



Thames-Coromandel District Council

Annual Dog Control Report 2019/2020

Section 10A report in accordance with the Dog Control Act 1996

1. Requirement to report

Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996 (the Act) requires every territorial authority to report each financial year on the administration of its dog control policy and its dog control practices. The report is to be submitted annually to the Secretary for Local Government.

2. Dog control policy

The Thames-Coromandel District Council Dog Control Policy sets out the Council's approach to supporting responsible dog ownership and dealing with the effects of irresponsible dog ownership so as to ensure wider public safety. Policy objectives are to:

- Enable people to enjoy the benefits of dog ownership and provide for the exercise and recreational needs of dogs and their owners.
- Encourage and support responsible dog ownership.
- Minimise potential danger, distress and nuisance to the community generally and native wildlife.
- Enable, to the extent that it is practicable, the public to use streets and public amenities without fear of attack or intimidation by dogs.

3. Summary of dog control practices

The animal control functions of the Act are managed by Council's Licensing and Compliance Team consisting of a manager, team leader and six compliance officers and a pound keeper.

We have a proactive communication approach to remind all registered dog owners of the need to re-register their dogs annually. This includes messaging via the Council website and Facebook page, as well as letters to all dog owners.

We had dog registration reminder messaging, 'has your dog gone yellow', on the side of our bylaw's vehicles.

On-line payments to make it easier for dog owners to renew their registration.

We provide brochures and leaflets to support understanding of our dog rules and about responsible dog ownership.

We continue to engage with dog owners who we see exercising their dogs in public places and often provide leads to people. This assists wider promotion of responsible dog control with 'TCDC' branded leads increasingly on display throughout the District.



Dog owners with unregistered dogs are identified (we conduct property surveys throughout the year) and we engage with these people (telephone and face-to-face) to ensure dogs are registered. Actions we may take include enforcing late penalty fees, infringements for failing to register and seizure of unregistered dogs.

We proactively patrol and monitor for dog control issues across the district particularly in public places such as beaches, town centres, children's playgrounds and sports areas.

Response is provided quickly to all complaints (requests for service) about dog control issues including reports about concerns for welfare, roaming dogs, excessive barking, dogs rushing and dog attacks on people and animals. Priority response is provided where there is immediate danger to people and animals.

We actively use all powers available to ensure all dogs classified as dangerous are neutered and muzzles are worn when these dogs are in a public place.

We make annual property inspections to ensure every owner of a dog classified as menacing or dangerous is compliant with requirements of the Act.

We encourage the re-homing of all dogs that pass temperament testing and we have a high success rate in finding suitable new owners. This includes advertising dogs available for re-homing on the TCDC website and proactively working alongside adoption agencies.

We share information about lost and found dogs to support re-homing.

We use qualified vets to ensure all dogs that are to be euthanised are done so in a humane manner.

4. Dog control statistics required under section 10A(2) of the Act

(2)(a) Registered dogs

There were 4,959 registered dogs in the district.

(2)(b) Disqualified and probationary dog owners

There was one disqualified owner and no probationary owners in the district.

(2)(c) Dangerous dogs

There were 12 dogs classified as dangerous (under s31 of the Act).

(2)(d) Menacing Dogs

There were 46 dogs classified as menacing under s33A and s33C of the Act.

(2)(e) Infringements issued

We issued 74 infringement notices over the year.

Offence type and description	Number
Failure to comply with bylaw, dog not on lead / 20(5)	3
Failure to comply with bylaw / 20(5)	1
Failure to comply with class as dangerous / 32(2)	2
Failure to register Dog / 42	44
Failure to keep dog controlled or confined / 52A	8
Failure to keep dog under control / 53(1)	14
Failure to carry leash in public / 54A	2
Total infringements	74

(2)(f) Dog related incidents / requests for service

There were 1,209 incidents / requests for service over the year

Category	Number
Dog attack person	25
Dog attack animal	47
Dogs rushing	76
Dog barking	266
Dog lost	151
Dog found	164
Dog fouling	10
Dog loose / uncontrolled	283
Dogs Microchipping	4
Miscellaneous dog issue	136
Dog ownership	10
Dog in a prohibited area	7
Un-registered dog	2
Welfare check	28
Total incidents / request for service	1209

(2)(g) Dog prosecutions

There was one prosecution over the year.