

Dog Control Policy and Practices

Annual Report 2019 - 2020

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.

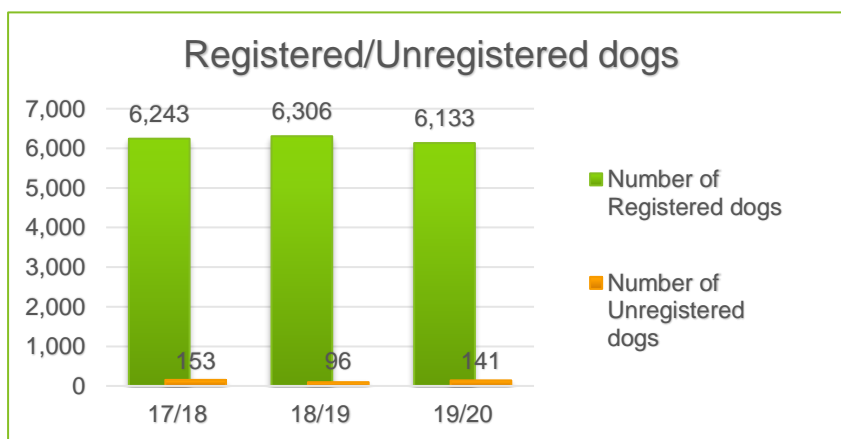
The Animal Control team is part of the Compliance team which is in the Customer and Regulatory Services Group at Council. During the 2019/2020 year the Animal Control team comprised of a team leader, two full time officers and two part time officers, with support provided by a Customer Support Officer completing 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. The Pound is generally closed to the public but provides an appointment-based system for owners of impounded dogs to collect their animal.

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 6,253 dogs on Council's Dog Database, increasing by 21 dogs to 6,274 known dogs by the end of the registration year. As at 30 June 2020, 6,133 dogs were registered and 141 remained unregistered. Animal Control staff visited all properties where unregistered dogs were recorded and those remaining unregistered having infringement fines issued to their owners. The resulting success rate of dogs registered during the year being 98%. In comparison to the previous two years, the percentage of unregistered dogs at the end of the registration period has decreased by 0.75%.



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
- Entire Pet
- Puppy (once only)
- Stock Dog
- Disability Assist
- Working
- Dangerous
- Selected Owner

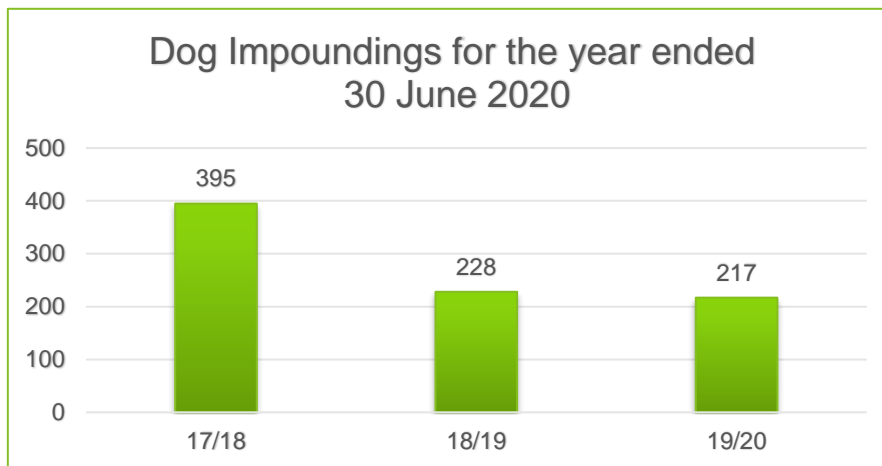
Some dog owners, of course, did not register their dogs, and in these cases, where they came to our attention, infringement notices were issued. If the infringement notice was not paid, it was lodged with the Ministry of Justice for collection.

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.

Registration Notices for the 2019/20 registration year were posted to all current dog owners in our database in the final days of June 2019.

Impounded Dogs

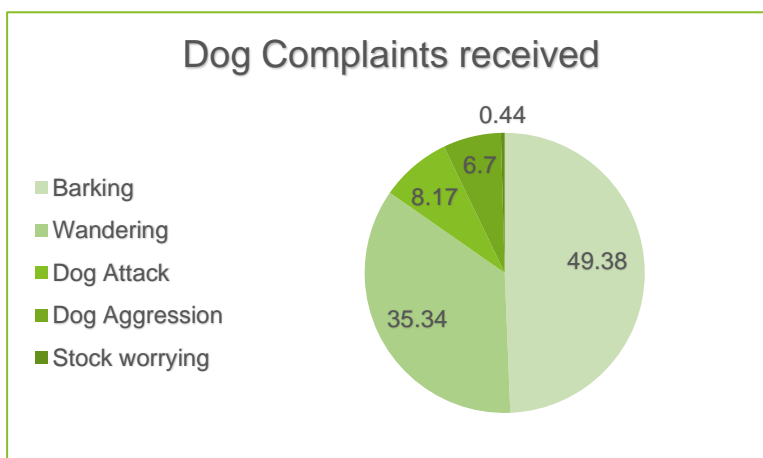
There were 217 dogs impounded during the year; a 5% decrease from the 2018/19 year and 45% decrease from the year prior (2017/18).



