

10A Report 2017/2018

**Report on the Administration of
Hastings District Council's
Policy and Practices in Relation to the
Control of Dogs for the year
1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018**

Pursuant to:

(Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996)



1 Background

The policy is made under section 10 of the Dog Control Act 1996. Council adopted the “Dog Control” Policy 6 August 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. 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.

5 Dog Control Statistics

Year	Complaints	Active Dogs	Dog % increase	Registered Dogs	% Reg	Impound	Claimed
2017/18	2,868	13,166	4.1%	12,561	95.4	1041	76%
2016/17	3,009	12,634	3.1%	12,366	97.8	1082	76%
2015/16	2,652	12,243	3.2%	11,722	95.7	982	79%

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

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

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

Registration category

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

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.

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