

DOG CONTROL POLICY & PRACTICES REPORT

**01 JULY 2022-
30 JUNE 2023**



WAIROA
DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Approved by:	Council
Department:	Regulatory
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Related policies:	Dog Control Policy Dog Control Bylaw
Related forms:	

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PURPOSE

To give visibility over Council’s Dog Control Policy and Practices for the period 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023 as required by section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996 (DCA).

Section 10A of the DCA requires territorial authorities to publicly report each financial year on:

- the administration of their dog control policy and their dog control practices (Section 10A(1)); and
- a variety of dog control related statistics (Section 10A(2)).

OVERVIEW

Council is responsible for the enforcement of regulations relating to the keeping, welfare and control of dogs within the Wairoa District. Council is required under the DCA to make provision for the control of dogs and the damage they can cause. Impounding of dogs is an activity required by the provisions of the DCA and associated Wairoa District Council Public Safety Bylaw, Dog Control Bylaw and Dog Control Policy.

The Council has a responsibility to respond to complaints relating to dogs. Council’s long-term focus for dog control activities is to ensure a safe living environment is maintained through the monitoring and enforcement of legislation, regulations and bylaws.

Council adopted the Dog Control Bylaw on 22 August 2017. The purpose of the bylaw is to enable the Council to set standards to be observed by dog owners and provide controls around the keeping of dogs in the Wairoa District to minimize danger, distress and nuisance caused by dogs. Council adopted its reviewed Dog Control Policy simultaneously on 22 August 2017. The policy provides a practical framework for the care and control of dogs throughout the district while minimising any danger, distress and nuisance to the community generally.

Wairoa District has 1,342 dog owners and 3,092 registered dogs. 4 FTE Dog Control Officers are responsible for a small urban and large rural area covering 412,000 hectares with 896 kilometers of roadway.

DOG REGISTRATION

Dog control fees are set by resolution.

DESCRIPTION	FEE (GST incl)
Dog Registration	
Class D – Dogs classified Dangerous	\$415.00
Class M – Dogs classified Menacing	\$200.00
Class S – being all other dogs	\$100.00
Class W – Working dogs	\$60.00
<i>Late registration fee is \$30</i>	
Impounding Fees	
First Impounding	\$100.00
Second Impounding	\$160.00
Third and Subsequent Impounding	\$200.00

Dogs impounded after 6pm and before 6am	\$200.00	
Daily Sustenance Charge	\$30.00	
Micro Chipping	\$60.00	
Replace Tag	\$15.00	
Dog Control Officers time where rechargeable	\$160.00 per hour	
Motor Vehicle use	\$.90 per km	
Infringement offences and fees (GST inclusive) per Schedule 1 of the Dog Control Act 1996		
<i>Section</i>	<i>Brief description of offence</i>	<i>Infringement fee</i>
18	Wilful obstruction of dog control officer or ranger	\$750.00
19(2)	Failure or refusal to supply information or wilfully providing false particulars	\$750.00
19A(2)	Failure to supply information or wilfully providing false particulars about dog	\$750.00
20(5)	Failure to comply with any bylaw authorised by the section	\$300.00
23A(2)	Failure to undertake dog owner education programme or dog obedience course (or both)	\$300.00
24	Failure to comply with obligations of probationary owner	\$750.00
28(5)	Failure to comply with effects of disqualification	\$750.00
32(2)	Failure to comply with effects of classification of dog as dangerous dog	\$300.00
32(4)	Fraudulent sale or transfer of dangerous dog	\$500.00
33EC (1)	Failure to comply with effects of classification of dog as menacing dog	\$300.00
33F(3)	Failure to advise person of muzzle and leashing requirements	\$100.00
36A(6)	Failure to implant microchip transponder in dog	\$300.00
41	False statement relating to dog registration	\$750.00
41A	Falsely notifying death of dog	\$750.00
42	Failure to register dog	\$300.00
46(4)	Fraudulent procurement or attempt to procure replacement dog registration label or disc	\$500.00

DESCRIPTION		FEE
48(3)	Failure to advise change of dog ownership	\$100.00
49(4)	Failure to advise change of address	\$100.00
51(1)	Removal, swapping, or counterfeiting of registration label or disc	\$500.00
52A	Failure to keep dog controlled or confined	\$200.00
53(1)	Failure to keep dog under control	\$200.00
54(2)	Failure to provide proper care and attention, to supply proper and sufficient food, water, and shelter, and to provide adequate exercise	\$300.00
54A	Failure to carry leash in public	\$100.00
55(7)	Failure to comply with barking dog abatement notice	\$200.00
62(4)	Allowing dog known to be dangerous to be at large unmuzzled or unleashed	\$300.00
62(5)	Failure to advise of muzzle and leashing requirements	\$100.00
72(2)	Releasing dog from custody	\$750.00

EDUCATION

The Council advertises distributes and encourages with educational brochures on a regular basis and the use of a rural farm database to educate people in the district. Including dog ownership registrations, safety around dogs and health and care for your animals.

Dog Attack booklets distributed to Health Board and Emergency Departments and other agencies around the community.

Dog Control Officers are available on request for speaking engagements and presentations.

