

Matamata-Piako District Council Annual Report on Dog Control Policy and Practices 2008/2009

1.0 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) & (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.

2.0 Policy and Bylaw

Council reviewed its Dog Control Policy and Dog Control Bylaw in 2005. The Policy and Bylaw came into force on 1 August 2005. The bylaw will be reviewed next year.

3.0 Goals and Objectives

The animal control activity goal is:-

- (a) To ensure that dog ownership does not cause nuisance or injury to any person, stock, poultry, domestic animal or protected wildlife.
- (b) To ensure that all dog and wandering stock complaints are action in appropriate timeframes.

and the councils' principal objectives are:-

- I) To ensure that all dogs within the district are registered;
- II) To ensure that a 24 hour/7 days per week system is in place to respond to complaints including wandering stock and dog complaints in the district;
- III) To ensure dogs and stock found wandering are adequately impounded and cared for;
- IV) To undertake educational programmes with dog owners and other interested parties.

The Council employs 1.5 fulltime officers with the officers being stationed at the Morrinsville and Matamata offices. One of the officers also has a contract for the after hours operation to provide a 24 hour 7 day a week service.

Council has a dog pound in Morrinsville and Matamata and a stock pound in Te Aroha. Council has resolved to build a new District pound with associated stock pound at its depot site in Waihou. Resource consent has been granted and construction work will start towards the end of 2009.

4.0 Performance Measures

Performance Measure	Target Level	Result
Operate animal control function in accordance with the Act and Bylaw – respond to complaints as per ISO procedures (Complaints in 7.0 below)	See timeframes in 3.0 below	98.7% of complaints responded to within the specified timeframe
Carry out regular street patrols	4x per week	955 patrols undertaken 18.3 per week on average
Carry out regular property visits	Visit all properties with registered dog within 2 years	678 properties visited. On target to achieve visits to majority of properties over the two year period.
Educational Programmes	5 visits per year to interested parties	Schools emailed about programs, 1 undertaken in Morrinsville
Educational Programmes	Responsible Owner licensing	108 programs undertaken.

Council is ISO 9002 accredited and part of the quality system requires the officers to respond to the various types of complaint within set timeframes. Those timeframes are set out below.

Complaint	0800 – 1700	1700 – 0800	Weekend/Holiday
Unregistered	24 hr	NWD	NWD
Aggressive dog	30 min	1 hr	1hr
Rushed person	30 min	1 hr	1 hr
Rushed vehicle	1 hr	NWD	2 hr
Threatening	1 hr	NWD	14 hr
Biting dog	30 min	1 hr	1 hr
Worrying stock	1 hr	2 hr	2 hr
Barking dog	1 hr	NWD	14 hr
Uncared for	24 hr	NWD	24 hr
Wandering dogs	1 hr	14 hr	14 hr
Wandering Stock	1 hr	1hr	1hr

NWD – Next Working Day.

5.0 Funding

Council's Financial Policy and section 3.8.1 of the Dog Control Policy required 80% of the dog control operation to be funded from fees and charges. The remaining 20 percent is funded from rates.

The cost of the total animal control function for the 2008/09 financial year is reported in more detail in Council's Annual Report.

	Actual 2006/07	Actual 2007/08	2008/2009
Operating Cost	\$208,385	\$210,000	217,000
Income	\$163,984	\$179,000	190,000
Net Cost	\$44,401	\$31,000	27,000

6.0 Registration and Impounding

The registration fee for the 2008/09 financial year was \$101.50. Rebates and bonuses are used to reward responsible dog owners. These are not available to owners whose dogs have been the subject of complaints, or whose dogs have been impounded. Rebates and bonuses for the year were:

- No Complaints Bonus (\$35) - Every owner was automatically eligible for this rebate unless Council has received a genuine complaint about their dog or their dog had been impounded during the previous registration year.
- Desexed, Working or New Zealand Kennel Club Registered Breeding Dogs (\$30) - This rebate reflects Council's aim of reducing the number of unwanted dogs and to reduce costs for owners of dogs which cause the least problems.
- Responsible Owner Licence (\$15) - Owners who held a responsible owner licence were automatically eligible for this rebate provided there had been no complaints registered against their dog and/or their dog had not been impounded during the previous registration year.

A penalty fee of 50% of the fee that would have been payable had the dog been registered on the first day of the registration year was charged for late payments.

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

- First Impounding \$45.00
- 2nd Impounding \$67.50
- 3rd and subsequent impounding in the same registration year \$101.25
- Daily sustenance \$12.50
- Stock Impounding (per head) \$45.00
- Sustenance (per head) \$5.00
- Transport, vet (etc) costs At cost

7.0 Statistical Information

The statistical information required by s10A is listed below.

Category	1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008	At 30 June 09
Number of registered dogs	4618	4993
Number of probationary owners	0	2
Number of disqualified owners	0	1
Number of dogs classified as dangerous (s31)	1	1
Number of dogs classified as menacing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Under section 33A (Menacing behaviour) ▪ Under section 33C (Breed or type) 	36 1 35	45 4 41
Number of infringement notices issued	147	91
Number of notice of complaints issued	93	142
Number of prosecutions under the Act	0	1*

* Police Prosecution

A schedule of the complaints received for the financial year and the level of response is listed below.

Wards	Unregistered		Rushed Vehicle		Worrying Stock		Aggressive		Barking		Uncared for	
	d/t	a/h	d/t	a/h	d/t	a/h	d/t	a/h	d/t	a/h	d/t	a/h
*												
Matamata	32	0	4	0	1	1	4	0	31	4	12	0
Morrinsville	0	0	0	0	13	8	18	3	30	8	1	0
Te Aroha	4	0	0	0	3	1	6	0	21	3	0	0
District	36	0	4	0	17	10	28	3	82	15	13	0

Wards	General		Biting		Wandering Dogs		Stock on State Highways		Stock Other roads		Total Complaints	ISO (4.0) timeframes	Percentage Compliance
	d/t	a/h	d/t	a/h	d/t	a/h	d/t	a/h	d/t	a/h			
MM	13	2	2	0	70	18	5	11	13	19	242	239	98.8
Mor	16	1	5	1	118	27	5	7	15	16	291	285	97.9
TA	9	1	2	3	73	26	0	3	10	15	181	181	100
District	38	4	9	4	261	71	10	21	38	50	714	705	98.7

(*d/t = daytime, a/h = after hours)

Wards	Property Visits		Street Patrols		Responsible Owner Lic.	Education Programmes	Notice of Complaint	Infringement Notices	Prosecutions	Dogs Impounded	Claimed	Released or re-homed	Destroyed
	d/t	a/h	d/t	a/h									
Matamata	89	44	675	0	39	0	52	28	0	86	32	11	43
Morrinsville	281	62	148	18	33	1	61	48	0	87	26	4	55
Te Aroha	166	36	102	12	36	0	29	15	0	52	25	1	26
District	678		955		108	1	142	91	0	225	83	16	124

The number of dog bites, by breed, for the year 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 was:

Breed	No of incidents
Pit bull x pig dogs	2
Mastiff	1
Fox terrier	1
Boxer	1
Labrador x	1
Staffiy x	1
German pointer	1
Not recorded	5
Total	13