



**CENTRAL
HAWKE'S BAY**
DISTRICT COUNCIL

DOG CONTROL POLICY AND PRACTICES

Annual Report 2018 - 2019



ANNUAL REPORT 1 JULY 2018 -30 JUNE 2019

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 2018 to 30 June 2019.

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

The dog control fees increased in the 2018/19 year. There was an early bird discount of \$10.00 per dog available to those customers who paid their registration by the 1st July 2018.

We also offer a Responsible Dog Owner (RDO) status for owners who have lived in the area for one registration year. This status qualifies you for a discounted registration rate as noted below.

Category	Fees
Urban	\$95.00
Rural	\$47.00
Responsible Dog Owner (RDO)	\$55.00
Gold Card Holders (Pensioners)	\$37.00

Key Achievements

Education

A key focus for this financial year is to review and look at what animal education programmes/workshops we can roll out to the community with a focus on the pre-school and primary school sector.

The focus of these programmes is to help raise the collective knowledge with our community around:

- what their role and responsibility is of being a good dog owner
- dog safety
- dog behaviour

We are currently developing a plan, leveraging off pre-existing materials developed through the NZ Institute of Animal Management, with a goal of rolling out these programmes in the last quarter of 2019.

A new Council website has been rolled out. Our focus over the next 3-6 months is to look at the current content of our website pages to ensure it is relevant and up to date.

Community engagement

This year we continue to have a focus on proactive communication around what our animal services and compliance team provide to the Community.

This year we have continued to improve our overall engagement with the community, including running competitions for early dog registration and increasing our social media visibility.

This coming financial year we are looking at how we can continue to increase our presence in the community. We are looking to host a ‘doggy day out’ event which will be a fun and community focused event.

Welfare

On 1 October 2018 the new welfare regulations affecting many dog owners came into force.

The intent of the Animal Welfare Act changes was to improve the welfare of many animals including dogs. To ensure that we communicated these changes to our community, we sent out a leaflet to all of our dog owners with their registration invoices to alert them to the changes in the welfare regulations.

DOG CONTROL STATISTICS

Number of Dogs Registered

2018/2019	2017/2018	2016/2017	2015/2016
5211	5117	5047	5191

Dangerous and Menacing

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

Category	2018/2019
Dangerous by owner conviction S31(1)(a)	0
Dangerous by sworn evidence S31(1)(b)	1
Dangerous by owner admitting in writing S31(1)(C)	0
Total dangerous Dogs	1

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

Category	2018/2019
Menacing by behaviour S33A(1)(b)(i)	12
Menacing by breed characteristics S33A(1)(b)(ii)	1
Menacing by Schedule 4 breed S33C(1)	1
Total menacing Dogs	26

Number of infringement notices issued

2018/2019	2017/2018	2016/2017	2015/2016
85	24	72	97

Probationary owners and disqualified owners

Probationary	Disqualified
0	1

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

1. Council Vs Dancaaster

Dog-related complaints

Category	2018/2019	2017/2018	2016/2017	2015/2016
Attacks on people	8	3	6	20
Attacks on dogs/animals	11	7	16	50
Barking dogs	85	172	81	104
Uncontrolled dogs i.e. rushing	10		27	48
Miscellaneous / Bylaw breach i.e. wandering, not on lead, fouling	237		136	173
Wandering and/or Impounded	142	68	105	186
Total	493	275	371	581