Animal Education and Control information and Application information

www.wairoadc.govt.nz/services/animal-education/dog-owners

Working Dog Booklet – this booklet is designed for new shepherds and farm owners; it can be used any time of the year to update and add new employees to the farm.

www.wairoadc.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/Working-dog-brochure.pdf

Dog Attack Information booklet – this is to help provide information to those who have had unfortunate circumstances of a dog attack. The booklet is provided at emergency centres and other agencies. It is provided in a sealed envelope with a pen so they may take with them to complete and return to the Council or contact Animal Control.

Brochures are regularly on the Wairoa District Facebook advising owners of their obligations and responsibilities, also promoting times of holidays and seasons to remind owners to take care of their animals at these times.

DOG PROHIBITED, LEASH ONLY AND DOG EXERCISE AREAS

Council has made provision for areas where dogs are prohibited, permitted on leashes or allowed freedom for exercise purposes.

Prohibited Areas:

All dogs with the exception of Disability Assist Dogs are prohibited from the following areas:

- All school grounds throughout the district
- All pre-school/kindergarten/early childhood centre facilities throughout the district
- All playgrounds throughout the district
- All sports facilities throughout the district
- Wairoa District Council buildings
- Any other areas as that Council deems necessary, either permanently or temporarily, and which will be publicly notified and sign-posted accordingly.

On-Lead Areas

Dogs shall only be allowed in the following areas while under continuous direct physical control by its owner or responsible person by way of an effective lead or being carried in a vehicle while tethered to the vehicle.

- Streets within any residential or commercial area and all public places within these; and,
- All public parks, carparks, public reserves and parts of parks and reserves under the control of Council which are neither prohibited areas, or off lead areas.

Off-Lead Exercise Areas

The following areas are designated off-lead exercise areas:

- Private properties with suitable means of containment of the dogs;
- Old landfill site at Fraser Street;
- Whakamahia Road reserve from the end of the limestone walkway to the estuary excluding the DOC land that is fenced off; and,
- Pilot's Hill reserve.

Areas are regularly patrolled.

IMPOUNDING:

Council continues to lease the Pound facility at QRS. Council is responsible for the maintenance and management of its own pound assets, and the stewardship and nourishment of any dogs impounded in its care. The pound operates 24/7, as per the current Policy due to health and safety issues no members of the public can access the pound.

Dogs are only released to owners on full payment of due fees, and the cost of micro-chipping if required. Any dog not claimed within seven days, if not suitable for rehoming through the SPCA or another approved facility, is euthanised. All dogs are assessed by an Animal Control Officer to determine suitability for rehoming.

STATISTICS

Category	For Period 01 July 2022- 30 June 2023
1) Total # Registered Dogs	3092
2) Total # Probationary Owners	0
3) Total # Disqualified Owners	13
4) Total # Dangerous Dogs	2
➤ <i>Dangerous by Owner Conviction Under s31(1)(a)</i>	0
➤ <i>Dangerous by Sworn Evidence s31(1)(b)</i>	2
➤ <i>Dangerous by Owner Admittance in Writing s31(1)(c)</i>	0
5) Total # Menacing Dogs	38
➤ <i>Menacing under s33A(1)(b)(i) - i.e. by Behaviour</i>	12
➤ <i>Menacing under s33A(1)(b)(ii)- by Breed Characteristics</i>	2
➤ <i>Menacing under s33C(1) by Schedule 4 Breed.</i>	24
6) Total # Infringement Notices	263
7) Total # Complaints Received/Client Service Requests	569
➤ <i>Barking</i>	78
➤ <i>Dangerous</i>	8
➤ <i>Impounding</i>	175
➤ <i>Lost & Found</i>	136
➤ <i>Other</i>	31
➤ <i>Roaming</i>	229
➤ <i>Rushing</i>	12
➤ <i>Welfare</i>	43
➤ <i>Dog Attack - Animal</i>	24
➤ <i>Dog Attack - Person</i>	6
9) Total # Prosecutions Taken	1

DESEXING PROGRAMME

The Fred Lewis Enterprise Foundation have provided the Council with Desexing Vouchers to prevent any roaming, nuisance and unwanted pregnancies and encourage neutering of dogs in the community

This programme also provides free microchipping with the voucher.

Animal control have contacted and granted vouchers to owners who have Class – Menacing dogs to get their dogs neutered or spayed.

Owners can contact Animal Control at the Council office or via email to see if they classify

✉ compliance@wairoadc.govt.nz

OTHER MATTERS

SELECTED OWNER POLICY (SOP)

SOP status provides a discounted rate of dog registration as an incentive to responsible dog owners. To qualify for SOP status all dogs must be registered on or by 31st July of the current registration year, dog/s must be micro-chipped, there have been no justified complaints against, infringement, or impounding of any dog, and the property has been inspected and approved in relation to appropriately fenced areas or kennel runs. The policy allows for a fee to be set; no fee is currently in place for this application.

MULTIPLE DOG PERMITS (3+ DOGS – URBAN ZONE)

A permit is required to keep more than two dogs on a property in an urban area. The issue of a permit is conditional on the suitability of an owner, their property and obtaining of approval from affected neighbours. The policy allows for a fee to be set; no fee is currently in place for this application.

RAISING A CONCERN

Animal Control can be contacted through the Council we provide (24/7) assistance

☎ +64 6 838 7309 or

General inquiries for Animal Control

✉ compliance@wairoadc.govt.nz