



2014 - 2015

ANNUAL REPORT

**DOG CONTROL
POLICY AND
PRACTICES**

NAPIER CITY COUNCIL

DOG CONTROL POLICY AND PRACTICES

ANNUAL REPORT 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015

This is the twelfth Annual Report in respect of Napier City Council's Dog Control Activities.

Dog Control Act 1996

Section 10A: Territorial authority must report on dog control policy and practices

1. A territorial authority must, in respect of each financial year, report on the administration of:
 - a. its dog control policy adopted under [section 10](#); and
 - b. its dog control practices.
2. The report must include, in respect of each financial year, information relating to:
 - a. the number of registered dogs in the territorial authority district;
 - b. the number of probationary owners and disqualified owners in the territorial authority district;
 - c. the number of dogs in the territorial authority district classified as dangerous under [section 31](#) and the relevant provision under which the classification is made;
 - d. the number of dogs in the territorial authority district classified as menacing under [section 33A](#) or [section 33C](#) and the relevant provision under which the classification is made;
 - e. the number of infringement notices issued by the territorial authority;
 - f. the number of dog related complaints received by the territorial authority in the previous year and the nature of those complaints;
 - g. the number of prosecutions taken by the territorial authority under this Act.
3. The territorial authority must give public notice of the report:
 - a. by means of a notice published in:
 - i. 1 or more daily newspapers circulating in the territorial authority district; or
 - ii. 1 or more other newspapers that have at least an equivalent circulation in that district to the daily newspapers circulating in that district; and
 - b. by any means that the territorial authority thinks desirable in the circumstances.
4. The territorial authority must also, within 1 month after adopting the report, send a copy of it to the Secretary for Local Government.

PART I ADMINISTRATION

Policy on Dogs

Pursuant to the Dog Control Amendment Act the Council Policy on Dogs was reviewed in accordance with the consultative procedures under the Local Government Act during the 2013/2014 year. The Council adopted the changes to the Bylaw Policy on 21 May 2014.

Accommodation

The Animal Control Office is located in Napier City's central administration building situated in Central Napier, with an Animal Shelter established at Council's Works Depot in Depot Place, Onekawa. This facility has kennelling for 33 dogs and has 3 exercise yards.

Work has been undertaken during the year to continue to improve security from unauthorised entry to the shelter. Security cameras have now been installed and 4 more roofed exercise areas are in the planning stage for approval to ensure compliance with the Animal Welfare Act requirements for pounds and shelters.

A Memorandum of Understanding exists between the Animal Control Unit and the Napier and Hawkes Bay S.P.C.A. formally recognising their facility as a pound. Use is made of their kennelling facilities for puppies and infirm or aged dogs that are impounded by the Animal Control Officers.

Personnel

The Animal Control team is based within the Planning Department and reports to the Regulatory Services Manager. The team comprises of 1 Team Leader, 4 Animal Control Officers and 1 Administration Assistant, all of whom are full time employees.

Hours of Operation

Officers work on a roster system which provides for an Officer to be on duty for a full working day 8am to 5pm, 7 days a week, 365 days per year. A rostered on call system is also operated to provide an Officer for emergencies and the picking up of secured roaming dogs each night from 5pm to 8am the next day.

The Animal Shelter is open to the public during the following hours:

- Between 8.30 - 9.30am and 3.30 - 4.30pm Monday to Thursday.
- Between 8.30 - 9.00am and 3.30 - 4.30pm Fridays.
- Between 9.00 - 10.00 am weekends and public holidays.

PART II SERVICES

Dog Registration

During the course of the year 7370 dogs were registered.

PART III ENFORCEMENT

Complaints

3089 complaints were registered as a Request for Service from the public during the year 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015.

Nature of Complaints	2013/14	2012/13	2011/12
Attack on humans	43	48	36
Attack on animals or poultry	77	101	111
Rushing/Chasing	71	70	76
Worrying (stock)	23	28	17
Barking	637	614	581
Fouling	21	12	12
Impound or Return to owner	544	646	673
Roaming	463	587	548
Miscellaneous enquiries	439	410	463
Property visits	47	32	23
Dog trap		4	2
Other stock	64	60	96
Request for information	427	500	385
lost dogs	233	247	184
<u>Total no. of service requests</u>	3089	3357	3207
Total after-hours complaint enquiries	1076	942	792

Legal Action

Court Proceedings

4 Prosecutions were taken for offences under the Dog Control Act 1996.

Dog owner's name	Section of DCA	Result
B. Church	Sect 57	Withdrawn
A.Timu	Sect 57	Convicted, Order for Destruction, Fine \$2255.00
W. Hamlin	Sect 57	Convicted, Order for Destruction
K.J.Ross	Sect 57	Convicted, Order for Destruction, Reparation \$3120.00 for sheep and \$1365.00 for Pound Fees.

Infringements

411 Infringements were issued during the year.

Classification of dog owners

Upon verification via the National Dog Database, a territorial authority may classify a dog owner as probationary or disqualified after they commit 3 or more infringement offences (not relating to a single incident or occasion) within a continuous period of 24 months (depending on severity of offence and prosecution method used).

14 Probationary Owners on file at year end

2 Disqualified Owners on file at year end

The menacing dog classification has produced a stable number of dogs being classified, most of which are of the pit bull terrier type of dog. Most owners of newly registered menacing dogs have now accepted their responsibility to have their pets neutered. Council Officers regularly visit owners of menacing dogs to ensure continuing compliance is enforced. Reports of litters of a potential menacing dog is investigated quickly to ensure compliance of both the pups and the breeding pair if confirmed a menacing breed or type of dog.

Classification of dogs

11 classified Dangerous Dogs all under section 31 (1)(b) on file at year end

124 classified Menacing Dogs on file at year end

51 are classified under section 33A (1) (b) (i) – observed behaviour

6 are classified under section 33A (1) (b) (ii) - characteristics

67 are classified under section 33C (1) – breed or type

Presented by:

Alex Pollock
Team Leader Animal Control