

8 July 2019



Dear 

**Response - Official Information Request**

I refer to your request for information received on 22 May 2019. Your request has been considered under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA) and I provide the following information.

**1. How many dogs have been registered (including multiple owner registrations)**

In accordance with section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996 the number of dogs registered is published by Council each year in the Dog Policies and Practices Report. Please find a copy of these reports attached.

**2. How many applications have been made for responsible dog owner licence**

Please find this information attached.

**3. The total revenue which has been collected from dog registration and/or responsible owner licences**

Please find this information attached.

**4. The number of fines and infringement notices issued**

In accordance with section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996 the number of infringements issued is published by Council each year in the Dog Policies and Practices Report. Please find a copy of these reports attached.

**5. The total dollar value for the fines and infringements issued**

2013/14 - \$120,950

2014/15 - \$121,450

2015/16 - \$89,300

2016/17 - \$172,950

2017/18 - \$71,200

**6. The amount actually collected from owners in relation to infringements**

The amounts below are the total infringement fees value collected in each of the financial years listed. The amount shown does not directly correlate to the number or value of infringements issued for the corresponding year as many infringements are collected by payment arrangement through court collections and therefore may relate to a previous financial period.

2015/16 - \$134,844.67

2016/17 - \$210,137.90

2017/18 - \$87,365.48

**7. The total number of dogs rehomed**

2013/14 – 78

2014/15 – 73

2015/16 – 71

2016/17 – 41

2017/18 – 29

**8. The total number of dogs that have been brought into Council and destroyed/euthanized**

2013/14 – 205

2014/15 – 142

2015/16 – 105

2016/17 – 92

2017/18 – 89

**9. The total spend by Council from dog registrations on systems and processes necessary to run dog control/animal control**

Please find this information attached.

**10. Any documents (including meeting minutes and communications) showing how decisions are made with respect to how dog registration fees are allocated and spent.**

Dog registration fees are allocated to costs incurred to adequately deliver the animal control services (dog control), are not necessarily recorded other than use of a service. Please find the dog policy and practices annual reports attached for the years requested.

See <https://www.horowhenua.govt.nz/Council/Plans-Strategies/Long-Term-Plan-2018-2038> for the Revenue and Financing Policy which will provide rationale as to how decisions are made on fees.

**11. The total amount spent on animal control**

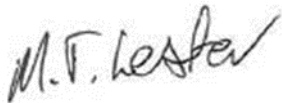
Please find information attached as per question 9

**12. If there are surplus funds from revenue collected from dog registrations, where that money is account for in the financial accounts, and how much?**

There has not been a surplus of funds from dog registrations in any of the years requested. This is also shown in the information attached.

If you have any queries regarding this information please contact Ian McLachlan, Group Manager Customer & Regulatory on 06 366 0999 or email: [ianm@horowhenua.govt.nz](mailto:ianm@horowhenua.govt.nz).

Yours sincerely



Mark Lester  
**Group Manager Corporate Services**

**2013 – 2014**

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

# **DOG CONTROL POLICY AND PRACTICES**

This report is presented pursuant to section 10A of the amended Dog Control Act 1996 which requires territorial authorities to:

“Report on the administration of its Dog Control Policy .... and its dog control practices.”

The Act further requires the report to include, in respect of each financial year, statistics relating to defined listed activities and furthermore to make public notification of the report and to provide a copy of the report to the Secretary for Local Government within one (1) month of its adoption by Council.

## **Introduction and Overview**

Council delivers its Animal Control services in-house, with funding of the dog control component being a mixture of user pays (dog registration fees) and rates, currently set as 70-80% Private Good and 20-30% Public Good.

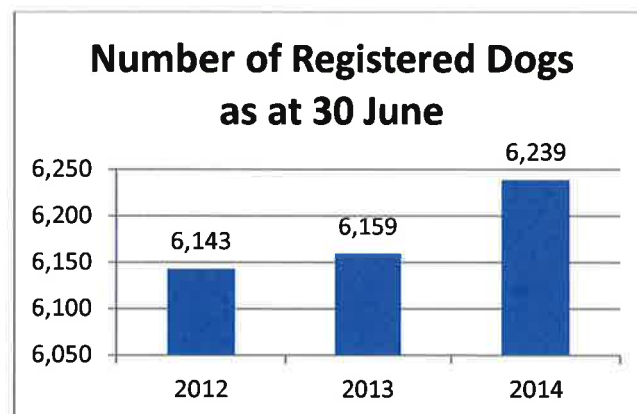
The Animal Control team is part of the Environmental Services Department and comprises a senior officer, two full time officers and one part time officer. Administrative support services are provided from the Strategic Partnerships and Community Services Department.

The Dog Pound is situated on Council land off Mako Mako Road, Levin. The facility has kennelling for up to 28 dogs at any one time, housed within a large exercise yard. The Pound is open to the public between 12.30 pm to 1.30 pm, and 3.30pm to 4.00 pm, Mondays to Fridays, excluding public holidays.

Council's Dog Control Policy and Bylaw were adopted in 2004. Both will be reviewed in the second half of 2014.

## **Dog Numbers**

The year started with a known 6,282 dogs on Council's Dog Database. At 30 June 2014 there are 6,239 registered dogs and 105 that remained unregistered; a total of 6,344 dogs. All dogs on record have been accounted for (either registered or infringement notice issued).



## **Dog Registration Fees**

Council operates various categories for dog registration fee purposes. The fee structure used is designed to reflect the makeup of our community and to reward responsible ownership. The following fee structures apply:

### **Description**

- New Zealand Kennel Club Status
- Racing Greyhound Stable
- De-sexed Pet (Urban)
- Entire Pet (Urban)
- Puppy (once only)
- Rural Pet
- Stock Dog
- Disability Assist
- Working
- Dangerous
- Superannuitant
- Selected Owner

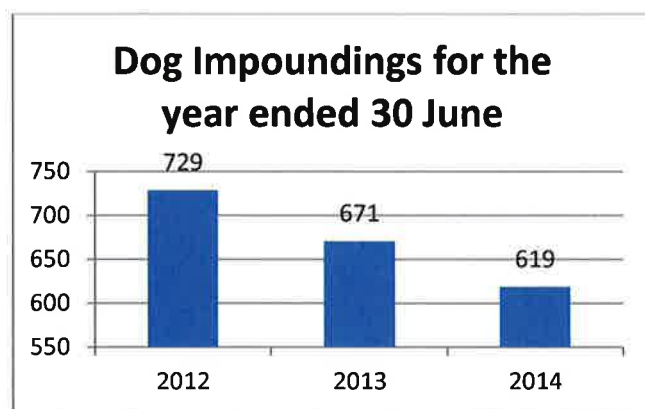
Some dog owners, of course, did not register their dogs, and in these cases, where they came to our attention, infringement notices were issued. If the infringement notice was not paid, it was lodged with the Justice Department for collection.

