



te kaunihera ā-rohe o  
**matamata-piako**  
district council



## Dog Control Policy and Practices 2022/2023



# 2022/23 Annual Report

## 1. The Dog Control Act

Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996 requires territorial authorities to report annually on:

- the administration of its dog control policy and its dog control practices; and
- a variety of dog control related statistics.

Section 10A(3) and (4) requires Council to give public notice of the report and to send a copy of the report to the Secretary for Local Government within 1 month after it has been formally adopted by Council.

## 2. Policy and Bylaw

Council's Dog Control Policy and Bylaw was reviewed and adopted in 2009/10 and then again in 2016/17. During 2021/22 Council made amendments to Schedule 3 of the Bylaw – Dog Exercise Areas but this was not considered a full review of the Bylaw.

The following objectives and policies form part of this bylaw.

Objectives (Outcomes Sought)		Policies (Solution)	
2.1	<b>Danger, Distress and Nuisance</b> To minimise danger, distress and nuisance caused by dogs to the community.	2.1.1	Dogs in public places must be under the direct control of their owners at all times.
		2.1.2	Dogs will be prohibited from specified areas under the Bylaw based on the following criteria: a. the intensity, type and frequency of public use; b. whether the presence of dogs may create a danger to the health and safety of users of any area; c. whether the ecological values of an area have been identified and established as needing protection from animals (including dogs) in any reserve management plan; and d. the expectations of reserve users.
		2.1.3	In preparing and reviewing any reserve management plan, Council will consider the appropriateness of prohibiting dogs from any reserve, taking into account the criteria for assessment of suitable prohibited areas set out in clause 2.1.2 (above).
		2.1.4	Amendments to the list of prohibited areas may occur outside the reserve management plan process necessary. In this event Council will follow the procedure set out in the Bylaw.

<b>2.2</b>	<b>Dog Fouling</b> To minimise the nuisance created by dogs fouling in public places.	2.2.1	Dog owners must remove faeces deposited in any public place by any dog under their control.
		2.2.2	Dog owners will be encouraged to carry disposal bags, and to use and dispose of these responsibly.
<b>2.3</b>	<b>Dog Exercise Areas</b> To provide opportunities to fulfil the exercise and recreational needs of dogs and their owners	2.3.1	Areas will be available where owners can exercise dogs without a restraint (e.g. leash or harness), provided that the owner remains present and keeps the dog under control.
		2.3.2	Exclusive dog exercise areas will not be provided.
<b>2.4</b>	<b>Education and Information Programmes</b> To promote and enhance community awareness of dog control issues and owner responsibility.	2.4.1	Education programmes (if available) will be promoted to enhance responsible dog ownership and to assist in community awareness and the prevention of dog attacks.
		2.4.2	Media publicity will be used to promote public awareness of: a. dog registration; b. Council's Policy on Dogs; c. Council's Bylaw; d. the use of infringement notices; and e. educational programmes about dogs.
<b>2.5</b>	<b>Responsible Owner Rebate</b> To encourage responsible dog ownership.	2.5.1	Dog owners will be encouraged to apply for a Council Responsible Owner Rebate.
<b>2.6</b>	<b>Funding</b> To fund the cost of dog control activities from fees and charges levied on dog owners in accordance with Council's funding policy.	2.6.1	Fees will be set annually by Council resolution.
		2.6.2	Levels of service will be set out in the Long-Term Plan.
		2.6.3	All income from fines and infringement fees will be allocated to funding dog control activities.
<b>2.7</b>	<b>Kuri</b>	2.7.1	Council acknowledges the significance of Kuri (dog) to our Maori community. While the requirements of the Policy and Council's Bylaw will apply to Kuri (dog) Council acknowledges their importance.

Whilst section 2.3.2 notes that exclusive dog exercise areas will not be provided, two areas have recently been established. One in Matamata adjacent to Peria Road Reserve and the other in Te Aroha off Spur Street.

