

Meeting: Regulatory & Services Committee
Meeting Date: 13 September 2023
Subject: **Dog Control – Policy and Practices Report 2022/23**
File No.: 307000

1 Background

Kawerau District Council ('KDC'), each financial year, is required under section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996, to publicly report on:

- The administration of the KDC Dog Control Policy 2019 and the KDC Dog Control practices; and
- Provide statistical information regarding the number of registered dogs, complaints received, infringements issued, prosecutions and the number of probationary or disqualified owners, and the number of dogs classified as either dangerous or menacing.

The completed report outlining the required information for the 2022/2023 financial year is attached.

Upon approval the report must be adopted and publicly notified on the Council website and in at least one newspaper circulating in the district and made accessible in a manner appropriate for the purpose of the document. Advertising of the document is still to be arranged.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 That the report "Dog Control – Policy and Practices Report 2022/2023" be received.
- 2 That Council adopts and publicly notifies the Dog Control – Policy and Practices Report for the 2022/2023 year and forwards an electronic link to this document on Council's website to the Secretary, Department of Internal Affairs.



Lisa Singfield

Team Leader, Animal Control & Compliance

DOG CONTROL

Policy and Practices Report 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023



About this Report

Kawerau District Council ('KDC') is required under section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996 to publicly report for each financial year, on:

- The administration of the KDC's dog control policy and practices; and
- Provide statistical information regarding the number of registered dogs, complaints received, infringements issued, prosecutions and the number of probationary or disqualified owners, and the number of dogs classified as either dangerous or menacing.

This report has been prepared to fulfil the statutory requirements for the 2022/2023 dog registration year.

1) Dog Control in the District

The Kawerau District Council had 1485 dogs registered at 30 June 2023. Most of the dogs are urban pets with some hunting dogs. There were two currently registered rural working dogs in the District; Kawerau is a compact, predominantly urban territory with only one substantial farm property flanking the north-west and south-west boundaries.

Council's dog control service provides 24/7 coverage to deal with dog attacks, roaming, barking and other complaints.

2) Our Team

Council employs two dog rangers to monitor and enforce the provisions of the DCA and the Bylaw.

These two positions report to the Team Leader, Animal Control and Compliance.

This year, the team was short-staffed with one of the roles, only fulfilling 244 hours worked. The afterhours contractor filled in where any staff leave was taken.

All afterhours including weekends, patrol and fieldwork is undertaken by contract.

The aim is to maintain effective complaint/incident response, and high level of attention to systems and data management.

Council seeks to foster good working relationships with local veterinarians, animal rescue groups, and the SPCA inspectors at the Rotorua Office and networks well with other councils in the Bay of Plenty region and beyond. An excellent relationship has also been established with Ministry of Primary Industries in introducing processes for animal welfare management during emergency response.



3) Our Policies and Rules

The Kawerau District Council Animal Control team operates under the following policies and rules:

- Kawerau District Council Dog Control Policy 2019
- Kawerau District Council Dog Control Bylaw 2019
- Dog Control Act 1996
- Impounding Act 1955

The Kawerau District Council Dog Control Policy 2019 and Bylaw were reviewed early 2019 and became effective from 1 March 2019.

4) Dogs Prohibited, Leash Only and Dog Exercise Areas —

The District is fortunate in having a number of varied locations where owners may freely exercise their dogs (providing they be under control and not causing annoyance to others). The exercise areas are all sign-posted and are used daily by members of the public. Feedback from dog owners on the use of these areas continues to be positive.

The dog prohibited areas and dog exercise areas are monitored on a daily basis by both the in-house and contract dog rangers.

The following places are designated by Council as dog exercise areas:

- All public reserves situated beside waterways and measuring at least one chain (20 metres) wide, including:
 - Keith McKenzie Park
 - Prideaux Park (except marked playing fields)
 - Stoneham Walk
 - Pat Baker Reserve
 - Roy Weston Walk
 - Tarawera Park (except marked playing fields)
 - Lyn Hartley Reserve
 - Firmin Field, and
 - Boyce Park.
- Monika Lanham Reserve
- Hilldale Reserve (except the children's playground)
- Stoneham Park
- Delamere Drive Reserve (the neighbourhood reserve between Delamere Drive, Valley Road and Ryder Place).

