

# 1. Dog Control Policy and Practices Report July 2017 to June 2018

## 1.1 Summary

This report relates to the activities undertaken regarding dog control within Ashburton District for the period 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018. The Act requires that such a report be produced annually and that it be notified in the public section of a local prominent newspaper once adopted by Council.

## 1.2 Background

The Dog Control (Amendment) Act 2003 (DCA) requires territorial authorities to publicly report each financial year on:

- The administration of their dog control policy and their dog control practices (Section 10A (1)); and
- A variety of dog control related statistics (Section 10A (2)).
- In accordance with Section 10A (3) the Territorial Authority must give public notice of the report in one (1) or more daily newspapers circulating in the Territorial Authority District.
- In accordance with Section 10A (4) the Council must send a copy of the report to the Secretary for Local Government within one month of adoption.

This report contains information and statistics on the Council's dog control activity for the year 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018.

## 1.3 Dog Control in Ashburton District

Dog control in Ashburton is carried out using Council staff and an approved Contractor. Within Council we employ an Animal Control Systems Officer who is responsible for all of the administration relating to Dog and Stock control. The Environmental Monitoring Manager supports the Animal Control function and deals with Court cases, customer complaints and legal questions regarding dog and animal control.

The approved local Contractor – MasterGuard (previously First Security), deals with Dog Control call outs 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. They currently employ 5 staff.

Council's approach to enforcement of the Dog Control Act and the Impounding Act follows the "exacerbator pays" principle i.e. dog and stock owners who fail to control their animals effectively are fined and the funds channeled back into the animal control activity.

## 1.4 Dog Control Enforcement Practices

During the reporting period Council has dealt with 1246 complaints and issued 115 infringement notices for a variety of offences under the Dog Control Act.

A breakdown of the infringement notices issued and complaints dealt with can be found at Tables

1 and 2 below with additional figures provided from previous periods for information.

**Table 1: Number and Type of Infringements Issued during 2015-2016**

Serial	Offence	Fine Level	Number 2015/16	<b>Number 2016/17</b>	<b>Number 2017/18</b>
1	Failure to Register a Dog (Dog Control Act Sect 42)	\$300	22	53	73
2	Failure to Advise Change of Address (s.49(4))	\$100	3	1	3
3	Failure to Keep a Dog Controlled or Confined (s.52A/53(1))	\$200	37	16	31
4	Failure to Implant a Microchip transponder in a dog (s.36(A)(6))	\$300	1	4	0
5	Failure to Advise Change of Dog Ownership (s.48(3))	\$100	1	0	0
6	Failure or Refusal to Supply Information or Willfully Providing False Particulars (s.19 (2)).	\$750	0	0	0
7	Failure to Comply with menacing classification (s.33EC(1))	\$300	0	5	4
8	False statement relating to registration (s.41)	\$750	1	0	0
9	Failure to provide proper care and attention (s.54 (2))	\$300	0	0	0
10	Falsely notifying the death of dog (s.41 (A))	\$750	0	0	0
11	Willful Obstruction of a Dog Control Officer (s. 18)	\$750	0	0	1
12	Failure to Comply with any authorised bylaw (s. 22 (5))	\$750	0	0	3
13	Failure to comply with barking dog abatement notice (s.55 (7))	\$200	0	0	0
14	Releasing dog from custody (s. 72 (2))	\$750	0	0	0
<b>Total Number of Offences</b>			65	79	<b>115</b>
<b>Total in Fines</b>			\$15,450	\$21,900	<b>\$23,300</b>

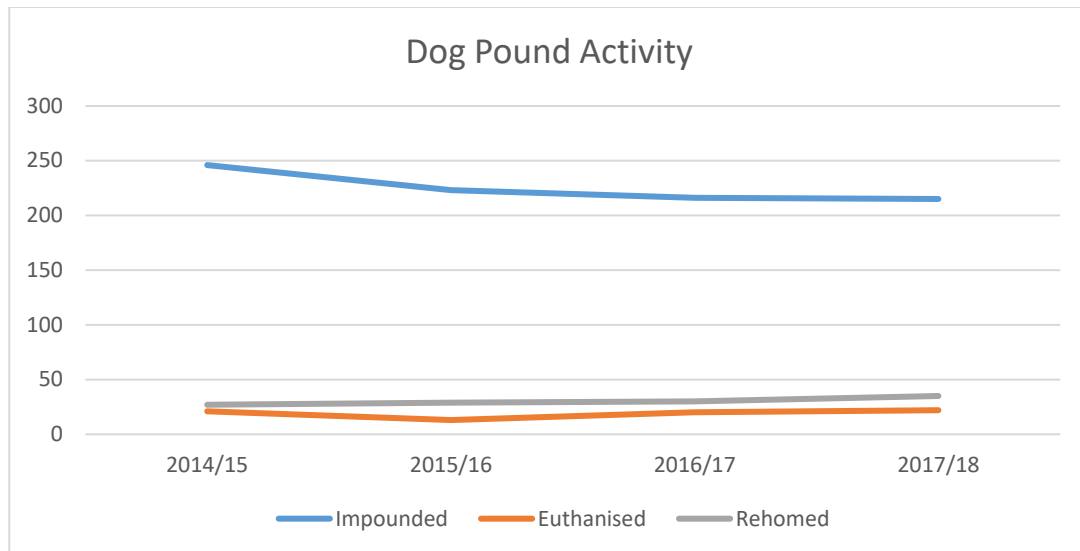
**Table 2: Dog Control Act 1996 Section 10A Statistical Breakdown:**

