



ANNUAL DOG CONTROL *report*

2015/2016



NAPIER
CITY COUNCIL
Te Kaunihera o Ahuriri

1. Introduction

The Napier City 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. Section 10A 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 years:

- 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016.

2. The Council's Dog Control Policy and Practices

2.1 Policy objectives

The council adopted the Dog Control Policy in 2014.

The objectives of the policy are to:

- provide clear guidance to the public and staff in the administration of the Dog Control Act 1996,
- provide a safe and healthy environment for citizens and visitors,
- minimise dog attacks by appropriate enforcement of the policy, bylaw and Act, and
- ensure dogs kept under human care are well cared for.

The Council adopted the Napier City Council Animal Control Bylaw in 2014. The objectives of the bylaw are to:

- enhance the safety of the public and children by minimising the distress, nuisance and intimidation caused by dogs to the community
- avoid the inherent danger of uncontrolled dogs in public places

2.2 Fees

Dog registration fees, fines and impound fees contribute 100% of the cost of dog control in Napier City. Council provides a Dog Owner Licence for owners that demonstrate they are responsible owners; Certified owners receive a discounted registration. Dog registration fees are set by Council resolution.

3. Key Achievements

Community education has been a focus for the Animal Control team. “All Ears” is a co-operative project between the Animal Control team and the Napier Public Library, aimed at building the confidence of young readers. The programme consists of children reading to a dog once a week for a full school term – allowing the reader and the dog to get to know each other. It is also designed to educate the children about being safe around animals. Children enjoy reading to dogs as they perceive them to be non-judgemental about their reading performance.

Other education initiatives included visits to schools and early childhood centre’s to educate children on how to successfully interact with dogs and be safe around animals.

On-site assistance is provided to dog owners whose dogs have obedience and behavioural issues or for dogs that are continually coming into contact with animal control. There is a proactive approach where Animal Control Officers will provide advice onsite to assist dog owners (i.e. to manage barking, or keep the dog from wandering).

Return to Owner. Council takes a proactive approach to finding the owners of impounded dogs, 328 dogs (66%) from the total of 495 impounded were returned to their owners.

Rehoming Policy. Napier City Council takes a proactive approach to rehoming dogs, in the 2015/16 year 50 dogs (30% of unclaimed) have been rehomed to new owners. All dogs are put through an assessment process to ensure their suitability prior to rehoming. Dogs are made available through the internet and Councils Facebook page.

Community Presence. The success of Animal Control requires the support of the community. During the year, a number of initiatives to help increase the visibility of Animal Control have been completed. Vehicles have been branded to ensure they are instantly recognisable and look friendly and approachable.

Animal Control Officers regularly get out and about and walk popular walking tracks around Napier. Officers can be seen in Pandora, Park Island and on the Rotary Pathway, stopping and chatting to dog owners, offering small complimentary bags of dog biscuits and answering any questions as they arise. This helps build relationships with the community and provides a recognisable friendly face that the community associates with Animal Control, helping to promote responsible dog ownership.

Microchipping. Council offers free microchipping to dogs brought into the Animal Shelter. This helps increase the likelihood that the dog can be immediately identified and reduces staff resource required to identify dogs through investigation.



4. Dog Control Statistics

The information provided below sets out the statistical information required by Section 10(A)(2) of the Act.

Number of Registered Dogs

Category	2014/15	2015/16
Number of dogs registered by council	7,370	7,905

Dangerous and Menacing Dogs Number of dogs classified as dangerous (Section 31)

Category	2014/15	2015/16
Dangerous by owner conviction S31(1)(a)		1
Dangerous by sworn evidence S31(1)(b)	11	6
Dangerous by owner admitting in writing S31(1)(c)		2
Total Dangerous Dogs	11	9

Number of dogs classified as menacing (Section 33A and 33C)

Category	2014/15	2015/16
Menacing by behaviour S33A(1)(b)(i)	51	62
Menacing by breed characteristics S33A(1)(b)(ii)	6	7
Menacing by Schedule 4 breed or type S33C(1)	67	129
Total Menacing Dogs	124	198

Infringements Number of infringement notices issued:

Category	2014/15	2015/16
Infringement notices issued	411	23*

* The reduction in infringements has occurred due to a change of procedure, working with owners to comply with the Act and allowing owners 14 days to register dogs. This approach has reduced the number of infringements and increased the number of dogs registered.

Classification of Dog Owners Number of classified dog owners

Category	2014/15	2015/16
Probationary Owners	14	13
Disqualified Owners	2	2

Prosecutions

Number of prosecutions taken for offences under the Dog Control Act 1996

Category	2014/15	2015/16
Prosecutions	4	0

Complaints

Number and nature of dog complaints received

Category	2014/15	2015/16
Roaming	463	638
Impounding or Returned to owner	544	495
Requests for Information	427	451
Barking Dogs	637	429
General Enquiries	439	272
Lost Dogs	233	173
Attacks on Animals or Poultry	77	69
Rushing or Chasing	71	61
Other Stock	64	53
Attacks on people	43	29
Worrying Stock	23	24
Property Visit Requests	47	17
Fouling	21	7
Total	3089	2718

Impounding and Rehoming

Category	2014/15	2015/16
Total Dogs Impounded	838	495
Dogs returned to owner	534	328
Dogs rehomed	31	50
Dogs surrendered to SPCA	85	38
Dogs euthanised	179	78
Other (death by natural causes etc)	9	1