

To	Ordinary Council
From	Kaihautū Ratonga Waeture / Regulatory Services Manager, Chantelle Denton
Date	16 September 2024
Subject	Annual Dog Control Policy and Practices Report – 2023/24

(This report shall not be construed as policy until adopted by full Council)

Whakarāpopoto Kāhui Kahika / Executive Summary

1. The Council is required under the Dog Control Act 1996 to provide a report for the financial year on the administration of the Dog Control Policy (the Policy) and dog control practices along with a range of statistical data. The Annual Dog Control Report for 2023/24 is provided as Appendix 1.

Taunakitanga / Recommendation(s)

THAT the Council;

- a) Approves the South Taranaki District Council Annual Dog Control Report for 2023/24 in accordance with Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996; and
- b) Notes that approval will trigger public notification of the report and that a copy will be provided to the Secretary of Local Government.

Kupu Whakamārama / Background

2. Every year the Council is required under the Dog Control Act 1996 to report on the administration of its policy and practices for the financial year. A recent legislative change requires the report to be published on the Council website. The Dog Control Act 1996 is specific on the scope of the report and how it is publicised (see Legislative Considerations below).

Local Government Purpose

3. Under the Local Government Act 2002, the Council's purpose is to "*promote the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of communities in the present and for the future*". The purpose of this Act aligns with the considerations under section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996.

Whaiwhakaaro me ngā aromatawai / Considerations and Assessments

Assessment of Significance and Engagement

4. South Taranaki District Council's general approach to determining the level of "significance" will be to consider:

Criteria	Measure	Assessment
Degree	The number of residents and ratepayers affected and the degree to which they are affected by the decision or proposal.	Low – the Annual Dog Control Report provided as Appendix 1 is retrospective in nature, although it is acknowledged that over the course of the year, the exercise of the dog control function can impact a significant proportion of the community.
LOS	The achievement of, or ability to achieve, the Council's stated levels of service as set out in the Long Term Plan (LTP).	Low – given the retrospective nature of the Annual Dog Control Report the decision to adopt will not affect the Council's ability to deliver levels of service as outlined in the LTP.
Decision	Whether this type of decision, proposal or issue has a history of generating wide public interest within South Taranaki.	Low – this decision has not generated wide public interest in the past, although it is acknowledged that a small number of individuals have taken an interest in the year-end results of this activity over recent years.
Financial	The impact of the decision or proposal on the Council's overall budget or included in an approved Long Term Plan and its ability to carry out its existing or proposed functions and activities now and in the future.	Low – there is no impact on Council's budgets, given its retrospective nature.
Reversible	The degree to which the decision or proposal is reversible.	Medium – once the report is presented to the Department of Internal Affairs the decision cannot be reversed.
Environment	The degree of impact the decision will have on the environment.	Low – the report does not constitute an impact

Criteria	Measure	Assessment
		on the environment, although it is acknowledged that the performance of the dog control function does have a carbon footprint, primarily through the operation of the pound and the routine deployment of response vehicles.

5. In terms of the Council’s Significance and Engagement Policy the adoption of the report is of low significance.
6. It should be noted that the Council is required to make a copy of the report publicly available and publish it on its website.

Legislative Considerations

7. Under Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996 (the Act) the Council must, in respect of each financial year, report on the administration of its policy (as adopted under Section 10) and its dog control practices. The report (in Appendix 1) is required to include the following for each financial year:
 - (a) *the number of registered dogs in the territorial authority district*
 - (b) *the number of probationary owners and disqualified owners in the territorial authority district*
 - (c) *the number of dogs in the territorial authority district classified dangerous under Section 31 and the relevant provision under which the classification is made*
 - (d) *the number of dogs in the territorial authority district classified as menacing under Section 33A or 33C and the relevant provision under which the classification is made*
 - (e) *the number of infringement notices issued by the territorial authority*
 - (f) *the number of dog related complaints received by the territorial authority in the previous year and the nature of those complaints; and*
 - (g) *the number of prosecutions taken by the territorial authority under this Act.*
8. The Act is specific regarding the requirements for advertising the report and that the report must be provided to the government as specified below:
 - 3) *The territorial authority must give public notice of the report -*
 - (a) *by means of a notice published in –*
 - (i) *One or more daily newspapers circulating in the territorial authority district; or*
 - (ii) *One or more other newspapers that have at least an equivalent circulation in that district to the daily newspapers circulating in that district; and*
 - (b) *by any means that the territorial authority thinks desirable in the circumstances.*
 - 4) *The territorial authority must also, within one month after adopting the report, send a copy of it to the Secretary for Local Government.*

