



Matamata-Piako District Council Annual Report on Dog Control Policy and Practices 2009/10



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 during this report year. The reviewed Policy and Bylaw came into force on 1 July 2010.

The following objectives and policies were adopted by Council as part of that review.

Objectives (Outcomes Sought)		Policies (Solution)	
2.1	Danger, Distress and Nuisance 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 attitudes 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.

2.2	Dog Fouling 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.
2.3	Dog Exercise Areas 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.
2.4	Education and Information Programmes To promote and enhance community awareness of dog control issues and owner responsibility.	2.4.1	Education programmes 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.
		2.4.3	Dog owners will be encouraged to attend an approved dog training course and to apply for a Council Responsible Owner Licence.
2.5	Funding To fund the cost of dog control activities from fees and charges levied on dog owners in accordance with Council's funding policy.	2.5.1	Fees will be set annually by Council resolution.
		2.5.2	Levels of service will be set out in the Long-Term Council Community Plan.
		2.5.3	All income from fines and infringement fees will be allocated to funding dog control activities.

3.0 Operational Functions

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 started in August 2010.

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	1 hr	1hr

NWD – Next Working Day.

4.0 Funding

Section 2.5 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 2009/10 financial year is shown below and reported in more detail in Council's Annual Report.

Actual	2007/08	2008/2009	2009/2010
Operating Cost	\$210,000	\$217,000	\$238,000
Income	\$179,000	\$190,000	\$186,000
Net Cost	\$31,000	\$27,000	\$52,000

5.0 Performance Measures

The performance measures as set out in Council's 'Annual Plan' and the results reported in the 'Annual Report' are listed below.

Performance Measure	Target Level	Result	Comments
100% of complaints will be investigated and reported back to complainant within adopted timeframes (See 3.0 above)	100%	98.6%	By quickly responding to animal complaints, the well being of our community will continue to improve and there will be less animal related injuries and disturbances. 712/722 (98.6%) of complaints were investigated within the adopted timeframes. However due to the implementation of a new corporate system we are not able to report on whether the outcome was reported back to the complainant within the adopted timeframes.
Average of 10 street patrols undertaken each month in each of the three main towns	10 per month, per town	Mata 29.8 Morr 16.4 Te A 9.75	Regular street patrols will ensure that animals are kept off the streets, this will improve the health and wellbeing of residents An average of 29.8 street patrols were undertaken in Matamata, 16.4 in Morrinsville, however only an average of 9.75 street patrols were undertaken in Te Aroha.
600 property visits carried out per year	600	633	Regular property visits will ensure that people are taking quality care of their animals to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the community.

6.0 Registration and Impounding

The registration fee for the 2009/10 financial year was unchanged at \$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 \$50.00
- 2nd Impounding \$75.00
- 3rd and subsequent impounding in the same registration year \$120.00
- Daily sustenance \$12.50
- Stock Impounding (per head) \$50.00
- 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 2008 to 30 June 2009	At 30 June 2010
Number of registered dogs	4993	4873
Number of probationary owners	2	2
Number of disqualified owners	1	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) 45 ▪ Under section 33C (Breed or type) 41 	45	67
Number of infringement notices issued	91	80
Number of notice of complaints issued	142	134
Number of prosecutions under the Act	1*	0

* 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	41	0	7	0	5	2	6	1	26	2	4	0
Morrinsville	1	0	3	0	13	4	12	4	41	10	2	0
Te Aroha	1	0	0	1	2	1	9	2	21	8	0	0
District	43	0	10	1	20	7	27	7	88	20	6	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	14	3	5	1	83	23	4	16	16	12	271	263	97%
Mor	13	4	3	0	91	20	4	10	17	22	274	274	100%
TA	9	2	9	1	56	19	2	4	11	20	178	177	99%
District	36	9	17	2	230	62	10	30	44	54	723	714	99%

(*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	111	36	356	2	28	1	69	27	0	83	39	9	35
Morrinsville	236	59	171	26	32	0	42	26	0	75	23	3	49
Te Aroha	146	45	103	14	22	0	23	27	0	46	18	3	25
District	633		672		82	1	134	80	0	204	80	15	109

The number of dog bites, by breed, for the year 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010 was:

Breed	No of incidents
Pit bull x	3
Mastiff X	1
Fox terrier	1
Poodle	1
Doberman	1
Staffie x	2
Collie	1
Rottweiler	2
Not recorded	7
Total	19