

11. Policy and Practices 2023/2024 Section 10A requirement of the Dog Control Act

Reference Te Tohutoro: 24/1227524

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Accountable ELT Member Pouwhakarae: John Higgins, General Manager Strategy, Planning & Regulatory Services

1. Purpose and Origin of the Report Te Pūtake Pūrongo

- 1.1 Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996 requires that the Council report on the administration of its dog control policies and practices each year. The Council must give public notice of the report and make it publicly available.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to fulfill the legislative requirements in the Dog Control Act 1996.

2. Officer Recommendations Ngā Tūtohu

That the Council:

1. [Receives the information in the Policy and Practices 2023/2024 Section 10A requirement of the Dog Control Act 1996.](#)

3. Background/Context Te Horopaki

- 3.1 Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996 (the Act), requires territorial authorities to report on their dog control policies and dog control practices.
- 3.2 The report must include, in respect of each financial year, information relating to:
 - the number of registered dogs
 - the number of probationary owners and disqualified owners
 - the number of dogs classified as dangerous and how the classification was made
 - the number of dogs classified as menacing and how the classification was made
 - the number of infringement notices issued
 - the number of dog related complaints and the nature of those complaints.
 - the number of prosecutions taken.
- 3.3 The territorial authority must give public notice of the report and make it publicly available (section 10A of the Act).

4. The Council's Dog Control Policy (Section 10A (1a))

- 4.1 The Act requires every council to have a policy on dogs and a bylaw to enforce it. The Council adopted its Dog Control Policy in September 2016. The Policy has provisions relating to the control of dogs in public places, which are enforceable under the Christchurch City Council Dog Control Bylaw 2016.

Purpose of the policy

- 4.2 The purpose of the Dog Control Policy is to outline how the Christchurch City Council addressed the requirements set out in the Dog Control Act.
- 4.3 The Policy balances regulatory controls to allow for the recreational needs of dogs and their owners with appropriate controls to minimise the danger, distress or nuisance that may be caused by dogs. It is designed as an educational tool to help encourage and facilitate good dog behaviour and good dog ownership. The policy should be read in conjunction with the Dog Control Bylaw 2016 and the Dog Control Act.
- 4.4 The full policy can be accessed here: [Dog-Control-policy-2016.pdf \(ccc.govt.nz\)](#). In summary, the policy contains the following:

	Section title and brief summary of coverage
Section 1:	Introduction
Section 2:	Dog Control Bylaw (nature and application of the bylaw)
Section 3:	Obligations of dog owners
Section 4:	Registration of dogs (including registration classifications, and responsible dog owner criteria, registration and desexing, working and rural working dogs)
Section 5:	Micro-chipping of dogs
Section 6:	Prohibited and leashed areas (general prohibited and leashed areas)
Section 7:	Other special areas – Dog Parks and Dog Exercise Areas
Section 8:	Licence to own more than two dogs
Section 9:	Other dog matters (barking dogs, female dogs in season, desexing of dogs, dogs in outdoor dining areas, exercising dogs at night, dogs in vehicles over summer months, dogs at Council events and festivals)
Section 10:	Education and training (teaching children about dogs, learning how to be a good dog owner, teaching dog safety for workers)
Section 11:	Ways of managing troublesome dog owners and dogs (probationary and disqualified dog owners, dangerous dogs, menacing dogs, desexing of menacing dogs)
Section 12:	Seizing dogs, impounding dogs and adopting dogs from the Council dog shelter facility
Section 13:	The issuing of infringement notices
Section 14:	Controlled or open dog areas under the Conservation Act

Review of the Policy (and Bylaw)

- 4.5 The Council's Dog Control Policy and Bylaw are currently being reviewed. They must be reviewed at least once every ten years to meet legislative requirements.
- 4.6 Proposals for changes to the Policy and Bylaw will be brought to the Council later in the year. If the Council is happy with the proposals, they will go out for public consultation and hearings, before coming back to the Council for adoption.

5. Christchurch City Council's Practices (Section 10A (1b))

- 5.1 To satisfy the requirements of section 10A of the Dog control Act 1996, the following information is provided.

