

MEMORANDUM

To Policy & Regulatory Committee
From Gaylene Kanawa, Democracy Team Leader
Subject Dog Control Policy & By-Law Hearings - Additional Submissions/Attachments
File
Date 16 February 2022

Please find attached additional submissions and their attachments, two submissions did not have the attachments with their submissions when initially submitted and we have since sourced these from the submitters as follows:

1. 3292- Colin & Pam Douglas for Huntly and Districts Kennel Association- attachment was not uploaded with original submission – refer to Page 22 of your agenda.
2. 3313- Arnja Dale for the SPCA – this was a late submission sent through as a word document and missed in the original pdf summary submissions and is now attached.
3. 3314- Phillip & Wendy Lang – this was a late submission which the Chair (Councillor Sedgwick) has accepted for consideration.

This memorandum should be considered alongside the rest of the agenda and has been added to the dropbox as well as the Council website.

If you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact either democracy@waidc.govt.nz or consult@waidc.govt.nz

Gaylene Kanawa
Democracy Team Leader



Dog Control Policy 2022

Policy Owner	Animal Control
Policy Sponsor	General Manager – Customer Support
Approved By:	Policy & Regulatory Committee
Approval Date:	
Resolution Number	
Effective Date	
Next Review Date:	

Introduction

The Dog Control Act 1996 (the Act) requires every territorial authority to adopt a policy on dog control matters and to develop a bylaw to give effect to its policy.

This document contains Waikato District Council's (Council) policy on dogs pursuant to the Act.

This policy aims to achieve a balance between the recreational needs of dogs and their owners with the need to minimise the potential for any danger, distress or nuisance that may be caused by dogs.

The Waikato District Council Dog Control Bylaw 2015 (the Bylaw) gives effect to this Policy, and has been developed to align with this Policy.

Objective(s)

The objectives of this policy are to:

1. Minimise danger, distress and nuisance caused by dogs in our community
2. Prevent the risk of injury in public places that are frequented by children, whether or not the children are accompanied by adults
3. Enable, to the extent that is practicable, the public (including families) to use streets and public amenities without fear or attack or intimidation by dogs
4. Promote of the exercise and recreational needs of dogs and their owners

Definitions

Dangerous dog	means any dog classified as dangerous by Council under Section 31 or 33ED of the Act.
Disability assist dog	means a dog certified by one of the organisations listed in Schedule 5 of the Act as a dog that has been trained (or is being trained) to assist a person with a disability
Domestic animal	means any animal (including a bird or reptile) kept as a domestic pet; any working dog; any other animal kept by any person for recreational purposes or for the purposes of that person's occupation or employment. Infringement offence has the meaning given to it in Section 65(1) of the Act.
Menacing dog	means any dog classified as menacing under Sections 33A or 33C or 33ED of the Act.
Neutered dog	means a dog that has been spayed or castrated; and does not include a dog that has been vasectomised.
Nuisance	As defined in Section 29 of the Health Act 1956.

Project Home (<https://shape.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/proposed-amendments-dog-control-bylaw-and-policy-2015>)

Frequently Asked Questions (<https://shape.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/proposed-amendments-dog-control-bylaw-and-policy-2015/DogBylawFAQs>)

Key Dates



Wednesday 1 December 2021 09:00 am

Consultation open



Wednesday 26 January 2022 05:00 pm

Consultation closes



February 2022

A hearing is scheduled in February 2022.

Document library



Statement of Proposal

(https://shape.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/download_file/1114/609)

PDF (341.52 KB)



Maps of dog control areas

(https://shape.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/download_file/1087/609)

(current vs proposed)

PDF (14.73 MB)



Proposed amended Dog Control Bylaw 2015 (no track changes)

(https://shape.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/download_file/1084/609)

PDF (230.01 KB)

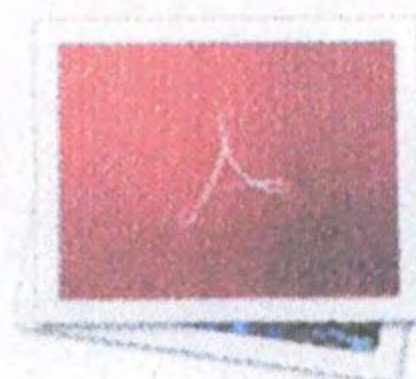
x should read 2022 - as they are the PROPOSED new bylaws.