Council also offers a time payment arrangement for owners who may not be able to pay their registration fees in full immediately. During the 2013/14 year, 125 dog owners entered into an agreement to pay this way.

Registration fees for 2014/15 increased by \$10.00 per dog, the first increase for three (3) years.

### **Impounded Dogs**

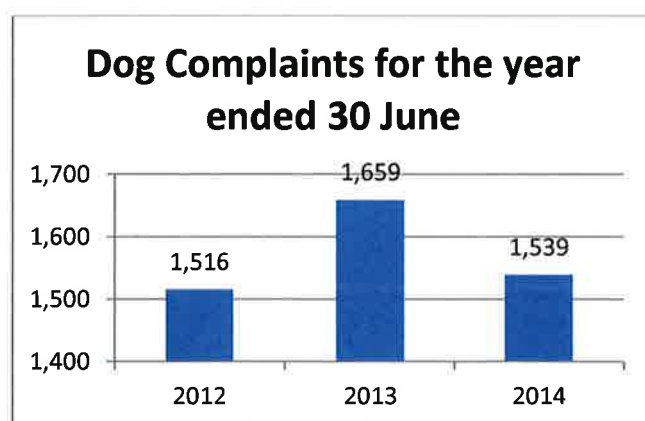
619 dogs were impounded during the year. Unfortunately only 348 (56%) were claimed by their owners; however, our staff re-homed 40 dogs during the year.



### **Complaints**

All complaints received by Council are recorded on our Dog Database. These complaints are then investigated with the outcome advised to the complainant. There have been 1,539 complaints this year comprising:

Barking	= 526
Wandering	= 685
Attacks	= 125
Aggressive Behaviour	= 168
Stock Worring	= 35

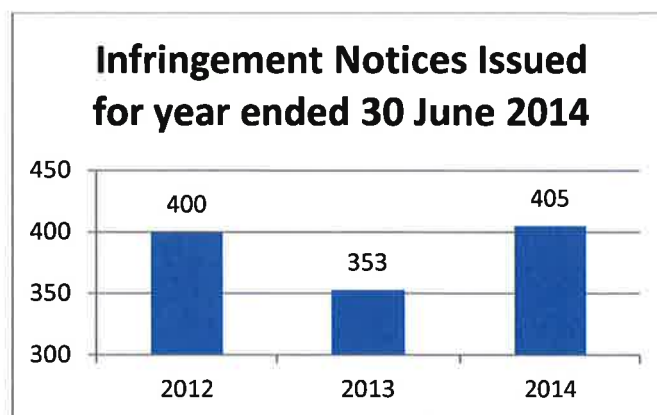


## **Infringements**

Whilst Council Officers issue infringement notices to errant dog owners, this is normally the last resort as all else has failed. 405 were issued this year, comprising:

Wilful Obstruction of Officer	5
Failure to comply with effects of Dangerous/Menacing Dog Classification	15
Failure to Implant Microchip	41
Failure to Register	320
Failure to keep dog controlled/confined	22
Bylaw offence	0

and 262 infringement notices were processed to the Courts for collection.



## **Prosecutions**

Five (5) prosecutions were successfully undertaken during the year and there is one pending an outcome.

## **Disqualified and Probationary Owners**

### **Disqualified:**

There is one disqualified owner in the District as at 30 June 2014.

### **Probationary:**

The District has one (1) dog owner classified as a Probationary owner.

## **Menacing and Dangerous Dogs**

All owners of menacing and dangerous dogs are recorded on Council's Dog Database. Owners are written to at the time of the Dangerous or Menacing classification being applied, advising them of their legal responsibilities as the owner.

Two owners appealed a menacing classification during the year. Appeals were considered by Council's Hearing Committee acting under delegated authority of Council. One appeal was upheld.

<i>Total Number Dangerous Dogs</i>	20
• Dangerous by Owner Conviction under s31(1)a)	0
• Dangerous by Sworn Evidence s31(1)(b)	20

• Dangerous by Owner Admittance s31(1)©	0
<i>Total Number Menacing Dogs</i>	253
• Menacing s33A(1)(b)(i) i.e. by behaviour	65
• Menacing by Breed Characteristics s33A(1)(b)(ii)	0
• Menacing by Schedule 4 Breed, i.e. Pitbull s33C(1)	188

<i>Location Breakdown of Dangerous/Menacing Dogs in the District</i>		
<u>Location</u>	<u>Dangerous</u>	<u>Menacing</u>
Foxton	2	42
Foxton Beach	2	18
Levin	9	127
Levin Rural	5	17
Shannon	1	17
Waikawa Beach	1	2
Foxton/Himatangi Rural	0	8
Hokio Beach	0	5
Ohau Township	0	2
Tokomaru Rural	0	6
Tokomaru Town	0	5
Waitarere Beach	0	4

### **After Hours Service**

Animal Control Officers are rostered to provide an 'emergency' after hours service, 365 days of the year. During the year Officers spent 583.5 hours responding to emergency incidents compared with 573 hours in the previous year.

**2014 – 2015**

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

# **DOG CONTROL POLICY AND PRACTICES**

This report is presented pursuant to section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996 which requires territorial authorities to:

“Report on the administration of its Dog Control Policy .... and its dog control practices.”

The Act further requires the report to include, in respect of each financial year, statistics relating to defined listed activities and furthermore to make public notification of the report and to provide a copy of the report to the Secretary for Local Government within one (1) month of its adoption by Council.

## **Introduction and Overview**

Council delivers its Animal Control services in-house, with funding of the dog control component being a mixture of user pays (dog registration fees) and rates, currently set as 70-80% Private Good and 20-30% Public Good.

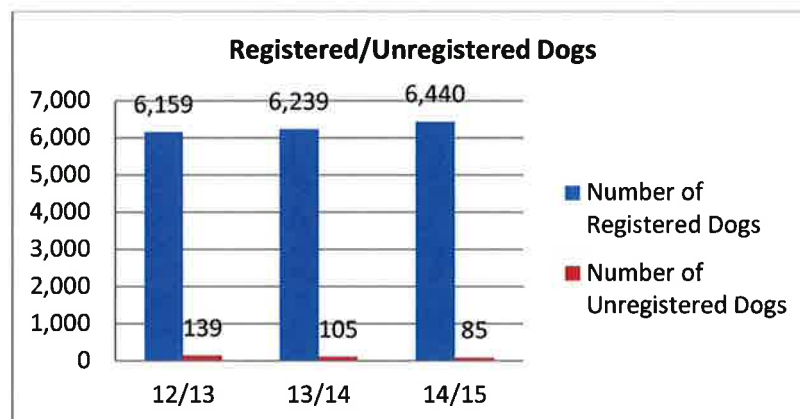
The Animal Control team is part of the Customer & Community Services Group and comprises a senior officer, two full time officers and one part time officer. Administrative support services are provided through the Customer Services arm of Council.

