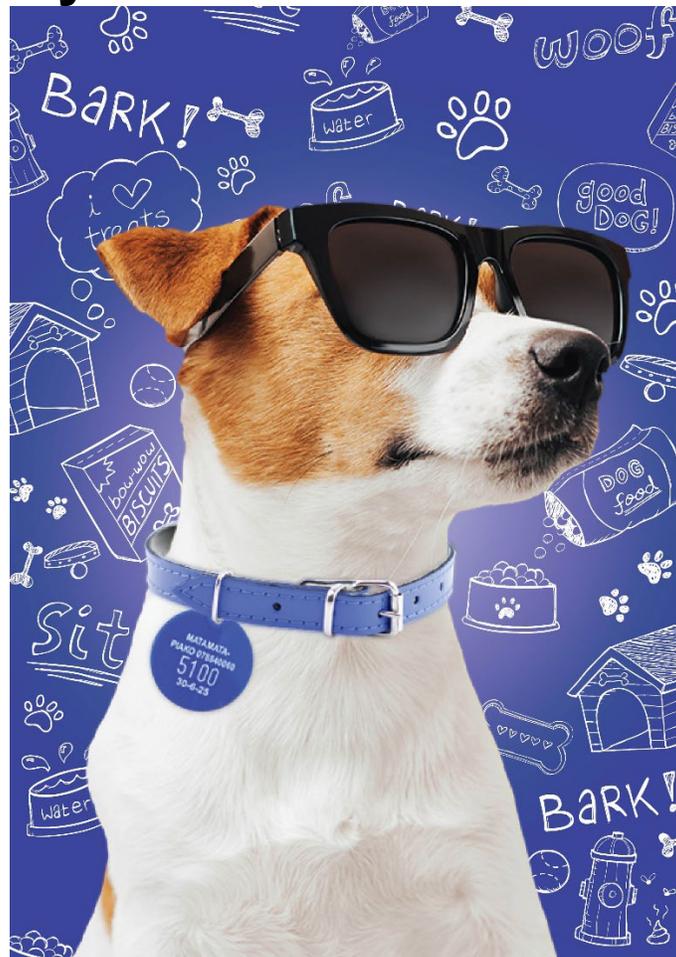




te kaunihera ā-rohe o
matamata-piako
district council



Dog Control Policy and Practices 2024/2025



35 Kenrick Street - PO Box 266 - Te Aroha 3342 - www.mpdc.govt.nz
Morrinsville & Te Aroha 07 884 0060 - Matamata 07 881 90 50

2024/2025 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) and (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 one month after it has been formally adopted by Council.

2. Policy and Bylaw

Council's Dog Control Policy and Bylaw was reviewed and adopted in 2009/10 and then again in 2016/17. During 2021/22 Council made amendments to Schedule 3 of the Bylaw – Dog Exercise Areas but this was not considered a full review of the Bylaw.

The next review is in 2026, and pre-consultation has begun for this.

Operational Functions

Council is committed to ensuring effective animal control services that support community safety and wellbeing across the district. To deliver this service, Council employs two Animal Control Officers: one full-time and one part-time (30 hours per week). These staff are, strategically based at the Morrinsville and Matamata offices to provide comprehensive geographic coverage. Administrative support is facilitated through a dedicated Administrator for two hours daily, complemented by the district-wide Customer Services team. The Animal Control function is overseen by the Community Protection and Compliance Manager, ensuring alignment with Council's compliance and community protection objectives.

Council provides a 24/7 response capability through contracted service providers. After-hours calls are coordinated by Council's in-house after-hours team, while Allied Security New Zealand provide onsite responses between 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. on weekdays, and throughout weekends and public holidays. This arrangement ensures timely and effective intervention, reducing risk to public safety and upholding Council's service standards.

Council operates a pound and stockyard facility within the Matamata-Piako District, constructed in 2010 to replace former facilities in Matamata and Morrinsville. These assets are critical to supporting Council's animal control responsibilities.

Council engages a contractor on the weekends and public holidays to manage the pound facility, ensuring the health and welfare of animals.

In alignment with the Council's quality management system and the Long-Term Plan (LTP) performance measures, Animal Control Officers and contractors are required to respond to complaints within defined timeframes. These prescribed response times are detailed 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 may be 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.

3. Performance Measures

The performance measures adopted by Council are set out in the 2024 - 34 Long Term Plan are presented below along with the corresponding results reported in this year's Annual Report