Proposed

(https://shape.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/download_file/1085/609)

22, 4:01 PM

Proposed amendments to Dog Control Bylaw and Policy 2015 | Shape Waikato



**amended
Dog Control
Bylaw 2015
(track
changes)**



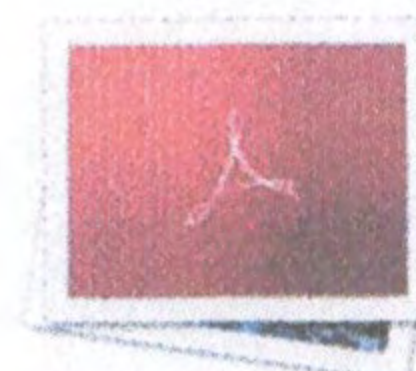
PDF (176.35
KB)



**Proposed
Dog Control
Policy 2022**



PDF (246.23
KB)



**Submission
Form- Dog
Control
Bylaw and
Policy**

PDF (122.50
KB)

(https://shape.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/download_file/1086/609)

(https://shape.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/download_file/1112/609)

(<https://www.govt.nz/>)

Contact us

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Waikato District Council
Private Bag 544
Ngaruawahia 3742
New Zealand

About this site

Connect with us

f Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/WaikatoDistrictCouncil/>)

Track + Trace

Correct - Track + Trace on the
2015 Bylaws to show
the changes that are to be made
for 2022.



Waikato District Council Dog Control Bylaw 2015

Waikato District Council, in exercise of its powers under the Local Government Act 2002 and the Dog Control Act 1996 and their respective amendments, and all other relevant powers, hereby makes the following bylaw.

Introduction

1.0 Short title, commencement and application

- 1.1 The bylaw shall be known as the "Waikato District Council Dog Control Bylaw 2015".
- 1.2 The bylaw shall apply to the Waikato District.
- 1.3 The bylaw shall come into force on 1 May 2015.

2.0 Revocation

The following bylaws are hereby revoked from the day this new bylaw comes into force: "Waikato District Council Dog Control Bylaw 2007" and the "Franklin District Council Dog Control Bylaw 2010".

3.0 Purpose

The purpose of this bylaw is to support and give effect to Waikato District Council's Dog Control Policy. The objective of this policy, the objective of which is to enable people to enjoy the benefits of dog ownership and provide for the exercise and recreational needs to dogs and their owners, while minimising danger, distress, and nuisance to the community generally.

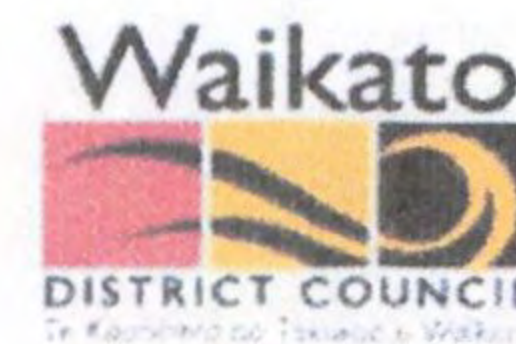
This bylaw should be read in conjunction with the Waikato District Council Dog Control Policy and cannot be inconsistent with that Policy.

4.0 Definitions

For the purposes of this bylaw, the following definitions shall apply, unless inconsistent with the context:

Act	<u>Means the Dog Control Act 1996, and its amendments</u>
<u>Animal Control Officer</u>	<u>Means an Animal Control Officer appointed by the Waikato District Council under Section 11 of the Act.</u>
At large	<u>Means at liberty, free, not restrained and includes any dog, whether on a leash or not, that is present in any area included in the areas where Council has prohibited the presence of dogs under the provisions of this bylaw. Dogs effectively caged or confined to pens or vehicles shall not be considered to be at large in any prohibited</u>

These are the proposed
Bylaws 2022!



Waikato District Council Dog Control Bylaw 2015

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SUBMISSION CONCERNING THE PROPOSED DOG CONTROL POLICY 2022 AND THE WAIKATO DISTRICT COUNCIL DOG CONTROL BYLAW 2022

I am writing on behalf of my husband and myself with our concerns over the proposed Dog Control Policy and Dog Control Bylaws.

Firstly, may I (Pamela) say I am extremely disappointed as to the total lack of public consultation that has occurred with these proposals.

