



**CENTRAL
HAWKE'S BAY**
DISTRICT COUNCIL

DOG CONTROL POLICY AND PRACTICES

Annual Report 2017-2018



DOG CONTROL POLICY AND PRACTICES

**Together
we thrive!**

ANNUAL REPORT 1 JULY 2017-30 JUNE 2018

Introduction

The Central Hawke's Bay District Council, as a territorial authority, is required to manage and enforce provisions pursuant to the Dog Control Act 1996 (the Act) and subsequent amendments in 2003, 2004, 2006 and 2010.

S10A of the Act requires the Council to report annually to the Secretary of Local Government on its Dog Control Policy and practices. This report fulfils this statutory requirement for the dog registration year: 1st July 2017 to 30 June 2018.

The Council's Dog Policy and Practices

The Council adopted its Dog Control Policy in June 2017. The objectives of the policy are to:

1. Provide a practical framework for the care and control of dogs throughout the District while minimising any danger, distress and nuisance to the community in general.
2. Integrate control measures passed through the Dog Control Act and Council's Dog Control Bylaws together with targeted education to modify the behaviour of both dogs and their owners to avoid nuisance situations.
3. Encourage owners to make better provision for the control and care of their dogs and to clarify why Council undertakes Dog Control functions, the way those functions are undertaken and how Council intends to make changes to continually improve the service

Fees

Dog control fees have remained fairly static. In the 2017/2018 registration year there was an early bird discount offered for registrations paid prior to 1 August 2018.

There is a Responsible Dog Owner (RDO) category for owners who have lived in the area for one registration year, have appropriate fencing and their dogs are desexed.

Category	Fees
Urban	\$85.00
Rural	\$37.00
Responsible Dog Owner (RDO)	\$45.00

Key Achievements

Education

A key focus for this financial year has been piloting a range of animal education workshops with residents. These have been piloted with a range of groups including those with physical or mental disabilities and the elderly. We are currently

developing a plan, leveraging off pre-existing materials developed through the NZ Institute of Animal Management, to roll out workshops to school children. The intent is to raise the collective knowledge with residents on dog safety and dog behaviour.

A new Council website is being developed. In line with this, we are looking at our content and rewriting information so it is clearer, as well as identifying current gaps.

Community engagement

This year we have taken small steps to improve our overall engagement with the community, including running competitions for early dog registration and increasing our social media visibility. We are going to have a regular 'column' (frequency TBC) by the Animal Services Officer in the weekly newspaper.

Welfare

Earlier in the year we produced a leaflet which was sent to dog owners with their registration invoices for the 2018/2019 year. The leaflet was to alert them to the changes in welfare regulations. We worked with the Department of Internal Affairs to produce the content for the leaflet and it was well received in the community.



Summary of the new regulations

Vehicles

- You must not leave your dog to get too hot in a vehicle.
- You must secure your dogs to a vehicle so they cannot fall or hang from an open deck when travelling on a public road. There are some exceptions allowed for farm dogs.

Tethering and shelter

- You must not tether dogs in a way that causes them injury or distress, and collars must fit comfortably without damaging the skin or restricting breathing.
- Muzzles must not cause swelling, cuts or abrasions and they must not stop a dog from breathing normally, panting, drinking or vomiting.

- Dogs must have dry, shaded and ventilated shelter that will protect them from extreme weather, and enough space to allow them to stand, turn around and lie down in a natural position.
- You must provide your dogs with permanent access to water, and regularly clean out the toileting area.

Tail docking and claw removal

- Tail docking of all dogs, using any method including banding, will be prohibited. Only vets will be able to remove tails to treat existing disease or injury.
- Jointed dew claws can only be removed by vets, and pain relief will be required.

Minimum welfare standards also exist

Examples of some of these include:

- Receiving adequate quantities of nutritious food
- Providing your dog with enough daily exercise for their health and well-being
- Maintaining your dog at an ideal weight
- Adequate grooming to avoid matting or parasite infection
- Training methods cannot cause unnecessary pain or distress
- Ensuring your dog receives appropriate veterinary care in case of serious injury or in pain, or its health is deteriorating.

To find out more, please look at the NZ Companion Animal Council's website: www.nzcac.org.nz

Regulations for other species

Many other regulations will also come into force on 1 October 2018.

The intent is to improve the welfare of many animals in New Zealand including cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, horses, donkeys, deer, llamas, alpacas, crustaceans and layer hens. The regulations will apply private owners and animal-related businesses such as farms, stock transporters, live trappers, dog breeders, stables, petting zoos, crustacean farms, restaurants and education providers.

Information

For more detailed information, including how these new regulations apply to you, go to the MPI website www.mpi.govt.nz and choose the Animal Welfare section on the home page.

If you would like to report any animal welfare concerns, you can call MPI on 0800 00 83 33 or email animalwelfare@mpi.govt.nz.

For any animal-related issues or advice, you can call the CHB District Council on 06 857 8060 or visit chbdc.govt.nz



Number of Dogs Registered

2017/2018	2016/2017	2015/2016	2014/2015
5117	5047	5191	5206

Dangerous and Menacing

The number of dogs classified as dangerous (under section 31 Dog Control Act 1996)

Category	2017/2018
Dangerous by owner conviction S31(1)(a)	0
Dangerous by sworn evidence S31(1)(b)	0
Dangerous by owner admitting in writing S31(1)(C)	0
Total dangerous Dogs	0

The number of dogs classified as menacing (under section 33A or section 33C Dog Control Act 1996)

Category	2017/2018
Menacing by behaviour S33A(1)(b)(i)	10*
Menacing by breed characteristics S33A(1)(b)(ii)	0
Menacing by Schedule 4 breed S33C(1)	12
Total menacing Dogs	22

* Four of these dogs are also included in classified as menacing by Schedule 4 breed

Number of infringement notices issued

2017/2018	2016/2017	2015/2016	2014/2015
24	72	97	99

Probationary owners and disqualified owners

We have not disqualified or applied probationary classifications on any dog owners during this period.

Number of dog owners prosecuted by Central Hawke’s Bay District Council

We have not undertaken any prosecutions this year.

Dog-related complaints

Category	2017/2018*	2016/2017	2015/2016	2014/2015
Attacks on people	3	6	20	4
Attacks on dogs/animals	7	16	50	18
Barking dogs	172	81	104	120
Uncontrolled dogs i.e rushing		27	48	9
Miscellaneous / Bylaw breach i.e. wandering, not on lead, fouling		136	173	100
Wandering and/or Impounded	68	105	186	126
Total	275	371	581	377

*Due to exceptional circumstances we are unable to provide statistics for the first six months of the financial year.