

A close-up photograph of a white dog with striking blue eyes, looking slightly to the left. The dog has a black collar with a tag. The background is a textured, light-colored surface.

Manawatū District Council
Annual Report on Dog Control

1 July 2017 – 30 June 2018

PART 1 – Dog Control Policy and Practices

Dog Control in the District

The focus of dog control has been on responding to service requests and complaints within the timeframes set by Council through its Long Term Plan and Annual Plan.

Animal Control Officers have, in this period, made concerted efforts at being pro-active in the detection of offences. This was specifically targeted at dogs that were un-registered, and also dogs that were allowed to wander.

Council's approach to owners of unregistered dogs is that the Animal Control Officers conduct property inspections, owners are issued verbal or written warnings followed by the serving of an infringement notice, and as a final measure if absolutely necessary, impounding.

Pro-active efforts were also made to ensure that all dogs were classified correctly in accordance with the provisions of the Dog Control Act 1996.

A joint service agreement is provided in partnership with the Rangitikei and Manawatu Districts. A Senior Animal Control Officer is based between the two areas and two Animal Control Officers are based in Feilding.

Animal Control Officers respond to priority one calls after hours. Priority One calls include dog attacks.

Animal Control Officers have visited properties of 'selected owners' in the district to ensure that the properties are maintained to the appropriate standard required for this type of ownership status.

Nuisance from dogs

Animal Control maintain a list of all dogs classified as dangerous and menacing, this relating to classification by either the provisions of sections 31, 33A and/or 33C of the Dog Control Act 1996. Physical checks have occurred within this period to ensure that all dogs classified as menacing, regardless of the reason why, comply with the requirements of the classification.

Prohibited public places, dog on leash areas and dog exercise areas

There are specific areas within the Manawatu District Council area designated for exercise, lead only and prohibited areas.

Animal Control Officers approach any breaches of these requirements in an educational manner, with any issue of infringements undertaken as a last resort.

Fees for Dog Control and Registration

The registration fees for the 2017-18 financial year were made up as follows:

Fee description	Discounted fee if paid by 1 August 2017	Standard Fee if paid after 1 August 2017
General registration	\$100	\$150
Neutered / spayed	\$66	\$96
Working dogs / selected owners / gold card	\$32	\$47
Dangerous dogs classified under the Dog Control Act 1996	\$150	\$225
Menacing dogs classified under the Dog Control Act 1996	\$150	\$225
Disability Assist registration	No Charge	No Charge

Classification of owners and dogs

Registration Type	Number of Dogs as at 30 June 2017	Number of Dogs as at 30 June 2018
General registration	875	886
Selected owners	1,873	1,988
Neutered dogs	2,200	2,260
Dangerous dogs	5	5
Working dogs	1,963	1,942
Disability assist dogs	6	5
Menacing dogs	114	115
Gold Card	236	379

Education relating to dogs

Manawatu District Council provides an education programme that is conducted in schools, pre-schools and Kohanga Reo on an annual basis. The goal of this programme is to deliver educational services to all schools within the district.

Animal Control Officers make themselves available to assist owners with help or advice on dog obedience and courses available. Animal Control Officers regularly provide advice and guidance in relation to specific behavioural matters.

Animal Control Officers have undergone recent training on Dog psychology and behaviour.

PART 2 – Statistical Information

Category	For Period 01 July 2016 – 30 June 2017	For Period 01 July 2017 – 30 June 2018
Total Registered Dogs	7,272	7,580
Total Probationary Owners	0	0
Total Disqualified Owners	0	0
Total Dangerous Dogs	4	5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Dangerous by Owner Conviction Under s31(1)(a)</i> 	1	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Dangerous by Sworn Evidence s31(1)(b)</i> 	2	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Dangerous by Owner Admittance in Writing s31(1)(c)</i> 	1	2
Total Menacing Dogs	122	125
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Menacing under s33A(1)(b)(i) – i.e. by behavior</i> 	46	46
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Menacing under s33A(1)(b)(ii) by Breed Characteristics</i> 	8	6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Menacing under s33C(1) by Schedule 4 Breed</i> 	68	73
Total Infringement Notices issued	143	195
Total Complaints Received	1,187	1,578
Dog Attacks – People	13	11
Dog Attacks – Animals	20	22
Dog Barking	305	322
Dog Roaming	238	266
Dog Rushing/Aggressive	25	34
Property Inspections	134	244
Dog Found/Secured	143	112
Dog Registration/Request for Information	59	55
Miscellaneous Animal Complaint/Welfare/Stock	144	143
Total Prosecutions Taken	0	0

Prepared by: _____ Karel Boakes _____

Date: _____ 10/07/2018 _____

Regulatory Manager

Signature: _____  _____