

**KAWERAU DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**DOG CONTROL – POLICY AND PRACTICES REPORT**  
**1 July 2012 – 30 June 2013**

Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996 (DCA) requires territorial authorities to publicly report each financial year on:

- The administration of their dog control policy and their dog control practices (s10A(1)); and
- A variety of dog control related statistics

**PART ONE – ADMINISTRATION OF POLICY AND DOG CONTROL PRACTICES**

1) Dog Control in the District

The Kawerau District Council had 1373 dogs registered at 30 June 2013. Most of the dogs are urban pets with some hunting dogs. There were 5 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. The Dog Control Officer's (DCO) normal working hours are 8.00am to 2.30pm, Monday to Friday, with the contract rangers on-call 24/7. The aim is to maintain effective complaint/incident response, but with much greater attention to systems and data management.

Council seeks to foster good working relationships with local veterinarians and the SPCA and networks well with other councils in the Bay of Plenty region and beyond.

2) Dog Control Enforcement Practices

All complaints are dealt with fairly and in accordance with the DCA and Council's Dog Control Bylaw. Infringement notices are issued only where continued non-compliance occurs following a verbal warning and a written warning or where a serious offence e.g. rushing incident occurs.

3) Policy & Bylaw Updates

The Dog Control Bylaw 2011 has been in place for 2 years with a minor review in 2012.

#### 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 are 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 the contract rangers.

The following areas are designated dog exercise areas:

- The Ruruanga Stream reserve area upstream from Tamarangi Drive to Valley Road, including those areas of reserve known as the Stoneham Walk and the Ruruanga Gardens.
- River reserves from Tamarangi Drive to Waterhouse Street, other than marked playing areas at Boyce Park.
- Firmin Field, other than marked playing areas.
- Lyn Hartley Reserve.
- Tarawera Park, other than marked playing areas.
- The reserve on the south west side of River Road between the road and the overflow stream, in the vicinity of the Water Supply Pumping Station, excluding Pat Baker Reserve.
- Hilldale Reserve, other than children's playground.
- Stoneham Park, other than marked playing areas.
- Those areas of public reserve being one chain wide (approximately 20 metres) along all waterways.
- The reserve off Porritt Drive, including Roy Weston Walk.
- Prideaux Park other than marked playing areas.
- Delamere 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 as if in a public place.

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.

Six new signs have been erected in the CBD which inform dog owners that no dogs are allowed in the CBD.



## 5) Dog Survey

Each year Council undertakes a door to door survey that locates all unregistered dogs. The Survey started on the 15 October and finished 29 October 2012. As part of the survey Council also included extra work to check the health & living conditions of dogs.

A total of 146 situations were identified as requiring more detailed investigation. The following is a breakdown of the outcomes of those follow-up investigations.

### **Breakdown:**

<b>Total Dog discrepancies</b>	<b>146</b>
Reports of kennel not within boundaries	0
Concerns for the conditions of dog including health/housing	0
Pool/Spa's	24
Pigs	0
Odour/Excrement	0
Pups under 3 months of age	16
<b>Total of all Discrepancies found:</b>	<b>186</b>
Infringements Issued along with a 14 day diversion	48
Infringement Waived	39
Infringement Not Waived	9
No Dog	41
Died	1
Lost Dog	1
GNA	2
Relinquished	3
Part Pay	1
Transferred Out of District	3
Now Registered	92
Destroyed at Pound	2

## 6) Dog Registration and Other Fees

Council fees (inclusive of GST) for the 2012/2013 year were:

### Registration Fees

Approved Owner – Sterilised Dog	\$25.50
Approved Owner – Non Sterilised Dog	\$66.30
Other Owners – Sterilised Dog	\$61.50
Other Owners – Non Sterilised Dog	\$102.00



### Impounding Fees

First Impounding	\$77.00
Subsequent Impounding	\$102.00
Sustenance Fee (per day or part thereof)	\$5.00

These fees were unchanged from the previous year.

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%) and withdrawal of approved owner status for the following registration year. The infringement notice was withdrawn if payment was made within the 14-day diversion period.

