

KAWERAU DISTRICT COUNCIL
DOG CONTROL – POLICY AND PRACTICES REPORT
1 July 2010 – 30 June 2011

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 1290 dogs registered at 30 June 2011. Most of the dogs are urban pets with some hunting dogs. There were 8 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 normal working hours are 9.00am 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

In accordance with the requirement of the DCA, Council reviewed both its Policy on Dogs and Dog Control Bylaw. The policy on dogs came into effect on 8 February 2011 and the Dog Control Bylaw on 1 March 2011.

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.

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” signs are being erected where signage is inadequate and in addition to this Council is erecting “Dogs must be controlled at all times” signs.

5) Dog Survey

Each year Council undertakes a door to door survey that locates all unregistered dogs. The Survey started on the 10th October and finished 22nd October 2010. As part of the survey Council also included extra work to check the health & living conditions of dogs.

Breakdown – Totals:

Total number of dogs seen to query:	204
Total number of dogs Unregistered	111
Registered	50
Part Payments/Currently Unregistered	2
GNA	24
Died	8
Lost	2
Re-homed from Pound	4
Transferred Out	14
Owner Hidden Dogs (6 dogs owned by same owner)	6
Destroyed at Pound	1
Financial Difficulties (1 Owner) Now registered	1
Infringement Breakdown:	
Total Infringements Given (14 day diversion)	103
Total Infringements Waived	65
Total Infringements Not Waived	38

6) Dog Registration and Other Fees

Council fees (inclusive of GST) for the 2010/2011 year are:

Registration Fees

Approved Owner – Sterilised Dog	\$25.00
Approved Owner – Non Sterilised Dog	\$65.00
Other Owners – Sterilised Dog	\$60.00
Other Owners – Non Sterilised Dog	\$100.00

Impounding Fees

First Impounding	\$75.00
Subsequent Impounding	\$100.00
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. This 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.

Council has endeavoured to establish a local dog education/obedience course but were unable to establish a relationship with a qualified trainer; the matter continues to be under review.

8) 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, 498 weekday and 357 after-hours patrols (each of one hour's duration) were carried out which exceeded Council's minimum specified Annual Plan target of 460 weekday and 340 after hours patrols. A further 2 special patrols were carried out in targeted programmes.

PART TWO – STATISTICAL INFORMATION

STREET PATROLS

Street Patrols (office/day hours)	498
Street Patrols (after hours)	357
Special Patrols	<u>2</u>
Total	<u>857</u>

REQUEST FOR SERVICES

Requests for Dog Control Services (Public)	1256
a) DCO	485
b) Contractor	771
i) Day	607
ii) After Hours	164

INFRINGEMENTS/HEARINGS/PROSECUTIONS

Infringements *	231
Hearings	0
Prosecutions	0

STATUTORY INCIDENTS

Barking	202
Roaming	355
General	154
Attacks on Animals	21
Attack on Person (Physical Contact)	18
Rush or Threaten	16
Fighting	5
Total	771

* There were 231 infringement notices issued of which 171 were resolved before the matter needed to be referred to the Court. 59 infringement notices were referred to the Court for action & 1 was Paid.

UTILISATION OF DOG POUND FOR 2010 – 2011

Dogs Impounded	399
Destroyed (includes 138 relinquished to Council by owner)	191
Claimed	127
Other	81

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)

***Some incidents involved more than one dog.**

The dogs listed as unknown were because the description was too vague or the dogs involved were not found/sighted by the Dog Control Officer or Dog Rangers.

Attack on person

Attacks on Animals

Fighting

Rushing

Attack on person	Attacks on Animals	Fighting	Rushing				
American Pitbull (1	5	Japanese Akita	1	Bull Terrier x	1	Fox Terrier	1
American Pitbull “*”	1	Border Collie x	1	Waimaraner x	1	Bloodhound	1
Huntaway	1	Breed Unknown “*”	4	Catahoula x	1	Breed Unknown “*”	3
Labrador	1	Bulldog	2	Cross breed	2	Staffordshire Bull Terrier	1
Golden Retriever	1	Mastiff x	1	Unknown Breed – Not found	1	Whippet x	1
Breed Unknown “*”	1	Blue Heeler	1			American Pit Bull Terrier	2
Mastiff x	1	American Pit Bull Terrier “*”	2			Bulldog (1	2
Staffordshire Bull Terrier x	1	Shar Pei	1			Rhodesian Ridgeback x	1
Bloodhound x	1	Rottweiler	1			German Shepherd x	1
American Staffordshire Terrier	1	American Bulldog	1			Rottweiler	1
Fox Terrier	1	Bull Mastiff	1			American Pit Bull Terrier x Sharpei	1
Pit Bull x American Bulldog	1	Dogo Argentino x	1			Huntaway	1
Unknown Breed (Not found)	4	Blue Merle x Australian Kelpie	1				
Bulldog	1	American Pit Bull Terrier x	1				
		Crossbreed	2				

Microchipped Dogs	Register Total	705
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Menacing:	Register Total	82
Menacing under s33C i.e. by Schedule 4 Breed	To Date	64
Menacing under s33A(1)(b)(i) i.e. by Behaviour	To Date	13
Menacing under s33A(1)(b)(ii) i.e. by Breed Characteristics	To Date	5

Dangerous:	Register Total	5
Dangerous by Owner Conviction under s31(1)(a)	To Date	
Dangerous by Sworn Evidence s31(1)(b)	To Date	5
Dangerous by owner Admittance in Writing s31(1)(c)	To Date	

Disqualified Owner:	Register Total	3
Disqualified under Section 25(1)(a)	To Date	1
Disqualified under Section 25(1)(b)	To Date	2
Disqualified under Section 25(1)(c)	To Date	

Probationary Owner:	Register Total	0
Probationary under Section 21	To Date	
Probationary under Section 21(1)	To Date	
Probationary under Section 21(2)	To Date	

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.