

Annual Dog Control Report

For the year ending 30 June 2023



1. Introduction

The Rotorua Lakes Council, as a territorial authority is required to manage and enforce provisions pursuant to the Dog Control Act 1996, Councils dog policy and Councils dog control bylaw 2005.

Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996 requires each territorial authority to report on the dog control policy and procedures, and provide specific statistical information.

This report covers the year 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023 and provides information about the Rotorua Lakes Council Animal Control Services.



2. The Councils Dog Policy, Bylaw and Resourcing

The current Dog Policy was adopted on the 1st October 2016 and outlines the Councils requirements in relation to the care and control of dogs as contained within the Dog Control Act 1996, and the Rotorua Lakes Council Dog Control Bylaw 2005.

Key aspects of the policy are:

- Minimising the risk and nuisance caused by dogs to the public
- Prohibition of dogs in public places
- Providing for the use of dog exercise areas where dogs can be off leash
- Promoting the responsible ownership of dogs

Rotorua Lakes Council currently employs nine staff in the Animal Control team. Staff comprise of an Animal Control Team Leader, a Senior Animal Control Officer, six Animal Control Officers and one Pound Keeper.

3. Dog Control Enforcement Practices

Council provides a 24/7, 365 days of the year response to all high priority requests. Staff work to a rotating roster and are proactive in patrolling throughout the district to deal with roaming dogs and complaints. Other responsibilities include ensuring compliance with the Dog Control Act 1996, Council's Bylaw and enforcing the registration of all dogs in the district.

Over the 2022 – 2023 period Animal Control responded to 5855 complaints an increase of 530 from the previous year.

The majority of complaints received relate to roaming and barking dogs.

Priority one complaints are those comprising of dog attacks on persons or domestic animals, dogs rushing, dogs secured by the public and stock on roads. These complaints are dispatched to field staff immediately.

Most complaints are dealt with by the way of education or warnings, repeat offences are dealt with via infringement notices as provided for in the Dog Control Act 1996 and Councils Dog Control Bylaw 2005. In extreme circumstances dog owners can be disqualified from owning a dog for up to five years.



3. Fees

Dog registration fees, infringements and impound fees contribute approximately 82% of the cost of Animal control in Rotorua. The Council provides a selected dog owner scheme which provides a discounted rate for dog owners who meet the relevant criteria.

Fees are used for:

- Dog control activities including patrols and complaint investigations
- Providing and maintaining Pound facilities
- Providing doggie doo bags
- Advice to dog owners and residents
- Providing dog safety education
- Stock control on roads

CATEGORY	FEES 22/23
Urban	\$110.00
Rural	\$79.00
Selected dog owner (SDO)	\$79.00
Rebate for de-sexed dog	-\$10.00
Rebate for Super-annuitant	-\$10.00

4. Pound

Council operates a dog pound with a capacity of 50 – 70 dogs depending on size. The pound staff are responsible for the management and care of all impounded animals.

These animals can be impounded for various reasons including, roaming, being un-registered, being surrendered by their owners and those that are the subject of prosecutions.

Wherever possible the aim is to reunite dogs with their owners.



Council promotes the adoption of suitable impounded dogs and the Pound Keeper works hard to achieve this wherever possible, either by advertising dogs for re-homing on Councils Facebook page **Rotorua Pound -Homeless Hounds**, or by working with other welfare and rescue agencies.

The number of dogs rehomed during this period is 80.

Statistical information

Dogs registered

Year	2022 / 2023	2021 / 2022	2020 / 2021
Number	11,936	12,198	12, 151

Number of Probationary owners

Year	2022 / 2023	2021 / 2022	2020 / 2021
Number	3	2	0

Number of disqualified owners

Year	2022 / 2023	2021 / 2022	2020 / 2021
Number	19	22	19

Number of dogs classified as dangerous (s31 Dog Control Act 1996)

Category	2022 / 2023	2021 / 2022	2020 / 2021
Dangerous by owner conviction s31(1)(a)	1	1	1
Dangerous by sworn evidence s31(1)(b)	12	17	20
Dangerous by owner admittance in writing s31(1)(c)	4	6	8
Total dangerous dogs classified	17	24	29

Number of dogs classified as menacing (s33a and s33c)

Category	2022 / 2023	2021 / 2022	2020 / 2021
Menacing by behaviour s33a(1)(b)(i)	128	111	157
Menacing by breed characteristics S33a(1)(b)(ii)	8	9	8
Menacing by schedule 4 breed s33C(1)	301	298	449
Total menacing dogs	437	418	614

Number of infringement notices

Year	2022 / 2023	2021 / 2022	2020 / 2021
Number	606	817	933

Number of dog related complaints

Year	2022 / 2023	2021 / 2022	2020 / 2021
*TA Complaint category 1	546	429	425
*TA Complaint category 2	5309	4,896	5,212
Total complaints received	5855	5,325	5,637

Number of prosecutions taken

Year	2022 / 2023	2021 / 2022	2020 / 2021
Number	1	0	2

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*Category 1 – attacks on persons or animals and rushing

*Category 2 – barking, roaming etc.