

ANIMAL CONTROL

1 JULY 2017 - 30 JUNE 2018



ABOUT THIS REPORT

Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996 requires each local council to report on its dog control policy and practices, and provide statistical information.

This report covers the financial year 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 and provides the information as detailed in the legislation.

OUR DISTRICT

The Waikato district covers more than 400,000 hectares – both rural and urban. There are 14,812 known dogs in the Waikato district, owned by 9,329 owners (as of 30 June 2018). Approximately 11% of the registered dogs in our district are on a property of more than 20 hectares.

OUR TEAM

We have 11 staff to deliver animal control services in the district:

- 1 Team Leader
- 7 Animal Control Officers
- 2 Pound Keepers
- 1 Education & Engagement Officer – a newly position, appointed in July 2018.

The team is also supported by Waikato District Council's Regulatory Team administrators (1.5 staff members dedicated to the Animal Control team).



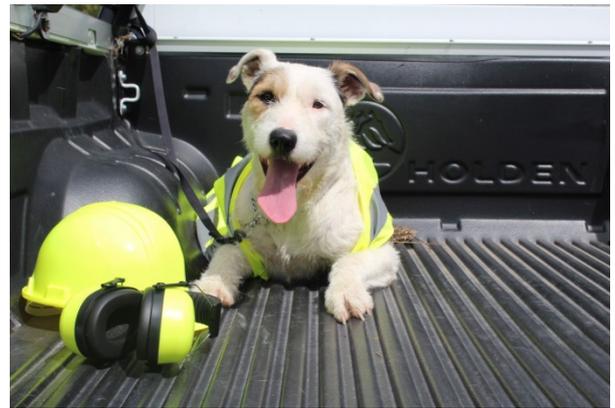
"Waikato District Council has an Animal Control team with big hearts who will go the extra mile when they can. They work hard at a thankless job and, most importantly, they care!"

Cara Thomas, dog owner in Ngaruawahia

OUR POLICIES & RULES

The Waikato District Council Animal Control team operates under the following policies and rules:

- Waikato District Council Dog Control Policy 2015
- Waikato District Council Dog Control Bylaw 2015
- Dog Control Act 1996
- Impounding Act 1955.



OUR SERVICES

Our Animal Control team provide a 24 hour/7 day service with staff working a roster to cover after-hour emergencies.

THE 3E approach

We follow the '3E' approach: engagement and education before enforcement.

This means our staff take the approach of engaging with our customers in the first instance, taking every opportunity to educate them and then, if necessary, taking the appropriate enforcement action.

This approach has resulted in better relationships with dog owners in our communities. As a result, we have seen a number of key benefits:

- Significantly increased customer satisfaction levels
- Improved culture of dog ownership in the district
- Less aggression towards staff
- Reduction in the number of infringements – which shows our staff are gaining compliance without needing to take enforcement action
- Registration compliance remains high.

PROHIBITED, LEASH ONLY AND OFF-LEASH DOG EXERCISE AREAS

The Waikato District Council Dog Control Bylaw 2015 provides details of the areas where dogs are prohibited, where they are allowed for exercise and where they may be exercised off-leash.

PROHIBITED DOG AREAS

Dogs are prohibited from the following areas:

- CBD Huntly
- CBD Ngaruawahia
- A recreation domain area in Raglan
- Within 10 metres of permanently installed children's play equipment
- Areas which are developed or marked out as sports fields.

OFF-LEASH EXERCISE AREAS

In December 2017 we added two more off-leash areas in Tuakau. We now have 27 dog exercise areas in the Waikato district – 7 fenced parks and another 20 unfenced areas where dogs can be run off-leash but they must be under control.

- Karioitahi Beach
- Port Waikato:
 - Sunset beach
- Tuakau:
 - Les Batkin Reserve
 - Alexandra Redoubt Reserve
 - Kowhai Reserve
 - Centennial Park
- Pokeno:
 - Pokeno Domain (fenced)
- Huntly:
 - On the shore of Lake Hakanoa (fenced)
 - Dog park on the corner of Fairfield Avenue and Graham Place (fenced)
 - Grassed area at Riverview Reserve
- Ngaruawahia:
 - On corner of Great South Road and Ellery Street (fenced)
 - Regent Street Reserve
 - Waikato Esplanade Reserve to Belt Street

