



REPORT ON DOG CONTROL POLICY AND PRACTICES

This report is prepared pursuant to the provisions of Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996 for the year ended 30 June 2014. This is the tenth annual report prepared pursuant to the Act.

Statistics:

	04-05	05-06	06-07	07-08	08-09	09-10	10-11	11-12	12-13	13-14
The number of registered dogs in the District.	1472	1455	1449	1441	1489	1484	1511	1458	1561	1729
The number of probationary owners and disqualified owners.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
The number of dogs classified as dangerous.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
The number of dogs classified as menacing.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	9	9
The number of infringement notices issued by the Council.	56	26	10	11	18	26	19	16	70	60
The number of dog related complaints received by the Council and (since August 2007) the Contractor.	34	47	51	130	109	86	110	133	184	212
The number of prosecutions taken by the Council under the Act.	10	6	3	11	18	13	12	1	27	26

Staff

The Council continues to employ a contractor to undertake dog control duties throughout the District. The contractor has, since August 2010, been the Hokitika Branch of the Royal New Zealand SPCA. The contract was renewed in

June 2012 for a three year period after a review of contractual arrangements, and it is due to be reviewed again shortly as part of a retender process which will allow other interested parties to bid for the contract. The Council values the contractual relationship with the SPCA, as Council believes that a better standard of dog control can be achieved by having an emphasis on animal welfare and education as well as the statutory dog control function. The contractor's performance is monitored on a monthly basis.

Policy on Dogs

The current Policy on Dogs was adopted in April 2010 after completing the Special Consultative Procedure.

The Policy highlighted the movement towards a more effective relationship with the SPCA, with a strategic alliance focusing on education and animal welfare. The Council has always regarded "dog control" as the statutory minimum, and the policy seeks an overall improvement in animal welfare knowledge and practice, leading to an improvement in dog control.

The Policy on Dogs has not been amended during the year ending 30 June 2014 and is considered to be accurate, with the exception of a couple of outdated references to the relationship with the SPCA.

Dog Control

Dog Control continues to be concentrated on Hokitika and Kaniere. Periodic control functions are undertaken at Ross and Kumara, with other areas of the District being covered on an as-required basis.

The number of complaints received about dogs has continued to increase. This is most likely due to more effective recordkeeping systems as well as a more determined approach by the Contractor to ensure that all dog complaints are properly recorded. This analysis may be clearer when the next external satisfaction survey has been completed.

In the year ending 30 June 2014, Council focused on the menacing dog provisions of the Act and utilised this regulatory regime to more effectively monitor issues around menacing dogs. As of 30 June 2014, there were 9 dogs classified as menacing; 2 by virtue of breed and 7 by virtue of behaviour.

Dog Registration

Dog control fees for the year remained at \$74.00 for dogs registered within the Hokitika and Kaniere Townships and \$58.50 for dogs registered in other areas. Dog registration fees also included a 50% penalty additional to the registration fee for late payment. The costs associated with dog registration and dog control are funded entirely by dog registration fees.

External Satisfaction Survey

An external satisfaction survey has generally been undertaken on a biannual basis but was not undertaken in 2014 due to Council's financial constraints. The

results of the last biannual external satisfaction survey in 2012 indicated that 35% of residents are 'very satisfied' or 'just satisfied' with the control of dogs in the District, 27% were 'not very satisfied' or 'not at all satisfied,' and 38% did not know. The Council looks forward to the results of the next external satisfaction survey, planned for 2015 or 2016 (subject to funding availability).

Adopted by Council at their meeting held on the 29 January 2015.