

Report Number:	7.3.
Report Title:	Dog Control Act Section 10A Report
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Summary / Whakarāpopototanga

1. The Dog Control Act 1996 (DCA), Section 10A, requires territorial authorities to publicly report on their dog control policies and practices for each financial year. This report provides the information required under the DCA for the period from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026. In accordance with the DCA, a copy of this report must be made publicly available once it has been adopted.
2. The number of registered dogs has declined in both urban and rural areas.
3. Four new individuals were disqualified from dog ownership or classified as probationary owners during the reporting period.
4. The number of complaints received increased by 83 compared to the previous year.

Recommendation/s / Tūtohunga

That the Environment Regulatory and Operations Committee

1. **Receives the Dog Control Act Section 10A Report.**

Purpose of the Report

5. This report constitutes the annual report that the Council is required to prepare in administering its obligations under the DCA.

Background and Discussion

6. The Dog Control Bylaw and Policy 2024 was approved on 11 December 2024 and became effective 31 March 2025
7. The objectives of the Dog Control Policy are:
 - a. To educate and assist owners to act responsibly with their dogs and ensure their dogs are given proper care, shelter, and sustenance as determined by the Act.
 - b. To minimise any danger, distress, and nuisance to the community generally.
 - c. To avoid the inherent danger in allowing dogs to have uncontrolled access to public places frequented by children.
 - d. To provide a safe environment for the public to use streets and public amenities without unwanted interactions with dogs.
 - e. To have regard to the exercise and recreational needs of dogs and their owners.
 - f. To identify required means of dog control in all public places.
 - g. To minimise risks to the welfare of wildlife.
8. Community Compliance are the team within Council that administer the Council's Dog Control Bylaw and Policy. Compliance is achieved by:
 - a. Responding to dog-related incidents.

- b. Targeted property visits and patrols of areas with specific issues.
 - c. Close liaison and cooperation with external agencies.
9. The Council communicates dog-related matters to the public through various media channels. The Council's website offers information about dogs, access to online forms, and links to relevant legislation and other useful websites.

Dog Registration and Enforcement Statistics for July 2025 to June 2026

10. Number of dog owners in the district:

	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
Number of dog owners in the district	8,770	8,777	8,746
Probationary owners	2	0	1
Disqualified owners	9	7	6

11. Number of registered dogs in the district:

	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
Number of registered dogs in the district	12,577	12,531	12,258
Rural dogs	6,004	5,903	5,725
Urban dogs	6,573	6,628	6,533

12. Dogs classified Dangerous DCA Section 31:

	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
Sec 31 1(a) due to owner conviction	0	0	1
Sec 31 1(b) due to sworn evidence	17	2	2
Sec 31 1(c) due to owner admission	1	0	1

13. Number of dogs classified as Menacing under DCA Section 33:

	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
Sec 33A (Observed or Reported Behavior)	18	24	79
Sec 33C (By Breed)	2	5	10

14. Infringement Notices Issued:

	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
Failure to comply with effects of classification	4	3	3
Failure/refusal to supply information	0	0	3
False statement of registration	1	0	1
Failing to register dog	182	215	243
Failure to keep dog under control	19	28	8
Failure to keep dog controlled or confined	47	23	28
Failure to comply with barking dog abatement notice	0	0	0
Failure to comply with Bylaw	2	0	0
Failure to implant microchip transponder	1	3	3
Wilful obstruction of Officer	0	0	2
Failure to comply with dangerous dog classification	2	2	0
Allowing unmuzzled dangerous dog	0	0	0

Prosecutions

15. Tasman District Council has initiated no legal proceedings during the reporting period.

Complaints

16. The following complaints were received:

	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
Unregistered dog	8	7	10
Attack domestic pet	28	28	46
Attack stock	15	26	68
Attack human	40	58	62
Barking	389	372	267
Fouling	4	4	6
Rushing	38	30	26
Wandering/found	584	575	689
Welfare	11	9	29
Dog in restricted area	6	10	13
Dog not on leash	7	7	11
Dog not under control	9	18	3
Unfenced property	1	2	3
Excess number of dogs	1	7	5
Total	1141	1155	1238

17. 11 reports of dogs attacking wildlife were received during the period.

Strategy and Risks

18. The Dog Control activity is a function of high visibility to the public and providing for the care and control of dogs contributes to achieving the community outcomes which promote safe and healthy communities.

19. Dog numbers have decreased across the district.

20. Failure to provide a robust and efficient dog control service would conflict with our fundamental principles of Kawenga (responsibility) and Manaakitanga (hospitality and kindness), which are integral to our community ethos.

Legal Requirements

21. Provision of this report to the DIA and general public achieves compliance with the requirements of the DCA.

Significance and Engagement

22. This statistical report is of low significance and is prepared in accordance with an obligation under the DCA. There is no obligation to consult, although the availability of the report must be publicly notified.

Conclusion

23. The 2025–2026 reporting period continues to reflect a positive trend in dog management across the district. Complaints regarding barking dogs have steadily declined over the past three years. Barking complaints decreased from 372 in 2024–2025 to 267 in 2025–2026. These improvements indicate that current enforcement strategies are effectively addressing key concerns within the community.
24. The total number of registered dogs in the district remains steady at 12,258, with a decrease in urban areas from 6,628 in 2024–2025 to 6,533 in 2025–2026, while rural registrations have also declined from 5,903 in 2024–2025 to 5,725 in 2025–2026.
25. There is one probationary owner, and six disqualified owners in the 2025–2026 reporting period. Dangerous dog classifications under Section 31 of the Dog Control Act (DCA) have remained the same, with two dogs classified based on sworn evidence. Menacing dog classifications under Section 33 have increased significantly in behaviour-based classifications. Overall, owner compliance continues to show positive progress.
26. Infringement notices for failure to register dogs rose to 243, indicating ongoing challenges with registration compliance. In contrast, other infringement categories, such as failure to comply with barking abatement notices and breaches of bylaws, have decreased, suggesting improved awareness and adherence to regulations.
27. Overall, the Council's enforcement approach remains effective and responsive to community needs. The balance between regulation and education is contributing to a safer and more harmonious environment for residents and their canine companions.

Next Steps

28. Once received by the Committee, we will provide public notice of this report on the Council's website and in Newsline.
29. Notify the Secretary of Internal Affairs.

Attachments / Ngā Tuhinga Tāpiri

Nil