

ANNUAL DOG CONTROL REPORT 2022-23



Report on the administration of Gore District Council's Policy and Practices in relation to the control of dogs for the year 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023.

Dog control in the Gore District

The total number of registered dogs in the Gore District as at 30 June 2023 was 3315. Approximately one third of these dogs are pets domiciled in the urban areas of the Gore District.

The Council employs one full-time officer and three part-time after-hours officers. The full-time officer works Monday to Friday and is on call for night shift and weekend, once every nine weeks. One part-time officer is on call on a two week on, one week off roster system, with the other weeks being picked up by the remaining officers on a nine-weekly cycle.

Dog control enforcement practices

During the year under review, the Council received 22 formal safety related complaints in regard to the behaviour of dogs. Of the complaints received, eight 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 to be euthanased.

During the year, a total of 72 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. Unfortunately, some dog owners did not 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 2023 with the previous year is as follows:

| | 2021/22 | 2022/23 |
|---|----------|----------|
| Registration fee – urban dog | \$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 |
| Licence fee for three or more dogs | \$150.00 | \$150.00 |
| Registration fee – rural dog | \$25.00 | \$25.00 |
| a. Add – dog complaints, impoundment or infringement within a two year period | \$30.00 | \$30.00 |
| Late registration fee | | |
| Urban dog | +40% | +40% |
| Rural dog | +40% | +40% |
| Poundage | | |
| 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 regarding non-registration of dogs. Dog owners who fail to register their dogs may be subject to prosecution under the Dog Control Act. Efforts by the Council to encourage owners to register their dogs, include 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 offers 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. 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. Two were classified as menacing after complaints were received regarding dog attacks and aggressive behaviour and one classified as menacing due to breed.

There are currently six dogs in the district classified as menacing (by breed) under Section 33C of the Dog Control Act 1996 and a further six (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 2023.

Stephen Parry
Chief Executive

Statistical information

| Category | As at 30 June 2023 | For period 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023 |
|--|-----------------------|---|
| Total number of registered dogs | 3315 | 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) – i.e. by behavior | 6 | 3 |
| • Menacing under s33A(1)(b)(ii) – i.e. any characteristics associated with dog's breed | 0 | 0 |
| • Menacing under s33C(1) – i.e. schedule 4 breed/type | 6 | 0 |
| Total number of infringements | 72 | |
| Total number of complaints received | See below | |
| Total number of prosecutions taken | 0 | |

| Complaints received Category | Number of complaints for year ended 30 June 2023 |
|--|--|
| Public safety related complaints | |
| • Dog attacks or people – minor | 8 |
| • Dog attacks of people – serious | 0 |
| • Dog attacks on other animals | 5 |
| • Dog attack on stock (worrying sheep) | 9 |
| • Dogs rushing | 20 |
| • Aggressive dog behavior other than rushing | N/A |
| • Roaming dogs reported by public (including registered dogs that are found) | 240 |
| Non-safety concerns | |
| • People's dogs that are reported lost/found | 119 |
| • Barking | 109 |
| • Fouling/bylaw breach | N/A |
| • Unregistered dogs | N/A |
| • Welfare concerns | N/A |
| • Miscellaneous – stock calls | 90 |
| • Miscellaneous – dog enquiries | 38 |