Complaints

All complaints received by Council are recorded on our Dog Database. All complaints are investigated with the outcome advised to the complainant. There were 1,126 complaints during the year including a number of serious dog attacks resulting in injury. All serious dog attacks were resolved due to the diligence and efficiencies of Animal Control staff. The complaints received comprised of:

Barking	556
Wandering	398
Attacks	92
Aggressive Behaviour	75
Stock Worrying	5

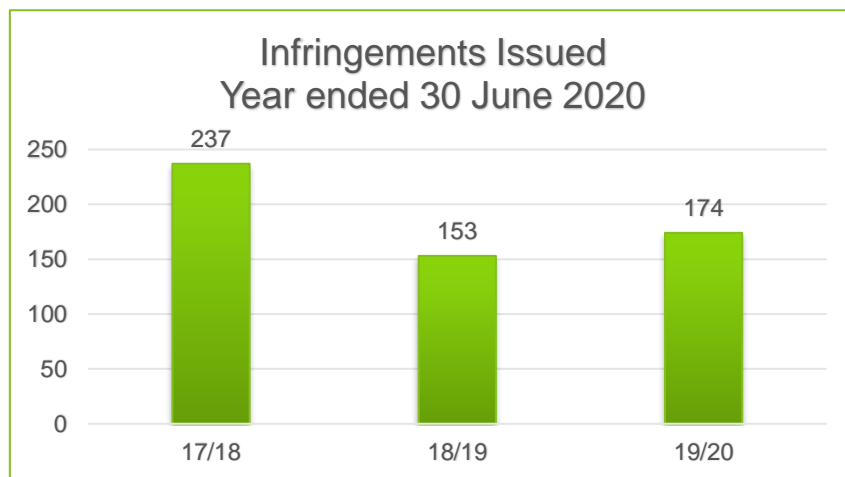


Infringements

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

There were 174 infringements issued during the 2019/20 year, comprising:

Wilful Obstruction of Officer	1
Failure to Register	168
Failure to keep dog controlled/confined	2
Bylaw offence	2
Failure to comply with effects of classification of dog as menacing dog	1



Prosecutions

There were no prosecutions completed during the year.

Disqualified and Probationary Owners

Disqualified:

The year began with one (1) disqualified owner in the District; this disqualification expired during the year resulting in no disqualified owners being in the District as at 30 June 2020.

Probationary:

There were no probationary dog owners in the District as at 30 June 2020.

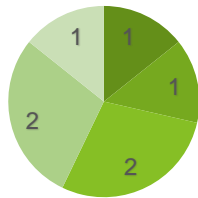
Menacing and Dangerous Dogs

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 was one appeal against a menacing classification issued under section 33A(1)(b) of the Dog Control Act 1996. Following a hearing held by Councils Hearings Committee on 4 July 2019 the classification remains.

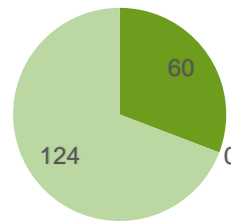
Total Number Dangerous Dogs	7
Dangerous by Owner Conviction under s31(1)a)	0
Dangerous by Sworn Evidence s31(1)(b)	7
Dangerous by Owner Admittance s31(1)(c)	0
Total Number Menacing Dogs	184
Menacing s33A(1)(b)(i) i.e. by behaviour	60
Menacing by Breed Characteristics s33A(1)(b)(ii)	0
Menacing by Schedule 4 Breed, i.e. Pitbull s33C(1)	124

Location of Dangerous Dogs



■ Foxton ■ Foxton Beach ■ Levin
■ Levin Rural ■ Shannon

Menacing Dogs by classification reason



■ Section 33A(1)(b)(i)
■ Section 33A(1)(b)(ii)
■ Section 33C(1)

Location Breakdown of Dangerous/Menacing Dogs in the District

Location	Dangerous	Menacing
Foxton	1	22
Foxton Beach	1	11
Levin	2	84
Levin Rural	2	25
Shannon	1	18
Waikawa Beach	0	3
Foxton/Himatangi Rural	0	3
Hokio Beach	0	3
Ohau Township	0	1
Manakau Township	0	1
Tokomaru Rural	0	5
Tokomaru Town	0	2
Waitarere Beach	0	6

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.