Financial/Budget Considerations

9. There are no financial or budget considerations regarding this report, given its retrospective nature.

Consistency with Plans/Policies/Community Outcomes

10. Nothing in this report is inconsistent with any Council policy, plan or strategy and reports on the administration of the Dog Control Policy as required under the Act.
11. This matter contributes to the following community outcomes as detailed below:

Mana Mauri - Cultural well-being
Mana Tangata - Social well-being
Mana Oranga - Economic well-being
Mana Taiao - Environmental well-being

Consideration for Iwi/Māori

12. Māori and Iwi benefit from the enforcement of the Act, which provides a safe environment within the district. All dog owners and the general public benefit from the regulation of dog ownership and education.

Affected Parties Consultation

13. No formal consultation on the document is required, as it is a statutory requirement to report on the activities of the previous year. The Act requires that the public be notified of the report via a newspaper that is circulating in the district. It is standard practice that the report is also available online on the Council's website.

Whakakapia / Conclusion

14. This report seeks to obtain the approval of the attached Annual Dog Control Report which provides information on the administration and enforcement of the Act and Policy for the 2023/24 financial year.

Chantelle Denton
**Kaihautū Ratonga Waeture /
Regulatory Services Manager**

[Seen by]
Liam Dagg
**Kaiarataki Taiao /
Group Manager Environmental Services**

APPENDIX 1

South Taranaki District Council 2023/24 Annual Dog Control Report

Dog Control Policy and Practices

1.0 The Dog Control Act 1996

The Dog Control Act 1996 (the Act) requires territorial authorities to publicly report on Dog Control Policies and Practices as outlined under Section 10A. This report contains information and statistics on the South Taranaki District Council's dog control activity for the financial year 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024.

2.0 Dog Control Policy and Bylaw

A comprehensive review was undertaken of the Council's Dog Control Policy (the Policy) and Dog Control Bylaw (the Bylaw) in 2019. The Dog Control Policy is due for review in 2024. If any significant changes occur, the Council will review the bylaw concurrently with the policy, otherwise the bylaw is due for review in 2029.

2.1 Dog Control Areas

Dogs must be on a leash at all times within the South Taranaki district's public urban areas, with the exception of designated unleashed dog exercise areas. The Council has also designated prohibited dog areas.

3.0 Administration

3.1 Personnel

The Regulatory Services Manager, Compliance Team Leader, three Compliance Officers and an after-hours contractor, ensure 24 hours, seven days a week coverage of dog control activities. A Section 17A Review was undertaken during this period and changes will be implemented in the 2024/25 period.

3.2 Hours of Operations

Compliance Officers work 8.00am to 4.30pm, five days a week and respond to all animal complaints during these hours. After-hours contractors are available from 4.30pm to 8.00am during weekdays and 24 hours a day on weekends and statutory holidays and respond to complaints other than dog barking complaints which are referred to the Compliance Officers to be actioned. Collectively, the officers and contractors provide the district with a 24-hour dog control service.

3.3 Dog Pound

The Council’s Dog Pound is open to the public from 1.00pm to 2.00pm Monday to Friday, excluding public holidays.

The pound there are 28 kennels and 3 (1 covered) exercise areas. Of the kennels, 16 are general kennels, seven are used for puppies, three are used for isolation and two are for dangerous dogs. The pound has undergone an extensive upgrade and now has 50% of its kennels under roof.

When dogs are impounded, owners have seven days in which to claim their dogs. Any dogs not claimed within seven days are either re-homed or euthanized. Each dog is assessed by officers for suitability for re-homing.

