

[1] Dog Control – Annual Report on Dog Control Policy and Practices 2018-2019

1.1 OUTCOME SOUGHT:

Council to adopt the Annual Report on Dog Control Policy and Practices 2018-2019.

1.2 SIGNIFICANCE:

Governed in terms of the Dog Control Act 1996.

1.3 BACKGROUND:

A report attached hereto is for Council’s consideration. This Annual Report is a requirement under Section 10A Dog Control Act 1996 to publicly report each financial year.

The customary format issues are not discussed.

1.4 SUGGESTED RECOMMENDATION:

That –

1. Council adopts the Annual Report on Dog Control Policy and Practices 2018-2019,
2. Council gives notice of the report by means of a notice in the local press, and
3. Council provides a copy of the report to the Secretary for Local Government.

1.5 RECOMMENDATION: (COUNCILLOR – ANIMAL CONTROL SUBCOMMITTEE)

1.6 ANNUAL REPORT 2018-2019

REPORT TO: Grey District Council	
DATE: 09 October 2019	
SUBJECT: Annual Report on Dog Control Policy and Practices 2018-2019	FILE REF: H/6
AUTHOR: M Malloch – Animal Control Officer P Kerr – Animal Control Officer	ATTACHMENTS: Nil
RELATED COMMUNITY OUTCOME(S): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Providing affordable, quality essential services• The District has access to quality health facilities and regulation.• Personal and property safety.	RELATED COUNCIL ACTIVITY: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Animal Control.

PURPOSE:

To report on the administration of Council's Dog Control Policy and Practices for the period 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019.

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)).

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.

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.)

During the reporting period, the Grey District had a total of 2766 dogs

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.

SERVICES INCLUDED:

Education

During this reporting period pamphlets and brochures concerning being safe around dogs and control of dogs were distributed to all pre-schools and primary schools in the district.

The Council 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. This website is also used to make educational material available for dog owners and members of the public.

Dogs Prohibited and Dog Exercise Areas

The Cobden dog park exercise area 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.

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. The Greymouth park also has equipment which has had a lot of use from both local and visiting dog owners to the area.

DOG CONTROL PRACTICES:

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. The following represents a summary of Council's Dog Control function's regulatory performance for the year.

STATISTICAL INFORMATION:

Category	For Period 1 July 2018 – 30 June 2019
1) Total # Registered Dogs	2766
2) Total # Probationary Owners	0
3) Total # Disqualified Owners	0
4) Total # Dangerous Dogs	2
➤ <i>Dangerous by Owner Conviction Under s31(1)(a)</i>	0
➤ <i>Dangerous by Sworn Evidence s31(1)(b)</i>	2
➤ <i>Dangerous by Owner Admittance in Writing s31(1)(c)</i>	0
5) Total # Menacing Dogs	34
➤ <i>Menacing under s33A(1)(b)(i) – i.e by Behaviour</i>	21
➤ <i>Menacing under s33A(1)(b)(ii) by Breed Characteristics</i>	3

➤ <i>Menacing under s33C(1) by Schedule 4 Breed</i>	10
6) Total # Infringement Notices	62
7) Total # Complaints Received	468
➤ <i>Barking</i>	154
➤ <i>Dog Attack</i>	109
➤ <i>Bylaws</i>	36
➤ <i>Wandering</i>	169
8) Total # Prosecutions Taken	2

M Malloch
Animal Control Officer

John Canning
Environmental Services Manager