



26 September 2018

Report on Dog Control Policy and Practices – 2017/2018

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

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

2. SIGNIFICANCE

The matters for decision in this report are not considered to be of significance under the Significance and Engagement Policy. However, while significance is not triggered Section 10 of the dog control act does require that the report is made available publically and that a public notice of the report is published in the local newspapers and on our website.

3. BACKGROUND

Section 10A of the Dog Control Act (1996) requires that a Territorial Authority must, in respect of each financial year, report on the administration of its dog control policy and its dog control practices. 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.

4. REPORT FOR THE YEAR TO 30 JUNE 2018

Attachment 1 contains the report for the year 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Policy and Strategy Committee:

1. **Receives** the report.
2. **Adopts** the report on Council's Dog Control Policy and Practices for the period 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 under section 10A Dog Control Act 1996.

3. **Instructs** officers, in accordance with section 10A(4) of the Dog Control Act 1996 send a copy of it to the Secretary for Local Government.

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Approved by:

Dave Gittings

**Infrastructure, Services &
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Attachment 1: Report on Dog Control Policy and practices

Report on the administration of Carterton District Council's policy and practices in relation to the control of dogs for the year 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018.

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

The bylaw was made on 1st August 1997 and has been subject to a review on 18th September 2007 and adopted on 26th September 2007. It was further reviewed and adopted on the 13th December 2017 and is now known as the Control of Dogs Bylaw 2017, with a review date of 2027.

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 and parks 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 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 'Animal & Dog Control,' 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. Carterton Dog Control have adopted CCC's Dogsmart Education programme and is preparing to implement it in our local schools. It has been presented in the local Carterton library during the school holiday programmes.

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.

At the 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 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 affected neighbours.

Number of registered dogs	2573
Number of probationary owners	0
Number of disqualified owners	1
Number of dogs classified as dangerous under Section 31	1
▪ 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	43
▪ s.33A 1(b)(i) observed or reported behaviour	18
▪ s.33A 1(b)(ii) characteristics associated with breed	0
Number of dogs classified as menacing under Section 33C	25
Number of infringement notices issued for – failing to register a dog.	15
Number of infringement notices issued for – failure to implant microchip transponder	5
Number of infringement notices issued for – failure to keep dog under control	0
Number of infringement notices issued for – failure to keep dog controlled or confined	7
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	1
Number of Dog Related Complaints	444
Dog Bites On People	4
Dog Bites On Animals/Stock	18
Dog Rushing	21
Dogs Barking	66
Dogs Wandering	144
Dog Welfare	2
Dogs reported lost	50

Dogs Found	67
Dogs Impounded	86
Dogs Sold To New Owner	4
Dogs Surrendered To Other Organisations for rehoming	4
Dogs Illegally Removed from Pound	0
Dogs Destroyed	8
Dogs Returned To Owner	70
Number of prosecutions	0