

12. Council Policy and Practices 2024/2025 Section 10A requirements of the Dog Control Act September 2025

Reference Te Tohutoro: 25/1369237

Responsible Officer(s) Te
Pou Matua: Lionel Bridger, Manager Animal Management

Accountable ELT John Higgins, General Manager Strategy, Planning & Regulatory
Member Pouwhakarae: Services

1. Purpose and Origin of the Report Te Pūtake Pūrongo

- 1.1 Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996 requires that the Council report on the administration of its dog control policies and practices each year. The Council must give public notice of the report and make it publicly available.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to fulfill the legislative requirements in the Dog Control Act 1996.

2. Officer Recommendations Ngā Tūtohu

That the Council:

1. [Receives the information in the Council Policy and Practices 2024/2025 Section 10A requirements of the Dog Control Act September 2025 Report.](#)
2. [Notes that the report will be made publicly available in accordance with the Dog Control Act.](#)

3. Background/Context Te Horopaki

- 3.1 Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996 (the Act), requires territorial authorities to report on their dog control policies and dog control practices.
- 3.2 The report must include, in respect of each financial year, information relating to:
 - the number of registered dogs;
 - the number of probationary owners and disqualified owners;
 - the number of dogs classified as dangerous and how the classification was made;
 - the number of dogs classified as menacing and how the classification was made;
 - the number of infringement notices issued;
 - the number of dog related complaints and the nature of those complaints; and
 - the number of prosecutions taken.
- 3.3 The territorial authority must give public notice of the report and make it publicly available (section 10A of the Act).

4. The Council's Dog Control Policy (Section 10A(1a))

- 4.1 The Act requires every council to have a policy on dogs and a bylaw to enforce it. A replacement policy and bylaw has been out for consultation and hearings have concluded. The Council has now adopted the replacement Dog Control Policy and Bylaw 2025. It is set to become operative from 3 November 2025.
- 4.2 The Policy has provisions relating to the control of dogs in public places, which are enforceable under the Christchurch City Council Dog Control Bylaw 2025.
- 4.3 The purpose of the Dog Control Policy is to outline how the Christchurch City Council addressed the requirements set out in the Dog Control Act.
- 4.4 The Policy balances regulatory controls to allow for the recreational needs of dogs and their owners, with appropriate controls to minimise the danger, distress or nuisance that may be caused by dogs. It is designed as an educational tool to help encourage and facilitate good dog behaviour and good dog ownership. The policy should be read in conjunction with the Dog Control Bylaw 2025 and the Dog Control Act.
- 4.5 The full policy can be accessed here: [Dog owner obligations : Christchurch City Council](#). In summary, the policy contains the following:

	Section title and brief summary of coverage
Section 1:	Introduction
Section 2:	Dog Control Bylaw (nature and application of the bylaw)
Section 3:	Obligations of dog owners
Section 4:	Registration of dogs (including registration classifications, and responsible dog owner criteria, registration and desexing, working and
Section 5:	Micro-chipping of dogs
Section 6:	Prohibited and leashed areas (general prohibited and leashed areas)
Section 7:	Other special areas – Dog Parks and Dog Exercise Areas
Section 8:	Licence to own more than two dogs
Section 9:	Other dog matters (barking dogs, female dogs in season, desexing of dogs, dogs in outdoor dining areas, exercising dogs at night, dogs in vehicles over summer months, dogs at Council events and festivals)
Section 10:	Education and training (teaching children about dogs, learning how to be a good dog owner, teaching dog safety for workers)
Section 11:	Ways of managing troublesome dog owners and dogs (probationary and disqualified dog owners, dangerous dogs, menacing dogs, desexing of menacing dogs)
Section 12:	Seizing dogs, impounding dogs and adopting dogs from the Council dog shelter facility
Section 13:	The issuing of infringement notices
Section 14:	Controlled or open dog areas under the Conservation Act

5. Christchurch City Council's Practices (Section 10A (1b))

To satisfy the requirements of section 10A of the Dog control Act 1996, the following information is provided:

5.1 Dog Registration

The total number of dogs recorded on the Council's dog registration database for the period was 45,898.

