

Westland District Council 2020/2021 Annual Dog Control Policy and Practices Report

1.0 The Dog Control Act 1996

The Dog Control Act 1996 (the Act) requires territorial authorities to publicly report on Dog Control Policies and Practices as outlined under Section 10A. This report contains information and statistics on the Westland District council's Dog Control activity for the year 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021.

2.0 Dog Control Policy and Bylaw

There have been no reviews or amendments made to the Westland District Council Dog Control Bylaw or Dog Control Policy during this reporting period.

3.0 Administration

3.1 Personnel

Council employs one full-time Warranted Animal Control Officer (ACO), and a part-time after-hours ACO to cover weekends and rostered after-hours duties when the Animal Control Officer is on leave. Appropriately warranted Compliance Officer Personnel may also be rostered to cover ACO functions when primary personnel are on leave.

3.2 Hours of Operation

The Animal Control Officer works from 8:30am to 4:30pm, Monday to Friday and responds to all animal complaints. ACO's respond to complaints 24 hours a day on rostered days, weekends, and statutory holidays, ensuring Council has appropriate cover to deliver service delivery expectations throughout the year. Hours of operation remained unchanged during the COVID-19 Alert Levels with ACO's responding as Essential Service personnel, when required.

3.3 Dog Pound

Council continues to manage four designated pound kennels within the SPCA facility on Hau Hau Road, two kennels situated at the Haast Police Station, and one kennel situated at the Franz Josef Police Station. Council is responsible for the maintenance and management of its own pound assets and facilities, and the stewardship and nourishment of any dogs impounded in its care. The pound operates 24/7 with public access by appointment only via the on-duty ACO, to claim any dog/s under their ownership that have been impounded. Dogs are only released to owners on full payment of due fees, including infringement fees. Any dog not claimed within seven days, if not suitable for rehoming through the SPCA or another approved facility, is euthanised. All dogs are assessed by an ACO and Officers of the SPCA to determine suitability for rehoming.

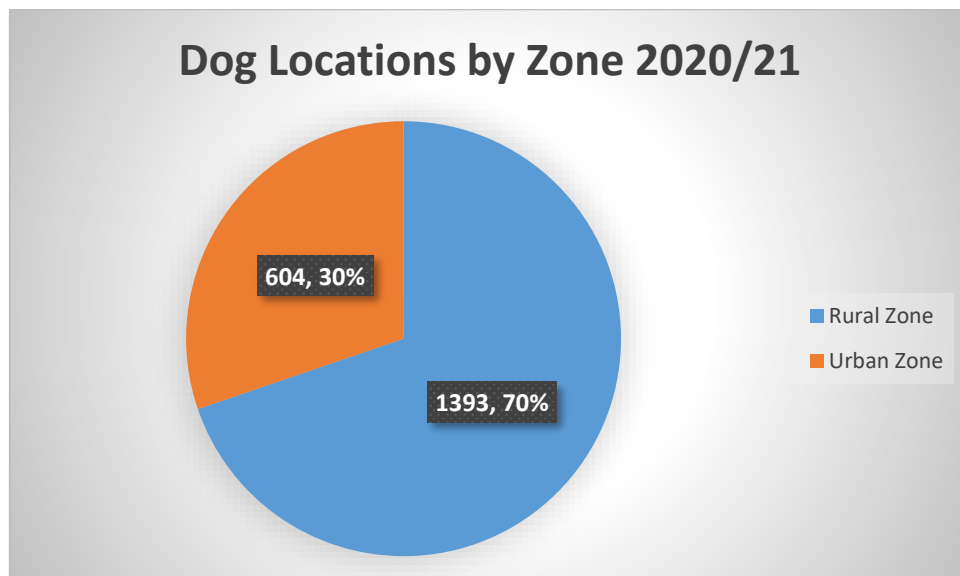
4.0 Fees and Charges

The fees and criteria set in 2019/2020 remained unchanged as part of the 2020/2021 fee setting process, and the following fees and charges were adopted by Council for the delivery of Animal Control services for the 2020/2021 year.

Animal Control	Fee (GST inclusive) 2019/2020
Urban Registration (Hokitika and Kaniere Township)	\$74
Registration other Areas	\$58.50
Responsible Dog Owners (RDO)	\$50 Inspection Fee – First Year \$50 Registration Fee – All Areas
Registration Dangerous Dog	Standard Registration Fee plus 50%
Late Registration – 1 August	Standard Registration Fee plus 50%
First Impounding Offence	\$82
Second Impounding Offence	\$164
Third Impounding offence	\$245
Feeding/Day	\$26
Call-out for Dog Reclaiming	\$78

5.0 Dog Population Analysis

A total of 1,997 dogs (an increase of 25 on the previous year) and 1,458 owners (an increase of 20 on the previous year) are listed within Council's database for the reporting period. A total of 1393 dogs are located in the rural zone (an increase of 93), 604 in an urban zone (an increase of seven).



6.0 Enforcement

The format for reporting of complaints, impounding, classification, infringements, and court proceedings was modified for the 2018/19 period and continues in use for this

reporting period. Where applicable, generalised figures from previous years have been included in the tables below. "NR" identifies where specifics were 'Not Recorded' by category.

