

Wellington City Council **Annual Dog Control Report 2014-2015**



1. Introduction

The Wellington City Council, as a territorial authority, is required to manage and enforce provisions pursuant to the Dog Control Act 1996 (the Act) and subsequent amendments in 2003, 2004, 2006 and 2010.

Section 10A of the Act requires the Council to report annually to the Secretary of Local Government on its Dog Control Policy and practices.

This report fulfils this statutory requirement for the dog registration years:

- 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014
- 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015



2. The Council's Dog Control Policy and Practices

2.1 Policy objectives

The Council adopted a Dog Policy in December 2009 making provisions relating to the control of dogs in public places, which are enforceable under the Wellington Consolidated Bylaw 2008 - Part 2: Animals.

The objectives of the policy are to:

- Ensure that the owners of dogs comply with their obligations under the Act, that dogs are well cared for and Wellingtonians are able to enjoy dog ownership;
- Prevent any potential danger caused by dogs to the public and to wildlife and natural habitats;
- Minimise the risk of distress and nuisance caused by dogs to the public and to wildlife and natural habitats;
- Actively promote the responsible ownership of dogs; and
- Provide for the reasonable exercise and recreational needs of dogs and their owners.

2.2 Fees

Dog registration fees, fines and impound fees contribute 75% of the cost of dog control in Wellington City. The Council also operates a Responsible Dog owner scheme which provides a discounted rate for dog owners who meet the relevant criteria. Dog registration fees are set by Council resolution

2.3 Summary of Practices

Wellington City Council contracts the management of its Animal Control functions to Hutt City Council which has a team based solely in Wellington for the delivery of animal management within the boundaries of Wellington City.





Key Achievements

Dogs registered for the 2013/14 year:

- **2013/14:** 10,480
- **2014/15:** 10,716

Over 98% of Requests for service were responded to within optimal time frames, far exceeding targets.

Key plans for this period included an increase in dog awareness programmes in primary schools aimed at teaching children to be safe around dogs.

Forty six of those visits were completed in schools. Another 27 sessions were held with other groups who interact with dogs as part of their occupations (meter readers, community nursing groups etc). The focus of this training was on keeping safe around dogs.

Community Education has been a major focus of the Animal Services Team through the Wellington City Council policies and bylaws.

Animal Control staff have developed a plan for Wellington City dog owners in conjunction with Hutt City Council and the SPCA for the management of displaced animals during an emergency situation.

For dog owners who need to evacuate with pets, plans have been put in place to ensure safe management for pets where possible, depending on the severity and type of disaster declared.

On site assistance for dog owners with obedience and behavioural advice is given to dog owners experiencing difficulty with their dogs by trained Animal Control Officers.

Rehoming programme: Wellington City is fortunate to have a very proactive dog rehoming programme coupled with Hutt City Council with an increasing demand from persons living throughout the city and region wishing to adopt dogs from our shelters. All dogs are put through a series of tests to evaluate their suitability prior to placement. The use of Facebook with our rehoming programme has assisted in a great many dogs being placed in new homes and a number of councils have recently adopted our rehoming procedures including the use of webpages and Facebook.

Community free dog training: This service is made available to dog owners which occurs every two to three months managed by the Animal Services Team. This type of activity has proved very popular with dog owners who often need assistance and advice with management of their own dogs.

Low cost microchipping has been made available to dog owners at the shelter at Moa Point and there has also been an increase in dogs being microchipped.

Community relationships: Animal Control staff have been working with community groups such as dog obedience clubs, local welfare agencies, veterinary staff and community development groups to proactively promote the responsible ownership of dogs.

Attendance at dog walking groups and fundraising events has continued to be our focus whereby we are able to increase and promote responsible dog ownership, promote microchipping and desexing. The aim of building these relationships has been to create a better informed community of dog owners.

Community partners: Animal Services have excellent relationships with the Wellington SPCA, HUHA (Helping You Help Animals), local Police and the many dog obedience clubs and dog behaviourists. This network of community partners has helped us to achieve the level of success that we have experienced in the community.



3. Dog Control Statistics

The information provided below sets out the statistical information required by Section 10(A) (2)

3.1 Dangerous and Menacing Dogs

Number of dogs classified as dangerous (Section 31)

Category	2013/14	2014/15
Dangerous by owner conviction S31(1)(a)	1	8
Dangerous by sworn evidence S31(1)(b)	1	0
Dangerous by owner admitting in writing S31(1)(c)	2	2
Total dangerous dogs	4	10

Number of dogs classified as menacing (Section 33A and 33C)

Category	2013/14	2014/15
Menacing by behaviour (S33A(1)(b)(i))	11	7
Menacing by breed characteristics (S33A(1)(b)(ii))	5	7
Menacing by Schedule 4 breed S33C(1)	32	28
Total menacing dogs	48	42

Number of infringement notices issued:

	2013/14	2014/15
Infringement notices issued	150	169

Probationary owners and disqualified owners:

We have not disqualified or applied probationary classifications on any dog owners over the periods 2013/14 and 2014/15

Number of dog owners prosecuted by Wellington City Council:

WCC prosecuted one dog owner under S57 of the Dog Act during the period 2013/14

There were no prosecutions during the period 2014/15



Number of dog related complaints

Category	2013/14	2014/15
Attacks on people	52	39
Attacks on animals	96	66
Barking dogs	867	593
Uncontrolled dogs	976	735
Miscellaneous	1135	937
Total number of dog related complaints	3126	2370

