



Dog Control Policy and Practices 2016/17



Amelie and her lab Lucy
Winner of the Pawprint colouring in Competition



2016/17 Annual Report

1. The Dog Control Act

Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996 requires territorial authorities to report annually on:

- the administration of its dog control policy and its dog control practices; and
- a variety of dog control related statistics.

Section 10A(3) & (4) requires Council to give public notice of the report and to send a copy of the report to the Secretary for Local Government within 1 month after it has been formally adopted by Council.

2. Policy and Bylaw

Council's Dog Control Policy and Bylaw was reviewed and adopted during the 2009/10 year and came into force on 1 July 2010. A further review of this bylaw commenced in the 2015/16 year, with amendments adopted by Council on 14 September 2016. The Dog Control Bylaw 2010 (Amended 2016) came into force on 28 November 2016.

The following objectives and policies form part of this bylaw.

Objectives (Outcomes Sought)		Policies (Solution)	
2.1	Danger, Distress and Nuisance To minimise danger, distress and nuisance caused by dogs to the community.	2.1.1	Dogs in public places must be under the direct control of their owners at all times.
		2.1.2	Dogs will be prohibited from specified areas under the Bylaw based on the following criteria: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> the intensity, type and frequency of public use; whether the presence of dogs may create a danger to the health and safety of users of any area; whether the ecological values of an area have been identified and established as needing protection from animals (including dogs) in any reserve management plan; and the attitudes of reserve users.
		2.1.3	In preparing and reviewing any reserve management plan, Council will consider the appropriateness of prohibiting dogs from any reserve, taking into account the criteria for assessment of suitable prohibited areas set out in clause 2.1.2 (above).
		2.1.4	Amendments to the list of prohibited areas may occur outside the reserve management plan process necessary. In this event Council will follow the procedure set out in the Bylaw.

2.2	Dog Fouling To minimise the nuisance created by dogs fouling in public places.	2.2.1	Dog owners must remove faeces deposited in any public place by any dog under their control.
		2.2.2	Dog owners will be encouraged to carry disposal bags, and to use and dispose of these responsibly.
2.3	Dog Exercise Areas To provide opportunities to fulfil the exercise and recreational needs of dogs and their owners	2.3.1	Areas will be available where owners can exercise dogs without a restraint (e.g. leash or harness), provided that the owner remains present and keeps the dog under control.
		2.3.2	Exclusive dog exercise areas will not be provided.
2.4	Education and Information Programmes To promote and enhance community awareness of dog control issues and owner responsibility.	2.4.1	Education programmes will be promoted to enhance responsible dog ownership and to assist in community awareness and the prevention of dog attacks.
		2.4.2	Media publicity will be used to promote public awareness of: a. dog registration; b. Council's Policy on Dogs; c. Council's Bylaw; d. the use of infringement notices; and e. educational programmes about dogs.
2.5	Responsible Owner Rebate To encourage responsible dog ownership.	2.5.1	Dog owners will be encouraged to attend an approved dog training course and to apply for a Council Responsible Owner Licence.
2.6	Funding To fund the cost of dog control activities from fees and charges levied on dog owners in accordance with Council's funding policy.	2.6.1	Fees will be set annually by Council resolution.
		2.6.2	Levels of service will be set out in the Long-Term Council Community Plan.
		2.6.3	All income from fines and infringement fees will be allocated to funding dog control activities.
2.7	Kuri	2.7.1	Council acknowledges the significance of Kuri (dog) to our Maori community. While the requirements of the Policy and Council's Bylaw will apply to Kuri (dog) Council acknowledges their importance.

3. Operational Functions

The Council employs 1.75 fulltime Animal Control Officers with the officers being stationed at the Morrinsville and Matamata offices. One of the officers also undertook the after-hours operation, to provide a 24 hour 7 day a week service. The officer resigned from undertaking the after-hours duties from the end of January 2017. From February 2017 Council contracted Hamilton City Council to act as the after-hours call centre for Animal Control, with First Security Guard Services Ltd contracted to respond when required. An administrative support of 2 hours per day assists the officers in following up on calls and managing reporting requirements.

A part-time person was employed from February 2017 to attend the Dog Pound during weekends and public holidays, when dogs are in the pound, to clean the cages and feed the dogs.

Council has a dog pound and stock yards at its Waihou depot. The pound and yards were built in 2010 to replace its old pounds in Matamata and Morrinsville.

Council is ISO 9002 accredited and part of the quality system requires the officers to respond to the various types of complaint within set timeframes. Those timeframes are set out below.

Expected response times				
Complaint type	Incident type	0800–1700 hrs	1700-0800 hrs	Weekend/holiday
Dog bite person	*Current	1 hour	1 hour	1 hour
	Reported	4 Hours	NWD	NWD
*Aggressive dog	Current	1 hour	1 hour	1 hour
	Reported	4 hours	NWD	NWD
Attacked stock	Current	1 hour	1 hour	1 hour
	Reported	4 hours	NWD	NWD
Attacked other animal/bird	Current	1 hour	1 hour	1 hour
	Reported	4 hours	NWD	NWD
Barking dog	Current	1 hour	1 hour	1 Hour
	Reported	4 hours	NWD	NWD
Wandering dog	Current	1 hour	1 hour	1 hour
	Caught in trap	1 hour	1 hour	1 hour
	Reported	NWD	NWD	NWD
Unregistered	Current/reported	24 hours	NWD	NWD
Animal welfare	Current/reported	4 hours	NWD	NWD
Wandering stock	Current	1 hour	1 hour	1 hour
	Reported	NWD	NWD	NWD

***Aggressive** means rushed person/vehicle or displayed threatening behaviour.

***Current incident** means the incident is happening now and the dog is an immediate danger to the public.

***Reported incident** is when someone reports an incident that happened sometime in the past, but is not a current threat to the public.

