

LGOIMA Reference: 2021/789

2 November 2021



**Response - Official Information Request**

I refer to your request for information received on 04/10/2021. Your request has been considered under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA) and I provide the following information.

**1. Please enter the number of registered dogs in the 2014-2018 fiscal years (from 1st July - 30th June)**

Year	Number of registered dogs as at 30 June
2014-15	6,440
2015-16	6,188
2016-17	6,093
2017-18	6,148
2018-19	6,306

**2. Please enter an estimated number of all un-registered dogs (known and unknown) in the following fiscal years (from 1st July - 30th June)**

Year	Number of known dogs unregistered as at 30 June
2014-15	85
2015-16	214
2016-17	150
2017-18	179
2018-19	106

**3. Please enter the total number of complaints received for a dog attack on a person (including bites or 'rushing') during the 2014-2018 fiscal years**

Year	Number of complaints received for reports of dog attacks and reports of dog aggression
2014-15	104
2015-16	94
2016-17	116
2017-18	84
2018-19	101

**4. Please enter the total number of classifications made for menacing dogs due to their behaviour during the 2014-2018 fiscal years**

Year	Number of classifications issued
2014-15	23
2015-16	13
2016-17	9
2017-18	11
2018-19	19

**5. Please enter the total number of classifications made for menacing dogs due to their breed during the 2014-2018 fiscal years**

Year	Number of classifications issued
2014-15	60
2015-16	62
2016-17	20
2017-18	38
2018-19	25

**6. Please enter the total number of classifications made for dangerous dogs during the 2014-2018 fiscal years**

Year	Number of classifications issued
2014-15	3
2015-16	2
2016-17	4
2017-18	0
2018-19	3

**7. Please enter the total number of dogs that were recorded by the council as being chemically or surgically sterilised (de-sexed) during the 2014-2018 fiscal years (if known)**

Year	Number of dogs recorded as de-sexed
2014-15	3952
2015-16	4164
2016/17	4239
2017-18	4417
2018-19	4198

**8. Please enter the total number of dogs that had a microchip (new or old) during the 2014-2018 fiscal years**

Year	Number of dogs microchipped
2014-15	4707
2015-16	5097
2016-17	5282
2017-18	5604
2018-19	5818

**9. Please enter the total number of infringements for non-registration during the 2014-2018 fiscal years**

Year	Number of infringements issued
2014-15	370
2015-16	253
2016-17	556
2017-18	220
2018-19	128

**10. Please enter the total number of number of infringements for failure to control dog (including section 53 and any breach of your bylaw made under section 20 of the Act) during the 2014-2018 fiscal years**

Year	Failure to keep dog controlled or confined	Failure to keep dog under control
2014-15	8	0
2015-16	11	3
2016-17	6	3
2017-18	8	0
2018-19	1	1

**11. Please enter the total number of prosecutions for a dog attack on a person (including rushing at a person) during the 2014-2018 fiscal years**

Year	Number of prosecutions
2014-15	1
2015-16	2
2016-17	0
2017-18	0
2018-19	0

**12. Please enter the total number of dog destruction orders during the 2014-2018 fiscal years**

Year	Number of dog destructions orders
2014-15	1
2015-16	2
2016-17	0
2017-18	0
2018-19	0

**13. During the 2014 to 2018 (all) years, please give an estimate of the percentage of beaches/parks where most of the space has a dog on-leash law (or dogs-prohibited), for more than half of the year within your TA.**

Horowhenua has approximately 50 parks and reserves in the District, of which 10 allow dogs being exercised on-leash. This is approximately 20% of parks in our District.

**14. During the 2014 to 2018 (all) years, please give an estimate of the percentage of beaches/parks where most of the space has a dog off-leash law (an off-lead dog-exercise area), for more than half of the year within your TA.**

Horowhenua has approximately 50 parks and reserves in the District, of which 10 allow dogs being exercised off-leash. This is approximately 20% of parks in our District.

**15. During 2014 to 2018 (all years), please give an estimate of what percentage of beaches/parks have the dog-access rules regularly enforced (to an extent where people adhere to the rule most of the time)**

Council's Animal Control staff monitor all parks and reserves based on complaints received. Pro-active monitoring occurs on the two main beaches and at the main dog exercise off leash areas in Levin during the summer months as resourcing allows.

16. During 2014 to 2018 fiscal years, what was the annual number of full-time staff equivalents involved in your animal control services?