Where any organised activity is being undertaken on playing fields and reserves, including specified dog exercise areas, dogs must be restrained.

An annual audit of signage is undertaken each year in the designated dog exercise areas. At present "dog exercise area" and "Dogs must be controlled at all times" signs are installed.

5) Dog Registration Fees

Council fees (inclusive of GST) for the 2022/2023 year:

Registration Fees

Neutered Dog	\$37.00
Entire Dog	\$74.00

The Animal Control Team engages with dog owners who have not registered their dogs to ensure compliance is achieved. It is a continued focus for the team.

6) Other Fees

Impounding Fees

First Impounding	\$85.00
Second Impounding	\$116.50
Third and subsequent	\$148.00
Sustenance Fee (per day or part thereof)	\$11.00
Seizure Fee	\$85.00

Other Fees

Microchipping Fee	\$16.00
Replacement Tag Fee	\$5.30
Rehoming Fee	\$11.00

Dog owners who had registered their dog the previous year, but did not register their dog in the current year were issued an infringement notice with a 14-day diversion option, with the application of penalty (50%). The infringement notice was waived if payment was made within the 14-day diversion period.

Where unregistered dogs are identified during daily patrols, incident responses or other notifications, these are generally seized and impounded and written notice given to the owner.

7) Dog Education and Information

Council provided a copy of its Dog Control Bylaw 2019 to every dog owner along with his or her registration renewal notice.

Council also has a range of educational brochures available at all times in the Council Office foyer:

- Neutering – The benefits of de-sexing
- SPCA NZ – Dog and Puppy Care
- Dog Microchipping
- My Safety Around Dogs
- Taku Haumarū Me Te Kuri – Te Reo Māori
- Keeping Our Children Safe Around Dogs – English
- Colouring-in and Activity Book for children
- If your dog fouls in a public place, what should you do
- Kawerau District Council Dog Control Policy (2019)
- Kawerau District Council Dog Control Bylaw 2019
- Humane Society of New Zealand Inc – Application for assistance from the spay/neuter Fund



Council's Website

A new Dog Control category on Council's website has been created this year, called "Keeping Safe around Dogs". The emphasis is on preventing dog attacks and providing the Community with useful resources developed by both the Department of Internal Affairs and the University of Waikato.

These research-based education resources provide practical and reliable guidelines for safe interaction between children and pet dogs in their homes or known to them.

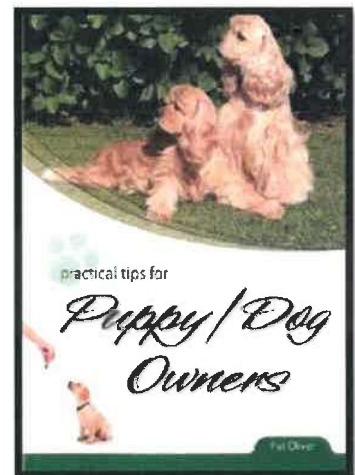
Other Information on Council's Website:

- Complaints
- Whats On for Dogs
- Dog Registration
- Dog Policies and Regulations
- Responsible Dog Ownership
- Dog Exercise Areas
- Dog Impounding
- Reporting Cruelty to Dogs
- Adopt a Dog
- Dog Health and Vaccination
- Dog Exercise Park Etiquette
- De-Sex your dog
- Animals - Planning for Emergencies

Information Book for Dogs Classified As Dangerous

A copy of the author Pat Oliver's Manual entitled "Practical tips for puppy/dog Owners" is available to give to all dog owners which dogs are classified as dangerous.

Pat Oliver has more than 25 years' experience as a professional dog trainer; this book provides excellent basic training, obedience, nutrition and maintenance advice with easy to follow directions for dog training. Both owner and dog will benefit from the information Pat Oliver shares in this guidebook.

