

WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL**REPORT FOR DECISION**

FILE NO and TRIM NO: ANC-06, GOV-01-07 / 220718121903

REPORT TO: DISTRICT PLANNING AND REGULATION COMMITTEE

DATE OF MEETING: 23 August 2022

AUTHOR(S): Billy Charlton, Environmental Services Manager

SUBJECT: Annual Report on Dog Control 2021 / 2022

ENDORSED BY:
(for Reports to Council,
Committees or Boards)


 General Manager


 Acting Chief Executive
1. SUMMARY

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to present, to the District Planning and Regulation Committee, the Annual Report for Dog Control 2021/22.
- 1.2. Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996 (The Act), requires that Waimakariri District Council (WDC) provides specific information to the Secretary for Local Government (Dept. of Internal Affairs) by way of an annual report each financial year (within one month of the Council adopting this report).
 - 1.2.1. This information is found in the attached Annual Report on Dog Control.
 - 1.2.2. Under Section 5(3) of the Act the statistics contained within the attached report will also be publicly available on the Council's website.

Attachments:

- i. 2021/22 Annual Report on Dog Control (220718121942)

2. RECOMMENDATION

THAT the District Planning and Regulation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 220718121903.
- (b) **Approves** the attached 2021/22 Annual Report on Dog Control to the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) (Trim: 220718121942).
- (c) **Circulates** the report to the Community Boards for information.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1. The DIA collates Dog Control reports from Territorial Authorities (TA) on an annual basis. This enables the DIA to maintain nationwide records and statistics in relation to dogs, dog numbers, the number of menacing and dangerous dogs, along with the number and type of dog related complaints received by TAs for each financial year.
- 3.2. A 10 year review of the Waimakariri District Council Dog Control Bylaw was undertaken in November 2019, adopted by Council on the 3 December 2019 and came into force on the 16 December 2019. The objectives of the policy include:

- To encourage responsible dog ownership
- To provide for Dog Access to Public areas
- To enforce dog owner obligations
- To minimise any danger, distress or nuisance from dogs to the community

4. **ISSUES AND OPTIONS**

- 4.1. Continued population growth across the district is seen as the primary driver for the increase in registered dogs. With the steady increase in dog numbers it would be expected that the number of complaints would increase. However, there were 301 less complaints (-17%) compared to the previous year. This in part may be attributed to the COVID -19 lock down of Aug 2021.
- 4.2. There are four areas of information which are notable; being the increase in 'Dog Rushing People' statistics with a 63.3% increase, from 30 to 49 reported incidents. There was also a 10% increase in the number of infringements issued. There were fewer "Dog Attack Dog" incidents with a 17% reduction for the year. Also, there were fewer "Barking Dog" complaints with a 14.5% decrease in numbers of complaints from 408 the previous year to 349 for 2021/2022.
- 4.3. Given the continuing increase of registered dogs numbers, over the next 12 months we will be considering our options with a review of our level of service, resourcing and after-hours contract support to ensure we can continue providing 24/7 service.

Implications for Community Wellbeing

There are no implications on community wellbeing by the issues and options that are the subject matter of this report.

- 4.4. The Management Team has reviewed this report and support the recommendations.

5. **COMMUNITY VIEWS**

5.1. **Mana whenua**

Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri hapū are not likely to be affected by, or have an interest in the subject matter of this report.

5.2. **Groups and Organisations**

There are no groups and organisations likely to be affected by, or to have an interest in the subject matter of this report. This report is a statutory requirement of the Council intended by the Act to provide a summary of dog control statistics to the public and the DIA. The information is collected district-wide and is not broken down into wards.

5.3. **Wider Community**

The wider community is not likely to be affected by, or to have an greater interest than normal in the subject matter of this report.

6. **OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISK MANAGEMENT**

6.1. **Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications of the decisions sought by this report. Council's Animal Management unit is funded entirely by dog registration fees.

6.2. **Sustainability and Climate Change Impacts**

The recommendations in this report do not have sustainability and/or climate change impacts.

6.3 **Risk Management**

There are no risks arising from the adoption/implementation of the recommendations in this report.

Health and Safety

There are no health and safety risks arising from the adoption/implementation of the recommendations in this report.