My name has been associated with dogs in the area for in excess of 43 years, as:

- Co-Rate payer of the same 10-acre block, situated in Newstead.
- Recognised Selected Owners for all these years.
- Past, Senior Vice President of the New Zealand Kennel Club – and represented same in the dispute of an American Staffordshire Terrier – recognised as a Breed by the NZKC, when the then Dog Control Officer and Council took to recognising said animal as a Pit Bull. Council's decision was overturned.
- Huntly & District Kennel Associated Inc., situated at The Point, am now the President, but have also been Secretary/Treasurer for in excess of 30 years. This Kennel Club, has had a healthy relationship with Council in the past, and have held many events in your area. To date, there has been no communication with this Club.
- The same Club has held obedience training, in recent years, for many of your puppy owners, and dogs who have control issues, where many other Clubs would have ruled them as too unruly.
- Recognised as able to be helpful to WDC in the past with the Dog Policy Review. Letter from CE – Mr Gavin J Ion, dated 19 April 2007.

Firstly, we wish to highlight some areas of concern in the proposed **Dog Control Policy 2022** document.

Section 1: Obligations of Council

It clearly states:

“Dog owners have a responsibility to provide for their dog’s welfare. To support dog owners and the welfare of dogs in the Waikato District Council, the Council will:

b) provide designated exercise areas enabling dog owners to exercise their dogs off lead provided dogs are kept under control at all times”

We have grave concerns for those many dog owners who do not have the luxury of a rural property to run their dogs on, or a no exit road on which to walk with their dogs, as many areas of previously off leash exercise are being taken away.

Dogs and humans need to meet socially, other like-minded people and dogs, to ensure the wellbeing of both human and canine.

Section 2: Responsibilities of Dog Owners

e) ensure their dog has adequate physical wellbeing through acceptable nutrition, environmental, health and behavioural stimulus, and adequate mental well-being

Does one assume physical wellbeing encompasses off lead exercise, or is it mental well-being? If so, is Council confident that people who live in an urban environment, can easily access these areas, particularly if they do not have access to a car?

Section 4: Registration of dogs

4.1 C. Selected owner

Third bullet point states:

“holds a permit where more than two dogs are kept on the premises”

“Any owner who breaches these conditions will have their selected owner classification cancelled and reduced to approved owner classification. Depending on the severity of the breach, an owner may have their classification reduced to general owner at the discretion of Council’s Animal Control Team Leader.”

We will address these inequities in the Proposed Dog Control Policy 2022, under our submission on the proposed Bylaw’s.

The purpose of the Bylaw is to support the Dog Control Policy, 2022, both of which we reject as written.

The Policy states the purpose as, and we congratulate you on these objectives:

1. Minimise danger, distress and nuisance caused by dogs in our community
2. Prevent the risk of injury in public places that are frequented by children, whether or not the children are accompanied by adults
3. Enable, to the extent that is practicable, the public (including families) to use streets and public amenities without fear or attack or intimidation by dogs
4. Promote of the exercise and recreational needs of dogs and their owners

FIRSTLY, THERE IS NO NOTIFICATION OF THE PROPOSED BYLAWS FOR 2022. See attached front pages.

The document we will comment is labelled as below

Waikato District Council Dog Control Bylaw 2015, and was printed off your website on 20/01/2022.

And it states under Introduction 1.3 The bylaw shall come into force on 1 May 2015.

2015 is the date on the bottom of each page.

Our concerns and observations are as follows:

Clause 5.0

All the clauses need to be renumbered, starting at 5.1 – 5.5.

In clause, currently labelled 5.5, it states ‘Any person who is given notice under clause 4.3’

There is NO clause 4.3.

Clause 6.0

Clause 6.5 e) reads “..... such as a dog show, dog obedience show, or surf.....”

We would ask that you insert, after obedience show, **agility show**. There are many shows and activities held under the auspices of the New Zealand Kennel Club, trading as Dogs New Zealand. But those are the main three.

Clause 8.0

Dog exercise areas.

Clause 8.1 reads "The Council may, by resolution, designate certain public areas to be dog exercise areas."

An interesting play on words used in that sentence.

Council **MUST** designate areas to be dog exercise areas.

The word "may," indicates a lesser possibility. On the other hand, the word "must," indicates the meaning of "**DEFINITE**". In other words, it can be said that the word "must" is indicative of definiteness when it comes to an action or duty.

