

KAWERAU DISTRICT COUNCIL DOG CONTROL – POLICY AND PRACTICES REPORT

1 July 2017 – 30 June 2018

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 1466 dogs registered at 30 June 2018. Most of the dogs are urban pets with some hunting dogs. There were 7 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 between 8.00am to 4.30pm, Monday to Friday, with the contract ranger's 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 6 years with a minor review in 2012.

Council had been awaiting legislative changes proposed prior to reviewing the bylaw but has determined that the review be carried out as there is no indication of when or if legislative changes will now occur following the change in Government.

Council has taken advantage of the funding made available by the Department of Internal Affairs, to neuter menacing dogs as defined by section 33C of the Act.

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.



Signs are also in the CBD which inform dog owners that no dogs are allowed in the CBD.

5) Dog Registration and Other Fees

Council fees (inclusive of GST) for the 2017/2018 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, incident responses or other notifications, these are generally seized and impounded and written notice given to the owner.

There were some amendments made to Council's Approved Dog Owner Scheme. A copy of this Policy is appended to this report (Refer Appendix A).

6) Dog Education and Dog Obedience Courses

Throughout the year DCO set up 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.

Council also has a range of educational brochures available on:

- 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
- KDC Policy on Dogs

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.

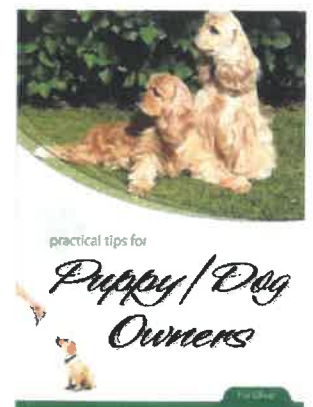
Written permission was given to Council from Pat Oliver to reproduce some of the chapters in her book to make into a public display in the office foyer. Chapters approved for reproduction were:

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

Information Manual for Dogs Classified As Dangerous

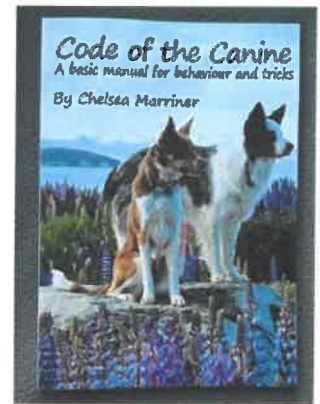
A copy of the author Pat Oliver’s Manual entitled “Practical tips for puppy/dog Owners” is available to give to all dog owners which dogs are classified as dangerous.

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 has been given to all dog owners whose dogs are yet to be de-sexed and are classified as menacing e.g. American Pitbull Terriers.



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

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



Pre-School	
Kawerau Pre-School Learning Centre	56 River Road
Nga Moko Huia Ote Rautahi Kohanga Reo	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 Playcentre	33 Galway Street
Te Akoranga Kindergarten	44 Grey Street
Te Manaaki Educational Pre-School Trust	22 Peter Lipka 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

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

Dog Welfare Community Clinic

The Kawerau Branch SPCA, Vets 4 Pets and the Kawerau District Council held a free Dog Welfare Community Clinic on 2 September 2017 for Community Services Card or Gold Card holders offering:

- Free puppy and dog care advice
- Free flea and worm treatment
- Free dog or puppy de-sexing
- Microchips inserted free of charge
- Free dog bedding, coats and treats



7) 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, 506 weekday and 363 after-hours (including specials) patrols (each of one hour's duration) were carried out which meets Council's minimum specified Annual Plan target of 460 weekday and 345 after hours patrols.

PART TWO – STATISTICAL INFORMATION

STREET PATROLS

Street Patrols (office/day hours)	506
Street Patrols (after hours & including Specials)	<u>363</u>
Total	<u>869</u>

REQUEST FOR SERVICES

Requests for Dog Control Services (Public)	1360
a) DCO	542
b) Contractor	818
i) Day	637
ii) After Hours	181

INFRINGEMENTS/HEARINGS/PROSECUTIONS

Infringements	198
Infringements Waive (primarily diversions)	149
Hearings	0
Prosecutions	0

STATUTORY INCIDENTS

Barking	181
Roaming	514
General	55
Attacks on Animals	21
Attack on Person (Physical Contact)	14
Fighting	5
Rush or Threaten	28
Unaccounted for	<u>0</u>
Total	<u>818</u>