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

## 7) Dog Education and Dog Obedience Courses

Throughout the year DCO setup educational displays in the main foyer which promoted dog attack prevention by ways of keeping ourselves safe around dogs and the damage dogs can do when they attack both humans and other animals. These proved very popular.

Information is available at all times from the Council Office.

Council also provided as required by the DCA a Policy on Dogs brochure that was sent to every dog owner along with their registration notice.

### **Permission to reproduce ‘Avoiding Dog Aggression’ booklet**

Pat Oliver is the author of a booklet entitled “Avoiding Dog Aggression” & the manual “Practical tips for puppy/dog Owners”. The information in these books is on how to understand why dogs behave aggressively and what the dog owner can do to prevent uncontrolled aggressive behaviour. They cover a range of everyday interaction scenarios from the puppy to the adult providing valuable information on how to treat a dog correctly.

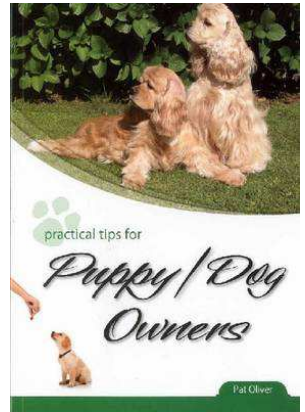
Written permission was given to Council from Pat Oliver who is the author of the booklet avoiding dog aggression requesting to reproduce some of the chapters in her book to make into a public display in the office foyer. Chapters approved for reproducing were:

- Games to Avoid
- Toddlers & Children
- Meal Time & the Dog/Man Relationship

## Information Manual for Dogs Classified As Dangerous

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

Pat Oliver has more than 25 years experience as a professional dog trainer, this book provides excellent basic training, obedience, nutrition & 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.



## Keeping our Children Safe around Dogs Booklets

All pre-schools in the Kawerau District have been sent copies of the booklet "Keeping our Children Safe Around Dogs", published by the University of Waikato, by Council's Dog Control Department.

The booklet has been printed in both English and Maori language and gives a basic understanding of dog behaviour and practical suggestions about how to create a safe and fun relationship between children and dogs.

The booklet is a result of statistics revealing most dogs which bite or attack children are known to the children, so it is vitally important that they learn why dogs bite and how to behave safely around them.



Covering topic including types of aggression, socialising, dog language, and supervision it is hoped that the booklet will significantly reduce the risk to children.

<b>Pre-School</b>	
Kawerau Pre-school Learning Centre	Te Manaaki Educational Pre-School Trust
Nga Moko Huia Ote Rautahi Kohanga Reo	Tu Manako Kohanga Reo
Nga Ririki Early Learning Centre	Te Urungamai o Te Ra Kohanga Reo
Putauaki Kindergarten	Tu Whakaara o Tae Rautahi Kohanga Reo
Te Akoranga Kindergarten	

Booklets were also distributed to the Kura Kaupapa, Te Whata Tau O Putauaki.

## 8) De-sexing Caravan

The RNZSPCA mobile de-sexing clinic visited Kawerau from 2 to 20 April 2013 which provided free de-sexing services for dogs that are owned by low income earners who have a community services card.

Dog owners are eligible for a cheaper annual registration fee by de-sexing their dogs. Dogs may also benefit from improved health and behaviour.

A total of 37 dogs were de-sexed through this programme.



## 9) Other Information

The DCO 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 under review, 486 weekday and 348 after-hours patrols (each of one hour's duration) were carried out which meets Council's minimum specified Annual Plan target of 460 weekday and 340 after hours patrols.