The Dog Control Act 1996, Section 10. Duty of territorial authorities to adopt policy on dogs.

3. (e) shall identify any places within areas or parts of the district specified in paragraph (c) (ii) of this subsection that are to be designated by a bylaw under section 20(1)(d) as dog exercise areas in which dogs may be exercised at large;

So, the words in the above sentence we wish to reemphasise are: "are to be"

Clause 11.0

The first bullet point in the current Bylaws dated 2015, NOT the ones that are inaccurately labelled as such, and are the proposed ones, state:

Exceptions to this provision are as follows:

- Rural zoned properties, where no limit applies

The removal of this is intolerable for a huge percentage of your rural property owners and ratepayers.

The reasons given for this to be removed is ludicrous and unjustified.

The few rural properties that have given concern to Council have had in the main, UNREGISTERED dogs and as such, should have been on the Animal Control Officers radar.

There have been 7 SEVEN properties – regarding complaints, as per Tracey Oakes letter, dated 23 December 2021.

Well, that leaves approximately EIGHT HUNDRED AND NINETY-THREE, rural properties, with no complaints and Council is of a mind to change the bylaws, for 7 out of 900. Surely Council has more important tasks ahead of them. Changing the number of dogs for Rural owners, are not going to address the problem Council had with these few rural properties.

People have bought RURAL properties, to enable them to have more than 2 registered dogs, in some cases.

We have never had less than two, and now, even though we are thinking of the years' we have ahead of us, we still have four dogs, two aged over 9 years. As stated previously, more than once, we have been ratepayers and on the same property for more than 43 years, and have always enjoyed the pleasure of having Registered dogs with NZKC and registered dogs with WDC.

Clause 12.0

The idea of requiring an owner of more than two dogs, living on a rural zoned property, to be required to apply for a permit is not the answer to the number of dogs that have been uplifted.

We object to this Clause, along with Clause 11.0 and wish that 11.0 remains the status quo and 12.0 is for permits for more than two dogs, in areas not zoned RURAL.

Clause 12.2 states that if an owner has an additional dog, that permit will be invalid and another application will have to be made. No consideration given of an amendment. More expenses going forward, for Council and property owner.

At the moment there are permits issued for "up to ten dogs" in areas either designated as Rural Residential or Country Living. Where does the issuing of those permits sit within the proposed bylaws?

My question is: How many dogs, that were uplifted, from those seven rural properties, were registered?

Has Council had a proposed budget for the requirements for 900 properties to be visited? In the words of Tracy Oakes, "the Animal Control Officer will make an assessment of the property during their visit..."

Surely for a permit to be issued, all properties would need to be inspected? That alone could cause horrendous expense as there would need to be an appointment made for a mutually acceptable time for the inspection, as under the DCA 1996 20 (2) "Nothing in this section shall authorise the making of any bylaw conferring any power of entry onto any land or premises without the consent of the occupier."

If a permit is turned down, or issued subject to terms or special conditions, where is the ability to appeal said decision?

An appeal, can not be heard by any party making the decision, so that rule out the Animal Control Team.

Many dog owners have been on their properties for many years, and have seen neighbours come and go. Your enjoyment of your lifestyle should not be able to be curtailed by any new neighbours who come along and do not like dogs. There are many activities that are rural based that people can take a dislike to. If you asked me (Pamela) personally if my farming neighbour could feed out silage, or spread "muck" on his paddocks, I would say I would prefer that he doesn't, as the smell can be overwhelming. But as this is part and parcel of living in a rural community, we accept these activities.

Clause 13.0

13.1 This clause covers bitches in season. In the current bylaws there is a Guidance note where it says., "This clause shall not apply to bitches being shown at conformation shows, recognised by the New Zealand Kennel Club."

Why has this been removed? Was my Club, where I am the President, Huntly & District Kennel Association Inc., been asked if we require this to stay in, to successfully run shows? The answer is NO, no communication has been received on this or any of these topics.

13.3 It reads ".....under clauses 12.1 and 12.2 shall be confined".
Clauses 12.1 & 12.2 refer to permits, not Bitches and diseased dogs.

A review of the cost of service statements for Animal Control June 2021, raises many issues that need addressing.

Is the cost of each euthanasia really \$309.91 per animal? If this is fact, you need to put this out to tender. The figure given was 184 dogs euthanised 20/21 and the total cost 57022.97.

