



GREAT LAKE TAUPŌ
Taupō District Council

Taupō District Council
Annual Dog Control
Report 2022/2023
Dog Control Act 1996 Section 10A

This report has been prepared by:

R. McDonald

Compliance & Regulatory Manager - Taupō District Council



CONTENTS

- 1. Introduction**
 - 2. Section 10A(1)(a) - Dog Policy**
 - 3. Section 10A(1)(b) - Summary of Practices**
 - 4. Summary of Animal Control Activity in 2022/23**
 - 5. Section 10A(2)(a-g) – Reporting Data for 2022/23**
 - 6. Previous Section 10A(2)(a-g) – Reporting Data for 2021/22**
- ANNEX A - Dog Control Act 1996 Section 10A**

1. Introduction

As we reflect on the accomplishments and challenges of the past reporting year, it is with great pleasure that we present this annual report, an overview of our organisation's practice and performance.

Throughout the reporting period, our commitment to effective and fair practice has been the driving force behind our endeavours. This annual report serves as a testament to the dedication of our team, and the positive impact we continue to make in our community. From innovative thinking and collaborative partnerships to education and a responsibility to ensure the safety of our community, each section of this report encapsulates the essence of our collective efforts.

In the following pages, you will find detailed insights into what we have accomplished over the reporting period. We aim to provide our community with a clear understanding of what we do and the values that guide our actions.

As we navigate the extremely challenging environment of animal control, our team would like to take the opportunity to express gratitude to all those who have contributed to our success. We look forward to continued growth and positive impact, and we appreciate your continued support as we strive for excellence in the next reporting period.



In accordance with section 10a of the Dog Control Act 1996 (the Act), territorial authorities are required to report each financial year on the administration of their dog control policy and dog control practices.

The report must include information relating to:

- The number of registered dogs in the territorial authority district;
- The number of probationary owners and disqualified owners in the territorial authority district;
- The number of dogs in the territorial authority district classified as dangerous under section 31 and the relevant provision under which the classification is made;
- The number of dogs in the territorial authority district classified as menacing under section 33A or section 33C and the relevant provision under which the classification is made;
- The number of infringement notices issued by the territorial authority;
- The number of dog-related complaints received by the territorial authority in the previous year and the nature of those complaints; and
- The number of prosecutions taken by the territorial authority under the Act.

2. Section 10A(1)(a) Dog Control Policy

Taupō District Council Dog Control Policy 2021.

The objectives of this Policy are:

- To provide for exercise and recreational needs of dogs and their owners.
- To minimise the fear of dogs attacking or intimidating people.
- To avoid danger from uncontrolled dogs entering children's play areas.
- To minimise danger, distress, and nuisance caused by dogs.
- To have all dogs registered and micro-chipped.

The principles of the Policy are:

- Taupō District Council places a high priority on ensuring that dogs are registered.
- Taupō District Council recognises that the large majority of dog owners are very responsible and, as a result, the interaction between dogs and the public is generally positive.
- Dogs need the ability to exercise unrestrained and within a social setting. There are designated dog exercise areas throughout the District. Dog owners are encouraged to act responsibly, evaluate the circumstances, and then take all reasonable steps to ensure that their dogs do not cause a nuisance, in these areas.
- Taupō District Council believes that conflicts can be resolved and managed in a way that protects the public, manages the pet population, prevents cruelty to animals, and balances the interests of many people in the community.

The Compliance Team is committed to supporting the Policy, Legislation, and Bylaws and how it relates to the control of dogs alongside the obligations of the Taupō District Council.



3. Section 10A(1)(b) Summary of Practices

The Animal Control functions of the Dog Control Act 1996 are managed by our Compliance Team. This is made up of:

- A Manager
- A Team Leader;
- A Senior Compliance Officer;
- 6 x Compliance Officers;
- A Pound Keeper Compliance Officer; and
- A Part-time Pound Keeper Assistant

The Council Animal Control facility is located at 131 Centennial Drive Taupō along with the Pound/ Animal Shelter. There is also a small Pound/ Animal Shelter located at Turangi, this is not open to the public and houses dogs on a temporary basis only.