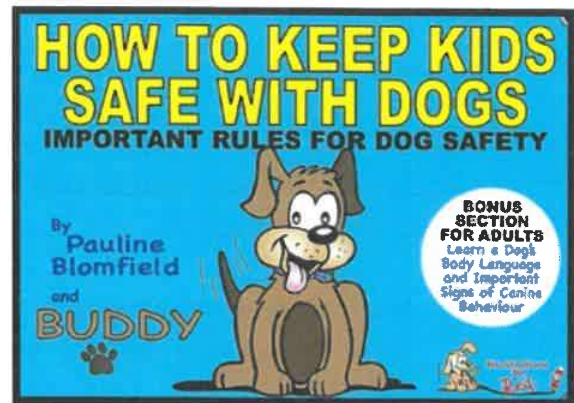


No dogs were declared Dangerous this 2022/2023 year.

Keeping our Children Safe around Dogs

The new Mountainview Montessori Preschool on Onslow Street, was given a copy of the book "How to Keep Kids Safe with Dogs" by Pauline Blomfield & Buddy.

This book is about how to keep safe around dogs. This book can be shared as a read aloud picture book with young children or enjoyed and read alone by older children.



With full colour illustrations teaching children important lessons and covers topics including dogs body language and important signs of canine behaviour.

It is hoped that the books will reduce the risk of dog attacks on children.

Other preschools and new entrant schools received a copy of this book the last year (2021/2022).

Early Childhood Centres and New Entrants Class

The below Pre-Schools and Schools (new entrant class) received copies of the following educational material, for children to take home and read together with their whanau:

- My Safety Around Dogs
- Taku Haumarū Me Te Kuri – Te Reo Māori
- Keeping Our Children Safe Around Dogs – English



Pre-School	
Kawerau Pre-School Learning Centre	56 River Road
Poipoia te Mokopuna Playgroup	117 Onslow Street
Nga Ririki Early Learning Centre	40 Ballance Street
Nga Purapura Hou Kohanga Reo Te Kohanga	129 Valley Road
Putauaki Kindergarten	10 Marshall Street
Tamariki Play Centre	33 Galway Street
Te Akoranga Kindergarten	44 Grey Street
Te Manaaki Educational Pre-School Trust	22 Peter Lippa Drive
Tu Manako Kohanga Reo	119 River Road
Te Urunga mai o Te Ra Kohanga Reo	8 Ryder Place
Tu Whakaara o Tae Rautahi Kohanga Reo	36-40 Grey Street
Mountainview Montessori Preschool	111 Onslow Street

School – New Entrants	
Kawerau Putauaki School	87-89 Fenton Mill Road
Kawerau South School	175-187 Onslow Street
Kura Kaupapa, Te Whata Tau O Putauaki	Galway Street

8) Dogs Rehomed

Any dog that is not claimed by the owner (and has not been involved in a serious offence) is temperament tested with people and other dogs and those that pass enter our adoption programme and are advertised through Kawerau District Council's Adopt-a-Dog Facebook page.



Photo supplied by Tracy van der Merwe who rehomed Mia from Council's Adopt-A-Dog Facebook page: Mia's not only been a poster girl for the Trails Trust but Tracy and Mia are also members of the Mount Maunganui Dog Training Club and won Ribbons and Certificates for her Agility Skills.

The Dog Control Team work closely with rescue groups and charities to try and rehome as many dogs as possible.

This year 48 dogs and puppies were rehomed.

Statistics - Dogs Rehomed					
2022-2023	2021-2022	2020-2021	2019-2020	2018-2019	2017-2018
48	41	46	37	25	41

9) Dog Welfare Community Clinic

The Dog Control Team are working with the KTown Community Animal Welfare Society to place more emphasis on the importance of de-sexing, in efforts to stem the flow of dogs entering shelters.

