

Report to: Council

Meeting Date: 23 August 2023

Subject: Dog Control Policy and Practice: 2022/2023

Report for: Decision

Author(s): Phoebe Harrison LICENSING AND COMPLIANCE MANAGER

Endorsed By: Warrick Zander EXECUTIVE MANAGER: REGULATORY & CUSTOMER SERVICES



Purpose of Report | Te take mō te pūrongo

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Elected Members of Council's Annual Report of the Dog Control Policy and practices for the period 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023 as required by Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996.

Recommendation(s) | Ngā tūhonga

That the Council:

- 1 Receives the Report **Dog Control Policy and Practice: 2022/2023**; and
- 2 Pursuant to Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996, Adopts the Council Annual Report on Dog Control Policy and Practices for 2022/2023.

Well-Being Outcomes

In accordance with Section 10 of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA): the purpose of Local Government is to promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of communities in the present and for the future.

Refer: [Pūwhenua ki Ruapehu Portal](#)

	Contributes	Detracts	No Impact
2.1 Social: Safe, healthy communities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.2 Economic: Thriving economy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.3 Environmental: Sustaining beautiful environments	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.4 Cultural: Vibrant and diverse living	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Significance and Engagement | Takenga mai

3.1 Significance

This report does not trigger the Significance and Engagement Policy.

Background | Tuhinga

- 4.1 The Dog Control Act 1996 requires all territorial authorities to report annually to central Government on their Dog Control Policy and Practices each financial year.
- 4.2 The requirement for Council to adopt an Annual Report on Dog Control Policies and Practices is a statutory obligation. When compiling such a report, Council is required to have regard to its Dog Control Policy 2022.
- 4.3 Once Council has adopted the Annual Report, public notice must be given and that the report is published in one or more local newspapers, made available to the public and a copy sent to the Secretary for Local Government. The latter is a provision under the Dog Control Amendment Act 2003.
- 4.4 The information provided in the Annual Report will assist Central Government to maintain its database of national information and to assess national trends and developments around dog control.

Discussion | He Kōrerorero

- 5.1 An overview of the past year's activities is shown below.
- 5.1.2 The Annual Report represents the information required under Section 10A(2) of the Dog Control Amendment Act 2003 for the period 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023.
- 5.1.3 **Annual Report on Dog Control Policy and Practices for Ruapehu District Council for the year ending 30 June 2023**

Number of dogs	4,952
Number of registered dogs	4,556
Number of probationary owners	1
Number of disqualified owners	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Number of dogs classified as Dangerous under Section 31(1)(b) – this period• Total number of dogs in district classified as Dangerous under Section 31	 3 9
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Number of dogs classified as Menacing under Section 33A(1)(a)(i) – this period• Total number of dogs in district classified as Menacing under Section 33	 7 50
Number of Infringement notices issued – <ul style="list-style-type: none">• For failure to register a dog• For failure to control• For Bylaw offences• For failure to comply with effects of menacing dog• For failure to comply with effects of dangerous dog• For willful obstruction of an officer	 6 2 0 3 Nil Nil
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Number of dogs Impounded• Number of dogs Returned to owner after being impounded• Number of dogs rehomed after being Impounded• Number of dogs euthanised after being Impounded	 184 42 133 9

Total number of dog related complaints	
Attacks on a person	11
Attacks on other animals	36
Dog rushing, challenging or chasing traffic	21
Bylaw breach (e.g., dog fouling in public)	0
Wandering dogs	350
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barking • Unregistered dogs • Welfare 	<p style="text-align: right;">299</p> <p style="text-align: right;">13</p> <p style="text-align: right;">52</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of prosecutions 	Nil

5.2 Council adopted a Dog Control Policy in 2022 (Attachment 1).

5.2.1 General Comments relating to the implementation of the Policy are as follows:

(a) **Bylaws and wandering dogs:**

- (i) All dogs which are found wandering are uplifted and either returned to the owner, if registered, or impounded. In some cases, if no history of valid complaints is identified, the dog may be returned to the owner. If the dog was impounded, the owner is required to pay impounding fees and an infringement for failure to control is generally issued. The dog owner then has an opportunity to make a submission and request a waiver of the infringement notice.

(b) **Impounded dogs:**

- (i) In all cases where a dog is impounded the full amount of fees as per Council's adopted fees and charges are payable before the dog is released.
- (ii) Compliance works with various external organisations, e.g., Ellie's Canine Rescue and Rehome and Retired Working Dogs to ensure a good home is located for those dogs that are identified as being suitable for rehoming.
- (iii) In all cases where dogs are euthanised, either because of surrender or not being claimed, euthanasia is undertaken by a licensed veterinarian.

(c) **Exercise Areas:**

- (i) Council established dog exercise areas and dog-prohibited areas within the district. The Policy also requires dogs to be on a leash at all times in a public place not deemed exercise areas. The exercise areas and dog prohibited areas are regularly monitored as part of normal patrols. There have been no problems sighted or complaints relating to the use of the exercise areas.

(d) **Special permits for more than two dogs:**

- (i) Owners with more than two dogs in any residential area not zoned rural must obtain a permit. The policy uses zones defined in the Council's operative District Plan. The property is inspected to assess whether or not the criteria is met prior to a permit being issued.

(e) **Fees and Charges:**

- (i) Fees and charges are reviewed annually and set by the Council. For the 2022 / 2023 financial year, these fees were:
- (ii) Registration

Entire Pet	\$97.00
Desexed Dogs	\$67.00
Responsible Owner	\$38.00
Working Dogs	\$22.00
Dangerous Dogs	150% of applicable fee
Late Payment Penalty	50% of applicable fee

(iii) Impounding

First Impounding – all dogs	\$80.00
Second Impounding- all dogs	\$170.00
Third Impounding- all dogs	\$285.00
Daily Sustenance	\$15.00
Registration Investigation	\$30.00
Surrender fee	\$45.00

(f) Education and communication:

- (i) Council communicates with the public by way of direct written communication, Council website, press releases in the local papers and radio advertisements and social media (Facebook).
- (ii) Council supports the public by providing a school education bite prevention programme and will extend any assistance to any adult agencies if requested.

5.2.2 Serious issues that warrant more than an infringement prompt Council staff to prepare a file showing any history of offences committed and clear evidence of guilt before a decision to proceed with prosecution is taken.

Attachment(s) | Ngā āpitihanga

- 1 [Ruapehu District Council Dog Control Policy 2022](#)