

## Dog Control Policy and Practices Report

1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020

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. This policy and the dog control bylaw are currently under review.

Key Aspects of the policy are:

- The requirement for all dogs classified as menacing to be neutered
- 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 of three dogs are permitted to reside on a private property, unless granted a licence

### PART 2 – DOG CONTROL PRACTICES

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

There were 6236 dogs registered during the 2019/2020 financial year belonging to 3488 dog owners. Dog registrations were carried out by Reg the Dog under contract for this period.

#### Service Requests

The service requests received through the year related to roaming/wandering, barking dogs, aggressive behaviour and dogs worrying stock. Roaming dogs remains the main issue reported to council with a slight increase, along with an increase in barking dog complaints and complaints of dogs worrying sheep.

These areas will be a focus for the team for communications, education, patrols and enforcement for the coming year.

#### Dog Registration Fees

Dog control and enforcement activity is funded through dog registration and impounding fees. The registration fees for the registration year 2019-2020 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 Courts.

Council had 357 deceased dogs reported in the Central Otago District over this period.

### 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 micro-chipped.

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

- 3428 dogs are microchipped
- 2808 dogs are not microchipped

503 of the dogs not microchipped are required, with the remainder currently registered as working dogs and are exempt from microchipping. This is an area of focus for 2020 – 2021 as some dogs appear to have been registered as working dogs incorrectly previously by the owners, as they do not appear to meet the statutory definition of a working dog.

### Disqualified and Probationary Owners

There was one disqualified owner issued during this period. However, this is currently subject to an appeal to the district court.

There are no probationary owners in the Central Otago District.

### Menacing and Dangerous Dogs

There are no dogs classified as dangerous for the 2019-2020 registration period.

There are two dogs classified as menacing under Section 33A (type or breed) and seven dogs classified as menacing under 33C (actions) of the Dog Control Act in 2019/2020.

## 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 strives to undertake the following key factors:

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

Category of Complaint	2019 – 2020	2018 –2019
<b>Public Safety related complaints</b>		
Dog attack on people - minor	5	6
Dog attack on people - serious	5	4
Dog attack on animal - minor	8	5
Dog attack on animal - serious	5	2
Dog attack on stock (worrying)	10	1
Dog rushing	29	20
Wandering/roaming dogs	197	188
General concern	3	12
<b>Non-safety Concerns</b>		
Barking	60	49
Fouling	4	6

## 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 education 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.

Additional patrols were undertaken through the year and communications of responsible dog ownership through the year.

## Barking Dogs

There was a slight increase to number of complaints relating to barking dogs received during the 2019-2020 registration period. This is likely to be related to the COVID-19 lockdown, with an increase in people being at home hearing dogs more, which the dog control officers would educate dog owners about. Our largest number of barking dog complaints were received during lockdown.

The Council has 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 29 dogs impounded during the 2019-2020 registration period in Central Otago District, which were either united with their owner or re-homed.

## Prosecutions

There were no prosecutions undertaken during the 2019-2020 financial year.

## Infringements

There has been an increase in the number of infringements issued for failure to register dogs, as officers worked through the education and enforcement process, to ensure all dogs are registered.

<b>OFFENCE</b>	<b>2019- 2020</b>	<b>2018- 2019</b>
Failure to Comply with classification	0	0
Failure to register dog	126	14
Failure to keep dog controlled or confined	12	12
Failure to keep dog under control	4	1
Failure to comply with any bylaws authorized by the section	0	1