Dog Registration

- 5.2 The total number of dogs recorded on the Council's dog registration database for the period was 44,962.

Probationary and Disqualified Owners

- 5.3 The Council recorded 13 owners as probationary, and 4 owners as disqualified over the period.

Dangerous Dog Classifications

- 5.4 The Council classified 15 dogs as dangerous under section 31 of the Act, adjusting the total number of dogs on the dangerous dog register to 49.

Menacing Dog Classifications

- 5.5 The Council has two separate menacing dog classifications.
- Dogs classified as menacing based on the dog's aggressive behaviour (section 33A(1)(b)(i) of the Act). For the period, 61 new dogs were classified as menacing, adjusting the total number of dogs classified in this category on the Council's register to 223.
 - Dogs to be classified as menacing based on the dog's breed or breed type (section 33C of the Act). For the period, 5 new dogs were classified as menacing, adjusting the total number of dogs classified in this category on the Council's register to 83.

Infringement Notices issued

- 5.6 The Council issued 1,227 infringement notices for breaches against the Act.
- Failing to comply with a menacing classification (10 notices)
 - Failure to implant a microchip (8 notices)
 - Failure to a keep controlled or confined (357 notices)
 - Failure to register a dog (825 notices)
 - Failure to supply information (6 notices)
 - Failure to comply with the bylaw (6 notices)
 - Fail to comply with probationary /disqualified owner (2 notices)
 - Fail to comply with effects of a dangerous dog classification (10 notices)
 - Fraudulent sale of a dangerous dog (1 notices)
 - Failure to provide proper care (1 notices)
 - Failure to comply with a barking dog abatement notice (1 notices)

Warnings issued

- A total of 660 warnings were issued.
- Warnings are issued in cases where there is insufficient evidence to support the issuing of an infringement or in cases where the breach of the Act is minor and there is no previous recorded breaches.

Dog related complaints

- 5.7 The Council investigated 618 priority one complaints (dogs attacking persons, stock, poultry, domestic animals and protected wildlife or traffic hazards relating to wandering stock on roads).
- 5.8 The Council received 5,241 complaints relating to dogs barking, wandering, fouling, rushing and unregistered dogs.

- 5.9 Council received a total of 9,903 complaints relating to breaches of the Dog Control Act and / or Dog Control Bylaw 2016

Prosecutions

- 5.10 1 prosecution was successfully completed due to a serious attack on a person. Upon conviction, the owner was disqualified from owning a dog for a period of three years and the offending dog was destroyed.

Found Dogs

- 5.11 Council found 2,123 dogs, wandering. 1,482 were returned to their owners, 641 were impounded. Of these, 514 were claimed by their owners from the animal shelter, 51 were adopted to new homes, and 38 were rehomed to dog rescues.
- 5.12 Of the found dogs, 38 were euthanised. 13 dogs were euthanised due to a parvo virus outbreak in the shelter, 12 dogs were euthanised as they were classified as Dangerous or Menacing. Six dogs were assessed and could not be safely rehomed, while seven dogs were not adopted and were not coping in the shelter environment.

Education

- 5.13 A total of 36 child education and adult educational talks were provided free of charge to the community.

Free microchipping

- 5.14 The Council continues to offer free microchipping to all dog owners, which is available every Wednesday.

6. Statistical Summary

Category	Number
Total number of dogs on record	44,962
Total number of probationary owners	12
Total number of disqualified owners	9
Total number of dogs classified as dangerous (live records only)	49
Total number of dogs classified as menacing (live records only)	306
Number of infringement notices issued	1,227
Dog attacks on people, stock, poultry, domestic animals or protected wildlife	656
Dog rushing, intimidating people or domestic animals.	631
Dogs barking, roaming or fouling, roaming dogs and miscellaneous matters)	5,241
Number of prosecutions taken	1

Attachments Ngā Tāpirihanga

There are no attachments to this report.

In addition to the attached documents, the following background information is available:

Document Name – Location / File Link
Not applicable

Signatories Ngā Kaiwaitohu

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