



KAWERAU DISTRICT COUNCIL DOG CONTROL – POLICY AND PRACTICES REPORT

1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025

1. Introduction

The Kawerau District Council, as a territorial authority, is required to manage and enforce provisions of the Dog Control Act 1996 (the Act). Section 10A of the Act requires Council to report annually to the Secretary of Local Government on its Dog Control Policy and Practices.

This report has been prepared to fulfil the statutory requirements for dog registration year:

- 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025

2. The Council's Dog Control Policy and Practices

The Act requires every territorial authority to have a Dog Control Policy and Bylaw. Kawerau District Council adopted its policy and bylaw in 2019 and it took effect on 19 March 2019.

The objectives of the policy are to:

- Encourage dog owners to care responsibly for their dogs and keep them under control
- Provide adequate public places to meet the exercise and recreational needs of dogs and their owners
- Avoid danger, distress and nuisance from uncontrolled dogs having access to public places used by children
- Enable the community to use public places without fear of intimidation or attack by dogs, and
- Minimise the danger, distress and nuisance that dogs can cause to the community generally.

The Dog Control Team are committed to supporting the community towards compliance with the Dog Control Policy, Bylaw and Legislation.

3. Fees

The dog registration fees, fines and infringements contribute approximately 20% of the cost of the dog control in Kawerau District. Dog registration fees are set by Council resolution.

Fees are used for:

- Dog control activities including enforcement, patrols and complaint investigation.
- Signs and promotion of the Council's Dog Control Bylaw and Policy.

- Providing shelter facilities.
- Running the dog registration programme, including issuing tags, maintain the national dog database and responding to dog queries.

4. **Summary of practices**

The Animal Control functions of the Dog Control Act 1996 are managed by Council's Compliance Team. This is made up of:

- A Team Leader;
- 2 x Animal Control Officers

Registration services are available at the main office, as well as low cost, leads and collars being available.

Council's dog control service provides 24/7 coverage to deal with dog attacks, roaming, barking and other complaints. All afterhours including weekends, patrol and fieldwork is undertaken by our contracted service - First Security Ltd.

The aim is to maintain effective complaint/incident response, and a high level of attention to systems and data management. All complaints are dealt with fairly, and in accordance with the Dog Control Act 1996 and associated Dog Control Policy and Bylaw. Infringement notices are issued only where continued non-compliance occurs following a verbal warning, written warning or where a serious offence e.g. rushing incident occurs.

Council operate the local animal shelter for impounded animals and is available for companion animals during a major event such as a natural disaster.

Rehoming dogs is also undertaken both by Council through its dedicated Facebook page and in conjunction with other animal rescue centres (All Paws Count Murupara, Tokoroa Animal Rescue, Harmony & Hope Animal Rescue Trust and RRR Rescue, Revive, Rehome - Bay of Plenty).

Council seeks to foster good working relationships with local veterinarians, the Whakatāne SPCA and local animal welfare groups. This includes ongoing work with KTown Community Animal Welfare Society emphasising the importance of de-sexing, in efforts to stem the flow of dogs entering shelters. Each year a community day is held providing

- 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 hold a Community Services or Gold Card.

5. **Dog Control Statistics**

The information below sets out the statistical information required by s10A of the Act.

Number of dogs registered

Total number of dogs registered

Category	2023/2024	2024/2025
Total Number of Dogs Registered	1378	1336

Classification of Dogs - Dangerous and Menacing

Total number of dogs classified under the different provisions of the Act

Category	2023/2024	2024/2025
Total Dangerous Dogs	1	1
Dangerous by sworn evidence s31(1)(b)	1	1
Total Menacing Dogs	46	55
Menacing under s33A(1)(b)(i) – behaviour		8
Menacing under s33A(1)(b)(ii) - by breed characteristics		4
Menacing under s33C - by breed		44

Infringements

Total infringements issued

Category	2023/2024	2024/2025
Total Infringements	165	205

Classification of Dog Owners

Total number of dog owners classified under the different provisions of the Act

Category	2023/2024	2024/2025
Probationary Owners under s21(1) or (2)	0	0
Disqualified Owners under s25(1)	2	2

Prosecutions

Number of prosecutions taken for offences under the Dog Control Act 1996

Category	2023/2024	2024/2025
Prosecution	0	0

Complaints

The number and nature of dog complaints received

Category	2023/2024	2024/2025
Total Dog Complaints	754	670
Dog Attack on Person	16	16
Dog Attack on Animal	16	18
Dog Rush or Threaten	37	37
Roaming Dogs	435	356
Fighting	1	4
General	41	26
Barking	208	213

Impounding and Rehoming

The number of dogs impounded under the Dog Control Act 1996

<u>Category</u>	<u>2023/2024</u>	<u>2024/2025</u>
Total Dogs Impound	172	144
Dogs Returned to Owner	48	42
Dogs Rehomed	23	38
Dogs Euthanised	58	64