- Te Kauwhata:
 - Recreation Reserve (fenced)
- Horotiu:
 - AFFCO park on Horotiu Road and State Highway 1 (fenced)
 - Riverside Reserve on Horotiu Bridge Road
- Taupiri:
 - Bob Byrne Park
- Tamahere:
 - Te Awa Reserve
 - Les Batkin Reserve
 - Alexandra Redoubt Reserve
 - Kowhai Reserve
- Whatawhata:
 - Whatawhata Recreation Reserve
- Te Kowhai:
 - Te Kowhai Recreation Reserve Recreation Reserve
- Raglan:
 - Aro Aro reserve, John Street (fenced)
 - from boat ramp in the Opoturu inlet to the Aerodrome bridge
 - From Wainui Reserve carpark to just south of the Ngarunui Beach walkway
 - Beach area from the wharf, the Cliffs, Cox's Bay, Lorenzen Bay, The Doughbos and Moonlight Bay



ON-LEASH/SUPERVISED DOG AREAS

In all other areas, dogs are required to be on leash and under control at all times.

OUR FUNDING: DOG REGISTRATION AND OTHER FEES

DOG REGISTRATION FEES

Waikato District Council has a scaled fee structure for registration. This rewards dog owners who have no history of offences, have continuously registered their dog/s and who meet the property requirements specified within our policies.

We also offer a reduced registration fee to dog owners who registered their dogs prior to 20 July – 33% of dogs within our district were registered prior to this.

OTHER FEES

Our fees for impounding, seizure, sustenance and microchipping are set at a rate that ensures have a user-pays system. Therefore, dog owners that offend will contribute the most to the cost of providing animal control services within our district.

DOG POUND FACILITIES

We have two facilities where we impound dogs – one in Ngaruawahia and one in Pukekohe which is leased from Auckland Council.

The pound facility at Ngaruawahia can hold 25 dogs while the Tuakau facility can hold 40 dogs.

Both pounds are maintained by staff that are qualified in animal care and have the skills necessary to handle dogs of all nature and maintain a high standard of cleanliness within the facility.

“Zoe is settling into her new life without a problem.

Thank you to those who rescued her and trusted us to give her a loving home and a life of fun and adventure.

We are so happy with our beautiful gentle addition to our family.”

Patricia Andrew, Kawerau

SAVING LIVES

In the last financial year our team has continued to focus on rehoming as many impounded dogs as possible that are of suitable breed and temperament.

As a result we have kept euthanasia rates at a low level. This is something we are very proud of!

We work closely with local rescue organisations including Paws 4 Life, DC Rescue, The Humane Alternative, and Auckland Puppy Rescue.



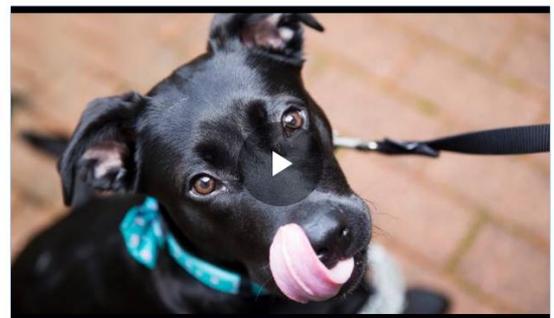
“I just wanted to say thank you for caring about these dogs and doing all you can to find homes for them.”

Annie SevenOak, Auckland

Our relationship with Fundraising for Impounded Dogs, for example, has allowed us to source treatment and rehome critically injured dogs without using ratepayer money.

The 'people's puppy' is on his way to recovery

JO LINES-MACKENZIE
Last updated 06:49, October 12, 2017



Elmo was rescued during a domestic violence incident where his owners had allegedly attempted to snap his legs.

We have also seen a large percentage of dogs returned to their owners as a result of the education we have been doing.

OUR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

DOG SMART / EDUCATION VISITS

Our Education & Engagement Officer has been focusing on evolving our education resources so they are tailored to our district's needs. This includes the development of a bi-lingual children's education programme so it can be delivered in both English and Te Reo.

This is hugely important for sectors that historically have been reluctant to engage with us because of our inability to relate with their community.

POUND PUPS POOL PARTY

In March 2018 we held our inaugural Pound Pups Pool Party, which was a great success.

We had 70 dogs from across the wider Waikato region. Feedback was 100% positive from those that attended.

Animal Control staff were in attendance – they not only ensured that dogs were safe but jumped into the pool and helped the dogs who were a bit shy of the water! More than \$8000 was raised for our chosen charity – Fundraising for Impounded Dogs.



