

# ANNUAL DOG CONTROL REPORT 2021-22



## **Report on the administration of Gore District Council's Policy and Practices in relation to the control of dogs for the year 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022.**

### **Dog control in the Gore District**

The total number of registered dogs in the Gore District as at 30 June 2022 was 3413. Approximately one third of these dogs are pets domiciled in the urban areas of the Gore District.

The Council employs three part time officers. Two of these officers work 25 hours each; Monday to Friday and are on call for night shift and weekends, one week in every three. The third officer covers a weeknight shift and weekend, every three weeks.

### **Dog control enforcement practices**

During the year under review, the Council received 17 formal safety related complaints in regard to the behaviour of dogs and/or their owners. Of the complaints received, three concerned dog attacks on people and 14 on animals. All the complaints were the subject of an investigation and action to address the concerns of the complainants was implemented.

The Council is still finding some dogs are not being claimed by their owners, after being impounded. This appears to be due to the cost of registering/microchipping the dogs and the cost of impounding fees which are required to be paid by the Council in full before the dogs can be released. These dogs are rehomed if they are of suitable temperament usually through Furever Homes in Invercargill or in some cases to private individuals, after checks are carried out on them and their property. Otherwise, they are taken to the vet for euthanising.

During the year, a total of 62 infringement notices were issued. Council representatives contacted dog owners via phone, text or visited dog owners in the area reminding them to register their dogs after reminder notices for non-registration were issued but unfortunately dog owners did not always heed the warnings given, forcing the Council to issue infringement notices for non-registration. The Council offers a payment plan to dog owners struggling to make payment in full and people seem to be taking advantage of this.

### **Dog registration and other fees**

A comparison of the dog registration fees for the year ending 30 June 2022 with the previous year is as follows:

	<b>2020/21</b>	<b>2021/22</b>
<b>Registration fee – urban dog</b>	\$120.00	\$120.00
a. Less – no dog complaints, impoundments or infringements within a two year period	-\$20.00	-\$20.00
b. Less – neutered or spayed	-\$40.00	-\$40.00
Registration fee if all the requirements as detailed in a and b are met.	\$60.00	\$60.00

<b>Licence fee for three or more dogs</b>	\$150.00	\$150.00
<b>Registration fee – rural dog</b>	\$25.00	\$25.00
a. Add – dog complaints, impoundment or infringement within a two year period	\$30.00	\$30.00
<b>Late registration fee</b>		
Urban dog	+40%	+40%
Rural dog	+40%	+40%
<b>Poundage</b>		
First impoundment		
a. Dogs with current GDC registration	\$50.00	\$50.00
b. Unregistered dogs	\$80.00	\$80.00
Every subsequent impoundment	\$150.00	\$150.00
Destruction costs for known owners of dogs	Cost	Cost
Sustenance – per day	\$15.00	\$15.00
Additional fee for impounding or releasing dogs at weekends, public holidays or outside Council office hours	\$50.00	\$50.00

The Council takes a vigilant approach in regard to non-registration of dogs. Dogs not registered may be subject to prosecution under the Dog Control Act, should owners ignore efforts to achieve registration. These efforts consist of text, letter or personal visit and the issue of an infringement notice prior to proceedings being instituted.

#### **Dog education**

The Council's Animal Management team continue to provide owners with information on how to prevent dogs barking incessantly and also offer advice on how to keep dogs from wandering. The Council's Animal Management team undertake regular patrols of the parks in Gore and Mataura educating dog owners on their responsibility when exercising their dogs in these areas.

The Council's staff put a concerted effort into clamping down on unregistered dogs in the District. Regular patrols are carried out in Gore and Mataura which appears to have made a positive difference with wandering dogs in the area.

#### **Menacing and dangerous dogs**

In the year under review, three dogs in the Gore district were classified by the Council as menacing after complaints were received from residents regarding dog attacks and aggressive behaviour. In other cases reported to the Council, warnings were issued to the owners, infringement notices issued or the owners had the dogs concerned euthanised.

There are currently seven dogs in the district classified as menacing (by breed) under Section 33C of the Dog Control Act 1996 and a further five (by behaviour) under Section 33A. There are three dogs classified as dangerous under Section 31(1)(b).

**Statistical information**

Pursuant to Section 10A(2)(a) of the Dog Control Act 1996, attached is a schedule detailing relevant statistics covering dog control issues in the Gore District for the year ending 30 June 2022.

Stephen Parry  
**Chief Executive**

## Statistical information

Category	As at 30 June 2022	For period 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022
Total number of registered dogs	3143	Not required
Total number of probationary owners	0	0
Total number of disqualified owners	0	0
Total number of dangerous dogs	3	0
• Dangerous by owner conviction under s33(1)(a)	0	0
• Dangerous by sworn evidence under s31(1)(b)	3	0
• Dangerous by owner admittance in writing under s31(1)(c)	0	0
Total number of menacing dogs	12	3
• Menacing under s33A(1)(b)(i) – ie by behaviour	5	3
• Menacing under s33A(1)(b)(ii) – ie any characteristics associated with dog's breed	0	0
• Menacing under s33C(1) – ie schedule 4 breed/type	7	0
Total number of infringements	62	
Total number of complaints received	See below	
Total number of prosecutions taken	0	

Complaints received Category	Number of complaints for year ended 30 June 2022
<b>Public safety related complaints</b>	
• Dog attacks or people – minor	3
• Dog attacks of people – serious	0
• Dog attacks on other animals	12
• Dog attack on stock (worrying sheep)	2
• Dogs rushing	11
• Aggressive dog behavior other than rushing	N/A
• Roaming dogs reported by public (including registered dogs that are found)	194
<b>Non-safety concerns</b>	
• People's dogs that are reported lost/found	133
• Barking	80
• Fouling/bylaw breach	N/A
• Unregistered dogs	N/A
• Welfare concerns	N/A
• Miscellaneous – stock calls	107
• Miscellaneous – dog enquiries	34