

WAIKATO DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANIMAL CONTROL



1 JULY 2021 -
30 JUNE 2022



About this report

Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996 requires every local council to report on its dog control policy and practices each financial year. This report is for the Waikato District Council Animal Control team from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022.

Dogs in our district

The Waikato district covers more than 400,000 hectares – both rural and urban.

Over the past five years the numbers of known dogs in the district has increased each year. This reflects the continued growth in the communities. As of 30 June 2022 there were 15,752 known dogs in the Waikato district, owned by 14,879 owners. This is an increase of 408 dogs from the previous year.

Approximately 14.5% of the registered dogs in the district are registered on a Farm Owner Policy.



Our team

As of 30 June 2022, we had 13 staff to deliver animal control services in the Waikato district:

- 1 Team Leader
- 1 Senior Animal Control Officer
- 8 Animal Control Officers
- 2 Pound Keepers
- 1 Education and Engagement Officer

The team is supported by administrators in the Community Safety Support team (2 staff members dedicated to the Animal Control team).



Our policies and rules

The Waikato District Council Animal Control team operates under the following policies and rules:

- Waikato District Council Dog Control Policy 2022
- Waikato District Council Dog Control Bylaw 2022
- Dog Control Act 1996
- Impounding Act 1955.

Note: The Waikato District Council Dog Control Policy and Dog Control Bylaw were renewed in 2022. After 7 weeks of public consultation, with 666 submissions and 71 individual submitters speaking at the council hearing, a number of changes were made to the original proposal. The Council adopted the Bylaw and Policy on 11 April 2022. These can be found on our website: www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/dogs. They will need to be reviewed within 5 years.



Our services

Our Animal Control team provide a 24 hour/7-day service. Staff have a work roster to cover after-hour emergencies.

The team takes a '3 E approach': engagement, education and enforcement. This has been the ethos for a number of years and the team has seen a significant improvement in our relationship with the community.

Through the Huntly West Hub and Ngaruawahia Community House we have donated pet food to those in need (thanks to Hills Pet Nutrition!) and provide advice on various dog related issues.

Dog registration fees

Waikato District Council has a scaled fee structure for registration. This rewards dog owners who have no history of offences, have continuously registered their dog/s and who meet the property requirements specified within our policies. We also offer a reduced registration fee for dog owners who register their dogs before 20 July.

Of the 15,752 known dogs in our district, there are 14,351 registered (91.11%). The Animal Control team engages with dog owners who have not registered their dogs to ensure compliance is achieved. It is a continued focus for the team to increase this overall compliance percentage. The full fee structure can be found on our website: www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz.



Impounded dogs

This year 682 dogs were impounded, 296 dogs were returned to their owner and 217 dogs went into our adoption programme. Of those, 143 were adopted directly to members of the public and 51 were transferred to other agencies for rehoming. As of June 30 2022 we had 23 dogs still waiting to be adopted.

Any dog that is not claimed by the owner (and has not been involved in a serious offence) is temperament tested with people and other dogs and those that pass enter our adoption programme.

We work closely with other rescues and charities to try and rehome as many dogs as possible. We work hard to find the best homes for them by matching the right dog to the right people.



Desexing programme

Of every dog registration, \$1 goes towards our desexing programme known as PUP – Prevent Unwanted Puppies. This initiative was approved by Waikato District Council in 2017. Owners who hold a community services card can access discounted desexing for their dog at a rate of \$80.

In the 2021/2022 financial year, 56 dogs were desexed for families who otherwise could not afford it. This has many benefits for our community, including fewer unwanted dogs. Desexed dogs are also less likely to roam.

Our events

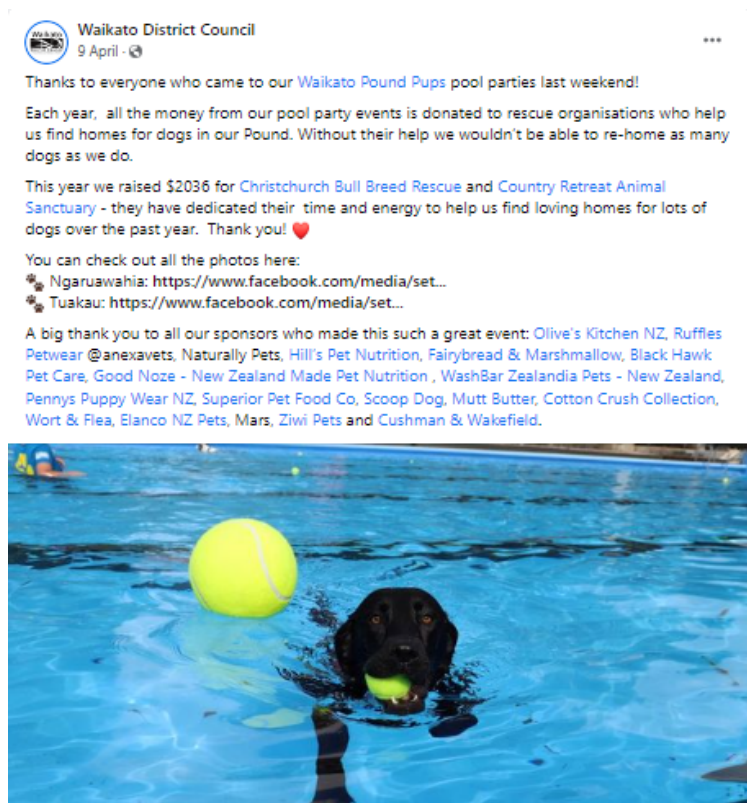
We pride ourselves on holding community events that our residents, and other dog owners, can attend. This is an opportunity for our communities to meet the Animal Control Officers and for everyone to have a fun day. These events are always popular.

