



Dog Control Policy and Practices 2017/18



2017/18 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. The Bylaw was further reviewed during the 2015/16 and 16/17 years, 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"> a. the intensity, type and frequency of public use; b. whether the presence of dogs may create a danger to the health and safety of users of any area; c. 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 d. 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. An administrative support of 2 hours per day assists the officers in following up on calls and managing reporting requirements.

Council provides a 24 hour 7 day a week service using external contractors to cover the after-hour duties. Hamilton City Council is contracted to act as the after-hours call centre, with First Security Guard Services Ltd contracted to respond when an onsite response is required. A part-time person is employed 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 2017/18 financial year is shown below as reported in Council's Annual Report.

	2017/18		2016/17
	Budget	Actual	Actual
Operating cost	\$409,832	\$418,994	\$407,087
Income	\$263,959	\$302,909	\$272,456
Net cost of service	\$145,873	\$116,035	\$134,631

Approximately 10% 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 2018 – 28 Long Term 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% within adopted timeframes	X 87.1% 659 out of 757	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 property visits per year	✓ 706	Property visits let us check that dogs are appropriately housed and secured on their property. This helps to reduce the number of problems caused by animals in our community. This is measured by our customer request management system. We undertook 706 property visits across the district. These are as follows: Matamata 159

			Morrinsville 325 and Te Aroha 222.
Number of street patrols undertaken in each of the three main towns	Average of 10 per month, per town	<p style="text-align: center;">▼</p> <p>Over 20 per month per town</p> <p>Average 29.3/mth</p>	<p>Street patrols allow our staff to check if there are wandering animals that could pose a risk to our community. This helps to reduce the number of problems caused by animals in our community. This is measured by our customer request management system.</p> <p>Street Patrols: Matamata 367, Morrinsville 338, Te Aroha 349.</p>

6. Registration and Impounding

The registration fee is made up of a base fee 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.



The registration fee for 2017/18 was increased for the first time in the last three years. The base registration fees was increased by \$2.00 to \$116 and the rebates reduced by \$2.00. This meant that registration fee for dog owners that received all the rebates increased from \$32 per dog to \$36.00.

Rebates for the year were:

- No Complaints Rebate (\$35) - 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 Dogs New Zealand registered owners (\$30) - 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 licence 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 2017 to 30 June 2018	As at 30 June 2018
Number of registered dogs	5709	5300
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	74	65
▪ Under section 33A (Menacing behaviour)	37	33
▪ Under section 33C (Breed or type)	37	32
Number of infringement notices issued	132	n/a
Number of notice of complaints issued	182	n/a
Number of prosecutions under the Act	0	0

Complaints received				
Complaint	Matamata	Morrinsville	Te Aroha	District
Dog bite person	2	7	5	14
Aggressive dog	16	25	21	62
Attacked stock	1	1	0	2
Attacked other animal/bird	8	6	6	20

Barking dog	45	88	46	179
Wandering dog	165	130	121	416
Unregistered	6	3	1	10
Animal welfare	11	17	15	43
Dog fouling	0	1	3	4
Breach of the Bylaw	4	0	3	7
Totals	258	278	221	757

Pound register				
	Impounded	Released	Re-homed	Destroyed
Matamata	87	38	12	36
Morrinsville	69	33	6	27
Te Aroha	51	35	1	16
District	207	106	19	79

Three goats were impounded during the 2017/18 year and have been included in the above statistics.

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 rose to 2016/17 and have reduced in the 2017/18 year.

Number of registered dogs at 30 June

