



2nd October 2015.

Dog Control – Annual Report to Department Internal Affairs

Purpose: Council to adopt Annual Report on Council's Dog Control Policy and Practices for the period 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015

Significance: The matters for decision in this report do not trigger the significance policy of Council or otherwise trigger Section 76(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002.

Background: This report outlines the dog control activities and practices related to the Carterton District Dog Control Policy.

The requirement for Council to adopt a report on Dog Control Policies and Practices is a statutory one. When compiling such a report the Council is required to have regard to the provisions of its Policy on the Control of Dogs and for the purposes of this report the appropriate document is the Carterton District Council Dog Policy. The information required is detailed in the Legal Section below. The type of information required will assist central government to build a database of national information and to assess national trends and developments with regard to dog control.

Educational initiatives are being developed by central government. Collecting information from territorial authorities on a national level will enable central government to develop further guidelines or initiatives.

The report indicates an increased level of activity in the dog control area due to the amendments of the Dog Control Act 1996.

Legal Considerations - Section 10A of the Dog Control Act requires that a Territorial Authority must report on Dog Control Policy and Practices. The excerpt from the Act follows –

A territorial authority must, in respect of each financial year, report on the administration of –

- (a) It's Dog Control Policy adopted under section 10; and*
- (b) It's Dog Control Practices.*

(2) The report must include, in respect of each financial year, information relating to –

- (a) The number of registered dogs in the territorial authority district;;*

- (b) *The number of probationary owners and disqualified owners in the territorial authority district;*
- (c) *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;*
- (d) *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;*
- (e) *The number of infringement notices issued by the territorial authority;*
- (f) *The number of dog related complaints received by the territorial authority in the previous year and the nature of those complaints;*
- (g) *The number of prosecutions taken by the territorial authority under this Act.*
- (3) *The territorial authority must give public notice of the report –*
 - (a) *By means of a notice published in –*
 - (i) *One or more daily newspapers circulating in the territorial authority district; or*
 - (ii) *One or more other newspapers that have at least an equivalent circulation in that district to the daily newspapers circulating in that district; and*
 - (b) *By any means that the territorial authority thinks desirable in the circumstances.*
- (4) *The territorial authority must also, within one month after adopting the report, send a copy of it to the Secretary for Local Government.*

Recommendation: That Council

1. **notes** that the Council is required to adopt a report on Council’s Dog Control Policy and Practices for the period 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 under section 10A Dog Control Act 1996
2. **notes** the contents of the annual report on the Carterton District Council Dog Policy and practices attached as **Appendix 1** to this report
3. **Adopts** the Carterton District Council report on its Dog Policy and practices, pursuant to section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996.

Report prepared by:

Approved by:

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Attachments: Appendix 1 Report on Dog Control Policy & Practices

Appendix 1 –

Report on the administration of Carterton District Council’s policy and practices in relation to the control of dogs for the year 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015.

Council has applied the Carterton District Council Dog Control Policy (“the Policy”) when administering its policy and practices for the control of dogs.

Council reviewed parts of its policy on the control of dogs in June 2007. The Policy has provisions relating to the control of dogs in public places, which are enforceable under Part 4: Carterton District Council Control of Dogs Bylaw Amendment 2007. There are no specific dog exercise areas defined as there are sufficient open spaces around the district for appropriate exercise due to Carterton having an extensive rural community. However a rural public park where dogs can exercise off the leash has become popular with dog owners and poo disposal bags and a dog poo bin have been placed there. There are dog prohibited areas which are well signposted. Dogs in specified public places and CBD must be on a leash at all times. Carterton District Council provides Doggy Doo Dumpster bins near dog exercise areas. Council Officers monitor these areas to ensure compliance.

Fees and charges are reviewed annually and set by Council resolution. Council’s funding policy for animal control is that 80% of the total costs are met by dog registration fees and 20% from rates.

Council provides dog owners with information regarding education programs and obedience courses and offers dog owners a discount on registration fees for neutered/spayed dogs. Council promotes dog owner education through their locally designed pamphlet ‘Animal & Dog Control,’ the booklet ‘Avoiding Dog Aggression,’ a locally designed pamphlet ‘Dog Safety For Adults’ and promotes the NZIACO website to dog owners for advice. Council promotes the local Dog Obedience and Kennel Club and a local Dog Trainer. Officers make presentations to local schools and community groups.

With regard to offences and penalties, Council’s policy is to approach each incident on a case by case basis and to use infringement notices for minor offences. Council’s policy is to adhere to the provisions of the Dog Control Act 1996 as closely as possible, where an attack has occurred.

Council has adopted the ‘Assessment Matrix’ for prosecution decisions.

Under the Carterton District Council Control of Dogs Bylaw Amendment 2007, owners with more than two dogs within an urban area must obtain a permit through an application to Council. The Council Dog Control Officer inspects the property for suitability for housing and controlling dogs, interviews the dog owner and considers any previous history. Submissions in writing are sought by neighbours.

Number of registered dogs	2484
Number of probationary owners	0
Number of disqualified owners	0
Number of dogs classified as dangerous under Section 31	
▪ s.31 1(a) due to owner conviction	0
▪ s.31 1(b) due to sworn evidence	0
▪ s.31 1(c) due to owner admittance	1
Number of dogs classified as menacing under Section 33A	
▪ s.33A 1(b)(i) observed or reported behaviour	5
▪ s.33A 1(b)(ii) characteristics associated with breed	0
Number of dogs classified as menacing under Section 33C	19
Number of infringement notices issued for - failing to register a dog.	67
Number of infringement notices issued for - failure to implant microchip transponder	26
Number of infringement notices issued for – failure to keep dog under control	2
Number of infringement notices issued for – failure to keep dog controlled or confined	5
Number of infringement notices issued for – failure to comply with bylaw	1
Number of infringement notices issued for – failure to comply with effects of classification	2
Number of Dog Related Complaints	286
Dog Bites On People	3
Dog Bites On Animals/Stock	18
Dog Rushing	18
Dogs Barking	49
Dogs Wandering	101
Dog Welfare	2
Dogs Lost	52
Dogs Found	81
Dogs Impounded	68
Dogs Sold To New Owner	2
Dogs Surrendered To SPCA	1
Dogs Illegally Removed from Pound	0
Dogs Destroyed	14
Dogs Returned To Owner	49
Number of prosecutions	0