



ANIMAL CONTROL

1 JULY 2022 – 30 JUNE 2023



About this report

Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996 requires each local council to report on its dog control policy and practices every financial year. This report is for the Waikato District Council Animal Control team from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023.

Dogs in our district

The Waikato district covers more than 400,000 hectares – both rural and urban. In the past 5 years the known numbers of dogs in our district has increased each year. This reflects the continued growth in our communities. There were 16,016 known dogs in the Waikato district, as of 30 June 2023. This is an increase of 264 dogs from the previous year. Approximately 11.7% of the registered dogs in our district are registered on a Farm Owner Policy.



One of our Animal Control Officers at the Pound Pups Pool Party in Tuakau

Our team

As of 30 June 2022, we had 13 staff to deliver animal control services in the district:

- 1 Team Leader
- 1 Senior Animal Control Officer
- 8 Animal Control Officers
- 2 Pound Keepers
- 1 Education and Engagement Officer

The team is supported by administrators in the Community Safety Support team (2 staff members dedicated to the Animal Control team).

During the year there was an assessment on the needs of the Animal Control team. Two additional positions were created and filled before June 2023.



Our policies and rules

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

- Waikato District Council Dog Control Policy 2022
- Waikato District Council Dog Control Bylaw 2022
- Dog Control Act 1996 • Impounding Act 1955.

Note: The Waikato District Council Dog Control Policy and Dog Control Bylaw were renewed in 2022. Public consultation was held over 7 weeks, and we received 666 submissions, with 71 submitters speaking at the hearing. After hearing public feedback, several changes were made to the original proposal. The Council adopted the Bylaw and Policy on 11 April 2022.

The Bylaw and Policy documents can be found here: www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/services-facilities/animal-control. These will need to be reviewed within the next 5 years.

Our services

Our Animal Control team provide a 24 hour/7-day service. Staff have a work roster to cover after-hour emergencies.

The team takes a 3 E approach: engagement, education and enforcement. This has been our approach for several years and the team has seen a significant improvement in the way our community interacts and engages with the Animal Control team. The team strives to build relationships with people in the community, where appropriate.

We have a great relationship with the Huntly West Hub and Ngaruawahia Community House, where we hand out dog food donations to people in need in the community (thanks Hills Pet Nutrition!) and provide advice on various dog related issues.



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 for dog owners who have registered their dogs before 20 July.

Of the 16,016 known dogs in our district, there are 14,089 registered – a percentage of 87.96%. The Animal Control team engages with dog owners who have not registered their dogs in an appropriate time frame to ensure compliance is achieved. It is a continued focus for the team to increase this overall compliance percentage.

The full fee structure can be found on our website: www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/your-council/plans-policies-and-bylaws/plans/fees-and-charges

Waikato District Council
June 13 · 🌐

Dog owners - it's time to renew your dog registration. Pay by 20 July to get a \$20 discount per dog. You'll also go in the draw to win a free registration for the year (applies to one dog only).
📧 If you receive your dog registration notice by email, make sure you check your spam folder. Emails were sent out last week.
📧 If you get your notice by post, it should have arrived by the end of the week. If you don't receive it, let us know by emailing dogs@waidc.govt.nz.
To register online: <https://ow.ly/Mr0250LTJq>

What is your dog registration \$ used for?

Percentage	Category
1%	Subsidised de-sexing
2%	Equipment
7%	Vehicle costs
10%	Stock safety
15%	Education
25%	Proactive patrols
28%	Responding to complaints
6%	Administration
8%	Dog pounds

Includes visits to schools, community groups and library programmes

37 likes · 23 comments · 14 shares

Impounded dogs

There were 884 dogs impounded this year: 367 of these dogs were returned to their owner, 332 dogs were humanely euthanised. 4 dogs are being held pending prosecution, 177 dogs were rehomed and 4 were waiting for new homes in our adoption programme.

Any dog that is not claimed by the owner (and has not been involved in a serious offence) is temperament tested with people and other dogs and those that pass enter our adoption programme.

We work closely with other rescues and charities to ensure that all the dogs in our adoption programme find the right home for them. We work hard to match the right dogs to the right people. In this year we adopted 154 directly to members of the public and transferred 23 to other agencies for rehoming. As of June 30 2023, we had 4 dogs in our adoption programme still in the pound to be adopted.

