



DOG CONTROL POLICY

2008

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Foreword



In 1997, the Wanganui District Council, in accordance with the Dog Control Act 1996 (hereinafter referred to as the ‘Act’), adopted a policy with respect to dogs in its District – Dog Control Policy 1997.

The Policy was reviewed 5 years later with the amendments being reflected in the Dog Control Policy 2002.

Two years on, an amendment to the Dog Control Act 1996 necessitated mandatory review of existing Dog Control Policies to ensure they were consistent with the new provisions of the Act. This culminated in a revised Dog Control Policy 2004.

In 2007, Council identified areas of Dog Control that it wished to introduce clear policy on. This has been incorporated in this Dog Control Policy 2008.

2.0

Introduction



2.1 Purpose of the Policy

2.1.1 To balance the well being that the ownership of the dogs provides to some people with that of ensuring the environment and overall quality of life of others is not compromised by such dogs.

2.1.2 Comment

According to the 'Act', a local authority in adopting a dog policy must have regard to:

- a) the exercise and recreational needs of dogs and their owners, and
- b) the need to minimise danger, distress, and nuisance to the community generally.

This policy aims to determine Council's response to its Dog Control roles and responsibilities through integrated use of both statutory and non-statutory control measures available. In so doing it should provide some certainty to the Council, Council Staff, dog owners and the public generally, of how Dog Control Service is provided in Wanganui.

The Council acknowledges it will never succeed in controlling all dog problems, however, it is committed to providing a level of service which meets the needs and affordability of dog owners and ratepayers alike.

Reviewing the Dog Control Policy is a chance to reflect on how we undertake dog control functions the way we operate and make the necessary changes to continually improve the service to all customers.

2.2 The District

2.2.1 In Wanganui there are 6744 registered dogs.

Schedule 6 details statistics for Wanganui's Dog Control Services including poundage numbers, enquiry numbers and complaints.

The number of dogs registered in Wanganui remains fairly static.

The Council's Dog Control Activity is funded 100% through registration/impounding/prosecution fees.

2.3 Council Roles and Responsibilities

2.3.1 Service Delivery

The Animal Control Service is performed in accordance with service levels set through Council's Annual and Long Term Plans.

Council currently employs two full time and one part time Animal Control Officers to perform animal control functions of which approximately 90% of the work is dog control.

Specific dog control functions include:

- Dog Registration – Registration of the 7000 plus dogs known to the Council including application of rebate system for good dog ownership etc (see Schedule 1).
- Impounding – maintaining a Dog Pound at Ridgway Street which is open Mon. – Fri between 12-1pm and 3.30-4.30pm.
- 24 hour ranging service – available through Council Customer Services Counter and telephone from 8am to 5pm weekdays with telephone after hours response.
- Education targeted towards existing and potential dog owners.
- Enforcement of the Act and Council Dog Control Bylaw
- Prosecutions

2.3.2 Honorary Dog Rangers

Honorary Dog Rangers can be enlisted to support Animal Control Officers especially in geographical areas which are difficult to patrol such as rural settlements or parks and reserves.

There is a need to enlist more Honorary Dog Rangers to assist our Animal Control Officers in patrolling sensitive public reserves and open spaces.

2.3.3 Hearings Committee

The following statutory functions outlined in the Act will be undertaken by the Council's Hearings Committee acting under delegated authority:

- Hearing objections to classification of probationary owners ;
- Hearing objections to classification of disqualified owners ;
- Hearing objections to classification of dangerous dogs;
- Hearing objections to classification of menacing dogs.

2.3.4 Council

Any changes to the policy or bylaw will require a resolution of the Council and public notification in accordance with the Special Consultative procedure, Local Government Act 2002.

2.4 Linkage with Other Statutory Documents and Council Plans

- The Annual Plan identifies the financial commitments, work programmes and funding requirements for Council activities including performance targets for Animal Control.
- This policy is prepared in accordance with the provisions of Section 10 of the Dog Control Act 1996 and must be consistent with that Act
- This Policy should be consistent with the Council's Reserve Management Plans.
- Any bylaws of the Wanganui District Council shall also be consistent with its Dog Control Policy.

2.5 Dog Control By-law

- 2.5.1 Every Dog Control Policy shall specify the nature and application of any bylaws made or to be made under Section 20 of the Act.

The Council Bylaws currently contain a Dog Control Section (see Schedule 2). This and other Bylaws are reviewed at least every 5 years in accordance with the Local Government Act 2002 requirements.

3.0 ISSUES, OBJECTIVES, POLICIES AND METHODS



3.1 Responsibilities of Dog Owners

3.1.1 Issue

As with most statutory compliance issues, within Dog Control it is estimated 10% of dogs or dog owners cause 90% of the problems requiring Animal Control Officer intervention. The more people that can be encouraged to achieve voluntary compliance, the less problems, Animal Control Officer intervention and service cost there will be.