Performance Measure	Target Level	Result	Comments
<p>Complaints will be investigated within set timeframes (See 3.0 above)</p> <p>Dogs</p> <p>Stock</p> <p>Total</p>	95% within adopted timeframes	<p>☑</p> <p>96.44% (758 out of 786)</p> <p>98.00% (49 out of 50)</p> <p>96.53% (807 out of 836)</p>	<p>One of our core responsibilities is managing and responding to complaints related to animals, including issues such as wandering livestock, barking dogs, and aggressive behaviour. Our approach is to investigate each complaint promptly and inform the complainant of the actions taken or intended to take within the timeframes outlined in our adopted standards. While some matters can be resolved swiftly, others require more time and engagement with animal owners and, in some cases, may result in legal proceedings. The figures reported also include complaints addressed by our After Hours contractors. Where an immediate response is not possible or practical, these complaints are prioritised for follow-up on the next working day.</p>
Number of property visits per year	600 property visits per year	<p>☑</p> <p>706</p>	<p>Property inspections enable Council to ensure that dogs are properly housed and securely contained on their premises. Inspections are conducted as part of all applications for</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsible Owner Licences. • Applications to keep more than two dogs. • During checks for unregistered dogs. <p>These inspections support the Council's objectives of promoting responsible dog ownership and reducing animal-related issues within the community.</p> <p>Total property checks 706: (Matamata 222, Morrinsville 254 and Te Aroha 230).</p>

Number of street patrols undertaken in each of the three main towns	Average of 10 per month, per town	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Average per town 42/mth	Regular street patrols enable staff to identify and address wandering animals that may pose risks, contributing to the reduction of animal-related issues within the community Total street patrols 1529 (Matamata 445 Morrinsville 571, Te Aroha 513).
---	-----------------------------------	--	--

4. Funding

Section 2.6 of the Dog Control Policy directs that dog control operation is to be primarily funded through fees and charges. All revenue generated from registration fees and infringements is to be allocated exclusively to support dog control activities in alignment with the objectives set out in the Long Term Plan. Council targets funding this activity at 80–100% from the revenue collected.

The total cost of the Animal Control function, including dog control, for the 2024/25 financial year is presented below, as reported in Council's Annual Report

	*2024/25		2023/24
	Budget	Actual	Actual
Operating cost	\$592,806	\$648,948	\$572,715
Income	\$474,282	\$533,234	\$359,752
Net cost of service	\$118,524	\$115,714	**\$212,963

Approximately 10% of the operating cost is used for the control of other animals such as wandering stock.

**registration fees in 2024 increased for the 24/25 registration year.*

***the increase in net cost is largely due to an increase in 'overhead' expenditure.*

5. Registration and Impounding

The dog registration fee comprises a base charge, with rebates applied to recognise and encourage responsible dog ownership



The base registration fee for 2024/25 was \$157.00, however, the registration fee for dog owners that qualify for all of the rebates was \$77.00.

In summary the rebates for this year were:

- No Complaints Rebate (\$35) - Every owner was automatically eligible for this rebate unless Council had received a genuine complaint about their dog, impounded their dog or they paid their previous year's registration late. 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 unplanned litters in the District.
- Responsible Owner Rebate (\$15) - Owners who hold a Responsible Owner Licence are eligible for this rebate provided there have been no complaints registered against their dog and/or their dog has not been impounded during the previous registration year. The owner needs to take a short test and their property needs to have been inspected and fully fenced. This rebate reflects Council's aim of rewarding responsible dog ownership.

A penalty fee of 50% of the registration fee (due before 31 July 2024) was charged for late payments.

The impounding fees adopted by Council were:	(GST inclusive)
• 1st Impounding	\$61.00
• 2nd Impounding	\$98.00
• 3rd and subsequent impounding in the same registration year	\$153.00
• Daily sustenance	\$15.00

6. Statistical Information

The statistical information required by s10A is listed below.

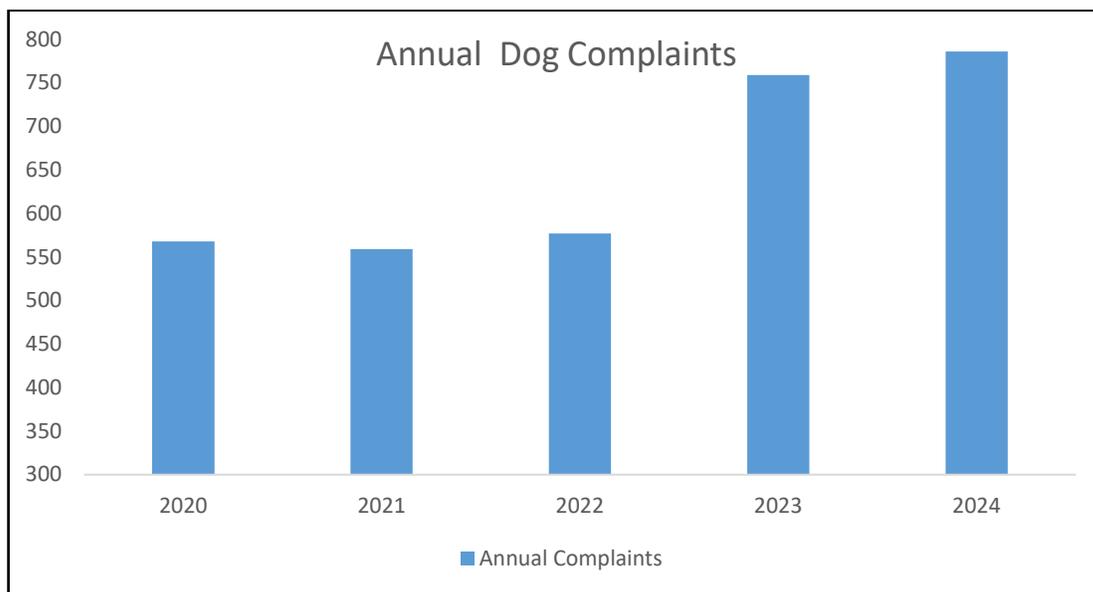
Category	*For the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025	As at 30 June 2025
Number of registered dogs	5958	5576
Number of probationary owners	0	0
Number of disqualified owners	5	5
Number of dogs classified as dangerous (s31)	7	6
Number of dogs classified as menacing <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Under section 33A (Menacing behaviour)▪ Under section 33C (Breed or type)	85 56 29	65 42 23
Number of infringement notices issued	264	**244
Number of notice of complaints issued	778	778
Number of prosecutions under the Act	0	0