Planned activities include supporting Welfare group initiatives and enforcing the de-sexing of impounded dogs through its Dog Control Bylaw.

Any puppies surrendered to the dog pound, and where the dog owner is known, the Team will work with the dog owner to ensure that the mother/father dog is de-sexed to stop the breeding.

The KTown Community Animal Welfare Society held a Dog Welfare Community Clinic, on 5 November 2022 which was funded by Kawerau District Council and with assistance from Vets4Pets.

Services offered:

- Free puppy and dog care advice.
- Free flea and worm treatment.
- Microchips inserted free of charge.
- Free dog bedding and treats.
- Free de-sexing if owners held a Community Services or Gold Card.

KTOWN COMMUNITY ANIMAL WELFARE SOCIETY (KTown CAW)

Dog Welfare Community Clinic

Saturday, 5th November 2022
9.30am to 11.30am
Ranfurly Court, Kawerau

Kawerau residents with a Community Services Card or Gold Card (and their dogs) are invited to our FREE Dog Welfare Community Clinic

- Free on site flea and worm treatment
- Free on site microchipping for your dog or puppy
- Free on site puppy and dog care advice
- Free dog or puppy de-sexing vouchers. There is a limited number of free vouchers, but other assistance may be available

- All dogs and pups must remain on a lead.
- No entry to sick or dogs on heat.
- Owners are responsible for keeping control of and cleaning up after their pets.

Conditions apply:

- Clinic is available to Kawerau residents only
- You must bring proof of address and a Community Services Card or Gold Card
- To qualify for a free de-sexing voucher, dogs must be present at the clinic and have no pre-existing health issues or past illnesses

This Dog Welfare Community Clinic is proudly brought to you with assistance from Vets4Pets and funded by Kawerau District Council



Civil Defence Information provided at the Dog Welfare Community Clinic

This year we had a guest dog named Stan from Civil Defence spend the morning at the Dog Welfare Community Clinic.

Staff set up a Civil Defence display and provided the following Information / and gave advice on:

- Animals affected by a volcanic eruption.
- Animals affected by heat wave.
- Protect your animals in an emergency – First Aid Kit for Animals
- Protect your animals in an emergency – Planning for Pets
- Animals affected by dry or drought conditions – Livestock, horses, lifestyle block and small holdings.
- Animals affected by flood – Advice for livestock, lifestyle block, horse and pet owners



10) Free De-sexing and 1st Vaccinations provided by North Auckland Dog Rescue for the Kawerau District

Thanks to a generous grant from the Lottery Grants Board, the North Auckland Dog Rescue in association with KTown Community Animal Welfare Society offered free canine de-sexing and 1st vaccination to community services card holders in the Kawerau District.

A total of 76 Dogs were de-sexed and vaccinated.

The Team Leader has initiated conversations with Janene from North Auckland Dog Rescue and they hoping to undertake this initiative.

FREE
DOG DESEXING +
VACCINATIONS

KAWERAU DISTRICT
 For Community Services Card holders

Email: dogrescue@xtra.co.nz
 or text Janene on 027 202 9777

Lottery Grants Board
 Te Pūnaha Te Whānau

North Auckland
DOG RESCUE

KTOWN COMMUNITY
 ANIMAL WELFARE SOCIETY
 (KTown C&W)

BAYVETS
 BAY VETERINARY GROUP LTD

11) Unwanted Dogs

Council accepts unwanted dogs into the pound for disposal either by adoption or by euthanasia.

Accepting dogs is intended to solve a problem where the owner is having difficulties managing or caring for the dog. If euthanasia is the only option for disposal, owners will be encouraged to use veterinary practices in the first instance.

This 2022-2023 year, 93 dogs and puppies were surrendered to Council. This is a significant increase on previous years, and may be contributed to the permanent closure of the SPCA centre, in the Kawerau District.

Statistics – Dogs Surrendered to Council					
2022-2023	2021-2022	2020-2021	2019-2020	2018-2019	2017-2018
93	30	37	35	32	41

12) Health & Safety

Health and Safety of staff is an ongoing top priority for Council. The team are encouraged to report near misses and incidents, as well as developing better protocols for sharing knowledge of incidents and hazardous situations and people between Dog Control Staff and Contractors.