3.1.2 Discussion

Whilst we can assume the majority of Dog Owners are responsible and knowledgeable of their obligations, we know of some owners who continually cause problems for the community. For some, knowledge of their responsibilities and laws is not enough to gain voluntary compliance.

Council registration statistics tell us that of the 6744 dogs currently registered 4693 receive a 'good dog' rebate. 1816 are classified as 'working dogs', 225 dogs have been 'bad' by virtue of known misdemeanours during the past year and there are 10 dogs classified as 'dangerous'.

Experience indicates that most people wish to comply voluntarily with their responsibilities through a combination of a sense of moral obligation. Social influence, knowing to do so will have positive consequences, and the wish to avoid any penalties for non-compliance.

Conversely, a small proportion of people may be motivated to break laws by the expected benefit to be gained from doing so.

Promoting compliance behaviour from dog owners is therefore effected by the following features:

- The responsibility/compliance must be seen to be fair, practical and evenly applied
- Reinforcing incentives in favour of compliance
- Non-compliance must carry appropriate deterrents
- Public awareness as well as owner awareness of rules and responsibilities and risks associated with the breach of requirements.

The Dog Control Act, Section 54 "Obligations of Dog Owner" requires the owner of any dog to:

- (a) Ensure that the dog receives proper care and attention and is supplied with proper and sufficient food, water and shelter; and

- (b) Ensure that the dog receives adequate exercise

3.1.3 Objective

To ensure dog owners are aware of their obligations and responsibilities under the Act and the Bylaw, to increase their understanding for and to promote compliance behaviour towards Dog Control.

3.1.4 Policies

- To develop and implement an education programme.
- To promote and encourage dog control programmes throughout the district.
- To provide incentives within the dog registration fee structure which promotes responsible dog ownership.
- To provide appropriate deterrents through effective use of statutory enforcement techniques, for irresponsible dog owners.

3.1.5 Methods

- As part of its Dog Control Education Programme, Council looks to educate a younger age group through the schools and this is monitored.
- Use the media and local fairs/displays to promote Dog Control Awareness.
- Every new owner registering a dog will receive an updated comprehensive 'Dog Control' handbook.
- To work together with the SPCA and Police on enforcement techniques and procedures for dog owners who are irresponsible.
- The Council will retain a rebate system for registration, thus rewarding dog owners who:
 - a. adequately fence their section;
 - b. neuter or spay their dog;
 - c. are good dog owners i.e. no justified complaints
 - d. register their dog on time
(see Schedule 1).

3.2 Nuisances Caused By Dogs

3.2.1 Issue

The Council's Animal Control Section deals with over 250 requests for service per month. Over 50% of these are of the nuisance variety such as dog barking, defecating in public places, wandering dogs, annoying people etc. These requests for service are not only a drain on resources but cause unwanted nuisance and stress for those being affected.

3.2.2 Discussion

In delivering Animal Control Services, the Council needs to find a balance between the rights of individual owners and their dogs and other people including other dog owners. Dogs are an important part of the social fabric of the district, however if not properly controlled can also be viewed as annoying menaces.

Dogs defecating in public places are a public health issue as well as a nuisance. Catching owners that allow the droppings to remain is often difficult as most of the offending dogs are those that wander, usually at night.

More often than not, nuisances caused by dogs are the fault of owners either being lazy or ignorant of the laws or of the dog's needs.

Nuisances often caused by dogs are viewed as less serious than say a dog biting attack, however the ability of the Council to mitigate the problem is often frustrating and time consuming for all concerned.

Again, control measures to avert nuisances caused by dogs are varied and include education of owners, practical surveillance and enforcement of dog bylaws and offences under the Act, as well as encouraging or rewarding voluntary compliance.

Dogs rushing at fences and startling people using public footpaths are a 'nuisance'. A harder stance needs to be taken against known transgressors of this nature.

3.2.3 Objective

To minimise the danger, distress and nuisance caused by dogs and their owners on the wider community and to protect the health of the public from faecal borne disease.

3.2.4 Policies

- To educate and encourage people to notify the Council of dangerous dog behaviour.
- To make dog owners aware of their statutory obligations and the consequences of offending.
- To ensure appropriate enforcement measures are undertaken to control dogs and their owners causing public nuisance or distress.
- To ensure that dogs involved in the worrying of stock are either destroyed or seized and persons owning stock or poultry are aware of their own rights.
- To ensure the Dog Control Bylaw is consistent with the Act and provides appropriate up to date control measures for Dog Control 'nuisance' issues.
- To ensure the Council's response to notification of 'nuisance' complaints is consistent.

