

WAITOMO DISTRICT COUNCIL

Dog Control Policy and Practices Report for 2009/2010

Dog control services in the Waitomo District have been contracted out to Waitomo Animal Control (WAC) for a number of years. WAC employs two full 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 kenneled. 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.

WACs 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 barking dogs particularly in urban environments are a continuing problem possibly exacerbated by Dog Control Officers requiring all dogs, unless they are under control, to be confined to their properties. Where complaints of this nature are received Dog Control Officers work constructively with owners to reduce barking by changing dog behaviour.

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.

From the statistics below it can be ascertained that the districts dog population is gradually declining, this trend is likely to continue as dairy farming in the district increases.

Dog Control Statistics 2009/2010

Registration Statistics

Number of registered dogs	4016
Number of probationary owners	0
Number of disqualified owners	0

Number of Dogs Classified as Dangerous under Sect 31 Dog Control Act 1996

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

Sec 33A (b) (i)	1
Sec 33A (b) (ii)	19

Number of Dogs Classified as Menacing under Sec 33C

Dogs belonging to a schedule 4 type or breed	19
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Infringement Notices

Number of infringement notices issued	22
Number of infringement notices cancelled	2
Number of infringement notices sent to court.....	19

Number of Dog Related Complaints 255

After hours	28
Barking	70
Roaming.....	120
Rushing/biting.....	6
Stock attacks	8
Domestic animal attacks	5
Fouling.....	6
Care	12
Other	0

Number of Dogs Impounded..... 97

JOHN MORAN
MANAGER – REGULATORY SERVICES

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