

**KAWERAU DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**DOG CONTROL – POLICY AND PRACTICES REPORT**

1 July 2019 – 30 June 2020

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 1 – ADMINISTRATION OF POLICY AND DOG CONTROL PRACTICES**

1) Dog Control in the District

The Kawerau District Council had 1502 dogs registered at 30 June 2020. Most of the dogs are urban pets with some hunting dogs. There were seven 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.

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

These two positions report to the Dog Control Officer (DCO).

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 and the SPCA and networks as well as 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.

## 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

Both the Dog Control Policy and the Dog Control Bylaw 2019 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.

A notable change to the Bylaw is that within the town centre area, dogs are no longer prohibited so long as they are leashed.

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 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.

## 5) Dog Registration and Other Fees

Council fees (inclusive of GST) for the 2019/2020 year were:

### Registration Fees

Sterilised Dog	\$35.00
Non Sterilised Dog	\$70.00

### Impounding Fees

First Impounding	\$80.00
Second Impounding	\$110.00
Third and subsequent	\$140.00
Sustenance Fee (per day or part thereof)	\$10.00
Seizure Fee	\$80.00



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 withdrawn 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.

## 6) Dog Education

### **Public Displays**

Throughout the year, DCO set up three educational displays in the main foyer:

- a) Dog attack prevention, which showed ways of keeping ourselves safe around dogs and the damage dogs, can do when they attack both humans and other animals.
- b) How to keep companion animals cool during the summer months.
- c) Advice & Welfare for keeping animals safe around fireworks (this also included stock).

### **Educational Information**

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

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

- Territorial aggression you the victim
- Why dogs should not roam
- Avoid being the victim of a dog attack
- Barking as a result of boredom
- Information on KDC approved dog owner scheme

- Keeping our children safe around dogs – In English & Maori
- Avoiding dog aggression
- Better dog control = safer communities
- Neutering
- Kawerau District Council Policy on Dogs
- Kawerau District Council Control of Dogs Bylaw 2019

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

Pat Oliver is the author of a booklet entitled “Avoiding Dog Aggression” and 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.

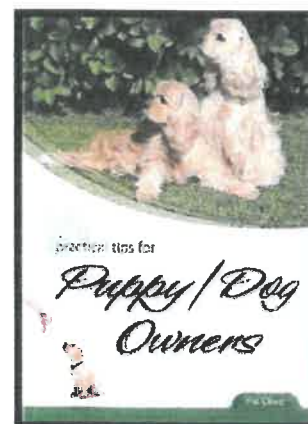
Written permission was given to Council from Pat Oliver to reproduce some of the chapters in her book to make into a public display in the office foyer. Chapters approved for reproduction were:

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

### Information Manual for Dogs Classified As Dangerous

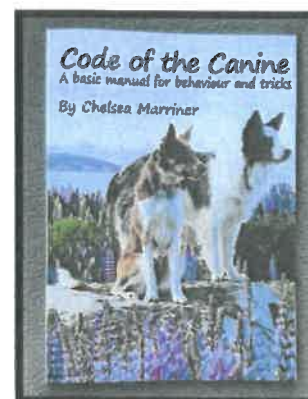
A copy of the author Pat Oliver’s Manual entitled “Practical tips for puppy/dog Owners” is available to give to all dog owners which dogs are classified as dangerous.

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.



### Information Manual for Dogs Classified As Menacing

A copy of the book “A Basic Manual for Behaviour and Tricks” by Chelsea Marriner is given to all dog owners whose dogs are classified as menacing e.g. American Pit Bull Terriers, Dogo Argentino.



## Keeping our Children Safe around Dogs Booklets

All pre-schools and primary schools (new entrant classes) in the Kawerau District have been sent copies of the booklet "Keeping our Children Safe around Dogs", published by the University of Waikato.

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 child, so it is vitally important that they learn why dogs bite and how to behave safely around them.

It covers topics 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	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

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

## Dog Welfare Community Clinic

Animal Management staff are working with the Kawerau SPCA to place more emphasis on the importance of de-sexing, in efforts to stem the flow of dogs entering the shelters.

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

The Kawerau Branch SPCA, Vets 4 Pets and the Kawerau District Council held a free Dog Welfare Community Clinic on 1 February 2020.

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.

Photos from the Dog Welfare Community Clinic:





### Dog Welfare Community Clinic

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> February  
10am – 12 noon  
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** flea and worm treatment (on site)
-  **FREE** dog or puppy de-sexing (at vet clinic)  
Note: there are a limited number of free vouchers, but other assistance may be available.
-  **FREE** microchipping for your dog or puppy (on site)
-  **FREE** puppy and dog care advice (on site)

All dogs and pups must remain on a lead.

Owners are responsible for keeping control of and cleaning up after their pets.

No entry to sick dogs or dogs in heat.

