

Dog Control Policy and Practices Report: 2021/22

Dog Control Policy and Practices

1. The policy in force during the 2021/22 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. In accordance with section 10AA of the Dog Control Act 1996, Council reviewed its dog control policy and bylaw throughout the year and amendments were made. The policy and bylaw become operable in the next registration year. The key changes made to the policy have been attached in Appendix 1.
3. 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:
 - Registration classes
 - Restriction on the number of dogs
 - Responsible owner requirements
 - Minimum welfare standards
 - Nuisance barking
 - Fouling in public places
 - Dogs in public places
 - Impounding of dogs
 - Probationary owners
 - Disqualification of owners
 - Dangerous and menacing dogs
 - Objections to classifications, notices and orders
 - Infringement notices and fees
 - Designated dog exercise areas
 - Designated dog-free areas
4. As part of the annual plan process, community engagement was undertaken to determine whether Council should pursue a dedicated dog exercise area. After considering feedback, Council decided not to pursue a dedicated dog exercise area at this time.
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, 98% of dogs known to Council were registered by their owners. This high level of compliance has been achieved again for this year, with 98.5% of known dogs registered.
7. In addition, the number of complaints received throughout the year was lower than that for the previous year. This was matched by a decrease in the number of infringements that were issued.

Statistical Reporting for the 2021/22 financial year

8. The Council is required to provide information on several key areas of interest, as detailed in the table below.

Area of interest as 30 June 2022	Number	Comment
Number of registered dogs	6,594	98.5% of dogs known to Council were registered
Number of known dogs	6,695	
Number of probationary owners	0	
Number of disqualified owners	0	
Number of dogs classified as dangerous	9	An increase of 1 from last year
Under section 31(1)(b)	3	Sworn evidence attesting aggressive behaviour
Under section 31(1)(c)	6	Owner admission that dog constitutes a threat
Number of dogs classified as menacing	41	A decrease of 6 from last year
Under section 33A(1)(b)(i)	21	Poses a threat based on behavior
Under section 33A(1)(b)(ii)	1	Poses a threat based on breed/type
Under section 33C(1)	19	Classification by breed/type (Schedule 4 dog)
Number of infringement notices issued	65	A decrease from 87 for last year
s42 Keeping unregistered dog	52	
s52A Failure to keep dog controlled or confined	8	
s53(1) Failure to keep dog under control	5	
Number of dog complaints received	1,078	A decrease from 1,255 last year
Attack – Bite	46	
Attack – Rush at/Startle	59	
Barking	416	
Straying/impounding	353	
General Complaint	204	
Number of prosecutions under the Act	0	

Attachments

Appendix 1: Dog Controls Review 2022 – FAQs

[DIA Annual Report 2021_2022 Appendix 1.pdf](#)