

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.

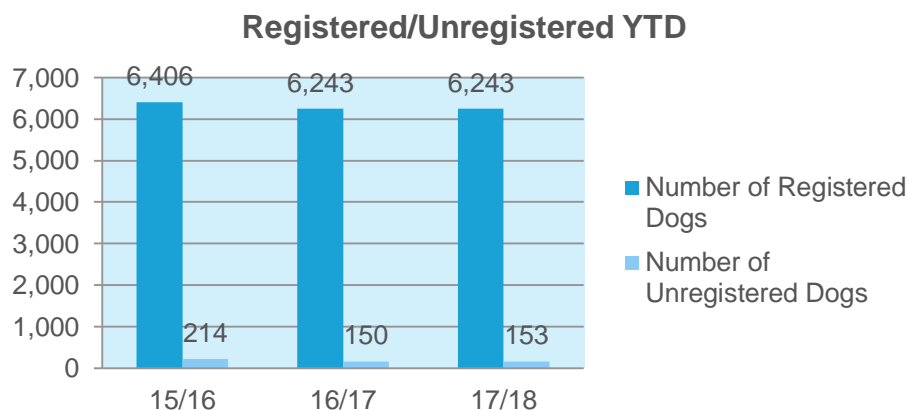
The Animal Control team is part of the Compliance team which is in the Customer and Regulatory Services Group at Council. The Animal Control team comprises of two full time officers and two part time officers. Administrative support services during the 2017 year were provided by Customer Experience staff 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

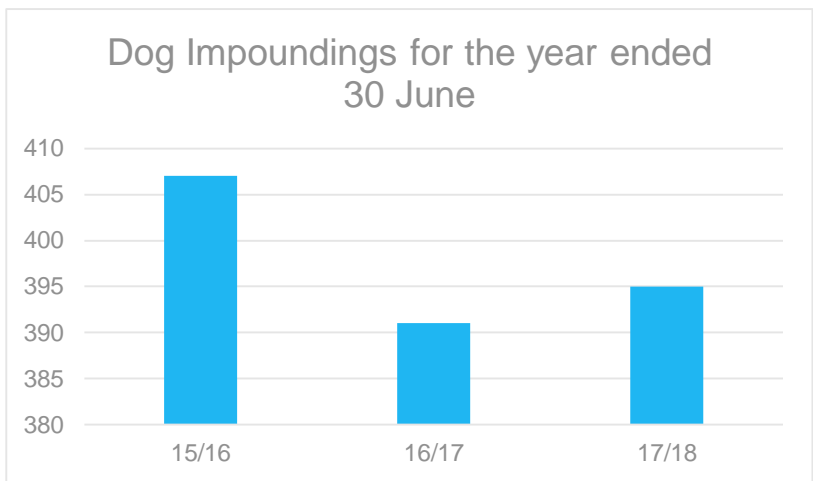
Some dog owners, of course, did not register their dogs, and in these cases, where they came to our attention, infringement notices were issued. If the infringement notice was not paid, it was lodged with the Ministry of Justice for collection.

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.

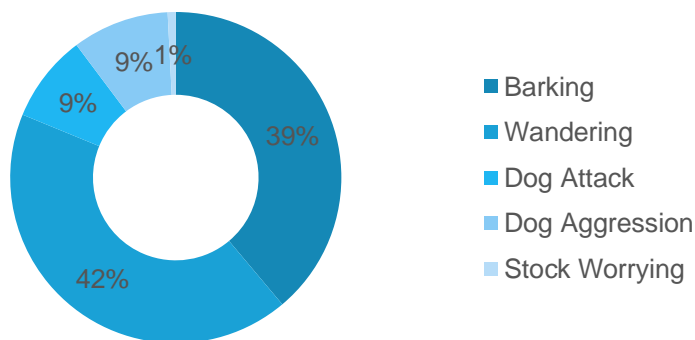


Complaints

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 Worrying	8

Dog Complaints to 30 June 2018



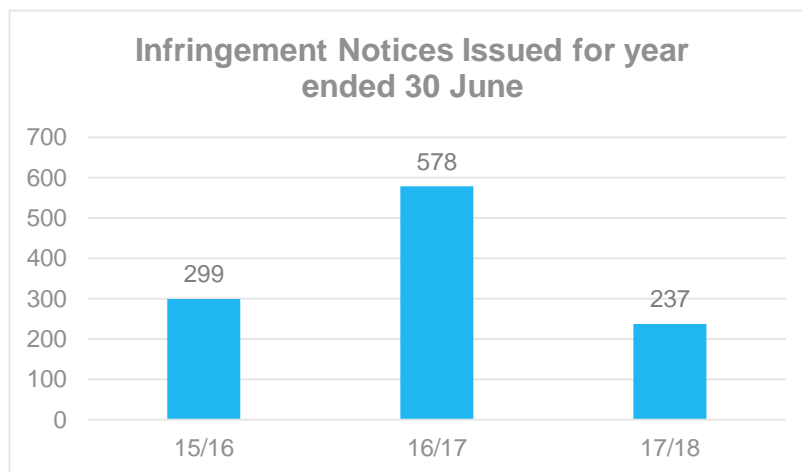
Infringements

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.

Total Number Dangerous Dogs	9
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
Total Number Menacing Dogs	211
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

Location Breakdown of Dangerous/Menacing Dogs in the District		
Location	Dangerous	Menacing
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.