The Dog Pound is situated on Council land off Mako Mako Road, Levin. The facility has kennelling for up to 28 dogs at any one time, housed within a large exercise yard. The Pound is open to the public between 12.30 pm to 1.30 pm, and 3.30pm to 4.00 pm, Mondays to Fridays, excluding public holidays.

Council's Dog Control Policy and Bylaw were adopted in 2004. A review process of both has commenced with public consultation closing on 23 July 2015.

## **Dog Numbers**

The year started with a known 6,239 dogs on Council's Dog Database. At 30 June 2015 there are 6,440 registered dogs and 85 that remained unregistered; a total of 6,525 dogs. All dogs on record have been accounted for (either registered or infringement notice issued).



## **Dog Registration Fees**

Council operates various categories for dog registration fee purposes. The fee structure used is designed to reflect the makeup of our community and to reward responsible ownership. The following fee structures apply:

### **Description**

- New Zealand Kennel Club Status
- Racing Greyhound Stable
- De-sexed Pet (Urban)
- Entire Pet (Urban)
- Puppy (once only)
- Rural Pet
- Stock Dog
- Disability Assist
- Working
- Dangerous
- Superannuitant

➤ **Selected Owner**

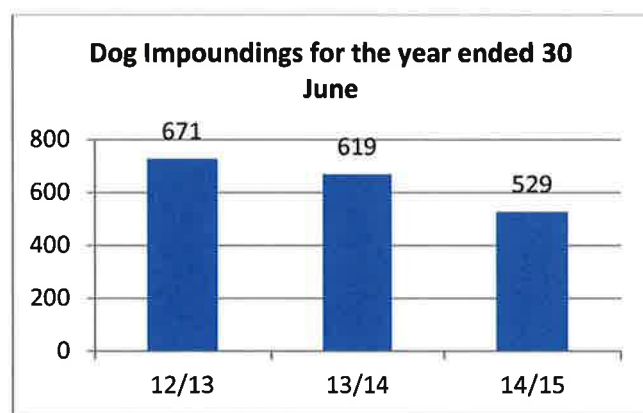
Some dog owners, of course, did not register their dogs, and in these cases, where they came to our attention, infringement notices were issued. If the infringement notice was not paid, it was lodged with the Justice Department for collection.

Council also offers a time payment arrangement for owners who may not be able to pay their registration fees in full immediately.

Registration fees for 2015/16 have increased by \$10.00 per dog.

**Impounded Dogs**

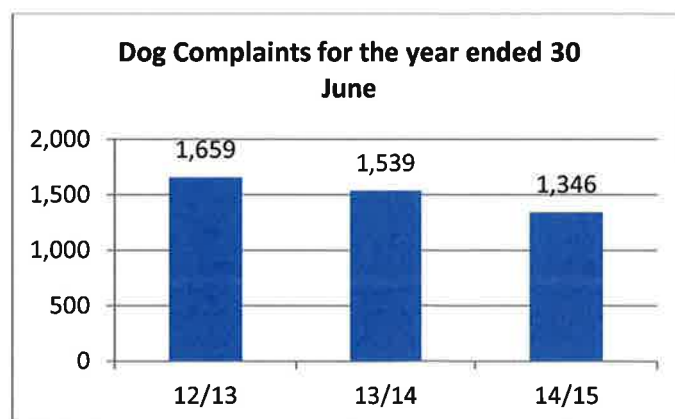
529 dogs were impounded during the year. Unfortunately only 269 (50%) were claimed by their owners; however, our staff re-homed 39 dogs during the year.



**Complaints**

All complaints received by Council are recorded on our Dog Database. These complaints are then investigated with the outcome advised to the complainant. There have been 1,346 complaints this year comprising:

Barking	= 502
Wandering	= 690
Attacks	= 101
Aggressive Behaviour	= 48
Stock Worring	= 5

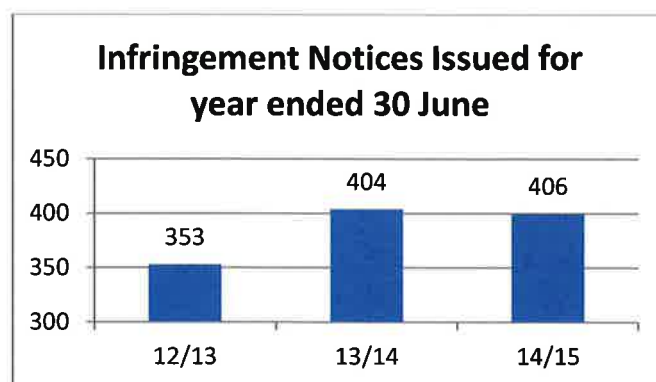


## **Infringements**

Whilst Council Officers issue infringement notices to errant dog owners, this is normally the last resort as all else has failed. 406 were issued this year, comprising:

Wilful Obstruction of Officer	1
Failure to comply with effects of Dangerous/Menacing Dog Classification	6
Failure to Implant Microchip	17
Failure to Register	370
Failure to keep dog controlled/confined	8
Bylaw offence	4

and 319 infringement notices were processed to the Courts for collection.



## **Prosecutions**

One (1) prosecution was undertaken during the year, currently pending an outcome.

## **Disqualified and Probationary Owners**

### **Disqualified:**

There is one disqualified owner in the District as at 30 June 2015.

### **Probationary:**

The District has no probationary owners.

## **Menacing and Dangerous Dogs**

All owners of menacing and dangerous dogs are recorded on Council's Dog Database. Owners are written to at the time of the Dangerous or Menacing classification being applied, advising them of their legal responsibilities as the owner.

There were no appeals against the classifications.

<b><u>Total Number Dangerous Dogs</u></b>	19
• Dangerous by Owner Conviction under s31(1)a)	0
• Dangerous by Sworn Evidence s31(1)(b)	19
• Dangerous by Owner Admittance s31(1)c)	0
<b><u>Total Number Menacing Dogs</u></b>	253
• Menacing s33A(1)(b)(i) i.e. by behaviour	65

• Menacing by Breed Characteristics s33A(1)(b)(ii)	0
• Menacing by Schedule 4 Breed, i.e. Pitbull s33C(1)	188

<i>Location Breakdown of Dangerous/Menacing Dogs in the District</i>		
<u>Location</u>	<u>Dangerous</u>	<u>Menacing</u>
Foxton	2	48
Foxton Beach	1	16
Levin	7	127
Levin Rural	7	18
Shannon	1	14
Waikawa Beach	1	2
Foxton/Himatangi Rural	0	8
Hokio Beach	0	6
Ohau Township	0	2
Tokomaru Rural	0	4
Tokomaru Town	0	3
Waitarere Beach	0	5

### **After Hours Service**

Animal Control Officers are rostered to provide an 'emergency' after hours service, 365 days of the year. During the year Officers spent 458.5 hours responding to emergency incidents compared with 583.5 hours in the previous year.