DIRTY DOG CHALLENGE

On 16 June 2018 we teamed up with Hamilton City Council to hold the 'Dirty Dog Challenge' in Ngaruawahia.

This was a unique event where dog owners could complete a 2.5km or 6km obstacle course with their dog. The event was a huge success, with 146 dogs and approximately 170 people taking part.



"What an amazing event. We had loads of fun. It was so well organised. Well done to everyone that made it a great day."

Tanya Butler

"Such an awesome event! I haven't laughed so much in such a long time!! Well done organisers. Your effort didn't go unnoticed."

Danielle Miles

DOGS IN LIBRARIES

Our 'Dogs in Libraries' reading programme continues to be very popular. People can practice their reading skills by reading aloud to one of our education dogs, at any of the libraries in the Waikato district.

This type of programme has shown to increase a person's relaxation while reading because it's a lot less intimidating than reading to other people and you can proceed at your own pace.

The dogs we use are owned by some of our Animal Control Officers and they are all previously Pound dogs. They have been extensively tested to make sure they have the right temperament so that it's a safe environment. Our Education & Engagement Officer is present at all times to help facilitate the session.

While it's very popular with children, the programme is also available to adults or new immigrants that want to practice their reading.



"The 'Raglan Dogs in Libraries' initiative has been pivotal in encouraging my grandson to persevere with learning to read. Kohe is a receptive, non-threatening audience and her handler Helen Williams has incredible patience and rapport that sees all the children gravitate to her when she arrives.

This initiative impacts on many levels. Educating children and adults, establishing warm relationships, encouraging children to love and look after animals and miraculously helping a little boy overcome enormous barriers and feel proud of himself."

Jane Edgar, Raglan

DE-SEXING

As a team, we are dedicated to de-sexing as many dogs as possible to decrease the amount of unwanted puppies we see in our communities.

WHY YOU SHOULD DE-SEX YOUR DOG...



Dogs that are de-sexed are more sociable (and less aggressive), don't wander/roam, are healthier and live longer.

Chat to us about cheap de-sexing options, we offer subsidised de-sexing for pit bulls and pit bull crosses* phone 0800 492 452.

* Funding has been provided by central government as part of the national strategy to reduce the risk and harm of dog attacks. Subsidy available to dogs classified as menacing or dangerous.



FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO:
www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/dogs

Waikato
DISTRICT COUNCIL
Te Kaitiaki o Te Waikato

Spey-Me-Baby is a subsidised de-sexing scheme for classified menacing dogs including pit bulls and pit bull crosses.

This is thanks to funding which has been provided by central government as part of the national strategy to reduce the risk and harm of dog attacks.

Dog owners will only need to pay \$70 for their dog (male or female) to be de-sexed and the remainder of the fee will be covered by the funding.

If dogs do not meet the requirements of our campaign then customers are encouraged by Animal Control Officers to contact DC Desex a Dog or Hurrah Desexy Revolution, two of our local charities offering subsidised desexing.

We support these charities by way of fundraising and assist with transporting dogs to and from the vet if the owner has no means of transport sometimes in our own personal time.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS: THE NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

RESPONDING TO COMMUNITY NEEDS

Between 1 July 2017 and 30 June 2018 our team responded to more than 3,619 complaints from members of the public. These complaints ranged from dog attacks, threatening dogs, barking nuisances and roaming complaints. We also responded to 404 service requests involving roaming livestock. As a result of the stock calls, we impounded 52 animals.

As well as responding to complaints and requests, our team also carried out proactive patrols during their daily routine activities.

IMPOUNDED DOGS

As a result of these complaints and proactive patrols, our team impounded 857 dogs – a slight drop in numbers from the previous year, which was 1122.

Historically, as little as 5% of impounded dogs have been rehomed but with the help of social media and our focus on proactive work, we are now rehoming 15% of impounded dogs, and 11% are being transferred to other agencies so that they can find homes.

These dogs are thoroughly temperament tested, vaccinated, treated for fleas and worms, micro-chipped, registered and desexed prior to going to their new homes.

Of the 857 dogs impounded:

- 407 were returned to owner (47%)
- 136 were adopted (15%)
- 95 were transferred to other agencies (11%)
- 214 were euthanased (12%)
- 3 are pending prosecution (0.3%)
- 2 are still impounded (0.2%)

REGISTERED DOGS

In the past five years, the number of registered dogs in the district has risen from 13075 to 14070. This is an increase of 8% and is a result of growth in our district, dog owners proactively registering and staff locating unknown dogs.