7. CONTEXT

7.1. Consistency with Policy

This matter is not a matter of significance in terms of the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

7.2. Authorising Legislation

Dog Control Act 1996: Section 10A -Territorial authority 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—*
 - a. *give public notice, as defined in section 5(1) of the Local Government Act 2002, of the report; and*
 - b. *make the report publicly available, as described in section 5(3) of that Act.*

7.3. Consistency with Community Outcomes

The Council's community outcomes are relevant to the actions arising from recommendations in this report.

Public spaces and facilities are plentiful, accessible and high quality, and reflect cultural identity -

- There is a wide variety of public places and spaces to meet people's needs.
- There are wide-ranging opportunities for people to enjoy the outdoors.

7.4. **Authorising Delegations**

Delegation S-DM 1026:

The District Planning and Regulation Committee shall enjoy all the powers granted to a standing committee under this Manual and shall be responsible for determining policy within the following general jurisdiction:

- *Dog registration and control.*

Our Reference: ANC-006/ 220718121942

23 August 2022

The Secretary for Local Government
Department of Internal Affairs
PO Box 805
WELLINGTON 6140

Dear Secretary for Local Government

Waimakariri District Council: Annual Report on Dog Control 2021 / 22

In accordance with the Dog Control Act 1996, Section 10A, the following is a copy of the annual report for Waimakariri District Council's dog control policy and practices.

Dog Control Policy

A 10 year review of the Waimakariri District Council Dog Control Bylaw was undertaken in November 2019, adopted by Council on the 3 December 2019 and came into force on the 16 December 2019. The objectives of the policy include:

- To encourage responsible dog ownership
- To provide for Dog Access to Public areas
- To enforce dog owner obligations
- To minimise any danger, distress or nuisance from dogs to the community

Education

The Waimakariri Animal Management Team delivers education to schools in the District encouraging safe practices around dogs, including bite prevention.

Dog Parks

The Council currently maintains four dog parks:

- **Kaiapoi Dog Park** – This dog park was opened in Kaiapoi in November 2019. The park has been built on previous red zone land and has an area of 2.2 hectares (1.6h for large dogs and 0.6h for small dogs). The park features a variety of mature trees, shrubs, water outlets and seating.
- **Southbrook Dog Park** - This 9540m² dog park was established in Southbrook Park, Rangiora, in 2010. Access to the park is either from Coronation Street or the Southbrook Park car park. The park features a pleasant walking circuit leading to a large fenced area where dogs can run and exercise. Information signs, water and seating are provided.
- **Millton Memorial Park Dog Park** - This dog park, at the corner of Millton Avenue and River Road, Rangiora, covers 2.6 hectares and was opened in 2015. The park features a 'large dog area' and 'small dog area'.
- **Gladstone Road Dog Park** – This dog park was opened in early 2018 and covers approximately 2 hectares.

The dog parks have a Facebook community page www.facebook.com/RangioraDogParks/.

Dog Control on parks and reserves

To protect public safety and enjoyment, the Dog Control Bylaw 2019 classifies the district's parks and reserves into three categories: Dog Prohibited Areas, Leash Control Areas and Under Control Areas.

The First Schedule of the bylaw lists all the district's reserves and their classifications. You can exercise your dog off the leash in Under Control Areas as long as you keep the dog under continuous supervision and control.

Reporting Requirement	2020/21	2021/22
The number of registered dogs	12912	13190
The number of registered owners	8842	9168
The number of probationary owners and disqualified owners	0	0
The number of dogs classified as dangerous (section 31).	6	4
The number of dogs classified as menacing (section 33).	30	40

Dog Attacks on People	27	18
Dog Rushing People	30	49
Dog Attacks on Stock	16	20
Dog Attacks on Dogs	51	42
Barking Dogs	408	349
Roaming Dogs	225	160
Dog Welfare Complaints	24	13
Unregistered Dogs resulting in infringements	103	112
Lost / Found	629	537
Callers requesting advice	263	175
TOTAL	1776	1475

The number of prosecutions undertaken.	0	0
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The number of Infringement Notices issued.	117	129
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Yours sincerely

Billy Charlton
Environmental Services Manager