

# Kāpiti Coast District Council Annual Report on Dog Control Policy and Practices 2021/22



## **1. Introduction**

The Kapiti Coast District Council, as a territorial authority, must report annually on its dog control policy and practices. The purpose of this report is to provide the information 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 adopted its Dog Control Policy on 14 March 2019. 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 2019 Kapiti Coast District Council Dog Control Bylaw.

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 of dogs 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; and 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 The current operational structure of the team**

The team is currently managed by a Team Leader with six full time employees. The service operates a full-service Monday to Sunday 7am to 7pm. Outside these hours the staff rotate through an on call after hour service for urgent service requests.

### **3.2 The Animal Management Shelter**

On 1 October 2018 the guidelines for the management of companion animals in temporary housing facilities was introduced through the **Code of Welfare of Temporary Housing of Companion Animals (the Code)**. As a result of this new code the facilities at the Animal Management Shelter were upgraded and the project was completed in June 2020. The facility now has a heating system in each run to keep the dogs warmer in the colder months. The outdoor area was also upgraded and fencing improved.

### **3.3 Graduated response model to prevent dog nuisance**

The Public Spaces Animal Management Team continued to use a graduated response model 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 actively engaged with known dog owners, proactively educated first and then ensured appropriate enforcement action was taken early to mitigate risk.

#### **3.1 High visibility proactive patrolling in known problematic locations**

The team conducted patrols in known problematic locations to prevent nuisance caused by dogs in those areas.

#### **3.2 Quality assurance processes**

The Public Spaces Animal Management Team have a robust set of quality assurance processes (QAS) and accompanying forms which are constantly reviewed through a continuous improvement process. The QAS ensures staff are providing a consistent and robust service, and the QAS is continues to be used as a training manual for staff.

#### **3.4 Community engagement and partnerships**

Council continued to work closely with our partner agencies including Wellington and Hutt Valley Animal Management Services; SPCA; HUHA; Animal Evacuation and Police. One member of the team has a strong relationship with the Animal Evacuation Team and Huha and has provided educational support and training to animal evacuation trainees.

### 3.5 Improved online communications to educate dog owners

This year the team actively used **Mail chimp**. Mail chimp is an all-in-one email platform. There are 5000 of about 6700 dog owners registered to use this service. The email platform was used this year to communicate urgent advice to dog owners on the risk of toxic algae during higher-than-normal levels in local rivers and streams.

### 3.5 Dog registration



This dog registration year was very successful with **97%** of known dogs registered in the district. The staff used Mailchimp to remind people to register. The number of dogs registering through the 'dogs' online portal' continues to grow and the staff continue to work with the digital solutions team to improve the capacity of the online portal.

#### 4. Dog Control Statistics

<b>Dogs and Owners</b>	<b>2021/22</b>	<b>2020/21</b>	<b>2019/20</b>
Total number of known dogs in the district as of 30 June	8537	8367	8046
Total number of dogs registered in the district as of 30 June	8262	8359	7783
Total number of known dog owners	6783	6564	6294
Probationary owners in the district	1	2	1
Disqualified owners in the district	3	3	3
Total number of dogs that are classified as dangerous in the district	9	8	7
Total number of dogs that are classified as menacing in the district	117	119	117
Number and provision of dogs classified menacing by deed (s.33A) this financial year	15	10	27
Number and provision of dogs classified menacing by breed (s.33C) this financial year	4	2	14
<b>Complaints</b>	<b>2021/22</b>	<b>2020/21</b>	<b>2019/20</b>
Dog attack	104	105	118
Dog threatening	93	112	106
Dog wandering	535	498	491
Dog noise/barking	386	465	449
Dog fouling	9	21	20
<b>Total complaint related service requests</b>	<b>1127</b>	<b>1201</b>	<b>1184</b>
<b>Infringements issued</b>	<b>2021/22</b>	<b>2020/21</b>	<b>2019/20</b>
Failure to comply with bark abatement notice	-	-	2
Wilful obstruction	-	-	1
Failure to implant a microchip	1	-	-
Failure to register dog	124	120	111
Failure to keep dog under control	60	50	53

<b>Dogs and Owners</b>	<b>2021/22</b>	<b>2020/21</b>	<b>2019/20</b>
Failure to keep dog controlled/confined	20	19	29
Failure to comply with the effects of classification	3	2	1
Failure/refusal to supply information	-	-	-
Bylaw breach	-	-	1
Falsely notify death of a dog	-	-	-
Wilfully provides false particulars	-	-	1
Failure to advise change of address	-	-	2
Failure to advise change of ownership	-	1	1
<b>Total Infringements</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>202</b>
<b>Prosecutions</b>	<b>2021/22</b>	<b>2020/21</b>	<b>2019/20</b>
	0	0	0
<b>Impound or relinquished outcomes</b>	<b>2021/22</b>	<b>2020/21</b>	<b>2019/20</b>
Impounded dogs returned to owners	136	125	136
Rehomed by Council to new owners	6	4	11
Rehomed through rehome agency	10	3	
Euthanised -	5	3	
On trial or in shelter at time of report	6	4	
Not recorded	1	29	
<b>Total Impounds</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>147</b>

### SUMMARY OF DOG CONTROL SERVICE REQUESTS BY DISTRICT IN KAPITI FROM 1 JULY 2021 TO 30 JUNE 2022