Even with this increase, we have had a reduction in the number of impounded dogs (857). This is a 40% decrease from 1408 five years ago.

DOG ATTACKS

While there was an increase in the number of reported dog attacks in our district, we believe this number is the result of the education work we are doing with our communities, dog owners and school children. As a result of that education, more people know what to do in these situations – they are now coming forward and reporting the incident.

CUSTOMER ENGAGEMENT SCORE

One way success is measured for our Animal Control team is through customer satisfaction surveys.

Customers are randomly contacted and if they have had interactions with the team, they are asked to provide a rating of either 'very dissatisfied, dissatisfied, neutral, satisfied or very satisfied'.

Of those surveyed in the 2017/2018 financial year, 82% were satisfied with the service from the Animal Control team. As a comparison, in 2013/2014 only 55% were satisfied/very satisfied with the service.



POUND PUPS FACEBOOK GROUP

We now have more than 12,000 people following our Pound Pups Facebook Group. This number continues to grow.



THE NUMBERS IN DETAIL

REQUESTS FOR SERVICE	
Dog Nuisance	311
Stray/Trespass	1069
Property Visit (owner classifications/unregistered etc)	741
Dog Welfare	71
Trap Required	18
Dog Attack	296
Other (includes Animal charges for impounded dogs, missing dog reports etc)	1,113
TOTAL NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS	3,619

REGISTRATION	
Total number of known dogs	14,812
Total number of registered dogs	14,070
Percentage of registered dogs	94.99%

PROSECUTIONS	
Number of prosecutions initiated	5
Number of prosecutions completed	3

IMPOUNDED DOGS

Total number of impounded dogs	857
Impounded dogs returned to owner	407
Impounded dogs euthanased	214
Impounded dogs rehomed	231

CLASSIFICATIONS

Total Number of Probationary Owners	0
Total Number of Disqualified Owners	11
Total Number or dogs classified as Dangerous	23
Dangerous by Owner Conviction Under S31(1)(a)	4
Dangerous by Sworn Evidence S31(1)(b)	18
Dangerous by Owner Admittance in Writing S31(1)©	1
Total Number of Dogs Classified as Menacing	173
Menacing under S33A(1)(b)(i) by Behaviour	56
Menacing under S33A(1)(b)(ii) by Breed Characteristics	1
Menacing under S33C(1) by Schedule 4 Breed	116

INFRINGEMENTS ISSUED

SECTION	NUMBER	OFFENCE
18	Willful obstruction of dog control officer or ranger	2
19(2)	Failure or refusal to supply information or willfully providing false particulars	4
19A(2)	Failure to supply information or willfully providing false particulars	1
20(5)	Failure to comply with any bylaw authorised by the section	23
23A(2)	Failure to undertake dog owner education programme or dog obedience course (or both)	0
24	Failure to comply with obligations of probationary owner	0
28(5)	Failure to comply with the effects of classification of dangerous dog	0
32(2)	Failure comply with the effects of classification of dog as dangerous dog	2
32(4)	Fraudulent sale or transfer of dangerous dog	0
33EC(1)	Failure to comply with effects of classification of dog as menacing dog	10
33F(3)	Failure to advise person of muzzle and leashing requirement	0
36A(6)	Failure to implant microchip transponder in dog	2
41	False statement in relation to dog registration	0
41A	Falsely notifying death of dog	0
42	Failure to register dog	202
46(4)	Fraudulent procurement of attempt to procure replacement dog registration label or disc	0
48(3)	Failure to advise change of ownership	0
49(4)	Failure to advise change of address	0

51(1)	Removal, swapping, or counterfeiting of registration label or disc	0
52A	Failure to keep dog controlled or confined	18
53(1)	Failure to keep dog under control	3
54(2)	Failure to provide proper care and attention, to supply proper and sufficient food, and to provide adequate exercise	0
54A	Failure to carry a leash in public	0
55(7)	Failure to comply with barking dog abatement notice	0
62(4)	Allowing dog known to be dangerous to be at large unmuzzled or unleashed	0
62(5)	Failure to advise of muzzle and leashing requirements	0
72(2)	Releasing dog from custody	1
Total Number of Infringements		268