This Taupō facility is operated by Council staff and acts as a welfare centre for day to day care of animals as well as being available for companion animals during a major event such as a natural disaster. It has kennelling for 42 dogs, an exercise yard, and three amnesty drop cages.

The Council Animal Control facility is co-located next to the Taupō SPCA which we work closely with when dealing with animal welfare issues and rehoming of dogs. Rehoming is also undertaken with other animal rescue centres, pet shops, and through our own dedicated Facebook page.

Registration services are available at our Taupō facility as well as low-cost micro-chipping, leads, and collars.

4. Summary of Animal Control Activity in 2022/23

Insights into a portion of our activity

Our team focuses on building great relationships with our community. We achieve this through ensuring that we have positive interactions and support our communities, our dogs, and their owners. We offer education programs, information, and advice regarding animal control to promote the benefits of cooperative compliance.

When we are required to carry out enforcement action we do it with reason and compassion taking into account individual circumstances where appropriate. This creates a safer place for our community and their dogs.

Dog Registration

Dog registration for the 2022/23 year was completed at 99.2 percent of known dogs in the district being registered achieving our target of 99%.

Like the last registration period, we did not apply penalty rates due to the general economic pressure on our dog owners. Our process involved an initial letter and then a reminder letter and or phone call. Come September if dog owners continued to fail to register their dogs, they were infringed and the dog(s) were then seized and impounded unless they were able to pay immediately and provide proof of payment.

All dog owners then have the capacity to make an objection to the infringement and these explanations are considered case by case. If the explanation provided was considered valid then the infringement was cancelled. We monitor those owners in the future to ensure compliance continues.

Our Pound

Our pound is a great success story and we continue to monitor our procedures to ensure that best practice is undertaken for the care of dogs.

We focus heavily on the way the facility is cleaned and maintained to ensure that the appropriate precautions are taken to mitigate the introduction of diseases. Like many pounds, we have had an ongoing battle with parvovirus, and with the introduction of new processes and equipment, we are in a strong position to ensure that it is kept at a minimum.

We are continuing to make progress on our ongoing pound upgrade project which is to bring our facility and equipment up to a higher than standard facility for our dogs and our team.



Our Team

The Compliance Team aims to promote responsible dog ownership and deliver the highest quality of animal care and control services through engagement with the people and dogs in our communities.

We continually seek to improve our practices to ensure that the response from the Council is fair, measured, and in the best interest of the community and our dogs. Our Compliance Officers respond (in most cases) immediately to complaints and our focus is to attain the best outcome for all while achieving cooperative compliance.

Barking Dogs

In Taupō district nuisance barking complaints continue to account for a moderate number of our service requests. Most complaints are resolved once the owner has been made aware of the barking. If this fails then our team engages with dog owners to provide advice and methods to resolve these issues.

Roaming Dogs

We have seen an increase in the number of roaming dogs which is in line with most districts in New Zealand. The proactive patrolling of our team and complaints made have also affected this number by more non-compliance being detected. Our team engages with the offending dog owners to mitigate further instances of roaming.

In most instances, if a registered dog is picked up the dog is returned to the owner with a warning, rather than impounding. This means that fewer dogs are required to be processed through the pound. Reducing the risk of bringing contamination into our facility and less strain on our team and our resources.

Where we encounter repeat offenders we maintain the ability to enforce through warning notices and or infringements.



Dog Attacks and Aggressive Behaviour

Every reported incident is investigated, and upon completion of the investigation, a decision is made as to what action is appropriate in accordance with the requirements of the Dog Control Act 1996.

When an investigation is completed we use an attack matrix to determine a guideline of enforcement options. We continue to work alongside NZ Police when we have serious incidents and have been successful in gaining appropriate outcomes. Our primary aim in these matters is the safety of the community and other animals. The final enforcement options taken vary as each incident is assessed on its merits.