3.2.5 Methods

- Persons taking complaints will accurately record information to assist officers and the complainant is notified of the action taken. Persons making the complaint will be assured the information will be treated confidentially and within Council's response times.
- Animal Control Officers will issue infringement notices for offences identified in the first schedule of the Act. A 'diversion scheme' (Refer Schedule 5 – Glossary of Terms) will operate, which enables owners to have an infringement notice lifted.
- The Council will use either infringement notices or enforcement measures specified under the Administration Section of the Wanganui District Council Bylaws in relation to nuisance offences under the Dog Control Bylaw. That includes:
 1. lack of adequate shelter
 2. rushing at or frightening of persons in public places
 3. tearing of rubbish bags
 4. dogs in prohibited places
 5. non removal of dog faeces in public places
 6. inciting a dog to attack.
- That the current Dog Control Bylaw be retained and reviewed and updated as the need arises to introduce further control measures.
- 'Dog Traps' will be employed in known problem areas to help catch wandering dogs.
- The handbook referred to in 3.1.5 will include owners statutory obligations under the Act and Bylaw.
- Justified complaints or problem dog behaviour, will result in the Council logging the information against that dog and its owner and that owner losing his or her 'good owner' rebate. All complaints are to be logged
- Repeat convictions by any person against the Act will result in the Council implementing the provisions of Sections 21 and 25 of the Act to classify that person as a "probationary owner" or "disqualified owner" respectively.
- The Council will implement Section 31 of the Act to classify known dangerous dogs as 'dangerous dogs'.
- Animal Control Officers will use Section 55 of the Act to control and uplift dogs that are causing a 'nuisance' by persistent and loud barking.
- Public signage to request people to pick up their dog's droppings.
- Appoint Honorary Temporary Rangers for public places that need added surveillance.
- To encourage persons rushed at by dogs behind a fence to report incidents to Council for appropriate enforcement action.
- Persons applying for fencing rebates or advice will need to fence their sections to ensure the dog does not have access to a fence abutting a public place and/or persons can reach the front door without being attacked.

- The Council's response to various complaints will be:

8am – 5pm Monday to Friday

- Urgent i.e. Dog attacks – Immediate response
- Non Urgent i.e. dogs caught, barking dogs, wandering dog reports, nuisance complaints – Once urgent calls have first been attended to the complaint should be followed up by either a call to the complainant to assess response and/or direct response to the complaint.

After hours: Monday to Friday 5pm – 8am, and Saturday / Sunday

- initial call taken and vetted by the Council's after hours response contractor
- urgent calls, i.e. dogs caught and confined, excessive barking dog complaint, dog attacks, wandering dogs that by all reports are dangerous or likely to cause problems - immediate response. Animal Control Officers have 10 minutes to respond to their pagers being activated.
- non-urgent calls that can be dealt with during normal working hours will be noted and faxed through to the Animal Control Officer for action on the first working day

Note: During the hours of 8am to 5pm on Saturday and Sunday an Animal Control Officer is working and will respond according to the severity and priority of the call.

3.3 Exercise Areas And Prohibited Areas For Dogs

3.3.1 Issue

All dogs need to be exercised regularly for their wellbeing and sanity. Obviously a number of the 5000 dog owners in the District wish to combine their dog's exercise needs with their own by walking the dogs in public places. This need requires to be adequately provided for, whilst ensuring the rest of the community can use those places designated for walking dogs without threat, intimidation or nuisance.

3.3.2 Discussion

The Act requires the Council to have regard to 'the exercise and recreational needs of dogs and requires the Council to identify:

- a. areas where dogs can be exercised on a leash, and
- b. areas where dogs can be exercised at large, and
- c. areas in which dogs are prohibited.

- Exercise areas are shown in Schedule 3.

When first promulgated in 1997 the idea was to have a dog exercise area within reach for all the urban population. All designated dog exercise areas have been signposted and supplied with ‘doggy poo’ bins which are emptied once a week.

Unfortunately, in some areas signs and ‘doggy poo’ bins have been removed due to constant vandalism and misuse.

3.3.3 Objective

To provide for the exercise and recreational needs of dogs while safeguarding the recreational needs of the wider community.

3.3.4 Policies

- To establish appropriate ‘dog exercise areas’ to geographically cater for the district’s needs (Schedule 3).
- To specify areas where dogs are prohibited (Schedule 3).
- To notify dog owners and the general public of all ‘exercise’ and ‘prohibited’ areas.
- To require owners to remove faeces of dogs being exercised in public places.
- To provide receptacles in established exercise areas for owners to dispose of dog faeces.

3.3.5 Methods

- The areas identified in Schedule 3 are to be:
 - a. Included in the education handbook.
 - b. Appropriately identified by signage where practicable.
 - c. Publicised through the Council Service Centres, Libraries, Information Centre and any other appropriate public place.
- Dog Exercise Areas to be provided with appropriate receptacles where practicable.
- A publicity campaign to notify the dog owners and the general public alike of the requirement to pick up dog faeces.
- Persons who are seen not to pick up their dog’s faeces in public places shall be served infringement notices.

3.4 **Distribution Of Dog Control Costs**

3.4.1 Issue

Not all dog owners require the same level of dog control service. Consequently the cost to register a dog should, as far as practicable, reward good ownership.

