

Westland District Council 2019/2020 Annual Dog Control Policy and Practices Report

1.0 The Dog Control Act 1996

The Dog Control Act 1996 (the Act) requires territorial authorities to publicly report on Dog Control Policies and Practices as outlined under Section 10A. This report contains information and statistics on the Westland District Council's Dog Control activity for the year 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020.

2.0 Dog Control Policy and Bylaw

There have been no reviews or amendments made to the Westland District Council Dog Control Bylaw or Dog Control Policy during this reporting period.

3.0 Administration

3.1 Personnel

Council employs one full-time Warranted Animal Control Officer (ACO), and a part-time after-hours ACO to cover weekends and rostered after-hours duties when the Animal Control Officer is on leave. Appropriately warranted Compliance Officer Personnel may also be rostered to cover ACO functions when primary personnel are on leave.

3.2 Hours of Operation

The Animal Control Officer works from 8:30am to 4:30pm, Monday to Friday and responds to all animal complaints. ACO's respond to complaints 24 hours a day on rostered days, weekends, and statutory holidays, ensuring Council has appropriate cover to deliver service delivery expectations throughout the year. Hours of operation remained unchanged during the COVID-19 Alert Levels with ACO's responding as Essential Service personnel, when required.

3.3 Dog Pound

A Pound is operated in co-operation with the Hokitika SPCA. Council has four designated pound kennels within the SPCA on Hau Hau Road, two kennels situated at the Haast Police Station, and one kennel situated at the Franz Josef Police Station. Council is responsible for the maintenance and management of its own pound assets and facilities, and the stewardship and nourishment of any dogs impounded in its care. The pound operates 24/7 with public access by appointment only via the on-duty ACO, to claim any dog/s under their ownership that have been impounded. Dogs are only released to owners on full payment of due fees, including infringement fees. Any dog not claimed within seven days, if not suitable for rehoming through the SPCA or another approved facility, is euthanised. All dogs are assessed by an ACO and Officers of the SPCA to determine suitability for rehoming.

4.0 Fees and Charges

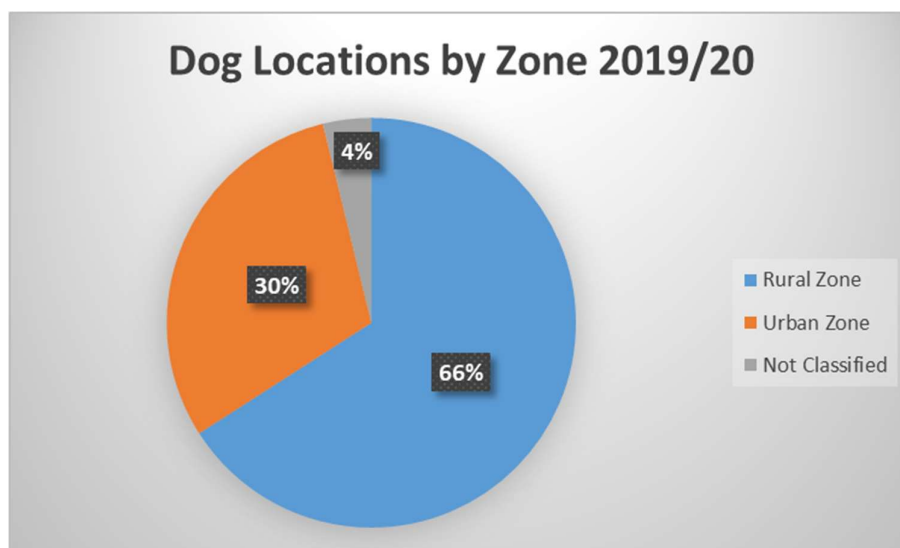
The following fees and charges were adopted by Council for the delivery of Animal Control services for the 2019/2020 year.

The Selected Dog Owner (SDO) category was removed and replaced with a Responsible Dog Owner (RDO) category. Dog owners must meet identified criteria when making application for RDO status, and properties must pass an inspection to qualify for the RDO status. The Working Dog Registration category was also removed, following public consultation, with dogs being registered as either rural or urban.

Animal Control	Fee (GST inclusive) 2019/2020
Urban Registration (Hokitika and Kaniere Township)	\$74
Registration other Areas	\$58.50
Responsible Dog Owners (RDO)	\$50 Inspection Fee – First Year \$50 Registration Fee – All Areas
Registration Dangerous Dog	Standard Registration Fee plus 50%
Late Registration – 1 August	Standard Registration Fee plus 50%
First Impounding Offence	\$82
Second Impounding Offence	\$164
Third Impounding offence	\$245
Feeding/Day	\$26
Call-out for Dog Reclaiming	\$78

5.0 Dog Population Analysis

A total of 1,972 dogs (an increase of 182 on the previous year) and 1,438 owners (an increase of 95 on the previous year) are listed within Council’s database for the reporting period. A total of 1300 dogs are located in the rural zone, 597 in an urban zone, and 75 to be assigned a rural or urban location.



