

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 2018 – 30 June 2019

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.

The dog control policy and bylaw are currently under review and are subject to the special consultation procedure at this time. A proposal has been put forward to remove the dog control ban within the town centre.

Fees for Dog Control and Registration

The registration fees for the 2018 - 2019 financial year were made up as follows:

Fee description	Discounted fee if paid by 1 August 2018	Standard Fee if paid after 1 August 2019
General registration	\$150	\$157
Neutered / spayed	\$96	\$100
Working dogs / selected owners / gold card	\$47	\$49
Dangerous dogs classified under the Dog Control Act 1996	\$225	\$238
Menacing dogs classified under the Dog Control Act 1996	\$225	\$238
Disability Assist registration	No charge	No charge

Classification of owners and dogs

Registration Type	Number of Dogs as at 30 June 2018	Number of Dogs as at 30 June 2019
General registration	886	1,004
Selected owners	1,988	2,170
Neutered dogs	2,260	2,746
Dangerous dogs	5	5
Working dogs	1,942	2,030
Disability assist dogs	5	5
Menacing dogs	115	117
Gold Card	379	476

Education relating to dogs

The Manawatu District Council provides a dog education programme to schools within the district. In addition this year education has been provided to New Zealand Courier Post staff to assist with ensuring staff remain safe while carrying out their duties 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 specialist training on Dog psychology and behaviour.

PART 2 – Statistical Information

Category	For Period 01 July 2017 – 30 June 2018	For Period 01 July 2018 – 30 June 2019
Total Registered Dogs	7,580	8,553
Total Probationary Owners	0	0
Total Disqualified Owners	0	0
Total Dangerous Dogs	5	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> 	2	2
Total Menacing Dogs	125	117
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Menacing under s33A(1)(b)(i) – i.e. by behavior</i> 	46	47
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Menacing under s33A(1)(b)(ii) by Breed Characteristics</i> 	6	4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Menacing under s33C(1) by Schedule 4 Breed</i> 	73	66
Total Infringement Notices issued	195	152
Total Complaints Received	1578	1334
Dog Attacks – People	11	13
Dog Attacks – Animals	22	24
Dog Barking	322	286
Dog Roaming	266	297
Dog Rushing/Aggressive	34	11
Property Inspections	244	204
Dog Found/Secured	112	249
Dog Registration/Request for Information	55	74
Miscellaneous Animal Complaint/Welfare/Stock	143	176
Total Prosecutions Taken	0	0

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Date: 27/8/2019

Regulatory Manager

Signature:  _____