6.1 Complaints

A total of 170 complaints were received during the 2020/2021 reporting period and is compared to previous years as follows.

Complaints Received	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Dog Attack	NR	NR	NR	19	15	19
Rushing/Threatening	NR	NR	NR	9	14	11
Roaming	NR	NR	NR	101	249	102
Barking	NR	NR	NR	32	47	19
Welfare	NR	NR	NR	21	16	26
General	NR	NR	NR	41	98	3
Total	223	360	104	223	439	170

6.2 Impounding

Forty-nine dogs were impounded during the reporting period of which 33 were returned to their owners, and 16 re-homed. No dogs were euthanised during the reporting period.

6.3 Classification of Dog Owners

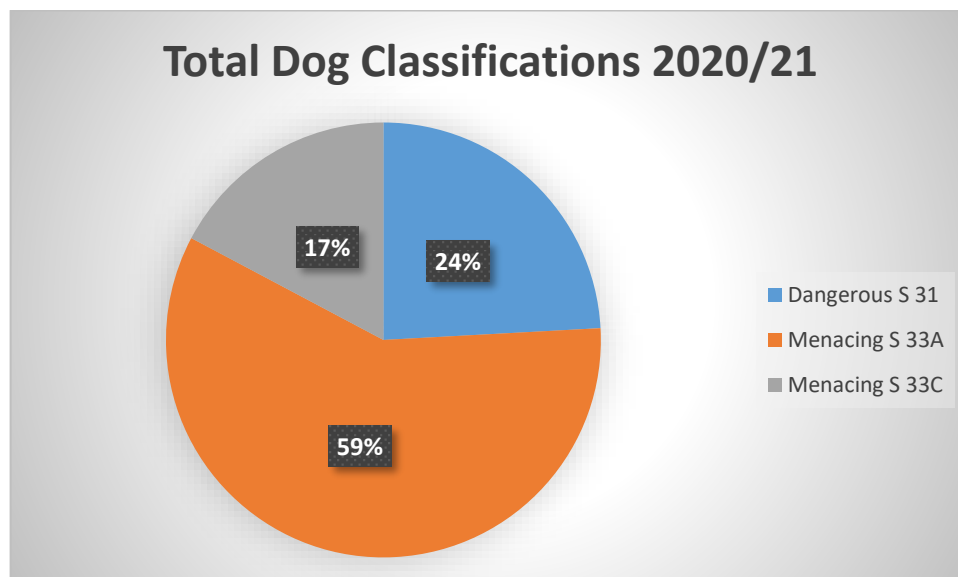
The Council did not classify any dog owners as 'disqualified from owning a dog' in the 2020/2021 year. There are no registered 'disqualified' or 'probationary' owners within the Westland District.

6.4 Classification of Dogs

Dogs can be classified in three different ways:

- Menacing classifications under Section 33A of the Act are applied to a dog which the Council considers may pose a threat to any person, stock, poultry, domestic animal or protected wildlife due to observed or reported behaviour; or any characteristic associated with the dog (their behaviour);
- Menacing classifications under Section 33C of the Act are applied to a dog which belongs wholly or predominantly to one or more breeds or types listed in Schedule 4 of the Act (their breed); or
- Dangerous dogs under Section 31 of the Act are applied to a dog if the owner is convicted under 57A(2), if there is evidence that the dog is aggressive or the owner admits that the dog is aggressive.

Of the 1,997 known dogs in Westland, seventeen are registered as 'Menacing' under Section 33A, five are registered as 'Menacing' under Section 33C and seven registered as 'Dangerous'.



Under Council’s Dog Control Policy, all dogs classified as menacing must be neutered, and muzzled when in a public area.

	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	Total in District
Menacing S 33A	6	12	0	17
Menacing S 33C	1	6	2	5
Dangerous S 31	9	0	0	7

6.5 Infringements

A total of 141 infringement notices were issued for the following offences:

Infringement Offence	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Failure to comply with any bylaw	6	14	12
Failure to comply with effects of classification	4	3	3
Failing to register dog	68	204	107
Failure to keep dog under control	5	10	4
Failure to provide proper care	3	0	0

6.6 Court Proceedings

There were no court prosecutions undertaken for offences under the Act for the 2020/2021 reporting period.

7.0 Other Services

7.1 Multiple Dog Permits (3+ Dogs – Urban Zone)

A permit is required to keep more than two dogs on a property in an urban area. The issue of a permit is conditional on the suitability of an owner, their property and obtaining of approval from affected neighbours.

In this reporting period, six multiple dog permits are current.

7.2 Responsible Dog Owners

There are 64 approved Responsible Dog Owners in this reporting period.

7.3 Responsible Dog Owner Policy (RDO) Status

RDO status provides a discounted rate of dog registration as an incentive to responsible dog owners. To qualify for RDO status all dogs must be registered on or by 1st August of the current registration year, dog/s must be micro-chipped, there have been no justified complaints against, infringement, or impounding of any dog in the past two years, and the property has been inspected and approved in relation to appropriately fenced areas or kennel runs.

Adopted by Council – 30 September 2021