

BULLER DISTRICT COUNCIL
24 SEPTEMBER 2025

AGENDA ITEM: **4.2 ADOPTION OF REPORT UNDER SECTION 10A OF
THE DOG CONTROL ACT 1996**

Prepared by: Tracy Judd
 Compliance Manager

Reviewed by: Simon Bastion
 Group Manager Regulatory Services

Public Excluded: **No**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The report is an overview of Animal Management practices and statistical information pursuant to s10A of the Dog Control Act 1996 relating to the 2024/2025 financial year. This report is required to be adopted by Council and publicly notified before a copy is sent to the Secretary for Local Government.
2. Section 10A of the Act requires Council to report on the administration of its Dog Control Policy and practices each financial year. It also specifies certain information that must be included in the report.

DRAFT RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Adopts the Buller District Council Annual Report on Dog Control Policy and Practices for the 2024/2025 financial year.**
- 2. Requests staff to advise the Secretary for Local Government that the report has been published in accordance with Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996, and Section 5(1) of the Local Government Act 2002.**

ISSUES & DISCUSSION

BACKGROUND

3. 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 in accordance with the graduated response model and only in the event of continued non-compliance or sufficiently serious matters are infringement notices or prosecution options pursued.

BULLER DISTRICT COUNCIL
24 SEPTEMBER 2025

4. The majority of the known dog owners within the district are responsible and compliant. Animal Control Officers have focused on educating the non-compliant owners and while this is more time consuming, generally a positive result is achieved.
5. An outline of the dog control activities undertaken by Animal Control Officers, entitled "*What Your Dog Registration Pays For*" is attached as Attachment 2. This document is used as an educational tool for dog owners.
6. In the 2024/2025 financial year, the Dog Pound has had the exercise yard and parking upgraded. There has been extra drainage and new gravel added as this maintenance that was overdue to be completed.
7. For the 2025/2026 registration year, Buller District Council has offered a 20% discount on dog registration fees for Super Gold card holders to support elderly residents with the cost of owning companion pets. This has been well received in the community.
8. Animal Management continue to work with Dog Assistance With Gelding and Spays (DAWGS) who are a non-profit organisation operating in the Buller District. They are financed via local fundraising initiatives and have assisted by covering the cost to spay or neuter impounded dogs so that they may be suitable for rehoming.
9. Social media remains an effective communication platform for delivering consistent messaging. Our posts highlight dogs available for adoption, registration date reminders etc. Notably social media has reunited lost dogs with owners.
10. Animal Management held another Mutt dog show in 2025, this part of the annual A & P show. This event is always immensely popular and positive. Classes such as the obstacle course always attract a big crowd.

OPTIONS

11. There is a legislative requirement for Council to adopt an Annual Report on Dog Control Policy and Practices and make the report publicly available in the same year. This report is submitted for adoption in accordance with those legislative requirements.

Advantages

12. Council meets its obligations of the Act by adopting the Annual Report on Dog Control Policy and Practices thus maintaining legislative requirements.

Disadvantages

13. Failure to adopt the report would mean council breaches the Act.

PREFERRED OPTION

14. Adopt the report as per the recommendations.

NEXT STEPS

15. The Secretary for Local Government is advised that it has been published in accordance with Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996, and Section 5(1) of the Local Government Act 2002.

CONSIDERATIONS

Strategic Impact

16. The adoption of the attached Annual Report is an administrative function required of Council under the Dog Control Act 1996 and is therefore of low significance in accordance with Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

Significance Assessment

17. Section 76AA of the Local Government Act requires the Council to adopt a policy on significance and engagement. The Council Policy on significance can be found by clicking the following link:
<https://bullerdc.govt.nz/media/f2ofzb4z/buller-district-council-significance-and-engagement-policy-2021-2031-ltp.pdf>
18. This report is a legislative requirement under the Dog Control Act 1996, that following adoption, must be notified and made publicly available online.
19. This report is assessed as being low significance.

Risk Management Implications / Opportunities

20. The following risks or opportunities are identified with the issues identified in this report:

BULLER DISTRICT COUNCIL
24 SEPTEMBER 2025

21. If Council does not adopt a report on its Dog Control Policy and practices for the 2024/2025 financial year, it will not meet the requirements of section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996.

Policy & Legislative Considerations

22. The Report can be used to measure the effectiveness of Council's Dog Control Policy and practices, and to inform their review.

23. Once adopted, the Act requires Council to give public notice of the Report and send a copy of it to the Secretary for Local Government within one month of its adoption.

Māori Impact Statement

24. The decision does not involve a significant decision in relation to ancestral land or a body of water or other elements of intrinsic value; therefore, this decision does not specifically impact Tangata Whenua, their culture, and traditions.

Financial Considerations

25. There is no financial implication relevant to this decision.

Communication Internal / External

26. As this item does not trigger Council's Significance and Engagement Policy, public consultation is not required. It is a legislative requirement under the Dog Control Act 1996, that following adoption, must be notified and made publicly available online.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Dog Statistics 2025 v 3 [4.2.1 - 1 page]



Buller District Council Annual Report on Dog Control Policy and Practices

Statistical information required to be reported on under section 10A (2) of the Act.

Registration - s10A(2)9(a)-(d)

	2023/2024	2024/2025
Number of registered dogs	2,245	2,307
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	2	1
Number of dogs classified as menacing under Section 33C (by breed)	0	2
Number of dogs classified as menacing under Section 33A 1 (b) (I) (by threat)	3	0



Registered dogs

For the year 2024/25

2,307 ▲ +62

For the year 2023/24

2,245

Number of infringement notices issued for - S10A (2)(e):

	2023/2024	2024/2025
Failing to register a dog	8	6
Failure to comply with menacing classification	1	1
Failure to comply with dangerous classification	0	1
Failure to keep dog under control	11	4
Failure to comply with Bylaw	0	0
Falsely notifying death of dog	0	0
Total Infringement Notices	20	12



Infringement notices

For the year 2024/25

12 ▼ -8

For the year 2023/24

20

Number of dog related complaints - s10A(f)(g)

	2023/2024	2024/2025
Barking complaints	57	51
Wandering dogs/impounded	99 / 34	147 / 10
Dog/s aggressive behaviour including rushing	49	17
Dog/s attack	26	15
Miscellaneous (including lost, found, neglected, information related enquiries, & defecating dogs)	184	148
Prosecutions	0	0
Total Dog Related Complaints	415	378



Complaints

For the year 2024/25

378 ▼ -37

For the year 2023/24

415