
Total dogs registered as at 7 June 2018 (classifications below included in total dogs)	7582	7600	7356
Probationary owners classified in that year	0	0	0
Disqualified owners classified in that year	0	0	0
Dogs classified that year as Dangerous	2	2	2
Dogs classified that year as Menacing	44	34	49
<b>Complaints</b>			
Dog Attacks (person, livestock, other animals)	115	110	126
Dog Threatening (person, livestock, other animals)	99	123	111
Wandering	684	635	646
Barking	581	711	565
Fouling	17	25	24
<b>Total</b>	<b>1496</b>	<b>1604</b>	<b>1472</b>
<b>Infringements Issued</b>			
Barking abatement	1	0	0
Willful obstruction/refusal to supply information	0	1	4
Failure to implant microchip	15	27	60
Failure to register dog	178	72	27
Failure to keep a dog under control	42	3	6
Failure to keep dog controlled or confined	25	19	28
Failure to comply with the effects of a classified dog	2	2	2
Failure/Refusal to supply information	1	0	3
Bylaw Breaches (not on lead)	1	2	-
Falsely notifying death of a dog	0	0	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>130</b>
<b>Prosecution</b>			

Section 18, willful obstruction of Dog Control Officer	-	-	-
Section 32 (2) , failure to comply with effects of Dangerous classification	-	-	-
Section 33 EC (1) , failure to comply with effects of Menacing classification	-	-	-
Section 52(a), failure to control on land or premises	-	-	-
Section 53(1), failure to control	-	-	-
Section 57(A), rushing in a public place	-	-	-
Section 57(2) being an owner of a dog which committed an attack	-	-	-
Section 58 being an owner of a dog which committed a serious attack	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	Nil	Nil	Nil
<b>Prosecution Outcomes</b>			
Dog surrendered to council prior to court	-	-	-
Guilty & Order for Destruction of Dog	-	-	-
Guilty & Dog returned to owner	-	-	-
Not Guilty	-	-	-
Outstanding still before Court	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	Nil	Nil	Nil
<b>Impounding</b>			
Impounded dogs returned to owner	<b>237</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>332</b>
Impounded dogs euthanized	33	28	50
Impounded dogs surrendered to SPCA or re-homing organisations including Animal Rescue	37	25	32
<b>Total</b>	307	286	414