

Annual Report on Dog Control

1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025



Annual Section 10A Dog Control Act 1996 Report 2024/2025

PART 1 – Dog Control Policy and Practices

Dog Control in the District

During 2024/2025, the Council's Animal Control Team, through a joint service agreement with Rangitikei District Council, delivered animal control services across a combined area of 7,050 km². The team upheld the Dog Control Act 1996 and implemented the provisions of the Council's Dog Control Policy 2019.

The team includes five Animal Control Officers, supported by the Manager Animal Control and delivers a 24/7 service across both districts. Alongside responding to complaints, the team undertook proactive patrols to identify unregistered or roaming dogs, and investigated reports of aggressive behaviour, including dog attacks.

A graduated enforcement process was applied for unregistered dogs, beginning with property visits and escalating, where necessary, to verbal or written warnings, infringement notices, and when other measures were unsuccessful, impounding.

This year also saw the launch of a dedicated rehoming programme, aimed at giving impounded and unclaimed dogs a second chance through adoption into suitable homes. In addition, the team increased its presence in the community by attending local events and public gatherings, promoting responsible dog ownership, sharing information on registration and microchipping, and building stronger connections with residents.

Hours of Operation

Normal hours of operation are 8am – 5pm on weekdays. Animal Control Officers work on rostered shifts to enable 24-hour response to Priority One calls¹ after hours, including weekends and public holidays.

Selected Owner Status

Dog owners may apply for Selected Owner status which entitles them to a reduced annual registration fee. To qualify for this status owners must meet specific criteria. Council will assess applications based on the following factors:

- Whether property fencing is adequate.
- If the dog(s) have been neutered.
- The owner's compliance history with the Dog Control Act and Council bylaws, including any nuisance complaints.
- If dogs have been registered before the due date.
- Whether there is appropriate dog care, including kennel conditions (weatherproof, size, cleanliness, and sanitation).

Animal Control Officers will conduct property inspections of applicants to verify compliance with Selected Owner requirements.

¹ Priority one calls include dog attacks, dogs rushing or behaving aggressively, stock worrying, secured dogs, and stock wandering.

Menacing and Dangerous Dogs

Animal Control maintain a list of all dogs classified as dangerous and menacing, this relating to classification by either the provisions of sections 31, 33A and/or 33C of the Dog Control Act 1996. Physical checks have occurred within this period to ensure that all dogs classified as menacing, regardless of the reason why, comply with the requirements of the classification. There are 61 dogs classified as Menacing and 7 dogs classified as Dangerous for the 2024/2025 year. This number has been reducing year on year.

Prohibited public places, dog on leash areas, and dog exercise areas

There are specific areas within the Manawātū District Council area designated for exercise, lead only and prohibited areas. Animal Control Officers approach any breaches of these requirements in an educational manner in the first instance.

Infringements

In 2024/2025 there were 113 infringements issued for the following offences:

Offence	Number Issued
Failure to register Dog	67
Failure to Implant Microchip Transponder in Dog	28
Failure to Keep Dog Controlled or Confined	15
Failure to Keep Dog Under Control	1
Failure to Comply with Menacing Classification	1
Failure to Comply with a Bylaw	1

Animal Control continues to implement a graduated compliance framework, commencing with education and engagement with dog owners to promote voluntary compliance to regulatory requirements. Where these measures have been exhausted, or are deemed inappropriate given the circumstances, formal enforcement action is undertaken. Such action most commonly involves the issuance of infringement notices.

Prosecutions

There were no prosecutions taken during the 2024/2025 year.

Dog Registrations

There were 8,203 dogs registered for the 2024/2025 year. A breakdown of the types of registration is contained under Part 2 of the report.

Animal Control Complaints

During the reporting period, Animal Control received a total of **1,159 complaints**. These were assessed and responded to according to established priority classifications.