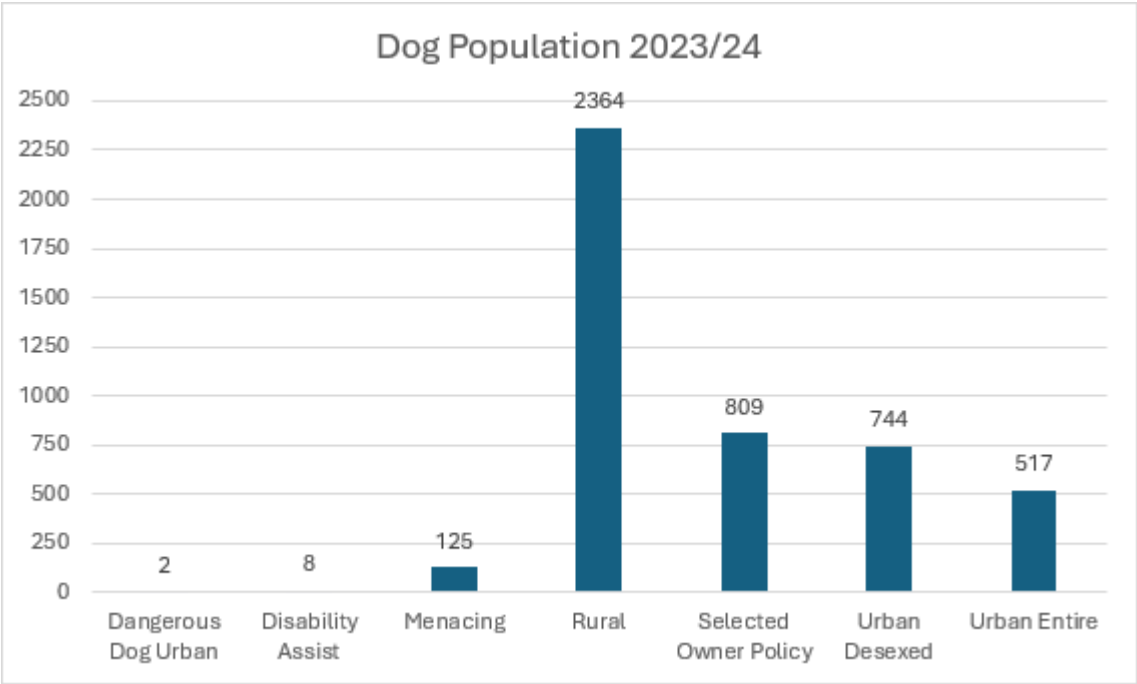
4.0 Fees and Charges

The following table provides the fees and charges associated with running the Council’s Animal Compliance service for the 2023/24 year.

Charges	Fee for 2023/24 year (GST inclusive)
Urban	\$175.00
Urban (spayed/neutered)	\$150.00
Selected Owner Policy (SOP)	\$105.00
Selected Owner Policy (SOP) – Spayed/Neutered	\$80.00
Rural – first two dogs (each)	\$68.00
Rural – third and subsequent dogs (each)	\$57.00
Seeing Eye Dog/ Hearing Dog	Free
Dangerous Dogs	Base fee + 50%
Dog impounding (1 st)	\$150.00
Dog impounding (2 nd)	\$250.00
Dog impounding (3 rd)	\$300.00
3+ Dog Permit	\$80.00
Sustenance per day (payable on impound and every 24 hours thereafter)	\$18.00
Destruction of Dog	Actual Cost
Dog Re-homing fee	\$50.00
Microchipping (at the Pound)	\$70.00
Microchipping (by arrangement)	\$70.00

5.0 Dog Population Analysis

The chart below shows the different classes of dogs which make up the 4,569 registered dog population in the district.



6.0 Enforcement

6.1 Complaints

A total of 1,230 complaints were received during the 2023/24 year and is compared to previous years as follows:

Type of Complaint Received	2023/24	2022/23	2021/22	2020/21
Dog Attack	49	41	45	74
Rushing/Threatening	36	55	40	61
Roaming	579	675	532	713
Barking	358	391	363	633
Welfare	0	0	0	0
General Dog Complaints	208	208	163	200
Total	1,230	1,370	1,143	1,681

6.2 Impounding

A total of 193 dogs were impounded during the year, of which 115 were either returned or re-homed, and 78 euthanized. The number of dogs impounded increased slightly over this

period compared to the previous reporting period (173 in 2022/23); this could be due to the active involvement in the community from the animal compliance team.

6.3 Classification of Dog Owners

The Council classified three dog owners as “disqualified from owning a dog” in the 2023/24 year. The South Taranaki District has a total of five disqualified dog owners. There are currently no probationary owners in the District.