### 3. Operational Functions

The Council employs 1.75 fulltime Animal Control Officers with the officers being stationed at the Morrinsville and Matamata offices. Administrative support of 2 hours per day assists the officers in following up on calls and managing reporting requirements.

A part-time person is also employed to attend the Dog Pound during weekends and public holidays, when dogs are in the pound, to clean the cages and feed the dogs.

Council provides a 24 hour 7 day a week service using external contractors to cover the after-hour duties. Hamilton City Council is contracted to act as the after-hours call centre. Allied Security New Zealand have been contract from 1 September 2020 to respond when an onsite response is required between 5pm and 8am weekdays, all weekends and Public Holidays.

Council has a dog pound and stock yards at its Waihou depot. The pound and yards were built in 2010 to replace its old pounds in Matamata and Morrinsville.

Council quality system and Long Term Plan performance measures requires the officers to respond to the various types of complaint within set timeframes. Those timeframes are set out below.

Expected response times				
Complaint type	Incident type	0800–1700 hrs	1700-0800 hrs	Weekend/holiday
Dog bite person	*Current	1 hour	1 hour	1 hour
	*Reported	4 Hours	NWD*	NWD
*Aggressive dog	Current	1 hour	1 hour	1 hour
	Reported	4 hours	NWD	NWD
Attacked stock	Current	1 hour	1 hour	1 hour
	Reported	4 hours	NWD	NWD
Attacked other animal/bird	Current	1 hour	1 hour	1 hour
	Reported	4 hours	NWD	NWD
Barking dog	Current	1 hour	1 hour	1 Hour
	Reported	4 hours	NWD	NWD
Wandering dog	Current	1 hour	1 hour	1 hour
	Caught in trap	1 hour	1 hour	1 hour
	Reported	NWD	NWD	NWD
Unregistered	Current/reported	24 hours	NWD	NWD
Animal welfare	Current/reported	4 hours	NWD	NWD
Wandering stock	Current	1 hour	1 hour	1 hour
	Reported	NWD	NWD	NWD

**\*Aggressive** means rushed person/vehicle or displayed threatening behaviour.

**\*Current incident** means the incident is happening now and the dog is an immediate danger to the public.

**\*Reported incident** is when someone reports an incident that happened sometime in the past, but is not a current threat to the public.

#### 4. Performance Measures

The performance measures adopted by Council are set out in the 2021 - 31 Long Term Plan and the results reported in this year's Annual Report are listed below.

Performance Measure	Target Level	Result	Comments
Complaints will be investigated within set timeframes (See 3.0 above)	95% within adopted timeframes	<p style="text-align: center;">▼</p> <p>98.69% (676 out of 685)</p> <p>91.67% (55 out of 60)</p> <p>98.12% (731 out of 745)</p>	<p>One of our main responsibilities is following up on complaints made about animals, from wandering stock to barking or attacking dogs. We aim to investigate the complaint and let the complainant know what action (if any) we have taken or intend to take within adopted timeframes. Some complaints can be resolved quickly; others can take time to work through with animal owners and may involve court action. This is measured by our customer request management system. These figures also include complaints responded to by our After Hours contractors. Some complaints, such as barking dogs or wandering dogs are not practical to attend at the time and are followed up the next working day.</p>
<p><b>Dogs</b></p> <p><b>Stock</b></p> <p><b>Total</b></p>			
Number of property visits per year	600 property visits per year	<p style="text-align: center;">✓</p> <p>803</p>	<p>Property visits let us check that dogs are appropriately housed and secured on their property. All Responsible Owner Applications include a property inspection. This helps to reduce the number of problems caused by animals in our community. This is measured by our customer request management system.</p> <p>We undertook 803 property visits across the district. These are as follows: Matamata 258 Morrinsville 308 and Te Aroha 237</p> <p>The number of property visits have increased from the previous year as we have not had the same COVID or staff leave issues.</p>
Number of street patrols undertaken in each of the three main towns	Average of 10 per month, per town	<p style="text-align: center;">▼</p> <p>Average per town 27.8/mth</p>	<p>Street patrols allow our staff to check if there are wandering animals that could pose a risk to our community. This helps to reduce the number of problems caused by animals in our community. This is measured by our customer request management system.</p> <p>Total Street Patrols: Matamata 420 Morrinsville 310, Te Aroha 270.</p>

## 5. Funding

Section 2.6 of the Dog Control Policy requires the dog control operation to be funded from fees and charges and in accordance with Council's Financial Policy. That policy states that 80% of the operation is to be funded from user pays with the remaining 20 percent from rates.

