



KAWERAU DISTRICT COUNCIL
DOG CONTROL – POLICY AND PRACTICES REPORT
1 July 2023 – 30 June 2024

INTRODUCTION

Kawerau District Council ('KDC') is required under section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996 to publicly report for each financial year, on:

- The administration of the KDC's dog control policy and practices; and
- Provide statistical information regarding the number of registered dogs, complaints received, infringements issued, prosecutions and the number of probationary or disqualified owners, and the number of dogs classified as either dangerous or menacing.

This report has been prepared to fulfil the statutory requirements for the 2023/2024 dog registration year.

PART 1 – ADMINISTRATION OF POLICY AND DOG CONTROL PRACTICES

1) Dog Control Act 1996

Section 10A Territorial authority must report on dog control policy and practices

- (1) A territorial authority must, in respect of each financial year, report on the administration of—
 - (a) its dog control policy adopted under section 10; and
 - (b) its dog control practices.
- (2) The report must include, in respect of each financial year, information relating to—

- (a) the number of registered dogs in the territorial authority district;
 - (b) the number of probationary owners and disqualified owners in the territorial authority district;
 - (c) the number of dogs in the territorial authority district classified as dangerous under section 31 and the relevant provision under which the classification is made;
 - (d) the number of dogs in the territorial authority district classified as menacing under section 33A or section 33C and the relevant provision under which the classification is made;
 - (e) the number of infringement notices issued by the territorial authority;
 - (f) the number of dog related complaints received by the territorial authority in the previous year and the nature of those complaints;
 - (g) the number of prosecutions taken by the territorial authority under this Act.
- (3) The territorial authority must—
- (a) give public notice, as defined in section 5(1) of the Local Government Act 2002, of the report; and
 - (b) make the report publicly available, as described in section 5(3) of that Act.

2) Dog Control in the District

The Kawerau District Council had 1378 dogs registered at 30 June 2024. Most of the dogs are urban pets with some hunting dogs. There were 2 currently 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.

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 (DCO).

All afterhours including weekends, patrol and fieldwork is undertaken by contract to First Security Ltd.

The aim is to maintain effective complaint/incident response, and a high level of attention to systems and data management.

Council seeks to foster good working relationships with local veterinarians, Whakatane SPCA and networks with other Councils in the Bay of Plenty region and beyond. An excellent relationship has also been established with Ministry of Primary Industries in introducing processes for animal welfare management during emergency response.

3) 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, written warning or where a serious offence e.g. rushing incident occurs.

4) Policy & Bylaw Updates

Both the Dog Control Policy and the Dog Control Bylaw 2019 were reviewed early 2019 and became effective from 1 March 2019. The policy and Bylaw are due for review prior to 2029.

5) 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 be 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.

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.

6) Dog Registration and Other Fees

Council fees (inclusive of GST) for the 2023/2024 year were:

Registration Fees

Sterilised Dog	\$40.00
Non Sterilised Dog	\$80.00

Impounding Fees

First Impounding	\$90.00
Second Impounding	\$125.00
Third and subsequent	\$160.00
Sustenance Fee (per day or part thereof)	\$12.00



Dog owners who did not register their dog in the current year were issued an infringement notice with a 14-day diversion option, with the application of a penalty (50%). 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.

7) Dog Education

Educational Information

Council has a range of educational brochures available at all times from the Office:

- Neutering – The benefits of de-sexing
- Humane Society of New Zealand Inc – Application for assistance from the spay/neuter Fund
- SPCA NZ – Dog and Puppy Care
- My Safety Around Dogs
- Keeping Our Children Safe Around Dogs – English
- Taku Haumarū Me Te Kuri – Te Reo Māori
- Colouring-in and Activity Book for children
- Kawerau District Council Policy on Dogs
- Kawerau District Council Dog Control Bylaw 2019

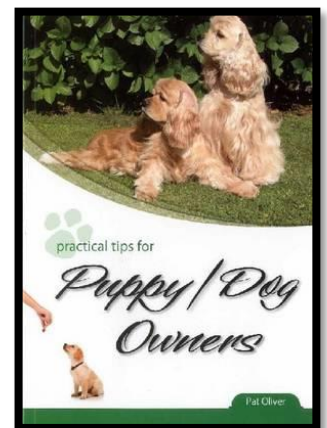
Information on Council's Website:

- Dog Registration
- Responsible Dog Ownership
- Dog Policies and Regulations
- Dog Exercise Areas
- Dog Impounding
- Reporting Cruelty to Dogs
- Adopt a Dog
- Dog Health and Vaccination
- Dog Exercise Park Etiquette
- De-Sex your dog
- Animals – Planning for Emergencies
- Complaints

Information Book 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 whose dogs are classified as dangerous.

