

Attachment A



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

### **2017 – 2018 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, which establishes Council’s philosophy for dog control throughout the district.

The current policy was adopted in December 2014 and establishes Council’s criteria to be followed regarding controlling dogs.

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

- The requirement for all dogs classified as menacing to be neutered;
- Dogs must be on a leash in public places except Rural General Zones (unless they are at a cemetery or a playground) or any dog exercise area, (generally, most Council Controlled Tracks and Reserves);
- 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 amended to recognise and reward 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.

During 2017-18 Animal Control Officers (ACO) targeted 309 dogs that had no micro-chip numbers as required. Of these 289 owners provided their dogs’ micro-chip number when contacted (95%), with 20 dog owners failing to comply with the micro-chip requirement and were subsequently issued infringements.

The requirement for micro-chips is an on-going matter that the ACO’s will continue to work through as new dogs are registered throughout the year to achieve 100% compliance.

#### **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 (8%) in the number of registered dogs over the last year 4485 to 4836, which is consistent with the increasing trend over the previous years.

Council was notified of 313 deceased dogs and 246 were transferred out of Queenstown Lakes District.

Category	2014 - 2015	2015 - 2016	2016 - 2017	2017- 2018
Total number of Registered Dogs	4073	4302	4485	4836
a) Dangerous by owner conviction under s.31(1)(a)	1	2	2	2
b) Dangerous by sworn evidence under s.31(1)(b)	1	2	2	2
c) Dangerous by owner admittance in writing under s.31(1)(c)	1	0	0	0
Total number of Dangerous Dogs	3	4	4	4
a) Menacing under s33A(1)(b)(i) – Behaviour	17	17	15	19
b) Menacing under s33A(1)(b)(ii) - Breed characteristics	7	7	8	0
c) Menacing under s33C(1) - Schedule 4 Breed/Type	2	2	0	0
Total number of Menacing Dogs	26	26	23	19
Total number of Probationary Owners	0	0	1	1
Total number of Disqualified Owners	0	0	0	0

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

There is one Probationary owner in the District. This has not changed from 2016/17. There were no Disqualified dog owners in the district within this financial period.

### **MENACING AND DANGEROUS DOGS**

There are four dangerous dogs registered for the 2017-2018 registration period, this is the same as 2016–2017. Four dogs were newly classified as Menacing by Behaviour. These were a result of incidents reported to Council and were comprised of one attack on stock that resulted in the death of a deer and three separate incidents of minor dog attacks on other dogs.

### **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.

Dog Control is a priority area of focus within the QLDC Enforcement Strategy 2014. The priorities are:

- To have all dogs that live in the district registered;
- Ensure all dogs are kept under control at all times; and
- Reducing ignorance and apathy of dog owners to their responsibilities.

Category of Complaint	2014 - 2015	2015 - 2016	2016 - 2017	2017- 2018
<b>Public Safety related complaints</b>				
Dog attack on people – minor	13	14	14	34
Dog attack on people –	3	0	0	2
Dog attack on animal – minor	42	34	26	25
Dog attack on animal –	35	11	14	7
Dog attack on stock (worrying stock)	2	5	0	5
Dog rushing	25	33	49	36
Roaming dogs	436	491	548	563
General concern	67	64	32	63
<b>Non-safety Concerns</b>				
Lost dogs	364	319	332	321
Barking	220	172	166	205
Fouling	11	13	9	11
<b>Total complaints</b>	<b>1218</b>	<b>1157</b>	<b>1190</b>	<b>1272</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 there has been an increase of the number of attacks from 54 to 73. However, this is an increase of 0.3% when proportionally compared to the total number of registered dogs.

**ROAMING DOGS**

The number of roaming dogs still remains the single largest issue. Roaming dogs can frighten, intimidate or annoy others, in addition to attacking other animals and people. We have seen a slight increase in reports from 548 last year to 563 this year. This increase may be due to Animal Control Officers logging the details of dogs collected during proactive patrols.

**LOST DOGS**

There has been a slight decrease from 332 to 321 in the number of lost dogs reported to Council.

**BARKING DOGS**

There was an increase in the number of complaints received from 166 to 205. However, when taking into account the growth in the number of registered dogs this financial year there has only been a 0.5% increase in barking dog complaints proportionally.

Council continues to provide the free use of bark collars to dog owners to use, to assist in addressing this issue. Additional collars were purchased last year to meet the demand. There are now 12 electronic collars available for use in addition to two new ultrasonic products that were purchased to give customers additional options. These included an ultrasonic collar and an outdoor ultrasonic device (or "bark box") designed for properties with multiple dogs. After trialing the new products, Animal Control Officers received positive feedback from customers.

**IMPOUNDINGS**

There was a slight increase (0.25% proportionally) in the amount of impounded dogs, from 92 to 110 with the majority of impounded dogs being in response to roaming dogs. As the overall number of roaming dog reports has increased it is expected that the number of impounding events would increase in relation to this.

**PROSECUTIONS**

There were no prosecutions in 2017/2018.

**INFRINGEMENTS**

There has been a 1.38% proportional increase in the number of infringements issued for 2017/18 from 40 to 67. Animal Control Staff have been issuing additional infringements to owners of roaming dogs that have been impounded multiple times, following comments received after reporting to Council last year. This will have contributed to the increase in infringements. A number of failure to micro-chip infringements were issued as previously noted.

Three infringements were issued for failing to comply with bylaws. These relate to fouling dog incidents.

11 infringements were issued in relation to offences of failing to keep dog under control (roaming and dog attacks).

Despite receiving 205 barking dog complaints one infringement was issued for failing to comply with barking dog abatement notice. The majority of barking complaints are resolved as dog owners are cooperative with Animal Control officers and successfully work towards reducing their dogs' barking behavior.

<b>OFFENCE</b>	<b>2014 - 2015</b>	<b>2015 - 2016</b>	<b>2016 - 2017</b>	<b>2017- 2018</b>
Failure to comply with classification	0	0	0	0
Failure to register dog	25	45	30	19
Failure to advise of address change	0	0	0	0
Failure to keep dog controlled/confined on owner's property	34	26	3	13
Failure to keep dog under control	10	3	7	11
Failure to carry a leash in public	0	0	0	0
Falsely Notifying death of dog	1	0	0	0
Failure to supply owner information	1	0	0	0
Failure to comply with any bylaws authorized by the section	1	1	0	3
Failure to implant microchip transponder in dog	0	0	0	20
Failure to comply with barking dog abatement notice	0	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>67</b>