

1.1 DOG CONTROL – ANNUAL REPORT ON DOG CONTROL POLICY AND PRACTICES 2020-2021

Report To:	Full Council
Meeting Date:	30 August 2021
Report Author:	M Malloch – Animal Control Officer
Executive Sponsor:	Environmental Services Manager
Reference:	Annual Report on Dog Control Policy and Practices 2020-2021

(This report shall not be construed as policy until adopted by full Council)

1 Report Purpose

To report on the administration of Council's Dog Control Policy and Practices for the period 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021. The information is being provided and no decision is needed in relation to this information.

2 Executive Summary

- 2.1 The report on Dog Control Policy and Practices has been prepared under Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996.
- 2.2 The report covers information such as the number of registered dogs, dangerous and menacing dogs and infringement notices in our district for the 2020-2021 year.

3 Background

- 3.1 Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996 requires that Council reports on its dog control policies and practices over the financial year.
- 3.2 **Background :** Section 10A of the Dog Control Act requires territorial authorities to publicly report each financial year on:
 - The administration of their dog control policy and their dog control practices (Section 10A(1)); and
 - A variety of dog control related statistics (Section 10A(2)).
- 3.3 While not explicitly stated in the Dog Control Act, one of the primary purposes for preparing this report is to allow communities to see how Council is managing its dog control responsibilities.
- 3.4 **Staffing:** Two full-time Dog Control Officers are responsible for a medium residential area and large rural area covering 350,900 hectares with 620 kilometres of roadway (this does not include the two state highways running through the district.)

3.5 During the reporting period, the Grey District had a total of 2777 dogs.

3.6 **Policy on dogs:** The provisions of the Dog Policy has been applied in a consistent, fair and objective manner. Staff at all times endeavoured to assist dog owners wherever possible and to focus on dogs not posing a risk or nuisance to others. The excellent cooperation received from so many dog owners and members of the public is herewith acknowledged.

3.7 Services included:

- **Education**

- a. The Grey District Council has a website that is used to make educational material available for all dog owners and members of the public.
- b. This website is easy to follow and kept updated with an Animal Management page that outlines responsibilities for dog owners, contains a Dog Owner's Manual, guide to micro-chipping, registration information and the current fees and charges.

- **Dogs Prohibited and Dog Exercise Areas**

- a. The Cobden dog park exercise area still continues to be extremely popular with local dog owners. Many dog owners in the area also attend a regular early morning local community walk on the weekends from the dog park and along the nearby local beach which has been well attended by the locals again this year.
- b. The dog park exercise area on the outskirts of the Central Business District in Greymouth continues to be extremely popular with a lot of use over the wetter winter months as the park has a covered shelter for dog owners to stay dry under. This park has had a lot of use from both local and visiting dog owners to the area.

- **Dog Control Policies:**

- a. The policy establishes Council's criteria to be followed regarding controlling dogs.
- b. All aspects regarding the regulation of dogs has been dealt with in a cooperative, helpful manner with the focus on being pro-active where possible.
- c. The following represents a summary of Councils Dog Control function's regulatory performance for the year.
- d. The following represents a summary of Councils Dog Control functions regulatory performance for the period 1 July 2020 – 30 June 2021.
- e. The total number of registered dogs for the financial year was 2,777. There are no probationary or disqualified owners in the district. There are 3 dangerous dogs which are dangerous by sworn evidence s31(1)(b). There are 33 menacing dogs in total recorded. 17 are menacing under s33a(1)(b)(i) by behaviour, 2 are menacing under s33A(1)(b)(ii) by breed characteristics and 14 dogs are menacing under s33C(1) by Schedule 4 Breed.
- f. 45 infringement notices were issued for offences against the Dog Control Act. A total of 634 recorded complaints were received of which 230 were regarding barking, 109 complaints were regarding dog attacks, 73 were for Bylaw offences and 222 complaints received were regarding wandering dogs. No prosecutions were taken during this reporting period.

4 Suggested Recommendation for Portfolio Councillor McBride

That -

- 1. The annual report on Dog Control Policy and Practices 2020-2021 be received; and**
- 2. Council adopts the Annual Report on Dog Control Policy and Practices 2020-2021,**
- 3. Council gives notice of the report by means of a notice in the local press, and online.**
- 4. Council provides a copy of the report to the Secretary for Local Government.**

5 Significance and Engagement

- 5.1 This report is not significant in regards to Councils Policy on significance and engagement.

6 Attachments

- 6.1 Nil.