



STAFF REPORT

TO: Environment & Planning Committee

FROM: John Bergman, Control Services (Nelson) Ltd,
Annie Brown, Administration Officer - Regulatory

REFERENCE: D402

SUBJECT: **REPORT ON DOG CONTROL POLICY AND PRACTICES -
REPORT EP07/09/10** - Report Prepared for 12 September 2007
Meeting

1. REASON FOR REPORT

The Dog Control Act Amendment Act 2003 now requires territorial authorities to publicly report on dog control policy and practices as outlined under Section 10a of the Dog Control Act 1996. This report contains information and statistics on Council's dog control activity for the year 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007.

2. DOG CONTROL AND ENFORCEMENT PRACTICES IN TASMAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Council's dog control activities are carried out by Control Services (Nelson) Ltd. Three full time dog control officers are employed by Control Services to administer Council's policy and practices throughout the Tasman District. Nine casual or part-time staff attend to the emergencies and/or after hours activities in the outlying areas of Murchison (three), Golden Bay (two), Motueka (two) and the Tapawera and Wakefield districts (two).

Control Services work closely with local veterinarians and have an excellent relationship with the three SPCA branches in the district. Good relations are also fostered between Dog Control and the Police and Dog Obedience Clubs.

Dog Control Officers also provide regular educational visits to local schools and organisations.

3. DOG REGISTRATION/ COMPLAINTS AND ENFORCEMENT IN THE DISTRICT

Total number of dog owners in the district	6,054
Number of probationary owners	1
Number of disqualified owners	Nil

Number of registered dogs in the Tasman District Council	9,677
Number of rural dogs in the Tasman District Council area	5614
Number of urban dogs in the Tasman District Council area	4063

Number of dogs classified as dangerous under Section 31	
Section 31 1(a) due to owner conviction	Nil
Section 31 1(b) due to sworn evidence	1
Section 31 1(c) due to owner admittance	Nil

Total number of dogs classified as menacing	64
Dogs classified as menacing under Section 33A (Section 33A 1(b) - the territorial authority considers the dog may pose a threat to any person, stock, poultry, domestic animal, or protected wildlife).	35

Dogs classified as menacing under Section 33C (Section 33C (1) - the territorial authority has reasonable grounds to believe that the dog belongs wholly or predominantly to one or more breeds or types listed in Schedule 4 of the amendment Act 2004).	29
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Number of Infringement notices issued	242
Failing to register a dog	208
Failure to keep dog controlled or confined	3
Failure to keep dog under control	7
Failure to implant microchip transponder	24

Appendix A is a table of statistics of dog activities for the year 2006 / 2007, and Appendix B is the table from the previous year for comparison.

4. DOGS PROHIBITED, LEASH ONLY AND DOG EXERCISE AREAS

The Dog Control Bylaw 2004 sets out the areas in the District which are Dog Prohibited, Leash only and Dog Exercise Areas.

Council has received some comments from the community regarding the issues of dog control, beaches and birdlife.

A series of informative articles relating to dog control is being published in "Newslines", Council's fortnightly newsletter. These articles will serve to remind dog owners of their responsibilities.

5. DOG REGISTRATION AND OTHER FEES

The registration fees for dogs are set each year as part of the Council's Annual Plan Process. In 2006 / 2007 the registration fees were \$35 for Urban Dogs and \$24 for Rural Dogs which included the fees to cover the National Dog Database costs.

6. FURTHER COMMENTS ON DOG CONTROL MANAGEMENT

Council has received a large number of barking complaints which relate to two kennels, one being a boarding kennel and one a breeding kennel operating under a temporary licence. Council staff, as well as outside agencies have been involved with attempting to resolve these issues.

7. ANNUAL PROPERTY VISITS

Property visits continue to be conducted annually in residential areas and every two years in rural areas. These visits provide valuable contact with owners and the opportunity to educate and, in many cases, congratulate dog owners on their care and control of their dogs.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That this report required pursuant to Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996, be received and adopted by Council.
2. That the adopted report be publicly notified and be made available on the Council's website with a copy being sent to the Secretary for Local Government.