The cost of the total animal control function, including dog control, for the 2022/23 financial year is shown below as reported in Council's Annual Report.

	2022/23		2021/22
	Budget	Actual	Actual
Operating cost	\$467,813	\$490,450	\$428,501
Income	\$331,635	\$333,621	\$308,463
<b>Net cost of service</b>	<b>\$136,178</b>	<b>\$156,829</b>	<b>\$120,038</b>

Approximately 10% of the operating cost is used for the control of other animals such as stock and various bylaw inspections.

## 6. Registration and Impounding

The registration fee is made up of a base fee and rebates are used to reward responsible dog owners.



The base registration fee for 2022/23 was \$120, therefore the registration fee for dog owners that qualify for all of the rebates was \$40.

Rebates for the year were:

- No Complaints Rebate (\$35) - Every owner was automatically eligible for this rebate unless Council had received a genuine complaint about their dog, impounded their dog or they paid their previous year's registration late. This rebate reflects Council's aim of reducing costs for owners of dogs which cause the least problems.
- De-sexed, Working or Dogs New Zealand registered owners (\$30) - This rebate reflects Council's aim of reducing the unplanned litters in the District.
- Responsible Owner Rebate (\$15) - Owners who hold a responsible owner licence are automatically eligible for this rebate provided there have been no complaints registered against their dog and/or their dog has not been impounded during the previous registration year. This rebate reflects Council's aim of rewarding responsible dog ownership.

A penalty fee of 50% of the registration fee due before 31 July 2022 was charged for late payments.

The impounding fees adopted by Council were: (GST inclusive)

- First Impounding \$50.00
- 2nd Impounding \$80.00
- 3rd and subsequent impounding in the same registration year \$125.00
- Daily sustenance \$12.50

## 7. Statistical Information

The statistical information required by s10A is listed below.

Category	*For the period 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023	As at 30 June 2023
Number of registered dogs	6044	5509
Number of probationary owners	0	0
Number of disqualified owners	0	0
Number of dogs classified as dangerous (s31)	6	5
Number of dogs classified as menacing	81	72
▪ Under section 33A (Menacing behaviour)	57	51
▪ Under section 33C (Breed or type)	24	21
Number of infringement notices issued	145	145
Number of notice of complaints issued	155	155
Number of prosecutions under the Act	0	0

\*This figure includes all dogs that have departed or died during the registration year.

Complaints received				
Complaint	Matamata	Morrinsville	Te Aroha	District
Dog bite person	8	10	7	25
Aggressive dog	12	9	23	44
Attacked stock	3	1	4	8
Attacked other animal/bird	15	13	14	41
Barking dog	48	81	54	183
Wandering dog	123	97	130	350
Unregistered	0	2	0	2
Animal welfare	7	8	9	24
Dog fouling	1	0	0	1
Breach of the Bylaw	2	1	3	6
<b>Totals</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>685</b>

Pound register				
	Impounded	Returned	Re-homed	Destroyed
<b>Matamata</b>	51	20	2	29
<b>Morrinsville</b>	43	19	3	22
<b>Te Aroha</b>	36	17	2	15
<b>District</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>66</b>

The above figures include one lamb impounded and returned to the owner



### Dogs registered versus year

The following graph shows the number of dogs (National Dog Database statistics) registered in Matamata-Piako District Council on 31 May each year since 2015. The graph shows that registered dog numbers have not change significantly over the last five years.

