

WAITAKI DISTRICT COUNCIL
DOG CONTROL – POLICY AND PRACTICES REPORT
1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025

Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996 (the Act) requires territorial authorities to publicly report each financial year on:

- The administration of their dog control policy and their dog control practices; and
- A variety of dog control related statistics

PART ONE – ADMINISTRATION OF POLICY AND DOG CONTROL PRACTICES

Dog Control in the District

In 2024-25 Waitaki District was home to 5688 registered dogs. The greatest number of those were in the working dog category (1565) and selected owner (1456) categories.

Dog numbers are trending up in comparison to last year. Total registered dogs in the district rose by 279, working dogs rose by 100 and selected owner category by 109.

Dog control services are conducted by two full time and two part time Animal Management Officers on a 24/7 basis.

Administration of Dog Control Practices and Policy

Key outcomes for dog management and control in the Waitaki District are:

- There is responsible ownership of dogs across the district, including compliance with dog owner obligations under the DCA.
- Opportunities are provided for dogs and their owners to exercise and recreate in public places.
- Conflicts between the public, dogs, stock and animals and dog owners are minimised.
- Potential or actual danger, distress, intimidation, and nuisance caused by dogs in the community are minimised.
- Council meets its statutory obligations for dog control and management under the Act.

Our Approach to Dog Control

Council's Dog Control Policy, Compliance and Enforcement Policy and the Act inform the approach we take to dog control activities.

If advice and education are unsuccessful and an owner repeatedly fails in their obligations to control their dogs, enforcement action may be taken. This can include the issuing of notices to improve fencing, verbal/written warnings, infringement notices, classification of dogs as dangerous or menacing, and prosecution.

The views of victims and complainants are also considered when deciding on an outcome.

Promoting responsible dog ownership is key to reducing nuisance or harm caused by dogs. In every interaction we have with dog owners, we aim to promote responsibility and accountability. Despite this, nuisance and harm caused by dogs continues to be a problem in Waitaki. Ultimately, this means that response to complaints and investigations tends to make up most of our animal management team's work.

Community Safety

Community safety remains a priority, particularly in relation to dangerous and menacing dogs, which pose the greatest known risk to our communities.

The number of dogs classified as menacing under section 33A of the Act increased by 6%, from 30 to 32. Additionally, the number of dog owners disqualified from ownership under section 95 of the Act rose by 14%, from 14 to 16, compared to the previous year.

Non-compliance with menacing dog classifications led to eight infringement notices being issued to owners who failed to meet the required conditions. Consistent enforcement of the Act, alongside a compliance focus on dog registration and microchipping, has supported the identification of problem dogs and their owners. This enables targeted engagement and education to reduce the risk of harm.

Wandering dogs continue to be a concern, having been responsible for attacks on both animals and people during the reporting period. A total of 113 incidents (wandering dogs) were reported this year—an increase of just two from the previous year. The rise in infringements issued for dogs not under control or found wandering reflects efforts to address this ongoing issue. (Refer to Trends)

Education and Engagement

Throughout 2024 Council reviewed its Dog Control Bylaw and Policy. Community consultation and engagement was facilitated through Council's 'Let's Talk Dogs' platform, this being a key engagement tool through the process, resulting in 148 submissions. 'Let's Talk Dogs' was promoted through various channels and enabled the community to access key information for the review, and at the same time raising awareness of dog control in the district.

Animal Management Officers attended Clued-up Kids 2025 and the Careers Expo to deliver dog safety education as part of Council's recently update 2024 Dog By-Law and Control Policy that prioritises education before enforcement.



Trends

During the reporting year, 466 complaints were recorded in comparison to the previous reporting year where 465 complaints were recorded.

188 infringement notices were issued in comparison to the 2023/24 reporting year when 89 notices were issued. This represents an increase of 111%. This can be partly attributed to the biennial audit of non-microchipped dogs from 5 last year to 39 this reporting year and an effort to address the number of wandering dogs by issuing infringements to owners of dogs found wandering and not under control, an increase from 21 last year to 51 this year.

