

14. Item 7: S.10A Dog Control Report

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT | TE TAKE MO TE PURONGO

The purpose of this report is to inform Council on the dog control policy and practices undertaken in the 2021/2022 financial year, in accordance with Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996.



RECOMMENDATION | NGA TUTOHUNGA

1. That Council

a. Note the contents of this report and in particular

b. Adopt the Dog Control Policy and Practices report 2021/2022, in accordance with Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996;

c. Direct Council staff to forward a copy of the Dog Control Policy and Practices report 2021/2022 to the Secretary for Local Government.

	Prepared by:	Reviewed and Authorised by:
Name	Kacie English	Stewart Burns
Position	Regulatory Support Senior	Audit, Finance and Risk Manager
Signature		
Date	1/9/2022	1/9/2022

CONTEXT | HOROPAKI

2. The Dog Control Act 1996 (“Act”) requires Council to report on the administration of its dog control practices and dog control policy each financial year.

3. The report must include details regarding:

- The number of registered dogs, probationary owners and disqualified owners in the district;
- The number of dogs classified menacing or dangerous as a result of their actions, and the number of dogs classified as menacing by the type or breed; and;
- Infringement notices issued, the type and number of complaints received, and prosecutions taken.

4. The Act also requires that the report of these activities must be publicly notified in one or more daily newspapers circulating in the district, or one or more newspapers that have at least an equivalent circulation in the district to that of daily newspaper.

5. A copy of the report (Attachment A) must also be forwarded to the Secretary for the Local Government within one month after adopting the report.

6. The report details the dog control activities undertaken by Queenstown Lakes District Council in the 1 July 2021 – 30 June 2022 financial year.

ANALYSIS AND ADVICE | TATARITANGA ME NGA TOHUTOHU

7. Council has specifically identified dog control within its Enforcement Strategy and Prosecution Policy. The specific objective of the Enforcement Strategy and Prosecution Policy is to “Increase the level of voluntary compliance with the law through effective and appropriate education or enforcement activity”.

8. The key areas and figures within the report are: **Additional goals** Several additional initiatives have been achieved (over and above regular patrol and response), enabling us to work closely with the public, as described below:

- Working with primary schools and local children’s groups to help educate children around approaching dogs and local bylaws on dog control (I.e. Clue Up Kids programme);
- Signage was installed throughout the district for control of dogs and Dog waste bag dispensers were maintained and replaced when damaged or missing;
- A community engagement dog pool party event took place;
- Additional regular weekend and out of hours patrols targeting popular walking trails: Queenstown Hill & Matakauri park;
- Targeted patrol in high volume public areas;
- Scuttlemutt was created and distributed to dog owners Providing free dog training classes in Queenstown & Wanaka

9. Registered Dogs There was a 4.08% increase in the number of registered dogs from 5728 in 2020-21 to 5962 in 2021-22. This percentage increase has continued to decline over the past two years since seeing a peak in new registrations in the 2019/20 period (7.05%)

10. Classification of Dogs There were two newly classified menacing dogs and one newly classified dangerous dog in the 2021-22 registration period. The classification of the dangerous dog was due to a dog-on-dog attack with human injury and the two menacing classifications were the result of an occurrence of aggressive behaviour demonstrated by two dogs against another dog.

There were also two dogs transferred into the district with a previous menacing classification.

Three menacing dogs and one dangerous dog were notified as deceased, and three menacing dogs transferred out of the district. As a result, the overall figure of four Dangerous Dogs and 13 Menacing Dogs in the district has remained the same as the previous registration year [\[MD1\]](#).

11. Probationary and Disqualified owners There was one owner with a disqualified status up to the 7th October 2021 however at this date their status expired therefore the owner no longer has any restrictions. There has been no new probationary or disqualified dog owners classified in the current reporting year.

12. Attacks The total number of dog attacks has seen a 7.41% reduction, from 54 reported attacks in 2020-21 to 50 reported attacks in 2021-22

The number of attacks on humans has decreased from 16 in 2020-21 to 14 in 2021-22. Two of these attacks were categorised as serious. One of those serious attacks resulted in the

classification of the dog to Dangerous as it caused substantial injuries to the victim. The Second caused minor injuries and was issued a written warning.

The number of attacks on animals has stayed relatively the same again from 38 in 2020-21 to 37 in 2021-22. One of these attacks resulted in two dogs being classified as menacing due to aggressive behaviour.

13. Roaming Dogs Roaming dogs is the area which results in the most Requests For Service (RFS) from the community and is the area where we spend the largest proportion of time responding, educating and enforcing.

The number of reported roaming dogs has decreased by 16.12% from of 552 in 2021-21 to 463 in 2021-22. The Animal Control team understand that the decrease may be in relation to the amount of people now working from home.

14. Impounded Dogs There has been a decrease in the number of dogs impounded from 53 impounds occurring in 2020-21 to 31 dogs impounded in 2021-22. In the current reporting year this correlates to 0.52% of the dogs registered in the district. When compared to the previous year's data of 0.93% of registered dogs, it is clear that the rate of impounds is declining. . The Animal Control team continue to issue infringements for 2nd offences for impounding, however where appropriate on first offences the ACO will return the dog and provide education to the owners.

