

7. Dog Control Act 1996, Section 10A Report - Policy and Practices 2020/2021

Reference Te Tohutoro: 21/1399836

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1. Brief Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide a report to the Regulatory Performance Committee on the Council's administration of its dog control policy and practices for the year 2020/21.
- 1.2 The Council must provide this annual report to meet the requirements of section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996.

2. Officer Recommendations Ngā Tūtohu

That the Regulatory Performance Committee recommends that the Council:

1. Receive the information in this report.
2. Adopt the 2020/21 Annual Report to Local Government, as set out in section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996.
3. Note that the Council must give public notice of this report.

3. Context / Background / Te Horopaki

- 3.1 [Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996](#), requires the Council to report on the administration of its dog control policy and practices each financial year.
- 3.2 The report must include the number of:
 - registered dogs;
 - probationary and disqualified owners;
 - dangerous and menacing dogs;
 - infringement notices issued;
 - complaints and prosecutions.
- 3.3 The report below contains this information, and a statistical summary of the figures for 2020/2021 can be viewed in Attachment A.

4. Christchurch City Council Dog Control Policy

- 4.1 The Dog Control Act 1996 requires all councils to have a policy on dogs, and a bylaw to enforce the policy. The Council's dog control policy and bylaw were last reviewed and adopted in 2016. They are due to be reviewed again in 2023, and must be reviewed by 2026.

- 4.2 They cover the matters required by the Dog Control Act, and aim to balance 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.
- 4.3 The Dog Control Policy:
- links to the Dog Control Bylaw;
 - sets out the obligations of dog owners;
 - sets out the requirements around the registration and micro-chipping of dogs;
 - sets the framework for prohibited and leashed areas, and other special areas (dog parks);
 - requires a licence to own more than two dogs;
 - identifies mechanisms for promoting responsible dog ownership and interaction with dogs, including education and training;
 - sets out ways of managing troublesome dog owners and dogs, including probationary and disqualified owners, and dangerous or menacing dogs';
 - contains information on seizing dogs, impounding dogs and adopting dogs from the Council dog shelter facility;
 - sets out the approach to issuing of infringement notices;
 - lists the prohibited and leashed dog control areas in the district.

5. Section 10A Dog Control Act Report for 2020/21

- 5.1 This report provides a summary of the administration of the Council's dog control policy and practices for the period ending 30 June 2021.
- 5.2 Dog Registration
The Council registered 2,189 new dogs, bringing the total number of dogs on the Council's dog registration database to 42,191.
- 5.3 Probationary Owners
Probationary Owners: A probationary owner cannot become the owner of any new dogs (but may keep any registered dogs they already have), and must dispose of any unregistered dogs. Probationary owners may be required to undertake dog owner education or attend a dog obedience course, or both. Probationary dog owner status generally applies for up to two years, but may end sooner. Sections 21-24 of the Dog Control Act set out matters relating to dog owners being classified as probationary owners, including the process for objecting to the classification.

For the reporting period, six dog owners were put on probation.

- 5.4 Disqualified Owners
Disqualified dog owners: A disqualified dog owner cannot be the registered owner of a dog (for a specified period), and must dispose of every dog that they may own. Disqualified dog owner status can apply for up to five years. Sections 25-28 of the Dog Control Act set out matters relating to dog owners being classified as disqualified owners, including the process for objecting to the classification, and appealing to the District Court.

For the reporting period, nine dog owners were disqualified from owning dogs.

5.5 Dangerous Dog Classifications

The Council must classify a dog as dangerous based on the owner being convicted of certain offences, or based on sworn evidence that the dog is aggressive and constitutes a threat to the safety of people, stock, poultry, domestic animals or protected wildlife. As set out in section 31 of the Dog Control Act, Dangerous dogs:

- must be kept within a securely fenced section of the owner's property (and dog-free access to the house must be available at all times);
- must be muzzled and on a leash in all public places and private ways;
- must be de-sexed;
- incur a registration fee that is 50% higher than a standard dog registration fee;
- must not be sold or given away without the written consent of the Council;
- maintain their status as a dangerous dog no matter where they live in New Zealand.

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 56.

5.6 Menacing Dog Classification

The Council can classify a dog as menacing if it constitutes a threat to the safety of people, stock, poultry, domestic animals or protected wildlife, based on the dog's behaviour or characteristics typically associated with the dog's breed or type, as set out in section 33A of the Dog Control Act. Menacing dogs must be muzzled and on a leash in all public places and private ways. The Council may require dogs classified as menacing to be de-sexed.

For the reporting period, 41 dogs were classified as menacing, putting the total number of dogs in this category on the Council's register to 138.

5.7 Infringement Notices Issued

The Council issued 1,081 infringement notices for breaches against the Dog Control Act 1996, as follows:

- 14 for failing to comply with Classification requirements;
- 3 for failing to comply with the bylaw;
- 1 for failing to comply with a barking abatement notice;
- 49 for failure to microchip a dog;
- 214 for failing to keep a dog confined or controlled;
- 786 for failing to register a dog;
- 10 for failure to supply information;
- 1 for false statement relating to registration;
- 3 for obstruction of a Dog Control Officer.

5.8 Dog-related complaints

The Council investigated 1,031 priority one complaints (dogs attacking persons, stock, poultry, domestic animals and protected wildlife or traffic hazards relating to wandering stock on roads).

The Council received 4,794 complaints relating to dogs barking, dogs wandering, dogs fouling, dogs rushing, and dogs not being registered.

5.9 Prosecutions

The Council took one prosecution, which is currently before the Courts.

5.10 Found Dogs

The Council was notified of 2,705 found dogs. Of these:

- 2,030 dogs were returned to their owners;
- 675 dogs were impounded. Of those dogs impounded:
 - 563 were claimed by their owners from the animal shelter;
 - 97 dogs were rehomed;
 - 15 dogs were euthanised.

5.2 Education

Education talks were provided to 4,025 children as part of 59 Dog Smart Programmes, and 16 educational talks were provided to 320 adults.

Educational programmes have been specifically designed for both children and adults to mitigate negative outcomes and promote safety and awareness around dogs in our community. This is a free community service.

5.3 Microchipping

The Dog Control Act, section 36(A) requires that all dogs (with the exception of dogs defined as working dogs) be fitted with a microchip transponder that provides the name, sex, breed, colour, registration number and the name, date of birth and address of the owner.

The microchipping can be undertaken by vets or Animal Control Officers. The Animal Management Team offers this as a free service.

Microchips help to reunite dogs with their owners. All dogs that are impounded are scanned. If no microchip is found, they are microchipped at the shelter before being returned to their owner or rehomed.

For the reporting period, 566 dogs were microchipped.

Attachments Ngā Tāpirihanga

No.	Title	Page
A	Section 10A Report - Statistical Summary	

Additional background information may be noted in the below table:

Document Name	Location / File Link

Confirmation of Statutory Compliance Te Whakatūrutanga ā-Ture

Compliance with Statutory Decision-making Requirements (ss 76 - 81 Local Government Act 2002).

(a) This report contains:

- (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.

(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.

Signatories Ngā Kaiwaitohu

Author	Lionel Bridger - Manager Animal Services
Approved By	Tracey Weston - Head of Regulatory Compliance Jane Davis - General Manager Infrastructure, Planning & Regulatory Services