

DOG CONTROL POLICY AND PRACTICES REPORT

2025 – 2026 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 and sets out specific requirements for how the policy is to be adopted and what it must cover. The Council's current policy was adopted on the 25th of June 2020. The policy establishes Council's criteria to be followed regarding controlling dogs.

Policy – Key Aspects:

- The requirement for all dogs classified as menacing and dangerous to be neutered.
- Dogs must be on a leash in public places except Rural General Zones or any dog exercise area (generally, most Council Controlled Tracks and Reserves). However, these two exceptions do not apply to playground or cemeteries.
- 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 set to recognize and reward dog ownership behaviour that complies with the Act.

MICRO-CHIPPING

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

At the end of the 2025/26 registration year, there were 104 dogs without microchip numbers, compared with 98 in 2024/25. The Animal Control Officer's (ACO) have continued to observe that most dogs they interact with are microchipped. Those who are not microchipped receive email reminders informing them of the legal requirement to provide a valid microchip number and the consequences of not doing so. We continue to work towards compliance in accordance with the QLDC Enforcement Strategy and Prosecution Policy.

DOG REGISTRATION

Council registration fees are set out to recognise and reward responsible dog ownership, providing a discounted registration fee to dog owners that classify in the low-risk category. For example, if the dog's property is fenced, the dog is neutered, and the dog has positive history e.g. no impounding history or attacks.

There was a 1.29% decrease in the number of registered dogs, from 6240 in 2024/25 to 6160 in 2025/26. The increase in deceased dogs maybe have contributed to this decline in registered dogs.

Council was notified of 560 deceased dogs in the 2025/26 period, which is a 69.7% increase from the 330 dogs in 2024/25. There were also 340 dogs that were transferred out of the Queenstown Lakes District, seeing an 18.8% increase from the 286 transferred in 2024/25. This is a notable increase compared to the 37.8% decrease we saw in 2024/25.

Category	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Total number of Registered Dogs	5388	5728	5962	6099	6046	6240	6160
a) Dangerous by owner conviction under s.31(1)(a)	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
b) Dangerous by sworn evidence under s.31(1)(b)	3	3	4	3	3	3	3
c) Dangerous by owner admittance in writing under s.31(1)(c)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total number of Dangerous Dogs	4	4	4	3	3	3	3
a) Menacing under s33A(1)(b)(i) – Behaviour	17	13	13	14	12	13	14
b) Menacing under s33A(1)(b)(ii) - Breed characteristics	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
c) Menacing under s33C(1) - Schedule 4 Breed/Type	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total number of Menacing Dogs	17	13	13	14	12	13	14
Total number of Probationary Owners	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total number of Disqualified Owners	1	1	0	0	0	0	0

DISQUALIFIED AND PROBATIONARY DOG OWNERS

There were no probationary or disqualified dog owners classified in 2025/26.

MENACING AND DANGEROUS DOGS

There were two newly classified menacing dogs and one newly classified dangerous dog for the 2025/26 registration period. The two menacing classifications were classified as Menacing under S.33A, one was for an attack on stock, and one was for an attack on a person. The dangerous dog was classified under S.31(1)b for an attack on a person.

One dog previously classified as dangerous moved out of district in 2025/26. Three previously classified as menacing were marked as deceased in 2025/26.

We also had three classified menacing dogs transfer into the district; two were classified under section 33A(1)(b)(i) and one was classified under section 33C(1) in 2025/26.

DOG CONTROL RESPONSE

This section describes the number and type of complaints received and the way Queenstown Lakes District Council has responded to address the complaints and general issues regarding dogs over the 2025/26 period.

Category of Complaint	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	20203/24	2024/25	2025/26
Dog attack on people – minor	8	14	12	24	7	12	15
Dog attack on people – serious	0	2	2	3	3	3	5
Dog attack on animal – minor	44	25	25	39	34	44	27
Dog attack on animal – serious	9	9	10	12	15	13	11
Dog attack on stock (worrying stock)	1	4	2	4	3	5	8
Total attacks	62	54	51	82	62	77	67
Dog rushing	31	37	29	42	31	70	58
Roaming dogs	506	552	463	611	457	398	458
General concern	28	66	61	94	74	50	124
Lost dogs	242	256	180	222	199	164	188
Barking	164	251	268	267	184	220	190
Fouling	17	22	30	17	10	3	13
Total complaints	1050	1238	1082	1333	1017	982	1164

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 2025/26 registration year, there have been 67 dog attacks, a decrease from the 77 reported in 2024/25. This decrease highlights the education work that the ACO's have been doing around responsible dog ownership, including containment and control in public spaces. Whilst there has been a decrease in minor dog on animal attacks from 44 in 2024/25 to 27 in 2025/26, there has been an increase in serious dog on human attacks from 3 in 2024/25 to 5 in 2025/26.

ROAMING DOGS

Roaming dogs can frighten, intimidate, or annoy others, in addition to attacking other animals and people. The number of roaming dogs has increased by 15.08%, from 398 in 2024/25 to 458 in 2025/26.

LOST DOGS

The number of lost dogs reported to Council has increased from 164 in 2024/25 to 188 in 2025/26.

BARKING DOGS

The number of complaints received for barking dogs has decreased from 220 in 2024/25 to 190 in 2025/26. Council continues to provide the free use of anti-bark devices to dog owners as required and supports the community by offering free training classes to dog owners to remain proactive in this space.

IMPOUNDINGS

There has been a 68.18% increase in the number of impounded dogs from 44 in 2024/25 to 74 in 2025/26. The increase in roaming dogs has contributed to this increase. When appropriate, ACO's provide education and the return of the dog to owner on first offences but continue to issue infringements for second time offences for impounding.

PROSECUTIONS

There has been one prosecution during the 2025/26 registration year. This case related to a dog-on-person attack that occurred in the same year.

GENERAL CONCERNS

Council received 124 general dog concerns in total for the 2025/26 registration year. This is an increase of 148% from the 50 reported in 2024/25. The increase can be attributed to an update in our processes so dog concerns can be recorded more accurately. Our ACO's have maintained their positive relationship with the SPCA and pass on any welfare concerns to them as the lead agency on animal welfare.

INFRINGEMENTS

The number of infringements issued decreased from 220 in 2024/25 to 181 in 2025/26. Most of these infringements have been issued for failure to register dog (116) or failure to keep dog under control (29) and failure to microchip (29). There were two issued for failure to comply with any bylaw authorised by the section and two issued for failing to comply with barking abatement notice. There were three issued for failure to comply with classification, of which all were for failing to comply with menacing classification requirements. A total of 47 were waived; most notably, 23 being for failure to register dog. This aligns to councils' approach of education through to enforcement as outlined in the QLDC Enforcement Strategy and Prosecution Policy.

Offence	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Failure to comply with classification	0	0	0	0	2	3	3
Failure to register dog	43	36	39	39	64	100	116
Failure to advise of address change	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Failure to keep dog controlled/confined on owners property	3	3	5	14	5	5	0
Failure to keep dog under control	4	4	3	10	22	46	29
Failure to carry a leash in public	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Falsely notifying death of dog	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Failure to supply owner information	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Failure to comply with any bylaws authorised by the section	0	0	4	1	4	4	2
Failure to implant microchip transponder in dog	0	0	38	35	0	62	29
Failure to comply with barking dog abatement notice	3	0	0	0	0	0	2
Total	53	43	89	99	97	220	181

