



Dog Control Policy and Practices 2023/2024



2023/2024 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. No further changes have been made.

3. Operational Functions

The Council employ two Animal Control Officers to cover the district, one fulltime and one officer who works 30 hours a week. These officers are primarily stationed at the Morrinsville and Matamata offices. Administrative support is provided by the customer services team across the district including a dedicated Animal Control Administrator for two hours per day.

A part-time person is also employed for two hours over the weekends and public holidays to manage our pound. Their duties involve cleaning the pound and looking after the dogs.

Council provides a 24 hour 7 day a week service using external contractors to cover the after-hour duties. Calls are taken by our in house after hours' team and Allied Security New Zealand are contracted to respond when an onsite response is required between 5pm and 8am weekdays, all weekends and Public Holidays.

Council has a pound and stock yards in the Matamata-Piako District. The pound and yards were built in 2010 to collectively replace the previous pounds in Matamata and Morrinsville.

Council quality system and Long Term Plan performance measures requires officers to respond to the various types of complaints 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 may be 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 2024 - 34 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>▼</p> <p>97.10% (737 out of 759)</p> <p>94.83% (55 out of 58)</p> <p>96.94% (792 out of 817)</p>	One of our main responsibilities is following up complaints made about animals, from wandering stock to barking or aggressive dogs. We aim to investigate the complaint and let the complainant know what action we have taken or intend to take within adopted timeframes. While some complaints can be resolved quickly; others can take time to work through with animal owners and may involve court action. These figures include complaints responded to by our After Hours contractors. When we are not able to or it is not practical to attend immediately these complaints are followed up the next working day.
Dogs			
Stock			
Total			
Number of property visits per year	600 property visits per year	<p>✓</p> <p>666</p>	<p>Property visits let us check that dogs are appropriately housed and secured on their property. All 'responsible owners' and more than 'two dogs' application' include a property inspection, as does the unregistered dog checks. This helps to reduce the number of problems caused by animals in our community.</p> <p>Total property checks 666: (Matamata 225, Morrinsville 262 and Te Aroha 179).</p>
Number of street patrols undertaken in each of the three main towns	Average of 10 per month, per town	<p>▼</p> <p>Average per town 29/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.</p> <p>Total street patrols 1044 (Matamata 402 Morrinsville 363, Te Aroha 279).</p>

5. Funding

Section 2.6 of the Dog Control Policy directs the dog control operation to be primarily funded from fees and charges. All income from fees and infringements are to be allocated to fund dog control activities in accordance with the Long Term Plan. Council aim for this activity to be funded 80-100% from the charges collected.

The cost of the total animal control function, including dog control, for the 2023/24 financial year is shown below as reported in Council's Annual Report.

	*2023/24		2022/23
	Budget	Actual	Actual
Operating cost	\$502,122	\$572,715	\$490,450
Income	\$331,635	\$359,752	\$333,621
Net cost of service	\$170,487	*\$212,963	\$156,829

Approximately 10% of the operating cost is used for the control of other animals such as wandering stock.

**registration fees have increased and these will be reported on in the 24/25 report.*

**the increase in net cost is largely due to an increase in 'overhead' expenditure.*

6. Registration and Impounding

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



The base registration fee for 2023/24 was \$120, therefore the registration fee for dog owners that qualify for all of the rebates was \$40.

A full fee structure can be found on our website: [Fees and Charges 2024/25 \(mpdc.govt.nz\)](https://mpdc.govt.nz)

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 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. The owner needs to take a short test and their property needs to have been inspected and fenced. This rebate reflects Council's aim of rewarding responsible dog ownership.

A penalty fee of 50% of the registration fee (due before 31 July 2023) was charged for late payments.

