



## **DOG CONTROL POLICY AND PRACTICES REPORT**

### **2020 - 2021 Financial year**

Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996 (**Act**) requires that Council reports on its dog control policies and practices over the financial year.

#### **DOG CONTROL POLICY**

Section 10 of the Act requires Council to develop a policy on dogs, and sets out specific requirements for how the policy is to be adopted and what it must cover.

The Council's current policy was adopted on the 25<sup>th</sup> June 2020. The policy establishes Council's criteria to be followed regarding controlling dogs.

#### **Policy - Key Aspects:**

- The requirement for all dogs classified as menacing and dangerous to be neutered;
- Dogs must be on a leash in public places except Rural General Zones or any dog exercise area (generally, most Council Controlled Tracks and Reserves). However, these two exceptions do not apply to playground or cemeteries.
- The expectations for dog owners to maintain owner responsibility during an emergency;
- That any probationary and disqualified owners shall be classified for the maximum period, unless they can demonstrate to Council's satisfaction that the full period is unnecessary;
- The criteria for issuing a multiple dog licence have been clarified;
- Fees for dog registration have been set to recognise and reward dog ownership behavior that complies with the Dog Control Act 1996.

#### **MICRO-CHIPPING**

All dogs registered for the first time on or after 1 July 2006 (excluding working dogs) and all dogs classified as dangerous or menacing since 1 December 2003 are required to be micro-chipped.

Owners of any new dogs registered for 6 months or more were contacted by an Animal Control Officer requesting microchip compliance. The requirement for microchips is an on-going matter that the ACOs will continue to work through as new dogs are registered throughout the year to achieve 100% compliance. At the end of the 2020/21 registration year there were 219 dogs without micro-chip numbers.

#### **DOG REGISTRATION**

Council registration fees provide a discount to dog owners with positive history for the previous two years, e.g. no impounding of a dog and also for having effective fencing at the property.

There was an increase of 6.31% in the number of registered dogs from 5388 in 2019/20 to 5728 in 2020/21.

Council was notified of 411 deceased dogs, and 504 dogs that were transferred out of Queenstown Lakes District (**District**).

Category	2015 - 2016	2016 - 2017	2017- 2018	2018 - 2019	2019- 2020	2020- 2021
Total number of Registered Dogs	4302	4485	4836	5033	5388	5728
a) Dangerous by owner conviction under s.31(1)(a)	2	2	2	2	1	1
b) Dangerous by sworn evidence under s.31(1)(b)	2	2	2	2	3	3
c) Dangerous by owner admittance in writing under s.31(1)(c)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total number of Dangerous Dogs	4	4	4	4	4	4
a) Menacing under s33A(1)(b)(i) – Behaviour	17	15	19	16	17	13
b) Menacing under s33A(1)(b)(ii) - Breed characteristics	7	8	0	0	0	0
c) Menacing under s33C(1) - Schedule 4 Breed/Type	2	0	0	1	0	0
Total number of Menacing Dogs	26	23	19	17	17	13
Total number of Probationary Owners	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total number of Disqualified Owners	0	1	1	1	1	1

### **DISQUALIFIED AND PROBATIONARY DOG OWNERS**

There is one disqualified owner in the District, who has a disqualified status until the 7<sup>th</sup> October 2021. There have been no new probationary or disqualified dog owners in the District within the 2020/21 registration period.

### **MENACING AND DANGEROUS DOGS**

There was one newly classified dangerous dog and one dangerous dog notified as deceased for the 2020/21 registration period, therefore the figure has not changed. The new dangerous classification was the result of an attack on stock.

One dog was newly classified as menacing by behaviour, this was the result of an attack on people. There were four menacing dogs notified as deceased and one menacing dog transferred out of the District in 2020/21. Accordingly, the total number of menacing dogs has reduced from 17 in the 2019/20 to 13 in 2020/21.

### **DOG CONTROL RESPONSE**

This section describes the number and type of complaints received and the manner in which Council has responded to address the complaints and general issues regarding dogs over the last year.

