



DOG CONTROL POLICY AND PRACTICES REPORT
2018 – 2019 Financial year

Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996 (“Act”) requires that Council reports on its dog control policies and practices over the financial year.

DOG CONTROL POLICY

Section 10 of the Act requires Council to develop a policy on dogs, which establishes Council’s philosophy for dog control throughout the district.

Council adopted the current policy in December 2014 and it establishes Council’s criteria to be followed regarding controlling dogs.

Policy - Key Aspects:

- The requirement for all dogs classified as menacing to be neutered;
- Dogs must be on a leash in public places except Rural General Zones (unless they are at a cemetery or a playground) or any dog exercise area, (generally, most Council Controlled Tracks and Reserves);
- The expectations for dog owners to maintain owner responsibility during an emergency;
- That any Probationary and Disqualified owners shall be classified for the maximum period, unless they can demonstrate to Council’s satisfaction that the full period is unnecessary;
- The criteria for issuing a multiple dog licence have been clarified;
- Fees for dog registration have been amended to recognise and reward behavior that complies with the Dog Control Act 1996.

MICRO-CHIPPING

All dogs registered for the first time on or after 1 July 2006 (excluding working dogs) and all dogs classified as dangerous or menacing since 1 December 2003 are required to be micro-chipped.

During 2018/19 Animal Control Officers (ACO) targeted 200 dogs that had no micro-chip numbers, as required. Of these 180 owners provided their dogs’ micro-chip number when contacted (90%), with 20 dog owners failing to comply with the micro-chip requirement. The requirement for micro-chips is an on-going matter that the ACO’s will continue to work through as new dogs are registered throughout the year to achieve 100% compliance.

DOG REGISTRATION

Council registration fees provide a discount to dog owners with positive history for the previous two years, e.g. no impounding of a dog and also for having effective fencing at the property.

There was an increase of 4.07% in the number of registered dogs from 4836 in 2017/2018 to 5033 in 2018/19.

Over the financial year, Council was notified of 352 deceased dogs and 308 dogs being transferred out of the Queenstown Lakes District.

Category	2015 - 2016	2016 - 2017	2017- 2018	2018 - 2019
Total number of Registered Dogs	4302	4485	4836	5033
a) Dangerous by owner conviction under s.31(1)(a)	2	2	2	2
b) Dangerous by sworn evidence under s.31(1)(b)	2	2	2	2
c) Dangerous by owner admittance in writing under s.31(1)(c)	0	0	0	0
Total number of Dangerous Dogs	4	4	4	4
a) Menacing under s33A(1)(b)(i) – Behaviour	17	15	19	16
b) Menacing under s33A(1)(b)(ii) - Breed characteristics	7	8	0	0
c) Menacing under s33C(1) - Schedule 4 Breed/Type	2	0	0	1
Total number of Menacing Dogs	26	23	19	17
Total number of Probationary Owners	0	1	1	1
Total number of Disqualified Owners	0	0	0	0

DISQUALIFIED AND PROBATIONARY DOG OWNERS

There is one Probationary owner in the District. This has not changed from the previous year 2017/2018. There were no Disqualified dog owners in the district within this financial period.

MENACING AND DANGEROUS DOGS

There are four dangerous dogs registered for the 2018/19 registration period and this is the same as 2017/18. Two dogs were newly classified as Menacing by Behaviour, these were both the results of serious attacks on humans. Two dogs transferred into the Queenstown Lakes District that were previously classified in another district, one due to Breed and one due to Behaviour. Despite these additions, menacing dogs in our district have reduced by two due to deaths and relocating out of district.

DOG CONTROL RESPONSE

This section describes the number and type of complaints received and the manner in which Council has responded to address the complaints and general issues regarding dogs over the last year.

Dog Control is a priority area of focus within the QLDC Enforcement Strategy 2014. The priorities are:

- a) To have all dogs that live in the district registered;
- b) Ensure all dogs are kept under control at all times; and
- c) Reducing ignorance and apathy of dog owners to their responsibilities.

Category of Complaint	2015 - 2016	2016 - 2017	2017 - 2018	2018 - 2019
Public Safety related complaints				
Dog attack on people –	14	14	34	16
Dog attack on people – serious	0	0	2	4
Dog attack on animal – minor	34	26	25	37
Dog attack on animal – serious	11	14	7	3
Dog attack on stock (worrying stock)	5	0	5	4
Dog rushing	33	49	36	25
Roaming dogs	491	548	563	498
General concern	64	32	63	69
Non-safety Concerns				
Lost dogs	319	332	321	334
Barking	172	166	205	159
Fouling	13	9	11	12
Total complaints	1157	1190	1272	1161

ATTACKS

When an attack occurs on a person or animal, the incident can be extremely distressing for all parties and it is imperative that there is a fast response to such matters.

Over the last year there has been a decrease in the number of attacks from 73 in 2017/18 to 64 2018/19.

ROAMING DOGS

Roaming dogs can frighten, intimidate or annoy others, in addition to attacking other animals and people. The number of roaming dogs still remains the single largest issue within our district, however we have seen a decrease in reports from the community of 563 in 2017/18 to 498 in 2018/19. This is the first time in four years we have seen a reduction. This is considered a significant reduction in consideration of the increased number of registered dogs.

LOST DOGS

There has been a slight increase from 321 to 334 in the number of lost dogs reported to Council. This could be due to engagement with the public encouraging reporting.

BARKING DOGS

There was a decrease in the number of complaints for barking dogs received, from 205 to 159. Council continues to provide the free use of anti-bark devices to dog owners and proactive communication via letter drops to assist in addressing this issue.

IMPOUNDINGS

There was an increase in the number of impounded dogs during 2018/2019, an increase of 34 impounded dogs, from 110 in 2017/18 to 144 in 2018/19. This being a proportional increase of 2.2% to dog registered to 2.86%.

PROSECUTIONS

There were no prosecutions in 2018/2019.

General Concerns

Council received 69 general concerns, with 48 involving animal welfare concerns and 21 being general enquires relating to animals.

INFRINGEMENTS

There has been a decrease in the number of infringements issued from 67 in 2017/18 to 38 in 2018/19. Last year a large number of infringements were issued for failure to microchip, however this has not taken place this year.

Despite receiving 159 barking dog complaints, only one infringement was issued for failing to comply with a barking dog abatement notice. The majority of barking complaints are resolved as dog owners are cooperative with Animal Control officers and successfully work towards reducing their dogs' barking behavior.

Two infringements were issued for failing to comply with the bylaw, both being due to failing to pick up after a fouling dog.

Two infringements were issued for falsely notifying of the death of a dog; these have not been issued in previous years.

OFFENCE	2015 - 2016	2016 - 2017	2017- 2018	2018 - 2019
Failure to comply with classification	0	0	0	0
Failure to register dog	45	30	19	18
Failure to advise of address change	0	0	0	0
Failure to keep dog controlled/confined on owner's property	26	3	13	8
Failure to keep dog under control	3	7	11	2
Failure to carry a leash in public	0	0	0	0
Falsely Notifying death of dog	0	0	0	2
Failure to supply owner information	205	0	0	0

OFFENCE	2015 - 2016	2016 - 2017	2017- 2018	2018 - 2019
Failure to comply with any bylaws authorized by the section	1	0	3	2
Failure to implant microchip transponder in dog	0	0	20	5
Failure to comply with barking dog abatement notice	0	0	1	1
Total	75	40	67	38