This year it was noticeable that other animal charities and rescue groups were overwhelmed with numbers. Often, they asked us for assistance. With the help of our Hill Pet Nutrition sponsorship, we were able help some groups with dog food donations.

Sadly, there has been a significant increase in the number of dogs euthanised this year (an increase of 165 dogs). There has been an increase in dogs surrendered that have not passed the temperament test and in the number of puppies being born in our district. A significant number of dogs that have come into the pound have not been vaccinated for Parvo. Often they have been on the streets before entering the pound, which greatly increases the risk of a parvo outbreak in our pound facilities. This has unfortunately led to several puppies being humanely euthanised by the veterinarian due to the severity of this disease.

Desexing

For every dog registration, \$1 goes towards our desexing programme known as PUP – Prevent Unwanted Puppies. This initiative was approved by Waikato District Council in 2017. Owners who hold a community services card can access discounted desexing for their dog at a rate of \$80.

In the 2022/2023 financial year, 82 dogs were desexed for families that otherwise could not afford it. This has many benefits for our community, including fewer unwanted dogs. Desexed dogs are also less likely to roam. Due to the success of our 2023 Dirty Dog event, we have additional funds we can use over the next 12 months and we hope to desex more than 100 dogs in our community.

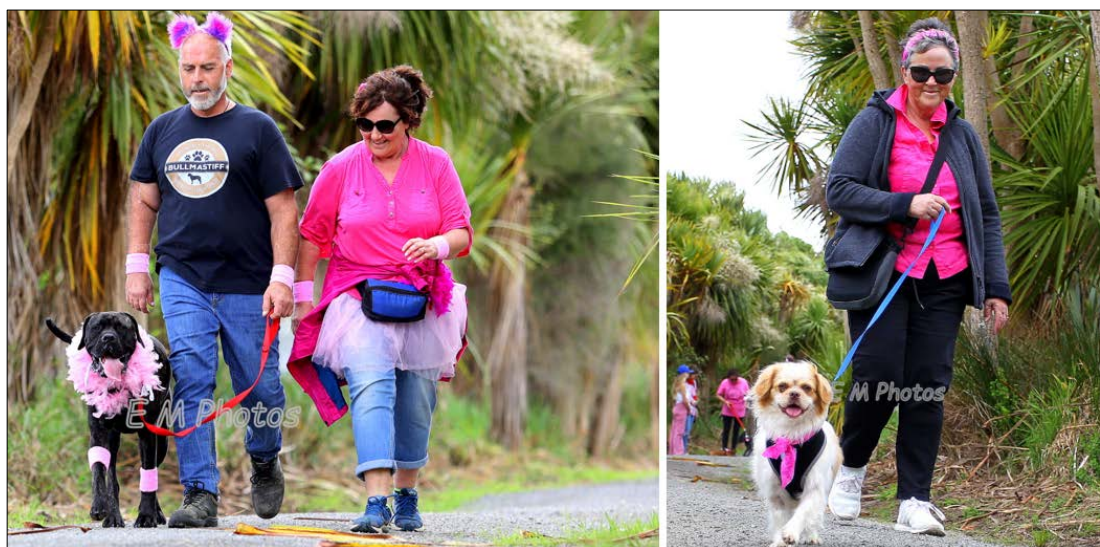


Our events

We pride ourselves on holding community events that our residents (and people from other districts) can attend. These are an opportunity for our Animal Control Officers to engage with responsible dog owners and for everyone to have a fun day. Our events are always well attended and receive positive feedback. They are often talked about on social media for several weeks after the event.

Pound Pups Pink Walk

We had a successful pack walk around Lake Kainui, with several dogs turning up in fancy dress. This year we had wings, capes, bandanas and tutus galore!



Unfortunately the Park Pup Date organised for Pookeno was cancelled due to very wet weather. This was not rescheduled due to other commitments.

Pound Pups Pool Parties

We held two Pool Party events in April 2022 – one in Ngaaruawaahia and one in Tuakau. These events are held after our pools have closed to the public.

More than 230 dogs attended these events and \$3697 was raised for charities that had supported us throughout the year by helping us re-home adoption dogs – Auckland Puppy Rescue and 4 Paws Animal Rescue Waikato.