6.0 Enforcement

The format for reporting of complaints, impounding, classification, infringements, and court proceedings was modified for the 2018/19 period and continues in use for this reporting period. Where applicable, generalised figures from previous years have been included in the tables below. “NR” identifies where specifics were ‘Not Recorded’ by category.

6.1 Complaints

A total of 439 complaints were received during the 2019/2020 reporting period and is compared to previous years as follows.

Complaints Received	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Dog Attack	NR	NR	NR	19	15
Rushing/Threatening	NR	NR	NR	9	14
Roaming	NR	NR	NR	101	249
Barking	NR	NR	NR	32	47
Welfare	NR	NR	NR	21	16
General	NR	NR	NR	41	98
Total	223	360	104	223	439

6.2 Impounding

A total of 67 dogs were impounded during the reporting period of which 38 were returned to their owners, eight re-homed, and five euthanised.

6.3 Classification of Dog Owners

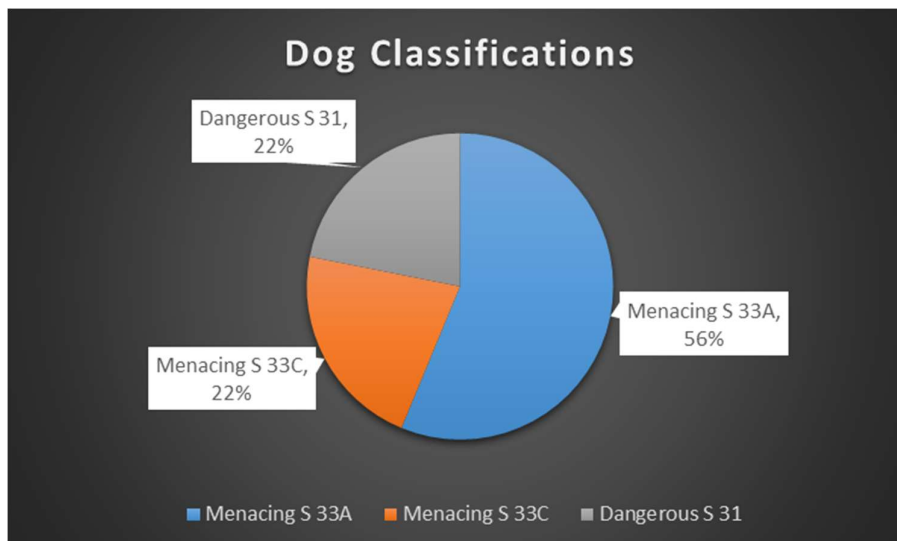
The Council did not classify any dog owners as 'disqualified from owning a dog' in the 2019/2020 year. There are no registered 'disqualified' or 'probationary' owners within the Westland District.

6.4 Classification of Dogs

Dogs can be classified in three different ways:

- Menacing classifications under Section 33A of the Act are applied to a dog which the Council considers may pose a threat to any person, stock, poultry, domestic animal or protected wildlife due to observed or reported behaviour; or any characteristic associated with the dog (their behaviour);
- Menacing classifications under Section 33C of the Act are applied to a dog which belongs wholly or predominantly to one or more breeds or types listed in Schedule 4 of the Act (their breed); or
- Dangerous dogs under Section 31 of the Act are applied to a dog if the owner is convicted under 57A(2), if there is evidence that the dog is aggressive or the owner admits that the dog is aggressive.

Of the 1,972 known dogs in Westland, eighteen are registered as 'Menacing' under Section 33A, seven are registered as 'Menacing' under Section 33C and seven registered as 'Dangerous'.



Under Council's Dog Control Policy, all dogs classified as menacing must be neutered, and muzzled when in a public area.

	2018/19	2019/20	Total in District
Menacing S 33A	6	12	18
Menacing S 33C	1	6	7
Dangerous S 31	9	0	7

6.5 Infringements

A total of 86 infringement notices were issued for the following offences:

Infringement Offence	2018/19	2019/20
Failure to comply with any bylaw	6	14
Failure to comply with effects of classification	4	3
Failing to register dog	68	204
Failure to keep dog under control	5	10
Failure to provide proper care	3	0

6.6 Court Proceedings

There were no court prosecutions undertaken for offences under the Act for the 2019/2020 reporting period.

7.0 Other Services

7.1 Multiple Dog Permits (3+ Dogs – Urban Zone)

A permit is required to keep more than two dogs on a property in an urban area. The issue of a permit is conditional on the suitability of an owner, their property and obtaining of approval from affected neighbours.

In this reporting period, five multiple dog permits are current, and four owners have surrendered their permits, as they no longer have more than two dogs on their property.

7.2 Responsible Dog Owners

Forty-one applications have been approved for Responsible Dog Owners in the reporting period.

7.3 Selected Owner Policy (SOP) Status

SOP status provides a discounted rate of dog registration as an incentive to responsible dog owners. To qualify for SOP status all dogs must be registered on or by 1st August of the current registration year, dog/s must be micro-chipped, there have been no justified complaints against, infringement, or impounding of any dog in the past two years, and the property has been inspected and approved in relation to appropriately fenced areas or kennel runs.