

5.1 Dog Control Policy and Practices Report July 2018 to June 2019

5.1.1 Summary

The purpose of this report relates to the activities undertaken regarding dog control within Ashburton District for the period **1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019**. 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.

5.1.2 Recommendation

- 1 **That** the report be received.
- 2 **That** the report be notified in a prominent local newspaper.
- 3 **That** the report be sent to the Secretary for Local Government within 1 month of adoption.

5.1.3 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 2018 to 30 June 2019.

5.1.4 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 channelled back into the animal control activity.

5.1.5 Dog Control Enforcement Practices

During the reporting period Council has dealt with 830 complaints and issued 91 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 reporting periods for information.

Table 1: Number and Type of Infringements Issued during 2018-2019

Serial	Offence	Fine Level	2016/17 Issued	2017/18 Issued	2018/19 Issued
1	Failure to Register a Dog (Dog Control Act Sect 42)	\$300	53	73	38
2	Failure to Advise Change of Address (s.49(4))	\$100	1	3	4
3	Failure to Keep a Dog Controlled or Confined (s.52A/53(1))	\$200	16	31	43
4	Failure to Implant a Microchip transponder in a dog (s.36(A)(6))	\$300	4	0	2
5	Failure to Advise Change of Dog Ownership (s.48(3))	\$100	0	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	5	4	4
8	False statement relating to registration (s.41)	\$750	0	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	1	0
12	Failure to Comply with any authorised bylaw (s. 22 (5))	\$750	0	3	0
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
Total Number of Offences			79	115	91
Total in Fines			\$21,900	\$23,300	\$21,100

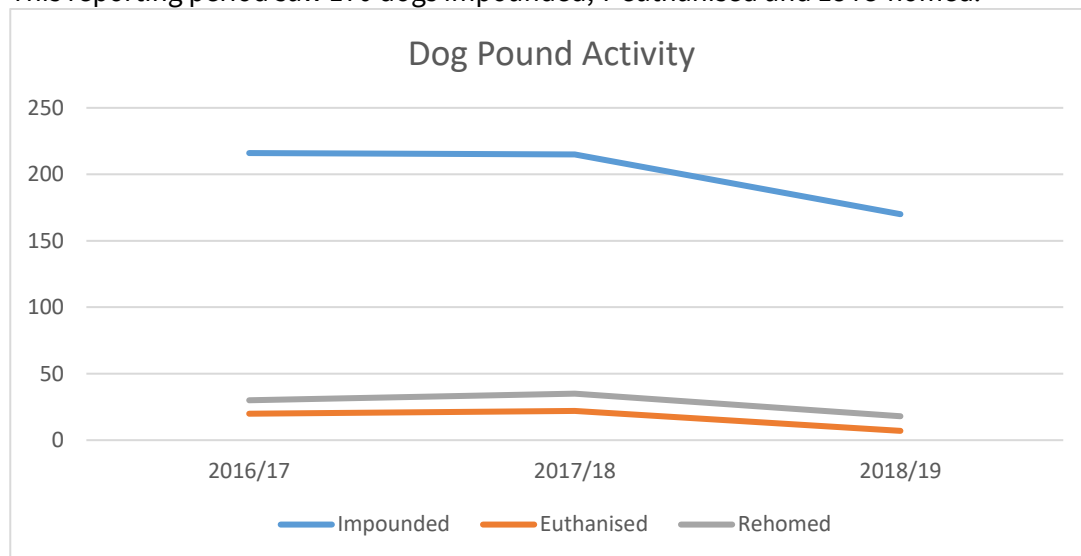
Table 2: Dog Control Act 1996 Section 10A Statistical Breakdown:

Category	Period 2016/17	Period 2017/18	Period 2018/19
1) Total # Registered Dogs	6530	6576	6514
2) Total # Probationary Owners	4	5	6
3) Total # Disqualified Owners	1	1	0
4) Total # Dangerous Dogs	8	9	6
➤ Dangerous by Owner Conviction Under s31(1)(a)	0	0	0
➤ Dangerous by Sworn Evidence s31(1)(b)	1	4	4
➤ Dangerous by Owner Admittance in Writing s31(1)(c)	7	5	2
5) Total # Menacing Dogs	49	52	62
➤ Menacing under s33A(1)(b)(i) - i.e. by Behaviour	24	24	37
➤ Menacing under s33A(1)(b)(ii)- by Breed Characteristics	6	6	5
➤ Menacing under s33C(1) by Schedule 4 Breed.	19	15	20
6) Total # Infringement Notices.	79	115	91
7) Total # Complaints Received	1155	1246	830
Wandering	742	659	399
Barking	182	198	106
Lost	161	186	191
Welfare	4	2	6
Attack	53	48	44
Rushing	38	27	40
Other	56	126	44
8) Prosecutions	1	0	0

5.1.6 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 170 dogs impounded, 7 euthanised and 18 re-homed.



5.1.7 Dog Exercise Facilities

The fenced dog parks by the Ashburton River and at the end of Range Street continue to allow dog owners to exercise their dogs off the leash, while limiting the risk of them becoming out of control. The facilities have 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 Ashburton River dog park.

In this reporting period, a new fenced dog exercise area has been prepared at Methven on Dolma Street. This new area has a piped water supply to a trough for dogs to use and a dog bag dispenser with waste receptacle.

5.1.8 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.

5.1.9 Dog Education and Dog Obedience courses

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

5.1.10 Disqualified and Probationary Dog Owners

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

5.1.11 Menacing and Dangerous Dogs

Ashburton District Council has 62 dogs classified as menacing and 6 dogs classified as dangerous.

5.1.12 Additional 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.

During the reporting period contracted staff responded to 830 dog related incidents from across the District, as follows:

- Ashburton 516
- Tinwald 89
- Rakaia 39
- Methven 42
- Rural 144

Contracted staff also made enquiries to seek out undeclared dogs, which led to 47 Notices to Register being served and 27 previously unregistered dogs being newly registered.

Dog Re-homing Scheme:

The Council's re-homing scheme continues to be a successful means of re-homing suitable dogs with 18 dogs re-homed during the reporting period.

Dog Education Programme:

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)

In early 2018 ADC entered into an agreement with SPCA which saw the Ashburton SPCA Headquarters moved into the ADC pound. The existing office space at the Pound is now fully shared between both organisations and the SPCA has moved a Portacom on site for the housing of cats suitable for rehoming.

5.1.13 Options and Risks Considered

None.

5.1.14 Statutory Implications

It is a statutory requirement for the Council to publicly report on dog control activities each financial year.

5.1.15 Significance and Engagement

The recommendations in this report are not considered significant in terms of the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

5.1.16 Financial Implications

None.

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