

# Buller District Council Annual Report on Dog Control Policy and Practices 2012/13

## Purpose of Report

Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996 (the Act) requires that territorial authorities report annually on specified requirements relating to their dog control policy and practices. This report addresses those requirements. Section 10A of the Act is included in this report as Annex C.

## Policy

Council has a *Dog Control Policy* adopted under s10 of the Act.

This Policy was originally adopted in 1997 and was reviewed and reaffirmed in August 2004.

The Policy identifies dog control areas and places restrictions and requirements on dog owners in regard to:

- Prohibited dog areas
- Leash control areas
- Dog exercise areas
- Conservation prohibited areas
- Menacing dogs

The Policy also contains provisions relating to the issue of infringement notices, delegations and procedures for the return of roaming dogs. Most of these requirements are specifically reflected in the *Control of Dogs Bylaw*, which has been adopted from *NZS 9201 Part 12:1999* (the Model General Bylaw produced by Standards New Zealand), with local amendments based on the Policy. The Bylaw was reviewed and reaffirmed, under s158 of the Local Government Act 2002, on 10 June 2008. It is due to be reviewed again in 2018, under s159 of the Local Government Act 2002.

Provisions relating to enforcement procedures and neutering of classified menacing dogs were added to the Policy in 2006.

In 2010 all of Council's policies relating to dog control were combined into one document under the title *Dog Control Policy*. This incorporated the *Spay/Neuter Reduction and Unclaimed Dogs Destruction Fee Policy* that was adopted in 1993 into the *Dog Control Policy*.

## Dog Control Practices

The *Dog Control Policy* and the supporting Bylaw are enforcement tools for ensuring that the legislation is complied with. Day to day dog control is enforced initially through an education policy and only in the event of continued non-compliance are infringement notices or prosecution options pursued.

The majority of the district's dog owners are responsible and compliant and Council's Animal Control staff have noticed an improvement in all areas of dog control over the last seven years. However there remains a minority of non-compliant owners who do not take the responsibility of dog ownership seriously. These owners remain a challenge for Animal Control Officers as we aim to achieve responsible ownership District wide.

An outline of the dog control activities undertaken by Animal Control Officers, entitled "*What Your [Dog] Registration Pays For*" is attached as Annex B. This document is used as an education tool for dog owners.

### **Public Education and Information**

Current activities include recognition for dog owners displaying positive behaviour and provision of information about responsible dog ownership.

Throughout the year Animal Control Officers carried out micro chipping days in Reefton. The number of people bringing in their dogs to take advantage of these days has increased with each visit.

The Executive of the Top of the South Branch of Animal Control Officers has devised an education programme for pre-schools, primary schools and at risk groups, (i.e. meter readers, Posties etc). The programme will be delivered by officers from all Councils in the Branch. During the 2012/13 financial year Animal Control Officers have delivered the programme at Granity School.

### **Statistical Information**

Attached as Annex A is the statistical information required to be reported on under s10A(2) of the Act.

### **Outcomes of the Report**

This report is required to be adopted by Council and publicly notified before a copy is sent to the Secretary for Local Government.

## Dog Control Statistics for the 2012/2013 Financial Year

	2012/13	2011/12
Number of registered dogs	2,366	2,343
Number of probationary owners	0	0
Number of disqualified owners	0	0
Number of dogs classified dangerous under Section 31 1B due to sworn evidence	0	6
Number of dogs classified as menacing under Section 33C (by breed)	5	5
Number of dogs classified as menacing under Section 33A 1 (b) (l) (by threat)	2	0

## Number of infringement notices issued for:

	2012/13	2011/12
▪ Failing to register a dog	22	35
▪ Failure to comply with menacing classification	0	0
▪ Failure to comply with dangerous classification	0	2
▪ Failure to keep dog under control	5	8
▪ Failure to comply with Bylaw	1	0
<b>Total Infringement Notices</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>45</b>

## Number of dog related complaints consisting of:

	2012/13	2011/12
▪ Barking complaints - Section 55 notice of barking dog issued causing nuisance	92	89
▪ Dogs impounded - wandering dogs	80	52
▪ Dog/s attack stock/cats/poultry/wildlife	13	13
▪ Dog/s attack other dog/s	15	10
▪ Dog/s attack on people	2	6
▪ Aggressive dog behaviour	16	9
▪ Miscellaneous (including lost, found, neglected and defecating dogs)	245	305
<b>Total Dog Related Complaints</b>	<b>463</b>	<b>484</b>

There were no prosecutions in the 2012/13 financial year (none in 2011/12).

## **WHAT YOUR REGISTRATION PAYS FOR**

### **Response to Complaints**

Barking  
Wandering  
Attacks on people  
Attacks on Stock  
Animal Welfare Concerns

### **Impounding Service**

Maintenance of Pound facilities Westport  
Portable traps and cages  
Extensive Re-Homing of dogs  
Destruction of unwanted dogs  
Catching equipment and safety equipment

### **Enforcement Activity**

Property Inspections  
House to house registration checks  
Issuing permits  
Court costs  
Dangerous dog classification and follow ups  
Issue and processing of infringement fines

### **Annual Costs**

Two officers covering Westport, Karamea Reefton, Punakaiki & Springs Junction  
Registration Tags/forms/postage  
Pamphlets– forms advertising  
Vehicle Maintenance, replacement, mileage  
Maintenance of National Dog Data Base

### **Associated Costs**

Maintenance of dog register  
Office space, computer system  
Phones and on call numbers  
Maintenance of signs  
Secretarial work  
Ranger education  
Public Information

**DOGS NEED TO BE REGISTERED BEFORE 12 WEEKS OF AGE**

## **Dog Control Act 1996**

### **Section 10A Territorial Authorities must report on dog control policy and practices**

- (1) A territorial authority must, in respect of each financial year, report on the administration of –
  - a. Its dog control policy adopted under Section 10; and
  - b. Its dog control practices.
  
- (2) The report must include, in respect of each financial year, information relating to –
  - 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.
  
- (3) The territorial authority must give public notice of the report –
  - a. By means of a notice published in –
    - i. 1 or more daily newspapers circulating in the territorial authority district; or
    - ii. 1 or more other newspapers that have at least an equivalent circulation in that district to the daily newspaper circulating in that district; and
  - b. By any means that the territorial authority thinks desirable in the circumstances.
  
- (4) The territorial authority must also, within 1 month after adopting the report, send a copy of it to the Secretary for Local Government.