

Buller District Council Annual Report on Dog Control Policy and Practices 2007/2008

Purpose of Report

The Dog Control Act 1996 requires that territorial authorities report annually on specified requirements relating to their dog control policy and practices. This report addresses those requirements.

Background

The provisions of Section 10A of the Dog Control Act requires territorial authorities to report annually on dog control policy and practices. Section 10A of the Act is included in this report as Annex C.

Policy

Section 4.13 of the policy manual contains the Dog Control Policy. This policy, which was adopted in 1997, was reviewed and reaffirmed in August 2004. It is considered there is no need to further amend this existing policy.

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 as the Model General Bylaw produced by Standards New Zealand, with local amendments based on this policy.

In summary, the current policy is considered as appropriate and working well within the district and understood by dog owners and there is no need to amend the policy.

Dog Control Practices

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

Pre-School and Elderly Groups

An education programme involving visits to schools by animal control staff is continuing this year. A professionally produced "Dog Safety" presentation was adopted for this programme.

Dog control activities however continue to remain an exceptionally difficult undertaking when unfortunately some dog owners are abusive and uncooperative. Such confrontation, abuse and criticism does not provide for pleasant working conditions and may have a significant influence on the short tenure of animal control officers.

Statistical Information

Attached as Annex A is the statistical information required to be reported on under Section 10A(2).

Outcomes of the Report

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

Annex A
Dog Control Report 2007/2008

Dog Control Statistics
During the 2007/2008 Financial Year

Number of registered dogs	2,146
Number of probationary owners	0
Number of disqualified owners	0
Number of dogs classified dangerous under Section 31 1B due to sworn evidence	5
Number of dogs classified as menacing under Section 33C (by breed)	5
Number of dogs classified as menacing under Section 33A 1 (b) (i) (by threat)	3

Number of infringement notices issued for:

▪ Failing to register a dog	7
▪ Failure to comply with menacing classification	1
▪ Failure to comply with dangerous classification	0
▪ Failure to keep dog under control	7
Total Infringement Notices	15

Number of dog related complaints consisting of:

▪ Barking complaints - Section 55 - notice of barking dog issued causing nuisance	106
▪ Dogs impounded - wandering dogs	98
▪ Dog/s attack stock	5
▪ Dog/s attack other dog/s	4
▪ Dog/s attack on people	4
▪ Aggressive dog behaviour	39
▪ Miscellaneous (including lost, found, neglected and defecating dogs)	215
Total Dog Related Complaints	471

Number of prosecutions	0
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WHAT YOUR DOG REGISTRATION PAYS FOR

24 HOUR RESPONSE TO COMPLAINTS

1. Barking
2. Wandering
3. Attacks on People
4. Attacks on animals/stock
5. Animal welfare concerns

24 HOUR IMPOUNDING SERVICE

1. Maintenance of pound facilities in Westport and Reefton, rates
2. Portable traps and cages
3. Re-homing of dogs
4. Destruction of unwanted dogs
5. Catching equipment/safety equipment

ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

1. Property inspections
2. House to house dog registration checks
3. Issuing permits
4. Court costs
5. Dangerous dog classification & follow-ups
6. Issue & processing of infringement fines

ANNUAL COSTS

1. Two full-time officers
2. Registration tags/forms/ postage
3. Pamphlets – forms/advertising
4. Vehicle maintenance, replacement, mileage

ASSOCIATED COSTS

1. Maintenance of dog register
2. Office space, computer system
3. Phones and On-call numbers
4. Maintenance of signs
5. Secretarial work
6. Ranger education
7. Public information - school programme
8. Overhead management costs
9. Insurance
10. Legal expenses
11. Building maintenance

Annex C
Dog Control Report 2007/2008

The 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.