

# **Waikato District Council**

## **ANNUAL REPORT ON DOG CONTROL FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2016**

### **The Report**

Section 10A of the dog Control Act 1996 requires each territorial authority to report on its dog control policy and practices, and provide statistical information.

This report covers the year 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016 and provides the information as detailed in the legislation.

### **Dog Control in the Waikato District**

The Waikato District Council had a known dog population of 14,621 as of 30 June 2016 which are owned by 9058 owners. Our district is spread between both urban and rural areas with approximately 20% of the total registered dogs in the district being on a property of more than 20 hectares.

Dog Control within our district is implemented pursuant to the Waikato District Council Dog Control Policy 2015 and Waikato District Council Dog Control Bylaw 2015.

### **Resources**

Waikato District Council employs a total of 11 staff which is comprised of 1 team leader, 8 Animal Control Officers and 2 Pound Keepers that clean and maintain 2 pound facilities – 1 in Ngaruawahia and 1 in Pukekohe. We are also supported by a regulatory administration team with 1.5 staff members dedicated to animal control.

### **Dog Control Enforcement Practices**

Waikato District Council offers a seven day a week/24 hour service with staff working a roster to cover after hours emergencies. We responded to over 2000 complaints from members of the public which ranged from dog attacks, threatening dogs, barking nuisances and roaming complaints. Many offences against the Dog Control Act 1996 and The Dog Control Bylaw 20015 were identified during proactive patrols during daily routine activities by our Officers. As a result of these complaints and proactive patrols, nearly 1200 dogs were impounded at our 2 facilities.

A significant number of our complaints relate to stray dogs either trespassing or roaming which are dealt with by either education, impounding or infringement notices if it becomes an ongoing issue.

For registration and micro-chipping offences we may offer a “diversion period” of 14 days which is at the Officers’ discretion and is based on past history of the dog owner. This has proven to be a useful tool to gain compliance.

### **Dogs Prohibited, Leash Only and Dog Exercise Areas**

In 2010 Waikato District Council was merged with a portion of Franklin District Council. As a result of this, we had two separate policies and bylaws to enforce. During the 2014/2015 year, we reviewed these documents and following consultation with our communities, we developed a district wide policy and bylaw to create consistency in Dog Control. The emerging documents specify the following areas as prohibited, off leash and on leash/supervised areas.

#### **Prohibited Dog Areas**

- CBD Huntly
- CBD Ngaruawahia
- A recreation domain area in Raglan
- Within 10 metres of permanently installed children’s play equipment
- Areas which are developed or marked out as sports fields.

#### **Off Leash Exercise Areas**

We have 5 fenced parks within our district that are designated as off leash dog exercise areas. We also have a number of other unfenced areas where dogs can be run off leash but under control.

#### **On Leash/Supervised Areas**

As a result of our policy and bylaw review in 2015, restrictions were changed around dogs in three CBD areas of local towns. These were Tuakau, Te Kauwhata and Raglan. These areas are now specified as on lead but should not be tethered and/or left unsupervised.

Dog being exercised in all other areas not specified above are required to be on a leash and under control at all times.

We are also in the final stages of engagement to potentially designate an additional two reserves as off leash, exercise areas. One of these is in Pokeno and the other in Tamahere.

### **Dog Registration and other fees**

Waikato District Council have a scaled fee structure for registration that rewards dog owners who have been offence free, have continuous registration history and meet the property requirements specified within our policies.

We also set impounding, seizure, sustenance and micro chipping fees at a rate to ensure that we run a user pay system and dog owners that offend contribute significantly to the cost of providing an animal control service.

A reduced registration fee was given to dog owners who registered their dogs prior to 20 July and 78.97% of dogs within our district were registered by 1 August 2015.

As a result of registration fees and income from compliance and enforcement action in the form of infringements and seizure of dogs that remained unregistered, 52% of our cost of operation is covered through fees and charges. The remaining 48% was covered from General Rates Funding for the 2015/16 year.

### **Dog Pound Facilities**

Waikato District Council owns a pound facility at Ngaruawahia where 36 dogs can be kept. For the 2015/16 registration year, we also leased a pound facility from Auckland Council in Pukekohe. This facility can hold an additional 40 dogs that services our dog owners in the northern part of our district.

Both pounds are maintained by staff who are qualified in animal care and have the skills necessary to handle dogs of all nature and maintain a high standard of cleanliness within the facility.

In the last financial year, staff have focused on rehoming as many dogs as possible. This has resulted in an increased percentage of impounded dogs being rehomed and a reduction in euthanasia rates. This has been possible through our increased public profile and by working with numerous rescue organisations throughout the country.

## Key Data – as of 30 June 2016

<b>Requests for Service</b>	
Dog Nuisance	310
Stray/Trespass	381
Property Visit (owner classifications/unregistered etc)	869
Dog Welfare	73
Trap Required	38
Dog to Collect	113
Dog Attack	345
<b>Total number of Complaints</b>	<b>2129</b>

<b>Classifications</b>	
Total Number of Probationary Owners	0
Total Number of Disqualified Owners	12
<b>Total Number or dogs classified as Dangerous</b>	<b>11</b>
Dangerous by Owner Conviction Under S31(1)(a)	2
Dangerous by Sworn Evidence S31(1)(b)	7
Dangerous by Owner Admittance in Writing S31(1)©	1
<b>Total Number of Dogs Classified as Menacing</b>	<b>177</b>
Menacing under S33A(1)(b)(i) by Behaviour	50
Menacing under S33A(1)(b)(ii) by Breed Characteristics	0
Menacing under S33C(1) by Schedule 4 Breed	127

<b>Registration</b>	
Total number of known dogs	14,621
Total number of registered dogs	12,531
Percentage of registered dogs	95.78%

<b>Prosecutions</b>	
Number of prosecutions initiated	1
Number of prosecutions completed	9

<b>Infringements issued</b>		
<b>Sec</b>	<b>Offence</b>	<b>Number</b>
18	Wilful obstruction of dog control officer or ranger	7
19(2)	Failure or refusal to supply information or wilfully providing false particulars	1
19A(2)	Failure to supply information or wilfully providing false particulars	3
20(5)	Failure to comply with any bylaw authorised by the section	113
23A(2)	Failure to undertake dog owner education programme or	0

	dog obedience course (or both)	
24	Failure to comply with obligations of probationary owner	0
28(5)	Failure to comply with the effects of classification of dangerous dog	0
32(2)	Failure comply with the effects of classification of dog as dangerous dog	3
32(4)	Fraudulent sale or transfer of dangerous dog	0
33EC(1)	Failure to comply with effects of classification of dog as menacing dog	24
33F(3)	Failure to advise person of muzzle and leashing requirement	0
36A(6)	Failure to implant microchip transponder in dog	7
41	False statement in relation to dog registration	0
41A	Falsely notifying death of dog	0
42	Failure to register dog	588
46(4)	Fraudulent procurement of 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	0
52A	Failure to keep dog controlled or confined	83
53(1)	Failure to keep dog under control	24
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	1
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	0
<b>Total Number of Infringements</b>		<b>854</b>

<b>Impounded Dogs</b>	
<b>Total number of impounded dogs</b>	<b>1210</b>
Impounded dogs returned to owner	546
Impounded dogs euthanased	400
Impounded dogs rehomed	264