

Report No:	REP11-08-01
File No:	D402
Date:	28 July 2011
Information Only – no decision required	

REPORT SUMMARY

Report to: Environment & Planning Committee
Meeting Date: 25 August 2011
Report Author: Annie Brown, Regulatory Administration Officer
Subject: **Dog Control Policies and Practices 2010-2011**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Dog Control Act 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 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011.

RECOMMENDATION/S

1. That Report REP11-08-01 required pursuant to Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996, be received and adopted by Council.
2. That the adopted report REP11-08-01 be publicly notified and be made available on the Council's website with a copy being sent to the Secretary for Local Government.

DRAFT RESOLUTION

THAT the Environment & Planning Committee receives and adopts the Dog Control Policies and Practices 2010-2011 Report REP11-08-01.

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1. DOG CONTROL POLICY

1.1 Council's Policy on Dogs was adopted in 2009 with the following objectives:

- To educate and assist owners to act responsibly with their dogs and ensure their dogs are given proper care, shelter and sustenance as determined by the Act.
- To minimise any danger, distress and nuisance to the community generally.
- To avoid the inherent danger in allowing dogs to have uncontrolled access to public places frequented by children.
- To enable the public to use streets and public amenities without fear of attack or intimidation by dogs.
- To have regard to the exercise and recreational needs of dogs and their owners by designating areas where dogs may be freely exercised, areas where dogs must be exercised on a leash and areas where dogs are prohibited.
- To identify any land which is a National Park as constituted under the National Park Act 1980, or is a controlled or open dog area under Section 26 ZS of the Conservation Act 1987.
- To identify required means of dog control in all public places.

2. Dog Control and Enforcement Practices in Tasman District Council

2.1 Control Services (Nelson) Ltd carries out under contract council's dog control activities, providing 24 hour, seven day per week coverage for the Tasman District. Three full time animal control officers and a number of casual staff are employed by Control Services to implement Council's policy and practices throughout the Tasman District. Targeted property visits are made and patrols of areas with specific issues are carried out on a regular basis.

- 2.2 Council staff and 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 Animal Control and the Police and Dog Obedience Clubs.

- 2.3 Animal Control Officers provide regular educational visits to local community organisations, schools and businesses. Courses on bite prevention and safety around dogs are held in order to reinforce the message that being safe around dogs both at home and in the wider community is paramount.
- 2.4 Council continues to work in co-operation with Department of Conservation to monitor areas where protected wildlife could be at risk. A limited number of Department of Conservation Rangers are warranted under the Dog Control Act 1996 as they work in the remote areas where stray dogs occasionally appear.

3. Website and Media

- 3.1 The launch of Tasman District Council's new website has increased the ability of Council staff to provide up to date and relevant information on dog related issues in the district. The provision of online forms and brochures has streamlined the process for public to access the information they require at a time that suits them rather than being restricted to Council's office hours. Links to relevant legislation and other informative websites have also proved to be useful tools for dog owners and other interested parties. Copies of the Council's leaflet on dog control is also included in the mailout of dog registration forms.
- 3.2 Tasman District Council's fortnightly newsletter, Newslines, provides access to all homes in the district for information on annual dog registration, education on dog welfare issues and other relevant topics.
- 3.3 Radio interviews have been conducted during the annual registration period to make people aware of registration requirements and dog control issues.

4. Dog Registration and Enforcement Statistics for July 2010 to June 2011

4.1	Number of dog owners in the district	6,590
	Probationary owners	Nil
	Disqualified owners	Nil
	Total	6,590
4.2	Number of registered dogs in the district	
	Rural dogs	5,676
	Urban dogs	4,644
	Total	10,320

4.3	Number of dogs classified as Dangerous under Section 31	
	Sec 31 1(a) due to owner conviction	2
	Sec 31 1(b) due to sworn evidence	4
	Sec 31 1(c) due to owner admittance	3
	Total	9
4.4	Number of dogs classified as Menacing under Section 33	
	Sec 33A	38
	Sec 33C	30
	Total	68
4.5	Infringement Notices Issued	
	Failing to register dog	96
	Failure to keep dog under control	14
	Failure to keep dog controlled or confined	3
	Failure to comply with effects of classification	1
	Failure to comply with bylaw	3
	Failure to comply with Dangerous Dog classification	1
	Failure to advise change of owner	1
	False statement of registration	1
	Total	120
4.6	Number of impounded dogs	
	Claimed	82
	Rehomed	21
	Disposed of	22
	Still in shelter as at June 2010	7
	Total	132

5. Service Request Statistics for July 2010 to June 2011

5.1 Service Requests include complaints and also requests from owners who have lost their dogs and members of the public who have found dogs. Advice and dog owner education requests are included in these statistics.

Service Requests received as complaints

Barking / Whining	381
Aggressive Behaviour / Rushing	91
Wandering / Fouling	362
Attack on Persons	36
Attack on Stock	33
Attack on Pets	58
Unregistered	21

Welfare Concerns	98
In Restricted Area	12
Not on Leash	1
Excess Dogs on Property	1
Total	1,094

5.2 Other Service Requests

Found dogs	585
Lost dogs	425
Education	11
Total	1,021

6. DOG REGISTRATION AND OTHER FEES

6.1 Tasman District Council Dog Control is funded solely by the registration fees charged annually, which remain among the most cost effective throughout New Zealand. The fees for the 2010 to 2011 year were \$47.00, for dogs being kept on properties up to one hectare, and \$29.00, for dogs being kept on properties one hectare and over. These fees include the annual charges payable to the Department of Internal Affairs for the maintenance of the National Dog Database.

6.2 Other fees charged by Dog Control include those incurred by owners whose dogs are impounded, and fees incurred by owners who need a licence to keep more than the permitted number of dogs on their property.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Report REP11-08-01 required pursuant to Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996, be received and adopted by Council.
2. That the adopted report REP11-08-01 be publicly notified and be made available on the Council's website with a copy being sent to the Secretary for Local Government

8. DRAFT RESOLUTION

THAT the Environment & Planning receives and adopts the Dog Control Policies and Practices 2010-2011 Report REP11-08-01.

Annie Brown
Regulatory Administration Officer