



13 September 2021

Report on dog Control Policy and Practices – 2020/2021

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

This report outlines the dog control activities and practices related to the Carterton District Dog Control Policy for 2020 financial year.

2. 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.

3. BACKGROUND

As a territorial authority, the Carterton District Council is required to manage and enforce the Dog Control Act 1996 (the Act). Under Section 10A of the Act Council must, in respect of each financial year, provide an Annual Report that sets out activities that have been undertaken in relation to our dog control policy and practices.

Section 10A(2) sets out the information required to be included in the annual report, including:

- (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.*

4. 2020-2021 REPORT

The report outlining the dog control activities for the 2020/2021 year is in **Attachment 1**.

The report meets the information requirements of section 10A(2) of the Act.

5. NEXT STEPS

The Act requires that the Council gives public notice of the report and makes the report publicly available. These will be done once the Council had adopted the report.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Council:

1. **Receives** the report.
2. **Adopts** the report on Council's administration of the Dog Control Policy and practices for the period 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021 under section 10A Dog Control Act 1996.

Karen Schischka
Animal & Dog Control Officer

Dave Gittings
Manager

Attachment 1: Report on Dog Control Policy and practices 2020/2021



Report on the administration of Carterton District Council’s policy and practices in relation to the control of dogs for the year 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021

Application of the Dog Control Policy

Council has applied the Carterton District Council Dog Control Policy (“the Policy”) when carrying out our dogs control activities.

Amongst other things 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 2017.

There are no specific dog exercise areas defined as there are enough open spaces and parks around the district for appropriate exercise. However, a rural public park at Sparks Park, Belvedere Road, Carterton where dogs can be exercised off leash, has become popular with dog owners and poo disposal bags and a dog poo bin have been placed there. An urban public park at Bird Park, Frederick St, Carterton has been established with the same dog facilities as the rural public park. There are dog prohibited areas which are well signposted. Dogs in specified public places and the CBD must be on a leash at all times. Carterton District Council provides Doggy Doo Dumpster bins near dog exercise areas and in urban streets. 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 programmes 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 ‘Dog Registration: What You Need To Know,’ dog owner education pamphlets by J. Payne and promotes the NZIACO website to dog owners for advice. Council promotes the local Dog Obedience and Kennel Club and a local Dog Obedience Trainer.

Offences and penalties

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.

End of 2017 Carterton District Council Dog Control initiated a programme of seizing dogs that had been unregistered for more than 2 years. Letters were first sent to the dog owners advising them of Council's intention. Carterton District Council will continue with this programme.

Council has adopted the 'Assessment Matrix' for prosecution decisions.

Under the Carterton District Council Control of Dogs Bylaw Amendment 2017, 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 affected neighbours.

Statistics

Measure	Result
Number of registered dogs	2931
Number of probationary owners	0
Number of disqualified owners	4
Number of dogs classified as dangerous under Section 31	2
▪ s.31 1(a) due to owner conviction	0
▪ s.31 1(b) due to sworn evidence	1
▪ s.31 1(c) due to owner admittance	1
Number of dogs classified as menacing under Section 33A	11
▪ s.33A 1(b)(i) observed or reported behaviour	11
▪ s.33A 1(b)(ii) characteristics associated with breed	0
Number of dogs classified as menacing under Section 33C	16
Number of infringement notices issued for – failing to register a dog.	25
Number of infringement notices issued for – failure to implant microchip transponder	14
Number of infringement notices issued for – failure to keep dog under control	1

Measure	Result
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	0
Number of infringement notices issued for – failure to comply with effects of classification	3
Number of Dog Related Complaints	281
Dog Bites On People	5
Dog Bites On Animals/Stock	9
Dog Rushing	17
Dogs Barking	45
Dogs Wandering	84
Dog Welfare	1
Dogs Lost	33
Dogs Found	54
Dogs Impounded	43
Dogs Rehomed/Adopted	1
Dogs Surrendered To SPCA for rehoming	6
Dogs Illegally Removed from Pound	0
Dogs Destroyed	0
Dogs Returned To Owner	36
Number of prosecutions	0