### **Response Needs**

Some of the more interesting or unusual responses by our team were -

- > to a seal that had travelled up a stream and was found in the middle of a paddock 6k inland.
- > responding to a report about a pheasant on a property and despite being told that it was running around couldn't find it - turned out to be an imaginary bird.
- > cat stuck in walls of a house..



**Horowhenua**   
DISTRICT COUNCIL

# Dog Control Policy and Practices

**Annual Report 2015-2016**

This report is presented pursuant to section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996 which requires territorial authorities to:

“Report on the administration of its Dog Control Policy... and its dog control practices.”

The Act further requires the report to include, in respect of each financial year, statistics relating to defined listed activities and furthermore to make public notification of the report and to provide a copy of the report to the Secretary for Local Government within one (1) month of its adoption by Council.

## **Introduction and Overview**

Council delivers its Animal Control services in-house, with funding of the dog control component being a mixture of user pays (dog registration fees) and rates, currently set as 70-80% Private Good and 20-30% Public Good.

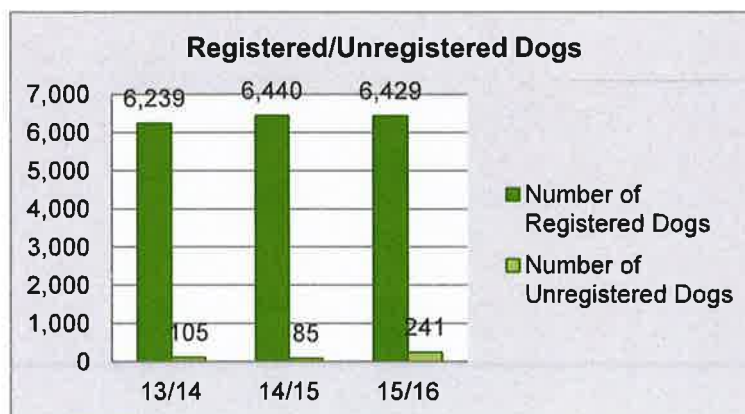
The Animal Control team is part of the Customer Experience team which is in the Customer and Regulatory Services Arm of the Customer & Community Services Group at Council. The Animal Control team comprises of one full time officer and three part time officers and administrative support services are provided by the wider Customer Experience staff that work within the Customer Services call centre and cashiering services of Council.

The Dog Pound is situated on Council land off Mako Mako Road, Levin. The facility has kennelling for up to 28 dogs at any one time, housed within a large exercise yard. The Pound is open to the public between 12.30 pm to 1.30 pm, and 3.30pm to 4.00 pm, Mondays to Fridays, excluding public holidays.

A review of Council's Dog Control Policy and Bylaw was undertaken in June 2015 and following the public consultative process was subsequently adopted in August 2015.

## **Dog Numbers**

The year started with a known 6,440 dogs on Council's Dog Database. At 30 June 2015 there are 6,188 registered dogs and 241 that remained unregistered; a total of 6,429 dogs. All dogs on record have been accounted for (either registered or infringement notice issued).



## **Dog Registration Fees**

Council operates various categories for dog registration fee purposes. The fee structure used is designed to reflect the makeup of our community and to reward responsible ownership. The following fee structures apply:

### **Description**

- New Zealand Kennel Club Status
- Racing Greyhound Stable
- De-sexed Pet (Urban)
- Entire Pet (Urban)
- Puppy (once only)
- Rural Pet
- Stock Dog
- Disability Assist
- Working
- Dangerous
- Superannuitant
- Selected Owner

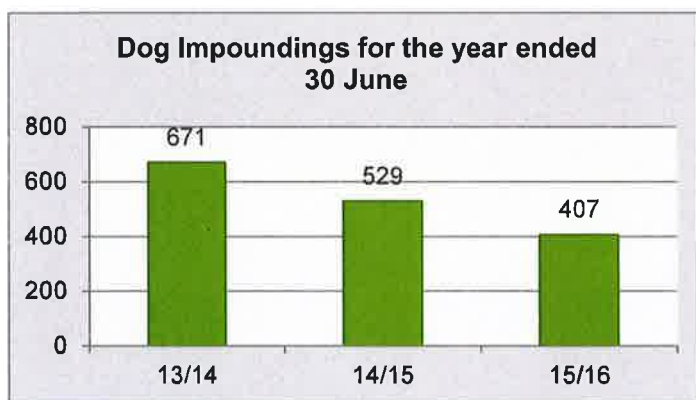
Some dog owners, of course, did not register their dogs, and in these cases, where they came to our attention, infringement notices were issued. If the infringement notice was not paid, it was lodged with the Ministry of Justice for collection.

Council also offers a time payment arrangement for owners who may not be able to pay their registration fees in full immediately.

Registration Notices for 2016/17 were posted to all current dog owners in our database and each included a dog information pamphlet called Paws for a moment 2016 (attached).

### **Impounded Dogs**

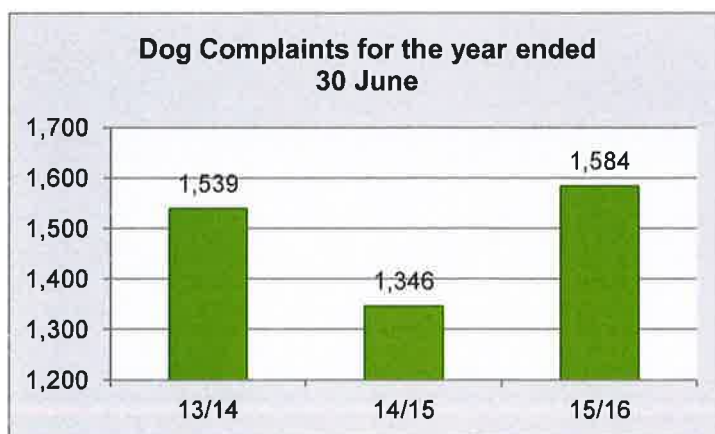
407 dogs were impounded during the year; a reduction of 23% from the previous year (2014/15), and 39% from 2013/14.



### **Complaints**

All complaints received by Council are recorded on our Dog Database. These complaints are then investigated with the outcome advised to the complainant. There have been 1,584 complaints this year comprising:

Barking	623
Wandering	764
Attacks	91
Aggressive Behaviour	102
Stock Worring	4



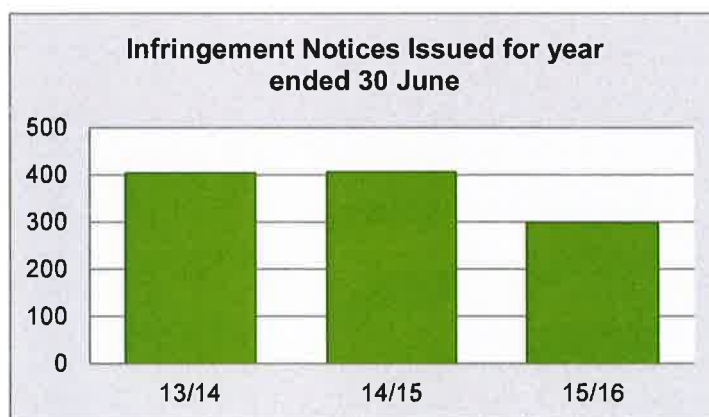
## **Infringements**

Whilst Council Officers issue infringement notices to errant dog owners, this is normally the last resort as all else has failed.