3.4.2 Discussion

The Act states that 'Dog Control Fees payable to a Territorial Authority shall be those reasonable fees prescribed by resolution of that authority for the registration and control of dogs under the Act'.

The Act gives the ability to lower fees for different categories of dogs.

The current rebate system operated by the Council for the past three years (see Schedule 1) is well received by owners and has assisted in influencing early payments, neutering/spaying of dogs, fencing of sections and general good dog ownership. However as more owners achieve a higher standard of ownership, the resulting rebates in the form of lower registration fee results in a decreasing dog registration revenue.

Note: In 2006/2007, of the 7252 dogs currently registered –

- 1405 receive a neutered rebate
- 1874 are classified as working dogs
- 5202 receive a good dog rebate

If the current level of service was to increase then the base registration fee would also need to increase to meet the service cost.

The overall cost of Animal Control services is approximately \$250,000pa of which \$190,000 is paid by way of dog registration.

3.4.3 Objective

To ensure that the costs of Dog Control fall primarily on dog owners and that costs are distributed in a manner which reflects the varying levels of service provided.

3.4.4 Policies

- To ensure that the direct costs of dog control are fully recovered through dog registration and impounding fees.
- To ensure that the dog registration fees reflect the respective levels of service required by each category of dog owner.
- To provide incentives within the dog registration fee structure which promotes responsible dog ownership.

3.4.5 Methods

- The current level of scheduled fees including various categories and rebates (see Schedule 1) to be retained in principle.
- The actual fees for registration and poundage to be set annually by the Council, taking this policy into account, the recommendations of the

Council's Funding Review Committee and the level of service desired. (Schedule 1)

- The Council to give public notice during the month preceding the start of every registration year, of its Dog Control Fees set.

3.5 Unregistered Dogs

3.5.1 Issue

Registration of dogs allows Council's Animal Control service to establish a level of control and knowledge of dogs within the Wanganui District. People who keep unregistered dogs are not only doing so unlawfully but they are unfairly loading the costs of the dog control service onto other owners. Statistics also tell us they are more likely to offend.

3.5.2 Introduction

The Dog Control Act 1996 specifies that every dog above the age of three months shall be registered.

In Wanganui there are 7,000 plus dogs registered. However, experience tells us that there is a number of unregistered dogs out there. This is verified by pound statistics that tell us of the 716 dogs impounded this year 349 were unregistered.

The more dogs registered -

- a. the better information and control we have on dogs and their owners, and
- b. the costs of Dog Control are spread more equitably with Registration Fees being directly related to the number of dogs registered.

3.5.3 Objectives

To endeavour to have all dogs within the District, over the age of three months, registered.

3.5.4 Policies

- To promote the registration of dogs.
- To provide incentives within the Dog Registration fee structure to encourage owners to register their dogs.
- To ensure all dogs leaving the dog pound are registered.

3.5.5 Methods

- Dog Registration applications to be actively sought through media advertising and school visits.
- The current level of scheduled fees including various categories and rebates (see Schedule 1) to be retained in principle.
- Animal Control Section to actively respond to complaints of unregistered dogs as well as targeting unregistered dogs through nominated campaigns.
- No dogs to be released or sold from the pound unless they are registered first (see Schedule 4)
- Easy payment options to be explored to encourage registration. Options such as direct payments, telephone banking and time payments.
- An amnesty campaign to assist Council in getting all dogs onto their books

3.6 Impounding And Release Of Dogs

3.6.1 Issues

Main issues surrounding impounding and release of dogs are –

- Ensuring dogs are released to their rightful owner in a healthy state
- Safeguarding re-circulation of known problem dogs
- What to do with sick or injured dogs that are impounded

3.6.2 Discussion

Every Territorial Authority shall make adequate provision for the proper custody, care and release of dogs impounded or seized. Proper management over dogs impounded and the facilities are paramount to ensure dogs are released to their rightful owner in a healthy state. The Act stipulates that impounded dogs must be held for seven days to allow the owner to claim the dog upon payment of the appropriate fee. Wanganui District Council's dog pound is well constructed and ranks well against other Local Authority Dog Pound facilities.

Controls must also be maintained over the release of unclaimed dogs from the pound to safeguard re-circulating known problem dogs.

Currently the pound is open between the hours of 12.00pm – 1.00pm and 3.30pm to 4.30pm, Monday to Friday to allow owners and members of the public to claim or buy dogs.

Animal Control Officers have often picked up or impounded dogs that are sick or injured and a decision has to be made what to do with these dogs. To treat these dogs incurs significant vet costs. These costs are often left to Council to meet. Sick dogs also run the risk of spread of disease if kept within the pound.

3.6.1 Objective

To manage the Dog Pound facility to ensure the proper custody, care and release of dogs.

