

Dog Control Policy and Practices Report: 2020/21

Dog Control Policy and Practices

1. The policy in force during the 2020/21 financial year became operative on 1 September 2012 following a resolution of Council's Policy Committee on 22 June 2011. This policy complies with the Act and all subsequent amendments.
2. The policy outlines expected standards and behaviours from dog owners and provides information about how Council will administer dog control. The following issues are addressed by the policy:
 - Restriction on the number of dogs
 - Leashing requirements of all dogs in specified public places
 - Fouling in public places
 - Confinement
 - Diseased dogs
 - Impounding or removing dogs from a property
 - Minimum standards of accommodation for dogs
 - Nuisance barking
 - Classification of probationary owners
 - Disqualification of owners
 - Classification as dangerous dog
 - Classification of menacing dog
 - Hearing of objections
 - Micro-chipping of dogs
 - Fees and charges
 - Revenue
 - Infringement notices
 - Bylaws
3. The Council's dog control policy (and bylaw) is underway and is anticipated to be completed in the first quarter of the 2022 calendar year.
4. Long-term plan submissions received this year have shown greater public support for a dedicated dog exercise area and the feasibility of this is to be investigated by officers.
5. Impounded dogs that are not released the same day continue to be housed at the Hutt City Council Animal Service Centre in Seaview.
6. Last year, Council saw an increase in the number of registered dogs due to better database management and a greater emphasis on compliance/enforcement. This has continued this year resulting in the registration of 98% of dogs known to Council.
7. In addition, we have seen an increase in the number of dogs receiving classifications as either dangerous or menacing, as well as more than doubling the number of infringements issued.

Statistical Reporting for the 2020/21 financial year

8. The Council is required to provide information in regard to several key areas of interest and this detailed in the table below.

Area of interest as at 30 June 2021	Number	Comment
Number of registered dogs	6,437	98% of dogs known to Council were registered.
Number of known dogs	6,574	
Number of probationary owners	0	
Number of disqualified owners	0	
Number of dogs classified as dangerous	8	An increase from 5 for last year.
Under section 31(1)(b)	2	Sworn evidence attesting aggressive behaviour
Under section 31(1)(c)	6	Owner admission that constitutes a threat
Number of dogs classified as menacing	47	An increase from 43 for last year.
Under section 33A(1)(b)(i)	25	Classified due to aggressive behaviour
Under section 33C(1)	22	Classification by breed (Schedule 4 dog)
Number of infringement notices issued	87	An increase from 41 for last year.
s42 Keeping unregistered dog	58	
s52A Failure to keep dog controlled or confined	13	
s53(1) Failure to keep dog under control	14	
s33EC(1) Failure to comply with effects of classification of dog as menacing dog	2	
Number of dog complaints received	1,255	
Attack – Bite	58	
Attack – Rush at/Startle	52	
Barking	514	
Straying/impounding	383	
General Complaint	205	
Number of prosecutions under the Act	0	