



Tauranga City

**Report on the Administration of
Tauranga City Council's
Policy and Practices in Relation to the
Control of Dogs for the Year
1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016
(Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996)**

Brent Lincoln
Team Leader – Animal Services
Tauranga City Council

1. Background

Council adopted the "Control of Dogs" Policy ("the policy") on 29 April 2008. The Policy has provisions relating to the control of dogs in public places, which are enforceable under the Tauranga City Council Bylaw.

The objectives of the policy are:

- To provide adequate opportunities to fulfil the exercise and recreational needs of dogs and their owners.
- To minimise the fear of dogs attacking or intimidating people.
- To avoid danger from uncontrolled dogs having access to areas frequented by children.
- To minimise danger, distress and nuisance caused by dogs.
- To provide an educational/awareness document to help dog owners understand the legal and moral obligations of dog ownership.

2. Dog Prohibited Areas

Dogs are prohibited from certain specified areas. The following areas are assessed for consideration as dog prohibited areas:

- Children's playgrounds.
- Areas of intense public use.
- Areas of ecological sensitivity.
- Any other areas as resolved by Council.

Comment

Regular patrols are carried out in dog prohibited areas which includes ensuring signage is appropriate and in good order.

3. Dog Exercise and Leash Control

No specific dog exercise areas are provided. Dog owners can exercise their dogs off leash provided they are not;

- (a) in a dog prohibited or leash control area; or
- (b) causing or likely to cause danger, distress or nuisance; or
- (c) on any footpath or within a road reserve or state highway; or

Comment

The majority of owners enjoy the freedom of choosing where to exercise their dogs however there has been some limited interest in the creation of a dog specific park. The options in regard to this are being considered.

4. Fear of Attack and Intimidation

- All complaints of aggression were investigated.

Year End	Attacks on people	Rushing People	Attacks on Domestic Animals	Total	Total Known Dogs	Aggression as a % of Total Known Dogs
2012	69	87	125	281	10053	2.80%
2013	76	72	126	274	10342	2.65%
2014	62	101	105	268	10916	2.46%
2015	69	98	122	289	11492	2.51%
2016	79	108	100	287	12024	2.39%

- 960 dogs were impounded. This includes dogs roaming, captured, trapped and seized. 826 dogs were released (either owner collected or adopted) and 134 were euthanised (release rate 86%).

5. Fees

- Dog registration fees are set by Council resolution.
- Dog registration fees, fines and impound fees are used to fund dog control.
- A discounted dog registration fee is offered to those who register their dogs before 1 August.
- Dog control for 2015/2016 year was 10% funded by rates.

6. Education

- A part time education officer was employed during the year and will have a focus on delivering bite prevention training to schools.
- Education and bite prevention presentations were made to organisations and groups such as Probation Service, NZ Post, schools and Polytechnic Animal Handling work experience students. Offenders and complainants are also spoken to so they have the tools to reduce future issues.
- A series of dog educational brochures are available from Council. They are also provided to dog owners when we receive complaints about their dogs barking, or roaming.

- 20 pods which dispense plastic bags for dog owners to clean up after their dogs; have been installed around the city.
- Staff have commenced beach patrols providing information to dog owners about dog control on our beaches and reserves.
- A copy of the Dog Control Policy & Bylaw is available for every dog owner.

7. Complaints

Total number of registered dogs	11721
---------------------------------	--------------

Total number of probationary owners	0
-------------------------------------	---

Total number of disqualified owners	13
-------------------------------------	----

Total number of dogs classified as dangerous	0
▪ S.31 (1)(a) Section 57A conviction	
▪ S.31 (1)(b) Sworn evidence	5
▪ S.31 (1)(c) Owner admits in writing	19

Total number of dogs classified as menacing because of:	36
▪ S.33A(1)(b)(i) Observed or reported behaviour	
▪ S.33A (1)(b)(ii) Characteristics associated with breed	43
▪ S.33C Dog breeds listed in schedule four of the Dog Control Act 1996	105

Number of infringement notices issued	647
---------------------------------------	-----

Number of dog related complaints received	5400
▪ Attacks on people	79
▪ Attacks on domestic animals	100
▪ Person rushed at	108
▪ Other animals or vehicles rushed at	28
▪ Barking dogs	1370
▪ Bylaw (excludes roaming dogs)	128
▪ Roaming dogs	1827
▪ Unregistered dogs	702
▪ Miscellaneous*	1058

* NB: Miscellaneous complaints are made up of customer messages, registration enquiries, requests for dog traps etc.

Number of summary prosecutions commenced	2
--	---