Researching the breakdown of the number of personal that make up the total cost of 821269.80 being:

1 Team Leader

8 Animal Control Officers

2 Pound Keepers

1 Educational and engagement Officer.

PLUS 2 administrative staff members dedicated to the Animal Control Team.

Add extra costs, training, engagement & education, uniforms, vehicles etc the amount reaches 947725.78.

The area of animal control also incurs overheads (mgnt) and environmental administration of 194204.76

So now we have expenditure in excess of one million dollars, without taking into account dog pound expenses, euthanasia, vet costs, carcass disposal, minor equipment, printing and stationery, phones rent, general expenses, property rentals etc and the whole cost showing as at June 2021 is **\$1,947,595.65.**

Our question is:

Do you envisage the cost of administering the permits, which will entail applications, approvals, rejections, appeals, property visits, to be absorbed within the current team, and their budget, or will there need to be more people employed?

Presently there is a horrendous deficit, nearly one million dollars, which any proposed permit application fees will not address as this will only add to more administrative work.

The proposals will not free up the Officers to address the few problem properties, that, by the way, would not apply for a Permit, but bog them down.

As the dogs, in the case we are familiar with, were not registered, is the Animal Control Team confident that within the framework of the proposed bylaws that the owners would have applied for a permit? Not in anybody dreams.

So, what do Council want to achieve by bringing in the changes to the Policy & Bylaws?

We are aware there are properties now, many not rural, but residential, where the team is aware that the dogs on those properties are not registered, but they make no attempt to enforce the current bylaws, which includes the basic registration requirement.

So, in light of the above we strongly object to The Policy where, we as selected owners of 43 plus years, Council would even think of taking our Selected Owners status off us if we happen to take back a dog we have bred in the past. This is written into our contracts that we require all dogs returned to us, if the owner/owners are unable to keep the dog. No questions are asked, but as responsible breeders we feel strongly that is our duty to our breeding.

This is the area of The Policy we are referring to.

Section 4: C. Selected owner

Third bullet point states:

“holds a permit where more than two dogs are kept on the premises”

“Any owner who breaches these conditions will have their selected owner classification cancelled and reduced to approved owner classification. Depending on the severity of the breach, an owner may have their classification reduced to general owner at the discretion of Council’s Animal Control Team Leader.”

Under 17.0

General. “This bylaw was made pursuant to a resolution passed by the Waikato District Council on 13 April 2015.

We wish to move that the document which is the proposed Bylaws 2022, but sent for consultation dated 2015, be invalidated.

We deplore the lack of goodwill and consultation shown by this Council in regards to the proposed implementation of these draconian changes.

We wish to speak to our submission.

Colin and Pam Douglas
85 Craig Road
R D 6
Newstead
Hamilton. 3286

Colin Douglas: Life Member Huntly & District Kennel Association
Pam Douglas: Life Member Huntly & District Kennel Association
Life Member: The New Zealand Kennel Club.
Vice President: New Zealand Dog Show Judges Association
Member: Canine Health and Welfare Committee – NZKC
All Breeds International Dog Show Judge

Documents attached as follows:

Submission form

Front page headed Dog Control Policy 2022

Page 6 from your website, showing Proposed amended Dog Control Bylaw 2015 (no track changes)

Page 6/7 Proposed amended Dog Control Bylaw 2015 (track changes)

Page 7 Proposed Dog Control Policy 2022

Front page Waikato District Council Dog Control Bylaw 2015 – showing track & trace

Front page Waikato District Council Dog Control Bylaw 2015 – actually Proposed Bylaw. Incorrectly headed.

Submission six pages

Waikato District Council Proposed Amendments to Dog Control Bylaw and Policy 2015

Submission ID: 3313

Submitter name/organisation: Arnja Dale for the SPCA

Attachment: Yes

Wish to speak to submission: Yes

Proposed amendments to the Dog Control Bylaw 2015

1. Do you support the proposed changes to the Dog Control Bylaw 2015?

See attached

2. Any further comments?

See attached

Proposed amendments to the Dog Control Policy

1. Do you support the proposed changes to the Dog Control Policy?

See attached

2. Any further comments?

See attached

Proposed amendments to the Dog Control Area Maps

1. Do you support the proposed changes to the Dog Control Exercise Maps?

See attached

2. Any further comments?

See attached

Proposed new Tamahere Dog Exercise Park

1. What is your preferred Dog Exercise Park option in Tamahere?

2. Any further comments?



Submission by the
Royal New Zealand Society for the
Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Inc.
On the Waikato District Council Dog Control Bylaw
and Policy