UTILISATION OF DOG POUND FOR 2017/2018

Dogs carried forward in pound at 01/07/2017	1	
Dogs Impounded (Including 41 relinquished)	249	Subtotal
	<u>250</u>	Total

Destroyed	87
Claimed	94
Re-homed/Referred to SPCA	41
Dogs in care	8
Dogs remaining in pound at 30/06/2018	20

Some incidents involved more than 1 dog

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)

Attack on person		Attacks on Animals		Fighting		Rushing	
Dog Not Found, Unknown breed*	6	Dog Not Found, Unknown breed*	8	Breed Unknown * Dog not located	4	Breed Unknown * Not Found	2
German Shepherd x	1	Breed Unknown* (mixed breed)	1	Rottweiler	1	Crossbreed * (mixed breed)	
American Bulldog	1	Beagle	1	Bull Mastiff	1	Staffordshire Bull Terrier	1
Neapolitan Mastiff	1	American Pit Bull Terrier	2	Border Collie	1	Mastiff x	3
American Pit Bull Terrier	2	Bull Mastiff *	1			Labrador Retriever	1
Whippet x	1	American Pit Bull Terrier*	2			Border Collie	3
Kelpie x	1	Staffordshire Bull Terrier	1			Labrador x Pitbull*	1
Fox Terrier x Huntaway	1	Mastiff x Sharpei	1			American Pit Bull Terrier	2
Chihuahua	1	Rottweiler	2*			Rottweiler*	2
		Australian Cattle x	2			Bull Terrier	1
		Greyhound	1			Fox Terrier	1
						Mastiff	2
						Chow Chow	1
						Jack Russell Terrier	1
						Labrador x Dalmatian	2
						Fox Terrier x	1
						American Staffordshire x	1
						Shih Tzu	1
						Chihuahua x Fox Terrier	1
						Pomeranian x Fox Terrier	1
						American Pit Bull Terrier*	1
						Australian Cattle x	1

Menacing (issued for the month):	Register Total	85
Menacing under s33C i.e. by Schedule 4 Breed	Total To Date	71
Menacing under s33A(1)(b)(i) i.e. by Behaviour	Total To Date	9
Menacing under s33A(1)(b)(ii) i.e. by Breed Characteristics	Total To Date	5

Dangerous (issued for the month):	Register Total	3
Dangerous by Owner Conviction under s31(1)(a)	Total To Date	0
Dangerous by Sworn Evidence s31(1)(b)	Total To Date	3
Dangerous by owner Admittance in Writing s31(1)C	Total To Date	0

Disqualified Owner (for the month):	Register Total	2
Disqualified under Section 25(1)(a) – (3x Inf)	Total To Date	1
Disqualified under Section 25(1)(b) – (Conviction)	Total To Date	1
Disqualified under Section 25(1)(c) – (Conviction) under Animal Welfare Act etc.	Total To Date	0

Probationary Owners (for the month):	Register Total	0
Probationary under Section 21		
Probationary under Section 21(1) – (Other Acts)	Total To Date	0
	Total To Date	0

APPROVED DOG OWNER SCHEME

Council shall operate an approved owner scheme, which gives recognition and benefits for those owners who meet such standards in respect of the dog control as Council may from time to time approve. The scheme penalises bad behaviour by dog owners and rewards subsequent good behaviour.

Application of non-approved status is done annually and relates only to the previous year's activities. This means that, if an owner does things correctly during any year they receive non-approved status, then they will automatically revert to approved owner status in the subsequent year.

During each twelve months ending 30th June, any dog owner can become an "Approved Dog Owner" if they have:

1. Not been successfully prosecuted for an offence against Council's Dog Control Bylaws or the Dog Control Act 1996.
2. Not received a confirmed infringement notice of an offence against the Act or the Council Bylaw.


If a dog owner fails to comply with any requirements they will not be able to become "Approved Dog Owners" and will be required to pay a greater dog registration fee as determined by Council during the following registration year.

Notes:

- a) Where an unregistered dog has been impounded, all fees, including registration fees at the full rate ('Non-Approved Owner') must be paid before the dog is released.
- b) Where non-approved status is applied, a letter will be immediately sent to the dog owner advising that this has occurred and outlining the options available.

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