3.6.2 Policies

- To maintain adequate records of dogs in the pound.
- To notify (if known) owners that their dog has been impounded.
- To maintain a rigorous cleaning programme of the pound facilities to control any disease.
- To enable dog owners to reclaim their dogs at reasonable times.
- To ensure all dogs leaving the pound are registered.
- Every dog that is unclaimed from the pound may be either disposed of or sold according to the set criteria (See schedule 4).
- Injured dogs with life threatening injuries shall be, if the owner is not known, put down.

3.6.3 Methods

- Keep a dog register, which includes a record of each dog impounded, and the method of disposal of that dog.
- As soon as practical after a dog is impounded, the Council will, in the cases where the owner is identified or known, give notice of the impounding to the owner.
- A pound cleaning schedule to be developed and followed which limits the spread of any disease introduced to the pound.
- Any dogs known to have or display symptoms of any infectious disease shall be placed in an isolation kennel at the pound and the kennels adequately disinfected after that dog has left.
- The policy relating to the release or sale of dogs is to be conspicuously displayed in a public part of the pound and implemented by the Animal Control Officers.
- The pound is open during the advertised hours. If there is perceived need to alter or increase the pound hours this will be trialled to gauge effectiveness.
- Investigate possibility of pound information being available on 'intranet' and 'internet'.
- Animal Control Officers with the assistance of Environmental Services Manager or Vet, if deemed necessary, shall determine if dogs that are injured or diseased should be put down.
- Allowing Customer Services personal access to dog registers to assist prompt enquiry response

3.7 Dangerous Dogs

3.7.1 Issue

Every dog has the potential to attack a person or their pet. Some dogs through breed, training or lack of control have the ability to cause serious injury and trauma to victims of bites or attacks. The Council needs to ensure that it takes all reasonable steps available to minimise the number of Dangerous Dogs in the district and deal appropriately to any incidents.

3.7.2 Discussion

Dogs attacking people or their pets has received it's fair share of media coverage both locally and nationally. There has been a call to ban various breeds of dog notorious for dog attacks. However parliament has to date resisted this temptation until the practicalities of doing so are dealt with.

Consequently the current provisions under the Dog Control Act 1996 to control dangerous dogs prevail.

These include the ability to:

- Classify a dog as 'dangerous' or 'menacing' due to previous convictions or attested behaviour or breed or type . This places various constraints on the ownership and control of that dog.
- Classify a person as a 'probationary owner' due to previous offences.
- Impound dogs at large.
- Fine a person for not keeping their dog under control.
- Remove 'good owner' rebate from registration fee.
- Seize or destroy a dog forthwith if the dog is seen attacking any person, stock etc.
- Fine the owner of a dog attacking and/or seeking destruction of a dog.
- Seek damages from the owner of a dog for damage done by the dog.(by the victim)

Over the last year there were 298 reported aggressive dog complaints in the District. There are, no doubt, other unreported attacks. Persons who keep dogs on their properties for security reasons run the risk over that dog's lifetime, of the dog getting out and attacking innocent members of the public or even attacking visitors to their property. This is a risk of which owners of dogs must accept the consequences.

There are occasions when collaboration between the owner of the dog and the victim are effective in sorting out a suitable outcome to the incident. Collaboration is undertaken with Council guidance. Provided the outcome is suitable for the

offence and there is no residual risk to the general public, the Council will not pursue further enforcement action.

3.7.3 Objective

To take all reasonable steps to deal with known dangerous dogs to minimise the potential for future attacks to persons or animals.

3.7.4 Policies

- To promote the registration of dogs including rebates for fenced section and De-sexing.
- To make dog owners aware of their statutory obligations and risks when owning dogs likely to be dangerous if not controlled.
- To provide a high priority response to dangerous dog complaints.
- To treat enforcement of dangerous dog attacks as serious, taking into account enforcement principles. (see 3.8.4)

3.7.5 Methods

- Adopt methods within 3.5 to encourage registration etc.
- New owners registering dogs to be given dog control handbook with emphasis on the risks of owning a dangerous dog.
- Animal Control Officers to respond ASAP to dangerous dogs complaints, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- Dangerous dog complaints to be treated seriously.
- Better education of the public toward bite prevention techniques

3.8 **Enforcement**

3.8.1 Issue

The Council has recourse to a suite of enforcement tools to help contribute to the overall goal of dog control compliance. The adoption of some general principles applying to dog control enforcement is seen as instrumental to the Council's overall dog control effectiveness.

3.8.2 Discussion

Enforcement is but one method of achieving compliance with dog control rules. Within dog control legislation there are a range of enforcement approaches that contribute to the goal of compliance:

- General duty to comply
- Power of dog control officers
- Power to make Bylaws

- Power to disqualify owners of dogs
- Power to classify dangerous dogs
- Dog registration system
- Impounding provisions
- Powers to destroy dogs
- Powers to prosecute
- Infringement provisions
- Power to uplift dogs

When considering which enforcement provision to apply and to what severity, no two incidents or situations are the same. Each must be considered on its own merits. The level of enforcement should reflect the severity of the issue and the risk to people and property of not taking that action. Enforcement involves people and their pets and often involves persons who are emotionally affected. In order for Council to perform the dog control functions effectively it needs to develop and follow general principles of enforcement, which includes demonstrated procedure.

