

Council | Kaunihera
13 December 2023

Dog Control Policy and Practices Report 2022 - 2023

Purpose of report | Te pūtake

1. For each financial year, the Dog Control Act 1996 (the DCA) requires Council to generate a report on the organisations' dog control policy and practices.
2. The Council must publicly notify the report as well as make it publicly available. To achieve this, Council is required to provide a copy of the report on our website along with placing a notification in a daily newspaper circulating in our district outlining the existence of the report and where it can be accessed.
3. This report will be made available on the Council website and be publicly notified in the Upper Hutt Leader.
4. This report covers the period 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023. There is no statutory timeframe by which this must be produced. Ideally, this report is generated soon after the close of the dog registration year.

Recommendation | He tūtohunga

5. That Council receives and notes the report titled Dog Control Policy and Practices Report 2022 - 2023.

Dog Control Policy and Practices

6. The policy was reviewed during the financial year and then adopted on 3 August 2022 in accordance with section 10 of the DCA. This Policy is enforced using the Upper Hutt City Council Dog Control Bylaw 2004 (Bylaw) and the DCA. This Policy applies to all dogs and their Owners in the district of Upper Hutt City Council (Council).
7. 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

- Impounded dogs that are not released the same day continue to be housed at the Hutt City Council Animal Service Centre in Seaview.
- Last year, 98.5% of dogs known to council were registered by their owners. This year 97.07% of known dogs have been registered.
- In addition, the number of complaints received throughout the year was higher than that for the previous year. This was matched by an overall increase in the number of infringements that were issued.

Statistical Reporting for the 2022 - 2023 financial year

- 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 2023		Number	Comment
Number of registered dogs		6,322	97.07% of dogs known to Council were registered
Number of known dogs		6,513	A decrease of 182 from last year
Number of probationary owners		0	
Number of disqualified owners		0	
Number of dogs classified as dangerous		5	A decrease of 4 from last year
Under section 31(1)(b)		2	Sworn evidence attesting to aggressive behaviour
Under section 31(1)(c)		3	Owner admission that dog constitutes a threat
Number of dogs classified as menacing		46	A decrease of 5 from last year
Under section 33A(1)(b)(i)		25	Poses a threat based on behaviour (Deed)
Under section 33C(1)(b)(ii)		21	Classification by breed/type (Schedule 4 dog)
Number of infringement notices issued		74	An increase of 9 from last year
s42	Keeping unregistered dog	48	A decrease of 4 from last year
s52A	Failure to keep dog controlled or confined	23	An increase of 15 from last year
s53(1)	Failure to keep dog under control	3	A decrease of 2 from last year
Number of dog complaints received		1,163	An increase of 85 from last year
Attack – Bite		73	An increase of 27 from last year
Attack – Rush at/Startle		47	A decrease of 8 from last year
Barking		456	An increase of 40 from last year
Straying/impounding		333	A decrease of 20 from last year
General Complaint		254	An increase of 50 from last year
Number of prosecutions under the Act		0	

Date of report: 29 November 2023

Report writer

Greg Sinclair

Animal Management Team Leader

Reviewed by:

Enisha Kilkelly

Compliance Services Manager

Approved by:

Helen Hamilton

Director Planning and Regulatory Services | Kaihautū Ratonga Whakamahere Me Te Whakariterite

Kate Thomson

Interim Chief Executive | Te Tumu Whakarae