

WAITOMO DISTRICT COUNCIL

Dog Control Policy and Practices Report for 2015/2016

Introduction

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

This report covers the year 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016, and provides the information as detailed in the legislation.

The format of the report follows that prescribed by the Secretary for Local Government, Department of Internal Affairs.

Dog Control in the Waitomo District

The total number of active dogs on Waitomo District Council's dog register at the end of the 2015/2016 registration year was 3,330.

Dog Control within the district is implemented pursuant to the Waitomo District Council Dog Control Policy and Bylaw 2015.

Dog Control Enforcement Practices

Waitomo District Council offers a seven day a week / 24 hour service. Waitomo District Council responded to 524 service requests from members of the public. The statistics confirm evidence that roaming dogs, particularly in urban environments, are a continuing problem. Routine and frequent patrols in urban areas are undertaken to ensure the nuisance of roaming dogs is kept to a minimum.

Many offences against the Dog Control Act 1996 and the Dog Control Bylaw were identified during proactive patrols forming part of daily routine activities by Animal Control staff. As a result of these service requests and proactive patrols, 195 dogs were impounded.

Waitomo District Council undertook a comprehensive review of the Dog Control Policy and Bylaw during the year.

The Policy introduces a new education element which is being implemented inline with proactive enforcement. It provides for additional dog exercise areas and new areas where dogs are prohibited. A provision was also included which provides for neutering of dogs classed as menacing due to their behaviour.

Regular contact has been maintained with dog owners via the Animal Control Officer's Facebook page, public notices, flyers and regular articles in the Waitomo Way and the Waitomo News to promote high standards of dog care.

Concerns about providing somewhere for the travelling public to exercise and water their dog while passing through our district were addressed. In determining the location of prohibited areas, Waitomo District Council needed to balance the needs of dog owners against the needs of other people using public places.

The Act requires Waitomo District Council to review dog registration and impoundment fees annually and set the fees by Council resolution. Owners who neuter their dogs and those who adhere to conditions set out in Waitomo District Council's special ownership

classification are offered discounted registration fees as an incentive to encourage responsible ownership.

The Animal Control Officer inspects properties of all dog owners in urban areas and 10% of those in rural areas. Such visits allow the Animal Control Officer to check if new dogs have been acquired and that dogs are being well looked after and adequately kennelled.

Waitomo District Council maintains a zero tolerance policy in circumstances where a dog attacks people or other animals. When incidents of this nature occur the offending dog owner is encouraged to give his or her dog over for destruction. This procedure has proved to be a useful tool in removing aggressive dogs from the local dog population.

Waitomo District Council will ensure owner education and proactive enforcement remains a priority in the on-going delivery of the District's dog control services.



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Dog Control Statistics 2015/2016

Registration Statistics	2015/16	2014/15
Number of registered dogs	3,330	3,698
Number of probationary owners	0	0
Number of disqualified owners	0	0

Number of Dogs Classified as Dangerous under Section 31 Dog Control Act 1996	2015/16	2014/15
Sec 31 1 (a) due to owners conviction	0	0
Sec 31 1 (b) due to sworn evidence	0	0
Sec 31 1 (c) due to owners admittance	0	0

Number of Dogs Classified as Menacing under Section 33A	2015/16	2014/15
Sec 33A (b) (i)	2	2
Sec 33A (b) (ii)	5	5

Number of Dogs Classified as Menacing under Section 33C	2015/16	2014/15
Dogs belonging to a Schedule 4 type or breed	13	9

Infringement Notices	2015/16	2014/15
Number of infringement notices issued	24	20
Number of infringement notices cancelled	3	0
Number of infringement notices sent to court	19	14

Number of Dog Related Complaints	2015/16	2014/15
Total Number of Dog Related Complaints	524	670
After hours	138	187
Barking	50	50
Roaming	241	348
Rushing/biting	44	6
Stock attacks	10	18
Domestic animal attacks	16	17
Fouling		12
Care	25	32

Number of Dogs Impounded	2015/16	2014/15
Impounded Dogs	195	148