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

- 1st 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 2023 to 30 June 2024	As at 30 June 2024
Number of registered dogs	6030	5509
Number of probationary owners	0	0
Number of disqualified owners	1	1
Number of dogs classified as dangerous (s31)	5	4
Number of dogs classified as menacing	96	87
▪ Under section 33A (Menacing behaviour)	69	62
▪ Under section 33C (Breed or type)	27	25
Number of infringement notices issued	153	144
Number of notice of complaints issued	199	199
Number of prosecutions under the Act	0	0

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

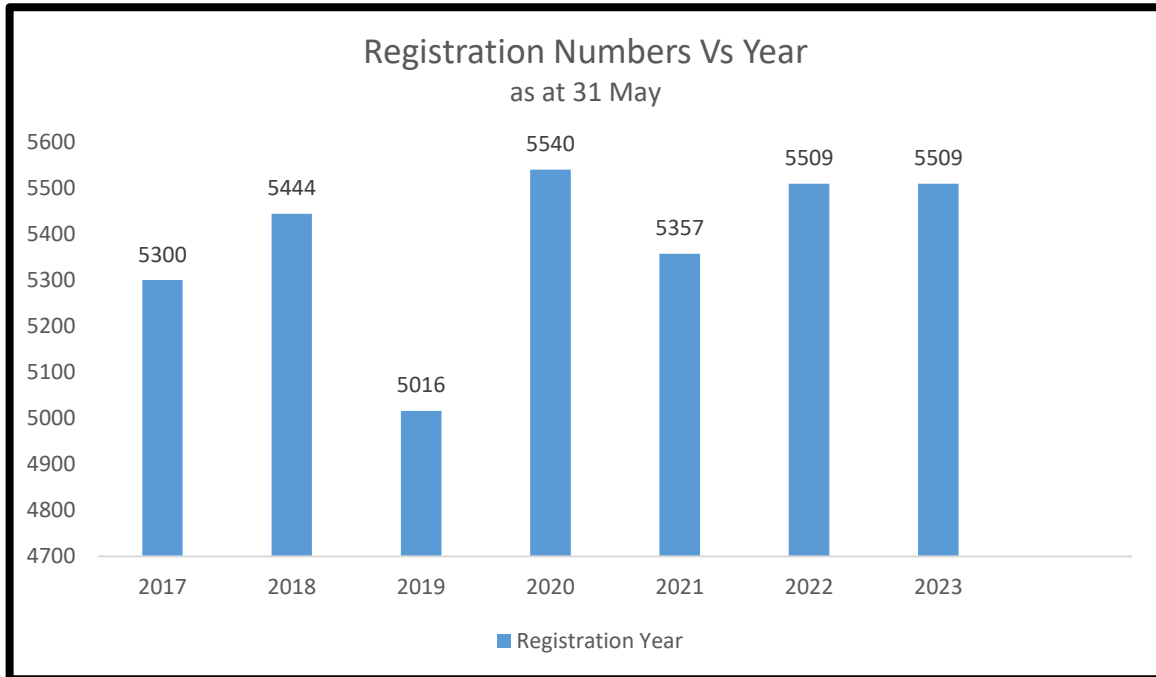
Complaints received				
Complaint	Matamata	Morrinsville	Te Aroha	District
Dog bite person	9	10	2	21
Aggressive dog	24	18	9	51
Attacked stock	4	3	1	8
Attacked other animal/bird	7	16	13	36
Barking dog	45	55	54	154
Wandering dog	161	179	114	454
Unregistered	1	1	2	4
Animal welfare	7	8	11	26
Dog fouling	0	0	0	0
Breach of the Bylaw	0	2	3	5
Totals	258	292	209	759

Pound register				
	Impounded	Returned	Re-homed	*Destroyed
Matamata	50	15	3	32
Morrinsville	47	23	0	24
Te Aroha	41	19	1	21
District	138	57	4	77

**26 of the destroyed dogs during the 2023/24 year were surrendered by owners who could no longer keep them.*

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 2017. The graph shows that registered dog numbers have not change significantly over the last five years. 2019-2020 was an exception, Covid may have impacted registration numbers.



**2022 and 2023 numbers have been double checked and it is a coincidence that they are the same figure.*