	Total for 2023/24	Total in District
Probationary Owner	0	0
Disqualified Owner	3	9

6.4 Classification of Dogs

Dogs can be classified in three different ways:

- Menacing classifications under Section 33A of the Act are applied to a dog which the Council considers may pose a threat to any person, stock, poultry, domestic animal or protected wildlife due to observed or reported behaviour; or any characteristic associated with the dog (their behaviour);
- Menacing classifications under Section 33C of the Act are applied to a dog which belongs wholly or predominantly to one or more breeds or types listed in Schedule 4 of the Act (their breed); or
- Dangerous dogs under Section 31 of the Act are applied to a dog if the owner is convicted under 57A(2), if there is evidence that the dog is aggressive, or the owner admits that the dog is aggressive.

Under the Council’s Policy, all dogs classified as menacing are required to be de-sexed and to be muzzled in public.

	Total for 2023/24	Total in District
Menacing classification under section 33A – by behaviour	7	56
Menacing classification under section 33C – by breed	9	70
Dangerous classification under section 31	1	2

6.5 Infringements

A total of 556 infringement notices were issued during 2023/24 for the following offences:

Infringement Offences	2023/24	2022/23	2021/22	2020/21
Failure to provide care and attention	0	0	0	0
Failure to register a dog	508	523	500	368
Falsely notifying of death of dog	0	0	0	0
Failure to comply with class as menacing dog	0	0	0	0
Wilfully obstructed dog control officer or ranger	0	0	1	0
Provided false particulars relating to dog owner	0	0	0	0
Owner failed or refused to supply information relating to their dog	0	0	0	0
Had possession of a counterfeited dog registration label or disc	0	0	0	0
Failed to keep dog controlled or confined	40	77	70	35
Failed to keep dog under control	6	0	0	4
Owner failed to carry or use leash in public place	0	0	0	0
Failed to muzzle dog classified as menacing	1	0	0	0
Failed to neuter dog classified as menacing	1	0	0	0
Owner failed to have dog implanted with microchip transponder	0	0	0	94
TOTAL	556	600	571	501

6.6 Court Proceedings

There were three prosecutions undertaken for offences under the Act for the 2023/24 year, and one prosecution was still ongoing.

Reason	Outcome
Dog attack on Person (continued from 2021/22 period)	Dog Attack on child – two dogs involved with two separate owners One dog owner found guilty and destruction of dog with reparation fee to victim (2022). Second dog owner pleaded not guilty. Dog owner found guilty, and destruction of dog ordered by the court. An

	end sentence of seven months imprisonment with the owner granted leave to apply for home detention.
3 Dogs Attack on Person	Three dogs attacking person – Owner pleaded guilty on 1 dog and seeking exceptional circumstances for other 2 dogs. Destruction of 1 dog, exceptional circumstances accepted by the court for 2 dogs (to be returned to owner) and reparation fees to victim. Owner also to pay court costs.
Dog Attack on Person	Dog attack on person – owner pleaded guilty. Destruction of dog with \$500 Court costs. Owner has since lodged an appeal against destruction order. Awaiting hearing date for the appeal.
Dog attack on Animal	Dog attack on animal – owner pleaded not guilty and filed for release of dog whilst prosecution is ongoing. Request has been denied. Owner filed appeal against release refusal decision. Awaiting hearing – set for late September 2024.

7.0 Other Services

7.1 Multiple Dog Permits (3+ Permit)

A permit is required to keep more than two dogs in an urban area and the decision to issue this permit is based on the suitability of the owner, their property and a survey carried out with potentially affected neighbours. A total of four permits were issued for the 2023/24 year.

7.2 Selected Owner Policy (SOP) Status

SOP status provides a discounted rate on dog registration as an incentive to good dog owners, who meet the specified criteria under the policy. The requirements to meet SOP status is that the dog/s are well cared for (this includes feeding, housing, exercise and a secure section) and have a current vaccination certificate. The owner must be present during the inspection. If the person owns a menacing or dangerous dog, they cannot apply for SOP status.

An owner must have resided in the district and have owned the dog for 12 months and have no history of dog control issues. Owners transferring into the district can apply if they have held SOP status in their previous district, with no reported dog control issues for the previous 12 months.

	2023/24	2022/23
Dogs on Selected Owner Policy	809	825