

Reference Number: 2026/1367

10 April 2026

[REDACTED]

Tēnā Koe I Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email dated 16 March 2026 requesting Council's administration and enforcement of the Dog Control Act for a period of 5 years under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA). Please see below a response to each part of your request.

The number of complaints received relating to roaming dogs, dog attacks, or dogs worrying livestock or poultry.

Please find this information in the table below. Each year reported is from 1 January to 31 December except for 2026 which is from 1 January to 31 March.

Category	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Roaming Dogs	336	501	447	461	148
Dog Attacks	94	99	87	104	23
Worrying livestock/ poultry	0	2	1	2	0

The number of dog attack incidents recorded during this period.

Please find this information reported in the table above.

The number of dogs seized or impounded by animal control officers.

Please find the information requested in the table below:

Category	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Impounded Dogs	209	240	298	264	66
Seized – (s.71 + s.57)	29	29	34	41	9

The number of dogs destroyed by the council, including those destroyed following attacks on livestock or other animals.

Please find the information requested in the table below:

Category	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Euthanised (destroyed)	43	40	56	48	1

The number of infringement notices or prosecutions issued under the Dog Control Act 1996.

Please find the information requested in the table below:

Information requested	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Number of infringements	164	248	60	279	72
Prosecutions	0	0	1	0	0

The number of dogs classified as dangerous or menacing during this period.

Please find the information requested in the table below:

Classification type	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Menacing	19	27	23	22	4
Dangerous	2	0	2	40	0

The number of full-time equivalent animal control officers employed by the council each year.

Year	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Number of FTE	4FTE	6FTE	5.5FTE	5.5FTE	5.5TFE

The annual budget allocated to dog control services for each year.

Please find the information requested in the table below. For this information the year is reported as 1 July to 30 June. This is because the annual budgets for Council are set per financial year which covers this same period.

Year	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Annual operating budget	\$600K	\$711K	\$690K	\$735K	\$1M

Any internal reports, briefings, or assessments relating to roaming or feral dog activity within the district.

Council holds no internal reports, briefings, or assessments relating specifically to roaming or feral dog activity.

In 2025 the Council completed the review of the Dog Control Bylaw and Policy, and within added new clauses 15, 16 & 17, relating to the requirement to neuter uncontrolled dogs. A copy of the bylaw can be found on the Councils website here: [horowhenua-district-council-dog-control-bylaw-2025.pdf](https://www.horowhenua.govt.nz/dog-control-bylaw-2025.pdf)

Any operational policies or procedures currently used by the council for responding to reports of roaming or feral dogs.

Please find attached a copy of the animal control procedure for wandering dogs (roaming dogs), and a copy of the contact centre instructions for handling of reports of wandering dogs.

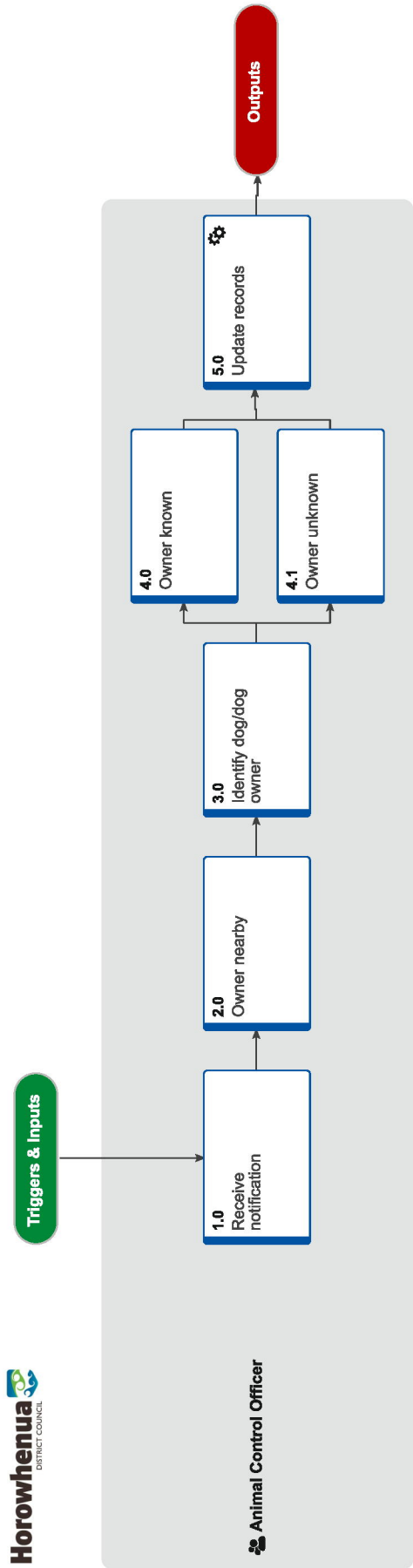
Horowhenua District Council publishes responses to Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA) requests that we consider to be of wider public interest, or which relate to a subject that has been widely requested. To protect your privacy, we will not generally publish personal 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 would like to discuss this decision or any of the information provided as part of this request, please contact Brent Harvey (Group Manager Community Experience and Services) on brenth@horowhenua.govt.nz, or LGOIMAOfficer@horowhenua.govt.nz.

