

10A Report 2018/2019

**Report on the Administration of
Hastings District Council's
Policy and Practices in Relation to the
Control of Dogs for the year
1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019**

Pursuant to:

(Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996)

REG-1-01-19-9625



1 Background

The policy is made under section 10 of the Dog Control Act 1996. Council adopted the “Dog Control” Policy 2009. The policy underwent a review and public consultation in conjunction with the Dogs Bylaw and was submitted to Council for adoption on 25 August 2016.

The purpose of the policy is to provide a framework for the care and control of dogs throughout Hastings District with regard to:

- a) *“the need to minimise danger, distress and nuisance to the community generally; and*
- b) *the need to avoid the inherent danger in allowing dogs to have uncontrolled access to public places that are frequented by children, whether or not the children are accompanied by adults; and*
- c) *the importance of enabling, to the extent that is practicable, the public (including families) to use streets and public amenities without fear of attack or intimidation by dogs; and*
- d) *the exercise and recreational needs of dogs and their owners”*

The anticipated outcomes of the policy are:

1. Minimising the potential for danger, distress and nuisance to the community from dogs;
2. Promoting responsible dog ownership;
3. Promoting effective dog control, particularly in public places where children or families are present;
4. Minimising the risk of intimidation and attacks by dogs;
5. Promoting positive interaction between dog owners and members of the community;
6. Providing for the exercise and recreational needs of dogs and their owners.

Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996 requires Territorial Authorities to publically report each financial year on the administration of their dog control policy and practices.

2 Dog Prohibited Areas

Dogs are prohibited from the following areas:

1. Hastings District Council Civic Building
2. Hastings District Council Public Libraries
3. Hastings District Council Swimming Pools
4. Children's playing areas under the control of Hastings District Council
5. All areas under the control of Hastings District Council set aside for organised games or sports and all other areas zoned as sports parks in the Hastings District
6. Rangaiika Beach at Ocean Beach / Cape Kidnappers.

Prohibited areas are established to prevent conflict with other users, or areas with sensitive ecological value. Very few complaints are received regarding non-compliance as the majority of dog owners are responsible people and comply with the requirements.

Under the review no additional dog prohibited areas were added.

3 Dog Exercise and Leash Control

There are currently areas where dogs are required to be leashed and areas where they may free run (under control of the owner). Council does not provide specific dog exercise areas. Again, the majority of dog owners are responsible and considerate.

4 Dog Aggression

A focus is on encouraging dog owners to understand the true nature of dogs, to recognise the potential that all dogs have and to comply with their obligations under the Dog Control legislation, in particular Section 5(f) –

to take all reasonable steps to ensure that the dog does not injure, endanger, intimidate, or otherwise cause distress to any person.

All complaints of aggression reported to Council are given priority and are thoroughly investigated. Action ranges from written warning, infringements, dangerous dog classification or prosecution.

There were a number of stock worrying complaints which started June 2019. Stock worrying can be common at this time of the year when the orchards are no longer in production and animals are brought in to graze on the periphery of the urban areas.

This coupled with a full moon and lambing creates the conditions for dogs to get up to mischief, especially when they are not adequately restrained.

5 Dog Control Statistics

Year	Active Dogs	Dog % increase	Registered Dogs	% Reg	Impound	Claimed
2018/19	13,368	1.6%	12,640	94.5	1,131	64%
2017/18	13,166	4.1%	12,561	95.4	1,041	76%
2016/17	12,634	3.1%	12,366	97.8	1,082	76%
2015/16	12,243	3.2%	11,722	95.7	982	79%

NB: Impounded does not include dogs relinquished

Compliant Type	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19
Person Attacked	66	60	53	52
Person Rushed	115	127	118	90
Animal Attacked	92	124	106	135
Roaming	1,499	1,793	1,806	2,033
Barking	600	633	558	604
Fouling	8	7	1	2
Other	272	265	226	262
Total	2,652	3,009	2,868	3,178

Owner Classification	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19
Probationary owners s21	0	0	0	0
Disqualified owners s25	7	4	4	5
Menacing s33A 1b(i) – (Behaviour)	14	26	27	27
Menacing s33A 1b(ii) – (Breed Characteristics)	0	0	0	0
Menacing s33C – (Government listed breeds)	256	198	200	190
Dangerous s31 (1)(a) – (Conviction under s57)	1	1	0	0
Dangerous s31 (1)(b) – (Sworn evidence)	2	9	9	11
Dangerous s31 (1)(c) – (Owner admits in writing)	6	5	7	22

	Infringements	Prosecutions
2018/2019	691	15
2017/2018	511	0
2016/2017	622	2
2015/2016	323	7

Registration category

Category	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19
Urban	5,857	6,323	6,690	6,828
Rural	6,372	6,295	6,458	6,524
Other	14	16	18	16
Total	12,243	12,634	13,166	13,368

6 Fees

Dog registration fees are set by Council resolution.

Dog registration fees, fines and impound fees are used to fund dog control.

A reduced dog registration fee is offered to those who register their dogs before 1 August and a reduced fee is offered to those owners on the Selected Owner Scheme.

27% of the dog control activity is funded from the general fund in recognition of the public good benefit.

7 Education

Education is offered to all offenders by way of one-on-one consultation and a series of educational brochures are available.

Dog bite prevention and responsible dog ownership addresses are undertaken, free of charge to schools, kindergartens and any other community groups. This training is also offered internally to HDC staff.

A copy of Council's dog control policy is available on our website together with other educational material.

Copy to:

Secretary for Local Government
Department of Internal Affairs
PO Box 805
Wellington 6140