299 infringements were issued this year, comprising:

Wilful Obstruction of Officer	2
Failure to comply with effects of Dangerous/Menacing Dog Classification	7
Failure to Implant Microchip	23
Failure to Register	253
Failure to keep dog controlled/confined	13
Bylaw offence	1

And, 225 infringement notices were processed to the Courts for collection.



## **Prosecutions**

Two (2) prosecutions were successfully completed during the year.

## **Disqualified and Probationary Owners**

### **Disqualified:**

There was one disqualified owner in the District as at 30 June 2016.

### **Probationary:**

There were two probationary dog owners in the District as at 30 June 2016.

## **Menacing and Dangerous Dogs**

All owners of menacing and dangerous dogs are recorded on Council's Dog Database. Owners are written to at the time of the Dangerous or Menacing classification being applied, advising them of their legal responsibilities as the owner.

There were no appeals against the classifications.

<b>Total Number Dangerous Dogs</b>	<b>18</b>
Dangerous by Owner Conviction under s31(1)a)	0
Dangerous by Sworn Evidence s31(1)(b)	18
Dangerous by Owner Admittance s31(1)(c)	0
<b>Total Number Menacing Dogs</b>	<b>255</b>
Menacing s33A(1)(b)(i) i.e. by behaviour	59
Menacing by Breed Characteristics s33A(1)(b)(ii)	0
Menacing by Schedule 4 Breed, i.e. Pitbull s33C(1)	196

<b>Location Breakdown of Dangerous/Menacing Dogs in the District</b>		
<b>Location</b>	<b>Dangerous</b>	<b>Menacing</b>
Foxton	1	48
Foxton Beach	0	12
Levin	8	109
Levin Rural	6	28
Shannon	1	11
Waikawa Beach	1	1
Foxton/Himatangi Rural	0	11
Hokio Beach	0	5
Ohau Township	0	4
Tokomaru Rural	1	12
Tokomaru Town	0	5
Waitarere Beach	0	9

### **After Hours Service**

Animal Control Officers are rostered to provide an 'emergency' after hours service, 365 days of the year.

### **Response Needs**

Some of the more interesting or unusual responses by our team were;

- Impounding of two turtles found taking an afternoon stroll down the footpath in their localities. One was reunited with its owner and the other, a red slider turtle was rehomed.
- Chasing a duck with eight ducklings out of the township and across the railway tracks to water and safety.
- The rescue of two bichon dogs from a sewerage overflow pond.

*Hi dog owners,*

Here you will find all the information you need to ensure you and your pooch are safe and happy in the Horowhenua District.

If you have any questions or suggestions please feel free to get in touch with one of the friendly team on 06 366 0999 or check out [www.horowhenua.govt.nz](http://www.horowhenua.govt.nz) for more information.

*Be in  
to win!*

Pay before  
Sunday 17th July 2016  
and go in the draw to  
win back your registration fee.

## Register your Dog

It's annual dog registration time and all dog tags are changing from Yellow to Blue. Pay before 31 July 2016 to avoid a penalty of 50% being added.

Come in to register your dog on Saturday 9th or 16th July 2016, bring your dog and have it microchipped for \$25.00.

## Lost Dog

If your dog is lost, phone us on 06 366 0999 and provide us with an accurate description of your dog and the area from which it strayed. Often we can match up your reported lost dog with a reported found dog.

📍 Council's dog pound is located at  
169 Mako Mako Road, Levin

🕒 Open to the public 12.30pm – 1.30pm,  
and 3.30pm – 4.00pm, Monday to Friday  
(except for Statutory Holidays).

**Horowhenua**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Have your contact details changed?  
Let us know.

📞 06 366 0999 📍 Private Bag 4002, Levin 5540  
📍 126 Oxford St, Levin 5510 🌐 [www.horowhenua.govt.nz](http://www.horowhenua.govt.nz)  
✉ [enquiries@horowhenua.govt.nz](mailto:enquiries@horowhenua.govt.nz) 📺 HorowhenuaDC

**Horowhenua**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Paws for  
a moment  
2016**

## What does my registration pay for?

### Response to complaints including:

- Barking dogs/Dangerous dogs
- Wandering dogs/Rushing dogs
- Dogs fouling on public/private land
- Enforcement of the Dog Control Act and the Horowhenua District Council bylaws
- Dog welfare problems
- Attacks on people/domestic pets/stock/wildlife
- Regular monitoring of problem areas and rubbish day areas
- Dogs restrained by the public/ caught in traps
- 24 hour service for emergency needs

### Promoting better care and control of dogs:

- Visits to schools/community groups
- Radio/newspaper information programmes
- Educating owners with problem dogs
- Advice to dog owners and the public

### Provides and maintains the Pound facilities

Legal action taken when appropriate

## Is your dog microchipped?

All dogs (with the exception of working dogs) in New Zealand must be micro-chipped. Having your dog micro-chipped properly identifies your dog, and that is a big help if it goes missing.

Micro-chipping can help us to reunite dogs with their owners or track irresponsible owners or those prone to abandoning dogs.

Approximately 400 dogs are impounded each year and many have no means of identification.

## Where can I exercise my dog?

Dog control bylaw 2015 areas where dogs are allowed (leashed and/or unleashed)