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.



8) Health & Safety

Health and Safety of staff is an ongoing top priority for Council. Staff were encouraged to report near misses and incidents, as well as developing better protocols for sharing knowledge of incidents and hazardous situations and people between Dog Control Staff and Contractors.

Animal Management will continuously review and improve health and safety procedures.

9) Dogs Rehomed

Staff continue to advertise all suitable dogs available for re-home through Council's Facebook page.

Staff have also been working alongside rescue groups such as All Paws Count Murupara, Tokoroa Animal Rescue, Harmony & Hope Animal Rescue Trust and RRR Rescue, Revive, Rehome - Bay of Plenty to rehome dogs and puppies.

10) Dog Welfare Community Clinic

Animal Management staff are working with the KTown Community Animal Welfare Society to place more emphasis on the importance of de-sexing, in efforts to stem the flow of dogs entering shelters.

Planned activities include supporting Welfare group initiatives and enforcing the de-sexing of impounded dogs through its Dog Control Bylaw.

The KTown Community Animal Welfare Society, Vets 4 Pets and the Kawerau District Council held a free Dog Welfare Community Clinic in December 2023.

Services offered:

- 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 held a Community Services or Gold Card.

11) 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, 490 weekday and 366 after-hours (including specials) patrols (each of one hour's duration) were carried out.

PART 2 – STATISTICAL INFORMATION

STREET PATROLS

Street Patrols (office/day hours)	490
Street Patrols (after hours & including Specials)	<u>366</u>
Total	<u>856</u>

REQUEST FOR SERVICES

Requests for Dog Control Services (Public)	975
a) DCO	194
b) In-House Statutory Incidents	482
c) Contractor – Afterhours Statutory Incidents	300

INFRINGEMENTS/HEARINGS/PROSECUTIONS

Infringements	165
Infringements Waived (primarily diversions)	78
Hearings	1
Prosecutions	1

STATUTORY INCIDENTS

Barking	208
Roaming	435
General	41
Fighting	1
Rush or Threaten	37
Attacks on Animals	16
Attack on Person (Physical Contact)	16

TOTAL **754**

UTILISATION OF DOG POUND FOR 2023/2024

Dogs Impounded	173
Claimed	52
Rehomed	27
Referred to SPCA	0
Euthanised	71
Caring for dogs from another TA	0
Died	7
Dogs remaining in pound at 30/06/2024	7

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 New Zealand Institute of Animal Control Officers (NZIACO) national records)

Attack on person (Contact)		Attacks on Animals		Fighting		Rush/Growl/Threaten (No Contact)	
Breed Unknown/Not Found*	8	Breed Unknown*	7	Breed Unknown*	2	Breed Unknown*	13
Lab/Retriever Cross	2	Husky/Rottweiler Cross x2	2			Mastiff	4
Australian Cattle x	1	Labrador Retriever	1				
Whippet x	1					Mastiff Cross	5
Beardie x	1	Jack Russell cross	1			Airdale Terrier Cross	3
Catahoula Leopard	1	Mastiff	2			Border Collie Cross	2
American Staffordshire Terrier	1	Labrador Retriever Cross	1			Shih Tzu	1
						Maltese Cross	1
						Lab/Retriever Cross	2
						Rottweiler cross	2
						Huntaway cross	1
						Whippet cross	1
						Smithfield x Airedale	1
						American Pitbull Terrier cross *	1
						American Bulldog cross	1
						Bearded Collie Cross	1

Some incidents involved more than one dog

Microchipped Dogs:	Register	1378
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Menacing :	Register Tot	46
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Menacing under s33C i.e. by Schedule 4 Breed Total	To Date	37
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Menacing under s33A(1)(b)(i) i.e. by Behaviour Total	To Date	6
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Menacing under s33A(1)(b)(ii) i.e. by Breed Total Characteristics	To Date	3
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Dangerous :	Register Tot	1
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Dangerous by Owner Conviction under s31(1)(a) Total	To Date	0
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Dangerous by Sworn Evidence s31(1)(b) Total	To Date	0
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Dangerous by owner Admittance in Writing Total s31(1)C	To Date	1
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Disqualified Owner:	Register Tot	2
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Disqualified under Section 25(1)(a) – (3x Inf) Total	To Date	2
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Disqualified under Section 25(1)(b) – (Conviction) Total	To Date	0
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Disqualified under Section 25(1)(c) – (Conviction) Total under Animal Welfare Act etc.	To Date	0
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Probationary Owners (for the month):	Register Tot	0
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Probationary under Section 21 Total	To Date	0
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Probationary under Section 21(1) Other Acts Total	To Date	0
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