21st January 2022



Executive Summary

- SPCA is concerned by the Council's proposal to remove seven dog exercise areas and cautions that removal of multiple off-leash dog exercise areas must be balanced with the creation and designation of additional, appropriate off-leash exercise areas. Providing dog owners with safe and appropriate areas for exercising dogs is important to facilitate meeting dogs physical, health and behavioural needs under the Animal Welfare Act 1999.
- SPCA is concerned that there may be unintended consequences resulting from the restrictions to owning more than two dogs in rural areas, particularly as this may discourage rehoming and fostering.
- SPCA encourages Council to consider ways to safely increase integration of dogs in our communities as a means to facilitating socialisation. Adequate socialisation is a key component of improving dog welfare and creating safer communities.
- SPCA advocates for the inclusion of a pathway to appeal menacing classification with eligibility based on demonstrated steps towards responsible dog ownership.



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Introduction

The following submission is made on behalf of The Royal New Zealand Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (trading as SPCA).

SPCA is the preeminent animal welfare and advocacy organisation in New Zealand. The Society has been in existence for over 140 years with a supporter base representing many tens of thousands of New Zealanders across the nation.

The organisation includes 35 Animal Welfare Centres across New Zealand and approximately 60 inspectors appointed under the Animal Welfare Act 1999.

SPCA welcomes the opportunity to make a submission on the Waikato District Council Dog Control Bylaw and Policy.

Submission

Off-leash exercise areas

SPCA is concerned by the proposed closure of seven off-leash dog exercise parks. Our organisation would like to see the closure of any dog exercise parks balanced by an increase in alternative, designated off-leash dog parks to allow dog owners to comply with the proposed restrictions without negatively impacting their dog's welfare and their own quality of life. SPCA would welcome opportunities to discuss with Council methods of improving safety to address concerns leading to the closure of two of the dog exercise parks.

While the Council has proposed using Whangarata Domain as a designated dog exercise area, SPCA notes that this area is not fully fenced and that this area is only to be temporary used as a dog exercise space (until approximately 2025 when this area is to become a cemetery).



There appear to be no plans to replace this site with another dog exercise area after this date. Council has stated that the two other proposed sites for dog exercise areas would need fencing before they were considered suitable for this use and that it does not currently have the budget to fence them.

Legally, all dog owners must meet the physical, health and behavioural needs of their animals, and providing sufficient exercise is a part of this requirement. The Code of Welfare for Dogs (2018) recommends that dogs are given at least 60 minutes of exercise a day. Some dog owners may be reluctant to exercise their dogs if they have less flexibility about where they can do this within their local area. SPCA believes that it is beneficial for everyone to give owners the choice and variety of locations for walking their dogs.

Evidence suggests that off-leash dog parks can benefit owners' and dogs' physical and social health, as well as community connectedness (Cutt et al., 2007; Eldering et al., 2017; González Ramírez et al., 2014; Toohey et al., 2013). Dogs walk faster than people and providing off-leash time is a great way to let them work off their excess energy. Canine obesity is now considered to be the number one health concern in companion dogs worldwide (Kipperman et al., 2018). Dogs walked less often and for a shorter time are more likely to be obese; this can shorten their life and put them at risk of health complications such as diabetes and heart disease (German et al., 2017).

Dogs who are not provided with sufficient exercise can be both bored and have lots of energy. Dogs not provided an appropriate outlet for their energy can develop problem behaviours such as nuisance barking and destructive behaviours or depression (Instone et al., 2014). Exercise is an easy, inexpensive, welfare-friendly tool to assist with nuisance barking (Righetti, 2005). Thus provision of off-leash exercise opportunities is a key component of the Council's objective to prevent or abate nuisances. The Society believes that Council must take on board feedback from local residents regarding whether the new bylaw and policy provide adequate provision of dog exercise areas.



Keeping of dogs and permits for keeping more than two dogs

SPCA is concerned about the impacts of the proposed restrictions on owning more than 2 dogs in rural areas and the restrictions on owning more than one dog per household for multi-unit housing and Papakainga housing. While we appreciate the Council's concerns for the welfare of dogs, we question whether the proposed bylaw would achieve the stated aim of improving dog welfare and are concerned that this proposal may instead penalise responsible dog owners.