Ngā mihi | Best regards



Ashley Huria
Executive Sponsor



Summary

Objective

To ensure dogs stay within the boundaries of their own property.

Background

Process for responding to wandering dog complaints

Owner Vai Miller

Expert Robert Ashworth

Procedure

1.0 Receive notification

Animal Control Officer

- a** Receive a callout from Customer Experience regarding a complaint or notification of a wandering dog.

NOTE If the dog is in traffic or around rail lines it becomes an urgent callout.

NOTE Response times during full service and limited service hours are:

Urgent - within 1 hour

Non urgent - as soon as practical but within 24 hours.

NOTE Response times during restricted service hours are:

Urgent - within 1 hour

Non-urgent - wait till full service or limited service hours but within 24 hours.

- b** The ACO may become aware of a wandering dog when attending to another incident.

2.0 Owner nearby

Animal Control Officer

- a** If a dog is, or is reported to be, off-leash in an on-leash area and the owner is nearby, speak with the owner and give them a verbal warning.
- b** Check dog owner's record when back in the office. If dog owner has previously received a verbal warning, follow up with a warning letter.

3.0 Identify dog/dog owner

Animal Control Officer

- a** Attempt to find the dog owner and the dog's home address.

NOTE The dog's owner and address may be found by:

- Identification through registration tag or micro-chip
- Identification through people in the community
- Following the dog home

4.0 Owner known

Animal Control Officer

- a** Where dog owner wants to comply, make it as easy as possible by providing advice and guidance. Give suggested solutions where a specific issue is identified.
- b** If more pressure is needed to ensure compliance, a verbal warning or a written warning or an infringement may be issued.

4.1 Owner unknown

Animal Control Officer

- a** Once a dog has been located it is seized and, if necessary, impounded.

NOTE Process - Seizing / Taking Custody of Dogs

 **PROCESS** IMP.04 - Seizing/Taking Custody of Dogs

NOTE Process - Impounding a Dog

 **PROCESS** IMP.05 - Impounding a Dog

- b** If the owner is located and the dog can be returned within 24 hours, the ACO has the discretion to release the dog and cancel seizure and impound fees.
- c** When determining how to respond, consider the Compliance Pyramid in the Enforcement Policy.

5.0 Update records

Animal Control Officer

- a** Update service request and close when all actions have been completed.
- b** Update Authority dog record.

Triggers & Inputs

TRIGGERS

None Noted

INPUTS

None Noted

Outputs & Targets

OUTPUTS

None Noted

PERFORMANCE TARGETS

None Noted

Process Dependencies

PROCESS LINKS FROM THIS PROCESS

Process Name	Type of Link	Assigned Role
IMP.04 - Seizing/Taking Custody of Dogs	Note	Animal Control Officer
IMP.05 - Impounding a Dog	Note	Animal Control Officer

PROCESS LINKS FROM OTHER PROCESSES

None Noted

Report a wandering dog

Not all wandering dog complaints can be treated the same, this is because not all situations and circumstances are the same.

Load a CRM in category "Reports of Wandering Dog"

When there is a danger or perceived danger to people or property, or to the animal itself caused by the wandering, phone this through to Animal Control to inform.

Please try and get as much info about the dog as you can:

Description of the dog, Size, colour, sex, breed.

Is the dog hanging round a practically property? ie jumped out of its property and can't get back in?

How long has the dog been out for? ie have they seen it wandering previously that day? is it regularly roaming?

Are they able to take a photo of the dog? If the dog is aggressive DO NOT PUT YOURSELF IN DANGER by trying.

Roaming dog

Stray dog

Email Template

Kia ora [Name],

Thank you for reaching out. I have submitted your request to our Animal Control team for review, and they will contact you directly.

Your Customer Reference Number is:

Animal control will attend to wandering dog call outs if available at the time of the call. If available response will be within 30 minutes.

Thank you for letting Council know.

Ngā mihi,