5.2 Probationary and Disqualified Owners

The Council recorded 7 owners as probationary, and 5 owners as disqualified over the period.

5.3 Dangerous Dog Classifications

The Council classified 10 dogs as dangerous under section 31 of the Act, adjusting the total number of dogs on the dangerous dog register to 40.

5.4 Menacing Dog Classifications

The Council has two separate menacing dog classifications:

- Dogs classified as menacing based on the dog's aggressive behavior (section 33A(1)(b)(i) of the Act). For the period, 47 new dogs were classified as menacing, adjusting the total number of dogs classified in this category on the Council's register to 238; and
- Dogs to be classified as menacing based on the dog's breed or breed type (section 33C of the Act). For the period, 1 new dog was classified as menacing, adjusting the total number of dogs classified in this category on the Council's register to 73.

5.5 Infringement Notices issued

The Council issued 1,025 infringement notices for breaches against the Act:

- Obstruction of a Dog Control Officer - 1 notice;
- Failure to supply information - 5 notices;
- Failure to comply with the bylaw - 7 notices;
- Failure to comply with disqualification - 2 notices;
- Failure to comply with a dog classification - 19 notices;
- Failure to implant a microchip - 17 notices;
- Failure to notify the death of a dog - 1 notice;
- Failure to register a dog - 712 notices;
- Failure to notify of a change of address - 1 notice;
- Failure to keep a dog controlled or confined - 229 notices;
- Failure to keep dogs under control - 26 notices;
- Failure to provide proper care - 2 notices;
- Failure to comply with a barking dog abatement notice - 1 notice; and
- Allowing a dangerous dog to be unmuzzled - 1 notice.

5.6 Warnings issued

A total of 754 warnings were issued:

- Warnings are issued in cases where there is insufficient evidence to support the issuing of an infringement or in cases where the breach of the Act is minor and there are no previous recorded breaches.

5.7 Dog related complaints

The Council investigated 653 priority one complaints (dogs attacking persons, stock, poultry, domestic animals and protected wildlife or traffic hazards relating to wandering stock on roads).

The Council received 5,193 complaints relating to dogs barking, wandering, fouling, rushing and unregistered dogs.

The Council received a total of 9,901 complaints relating to breaches of the Dog Control Act and/or the Dog Control Bylaw 2016.

5.8 Prosecutions

1 prosecution was successfully completed due to a breach of the effects of a dangerous dog classification. The owner is to be disqualified from owning a dog for a period of three years and the offending dog is to be destroyed.

A further case is currently pending before the Courts for dogs attacking persons and /or domestic animals.

5.9 Found Dogs

Council found 1,913 dogs wandering. 1,372 were returned to their owners and 541 were impounded. Of these, 405 were claimed by their owners from the animal shelter, 64 were adopted to new homes, and 44 were rehomed to dog rescues.

Of the dogs found, 27 were euthanised. 17 dogs were euthanised due to their aggressive nature and could not be safely rehomed, and 10 dogs were euthanised as they were classified as Dangerous or Menacing.

5.10 Education

A total of 37 child education and adult educational talks were provided free of charge to the community.

5.11 Free microchipping

The Council continues to offer free microchipping to all dog owners, which is available every Wednesday.

6. Statistical Summary

Category	Num
Total number of dogs on record	45,892
Total number of probationary owners	8
Total number of disqualified owners	9
Total number of dogs classified as dangerous (live records only)	40
Total number of dogs classified as menacing (live records only)	311

Number of infringement notices issued	1,025
Dog attacks on people, stock, poultry, domestic animals or protected wildlife	653 656
Dog rushing, intimidating people or domestic animals.	627
Dogs barking, roaming or fouling, roaming dogs and miscellaneous	5,193
Number of prosecutions taken	2

Attachments Ngā Tāpirihanga

There are no attachments to this report.

In addition to the attached documents, the following background information is available:

Document Name – Location / File Link
Not applicable

Signatories Ngā Kaiwaitohu

Author	Lionel Bridger - Manager Animal Services
Approved By	Tracey Weston - Head of Regulatory Compliance John Higgins - General Manager Strategy, Planning & Regulatory Services