

Annual Report on Dog Control Policy and Practices

2007/08

MATAMATA-PIAKO DISTRICT COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT ON DOG CONTROL POLICY AND PRACTICES 2007/2008

1.0 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.

2.0 Policy and Bylaw

Council reviewed its Dog Control Policy and Dog Control Bylaw in 2005. The Policy and Bylaw came into force on 1 August 2005.

3.0 Goals and Objectives

The animal control activity goal is:-

- (a) To ensure that dog ownership does not cause nuisance or injury to any person, stock, poultry, domestic animal or protected wildlife.
- (b) To ensure that all dog and wandering stock complaints are action in appropriate timeframes.

and the councils' principal objectives are:-

- I) To ensure that all dogs within the district are registered;
- II) To ensure that a 24 hour/7 days per week system is in place to respond to complaints including wandering stock and dog complaints in the district;
- III) To ensure dogs and stock found wandering are adequately impounded and cared for;
- IV) To undertake educational programmes with dog owners and other interested parties.

The Council employs 1.5 fulltime officers with the officers being stationed at the Morrinsville and Matamata offices. One of the officers also has a contract for the after hours operation and is required to provide a 24 hour 7 day a week service.

Council has a dog pound in Morrinsville and Matamata and a stock pound in Te Aroha.

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.

COMPLAINT	0800 - 1700	1700 - 0800	WEEKEND/ HOLIDAY
Unregistered	24 hr	NWD	NWD
Aggressive dog	30 min	1 hr	1 hr
Rushed/person	30 min	1 hr	1 hr
Rushed/vehicle	1 hr	NWD	2 hr
Threatening	1 hr	NWD	2 hr
Biting dog	30 min	1 hr	1 hr
Stock worrying	1 hr	2 hr	2 hr
Barking dog	1 hr	NWD	14 hr
Uncared for	24 hr	NWD	24 hr
Wandering	1 hr	14 hr	14 hr
Stock	1 hr	1 hr	1 hr

NWD – Next Working Day.

4.0 Performance Measures

Performance Measure	Target Level	Result
Operate animal control function in accordance with the Act and Bylaw – respond to complaints as per ISO procedures (Complaints in 7.0 below)	See timeframes in 3.0 above	96.1% of complaints responded to within the specified timeframe
Carry out regular street patrols	4x per week	752 patrols undertaken 14.5 per week on average
Carry out regular property visits	Visit all properties with registered dog within 2 years	720 properties visited. On target to achieve visits to majority of properties over the two year period.
Educational Programmes	5 visits per year to interested parties	School visits have been arranged for several schools in the area.
Educational Programmes	Responsible Owner licensing	74 programs undertaken.

5.0 Funding

Council's Financial Policy and section 3.8.1 of the Dog Control Policy required 80% of the dog control operation to be funded from fees and charges. The remaining 20 percent is funded from rates.

The cost of the Animal Control function for the 2007/08 financial year is reported in Council's Annual Report.

	Actual 2005/06	Actual 2006/07	2007/2008
Operating Cost	\$199,000	\$208,385	210,000
Income	\$167,000	\$163,984	179,000
Net Cost	\$37,000	\$44,401	31,000

6.0 Registration and Impounding

The registration fee for the 2007/08 financial year was \$101.50. Rebates and bonuses are used to reward responsible dog owners. These are not available to owners whose dogs have been the subject of complaints, or whose dogs have been impounded. Rebates and bonuses for the year were:

- No Complaints Bonus (\$35) - Every owner was automatically eligible for this rebate unless Council has received a genuine complaint about their dog or their dog had been impounded during the previous registration year.
- Desexed, Working or New Zealand Kennel Club Registered Breeding Dogs (\$30) - This rebate reflects Council's aim of reducing the number of unwanted dogs and to reduce costs for owners of dogs which cause the least problems.
- Responsible Owner Licence (\$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.

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:

- First Impounding \$45.00
- 2nd Impounding \$67.50
- 3rd and subsequent impounding in the same registration year \$101.25
- Daily sustenance \$12.50
- Stock Impounding (per head) \$45.00
- Sustenance (per head) \$5.00
- Transport, vet (etc) costs At cost

All these fees were inclusive of Goods and Services tax.

7.0 Statistical Information

The statistical information required by s10A is listed below.

Category	At 30 June 07	1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008
Number of registered dogs	3966	4618
Number of probationary owners	0	0
Number of disqualified owners	0	0
Number of dogs classified as dangerous (s31)	2	1
Number of dogs classified as menacing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Under section 33A (Menacing behaviour) ▪ Under section 33C (Breed or type) 	119 8 111	36 1 35
Number of infringement notices issued	71	147
Number of notice of complaints issued	156	93
Number of prosecutions under the Act	0	0

A schedule of the complaints received for the financial year and the level of response is listed below.

Wards	Unregistered		Rushed Vehicle		Worrying Stock		Aggressive		Barking		Uncared for	
	d/t	a/h	d/t	a/h	d/t	a/h	d/t	a/h	d/t	a/h	d/t	a/h
*												
Matamata	20	0	4	0	4	3	1	1	31	2	11	0
Morrinsville	0	0	0	0	2	3	12	0	33	6	2	6
Te Aroha	1	0	2	0	5	1	12	2	42	12	2	3
District	21	0	6	0	11	7	25	3	106	20	15	9

Wards	General		Biting		Wandering Dogs		Stock on State Highways		Stock Other roads		Total Complaints	ISO (3.0) timeframes	Percentage
	d/t	a/h	d/t	a/h	d/t	a/h	d/t	a/h	d/t	a/h			
MM	20	1	7	1	78	29	4	17	18	21	273	268	98.2
Mor	20	3	3	2	122	30	6	5	10	17	282	268	95.0
TA	14	1	3	3	64	14	4	6	13	13	217	206	94.9
District	37	5	13	6	264	73	14	28	41	51	772	742	96.1

(*d/t = daytime, a/h = after hours)

Wards	Property Visits		Street Patrols		Responsible Owner Lic.	Education Programmes	Notice of Complaint	Infringement Notices	Prosecutions	Dogs Impounded	Claimed	Released or re-homed	Destroyed
	d/t	a/h	d/t	a/h									
Matamata	114	56	406	1	30	1	67	33	0	87	38	18	31
Morrinsville	275	63	183	28	24	1	47	39	0	72	14	8	50
Te Aroha	176	36	115	19	20	0	50	21	0	41	10	1	29
District	720		752		74	2	164	93	0	200	62	27	110

The number of dog bites by breed for the year 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008 were:

Breed	No of incidents
staffy	4
rottweiler	1
Pit Bull	1
German sheperd	2
Fox terrier	2
Corgi	1
X Bred	1
Labrador	1
Cattle x	2
Unknown	4
Total	19