This approach will ensure Councils dog control enforcement is:

- Fair
- Factual
- Procedurally and legally correct
- Uniform

3.8.3 Objective

To develop dog control enforcement principles that promotes effective and consistent outcomes.

3.8.4 Policies

The following general principles apply to enforcement action:

- Full investigation into the facts of the situation
- To be in accordance with the Dog Control Act 1996 or District Bylaw
- Reflects:
 - Severity of the non-compliance
 - Cause of the non-compliance
 - Facts sourced
 - Future risk
 - Previous non-compliance
 - Optimising the cost-benefit of enforcement action
 - Remorse of person or offer of reparation
 - Likelihood of success of enforcement
- As a rule, infringement notices will be used to encourage compliance before prosecution.

- Zero Tolerance:
 - The Council will take all measures available to ensure prosecution of the dog owner and that destruction of the dog is sought and obtained. The only time prosecution and destruction is not sought would be under ‘exceptional circumstances’ as determined by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Mayor or his delegate.
- Be fully documented
- Enforcement Decision:
 - All evidence for dog bite incidences is considered by the Chief Executive or his delegate. They will make the call on what enforcement action the Council will take, taking into account the policy and the particular nuances of the case.
- Serious Injury:
 - The definition of ‘serious injury’ is an injury that results in the requirement of medical stitches or equivalent.
- Report back to victim.

3.8.5 Methods

- Enforcement principles shall be applied by Animal Control Officers
- Reports of non-compliance are to be encouraged, treated seriously and fully investigated
- To continue to liaise with the Police to encourage sharing of information, support, prosecution assistance and victim support
- Complainants to be kept informed of investigation and enforcement outcome.

Monitoring and Review



Monitoring of the Dog Control Policy is a means whereby the Council can consistently:

- Appraise its performance.
- Re-assess its approach.
- Move closer to achieving its objectives through the refinement of its Dog Control Policies.

Therefore the Council will:

- Monitor the objectives identified in the Policy.
- Review the Dog Control Policy on an annual basis to ensure the policies and methods are effective and efficient at achieving the objectives.
- Produce reports to document trends and issues in a timely manner.
- Reflect the Dog Control Policy objectives through the Annual Plan process.
- The above to be audited to ensure completion.

The Council currently produces important monitoring data of the Dog Control function through:

- Service delivery statistics.
- Poundage statistics.
- Registration statistics.
- Prosecution statistics.
- Complaint statistics.
- Community View Survey results.
- Annual Plan monitoring.

The Council will utilise this data to continually review the Policy and service levels set through its Plans.

As a consequence of any ongoing monitoring and review, the Council may, at any time, adopt an amended policy in accordance with the special consultative procedure.

A major review of the Dog Control Policy shall be undertaken every five years.

SCHEDULE 1

Animal Control Registration Fees 2006/2007 Year & 2007/2008 Year

All adult dogs entered in the system throughout year (from impounding, street searches, complaints etc) to pay FULL FEE of \$100.00 and will be:

- Loaded as BAD DOG for no registration
- Not eligible for good dog rebate
- The neutering is applicable.

This penalty is imposed to encourage voluntary registration.

Non-Working Dogs: For the 4th and subsequent dog(s) owned by the same owner, the fee is \$10.00 per dog.

Those dogs classified as dangerous are charged 150% of the full fee less any applicable rebates except the Good Dog Rebate.

Dog Registration Rebates for a full year:

- \$10.00 if paid by 31 July
- \$20.00 Good dog: no justified complaints over the last year (see Schedule 5)
- \$25.00 If desexed: proof required, i.e. vet certificate/receipt

All dogs three months of age pay a proportion of the registration fee and rebates will be adjusted according to the month of the year when the dog is registered.

Working Dogs:

- \$35.00 per dog for 1st three dogs. Thereafter \$10.00 per dog registered to one owner.

Tablets for sale: \$2.00 : Paratak Plus - kills ALL worms.

Pound Fees:

- \$40.00 1st impounding if dog registered
- \$100.00 2nd impounding
- \$100.00 fee for an **UNREGISTERED** dog

Pound Hours:

- 12.00 - 1.00 Monday to Friday
- 3.30 - 4.30 Monday to Friday

Replacement Tags : **FREE** of charge - available from cashiers.

SCHEDULE 2

WANGANUI DISTRICT COUNCIL

WANGANUI DISTRICT BY-LAW

1996

PART 12

DOG CONTROL

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This Part of the By-law aims to:

- a. Regulate and control dogs in public places.
- b. Limit the number of dogs on a property, by introduction of a licensing system.
- c. Require the owner of any dog that defecates in a public place to immediately remove the faeces.
- d. Provide for the impounding of dogs.
- e. Provide for any other purpose necessary or desirable to further control dogs.