	Leashed	Unleashed
<b>Tokomaru</b>	Residential streets (unless prohibited)	Tokomaru Domain when not being used for sporting or other community uses
<b>Shannon</b>	Residential streets (unless prohibited), Shannon Urban prohibited area (after shop trading hours), Shannon Cemetery, Te Maire Park	Moynihan Park when not being used for sporting or other community uses.
<b>Foxton</b>	Residential streets (unless prohibited), Foxton Town prohibited area (after shop trading hours)	Victoria Park excluding sportsgrounds
<b>Foxton Beach</b>	Residential streets (unless prohibited), Hennessey Street/Lowe Avenue grounds, Hartley Street Esplanade	Foxton Beach outside of ramp areas, Cousins Avenue Plantation Reserve
<b>Waitare</b>	Residential streets (unless prohibited), Esplanade Reserve, Waitare Beach Motor Camp (Caretaker and Camp Tenants only)	Waitare Beach outside of patrolled area
<b>Hokio</b>	Residential streets (unless prohibited)	Hokio Beach
<b>Manakau</b>	Residential streets (unless prohibited), Manakau cemetery, Driscoll Reserve	Kuku Beach
<b>Levin</b>	Residential streets (unless prohibited), Levin Town prohibited area (after shop trading hours), Iona Park, Green Avenue Reserve, Tiro Road Cemetery, Lincoln Place Reserve, Avenue Cemetery, Maire Park, Railway Reserve Levin North (Kiosk), Railway Reserve (Liverpool Street to Tararua Road), Public Gardens - Rose Gardens, Playford Park Motor Camp (Caretaker and Camp tenants only), Morgan Crescent Reserve, Prouse Bush, Public Gardens - Thompson House Memorial Gardens, Western Park (rear), Levin Adventure Park dog exercise area only	Kowhai Park, Argyle Avenue Reserve, Kimberley Reserve, Gladstone Reserve, Kennedy Drive Park
<b>Mangaore</b>	Residential streets (unless prohibited)	Mangaore Park
<b>Ohau</b>	Residential streets (unless prohibited), Ohau Domain	Parikawau Reserve
<b>Waikawa</b>	Residential streets (unless prohibited) Waikawa Reserve	Waikawa Beach

# Dog Control Policy and Practices

**Annual Report 2016-2017**

This report is presented pursuant to section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996 which requires territorial authorities to:

“Report on the administration of its Dog Control Policy... and its dog control practices.”

The Act further requires the report to include, in respect of each financial year, statistics relating to defined listed activities and furthermore to make public notification of the report and to provide a copy of the report to the Secretary for Local Government within one (1) month of its adoption by Council.

## **Introduction and Overview**

Council delivers its Animal Control services in-house, with funding of the dog control component being a mixture of user pays (dog registration fees) and rates, currently set as 70-80% Private Good and 20-30% Public Good.

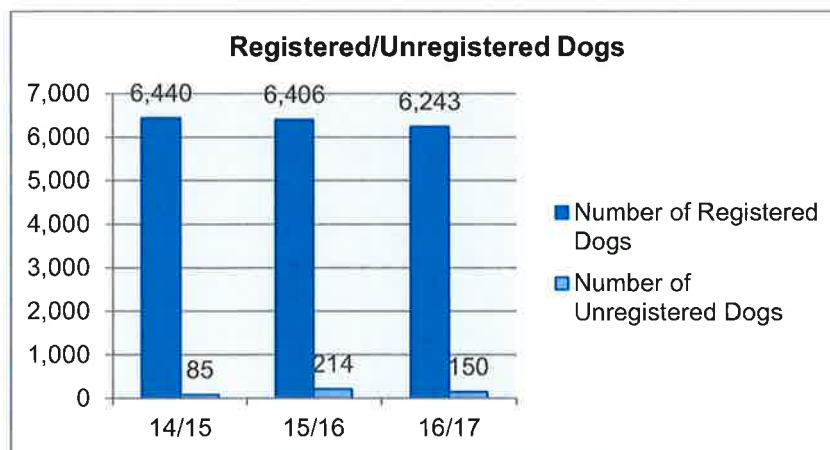
The Animal Control team is part of the Customer Experience team which is in the Customer and Regulatory Services Arm of the Customer & Community Services Group at Council. The Animal Control team comprises of two full time officers and two part time officers. Administrative support services are provided by the wider Customer Experience staff that work within the Customer Services call centre and cashiering services of Council.

The Dog Pound is situated on Council land off Mako Mako Road, Levin. The facility has kennelling for up to 28 dogs at any one time, housed within a large exercise yard. The Pound is open to the public between 12.30 pm to 1.30 pm, and 3.30pm to 4.00 pm, Mondays to Fridays, excluding public holidays.

A review of Council's Dog Control Policy and Bylaw was undertaken in June 2015 and following the public consultative process was subsequently adopted in August 2015.

## **Dog Numbers**

The year started with a known 6,406 dogs on Council's Dog Database. At 30 June 2017 there are 6,093 registered dogs and 150 that remained unregistered; a total of 6,243 dogs. All dogs on record have been accounted for (either registered or infringement notice issued).



## **Dog Registration Fees**

Council operates various categories for dog registration fee purposes. The fee structure used is designed to reflect the makeup of our community and to reward responsible ownership. The following fee structures apply:

### **Description**

- New Zealand Kennel Club Status
- Racing Greyhound Stable
- De-sexed Pet (Urban)
- Entire Pet (Urban)
- Puppy (once only)
- Rural Pet
- Stock Dog
- Disability Assist
- Working
- Dangerous
- Superannuitant
- Selected Owner

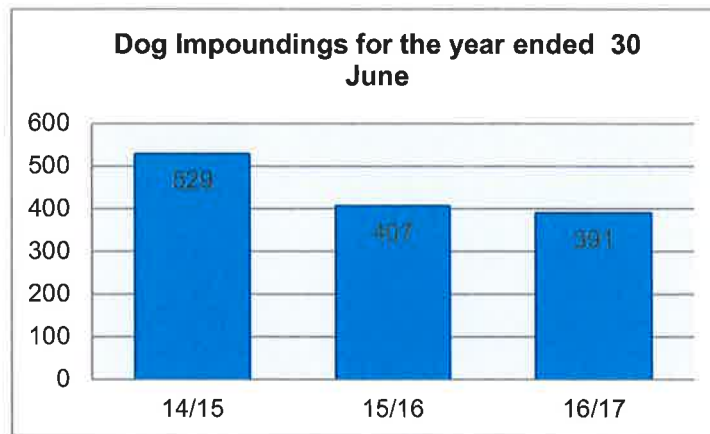
Some dog owners, of course, did not register their dogs, and in these cases, where they came to our attention, infringement notices were issued. If the infringement notice was not paid, it was lodged with the Ministry of Justice for collection.

Council also offers a time payment arrangement for owners who may not be able to pay their registration fees in full immediately.

Registration Notices for 2017/18 were posted to all current dog owners in our database and each included a dog information pamphlet called Paws for a moment 2017 (attached).

### **Impounded Dogs**

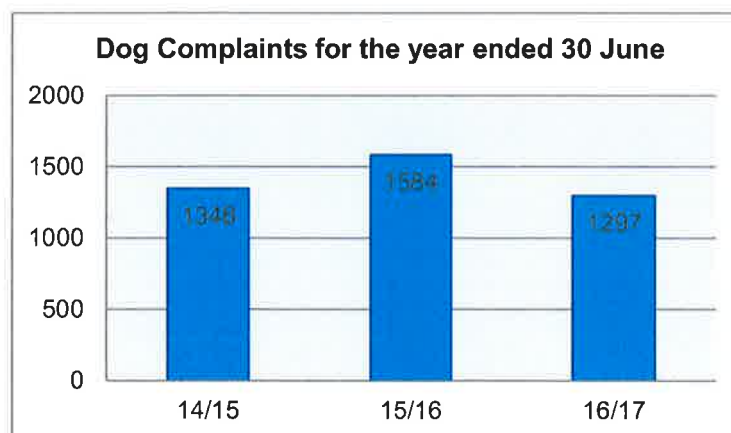
391 dogs were impounded during the year; a reduction of 3.9% from the previous year (2015/16), and 23% from 2014/15.



