



Dog Control Policy and Practices Report

1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019

Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996 requires the Council to report on its dog control policies and practices for the financial year.

PART 1 – DOG CONTROL POLICY

The current policy was adopted in August 2013 and outlines the Council's requirements regarding controlling dogs.

Key aspects of the policy are:

- The requirement for all dogs classified as menacing to be neutered
- Dogs must be on a leash in controlled areas
- When taking dogs out in public, owners must use or carry a leash at all times
- Specific dog exercise areas have been identified in Alexandra, Clyde, Cromwell, Ranfurly, Naseby, Roxburgh and Pisa Moorings
- A maximum number of dogs (3) permitted to reside on a private property, unless a licence has been granted.

PART 2 – DOG CONTROL PRACTICES

Dog Control functions are carried out by Allpest Limited under contract.

There were 6,104 dogs registered for the 2018/2019 financial year belonging to 3393 owners. Dog registrations are carried out by Reg the Dog under contract.

Service Requests

The service requests received through the year related to roaming/wandering and barking dogs, aggressive behaviour and dogs fouling in public areas.

Allpest Limited respond to service requests; however, Council staff have also assisted with some service requests regarding barking, wandering and aggressive dogs.

Dog Registration Fees

All dog control and enforcement activity is funded through dog registration and impounding fees.

The registration fees for the registration year 2018-2019 have remained the same as the previous year:

Working dogs	\$12.00
Pet dogs	\$55.00

Non-payment of registration fees are enforced by infringement notices. Unpaid infringement fines are collected by the Court by way of prosecution.

Council was notified of 459 deceased dogs in the Central Otago District in the year 2018/2019.

Microchipping

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 required to be microchipped.

Council has been working with dog owners throughout the year to microchip dogs as required by legislation.

- 3,235 dogs are microchipped
- 2,869 dogs are not microchipped

However, of the dogs that are not microchipped:

- 2,313 dogs are working dogs (microchipping not required)
- 556 dogs are pet dogs (microchipping required)

Disqualified and Probationary Owners

There are no disqualified or probationary owners in the Central Otago District.

Menacing and Dangerous Dogs

There are three classified dangerous dogs for the 2018/2019 registration year, this is an increase of one from the 2017/2018 registration year.

Four dogs were classified as menacing under Section 33C of the Dog Control Act in 2018/2019.

PART 3 – STATISTICAL INFORMATION

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

Dog Control is a high area of focus within the Central Otago District Council and they strive to undertake the following key factors:

- a. To have all dogs that live in the district registered
- b. To ensure all dogs are kept under control at all times
- c. Ongoing education of dog owners regarding their responsibilities and obligations

Complaints received by the Central Otago District Council for the past two years can be classified as follows:

Category of Complaint	2018/2019	2017/2018
Public Safety Related Complaints		
• Dog attack on people - minor	6	5
• Dog attack on people - serious	4	0
• Dog attack on animal - minor	5	0
• Dog attack on animal - serious	2	2
• Dog attack on stock (worrying)	1	3
• Dog rushing	20	0
• Wandering dogs	188	168
• General concern	12	16
Non-Safety Related Concerns		
• Lost dogs	2	2
• Barking	49	49
• Fouling	6	1

Attacks

When an attack occurs on a person or animal, the incident can be extremely distressing to all parties involved.

There has been an increased number of dog attacks over the last year, particularly around holiday season when there are a large number of visitors to the province. Dog control officers are continuing to educate and enforce as required.

Wandering and Roaming Dogs

The number of roaming dogs remains the largest issue for dog control officers. Roaming dogs can frighten, intimidate and annoy the community in addition to potentially attacking people and other dogs.

Barking Dogs

There was no change to number of complaints relating to barking dogs received during the 2018-2019 registration period.

The Council has purchased a bark-box to use for properties with multiple complaints, in addition to bark collars, which are also available for owners to use at no cost.

Impounding's

There were 42 dogs impounded during the 2018-2019 registration period in Central Otago District.

Prosecutions

There were no prosecutions undertaken during the 2018-2019 financial year.

Infringements

There has been an increase in the number of infringements issued for failure to keep dogs controlled or confined, but a significant reduction in the number of infringements for failing to register a dog.

OFFENCE	2018/2019	2017/2018
Failure to comply with classification	0	0
Failure to register dog	14	185
Failure to keep dog controlled or confined	12	4
Failure to keep dog under control	1	6
Failure to comply with any bylaws authorized by the section	1	0