This Part should be read in conjunction with Dog Control and Hydatids Act 1982 which contains controls relating to the keeping of dogs and a qualified exemption from compliance with part of the By-law for any guide dog, companion dog, police dog or working dog.

Terms used in this Part are defined in Part 1 By-law Administration.

12.1 Obligation of Dog Owners

12.1.1 The owner of any dog shall provide for the dog a kennel or place of confinement that shall be: Minimum shelter requirements

- a) Weatherproof;
- b) Of sufficient size to allow the dog to freely move, stand, stretch out, and recline;
- c) Kept in a clean and sanitary condition;
- d) Provided with a floor and constructed so that surfaces are easily cleaned;
- e) Provided with a fixed chain, leash or other suitable restraint which allows the dog free movement in the case of a kennel with no other means of confinement.

12.1.2 The owner of any dog shall provide means of confining the dog upon the owner's property, so that it is unable to gain uncontrolled access to any other private property or to any public place. Confinement

12.1.3 The owner of any dog:

- a) Shall ensure the dog does not create a nuisance or annoyance Nuisance or annoyance
 - i) By obstructing the lawful passage of persons in public places.
 - ii) By rushing and frightening persons in a public place.
- b) Shall not allow the dog to destroy, tear or otherwise interfere with any refuse receptacle in a public place. Refuse

12.2 Restriction of Dogs in Public Places

12.2.1 The Council may from time to time by resolution designate:

- a) Dog exercise areas in public places in which any dog may be exercised free of restraint if kept under continuous control by its owner. Exercise areas
- b) Public places from which dogs are prohibited. Prohibited areas

- | | | |
|--------|---|---------------------------|
| 12.2.2 | No person, being the owner of any dog, shall permit the dog to enter or remain on: | |
| a) | An area designated as a dog exercise area unless the dog is kept under continuous control; | Control in exercise areas |
| b) | An area designated as a place from which dogs are prohibited; | Prohibited areas |
| c) | Any public place, unless the dog is effectively secured by a leash, chain, lead or otherwise physically restrained so that the dog cannot break loose. | Public places |
| 12.2.3 | Clauses 12.2.1 and 12.2.2 of this part shall not apply to a working dog carrying out the work for which the dog has been trained. | Working Dogs
Exempt |
| 12.2.4 | No person, being the owner of any dog, shall take any dog suffering from a contagious disease or skin condition onto any public place or allow such dog to enter or remain on a public place. | Contagious Disease |

12.3 Dogs In Vehicles

- | | | |
|--------|---|---------------------------|
| 12.3.1 | No person, being the owner of any dog, shall: | |
| a) | Take the dog in a vehicle or leave the dog unattended in a vehicle unless the vehicle is properly ventilated; | Dogs confined in vehicles |
| b) | In a public place allow the dog to ride on the open tray of a vehicle unless it is kept under control by a chain or rope that prevents the dog from leaving the tray. | Dogs on an open tray |

12.4 Removal of Faeces

- | | | |
|--------|--|----------------|
| 12.4.1 | The owner of any dog that defecates in a public place or on land or premises other than that occupied by the owner shall immediately remove and dispose of the faeces. | Faeces removed |
|--------|--|----------------|

12.5 Confinement of Bitches

- 12.5.1 The owner of any bitch, while the bitch is in season, shall: Bitch in season
- a) Keep it confined and not allow it in any public place;
 - b) Provide it with adequate exercise.

12.6 Offence to Incite Dogs to Attack

- 12.6.1 The owner of any dog shall not cause or allow the dog to rush at, attack, startle or worry any person or animal in a public place. Dogs not to attack

12.7 Aggravation of Dogs

- 12.7.1 No person shall willfully or negligently cause any dog to behave or contribute to any dog behaving in such a manner that would, if that person were the owner of the dog, constitute a breach of the obligations imposed by paragraphs (e), (f) or (g) of Section (5)(1) of the Dog Control Act 1996.

* * * * *

This By-law was made by Special Order passed at the Ordinary Meeting of the Wanganui District Council on the 25th day of March 1996, and confirmed at an Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on the 6th day of May 1996, when it was ordered to come into force on the 4th day of June 1996.

**THE COMMON SEAL OF THE
MAYOR, COUNCILLORS AND
CITIZENS OF THE DISTRICT
OF WANGANUI** was affixed
hereto in the presence of:

.....
Mayor

.....
Chief Executive Officer

SCHEDULE 3

Dog Exercise Areas



A. Dogs are **PROHIBITED** at the following locations:

1. Central Business District (see definitions).
2. Virginia Lake.
3. Beach area in front of Castlecliff Beach car park off Rangiora Street.
4. Lake Wiritoa beach and boat ramp area,
5. Westmere Lake.
6. Bason Botanic Gardens.
7. Playing surfaces of sports grounds.
8. Children's play areas within parks.
9. Mowhanau Beach Domain, children's play area and beach area in front of domain.
10. Williams Domain.
11. Tawhero Golf Course.
12. Spurdle Street Reserve.
13. Matipo Park.
14. Hylton Park.
15. Laird Park
16. Deer Park Reserve
17. Cooks Gardens.
18. Children's play area at Kowhai Park.