The Dog Control Team will continuously review and improve health and safety procedures.

13) Other Information

The Dog Control Team and contract rangers carried out regular daily patrols, during normal working hours and after hours, with specified targets for the number of patrols for the year.

During the year, 502 weekday and 370 after-hours (including specials) patrols (each of one hour's duration) were carried out.

Statistical Information

STREET PATROLS

Street Patrols (office/day hours)	502
Street Patrols (after hours & including Specials)	<u>370</u>
Total	<u>872</u>

DOG CONTROL RESPONSE – Total Statutory Incidents

There were a total of 1,050 request for services from the Public.

The In-House dog ranger (a) and Contractor (b) attended 776 Statutory Incidents which are reported dog complaints from the Public for complaints such as barking, roaming, general, fighting, rush and attack incidents.

The Dog Control Officer dealt with 237 public enquiries which can range from registration and impound enquiries, infringement appeals and concerns where extra patrols and monitoring patrols are established.

	Total	1,050
a) Request for Service to Dog Control Officer		237
b) Request for Service to In-House Dog Ranger (Statutory Incident)		445
c) Requests for Service to Contractor – Afterhours (Statutory Incidents)		368

b) and c) = 813

Less instructions / non KPI incidents to the Contractor while they were covering any Employment Leave taken by the dog ranger that are not KPI Audited. =776

STATUTORY INCIDENTS (KPI Audited)

Barking	206
Roaming	444
General	74
Fighting	0
Rush or Threaten	23
Attacks on Animals	12
Attack on Person	17
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>776</u>

Statistics – Statutory Incidents (Complaints) Reported to Council					
2022-2023	2021-2022	2020-2021	2019-2020	2018-2019	2017-2018
776	753	866	717	703	818

Statistics – Statutory By Incident						
	2022-23	2021-22	2020-21	2019-20	2018-19	2017-18
Total Per Year	776	753	866	717	703	818
Barking	206	232	333	196	153	181
Roaming	444	366	410	399	448	514
General	74	84	54	46	47	55
Fighting	0	2	1	3	1	5
Rush/Threaten	23	23	19	18	34	28
Attack on Animal	12	18	20	14	9	21
Attack on Person	17	5	9	7	11	14
Contractor Instructions/Other <small>Category removed as non-KPI</small>	-	23	20	34	-	-

In 2022/2023 A decision was made to change the criteria for Attacks and Rush incidents.

Previously the reporting of an Attack was if an injury occurred. If no injury occurred this was then reported as a Rush/Threaten.

Statistics – Attack on Person Breakdown	
	2022-23
Total Per Year	776
Attack on Person	17
Attack on Person -6 if criteria had not changed. This would have made the total Rush reported incidents 29	11

NON-STATUTORY INCIDENTS (Not KPI Audited)

Total of Non-Statutory jobs that the Team completed 399

A non-statutory incident is not a public complaint, but rather a job that has been actioned by either the in-house dog rangers or contractors that did not meet the threshold for the KPI Audit. These are jobs that the dog ranger has completed such as inspections for a kennel licences, welfare and property checks, microchipping of dogs, releasing dogs from the pound and information gathering etc.

TOTAL COMBINED OF "STATUTORY" AND "NON-STATUTORY" INCIDENTS

Statutory Total	1,050
Non Statutory Total	399
TOTAL	1,449

INFRINGEMENTS / HEARINGS / PROSECUTIONS

Infringements	157
Infringements Waived (primarily diversions)	99
Prosecutions	0
Hearings - Special Licence to keep 4 or more dogs	3

Infringements Waived:

All infringements where a diversion was issued and the owner complied, such as a dog owner registering or microchipping their dog within 14 days.

