

Westland District Council 2018/2019 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 2018 to 30 June 2019.

2.0 Dog Control Policy and Bylaw

A review of Council's Dog Control Bylaw and Dog Control Policy was undertaken in the previous reporting period. There have been no further reviews or amendments made to the bylaw or policy for this reporting period.

3.0 Administration

3.1 Personnel

In the previous reporting period all Dog Control activities were managed by an external contractor. In October 2018, Council bought all aspects of this activity back in-house. 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.

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 to claim any dog/s under their ownership that have been impounded. Any dog not claimed within seven days is euthanised if not suitable for rehoming through the SPCA or another approved facility. All dogs are assessed by an ACO and Officers of the SPCA to determine suitability for rehoming.

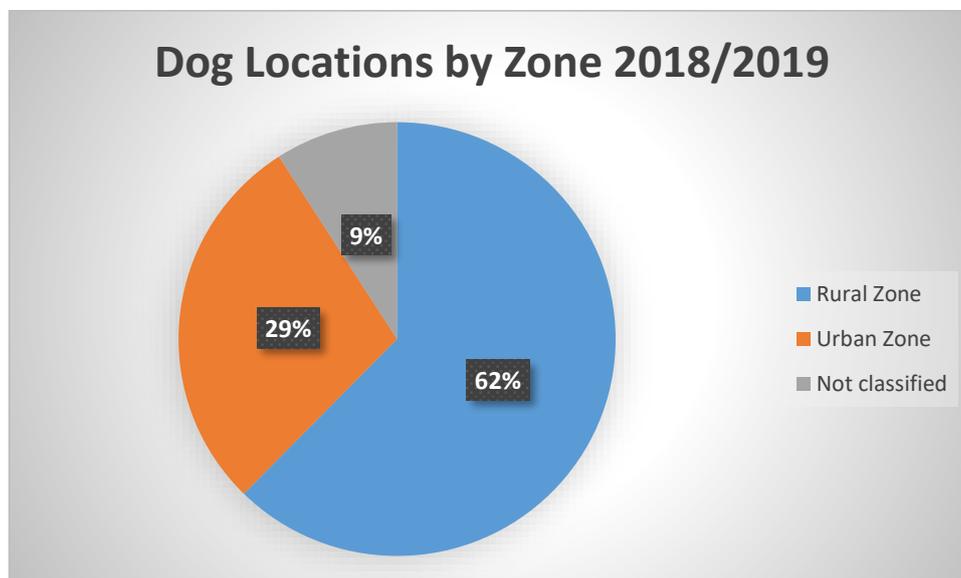
4.0 Fees and Charges

The following fees and charges were adopted by Council for the delivery of Animal Control services for the 2018/2019 year.

Animal Control	Fee (GST inclusive) 2018/2019
Urban Registration (Hokitika and Kaniere Township)	\$74
Registration other Areas	\$58.50
Registration Selected Dog Owners (SDO)	\$45
Registration Working Dogs	\$30 for 1 st Dog, \$20 for subsequent dogs
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 1,860 dogs and 1,343 owners were listed within Council’s database for the reporting period. A total of 1,160 dogs are located in the rural zone, 531 in an urban zone, and 169 to be assigned a rural or urban location.



6.0 Enforcement

The format for reporting of complaints, impounding, classification, infringements, and court proceedings has been modified 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 223 complaints were received during the 2017/2018 reporting period and is compared to previous years as follows.

Complaints Received	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Dog Attack	NR	NR	NR	19
Rushing/Threatening	NR	NR	NR	9
Roaming	NR	NR	NR	101
Barking	NR	NR	NR	32
Welfare	NR	NR	NR	21
General	NR	NR	NR	41
Total	223	360	104	223

6.2 Impounding

A total of 57 dogs were impounded during the reporting period of which 51 were returned to their owners, one surrendered to the SPCA, four re-homed, and one euthanised.

6.3 Classification of Dog Owners

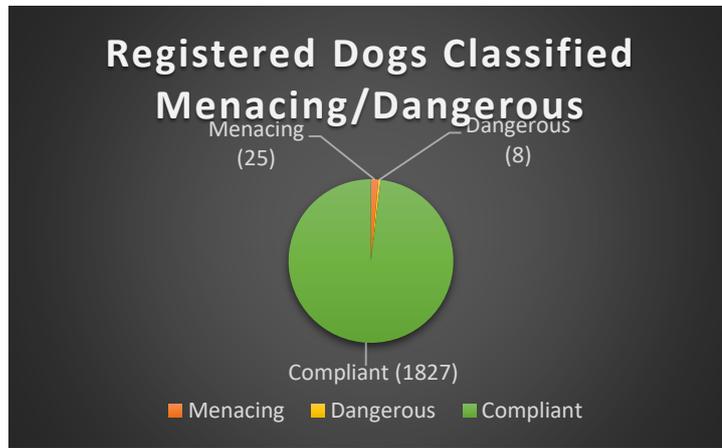
The Council did not classify any dog owners as 'disqualified from owning a dog' in the 2018/2019 year. There are no registered 'disqualified' or 'probationary' owners within the Westland District.

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 1,860 known dogs in Westland, twenty-five are registered as 'Menacing' and eight registered as 'Dangerous'.



Under Council’s Dog Control Policy, all dogs classified as menacing are required to be de-sexed, and muzzled when in public.

	Total for 2018/19 Year	Total in District
Menacing Section 33A	6	22
Menacing Section 33C	1	3
Dangerous Section 31	9	8

6.5 Infringements

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

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

6.6 Court Proceedings

There were no court prosecutions undertaken for offences under the Act for the 2018/2019 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.

7.2 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.