



KAWERAU DISTRICT COUNCIL DOG CONTROL – POLICY AND PRACTICES REPORT

1 July 2018 – 30 June 2019

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 1505 dogs registered at 30 June 2019. Most of the dogs are urban pets with some hunting dogs. There was 8 currently registered rural working dog 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's (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 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

Both the Dog Control Policy and the Dog Control Bylaw 2011 were reviewed with the new provisions effective from 1 March 2019.

Council took advantage of the funding made available by the Department of Internal Affairs, to neuter menacing dogs as defined by section 33C of the Act. All relevant dogs have now been de-sexed.

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 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 2018/2019 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.

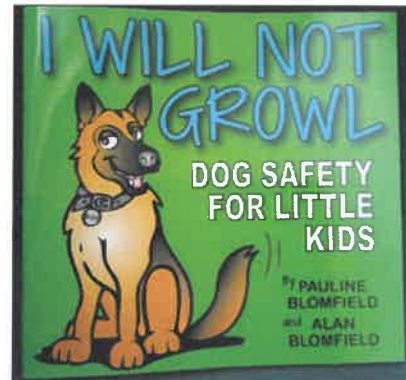
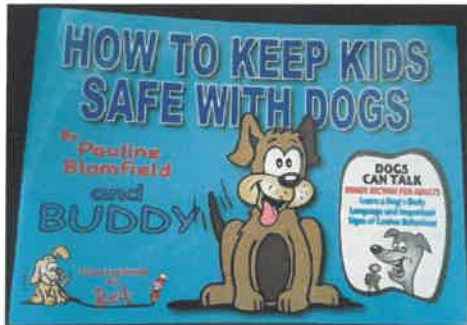
Where unregistered dogs are identified during daily patrols, incident responses or other notifications, these are generally seized and impounded and written notice given to the owner.

Council no longer operates an Approved Dog Owner Scheme.

6) Dog Education

Dog Education in Pre-Schools and New Entrants

A new initiative will be introduced that will be aimed at increasing dog safety for very young children and this is being trialled by Council's dog rangers.



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 their 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

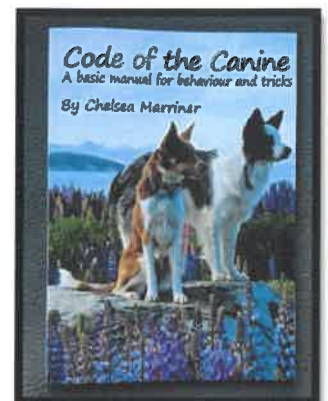
A copy of the author Pat Oliver's Manual entitled "Practical tips for puppy/dog Owners" is available to give to all dog owners which dogs are classified as dangerous.

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 has been given to all dog owners whose dogs 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
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 Playcentre	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

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 4 August 2018 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



Community Dog Walk

On Monday, 4th and 18th March 2019, Dog Control staff held Community Dog Walks from Boyce Park to Firmin Field which proved successful, staff will do this again in the future once the warmer months approach.

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 376 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>376</u>
Total	<u>882</u>

REQUEST FOR SERVICES

Requests for Dog Control Services (Public)	* 1069
a) DCO	366
b) In-House (Statutory Incidents)	236
c) Contractor – Afterhours (Statutory Incidents)	467

* There has been a reduction in recorded RFS as the monitoring regime involving in-house rangers means many situations are now resolved when identified.

INFRINGEMENTS/HEARINGS/PROSECUTIONS

Infringements	173
Infringements Waived (primarily diversions)	144
Hearings	0
Prosecutions	0

STATUTORY INCIDENTS

Barking	153
Roaming	448
General	47
Attacks on Animals	9
Attack on Person (Physical Contact)	11
Fighting	1
Rush or Threaten	34
Unaccounted for	<u>0</u>
Total	<u>703</u>

UTILISATION OF DOG POUND FOR 2018/2019

Dogs Impounded (Including 32 relinquished)	<u>270</u>	Total
Destroyed	122	
Claimed	110	
Re-homed	25	
Referred to SPCA	5	
Dogs remaining in pound at 30/06/2018	8	

Microchipping:**Register 1219**

Menacing (issued for the month):**Register Tot 67**

Menacing under s33C i.e. by Schedule 4 Breed	Total	To Date 54
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 4

Dangerous (issued for the month):**Register Tot 3**

Dangerous by Owner Conviction under s31(1)(a)	Total	To Date
Dangerous by Sworn Evidence s31(1)(b)	Total	To Date 3
Dangerous by owner Admittance in Writing s31(1)C	Total	To Date

Disqualified Owner (for the month):

New 0

Register Tot 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):

New 0

Register Tot 0

Probationary under Section 21	Total	To Date
Probationary under Section 21(1) Other Acts	Total	To Date



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