

21. Policy and Practices 2022/2023-Section 10A Requirement Dog Control Act 1996

Reference / Te Tohutoro: 23/1759372

Report of / Te Pou Matua: Lionel Bridger, Manager Animal Services, Regulatory Compliance Unit

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1. Purpose and Origin of Report Te Pūtake Pūrongo

- 1.1 Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996 requires that the Council report on its administration of its Dog Control policies and practices. The Council must give public notice of the report and make the report publicly available.
- 1.2 This report is written to fulfil a legislative requirement in the Dog Control Act 1996.

2. Officer Recommendations Ngā Tūtohu

That the Council:

1. Receive the information on the Council's administration of its Dog Control policy and practices and adopt this 2022/2023 annual report pursuant to Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996.

3. Brief Summary

- 3.1 Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996, requires the Territorial authority to report on dog control policy and practices.

3.1.1 Territorial authority must, each financial year, report on the administration of:

- its dog control policy adopted under [section 10](#); and
- its dog control practices.

3.1.2 The report must include, in respect of each financial year, information relating to:

- the number of registered dogs in the territorial authority district.
- the number of probationary owners and disqualified owners in the territorial authority district.
- the number of dogs in the territorial authority district classified as dangerous under [section 31](#) and the relevant provision under which the classification is made.
- the number of dogs in the territorial authority district classified as menacing under [section 33A](#) or [section 33C](#) and the relevant provision under which the classification is made.
- the number of infringement notices issued by the territorial authority.
- the number of dog related complaints received by the territorial authority in the previous year and the nature of those complaints.
- the number of prosecutions taken by the territorial authority under this Act.

3.1.3 The territorial authority must:

- give public notice, as defined in [section 5\(1\)](#) of the Local Government Act 2002, of the report; and
 - make the report publicly available, as described in [section 5\(3\)](#) of that Act.
- 3.2 Regarding the requirement to give public notice, section 5(1) of the Local Government Act 2002 specifies:
- 3.2.1 **public notice**, in relation to a notice given by a local authority, means one that;
- is made publicly available, until any opportunity for review or appeal in relation to the matter notified has lapsed, on the local authority’s Internet site; and
 - is published in at least –
 - 1 daily newspaper circulating in the region or district of the local authority; or
 - 1 or more other newspapers that have a combined circulation in that region or district at least equivalent to that of a daily newspaper circulating in that region or district.
- 3.3 The territorial authority must also, within 1 month after adopting the report, send a copy of it to the Secretary for Local Government.

4. Christchurch City Council’s Policies (Section 10A (1a))

- 4.1 The Council adopted the “Control of Dogs” Policy (“the 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.
- 4.2 The objectives of the policy are to:
- 4.2.1 set the framework for Dog Registration Fees and Classification of Owners.
 - 4.2.2 identify mechanisms for promoting responsible dog ownership and interaction with dogs.
 - 4.2.3 set the framework for Issuing of Infringement notices and impounding of Dogs.
 - 4.2.4 specify the requirement for neutering of dogs classified as dangerous or menacing; (sections 32(1) (c) and 33E (b).
 - 4.2.5 provide adequate opportunities to fulfil the exercise and recreational needs of dogs and their owners.
 - 4.2.6 set the framework for categories of Dog Control.
 - 4.2.7 Notify areas where specific dog control status has been designated for reasons such as public health, safety and hygiene and protection of wildlife, animals and stock.
 - 4.2.8 Identify the matters to be covered by bylaws.

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 Councils dog registration database for the period was 44,537.

Probationary and Disqualified Owners

5.3 The Council recorded 7 Owners as probationary, and 4 owners as disqualified over the period.

Dangerous Dog Classifications

5.4 The Council classified 9 dogs as dangerous under section 31 of the Dog Control Act 1996, 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.

5.5.1 Section 33A (1) (b) (i) of the Dog control Act 1996, provides for dogs to be classified as menacing (based on the dog's aggressive behaviour). For the period, 42 new dogs were classified as menacing, adjusting the total number of dogs classified in this category, on the Council's register to 226.

5.5.2 Section 33C of the Dog Control Act 1996, provides for dogs to be classified as menacing (based on the dog's breed or breed type). For the period, 1 new dog was classified as menacing, adjusting the total number of dogs classified in this category, on the Council's register to 94.

Infringement Notices issued.

5.6 The Council issued 1082 infringement notices for breaches against the Dog Control Act 1996.

Dog related complaints

5.7 The Council investigated 619 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 5293 complaints relating to dogs barking, wandering, fouling, rushing and unregistered dogs.

5.9 Council received a total of 10,241 complaints relating to Animal Management.

Prosecutions

5.10 The Council took 1 prosecution which is before the Courts.

Found Dogs

5.11 Council found 2,280 dogs wandering 1,644 were returned to their owners, 636 were impounded of these 505 were claimed by their owners from the animal shelter, 67 was adopted to new homes, 38 were rehomed to dog rescues.

Of the found dogs 22 were euthanized, 8 dogs were euthanised due to a parvo virus outbreak in the shelter, 2 Voluntary surrendered for euthanasia by the owners ,12 Euthanised as they could not be safely rehomed into the community due to their aggressive nature.

Education

5.12 A total of 37 Child education and adult educational talks were provided free of charge to the community.

Microchipping

5.13 Council continues to offer free microchipping to all dog owners which is available every Wednesday.

6. Statistical Summary

Total number of registered dogs	44,537
Total number of probationary owners	6
Total number of disqualified owners	4
Total number of dogs classified as dangerous (live records only)	49
Total number of dogs classified as menacing (live records only)	320
Number of infringement notices issued	1082
Number of dog related complaints - Dog attacks on people, stock, poultry, domestic animals or protected wildlife	581
Dog rushing, intimidating people or domestic animals.	574
Dogs barking, roaming or fouling (covers self-generated bylaw, roaming dogs and miscellaneous matters)	4651
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

Confirmation of Statutory Compliance Te Whakatūturutanga ā-Ture

<p>Compliance with Statutory Decision-making Requirements (ss 76 - 81 Local Government Act 2002).</p> <p>(a) This report contains:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) sufficient information about all reasonably practicable options identified and assessed in terms of their advantages and disadvantages; and (ii) adequate consideration of the views and preferences of affected and interested persons bearing in mind any proposed or previous community engagement. <p>(b) The information reflects the level of significance of the matters covered by the report, as determined in accordance with the Council's significance and engagement policy.</p>

Signatories Ngā Kaiwaitohu

Author	Lionel Bridger - Manager Animal Services
Approved By	Tracey Weston - Head of Regulatory Compliance Mary Richardson - General Manager Citizens & Community