

Wellington City Council
**Annual Dog Control Report
2016**



1. Introduction

The Wellington City Council, as 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.

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

- 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016



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 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.

A review of the Policy was undertaken during this reporting period. Over 250 submissions were received on the draft revised Dog Policy representing a variety of views from across the city. The Council adopted the finalised Dog Policy on 17th August 2016 and also agreed on areas where dogs can exercise off-leash. Work is planned to improve signage and facilities at dog exercise areas.

The key changes to the Dog Policy are:

- Clarifying that the Council can impose a fine of \$300 on owners who fail to pick up and properly dispose of dog poo.
- Easing restrictions on dogs in the CBD, and allowing dog owners to stop with their dogs on lead as long as they are not left unattended.
- Prohibiting dogs from being left unattended.
- All dog owners who apply for Responsible Dog Owner status must have completed dog obedience training by a recognised training school.
- Updated access times for dogs to parks and beaches where there are summer restrictions in place





The Council's Dog Control Policy and Practices

2.2 Fees

Dog registration fees, fines and impound fees contribute approximately 70% to 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.

Fees are used for:

- Dog control activities including law enforcement, patrols and complaint investigation.
- Education programmes for schools, community groups and businesses.
- Signs and promotion of the Council's Animal Bylaw and Dog Policy.

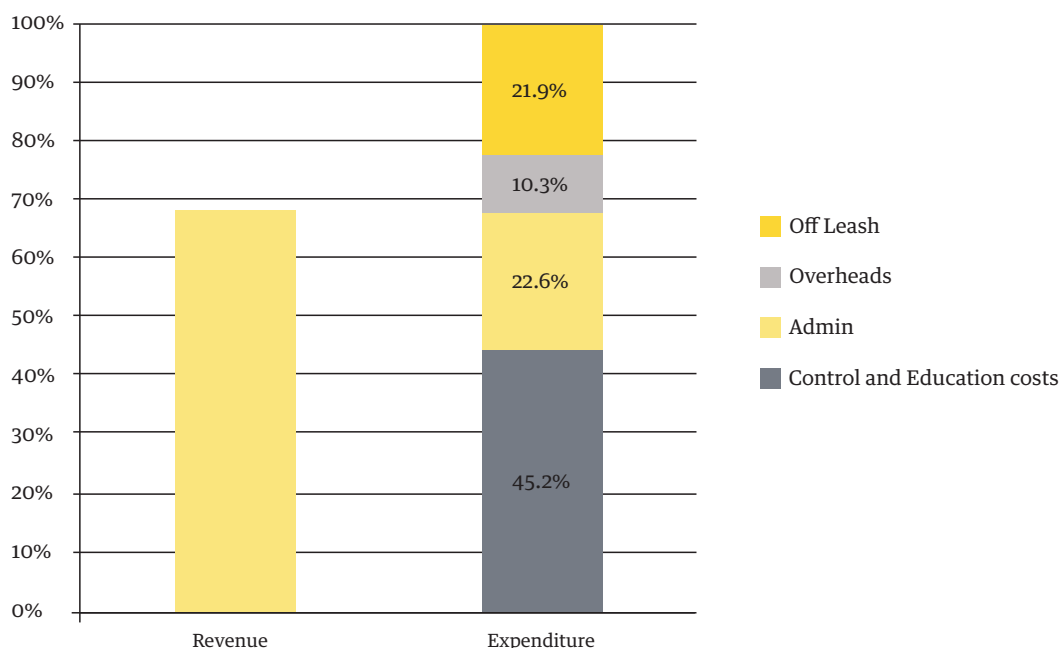
- Providing shelter facilities.
- Running the dog registration programme - this includes forms, printing, tags, maintaining the national dog database and related promotional material.

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 Council.

The graph below sets out the level of income and expenditure in relation to dog control activities during the year:

Dog revenue and expenditure





3. Key Achievements

Safety

Council through the animal services team has continued the “keeping safe around dogs” programme to schools, groups that interact with dogs and many other community organisations that may encounter dogs in their course of work. We put particular importance on ensuring our children in the communities are kept safe and if they encounter uncontrolled dogs that they have the skills to keep themselves safe and are able to report the incident as soon as possible to council’s animal services team.

Council’s animal services Officers also delivered safety programmes around dogs to adult groups on behalf of the Department of Corrections to young offenders and to other council officers who interact with dogs during routine visits and inspections.

Community free dog training

We are committed to commencing the community dog training programme which is available to Wellington dog owners free of charge, and these sessions will be held in various locations throughout the city. Our animal services contractor has recently purchased a caravan that will be used in Wellington for onsite community engagement for mobile low cost microchipping, dog registration and dog behavioural advice.

We are fortunate in that we have dedicated animal services staff who are experienced dog trainers and are able to offer that training assistance to dog owners on their own properties at no cost to the dog owners that may be experiencing training difficulties with their dogs.

Rehoming programme

Wellington City is part of a very successful rehoming programme for unwanted dogs run in conjunction with Hutt City. Over 40 dogs have been rehomed this past year.

The use of Facebook ensures that we have wide coverage for advising the public on what type of dogs are available. Dogs have been rehomed throughout the greater Wellington region and the programme continues to grow in popularity.

Volunteers

In preparation for a disaster being declared in our City and wider areas, we have recently trained ten animal services volunteers that will assist animal services staff in the possible evacuation of animals and the relocating to temporary shelters should these actions be required.

Community partnerships

Animal services staff from neighbouring councils will all work together in any emergency to make best use of staff, resources and animal shelters to ensure we are able to deliver and assist animal owners in the event of a disaster being declared.

We continue to have great working relationships with the Wellington SPCA, HUHHA Animal Rescue, the Police and many other community groups that we interact with in the course of any day.

Dog parks

It is pleasing to see that the newly created dog exercise parks are being well utilised by dog owners and the space available to those dogs is a great way to socialise dogs.



4. Dog Control Statistics

4.1 Dogs registered

Dogs registered for the 2015/16 year: 11039

Response to service requests: The target time for responses to service requests is within one hour for urgent requests and 24 hours for non-urgent requests:

During businesses hours: **97.7%** of requests responded to within target time

Outside business hours: **94.2%** of requests responded to within target time

4.2 Dangerous and Menacing Dogs

Number of dogs classified as dangerous (Section 31)

Category	Number
Dangerous by owner conviction S31(1)(a)	0
Dangerous by sworn evidence S31(1)(b)	5
Dangerous by owner admitting in writing S31(1)(c)	0
Total dangerous dogs	5

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

Category	Number
Menacing by behaviour (S33A(1)(b)(i))	14
Menacing by breed characteristics (S33A(1)(b)(ii))	23
Menacing by Schedule 4 breed S33C(1)	36
Total menacing dogs	73

4.3 Infringement notices issued:

Infringement notices issued	125
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4.4 Probationary owners and disqualified owners:

We have not disqualified or applied probationary classifications on any dog owners during this period.

4.5 Number of dog owners prosecuted by Wellington City Council:

We did not prosecute any dog owners during this period.

4.6 Number of dog related complaints

Category	Number
Attacks on people	51
Attacks on animals	73
Barking dogs	809
Uncontrolled dogs	785
Miscellaneous	1020
Total number of dog related complaints	2738

