

WAITOMO DISTRICT COUNCIL

Dog Control Policy and Practices Report for 2012/2013

Dog Control Services in the Waitomo District have been contracted out to Waitomo Animal Control (WAC) for a number of years. WAC employs one full time and two part time Dog Control Officers with the contractor being responsible for both dog registration and dog control.

WAC in terms of its contract with Council is required to carry out effective dog control throughout the District in accordance with the Dog Control Act 1996 (Act) and Councils Dog Control Policy and Bylaw. The Councils Dog Control Policy aims to ensure that dogs are controlled so that people can enjoy dog ownership without adversely affecting other members of the community.

The Act requires Council to review dog registration fees annually and set the fees by Council resolution. Owners who neuter their dogs and those who adhere to conditions set out in Councils special ownership scheme are offered discounted registration fees as an incentive to encourage responsible ownership.

Councils Dog Control Policy requires WAC to inspect the properties of all urban dog owners. Such visits allow Dog Control Officers to check if new dogs have been acquired and that dogs are being well looked after and adequately kennelled. Similar inspections are carried out in the rural area with 10% of dog owners properties inspected.

The visits provide an ideal opportunity for Dog Control Officers to build a relationship with dog owners and where appropriate pass on helpful tips about responsible dog ownership.

WAC's Dog Control Officers report that this Council faces similar problems to other territorial authorities in terms of managing the local dog population.

From the statistics contained in this report there is evidence that roaming dogs particularly in urban environments are a continuing problem. Dog Control Officers routinely carry out frequent patrols in the urban areas in order to ensure that the nuisance of roaming dogs is kept to a minimum.

The statistics also indicate that barking dogs are a continuing problem possibly exacerbated by Dog Control Officers requiring all dogs, unless they are under control, to be confined to their properties.

The provisions in the Act which allow a Dog Control Officer to remove a barking dog from a property in the owners absence has been a useful tool for dealing with persistent barking dogs.

Waitomo District Council continues to have 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 a number of aggressive dogs from the local dog population.

Recently there has been increased public concern that stray dogs in the district are on the increase and the number of dogs which appear to be unregistered is escalating.

Because of these concerns Council intends to carry out a review of the delivery of dog control services in the Waitomo District during the 2013/2014 year.

Dog Control Statistics 2011/2012

Registration Statistics	2012/2013
Number of registered dogs	4001
Number of probationary owners	0
Number of disqualified owners	0

Number of Dogs Classified as Dangerous under Sect 31 Dog Control Act 1996	2012/2013
Sec 31 1 (a) due to owners conviction	0
Sec 31 1 (b) due to sworn evidence	0
Sec 31 1 (c) due to owners admittance	0

Number of Dogs Classified as Menacing under Sec 33A	2012/2013
Sec 33A (b) (i)	1
Sec 33A (b) (ii)	27

Number of Dogs Classified as Menacing under Sec 33C	2012/2013
Dogs belonging to a schedule 4 type or breed	28

Infringement Notices	2012/2013
Number of infringement notices issued	45
Number of infringement notices cancelled	7
Number of infringement notices sent to court	38

Number of Dog Related Complaints	2012/2013
Total Number of Dog Related Complaints	303
After hours	67
Barking	28
Roaming	158
Rushing/biting	9
Stock attacks	14
Domestic animal attacks	11
Fouling	4
Care	2
Other	10

Number of Dogs Impounded	2012/2013
Impounded Dogs	175

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