<b>Category</b>	Period 2015/16	Period 2016/17	<b>Period 2017/18</b>
1) Total # Registered Dogs	6902	6530	6576
2) Total # Probationary Owners	4	4	5
3) Total # Disqualified Owners	1	1	1
4) Total # Dangerous Dogs	11	8	9
➤ Dangerous by Owner Conviction Under s31(1)(a)	1	0	0
➤ Dangerous by Sworn Evidence s31(1)(b)	1	1	4
➤ Dangerous by Owner Admittance in Writing s31(1)(c)	9	7	5
5) Total # Menacing Dogs	53	49	52
➤ Menacing under s33A(1)(b)(i) - i.e. by Behaviour	22	24	24
➤ Menacing under s33A(1)(b)(ii)- by Breed Characteristics	7	6	6
➤ Menacing under s33C(1) by Schedule 4 Breed.	24	19	15
6) Total # Infringement Notices.	65	79	115
7) Total # Complaints Received	1201	1155	1246
Wandering	583	742	659
Barking	163	182	198
Lost	200	161	186
Welfare	7	4	2
Attack	43	53	48
Rushing/aggressive	33	38	27
Other	173	56	126
8) Prosecutions	0	1	0

## 1.5 Dog Pound Activity

The dog pound facility on Council owned land continues to be operated by the appointed animal control contractor.

This reporting period saw 215 dogs impounded, 22 euthanised and 35 re-homed.



## 1.6 Dog Exercise Facilities

The fenced dog park in Ashburton continues to allow dog owners to exercise their dogs off the leash, while limiting the risk of them becoming out of control. The facility has suitable receptacles for the collection of dog waste plus dog bag dispensers to assist owners in cleaning up after their dogs. A piped water supply to a concrete trough has also been provided for use by dogs using the dog park.

In this reporting period, an additional fenced dog exercise area has been provided in Ashburton next to the Resource Recovery Centre at the end of Range Street. This new area also has a waste bag dispenser and waste receptacle and there are plans to provide a piped water supply to a trough for dogs to use.

## 1.7 Dog Registration and other Fees

The Council dog registration fees and other associated charges are published on the Council website. All money raised through dog registration has been allocated to the dog control account.

Surveys to detect unregistered dogs have been conducted and as a result ??previously unregistered dogs are now registered.

## 1.8 Dog Education and Dog Obedience courses

Ashburton District Council has not required any owners to undergo dog education or obedience courses.

## 1.9 Disqualified and Probationary Dog Owners

No persons were disqualified or classified as probationary dog owners during the reporting period.

## 1.10 Menacing and Dangerous Dogs

Ashburton District Council has 52 dogs classified as menacing and 9 dogs classified as dangerous.

## **1.11 Other Information:**

### **Dog Control Services Contract:**

The current dog and animal control contract was taken over by MasterGuard as the local provider on 1 February 2016.

### **Dog Re-homing Scheme:**

The Council's re-homing scheme continues to be a successful means of re-homing suitable dogs with 35 dogs re-homed during the reporting period.

### **Dog Education Program:**

Our Systems Administration Officer in her capacity as our internal Animal Control Officer conducted four presentations on dog safety during the reporting period. The presentations can be tailored to teach children or adults how to be safe around dogs.

### **Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA)**

During the reporting period ADC and the SPCA entered into an agreement which saw the Ashburton SPCA Headquarters moved into the ADC pound. The existing office space at the Pound will be shared between both organisations and the SPCA has moved a Portacom on site for the housing of cats suitable for rehoming. The facility officially opens on 27 August 2018.

### **Additional Information Requested By Councilors re Attacks By Wandering Dogs**

During the reporting period staff investigated 24 reported attacks, which can be broken down as follows:

Dog On Person: 8 cases, none of which involved dogs wandering at large.

Dog on Animal: 16 cases, 6 of which involved dogs wandering at large and attacking stock.