4. Funding

Section 2.6 of the Dog Control Policy requires the dog control operation to be funded from fees and charges and in accordance with Council's Financial Policy. That policy states that 80% of the operation is to be funded from user pays with the remaining 20 percent from rates.

The cost of the total animal control function, including dog control, for the 2016/17 financial year is shown below as reported in Council's Annual Report.

	2016/17		2015/16
	Budget	Actual	Actual
Operating cost	\$402,651	\$407,087	\$395,171
Income	\$263,959	\$272,456	\$275,669
Net cost of service	\$138,692	\$134,631	\$119,502

Approximately 8% of the operating cost is used for the control of other animals such as stock and various bylaw inspections.

5. Performance Measures

The performance measures adopted by Council are set out in the 2016/17 Annual Plan and the results reported in this year's Annual Report are listed below.

Performance Measure	Target Level	Result	Comments
Complaints will be investigated within set timeframes (See 3.0 above)	95%	X 93.6% (741 out of 786)	One of our main responsibilities is following up on complaints made about animals, from wandering stock to barking or attacking dogs. We aim to investigate the complaint and let the complainant know what action (if any) we have taken or intend to take within adopted timeframes. Some complaints can be resolved quickly; others can take time to work through with animal owners and may involve court action. This is measured by our Customer Request Management system.
Number of property visits per year	600	✓ 718	Property visits let us check that dogs are appropriately housed and secured on their property. Both of these help to reduce the number of problems caused by animals in our community. We undertook 718 property visits across the district. These are as follows: Matamata 211 Morrinsville 269 and Te Aroha 238.

<p>Number of street patrols undertaken in each of the three main towns</p>	<p>Average of 10 per month, per town</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">▼</p> <p>Over 20 per month per town</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Average 77/mth</p>	<p>Street patrols allow our staff to check if there are wandering animals that could pose a risk to our community. We undertook 934 street patrols across the district. Our average street patrols per month per town are as follows: 926 patrols with Matamata 337 Morrinsville 323 and Te Aroha 266. This is measured by our Customer Request Management system.</p>
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6. Registration and Impounding

Registration fees for the 2016/17 year were held at the same level as the last three years.

The registration fee is made up of a base fee of \$114 and then rebates are used to reward responsible dog owners. These rebates are not available to owners whose dogs have been the subject of complaints, or whose dogs have been impounded during the previous registration year.



Rebates for the year were:

- No Complaints Rebate (\$36) - Every owner was automatically eligible for this rebate unless Council had received a genuine complaint about their dog or their dog had been impounded during the previous registration year. This rebate reflects Council's aim of reducing costs for owners of dogs which cause the least problems.
- De-sexed, Working or New Zealand Kennel Club Registered Breeding Dogs (\$31) - This rebate reflects Council's aim of reducing the number of unwanted dogs in the District.

- Responsible Owner Rebate (\$15) - Owners who held a responsible owner rebate were automatically eligible for this rebate provided there had been no complaints registered against their dog and/or their dog had not been impounded during the previous registration year. This rebate reflects Council's aim of rewarding good dog ownership.

A penalty fee of 50% of the fee that would have been payable had the dog been registered on the first day of the registration year was charged for late payments.

The impounding fees adopted by Council were: (GST inclusive)

- First Impounding \$50.00
- 2nd Impounding \$80.00
- 3rd and subsequent impounding in the same registration year \$125.00
- Daily sustenance \$12.50

7. Statistical Information

The statistical information required by s10A is listed below.

Category	For the period 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017	As at 30 June 2017
Number of registered dogs	5591	5444
Number of probationary owners	0	0
Number of disqualified owners	0	0
Number of dogs classified as dangerous (s31)	1	1
Number of dogs classified as menacing	76	66
▪ Under section 33A (Menacing behaviour)	41	35
▪ Under section 33C (Breed or type)	35	31
Number of infringement notices issued	67	n/a
Number of notice of complaints issued	93	n/a
Number of prosecutions under the Act	0	0

Complaints received				
Complaint	Matamata	Morrinsville	Te Aroha	District
Dog bite person	6	9	4	19
Aggressive dog	13	19	21	53
Attacked stock	0	1	1	2
Attacked other animal/bird	7	16	6	29
Barking dog	36	66	48	150
Wandering dog	168	177	122	467
Unregistered	2	2	2	6

Animal welfare	16	19	18	53
Dog fouling	0	2	3	5
Breach of the Bylaw	1	1	0	2
Totals	249	312	225	786

Pound register				
	Impounded	Released	Re-homed	Destroyed
Matamata	81	27	5	49
Morrinsville	78	33	6	40
Te Aroha	63	27	5	28
District	222	87	16	117

Dogs registered versus year

The following graph shows the number of dogs registered in Matamata-Piako District Council per year since 2005/06. The graph shows that dog numbers increased significantly between 2005 through to 2009, leveled off through to 2012 and have started to rise again since then.