John Bergman
Control Services (Nelson) Ltd

Annie Brown
Administration Officer - Regulatory

APPENDIX A

STATISTICS OF IMPOUNDINGS, COMPLAINTS, AND AFTER HOURS - 1 July 2006 - 30 June 2007													
AREA TOTALS	Jul 2006	Aug 2006	Sep 2006	Oct 2006	Nov 2006	Dec 2006	Jan 2007	Feb 2007	Mar 2007	Apr 2007	May 2007	Jun 2007	ANNUAL TOTAL
Dogs Impounded	8	14	7	7	18	9	7	6	4	16	19	8	123
Number Claimed	8	10	1	6	14	6	5	2	2	10	12	4	80
Re Homed	-	3	2	-	1	1	2	4	-	1	1	1	16
Disposed Of	-	1	4	1	2	-	-	-	2	-	1	2	13
Remain Impounded	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	5	5	1	14
COMPLAINTS													
Barking/Whining	32	38	34	38	38	45	71	59	88	43	42	38	566
Aggressive Behaviour	3	4	2	3	3	5	4	5	2	8	7	5	51
Wandering/Fouling	13	30	28	26	29	17	13	28	21	26	27	25	283
Attack On Persons	3	-	1	-	3	2	4	2	2	5	6	2	30
Attack On Stock	1	2	8	2	4	3	2	3	2	3	3	2	35
Attack On Pets	2	1	7	3	5	1	5	1	4	8	5	2	44
Welfare Concerns	7	17	8	6	4	16	10	7	21	8	15	9	128
TOTAL COMPLAINTS:	61	92	88	78	86	89	109	105	140	101	105	83	1137
AFTER HOURS CALLS													
Dogs:	13	41	24	21	70	69	99	65	115	66	56	44	683
Stock:	5	4	2	3	5	8	4	5	8	7	6	1	58
TOTAL AFTER HOURS:	18	45	26	24	75	77	103	70	123	73	62	45	741

APPENDIX B

STATISTICS OF IMPOUNDINGS, COMPLAINTS, AND AFTER HOURS - 1 JULY 2005 - 30 JUNE 2006													
AREA TOTALS	Jul 2005	Aug 2005	Sep 2005	Oct 2005	Nov 2005	Dec 2005	Jan 2006	Feb 2006	Mar 2006	Apr 2006	May 2006	Jun 2006	ANNUAL TOTAL
Dogs Impounded	21	24	2	1	3	6	5	16	15	12	12	12	129
Number Claimed	12	9	3	1	2	5	5	9	12	4	9	7	78
Re Homed	3	6	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	12
Disposed Of	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	2	0	13
Remain Impounded	4	2	2	0	1	0	0	7	0	4	1	5	26
COMPLAINTS													
Barking/Whining	26	24	28	22	44	32	31	46	43	35	32	24	387
Aggressive Behaviour	5	6	1	2	8	3	3	7	1	4	5	1	46
Wandering/Fouling	27	30	32	18	9	11	23	16	13	14	18	20	231
Attack On Persons	1	4	2	1	3	9	2	2	6	3	2	2	37
Attack On Stock	2	2	9	3	1	2	2	3	4	4	3	0	35
Attack On Pets	5	5	3	2	2	3	3	1	3	4	5	1	37
Welfare Concerns	12	20	6	3	7	10	3	10	5	6	13	10	105
TOTAL COMPLAINTS:	78	91	81	51	74	70	67	85	75	70	78	58	878
AFTER HOURS CALLS													
Dogs:	48	56	49	60	55	80	65	80	64	56	59	85	757
Stock:	14	8	5	8	7	10	9	11	7	3	4	10	96
TOTAL AFTER HOURS:	62	64	54	68	62	90	74	91	71	59	63	95	853