

THAMES COROMANDEL DISTRICT COUNCIL

2014 - 2015 REPORT ON DOG CONTROL

Requirement to Report

The Dog Control Act 1996 Section 10A requires a Territorial Authority to report in respect of 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 and must give public notice of the report.

TCDC Dog Control Policy 2004

The Thames Coromandel District Council adopted its current Dog Control Policy on 25th August 2004 and reviewed that policy on 9th September 2009.

Council commenced a review of the policy and bylaw in 2014. During the course of the review and public consultation a decision was made to halt the process as it became apparent that there were inadequacies in the policy and bylaw that were outside the scope of the submissions received and would require further analysis and consideration. This analysis has been undertaken and the consultation process to review and amend the policy and bylaw will be undertaken in late 2015.

The copy of the current dog control policy is attached.

Dog Control Practice

Thames Coromandel District Council:

- Has a zero tolerance for unregistered dogs in the district and uses all powers available to it under the Dog Control Act 1996 to ensure dogs are registered within a two month timeframe of the new registration year.
- Proactively patrol its suburbs and town centres throughout the district to monitor for dog control issues.
- Actively patrol its beaches and reserves in accordance with Service Level Agreements during the summer season and holiday weekends to ensure dogs are not a nuisance and dog restrictions are not being breached.
- Surveyed 610 properties to June 30th 2015 to identify any unknown / unregistered dogs in the district.
- Empower its Community Boards to set Service Level Agreements with its Compliance / Bylaws team to ensure dog control is actively monitored and enforced.

- Actively use all powers available to it to ensure all dogs classified as menacing under section 33C (by breed / type) of the Dog Control Act 1996 are neutered and muzzles are worn when these dogs are in a public place.
- Ensures owners of dogs classified as Menacing or Dangerous receive annual property inspections to ensure owners are compliant.
- Actively promotes dog safety training through schools, libraries and with community groups.
- Employs 5 fulltime and 1 part-time Compliance Officers who are responsible for Dog Control, Stock Control, Noise Control, General Bylaws, Parking Control, Freedom Camping and Fire Permits.
- Consistently applies fees and charges for dog control as set annually in its Annual Plan process
- Encourage the rehoming of all dogs that pass temperament testing through working with the Thames SPCA and utilising other options available to Council for the rehoming of dogs.
- Utilises a qualified vet to ensure all dogs that are to be euthanised are done so in a humane manner.

Registered Dogs

As at May 31st 2015 (prior to the new registration period from June 30th)

- There were 4604 dogs registered in the district.
- There were 2 unregistered dogs known in the district.

As of June 30th 2015

- There were 393 dogs registered in the district
- There were 4215 dogs unregistered in the district (new registration year)

Probationary and Disqualified Owners

As at June 30th 2015 the Thames Coromandel District Council had:

- Probationary Owners = **0 (nil)**
- Disqualified Owners = **5**

Dogs Classified as Dangerous under section 31 of the Dog Control Act 1996

As at June 30th 2015 there were **9 dogs** classified as dangerous registered in the district.

Dogs Classified as Menacing under section 33A of the Dog Control Act 1996

As at June 30th 2015 there were **23 dogs** classified as menacing under section 33A registered in the district.

These were classified under section 33A as the a territorial authority considers they may pose a threat to any person, stock, poultry, domestic animal, or protected wildlife because of observed or reported behaviour of the dog.

Dogs Classified as Menacing under section 33C of the Dog Control Act 1996

As at June 30th 2015 there were **34 dogs** classified as Menacing under section 33C
(1) A territorial authority must, for the purposes of section 33E(1)(a), classify as menacing any dog that the territorial authority has reasonable grounds to believe belongs wholly or predominantly to 1 or more breeds or types listed in Schedule 4.

Schedule 4

Breed and type of dog subject to ban on importation and muzzling

Part 1

Breed of dog

Brazilian Fila

Dogo Argentino

Japanese Tosa

Perro de Presa Canario

Part 2

Type of dog

American Pit Bull Terrier

All 34 dogs classified under section 33C were predominantly American Pit Bull Terrier type dogs.

There have previously been Dogo Argentino dogs in the district but as at June 30th 2015 there are none known or registered.

Infringements Issued under Dog Control act 1996 for the period 1st July 2014 to June 30th 2015

FAILURE TO KEEP DOG CONTROLLED OR CONFINED/52A	38
FAILURE TO KEEP DOG UNDER CONTROL/53(1)	24

FAILURE TO REGISTER DOG/42	86
FAILURE TO COMPLY BYLAW - 20(5)	15
FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH DISQUALIFICATION/28(5)	0
FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH CLASS AS DANGEROUS/32(2)	0
FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH EFFECTS OF MENACING /33E(2)	3
FAILURE TO SUPPLY INFO, FALSE DETAILS OF DOG/19A(2)	1
TOTAL INFRINGEMENTS ISSUED	<u>167</u>

Dog Related Complaints Received - 1st July 2014 to June 30th 2015
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Barking dog	173
Dog attack on a person	27
Dog attack on an animal	63
Dog Fouling	20
Dog lost or found	308
Dog rushing	53
Dog Welfare check	24
Miscellaneous dog issue	85
Uncontrolled dog	325
Unregistered dog	4
TOTAL COMPLAINTS RECEIVED	<u>1082</u>

* This figure excludes the number of complaints observed and dealt with by Compliance Officers whilst they were on a patrol.

Prosecutions taken by the Territorial Authority under the Dog Control Act 1996 during year to 30th June 2015
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One (x1) prosecutions under S58(a) of the Dog Control Act 1996

One (x1) prosecutions under S57(2) of the Dog Control Act 1996