Care should be taken to ensure that legislation enacted with the aim of better protecting pets doesn't instead have the opposite effect. For example, the proposed bylaw places additional barriers for those looking to providing a loving home for more than two dogs (or more than one dog for multi-unit housing and Papakainga housing), potentially impacting the ability of rescues, and the Council pound, to find permanent homes for dogs in their care. It is also not clear whether the proposed Bylaw allows for exemptions for those fostering dogs for animal rescues (current wording, "*any additional dogs* which are obtained by the owner will render the permit invalid and a new application will have to be made"). Foster homes are vital part of many animal rescue operations, including SPCA, and we are concerned the proposal could have a chilling effect on people willing to foster or offer a permanent home to dogs, causing additional strain on these organisations.

Additional feedback on the proposed Bylaw

The proposed definition of 'at large' is contradictory: "At large means at liberty, free, not restrained and includes any dog, whether on a leash or not".

14. Minimum standards of accommodation and care for dogs

SPCA suggests that section 14 should be amended to reference the Animal Welfare Act 1999 and Code of Welfare (Dogs) 2018.



15. Dogs on moving vehicles

Section 15 relates to an infringeable offence. SPCA suggests that section 15 should be amended to reference Regulation 15 of the [Animal Welfare \(Care and Procedures\) Regulations 2018](#).

Policy feedback

SPCA believes the objectives of the Dog Control Policy are best served by providing dog owners with a sufficient number of appropriate off-leash exercise areas and finding ways to safely increase integration of dogs in our communities. The Society believes that Council must take on board feedback from local residents regarding whether the new bylaw and policy provide adequate provision of dog exercise areas. We included some additional feedback on the proposed dog control policy below.

3.2 Dogs in Outdoor Dining Establishments

SPCA welcomes Council's support of food businesses allowing dogs in their outdoor dining areas. Dogs are part of our whānau and inclusion of dogs in family activities facilitates socialisation which reduces risk of nuisance behaviours and aggressive behaviour.

5.4 Menacing dogs

Menacing classification has direct negative impacts on a dog's welfare. SPCA urges Council to consider providing owners of dogs classified as menacing due to behaviour with an opportunity to have their dog's classification reviewed if the owner is able to provide evidence of completing a dog training course (at the owner's expense), and the owner has not obtained any infringements in relation to the dog within a 12-month period. This is in line with the Council's stated '3E approach', of engagement and education, then enforcement. This



approach has been adopted in other areas (see, Auckland Council Dog Bylaw) and incentivises behaviour change and adoption of responsible dog ownership practices. SPCA advocates for evidence-based measures, such as community education and proper socialisation of dogs, to reduce the risk of dog bites.

Schedule 1: Control of Dogs in Public Places

SPCA encourages Waikato District Council to consider allowing dogs, on-leash, in the central business areas as other Councils have done (for example, Marlborough District Council, New Plymouth District Council). Creating dog-friendly communities facilitates socialisation of puppies and dogs. Dogs which have been adequately and appropriately socialised are less likely to show undesirable behaviours such as barking and aggression (Blackwell et al., 2008), in line with the Council's stated objectives.

Conclusion

SPCA appreciates the opportunity to contribute to the Waikato District Council Dog Control Bylaw and Policy and would welcome further engagement on this issue. If any further information is required, the Society is happy to discuss this matter further. We would like to present orally please.

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Waikato District Council Proposed Amendments to Dog Control Bylaw and Policy 2015

Submission ID: 3314

Submitter name/organisation: Phillip and Wendy Lang

Attachment:

Wish to speak to submission: Yes

Proposed amendments to the Dog Control Bylaw 2015

1. Do you support the proposed changes to the Dog Control Bylaw 2015?

In part

2. Any further comments?

Proposed amendments to the Dog Control Policy

1. Do you support the proposed changes to the Dog Control Policy?

Yes

2. Any further comments?

Proposed amendments to the Dog Control Area Maps

1. Do you support the proposed changes to the Dog Control Exercise Maps?

In part

2. Any further comments?

Proposed new Tamahere Dog Exercise Park

1. What is your preferred Dog Exercise Park option in Tamahere?

Option 2- Flat area located by road, Tamahere Reserve

2. Any further comments?

The Te Awa Reserve Playground should not be shifted. There is very limited parking and room for general recreation, it is all needed for general open space recreation.