Pound Pup Pink Walk - October 2021

Unfortunately these events were cancelled due to the Covid restrictions at the time. The events will be held again in October 2022.

Pound Pups Pool Parties - April 2022

Two events were held in April 2022 - one in Ngaruawahia and one in Tuakau. More than 250 dogs attended these events. Every year the money is donated to charities who have helped us find homes for our adoption dogs. This year more than \$2000 was raised for Christchurch Bull Breeds and Country Retreat Animal Sanctuary.



Dirty Dog Challenge 2022

The Dirty Dog Event was held in July 2022 so is out of scope for this report. More than 400 dogs attended the event and photos can be found on our Facebook page: @WaikatoPoundPups.

Summary: The numbers

2021/2022 has been another busy year for the Animal Control team. Our priority is to keep people safe. This includes responding to reports of wandering stock on roads and dog attacks. We continue to build positive relationships and make a positive impact in our community through engagement initiatives, including donating dog food to owners in need, and promoting desexing.

REQUESTS FOR SERVICE

209	Dog nuisance
1,024	Stray/Trespass
225	Property visit (owner classifications/unregistered etc)
71	Dog welfare
18	Trap required
84	Dogs to collect (surrendered)
391	Dog attack
778	Other (includes animal charges for impounded dogs, missing dog reports etc)
56	Subsidised Dog Desexing Project - PUP
2,856	Total number of complaints

REGISTRATION

15,752	Total number of known dogs
14,351	Total number of registered dogs
91.11	Percentage of registered dogs

PROSECUTIONS

2	Number of prosecutions initiated
2	Number of prosecutions completed

IMPOUNDED DOGS

682	Total number of impounded dogs
296	Impounded dogs returned to owner
167	Impounded dogs euthanised
217	Impounded dogs rehomed
2	Held pending prosecution

CLASSIFICATIONS

0	Total Number of Probationary Owners
8	Total Number of Disqualified Owners
29	Total Number or dogs classified as Dangerous
0	Dangerous by Owner Conviction Under S31(1)(a)
26	Dangerous by Sworn Evidence S31(1)(b)
3	Dangerous by Owner Admittance in Writing S31(1) (c)
170	Total Number of Dogs Classified as Menacing
85	Menacing under S33A(1)(b)(i) by Behaviour
4	Menacing under S33A(1)(b)(ii) by Breed Characteristics
81	Menacing under S33C(1) by Schedule 4 Breed

INFRINGEMENTS ISSUED

	SECTION	NUMBER	
2	18	Wilful obstruction of dog control officer or ranger	
0	19(2)	Failure or refusal to supply information or wilfully providing false particulars	
0	19A(2)	Failure to supply information or wilfully providing false particulars	
38	20(5)	Failure to comply with any bylaw authorised by the section	
0	23A(2)	Failure to undertake dog owner education programme or dog obedience course (or both)	
0	24	Failure to comply with obligations of probationary owner	
0	28(5)	Failure to comply with the effects of disqualification	
4	32(2)	Failure to comply with the effects of classification of dog as dangerous dog	
0	32(4)	Fraudulent sale or transfer of dangerous dog	
16	33EC(1)	Failure to comply with effects of classification of dog as menacing dog	
0	33F(3)	Failure to advise person of muzzle and leashing requirement	
0	36A(6)	Failure to implant microchip transponder in dog	
0	41	False statement in relation to dog registration	
0	41A	Falsely notifying death of dog	
243	42	Failure to register dog	
1	46(4)	Fraudulent procurement or attempt to procure replacement dog registration label or disc	
0	48(3)	Failure to advise change of ownership	
0	49(4)	Failure to advise change of address	
0	51(1)	Removal, swapping, or counterfeiting of registration label or disc	
126	52A	Failure to keep dog controlled or confined	
10	53(1)	Failure to keep dog under control	
0	54(2)	Failure to provide proper care and attention, to supply proper and sufficient food, and to provide adequate exercise	
0	54A	Failure to carry a leash in public	

INFRINGEMENTS ISSUED

	SECTION	NUMBER
2	55(7)	Failure to comply with barking dog abatement notice
0	62(4)	Allowing dog known to be dangerous to be at large unmuzzled or unleashed
0	62(5)	Failure to advise of muzzle and leashing requirements
0	72(2)	Releasing dog from custody
442		Total Number of Infringements