DOGS IMPOUNDED

Dogs Impounded (Including 93 Dogs surrendered to Council)

6 Dogs Carried forward from 30/06/2022	6
Claimed and Released to Dog Owner	81
Rehomed	48
Referred to SPCA	0
Destroyed	110
Died from Parvo	4
Caring for dogs from another TA	3
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>252</u>

Statistics - Dogs Impounded					
2022-2023	2021-2022	2020-2021	2019-2020	2018-2019	2017-2018
252	210	199	242	270	250

The Dog Control Team focuses on the way the facility is cleaned and maintained to ensure that the appropriate precautions are taken to mitigate the introduction of illness and diseases such as Parvovirus.

- All dogs are fed twice daily.
- The Facility is cleaned twice a day.
- Dogs are exercised twice a day.
- Welfare Checks are undertaken at least twice daily; this is to monitor dogs for signs for sickness and disease.
- All staff are trained to undertake testing for Parvo. By staff testing the animals, saves staff time and ensuring that adequate treatment/isolation has immediately commenced as well as saving a cost of \$35 per kit, and \$67 for veterinary clinic consultation.

The Dog Control Team undertook property / kennel checks for every dog released from the pound. If the property was found to be not secure, owners were requested to make amendments such as raising the height of fencing, installing gates etc. Only when staff were satisfied that the impounded dog could be contained within their property was the dog released from the pound.

Overall Breeds Involved in Incidents

(As confirmed by DCO/Ranger, if not confirmed then a "*" next to the breed description will be entered, this is in-line with the New Zealand Institute of Animal Control Officers (NZIACO) national records)

Attack on person		Attacks on Animals		Fighting	Rush/Growl/Threaten	
Breed Unknown/Not Found*	6	Breed Unknown*	3		Breed Unknown*	11
American Pitbull Terrier x Lab*	1	Bull Terrier	1		Mastiff	2
Bearded Collie x Huntaway*	2	American Pit Bull Terrier *	1		Border Collie x	1
Thai Ridgeback	1	American Bull Dog cross	1		Rottweiler*	1
Mastiff x	1	Bull Terrier cross	1		Neapolitan Mastiff x American Staffordshire Terrier)	1
Crossbreed	1*	Border Collie cross	1		American Bulldog	2
German Shepherd	1	American Staffordshire Terrier	1		Bulldog	1
Labrador Retriever x	1	Bull Mastiff*	1		American Pit Bull Terrier	2
Huntaway x Staffordshire Bull Terrier	1	Bull Mastiff	2		Labrador Retriever x	1
Labrador Retriever x	1	Labrador Retriever x Greyhound	1		Siberian Husky x Labrador Retriever	1
Huntaway x	1	American Bull Dog	1		Greyhound x	1
Bull Mastiff x Rhodesian Ridgeback	1				Neapolitan Mastiff cross	1
Airedale Terrier x	1				American Staffordshire Terrier	
Bearded Collie x	1					
German Shepherd	1					

Some incidents involved more than one dog

Microchipping:	Register	1423
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Menacing:	Register Tot	61
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Menacing under s33C i.e. by Schedule 4 Breed	To Date	49
Menacing under s33A(1)(b)(i) i.e. by Behaviour	To Date	7
Menacing under s33A(1)(b)(ii) i.e. by Breed Characteristics	To Date	5

Dangerous:	Register Tot	2
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Dangerous by Owner Conviction under s31(1)(a)	To Date	0
Dangerous by Sworn Evidence s31(1)(b)	To Date	2
Dangerous by owner Admittance in Writing s31(1)(c)	To Date	0

Disqualified Owner:	Register Tot	0
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Disqualified under Section 25(1)(a) – (3x paid Infringements)	To Date	0
Disqualified under Section 25(1)(b) – (Conviction)	To Date	0
Disqualified under Section 25(1)(c) – (Conviction) under Animal Welfare Act etc.	To Date	0

Probationary Owners:	Register Tot	0
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Probationary under Section 21	To Date	0
Probationary under Section 21(1) Other Acts	To Date	0



Lisa Singfield
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