B. Dogs are **PERMITTED UNLEASHED** (although under continuous control) at the following locations:

Aramoho

19. Riverbank Reserve – Railway Bridge to Aramoho School (walkway along riverbank).
21. Riverbank Reserve – Aramoho School to Kells Avenue (road reserve).
22. Seddon Street grass verge (Kaikokopu Road to Barrack Street)
23. Somme Parade riverbank reserve opposite cemetery.

Wanganui East

24. Burton Avenue road reserve islands.
25. Eastown Road grass reserve next to railway line.
26. Riverbank Reserve from Jet Tours building to the Railway Bridge
27. Riverbank Reserve from the Fitness Trail to Ikitara Road extension.
28. Wembley Park – grounds 5 to 8 – except when being used for sporting events.

Central City

29. Grass reserve next to Davis Library.
30. (Somme Parade) Riverbank Reserve from Dublin Street Bridge to PS Waimarie Jetty.

Castlecliff

31. Castlecliff Beach area except for in front of the Rangiora Street carpark during the period between the end of October and the beginning of April.
32. Bamber Street road reserve.
33. Seafront Road grass reserve.
34. Karoro Road/Riverbank Reserve from AFFCO to Rivercity Meats, (including Gilbert Street.)

Gonville

35. Gonville Domain off Moore Avenue.
36. Tawa Street reserve.
37. Handley Street reserve – Carlton Avenue.

Springvale/St John's Hill

38. Springvale Park – area between Splash Centre and St George's School –(take out) except when the sports areas are used for sporting events.
39. Parsons Street road reserve next to Bridge Club.
40. Babbage Place reserve.
41. Otamatea Reserve, Great North Road.
42. Victoria Park – except when sports are being played.

Other Areas

43. North of the bridge and stream at Mowhanau Beach.
44. South Beach.

c. Dogs are **PERMITTED ON A LEASH** at the following locations:

1. Aramoho Motor Camp Park
2. Hutton Park
3. Lorenzdale Park
4. Lundon Park
5. Peat Park
6. Queen's Park
7. Riverbank/road reserve/walkway from PS Waimarie jetty right through to Bedford Avenue
8. All other public places not identified in A or B.

SCHEDULE 4

Animal Control

SALE OF POUND DOGS

Dogs that are **CONSIDERED SUITABLE MAY** be sold if not claimed by their owner

Criteria

1. All dogs must be **DESEXED** - to be paid for by the purchaser
2. An adequately **FENCED** property is required to contain the dog. An Animal Control Officer will inspect this
3. The dog must be **REGISTERED**
4. All dogs are purchased at the **BUYERS RISK**
5. The Animal Control Officers may refuse to sell a dog to any person known to have been a 'problem dog owner' previously
6. All **FEES** are to be paid **BEFORE** the dog is taken

Cost

<u>Female Dog</u>		<u>Male Dog</u>	
Spaying	\$160.00	Neutering	\$107.00
Registration	\$ 55.00	Registration	\$ 55.00
Pound release	\$ 40.00	Pound release	\$ 40.00
Microchipping	<u>\$ 20.00</u>	Microchipping	<u>\$ 20.00</u>
TOTAL	\$275.00	TOTAL	\$222.00

SCHEDULE 5

Glossary of Terms



Central Business District

The Central Business District (CBD) is identified as the Central Commercial Area boarded by Taupo Quay, Drews Avenue, Watt Street, part of Wicksteed Street, Ingestre Street, St Hill Street.

Good Dog

Dogs who have not in the past year -

- Dog attacks a person or other animal
- Had a justified barking complaint
- Been impounded
- Was late to be registered
- Was unregistered
- Has wandered
- Has rushed

SCHEDULE 6

Dog Control Statistics

	98/99	99/00	00/01	07/08
N° Dogs registered	7779	7777	7655	7252
Aggressive Dog Complaints	388	292	305	232
N° Impounded Dogs	833	825	799	737
Impounded dogs claimed	371	361	350	274
Impounded dogs sold	92	117	115	245
Impounded dogs destroyed	370	347	334	332

Of the dogs registered 2000/2002:

- 67% are housed in the urban area
- 33% are housed in the rural area
- 88% are on properties with approved fencing
- 43% are neutered
- 27% are working dogs
- 94% receive a good dog owner rebate for no reported indiscretions from the past two years.

Annual Dog Control Enquiry Figures

	98	99	00	01	07/08
Barking Dogs	467	472	462	542	403
Aggressive Dogs	382	388	292	305	232
Wandering Dogs	1369	1444	1252	1289	885
Stock Wandering	384	315	227	229	193
General enquiries including other animals	3014	2776	2478	2093	907