Category of Complaint	2015 - 2016	2016 - 2017	2017 - 2018	2018 - 2019	2019- 2020	2020- 2021
<b>Public Safety related complaints</b>						
Dog attack on people – Minor	14	14	34	16	8	14
Dog attack on people – Serious	0	0	2	4	0	2
Dog attack on animal – Minor	34	26	25	37	44	25
Dog attack on animal – Serious	11	14	7	3	9	9
Dog attack on stock (Worrying stock)	5	0	5	4	1	4
Dog rushing	33	49	36	25	31	37
Roaming dogs	491	548	563	498	506	552
General concern	64	32	63	69	28	66
<b>Non-safety Concerns</b>						
Lost dogs	319	332	321	334	242	256
Barking	172	166	205	159	164	251
Fouling	13	9	11	12	17	22
<b>Total complaints</b>	<b>1157</b>	<b>1190</b>	<b>1272</b>	<b>1161</b>	<b>1050</b>	<b>1238</b>

### **ATTACKS**

When an attack occurs on a person or animal, the incident can be extremely distressing for all parties and it is imperative that there is a fast response to such matters.

Over the last year the number of attacks has reduced slightly, with a reduction from 62 reported attacks in 2019/20 to 54 reported attacks in 2020/21.

### **ROAMING DOGS**

Roaming dogs can frighten, intimidate or annoy others, in addition to attacking other animals and people. The number of roaming dogs remains the single largest issue within the District; the number of reports received from the community of roaming dogs has increased from 506 in 2019/20 to 552 in 2020/21.

### **LOST DOGS**

The number of lost dogs reported to Council has remained relatively the same, from 242 in 2019/20 to 256 in 2020/21.

### **BARKING DOGS**

The number of complaints for barking dogs received has increased from 164 in 2019/20 to 251 in 2020/21. Council continues to provide the free use of anti-bark devices to dog owners. This year the Animal Control Officers invested in more voice recorded bark collars to meet current welfare standards, and also held free dog training classes in both Queenstown and Wanaka with a qualified dog behaviorist.

### **IMPOUNDINGS**

In 2019/20 there were 68 dogs impounded, this has decreased to 53 dogs that were impounded in 2020/21. This correlates to 0.93% of dogs registered in the district. The number is slightly lower than expected, given the rise in the number of dogs registered in the year and when compared to data in previous years. Council continues to focus on reuniting dogs with their owners than impounding if roaming is a first-time offence and previous positive history.

**PROSECUTIONS**

There were no prosecutions in 2020/2021.

**General Concerns**

Council received 66 general dog concerns, with 55 involving animal welfare concerns and 11 being general enquiries relating to animals.

**INFRINGEMENTS**

There has been a decrease in the number of infringements issued from 53 in 2019/20 to 43 in 2020/21. A large number of those infringements were issued to owners for failure to register their dog at the start of the registration year.

Despite receiving 251 barking dog complaints, no infringements were issued for failing to comply with a barking dog abatement notice. All barking complaints were resolved as dog owners were cooperative with ACOs and successfully work towards reducing their dogs' barking behavior.

<b>OFFENCE</b>	<b>2015 - 2016</b>	<b>2016 - 2017</b>	<b>2017- 2018</b>	<b>2018 - 2019</b>	<b>2019- 2020</b>	<b>2020- 2021</b>
Failure to comply with classification	0	0	0	0	0	0
Failure to register dog	45	30	19	18	43	36
Failure to advise of address change	0	0	0	0	0	0
Failure to keep dog controlled/confined on owner's property	26	3	13	8	3	3
Failure to keep dog under control	3	7	11	2	4	4
Failure to carry a leash in public	0	0	0	0	0	0
Falsely notifying death of dog	0	0	0	2	0	0
Failure to supply owner information	0	0	0	0	0	0
Failure to comply with any bylaws authorized by the section	1	0	3	2	0	0
Failure to implant microchip transponder in dog	0	0	20	5	0	0
Failure to comply with barking dog abatement notice	0	0	1	1	3	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>43</b>