Year	Number of Dog Control Officer / Animal Control Officers
2014/15	3.63FTE
2015/16	3.25FTE
2016/17	3.43FTE
2017/18	3.43FTE
2018/19	3.43FTE

17. During 2014 to 2018 fiscal years, what was your total annual budget allocation for animal control (in whole dollars), before council overheads such as for paying for accommodation or commuters

Year	Annual budget allocation (\$000)
2014-15	600
2015-16	506
2016-17	509
2017-18	593
2018-19	562

18. During 2014 to 2018 fiscal years, how much (in whole dollars) was spent on council overheads, that did not directly fund dog-control, such as for paying for accommodation, commuters

Year	Value (\$000)
2014-15	145
2015-16	217
2016-17	221
2017-18	258
2018-19	251

**19. Please outline the cost of dog registration, and cost structure (i.e. what is the cost for registering a dog: and is it a flat fee, or are there discounts or penalties)**

From 1 July 2021:

Disability Assist Dog (Class 12)	Free
Selected Owner Status (Class 15)	\$66.00
NZKC Registered Status (Class 8)	\$66.00
Racing Greyhound Registered Status (Class 6)	\$66.00
De-sexed Pet (Urban & Rural) (Class 3 & 17)	\$79.00
Entire Pet (Urban & Rural) (Class 11 & 14)	\$132.00
Working Dog (Class 2) / Stock Dog (Class 16)	\$58.00
Puppy (Class 13)	\$55.00
Superannuitant Owner (Class 1)	\$79.00
Dangerous Dog De-sexed (Class 5)	\$118.50
Dangerous Dog Entire (Class 4)	\$198.00
Late Fee plus 50% if paid after 31 July 2021	

**20. Please outline the approximate percentage each category contributes to total dog-control income**

	Percentage (%)
Registrations	85%
Impounding	5%
Donations	0
Grants	0
ACC	0
Other – Infringement fees and monies collected by the Ministry of Justice for unpaid fines	10%

**21. Please describe the three main messages of any dog-safety education your service provides**

Council Officers utilise the Department of Internal Affairs information at [www.dogsafety.govt.nz](http://www.dogsafety.govt.nz) to assist with public education events, such as school visits.

**Message One:**

Dogs are capable of biting or attacking, no matter how friendly or passive a dog may seem, or how well you know it, or what size it is.

**Message Two:**

Dog owner responsibility. How to care for a dog and keep others safe around your dog.

**Message Three:**

Encouraging the public to report behaviors of non-compliance with the Dog Control Act to Council for follow-up by Animal Control Officers.

**22. Do you provide dog-safety information on your website, and if so, how is this distributed? (eg: social media, through dog-registrations)**

Dog-safety information is not currently on the Council's website.

**23. Please estimate the number of schools that your service would visit per year, to provide dog-safety education**

Approximately two schools are visited per year to provide dog-safety education presentations to students. Unfortunately dog-safety presentations were disrupted last year due to Covid-19.

**24. Please estimate the number of businesses that your service would visit per year, to provide dog-safety education**

Dog-safety information is provided to business based on requests received, which occurs at a rate of approximately one presentation per year.

**25. Does your service have an agreement with any local medical or veterinary professionals to report dog related injuries to the council? If so, please describe.**

Council does not have any formal agreements with local medical or veterinary professionals in this regard.

**26. Please describe any problems you feel exist with current dog control legislation.**

Council does not hold this information on file. However, it is of the opinion that the provisions available to Councils' in relation to dog attack penalties are so limited prior to Court action for destruction, and could well assist with preventing instances of dog attacks.

**27. Please describe any problems you feel exist with other dog control strategies.**

Council does not hold this information on file, and has no comment in this regard.

**28. Has your service encountered any particular cultural issues that have impacted on the above prevention strategies? If so, please describe**

Council has not encountered any cultural issues that have impacted on its dog control activity.

**29. Do you have any further suggestions about how to prevent injury to people from dogs, particularly in children, Māori or low-income groups, who are at greater risk?**

No.

Horowhenua District Council publishes responses to Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA) requests that we consider to be of wider public interest, or which relate to a subject that has been widely requested. To protect your privacy, we will not generally publish personal information about you, or information that identifies you. We will publish the LGOIMA response along with a summary of the request on our website. Requests and responses may be paraphrased.

If you have any queries regarding this information, please contact the LGOIMA Officer on 06 366 0999 or email - [LGOIMAOfficer@horowhenua.govt.nz](mailto:LGOIMAOfficer@horowhenua.govt.nz)

Yours sincerely



Lisa Slade  
**Executive Sponsor - LGOIMA**