



7.13 REPORT ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF CARTERTON DISTRICT COUNCIL'S PRACTICES IN RELATION TO THE CONTROL OF DOGS FOR THE YEAR 1 JULY 2023 TO 30 JUNE 2024.

1. PURPOSE

For the Council to receive the report outlining the dog control activities and practices related to the Carterton District Council Dog Control for the year ending 30 June 2024.

2. SIGNIFICANCE

The matters for decision in this report are not considered to be of significance under the Significance and Engagement Policy.

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 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. DISCUSSION

One of the key areas of work that Animal Control officers provide relates to the control of dogs in public places, which is enforceable under Part 4: Carterton District Council Control of Dogs Bylaw Amendment 2007.

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 where dogs can be exercised off the 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 had been established with the same facilities as the rural public park. This has 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 the local Dog Obedience and Kennel Club and a local Dog Obedience Trainer.

5. 2023-2024 REPORT**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. Where an attack has occurred, Council's policy is to adhere to the provisions of the Dog Control Act 1996 as closely as possible.

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 has continued to take this approach for the 2023/2024 financial year.

Council has adopted the 'Assessment Matrix' for potential 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.

The statistics to be reported on as per the Animal Control Act 1996 are outlined below.

Measure	Result
Number of registered dogs	2753
Number of probationary owners	0
Number of disqualified owners	0
Number of dogs classified as dangerous under Section 31	3
▪ 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	3
Number of dogs classified as menacing under Section 33A	3
▪ s.33A 1(b)(i) observed or reported behaviour	12
▪ s.33A 1(b)(ii) characteristics associated with breed	1
Number of dogs classified as menacing under Section 33C	10
Number of infringement notices issued for – failing to register a dog.	17
Number of infringement notices issued for – failure to implant microchip transponder	0
Number of infringement notices issued for – failure to keep dog under control	1
Number of infringement notices issued for – failure to keep dog controlled or confined	4
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	0
Number of Dog Related Complaints	201
Dog Bites on People	4
Dog Bites on Animals/Stock	8
Dog Rushing	9
Dogs Barking	40
Dogs Wandering	74
Dog Welfare	8
Dogs Lost	16
Dogs Found	32
Dogs Impounded	20
Dogs Rehomed/Adopted	0
Dogs Surrendered to other organisations for re-homing	0
Dogs Illegally Removed from Pound	0

Measure	Result
Dogs Destroyed	1
Dogs Returned to Owner	20
Number of prosecutions	0

6. NEXT STEPS

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

7. CONSIDERATIONS

7.1 Climate change

Producing this report is a legislative requirement and the Dog Control Act does not include any climate change provisions.

7.2 Tāngata whenua

Not applicable.

7.3 Financial impact

There is no financial impact as a result of this report, as Animal Control as a whole is funded 80% fees and charges with 20% being funded by rates as the public good portion. This public good component covers matters often in relation to animal welfare, or the euthanising of dogs where no owners can be identified, and the dog is not suitable for rehoming, or on the recommendation of a vet.

7.4 Community Engagement requirements

Not applicable for the purpose of this report.

7.5 Risks

No risks have been identified.

8. RECOMMENDATION

That the Council:

1. **Receives** the report.
2. **Adopts** the report on Council's administration of Dog Control practices as set out in section 5 for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 under section 10A Dog Control Act 1996.

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Attachments: Nil