## **PART TWO – STATISTICAL INFORMATION**

### **STREET PATROLS**

Street Patrols (office/day hours)	486	
Street Patrols (after hours)	<u>348</u>	
Total	<u>834</u>	

### **REQUEST FOR SERVICES**

Requests for Dog Control Services (Public)	1336	
a) DCO	513	
b) Contractor	<b>823</b>	
i) Day	639	
ii) After Hours	184	

### **INFRINGEMENTS/HEARINGS/PROSECUTIONS**

Infringements *	218	
Hearings	0	
Prosecutions	0	

### **STATUTORY INCIDENTS**

Barking	232	
Roaming	451	
General	83	
Attacks on Animals	14	
Attack on Person (Physical Contact)	11	
Rush or Threaten	30	
Fighting	<u>2</u>	
Total	<u>823</u>	

\* There were 262 infringement notices issued of which 213 were resolved before the matter needed to be referred to the Court. 38 infringement notices were referred to the Court for action, 10 infringement statuses are sent reminder stage and 1 infringement status is at Entered.

### **UTILISATION OF DOG POUND FOR 2012 – 2013**

Dogs carried forward in pound at 01/07/2012	10	
<b>Dogs Impounded</b>	<b>409</b>	Subtotal
	<u>419</u>	Total
Destroyed (includes 62 relinquished to Council by owner)	207	
Claimed	148	
Re-homed	16	
Dogs referred to the SPCA	33	
Dogs given to the pound from the SPCA	10	
Dogs remaining in pound at 30/06/2013	5	

**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 NZIACO national records)

<b>Attack on person</b>		<b>Attacks on Animals</b>		<b>Fighting</b>		<b>Rushing</b>	
*Bulldog	1	*Breed Unknown	12	Mastiff x	1	*Breed Unknown	6
*Staffordshire Bull Terrier x	2	Blue Heeler	1	Crossbreed	1	Lab x Mastiff	2
Rhodesian Ridgeback	1	Greyhound x Whippet	1			Rhodesian Ridgeback x	1
Staffordshire Bull Terrier	1	Labrador Retriever x Whippet	1			American Pit Bull Terrier	5
Rhodesian Ridgeback x	1	American Pit Bull Terrier	1			Shar pei x	1
*Alsatian	1	Bull Mastiff	1			Bulldog*	1
Huntaway	1	American Bulldog	1			Rhodesian Ridgeback x	3
Huntaway x Whippet	1	Shar Pei	1			Staffordshire Bull Terrier x	1
Bull Mastiff x	1					American Pit Bull Terrier x Boxer	1
Shar pei	1					Crossbreed	1
						American Pit Bull Terrier x	2
						Rottweiler	1
						American Bulldog	1
						Bulldog	1
						American Pit Bull Terrier *	3
						American Bull Dog x	1
						Labrador Retriever	1

Some incidents involved more than 1 dog



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**Microchipping:****Register 956**

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**Menacing:****Register 85**

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>
Menacing under s33C i.e. by Schedule 4 Breed	<b>Total</b>	To Date 72
Menacing under s33A(1)(b)(i) i.e. by Behaviour	<b>Total</b>	To Date 11
Menacing under s33A(1)(b)(ii) i.e. by Breed Characteristics	<b>Total</b>	To Date 2

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**Dangerous:****Register 7**

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>
Dangerous by Owner Conviction under s31(1)(a)	<b>Total</b>	To Date 0
Dangerous by Sworn Evidence s31(1)(b)	<b>Total</b>	To Date 7
Dangerous by owner Admittance in Writing s31(1)(c)	<b>Total</b>	To Date 0

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**Disqualified Owner:****Register 0**

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>
Disqualified under Section 25(1)(a)	<b>Total</b>	To Date 0
Disqualified under Section 25(1)(b)	<b>Total</b>	To Date 0
Disqualified under Section 25(1)(c)	<b>Total</b>	To Date 0

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**Probationary Owners:****Register 2**

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>
Probationary under Section 21		
Probationary under Section 21(1) Other Acts	<b>Total</b>	To Date 0
Probationary under Section 21(2) Infringements x3	<b>Total</b>	To Date 2

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The most common grounds for the classification of disqualified or probationary owners are for continuing breaches related to dogs roaming.

Owners with these classifications are monitored for compliance. For any non compliance, they are dealt with in accordance with the DCA i.e. infringement fines, seizure.

Two persons completed disqualification periods during the year.