**\*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 skin disease.

This community clinic is proudly brought to you with assistance from:





## 7) Health & Safety

A Canine Parvo kit and processes have been set-up at the pound, where rangers can easily access and test all animals for parvo if they become unwell. This saves time and potentially the animal's life with early intervention.

Health and Safety of staff is still an ongoing top priority for Council. Staff were 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.

Animal Management will continuously review and improve health and safety procedures. A focus for this current year has been to review all personal safety equipment used by our staff.

## 8) Computer Technology

Staff are working towards the introduction of additional online tools, such as portable infringement devices, which will enable a more robust and standardised workflow as well as improving record keeping and information to customers. It is hoped this will be up and running by the end of the year.

## 9) COVID-19 Lockdown

During the COVID-19 Alert Level 3 & 4, Council reduced its Animal Control services to attend callouts for essential services only.

Staff developed a range of action plans:

- Health & Safety processes for impounding of animals during the lockdown.
- Emergency contact records.
- Educational advertisements through its Adopt-a-dog face book page on keeping dogs in their bubble when being exercised in public.
- Council held a database of 53 households that were willing to foster animals should their owners be unable to care for their pets during the lockdown (future availability).
- All dogs impounded at the beginning of and during lockdown were fostered.

## 10) 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, 434 weekday and 363 after-hours (including specials) patrols (each of one hour's duration) were carried out which just fell short of meeting Council's minimum specified Annual Plan target of 460 weekday and 345 after hours patrols. The reason for this minor failure was that, during the Covid19 lockdown, only high priority complaints were attended e.g. attacks, and no monitoring patrols were undertaken by staff.

## **PART 2 – STATISTICAL INFORMATION**

### **STREET PATROLS**

Street Patrols (office/day hours)	434
Street Patrols (after hours & including Specials)	<u>363</u>
Total	<u>797</u>

### **REQUEST FOR SERVICES**

Requests for Dog Control Services (Public)	1,013
a) DCO	296
b) In-House Statutory Incidents	388
c) Contractor – Afterhours Statutory Incidents	329

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

Infringements	133
Infringements Waived (primarily diversions)	67
Hearings	0
Prosecutions	1

### **STATUTORY INCIDENTS**

Barking	196
Roaming	399
General	46
Fighting	3
Rush or Threaten	18
Attacks on Animals	14
Attack on Person (Physical Contact)	7
Contractor Instructions	29
Unaccounted for	5
<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b><u>717</u></b>

### **UTILISATION OF DOG POUND FOR 2019/2020**

<b>Dogs Impounded</b> (Including 35 relinquished)	
Claimed	114
Rehomed	37
Referred to SPCA	21
Destroyed	68
Dogs remaining in pound at 30/06/2020	2
<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b><u>242</u></b>



**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>Rush</b>	
Dog Not Found, Unknown breed*	5	Dog Not Found, Unknown breed*	8	Breed Unknown * Dog not located	1	Breed Unknown * Not Found	6
Chihuahua*	1	Crossbreed	2	Staffordshire Bull Terrier x Cattle	2	Hound Stag cross	3
Crossbreed*	1	Stag Hound cross	1	Rottweiler	1	Staffordshire Bull Terrier	1
Stag Hound cross	1	Siberian Husky	1	Rottweiler x Greyhound	1	Shar pei x	1
Whippet x Greyhound	1	Bulldog	1	Australian Cattle	1	Mastiff x	2
Neo Mastiff	1	American Pit bull Terrier	*1	American Pit bull Terrier	1	Rottweiler	1
		Catahoula Leopard	1			Staffordshire Bull Terrier	1
		Australian Cattle	1			Labrador Retriever x	1
		American Pit Bull Terrier	1			Bull Mastiff x	2
						Crossbreed	1
						Jack Russell	1
						Labrador x Shar pei	1

Some incidents involved more than one dog

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**Microchipping:****Register Total 1041**

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**Menacing:****Register Total 78**

Menacing under s33C i.e. by Schedule 4 Breed	YTD 66
Menacing under s33A(1)(b)(i) i.e. by Behaviour	YTD 9
Menacing under s33A(1)(b)(ii) i.e. by Breed Characteristics	YTD 3

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**Dangerous:****Register Total 4**

Dangerous by Owner Conviction under s31(1)(a)	YTD 0
Dangerous by Sworn Evidence s31(1)(b)	YTD 4
Dangerous by owner Admittance in Writing s31(1)C	YTD 0

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

Disqualified under Section 25(1)(a) – (3x Inf)	YTD 0
Disqualified under Section 25(1)(b) – (Conviction)	YTD 0
Disqualified under Section 25(1)(c) – (Conviction) under Animal Welfare Act etc.	YTD 0

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**Probationary Owners:****Register Total 0**

Probationary under Section 21	YTD 0
Probationary under Section 21(1) Other Acts	YTD 0

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**Manager, Planning, Compliance & Capability**

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