



20 September 2016

## **Report on dog Control Policy and Practices – 2015/2016**

### **1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

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

### **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**

Section 10A(4) of the Dog Control Act (1996) requires that a Territorial Authority must, in respect of each financial year, report to the Department of Internal Affairs on the administration of its dog control policy and its dog control practices no longer than one month following adoption of the report.

### **4. THE REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1 JULY 2015 TO 30 JUNE 2016**

The report for the year ended 30 June 2016 is in **Attachment 1**. It outlines the key activities undertaken by the Council, as well as providing the statistics required by the Department of Internal Affairs. Once adopted by the Council the report will be forwarded to the Department.

### **5. RECOMMENDATIONS**

That the Council:

1. **Receives** the report.
2. **Adopts** the report on Council's Dog Control Policy and Practices for the period 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016 under section 10A Dog Control Act 1996.

Prepared by:

**Karen Schischka**

**Animal & Dog Control Officer**

Approved by:

**Dave Gittings**

**Manager Planning & Regulatory**

**Attachment 1: Report on Dog Control Policy and practices**

## **Report on Carterton District Council's policy and practices in relation to the control of dogs for the year 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016**

Carterton District Council (CDC) has applied its Dog Control Bylaw ("Bylaw") when undertaking its responsibilities under the Dog Control Act 1996. The policy is to be reviewed before 9<sup>th</sup> October 2017.

### Dog exercise areas

CDC has no designated dog exercise areas in the district but off-leash parks are available and all prohibited areas are clearly signposted. Dogs must be on a leash at all times in public places including the central business district. CDC provides 'Doggy Doo Dumpster' bins near dog exercise areas and in urban streets which are cleared regularly by Council staff.

### Fees and Charges

Fees and charges are reviewed annually and set by Council resolution. Council's funding policy for animal control provides for 80% of the total costs to be met by dog registration fees and 20% from rates. Dog owners are discounted registration fees for neutered/spayed animals.

### Education programmes

Education programmes and obedience courses are promoted through written and online services. Written information regarding dog obedience and the local kennel club is provided with a link to the New Zealand Institute of Animal Control Officers website for advice to owners.

Council has adopted Christchurch City Council's 'Dogsmart Education' programme and is preparing to implement it across all schools within the district and has included 'Dogsmart' training in CDC's school holiday programmes.

### Offences and penalties

Council approaches each incident on a case by case basis while adhering to the Dog Control Act 1996 where an attack has occurred. Prosecution decisions are made under an assessment matrix while continuing to use infringement notices for minor offences.

Under CDC Bylaw, no more than two dogs per owner within an urban area are permitted. Any application received is assessed by onsite visits. Previous history and any objections are taken into account.

### Statistics

The following tables provide information in accordance with section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996.

Number of registered dogs	2241
Number of probationary owners	0
Number of disqualified owners	0

Number of dogs classified as dangerous under Section 31 of the Dog Control Act 1996.

Classification under s.31 1(a) due to owner conviction	0
Classification under s.31 1(b) due to sworn evidence	0
Classification under s.31 1(c) due to owner admittance	1

Number of dogs classified as menacing

Classification under s.33A 1(b)(i) observed or reported behaviour	11
Classification under s.33A 1(b)(ii) considered to pose a threat	0
Classification under s.33C characteristics associated with breed	17

Infringement notices

Failing to register a dog	45
Failure to implant microchip transponder	1
Failure to keep dog controlled or confined	6
Failure to comply with bylaw	0
Failure to comply with effects of classification	2

Dog related complaints

Total dog related complaints	333
Reported dog bite incidents on people	4
Reported dog bite incidents on animal / livestock	9
Reported dog rushing incidents	19
Reported dog barking incidents	70
Reported dog wandering incidents	111
Reported dog welfare incidents	5
Reported lost dog incidents	55
Reported found dog incidents	60
Dogs impounded	55
Reported dogs sold to new owners	1
Dogs surrendered to other organisations for rehoming	9
Dogs illegally removed from pound	3
Dogs destroyed	7
Dogs returned to owner	35
Prosecutions	0