### **Complaints**

All complaints received by Council are recorded on our Dog Database. These complaints are then investigated with the outcome advised to the complainant. There have been 1,297 complaints this year comprising:

Barking	428
Wandering	634
Attacks	115
Aggressive Behaviour	108
Stock Worring	12



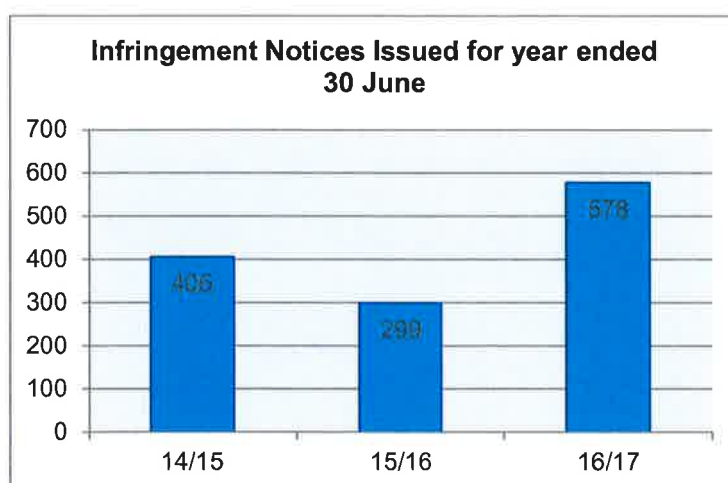
## **Infringements**

Whilst Council Officers issue infringement notices to errant dog owners, this is normally the last resort as all else has failed.

578 infringements were issued this year, comprising:

False information about a dog	1
Failure to comply with effects of Dangerous/Menacing Dog Classification	4
Failure to Implant Microchip	8
Failure to Register	556
Failure to keep dog controlled/confined	9

And, 287 infringement notices were processed to the Courts for collection.



## **Prosecutions**

There were no prosecutions pursued during the year.

## **Disqualified and Probationary Owners**

### **Disqualified:**

There was one disqualified owner in the District as at 30 June 2017.

### **Probationary:**

There was one probationary dog owner in the District as at 30 June 2017.

## **Menacing and Dangerous Dogs**

All owners of menacing and dangerous dogs are recorded on Council's Dog Database. Owners are written to at the time of the Dangerous or Menacing classification being applied, advising them of their legal responsibilities as the owner.

There were no appeals against the classifications.

<b>Total Number Dangerous Dogs</b>	<b>14</b>
Dangerous by Owner Conviction under s31(1)a)	0
Dangerous by Sworn Evidence s31(1)(b)	14
Dangerous by Owner Admittance s31(1)(c)	0
<b>Total Number Menacing Dogs</b>	<b>204</b>
Menacing s33A(1)(b)(i) i.e. by behaviour	62
Menacing by Breed Characteristics s33A(1)(b)(ii)	0
Menacing by Schedule 4 Breed, i.e. Pitbull s33C(1)	142

<b>Location Breakdown of Dangerous/Menacing Dogs in the District</b>		
<b>Location</b>	<b>Dangerous</b>	<b>Menacing</b>
Foxton	2	30
Foxton Beach	1	14
Levin	4	91
Levin Rural	5	27
Shannon	1	12
Waikawa Beach	0	1
Foxton/Himatangi Rural	0	11
Hokio Beach	0	4
Ohau Township	0	4
Manakau Township	0	1
Tokomaru Rural	1	3
Tokomaru Town	0	3
Waitarere Beach	0	6

### **After Hours Service**

Animal Control Officers are rostered to provide an 'emergency' after hours service, 365 days of the year.

### **Response Needs**

Some of the more interesting or unusual responses by our team were;

- Two white billy goats, both wearing blue collars went missing from a residential area in town.
- The capture and rehoming of pet rabbits that had bred uncontrollably and were helping themselves to the vegetable gardens of locals.
- Rescued a geese & swan during duck shooting season with the help of the bird sanctuary in Himatangi.
- A wild stag wandered down from the hills and into a neighbouring paddock needing Animal Control and local farmer assistance to remove.



**Horowhenua**   
DISTRICT COUNCIL

# Dog Control Policy and Practices

**Annual Report 2017-2018**

This report is presented pursuant to section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996 which requires territorial authorities to:

“Report on the administration of its Dog Control Policy... and its dog control practices.”

The Act further requires the report to include, in respect of each financial year, statistics relating to defined listed activities and furthermore to make public notification of the report and to provide a copy of the report to the Secretary for Local Government within one (1) month of its adoption by Council.

## **Introduction and Overview**

Council delivers its Animal Control services in-house, with funding of the dog control component being a mixture of user pays (dog registration fees) and rates, currently set as 70-80% Private Good and 20-30% Public Good.

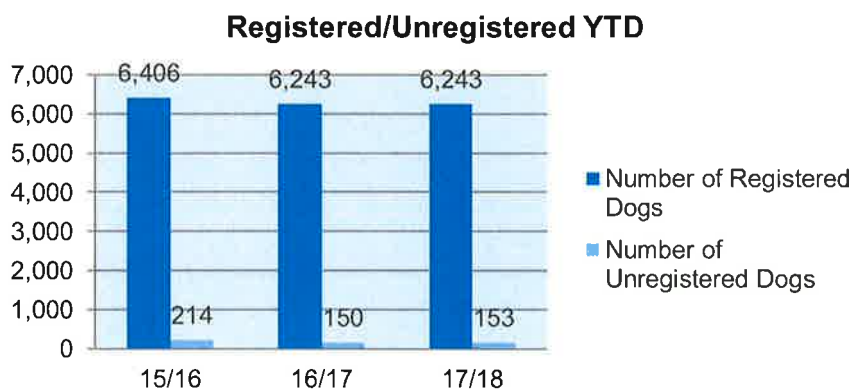
The Animal Control team is part of the Compliance team which is in the Customer and Regulatory Services Group at Council. The Animal Control team comprises of two full time officers and two part time officers. Administrative support services during the 2017 year were provided by Customer Experience staff that work within the Customer Services call centre and cashiering services of Council. In July 2018 a 6 month pilot was approved to employ a Customer Support Officer – Compliance for the purposes of assisting with the administration needs of the Animal Control function.