15. Barking Complaints The number of complaints received for barking dogs has continued to increase from 251 in 2020-21 to 268 in 2021-22. Council continues to provide the free use of anti-bark devices to dog owners as required. The Animal Control team have seen a pattern over the previous two years with the increase in barking complaints likely relating to an increase of people working from home and being more aware of barking.

16. Infringements There has been a significant increase in the number of infringements issued from 43 in 2020-21 to 89 in 2021-22.

38 of these infringements were issued for failure to implant microchip transponders in dogs, which is an infringement offence that has not been issued in the previous two years. The requirement for microchip compliance is an ongoing matter that the Animal Control team continue to work through and follow up on as new dogs are registered. A new system of monitoring non-microchipped dogs was implemented by the Animal Control team in the 2021-22 registration year which included issuing infringements to dog owners. This approach has resulted in an overall decrease in figures for dogs without microchips from 219 non-microchipped dogs in 2020-21 to 129 in 2021-22.

Despite the increase in barking dog complaints, no infringements were issued for failing to comply with a barking dog abatement notice. All barking complaints were resolved as dog owners were cooperative with the Animal Control team and have successfully worked towards reducing the barking behaviour.

17. Prosecutions There were no prosecutions conducted in the 2021-2022 reporting period however the Council has commenced a prosecution under s57 and 58 of the Dog Control Act for a dog attack during this reporting timeframe that resulted in injury to a person, this is currently before the Court

18. Option 1 Adopt the Dog Control Policies and Practices Report 2021/2022

19. Advantages:

Legislative compliance. This enables Council to comply with Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996.

20. Disadvantages:

There is a small cost to publicly notify this report.

24. This report recommends **Option 1** for addressing the matter because it is a statutory requirement to report this to the Department of Internal Affairs.

CONSULTATION PROCESS | HATEPE MATAPAKI

25. This matter is of low significance, as determined by reference to the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy because there is a low impact on our environment and culture from the decision of the report.

26. The level of significance determines the nature of compliance necessary to satisfy the decision making requirements in sections [76-78 of the Local Government Act 2002](#). A higher level of compliance must be achieved for a significant decision.

27. The persons who are affected by or interested in this matter are Dog owners, Residents/Ratepayers, Visitors and other councils.

28. The Council **will** place an advertisement in the local newspaper to advise the public of this report being available on the QLDC Website.

MAORI CONSULTATION | IWI RUNANGA

29. The Council will place an advertisement in the local newspaper to advise the public of this report being available on the QLDC website.

RISK AND MITIGATIONS | NGA RARU TUPONO ME NGA WHAKAMAURUTANGA

30. This matter relates to the Ineffective management of social nuisance issues. It is associated with RISK00006 and description Ineffective management of social nuisance issues within the [QLDC Risk Register](#). This risk has been assessed as having a moderate inherent risk rating.

31. The approval of the recommended option will support the Council by allowing us to Retain the risk at its current level.. This shall be achieved by putting measures in place which directly impact the risk, through Council's response to urgent Requests for Service within two hours across the District, conducting routine dog control patrols, enforcing Council's Dog Policy and education programmes for schools around dogs and safety.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS | NGA RITENGA A-PUTEA

32. The costs associated with publicly notifying the adoption of the Dog Control Policy and Practices will be met from current budgets.

COUNCIL EFFECTS AND VIEWS | NGA WHAKAAWEAWE ME NGA TIROHANGA A TE KAUNIHERA

33. The following Council policies, strategies and bylaws were considered:

- Dog Control Policy 2020 – This policy provides the principal rules regarding dog control throughout the District.
- Enforcement Strategy and Prosecution Policy – This policy outlines Council's enforcement approach and options available.

34. The recommended option is consistent with the principles set out in the Dog Control Policy.

35. This matter is included in the Ten-Year/Annual Plan

- Volume 1 – Regulatory functions and services

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS AND STATUTORY RESPONSIBILITIES | KA TURE WHAIWHAKAARO, ME KA TAKOHAKA WAETURE

36. Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996 requires the Council to adopt a dog control policy and practices report annually. A copy of the report must be sent to the Secretary for Local Government and must be publicly notified following its adoption.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2002 PURPOSE PROVISIONS | TE WHAKATURETURE 2002 O TE KAWANATAKA A-KAIKA

37. Section 10 of the Local Government Act 2002 states the purpose of local government is:

- (a) to enable democratic local decision-making and action by, and on behalf of, communities; and
- (b) to promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of communities in the present and for the future.

As such, the recommendation in this report is appropriate and within the ambit of Section 10 of the Act

38. The recommended option:

- Can be implemented through current funding under the Ten-Year Plan and Annual Plan.
- Is consistent with the Council's plans and policies; and
- Would not significantly alter the intended level of service provision for any significant activity undertaken by or on behalf of the Council or transfer the ownership or control of a strategic asset to or from the Council.

ATTACHMENTS | NGA TAPIRIHANGA

Number	Title of Attachment
1.	The Dog Control Policy and Practices Report 2021/22