



HURUNUI

District Council

Hurunui District Council – Dog Control Policy & Practices Annual Report

The Hurunui District Council, as a territorial authority, is required to manage and enforce the rules in the Dog Control Act 1996. Section 10A of the Act requires the Council to report annually on its Dog Control Policy and practices. This report fulfils this statutory requirement for the dog registration year 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022.

Dog Control Policy

Council is required to adopt a policy by Section 10 the Dog Control Act 1996.

Hurunui District Council adopted its current policy in September 2018. The objectives of the Policy are to:

- Ensure the owners of dogs comply with their obligations under the Act and that dogs in the district are well cared for;
- Prevent any potential danger caused by dogs to the public, wildlife and natural habitats;
- Minimise the risk of distress and nuisance caused by dogs to the public, wildlife and natural habitats;
- Actively promote the responsible ownership of dogs;
- Provide for the reasonable exercise and recreational needs of dogs and their owners; and
- Provide flexibility to Council Officers to deviate from the policy where unforeseen circumstances justify doing so.

Fees

Hurunui District Council's Dog Control Fees for the 2021/2022 financial year are set out below:

Category	Fee
Annual Dog Registration	
Domestic dog	\$47
Responsible dog owner category	\$33
Working dog	\$33
Working exempt dog (exempt from microchipping)	\$33
Disability assist dog	No charge
Probationary dog owner – working or working exempt dog	\$33
Probationary dog owner – domestic dog	\$47
Menacing dog	\$47
Dangerous dog	\$70.50
Impounding	
First impounding of a dog	\$65
Second impounding of the same dog within 12 months	\$105
Third impounding of the same dog within 12 months	\$185
Sustenance and care of impounded dogs (per day)	\$20

Fees are used for:

- Dog control activities including law enforcement, patrols and complaint investigation.
- Signs and promotion of the Council’s animal bylaw and dog policy.
- Providing pound facilities.
- Running the dog registration programme – this includes forms, printing, tags, maintaining the national dog database and related promotional material.

In the 2021/2022 financial year the Hurunui District Council’s Income from Dog Control Fees was as follows:

Category	Amount
Income from dog registration fees	\$144,030.69
Income from impounding charges	\$595.65
Income from dog infringement fees	\$3,882.68
Total income from dog control fees	\$148,509.02

Dog Control Officers

Hurunui District Council employs one full time Animal Management Officer who is responsible for dog control duties. Council’s after-hours dog control services are contracted to two contractors, with one contractor covering the area north of the Hurunui River, and one contractor covering the area south of the Hurunui River.

Dog Control Statistics

The dog control statistics required by section 10A (2) (a) – (g) are contained in Appendix 1 below.



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Appendix 1 - Dog Control Statistics

For the period from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021

Number of dogs registered:

2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
5,530	5,535	5,568

Dangerous and Menacing

The number of dogs classified as dangerous (under section 31 Dog Control Act 1996)

Category	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Dangerous by owner conviction S31(1)(a)	0	0	0
Dangerous by sworn evidence S31(1)(b)	0	1	0
Dangerous by owner admitting in writing S31(1)(C)	0	0	0
Total dangerous dogs	0	1	0

The number of dogs classified as menacing (under section 33A Dog Control Act 1996)

Category	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Menacing by behaviour S33A(1)(b)(i)	8	9	12
Menacing by breed characteristics S33A(1)(b)(ii)	0	0	0
Menacing by Schedule 4 breed S33C(1)	4	1	1
Total menacing dogs	12	10	13

Probationary owners and disqualified owners:

Probationary	Disqualified
0	0

Infringement Notices

The number of Infringement Notices issued

Category	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Failure to keep dog under control	2	0	8
Failure to keep dog controlled or confined	7	5	3
Failure to comply with effects of classification	0	4	1
Failure to implant microchip transponder	0	1	2
Failure to register dog	102	101	1
Total infringement notices issued	111	111	15

Infringement Notices

During the COVID Alert Level 4 period in August 2021 the council offices were closed to the public. Dog Control administration staff contacted dog owners with outstanding dog registration during this time. The response from dog owners was excellent and all but a handful of outstanding dog registrations were completed. As a result, the number of infringement notices issued for failing to register a dog was much lower than previous years.

Complaints

The number of complaints received and their nature

Category	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Aggressive behaviour	14	32	12
Dog biting person	5	9	5
Dog biting dog	10	8	14
Dog biting stock	5	16	6
Stock worrying	6	9	2
Lost and Found	188	185	149
Roaming	93	67	68
Barking	73	60	46
Welfare	17	22	17
Other, miscellaneous	17	24	5
Compliance with Dog Control Bylaw	-	-	7
Total number of dog related complaints	428	432	331

Miscellaneous complaints include fouling, notification of dead dogs, registration and ownership enquiries.

Impounding

The number of dogs impounded

2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
16	17	11

Prosecutions

The number of prosecutions taken

2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
0	0	0