

Attachment A



DOG CONTROL POLICY AND PRACTICES REPORT

2014 – 2015 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.

The current policy was adopted on December 2014 and establishes Council’s criteria to be followed regarding controlling dogs.

Key changes in the new Policy are:

- 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 Track 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 Councils satisfaction that the full period is unnecessary;
- The criteria for issuing multiple dog licences have been clarified.
- Fees for dog registration, have changed 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 and all dogs classified as dangerous or menacing since 1 December 2003 are be required to be micro-chipped. Council introduced a new initiative to provide micro-chipping at cost (\$10) and has been working with dog owners to ensure all dogs are micro-chipped as part of a new Enforcement Strategy. The number of registered dogs with no microchip number has escalated this year with the large number of new dogs in our district.

DOG REGISTRATION

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

There was a significant increase (4.8%) in the number of registered dogs over the last year, which is consistent with the increasing trend over the previous years.

During 2014 – 2015, 319 dogs were re-classified as dead and 501 were transferred out of our district. “Transferred” was a new status added into Councils recording system in August 2015, therefore, we cannot provide an accurate number for full 2014-2015 period.

Category	2011 - 2012	2012 - 2013	2013 - 2014	2014 - 2015
Total number of Registered Dogs	3713	3728	3874	4073
a) Dangerous by owner conviction under s.31(1)(a)	0	1	1	1
b) Dangerous by sworn evidence under s.31(1)(b)	2	0	0	1
c) Dangerous by owner admittance in writing under s.31(1)(c)	0	0	0	1
Total number of Dangerous Dogs	2	1	1	3
a) Menacing under s33A(1)(b)(i) – Behaviour	14	8	19	17
b) Menacing under s33A(1)(b)(ii) - Breed characteristics	0	0	0	7
c) Menacing under s33C(1) - Schedule 4 Breed/Type	1	2	2	2
Total number of Menacing Dogs	15	10	21	26
Total number of Probationary Owners	0	1	0	0
Total number of Disqualified Owners	0	0	0	0

DISQUALIFIED & PROBATIONARY DOG OWNERS

There were no probationary or disqualified dog owners in the district within this financial period.

MENACING AND DANGEROUS DOGS

There were 3 dangerous dogs registered for the 2014-2015 registration period and an increase in the number of menacing dogs registered. The increase was from 21 to 26. The increase in dogs classified as menacing is a result of dog attacks reported to Council.

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:

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

Category of Complaint	2011 - 2012	2012 - 2013	2013 - 2014	2014 - 2015
Public Safety related complaints				
Dog attack on people - minor	4	5	15	13
Dog attack on people – serious	4	1	4	3
Dog attack on animal – minor	12	6	14	42
Dog attack on animal – serious	13	8	13	35
Dog attack on stock (worrying stock)	4	4	0	2
Dog rushing	17	8	19	25
Roaming dogs	158	348	337	436
General concern	31	22	59	67
Non-safety Concerns				
Lost dogs	184	197	300	364
Barking	152	123	137	220
Fouling	17	21	2	11
Total complaints	496	743	900	1218

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 we have seen a significant increase in the overall number of attacks. There were 46 attacks reported in 2012/13 which increased to 95 in 2013/13 and has significantly increased again to 120 this year. This increase has generated significant demand on the animal control service, which has led to a corresponding increase in the number of dog classifications issued and infringements.

Requests for service regarding dog attacks are a priority and are responded to immediately.

Roaming Dogs

The number of roaming dogs remains the single largest issue. Roaming dogs can frighten, intimidate or annoy others, in addition to attacking other animals and people and we have seen an increase in amount of roaming dogs from 337 to 436.

The response to requests for service is a newly established key performance indicator as part of the enforcement strategy, with a target of an officer being on site within 2 hours of receiving an urgent or priority request. We have a system in place to ensure all urgent RFS are dealt with in the required timeframe or sooner.

Barking Dogs

There was a significant increase in the number of complaints received from 137 to 220. The council continues to provide a free bark collar to dog owners to use to assist in addressing this issue however, however complaints have increased significantly.

Impounding's

There were 130 dogs impounded in 2013/14 and number of impounds have increased significantly this year to 164 impounded with the majority of impounded dogs being in response to roaming dogs. There were 102 in Queenstown and 62 in Wanaka.

Prosecutions

There were 3 prosecutions initiated for the 2013-2014 period following attacks, two have been completed, one leading to a conviction and destruction order.

INFRINGEMENTS

There was an overall significant increase in the number of infringements issued. This is a result of identifying a significant amount of non-compliance with the dog control act 1996.

OFFENCE	2011 - 2012	2012 - 2013	2013 - 2014	2014 - 2015
Failure to comply with classification	0	2	2	0
Failure to register dog	98	83	0	25
Failure to advise of address change	0	0	0	0
Failure to keep dog controlled/confined on owners property	23	12	21	34
Failure to keep dog under control	2	5	16	10
Failure to carry a leash in public	0	0	0	0
Falsely Notifying death of dog	0	0	0	1
Failure to supply owner information	0	0	0	1
Failure to comply with any bylaws authorized by the section	0	0	0	1
Total	123	102	39	72