The number of dog attacks had a very minor increase from 34 to 35, and the number of impounded dogs increased from 73 to 80, of which three dogs were euthanized compared to seven the year before.

Council rehomed three dogs which was the same as the previous year.

Dog Registration Fees

Council fees (inclusive of GST) for the year 2025/26

Working Dog	\$ 39.00
Non – Working Dog	\$ 130.50
Neutered Non-working Dog	\$ 105.00
Selected Owner dog	\$ 52.50
Farm Pet	\$ 39.00
Disability Assist Dog	Free
Probationary owner dog	Registration fee plus 50%
Dangerous Dogs	Registration fee plus 50%
Late registration Fee	Registration fee plus 50%

Selected owner/Multiple dog permit application and Assessment	\$ 50.00
Selected owner/multiple dog permit Reassessment	\$ 25.00
Adoption fee – application and assessment	\$ 200.00
Replacement Tag	\$ 10.00
New Tag – dog transferred from another district/changed owner (for dog that is currently registered)	No fee

Impounding Fees

First offence – Registered Dog	\$ 100.00
First Offence – Unregistered Dog	\$ 150.00
Second Offence	\$ 150.00
Third Offence	\$ 200.00
Seizure and Custody	\$ 80.00
Sustenance per day	\$ 20.00
Destruction Fee	Actual Cost

PART TWO – STATISTICAL INFORMATION 2024-25

Dog Related Complaints

Complaint Type	
Barking Dog	127
Bylaw	6
Dog Attack on Animal	9
Dog Attack on Dog	11
Dog Attack on Person	12
Dog Attack on Stock	3
Dog Found	78
Dog Lost	44
Dog Rushing	25
Dog Welfare	3
General Enquiry	35
Wandering Dog	113
Total	466

Prosecutions

Three prosecutions were commenced under the Act for:

- Sec 28(5) Failing to comply with provisions of disqualification & Sec 57(2) owner of a dog that attacks a person.
- Sec 57(2) owner of a dog that attacks a person.
- Sec 57(2) owner of a dog that attacked an animal & Sec 32(2) failed to comply with a dangerous dog classification.

Two of these prosecutions were resolved at the defendants first appearance.

Infringements

188 Infringements were issued.

No.	Section	Offence
80	Section 42	Failure to register dog
35	Section 52.A	Failure to keep Dog controlled or confined
39	Section 36	Failure to implant microchip transponder in dog
8	Section 20	Failed to comply with any bylaw authorised by section 90 Dog Control Act
16	Section 53	Failure to keep dog under control
7	Section 33.EC	Failure to comply with effects of classification of dog as menacing dog

1	Section 55(7)	Failure to comply with barking dog abatement notice
1	Section 54A	Failed to carry a leash in public
1	Section 28(5)	Failed to comply with effects of disqualification

Hearings

Objection to Menacing Classification – August 2024: Menacing classification upheld.
Objection to Menacing Classification – November 2024: Menacing classification rescinded.
Objection to Dangerous Classification – March 2025: Dangerous classification upheld.
Objection to Menacing Classification – March 2025: Menacing classification upheld.
Objection to Dangerous Classification – May 2025: Dangerous classification rescinded.

Dangerous and Menacing Dogs 2024-25

Dangerous Dogs under section 31 A & B	8	By Deed
Menacing Dogs under section 33 A	22	By Deed
Menacing Dogs under section 33 C	10	By Breed, Brazilian Fila(0), Dogo Argentino (2), Japanese Tosa (0), Perro de Presa Canario (0), American Pit Bull (8)

Probationary/Disqualified Owners 2024-25

Probationary Owner	3
Disqualified Owner	16

Impounding & Euthanised Dogs 2024 – 25

Returned to Owner	76
Re-homed	3
Euthanised	3
Total Impounded	80