The popularity of this event continues to grow every year. We regularly receive comments from dog owners who are impressed at how well organised the event is, and how much fun it is for the dogs.



**“Just want to share my gratitude to Waikato Pound Pups for such an awesome event last weekend. The Pool Party was awesome! And I love that something like this exists, and that lovely caring people are behind it.”
Sharon.**



Dirty Dog 2022

The Dirty Dog Event was held in July. This was an extremely successful event, with tickets selling out very quickly. We had two start times to ensure we could offer as many spots as possible.

This event is run in conjunction with the Hamilton City Council Animal Education and Control team. We have participants register from all over the North Island.

After all the bills are paid, the profit is split between Waikato District Council and Hamilton City Council. Both Councils use this for their community desexing funds. This means that we can offer more desexing opportunities for our communities at cheaper rates.





Summary

It has been another challenging year for the Animal Control team. With Covid in the rear-view mirror it is apparent that there has been a considerable dog population explosion in our community and around New Zealand.

The increase in the number of dogs being surrendered and impound numbers are a direct result of this population explosion and the cost-of-living crisis. This has put a strain on resources with the pound facilities often being close to full capacity. Seeing the rescues that we commonly work with struggle with the numbers being surrendered and needing help has been heartbreaking.

Our Prevent Unwanted Puppies (PUP) scheme means we have an opportunity to make a positive impact in our community, and having Hills Pet Nutrition as a sponsor has allowed us to donate food to dog owners, which we are incredibly thankful for.

We continue to prioritise work that may lead to public safety issues and attend jobs such as current stock wandering and dog attacks within one hour. We feel we are adding value to the safety of our community and continue to build positive relationships.

The numbers

REQUESTS FOR SERVICE	
Dog Nuisance	242
Stray/Trespass	1,215
Property Visit (owner classifications/unregistered etc)	339
Dog Welfare	101
Trap Required	21
Dogs to collect (surrendered)	146
Dog Attack	309
Other (includes Animal charges for impounded dogs, missing dog reports etc)	886
Subsidised Dog Desexing Project - PUP	82
TOTAL NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS	3,341

REGISTRATION	
Total number of known dogs	16,016
Total number of registered dogs	14,089
Percentage of registered dogs	87.96

PROSECUTIONS	
Number of prosecutions initiated	2
Number of prosecutions completed	2

IMPOUNDED DOGS	
Total number of impounded dogs	884
Impounded dogs returned to owner	367
Impounded dogs euthanised	332
Impounded dogs rehomed	181
Held pending prosecution	4

CLASSIFICATIONS	
Total Number of Probationary Owners	0
Total Number of Disqualified Owners	1
Total Number of dogs classified as Dangerous	23
Dangerous by Owner Conviction Under S31(1)(a)	0
Dangerous by Sworn Evidence S31(1)(b)	18
Dangerous by Owner Admittance in Writing S31(1)(c)	3
Total Number of Dogs Classified as Menacing	157
Menacing under S33A(1)(b)(i) by Behaviour	83
Menacing under S33A(1)(b)(ii) by Breed Characteristics	4
Menacing under S33C(1) by Schedule 4 Breed	70

INFRINGEMENTS ISSUED		
SECTION	NUMBER	OFFENCE
18	Wilful obstruction of dog control officer or ranger	0
19(2)	Failure or refusal to supply information or wilfully providing false particulars	0
19A(2)	Failure to supply information or wilfully providing false particulars	0
20(5)	Failure to comply with any bylaw authorised by the section	25
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 disqualification	0
32(2)	Failure to comply with the effects of classification of dog as dangerous dog	3
32(4)	Fraudulent sale or transfer of dangerous dog	0
33EC(1)	Failure to comply with effects of classification of dog as menacing dog	6
33F(3)	Failure to advise person of muzzle and leashing requirement	0
36A(6)	Failure to implant microchip transponder in dog	0
41	False statement in relation to dog registration	0
41A	Falsely notifying death of dog	0
42	Failure to register dog	102
46(4)	Fraudulent procurement or 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	60

53(1)	Failure to keep dog under control	18
54(2)	Failure to provide proper care and attention, to supply proper and sufficient food, and to provide adequate exercise	1
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	0
Total Number of Infringements		215

