



STAFF REPORT

TO: Environment & Planning Committee

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

REFERENCE: D402

SUBJECT: **DOG CONTROL POLICY AND PRACTICES – JULY 2007 TO
JUNE 2008 - REPORT EP08/08/03** - Report prepared for hearing of
28 August

1. REASON FOR REPORT

The Dog Control Act Amendment Act 2003 requires territorial authorities to publicly report annually 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 01 July 2007 to 30 June 2008.

2. DOG CONTROL AND ENFORCEMENT PRACTICES IN TASMAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Control Services (Nelson) Ltd carries out Council's dog control activities, providing 24 hour, seven day per week coverage for the Tasman District. Three full time dog control officers are employed by Control Services to implement 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, the three SPCA branches in the district and Department of Conservation staff. Good relations are also fostered between Dog Control and the Police and Dog Obedience Clubs.

Dog Control Officers provide regular educational visits to local schools and other organisations, reinforcing the message of ensuring safety around dogs in the home and in the wider community.

3. DOG REGISTRATION, ENFORCEMENT AND SERVICE REQUEST STATISTICS FOR TASMAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Total number of dog owners in the district:	6,092
Number of probationary owners:	1
Number of disqualified owners:	Nil
Number of registered dogs in the Tasman District Council:	9,823

Number of rural dogs in the Tasman District Council area:	5702
Number of urban dogs in the Tasman District Council area:	4159
Number of dogs in the Tasman District Council area not charged fee	11
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:	2
Total number of dogs classified as menacing:	70
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).	34
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).	36
Number of Infringement notices issued:	228
Failing to register a dog:	214
Failure to keep dog controlled or confined:	2
Failure to keep dog under control:	8
Failure to implant microchip transponder:	4
Number of Impounded Dogs:	
Dogs Impounded	109
Claimed	61
Re-homed	12
Disposed of	17
Still in Pound (June 2008)	4

4. COMPLAINTS COMMENTARY

Almost half (327 out of 661) of the "Barking/Whining" complaints come from one person and are aimed specifically at a rural boarding kennel. Dog Control, Environmental Health, and other Council Officers have extensively investigated this matter and concluded that the barking is not unreasonable in terms of expectations prescribed in The Dog Control, Resource Management, or the Health Acts, or Councils PTRMP, since remedial work was completed by the kennel operator in 2007. A month by month breakdown of all complaints is attached.

Service Requests are not necessarily complaints, but relate to dogs lost by owners and/or found by members of the public, requests for advice or dog owner education etc. These annual statistics have also been included.

5. NUMBER OF SERVICE REQUESTS RECEIVED

Barking / Whining (327 of these are from one complainant relating to a local boarding kennel.)	661
Aggressive behaviour / Rushing	52
Wandering/fouling	276
Attack on Persons	38
Attack on Stock	35
Attack on Pets	35
Wandering Stock	138
Welfare concerns	138
Found dogs	561
Lost dogs	440
Education	45

6. 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 works in co-operation with DOC to monitor areas where protected wildlife could be at risk.

A series of articles relating to dog control is regularly published in “Newsline”, Council’s fortnightly newsletter. These articles serve to remind dog owners of their responsibilities as well as providing educational items on the care and control of dogs.

7. DOG REGISTRATION AND OTHER FEES

The registration fees for dogs are set each year as part of the Council’s Annual Plan Process. In 2007 / 2008 the registration fees were \$36 for Urban Dogs and \$25 for Rural Dogs which included the fees to cover the National Dog Database costs.

8. FURTHER COMMENTS ON DOG BYLAW

Council amended its 2004 Bylaw in September 2007 regarding ownership of multiple non-working dogs in Rural areas to better reflect the needs of the community. Kennel Licences are required for properties where there are multiple non-working dogs in Rural zones. The changes made now allow owners on properties of more than one hectare to have a maximum of five non-working dogs on the property. Properties of less than one hectare still limit the maximum number of non-working dogs to two per property. Property owners wishing to exceed these numbers are required to apply for a Kennel Licence which is renewed annually.

9. ANNUAL PROPERTY VISITS

Property visits to all dog owners were carried out in both Residential and Rural areas during 2007 / 2008. Whilst this continues to provide valuable contact with dog owners, it has been noted that a more targeted approach may be of more value in tracking down unregistered dogs and owners who fail to meet their obligations.

10. 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.



Annie Brown
Administration Officer

John Bergman
Control Services (Nelson) Ltd

1 JULY 2007 TO 30 JUNE 2008

AREA TOTALS	July 2007	August 2007	September 2007	October 2007	November 2007	December 2007	January 2008	February 2008	March 2008	April 2008	May 2008	June 2008	ANNUAL TOTAL
Dogs Impounded	2	4	5	9	9	13	9	8	13	14	14	9	109
Number Claimed	3	2	3	3	6	5	8	5	6	8	7	5	61
Re-Homed		1		1	2	1		1	4	1	1		12
Disposed Of	3	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	3		2		17
Remain Impounded	4	4	4	3		6	6	6	6	5	4	4	4 (as at June)
COMPLAINTS													
Barking / Whining	44	26	62	27	37	86	95	50	56	45	63	70	661
Aggressive Behaviour	1	9	5	3	2	3	5	5	4	4	5	6	52
Wandering / Fouling	25	33	20	26	25	13	21	23	18	23	22	27	276
Attack on Persons	2	2	4	1	5	2	6	6	2	2	2	4	38
Attack on Stock	3	3	4	4	4	4	3	2	1	1	4	2	35
Attack on Pets	9	2	1	5	1	2	3	2	2	2	1	5	35
Wandering Stock	7	18	15	8	6	9	6	19	10	9	19	12	138
Welfare Concerns	4	3	8	7	12	13	22	20	8	16	11	14	138
TOTAL COMPLAINTS	95	96	119	81	92	132	161	127	101	102	127	140	1,373
TOTAL AFTER-HOURS	71	37	70	58	65	131	112	97	52	76	63	71	903