The Dog Pound is situated on Council land off Mako Mako Road, Levin. The facility has kennelling for up to 28 dogs at any one time, housed within a large exercise yard. During the 2017/18 year the Pound was open to the public between 12.30 pm to 1.30 pm, and 3.30pm to 4.00 pm, Mondays to Fridays, excluding public holidays. This service provision was reviewed in July 2018 and subsequently, changes were made to provide a new appointment-based system that offers a more flexible service.

A review of Council's Dog Control Policy and Bylaw was undertaken in June 2015 and following the public consultative process was subsequently adopted in August 2015.

## **Dog Numbers**

The year started with a known 6,396 dogs on Council's Dog Database. At 30 June 2018 there are 6,243 registered dogs and 153 that remained unregistered; a total of 6,396 dogs. Coincidentally this is the same number of dogs registered as at 30 June 2017; and 163 less than 30 June 2016.



## **Dog Registration Fees**

Council operates various categories for dog registration fee purposes. The fee structure used is designed to reflect the makeup of our community and to reward responsible ownership. The following fee structures apply:

### **Description**

- New Zealand Kennel Club Status
- Racing Greyhound Stable
- De-sexed Pet (Urban)
- Entire Pet (Urban)
- Puppy (once only)
- Rural Pet
- Stock Dog
- Disability Assist
- Working
- Dangerous
- Superannuitant
- Selected Owner

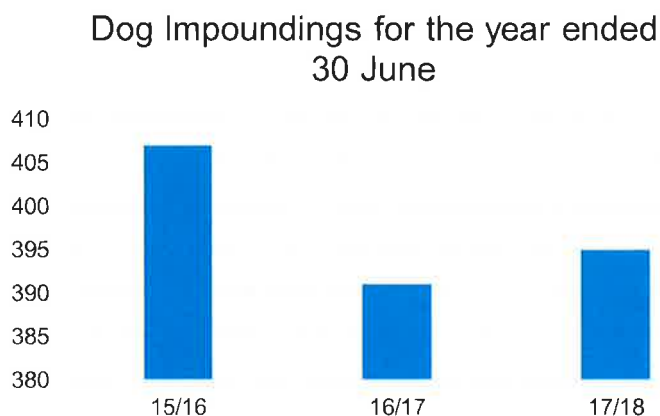
Some dog owners, of course, did not register their dogs, and in these cases, where they came to our attention, infringement notices were issued. If the infringement notice was not paid, it was lodged with the Ministry of Justice for collection.

Council also offers a time payment arrangement for owners who may not be able to pay their registration fees in full immediately. Time payment arrangements are offered by direct debit only, and are to be paid in full by 31 August 2018.

Registration Notices for 2017/18 were posted to all current dog owners in our database in the final days of June 2018.

### **Impounded Dogs**

395 dogs were impounded during the year; an increase of 1% from the previous year (2016/17), and a decrease of 3% from 2015/16.

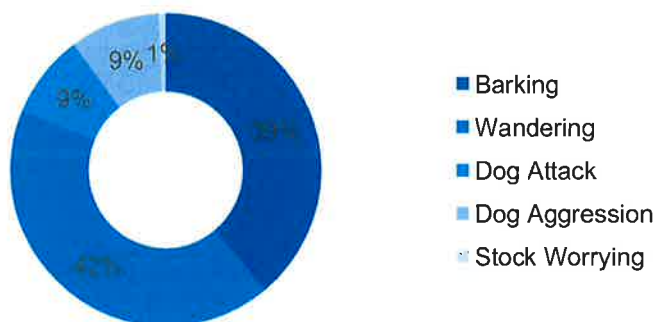


### **Complaints**

All complaints received by Council are recorded on our Dog Database. These complaints are then investigated with the outcome advised to the complainant. There were 1,016 complaints during the year comprising:

Barking	395
Wandering	430
Attacks	87
Aggressive Behaviour	96
Stock Worring	8

### **Dog Complaints to 30 June 2018**



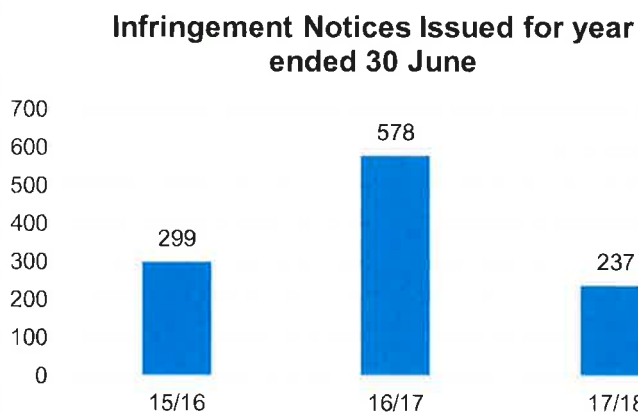
## **Infringements**

Whilst Council Officers issue infringement notices to errant dog owners, this is normally the last resort as all else has failed.

237 infringements were issued this year, comprising:

Wilful Obstruction of Officer	1
Failure to provide proper care, food, water or shelter	1
Failure to Implant Microchip	5
Failure to Register	220
Failure to keep dog controlled/confined	8
Bylaw offence	1
Failure to supply or giving false information about dog	1

And, 187 infringement notices were processed to the Courts for collection.



## **Prosecutions**

There were no prosecutions completed during the year.

## **Disqualified and Probationary Owners**

### **Disqualified:**

There was one disqualified owner in the District as at 30 June 2018.

### **Probationary:**

There were no probationary dog owners in the District as at 30 June 2018.

## **Menacing and Dangerous Dogs**

All owners of menacing and dangerous dogs are recorded on Council's Dog Database. Owners are written to at the time of the Dangerous or Menacing classification being applied, advising them of their legal responsibilities as the owner.

There were no appeals against the classifications.

<b>Total Number Dangerous Dogs</b>	<b>9</b>
Dangerous by Owner Conviction under s31(1)a)	0
Dangerous by Sworn Evidence s31(1)(b)	9
Dangerous by Owner Admittance s31(1)(c)	0
<b>Total Number Menacing Dogs</b>	<b>211</b>
Menacing s33A(1)(b)(i) i.e. by behaviour	54
Menacing by Breed Characteristics s33A(1)(b)(ii)	0
Menacing by Schedule 4 Breed, i.e. Pitbull s33C(1)	157

<b>Location Breakdown of Dangerous/Menacing Dogs in the District</b>		
<b>Location</b>	<b>Dangerous</b>	<b>Menacing</b>
Foxton	2	29
Foxton Beach	1	14
Levin	3	95
Levin Rural	2	21
Shannon	1	20
Waikawa Beach	0	3
Foxton/Himatangi Rural	0	4
Hokio Beach	0	6
Ohau Township	0	2
Manakau Township	0	2
Tokomaru Rural	0	3
Tokomaru Town	0	4
Waitarere Beach	0	8

### **After Hours Service**

Animal Control Officers are rostered to provide an 'emergency' after hours service, 365 days of the year. Afterhour's services relate to Dog Control and Stock Control emergency needs.