Dog Education

Dog education is provided by the Compliance Team and the Dog Smart Programme is presented mainly to primary school and preschool-age children as well as community groups. We have run a successful campaign through the majority of schools in our district taking the opportunity to have our team present the program

Relevant information for dog owners of their responsibilities is displayed through signage and regular features through the Council information systems, local newspapers, and radio advertising.

Rehoming Dogs

Taupo District Council Compliance Team aims to ensure all dogs have a chance to live a happy and healthy life. This is anything but easy and even more challenging for the team due to the number of dogs that continue to come into our care. In every case where we have dogs that are either found roaming and unregistered, abandoned, or surrendered due to owners unable to cope we make every effort possible to ensure they have the opportunity to find a home.



5. Section 10A(2)(a-g) – Reporting Data for 2022/23

Dog Control Act 1996 Section 10A Report - End of Financial Year 2022/23		
10A(2)(a)	The number of registered dogs	7,727
	The number of owners	5383
10A(2)(b)	The number of probationary owners	4
	The number of disqualified owners	0
10A(2)(c)	The number of dogs in the territorial authority district classified as dangerous under section 31 and the relevant provision under which the classification is made:	29
	Section 31(1)(a) Conviction under Section 57A(2)	0
	Section 31(1)(b) Sworn Evidence	18
	Section 31(1)(c) Owner admission	11
10A(2)(d)	The number of dogs in the territorial authority district classified as menacing under section 33A or section 33C and the relevant provision under which the classification is made:	129

	Section 33A	90
	Section 33C	39
10A(2)(e)	The number of infringement notices issued by the territorial authority:	1009
10A(2)(f)	The number of dog-related complaints received by the territorial authority in the previous year and the nature of those complaints:	2626
	Animal Care/Welfare	77
	Dogs/Animal Management and After Hours	294
	Attack	108
	Barking	338
	Lost/Found	282
	Pound/Impounding	621
	Registration checks	318
	Roaming/Fouling	516
	Rushing/Aggression	72
10A(2)(g)	The number of prosecutions taken by the territorial authority under this Act.	0

6. Previous Section 10A(2)(a-g) – Reporting Data for 2021/22

Dog Control Act 1996 Section 10A Report - End of Financial Year 2021/22		
10A(2)(a)	The number of registered dogs	7,537
	The number of owners	5,168
10A(2)(b)	The number of probationary owners	2
	The number of disqualified owners	3
10A(2)(c)	The number of dogs in the territorial authority district classified as dangerous under section 31 and the relevant provision under which the classification is made:	27
	Section 31(1)(a) Conviction under Section 57A(2)	0
	Section 31(1)(b) Sworn Evidence	19
	Section 31(1)(c) Owner admission	8
10A(2)(d)	The number of dogs in the territorial authority district classified as menacing under section 33A or section 33C and the relevant provision under which the classification is made:	133
	Section 33A	93

	Section 33C	40
10A(2)(e)	The number of infringement notices issued by the territorial authority:	830
10A(2)(f)	The number of dog related complaints received by the territorial authority in the previous year and the nature of those complaints:	
	Animal Care/Welfare	48
	Dogs/Animal Management and After Hours	214
	Attack	100
	Barking	370
	Lost/Found	278
	Pound/Impounding	509
	Registration checks	513
	Roaming/Fouling	378
	Rushing/Aggression	57
10A(2)(g)	The number of prosecutions taken by the territorial authority under this Act.	0

ANNEX A

Dog Control Act 1996 Section 10A

Territorial authority must report on dog control policy and practices

(1) A territorial authority must, in respect of each financial year, report on the administration of—

- (a) its dog control policy adopted under section 10; and
- (b) its dog control practices.

(2) The report must include, in respect of each financial year, information relating to—

- (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 as 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 section 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:

(g) the number of prosecutions taken by the territorial authority under this Act.

(3) The territorial authority must—

(a) give public notice, as defined in section 5(1) of the Local Government Act 2002, of the report; and

(b) make the report publicly available, as described in section 5(3) of that Act.

Please contact the Taupō District Council Compliance Team if you have any questions regarding this report.