*This figure includes all dogs that have departed or died during the registration year.

**Number decreases due to infringement notice withdrawals.



Complaints received				
Complaint	Matamata	Morrinsville	Te Aroha	District
Dog bite person	11	10	7	28
Aggressive dog	15	24	9	48
Attacked stock	1	0	0	1
Attacked other animal/bird	10	13	15	38
Barking dog	54	79	44	177
Wandering dog	152	151	106	409
Unregistered	3	3	6	12
Animal welfare	17	21	13	51
Dog fouling	2	2	1	5
Breach of the Bylaw	3	5	9	17
Totals	268	308	210	786



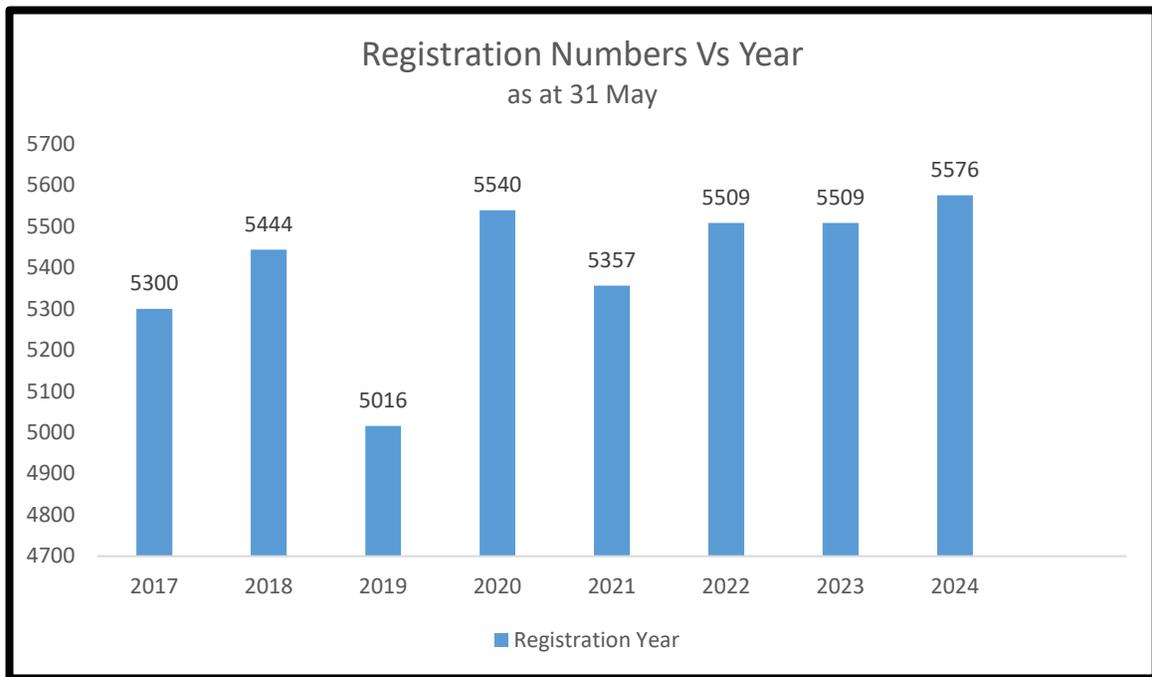
The graph shows that over the past five years, the number of dog-related complaints has increased at a higher rate than the overall number of registered dogs.

Pound register				
	Impounded	Returned	Re-homed	*Destroyed
Matamata	58	18	4	36
Morrinsville	65	30	6	29
Te Aroha	45	26	2	17
District	168	74	12	82

**28 of the destroyed dogs during the 2024/25 year were surrendered by owners who could no longer keep them.*

Dogs registered versus year

The following graph presents the number of dogs registered with the Matamata-Piako District Council, as recorded in the National Dog Database, on 31 May each year since 2017. Registered dog numbers have remained largely consistent over the past five years. An exception was observed in 2019–2020, where registration figures were potentially affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. A slight increase in 2024 is consistent with regional growth.



**2022 and 2023 numbers have been double checked and it is a coincidence that they are the same figure.*