

Chairperson and Committee Members
OPERATIONS & FINANCE COMMITTEE

15 AUGUST 2019

Meeting Status: **Public**

Purpose of Report: For Information

ANNUAL REPORT ON DOG CONTROL POLICY AND PRACTICES 2018/19

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1 To present the Kapiti Coast District Council Annual Dog Control Report 2018/19 (the Report) on the administration of the Dog Control Policy and practices (appendix one).

DELEGATION

- 2 The Operations and Finance Committee has the delegation to consider and adopt the report under Part B.2 (7.3) of the Governance Structure which reads:

2.1 Animal Control

7.3 Authority to consider and adopt an Annual Report on Dog Control Policy and Practices in the District under section 10 and 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996.

BACKGROUND

- 3 Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996 (the Act) requires territorial local authorities to report on their dog control policies and practices as follows:

- (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:*
- (a) *give public notice, as defined in section 5(1) of the Local Government Act 2002, of the report; and*
 - (b) *make the report publicly available, as described in section 5(3) of the Act.*
- (4) *The territorial authority must also, within 1 month after receiving the report, send a copy of it to the Secretary for Local Government.*
- 4 Attached in appendix one is the annual report on Dog Control Policy and Practices for 2018/19.
- 5 Attached in appendix two is a copy of the 2019 Kapiti Coast District Council Dog Control Policy.

ISSUES AND OPTIONS

Issues

- 6 There are no issues.

Option

- 7 There are no options to consider.

CONSIDERATIONS

Policy considerations

- 8 There are no policy considerations:

Legal considerations

- 9 The Annual Report contained in appendix one is required by Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996, the report must be publicly notified and a copy forwarded to the Secretary for Local Government

Financial considerations

- 10 There are no financial considerations.

Tāngata whenua considerations

- 11 There are no Tāngata whenua considerations.

Strategic considerations

- 12 *Toitū Kāpiti* includes an aspiration for strong, safe communities. The Dog Control Bylaw, Policy and practices helps in the attainment of this aspiration because it seeks to enhance the safety of the public and allow the responsible enjoyment of public places in our District.
- 13 There are no further strategic considerations.

SIGNIFICANCE AND ENGAGEMENT

Significance policy

- 14 Management of dog control through policy and practices has low level of significance under the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy, but it is recognised that there is strong interest in dog-related issues across the District because of perception and impact of dogs in relation to public safety.

Consultation already undertaken

- 15 No consultation is required.

Engagement planning

- 16 No engagement planning required.

Publicity

- 17 This report is required to be made publicly available; therefore, the Report contained in appendix one will be available on the Kapiti Coast District Council website; and its availability will be notified in local newspapers.

Other considerations

- 18 There are no other considerations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 19 That the Operations and Finance Committee receive report RS-19-875 and accompanying appendix (Annual Report on Dog Control Policy and Practices 2018-2019).

Report prepared by Approved for submission Approved for submission

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ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Annual Report on Dog Control Policy and Practices 2018-2019.
- 2 Kapiti Coast District Council Dog Control Policy 2019.

Appendix One

The Kapiti Coast District Council Annual Report on Dog Control Policy and Practices 2018/19



1. Introduction

The Kapiti Coast District Council, as a territorial authority, must report on its dog control policy and practices annually. The purpose of this report is to provide the annual report required under section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996 (the Act) 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 (the Policy)

2.1 The Policy:

The Kapiti Coast District Council recently reviewed its Dog Control Bylaw and Policy. The current 2019 Bylaw and Policy was approved at a meeting of the Kapiti Coast District Council on 14 March 2019.

The purpose of the Policy outlines how the Kapiti Coast District Council will address the requirements set out in section 10 of the Act. The Policy is enforceable through the Kapiti Coast District Council Dog Control Bylaw 2019.

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.

3. Dog control practices:

3.1 Graduated response model

The animal management team adopted a graduated response model this financial year to minimise and mitigate risk relating to known problematic dogs and their owners. This model ensured the team actively identified and proactively managed high risk dogs and their owners. They intervened earlier, and provided education, support and advice to known dog owners. They ensured appropriate enforcement action was taken early to prevent dog attacks or threats to people and other animals.

This resulted in staff issuing more infringement offence notices for failure to register and failure to keep dogs under control.

The Animal Management Team also increased its prevention based targeted patrols in hot spot areas to minimise issues in known locations of issues.

Although the number of registered dogs continues to grow in the district the number of general service requests and reports of dog attacks and dog threatening complaints reduced on average compared to the previous year.

3.2 Quality assurance processes

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

These processes continue to act as a workplace learning guide for staff to constantly review best practice.

3.3 Community engagement and partnerships

Council continues to work closely with our partner agencies including: Wellington and Hutt Valley Animal Management Services; SPCA; HUHA and Police. We have shared our QAS processes with one other territorial authority this year.

One member of the Animal Management Team with four-wheel drive was deployed to Nelson to support the Animal Evacuation Team to manage animals during the Nelson fires.

A member of the team delivered training with Animal Evacuation on dog bite prevention to volunteers to their animal evacuation volunteers.



The Council continue to work on community engagement utilising the characterisation of a dog called Marley as the Council mascot. The Animal Management Team supported by the Community and Engagement Team continued to work on their engagement strategy to build better partnerships with the community. This year the team attended a number of public events including, the Dog in Togs event at Waikanae Pools, and Paws in the Park. Staff also spoke to several community groups, Colleges and Primary Schools about the role of an Animal Management Officer.

3.4 Dog registrations

An online portal was introduced allowing people to register their dogs this year. The portal is being enhanced to provide more online services in 2019/20.

3.5 Continuation of service seven days per week.

The Animal Management Team continued to provide a seven day per week service with an Animal Management Officer rostered on in the weekend. This was based on demand profiles from previous years that indicated there was a requirement to provide animal management services Monday to Sunday.

An Animal Management Officer is also on call after-hours supported by an external contractor.

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)	7730	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
Complaints			
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
Total	1496	1604	1472
Infringements Issued			
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	-
Total	265	126	130
Prosecution			
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	-	-	-
Total	Nil	Nil	Nil
Prosecution Outcomes			
Dog surrendered to council prior to court	-	-	-
Guilty & Order for Destruction of Dog	-	-	-
Guilty & Dog returned to owner	-	-	-
Not Guilty	-	-	-
Outstanding still before Court	-	-	-
Total	Nil	Nil	Nil
Impounding			
Impounded dogs returned to owner	237	233	332
Impounded dogs euthanized	33	28	50
Impounded dogs surrendered to SPCA or re-homing organisations including Animal Rescue	37	25	32
Total	307	286	414