- **Priority 1 complaints** – A total of **386 complaints** were categorised as Priority 1. These included dog attacks, dogs rushing or behaving aggressively, stock worrying, secured dogs, and stock wandering. Such incidents are considered urgent and are attended by the Animal Control team within **15 minutes** of being reported, unless the matter relates to a historical event.
- **Priority 2 and 3 complaints** – The remaining complaints were classified as Priority 2 or 3, covering a broader range of less urgent animal control issues. These are required to be attended within **24 hours**.

Fees for Dog Control and Registration

The registration fees for the 2024/2025 financial year were as follows:

Fee Description	Discounted fee if paid by 1 August 2024	Fee if paid after 1 August 2024
General Registration	\$125.00	\$187.00
Neutered / Spayed	\$83.00	\$119.00
Working Dogs / Selected Owner / Gold Card	\$42.00	\$58.00
Dangerous Dogs – Classified under the Dog Control Act 1996	\$192.00	\$284.00
Menacing Dog – Classified under the Dog Control Act 1996	\$192.00	\$284.00
Disability Assist Registration - Certified as per Schedule 5 of the Dog Control Act 1996	No Charge	No Charge

Classification of Owners and Dogs

Registration Type	Number of Dogs as at 30 June 2024	Numbers of Dogs as at 30 June 2025
General Registration	723	1198
Selected Owners	1906	1578
Neutered Dogs	2516	2693
Dangerous Dogs	11	7
Working Dogs	1875	1587
Disability Assist Dogs	8	4
Menacing Dogs	97	61
Gold Card	729	1065
Military	7	10
Total	7872	8203

Education

The Manawātū District Council delivers a dog education programme to schools throughout the district, aimed at promoting responsible dog ownership and safety. This initiative is supported by a contracted provider specialising in school-based dog safety education, who has also published a children's book highlighting key dog safety messages. Complimentary copies of the book are provided by Council to schools that participate in the programme, where it serves as a valuable educational resource to reinforce the lessons delivered.

In addition, Animal Control Officers are available to assist dog owners with advice on obedience training and information about relevant courses. They also provide regular guidance on specific behavioural issues, working with owners to encourage safe and responsible dog management.

PART 2 – Statistical Information

Category	For Period 1 July 2023 – 30 June 2024	For Period 1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025
Total Registered Dogs	7865	8203
Total Probationary Owners	0	0
Total Disqualified Owners	2	3
Total Dangerous Dogs	11	7
• <i>Dangerous by owner Conviction – s31(1)(a)</i>	(4)	(2)
• <i>Dangerous by Sworn Evidence – s31(1)(b)</i>	(5)	(5)
• <i>Dangerous by Owner in Writing – s31(1)(c)</i>	(2)	(0)
Total Menacing Dogs	97	69
• <i>Menacing by Behaviour – s33A(1)(b)(i)</i>	(39)	(29)
• <i>Menacing by Breed Characteristics – s33C(1)(b)(ii)</i>	(7)	(6)
• <i>Menacing by Breed – s33C(1)</i>	(51)	(34)
Total Infringement Notices Issued	70	114
Total Number of Complaints Received	1537	1159
Dog Attacks	54	56
• <i>Attack on Person</i>	(35)	(25)
• <i>Attack on Animal</i>	(19)	(31)
Dog Rushing	24	27
• <i>Person Rushed at</i>	(10)	(20)
• <i>Animal Rushed at</i>	(14)	(7)
Aggressive Roaming Dog	17	28
Stock Worrying	2	5
Secured Dog	189	159
Roaming Dog	212	171
Barking Dog	296	233
Welfare	1	2
Inspections	410	136
Selected Owner inspection	36	43
Selected Owner Re-inspection	11	3
Request for Information	61	175
Miscellaneous Animal Control Complaint (non-dog)	5	7
Contractor feedback	72	3
Stock Wandering	147	111

Prepared by: Jason Rosenbrock
Regulatory Services Manager

Date: 20 October 2025

Signature:

