



# ANIMAL CONTROL

1 JULY 2023 – 30 JUNE 2024



# About this report

Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996 requires each local council to report on its dog control policy and practices every financial year. This report is for the Waikato District Council Animal Control team from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024.

## Dogs in our district

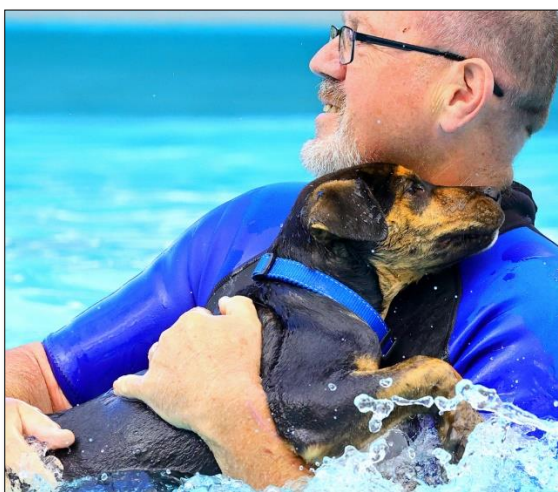
The Waikato district covers more than 400,000 hectares – both rural and urban. As of 30 June 2024, there was 16,079 known dogs in the Waikato district. This is an increase of 63 dogs from the previous year. Approximately 11.5% of the registered dogs in our district are registered on a Farm Owner Policy.

## Our team

As of 30 June 2023, we had 13 staff to deliver animal control services in the district:

- 1 Team Leader
- 1 Senior Animal Control Officer
- 8 Animal Control Officers
- 2 Pound Keepers
- 1 Education and Engagement Officer

The team is supported by our Community Safety Support team of administrators, Council's Contact Centre and front of house Customer Delivery teams.



# Our policies and rules

The Waikato District Council Animal Control team operates under the following policies and rules:

- Waikato District Council Dog Control Policy 2022
- Waikato District Council Dog Control Bylaw 2022
- Dog Control Act 1996
- Impounding Act 1955.

The Bylaw and Policy documents can be found here: [www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/services-facilities/animal-control](http://www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/services-facilities/animal-control).

## Our services

Our Animal Control team provide a 24-hour/7-day service. Staff have a work roster to cover after-hour emergencies.

Our approach is to focus on the '3Es' – engagement, education and enforcement – aimed at improving the way the community interacts and engages with the Animal Control team. The team had resourcing issues during 2023/24 which led to challenges meeting KPIs at times, however support from contracted services for after-hours and on-call meant the team were able to focus on priority services.

When we can, we also give free dog food to people in our community who need it, thanks to Hill's Pet Nutrition.

## Dog registration fees

Waikato District Council has a scaled fee structure for registration. This rewards dog owners who have no history of offences, have continuously registered their dog/s and who meet the property requirements specified within our policies. We also offer a reduced registration fee for dog owners who have registered their dogs before 20 July.

Of the 16,079 known dogs in our district, there are 12,550 registered (78.05%). Normal practice for the Animal Control team is to engage with dog owners who have not registered their dogs in an appropriate time frame to ensure compliance is achieved. The decreased number of registered dogs for this period is reflective of reduced capacity due to staff turnover in the 2023/24 financial year and a missed opportunity in issuing reminder notices. With a full team now on board, greater focus has been put into increasing this overall compliance percentage for 2024/25.

The full fee structure can be found on our website: [www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/your-council/plans-policies-and-bylaws/plans/fees-and-charges](http://www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/your-council/plans-policies-and-bylaws/plans/fees-and-charges)



# Impounded dogs

There were 770 dogs impounded during this time. Of those, 214 were returned to their owner, 372 dogs were humanely euthanised, 186 dogs were rehomed and 3 were waiting for new homes in our adoption programme. There is one dog being held, pending prosecution.

Dogs that are not claimed by their owner (and have not been involved in a serious offence) are temperament tested with people and other dogs. Those that pass go into our adoption programme, through Waikato Pound Pups.

Of the 186 dogs that were rehomed, 160 were adopted directly to members of the public and 22 were transferred to other agencies for rehoming. As of 30 June 2024, we had 4 dogs still in the Pound waiting to be adopted.

We work closely with other animal rescue groups and charity organisations to try to find loving homes for as many dogs as possible. We work hard to match the right dogs to the right people.

## **Trends we are seeing:**

- **High numbers of dogs failing temperament test**  
Of the 770 surrendered dogs, there were significant numbers that did not pass the temperament test, as well as high numbers of unwanted puppies being born in our district.
- **Disease and illness**  
Unfortunately, many of the dogs that came into the Pound were not vaccinated for Parvo. They were often wandering on the street before entering the Pound, which significantly increases the risk of a parvo outbreak in our Pound facilities. Sadly, this has meant we have had to humanely euthanise many puppies due to the severity of this disease.
- **Rescue organisations overwhelmed with unwanted dogs**  
Sadly, we continue to see many animal rescue organisations overwhelmed with numbers of unwanted dogs. With the help of Hills Pet Nutrition sponsorship, we were able to help some groups with dog food donations.



# Desexing

In 2023/24 128 dogs were desexed, an increase of 46 on the previous year. The PUP Scheme continues to have a positive impact in our community. From every dog registration, \$1 goes to the desexing fund. Funds from the Dirty Dog event are also used to offer desexing at a cheaper rate. This means more dogs in our community can be desexed.

The number of dogs we were asked to collect (surrendered) has decreased this year, which we believe is due, in part, to the success of our Preventing Unwanted Puppies (PUP) scheme.

# Our events

We hold several events throughout the year for people to attend. These events are an opportunity for our Animal Control Officers to engage with dog owners and to promote responsible dog ownership.

## Dirty Dog 2023

The Dirty Dog event was held in July 2023. The event is run in conjunction with Hamilton City Council and attracts participants from around the North island. All proceeds from the event go to Waikato Pound Pups and Hamilton Adopt a Dog's desexing programmes. This means we can offer desexing at cheaper rates. This event raised \$21,275.15.





## Pound Pups Pink Walk

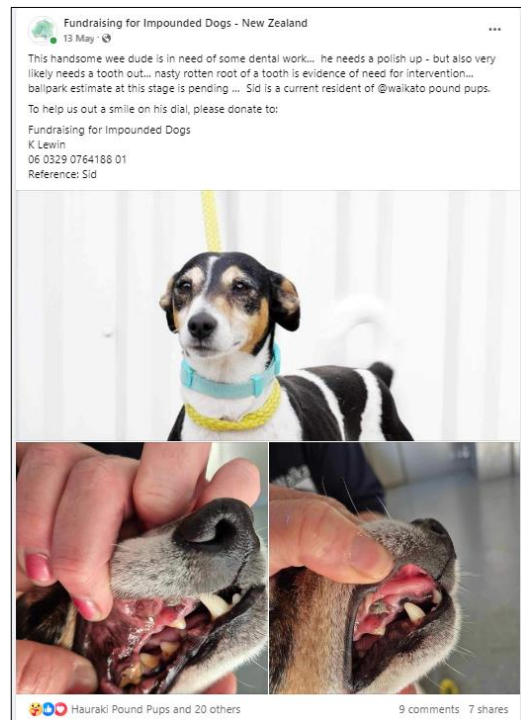
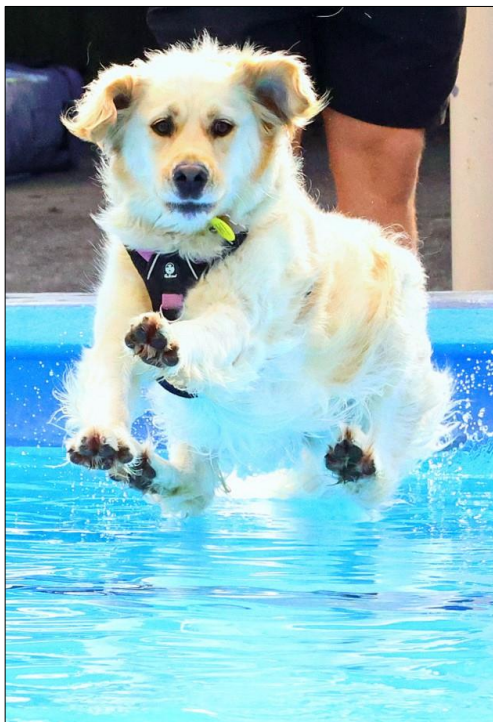
This year we held a Pink Walk around Lake Kainui and a Pink Park Playdate in Pookeno, with dogs and families coming dressed in pink. We raised \$629.60 which was donated to the Breast Cancer Foundation New Zealand.



## Pound Pups Pool Parties

We held two Pool Party events in April 2024 – one in Ngaaruawaahia and one in Tuakau. These events are held after our pools have been closed to the public. More than 200 dogs attended these events and \$3,211 was raised for charities that had supported us throughout the year.

Country Retreat Animal Sanctuary helped us rehome a number of Pound dogs, and Fundraising for Impounded Dogs supported us by covering the surgery costs for some Pound Pups that needed a bit of extra 'TLC'. The popularity of this event continues to grow every year.



*"Big THANK YOU to Waikato Pound Pups and Waikato District Council for a great morning. Frankie didn't do a lot of swimming, but she did a couple of widths and one unintentional dunk and had a blast. We will be back next year!"*

*Sara.*



# Huntly Art in the Park

The Animal Control Team were invited by Creative Huntly to attend the Huntly Art in the Park event.

We handed out dog food, thanks to Hill's Pet Nutrition, as well as almost 50 PUP Desexing vouchers. We took three Pound dogs with us – one was immediately adopted by a family who fell in love when they saw him at the event.



**Waikato Pound Pups**  
Published by Zoey Ashby-Jackson  
10 March

We had an amazing day at the Huntly Art in the park 2024 Event! Thank you for inviting us to attend!  
🐶❤️ Ziggy, Flint and Rockie had an amazing time lapping up all the love and attention from the community and wee Rockie was adopted by the most incredible family who have previously adopted from us! We love getting involved in community events to spread the good work the Animal Control Team do!  
We handed out just under 50 desex vouchers and bags of dog food and met lots of fun children who colored in a dog face mask! Thank you to the organizers of the event it was an incredible day! 🌟🐾💙🐾

👍❤️ 50  
5 comments

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# Summary

It has been another challenging year for the Animal Control Team due to limited staff numbers and changes in the team. The team have continued to be proactive during this time, despite an increase in workload. Recent recruitment has seen an increase in staff numbers and the team is looking forward to moving ahead in the new year.

We continue to prioritise work that may lead to public safety issues and attend jobs such as current stock wandering and dog attacks within one hour. We feel we are adding value to the safety of our community and continue to build positive relationships.



# The numbers

REQUESTS FOR SERVICE	
Dog Nuisance	473
Stray/Trespass	1,574
Property Visit (owner classifications/unregistered etc)	313
Dog Welfare	114
Trap Required	15
Dogs to collect (surrendered)	114
Dog Attack	418
Other (includes Animal charges for impounded dogs, missing dog reports etc)	721
Subsidised Dog Desexing Project – PUP	128
<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS</b>	<b>3,920</b>

REGISTRATION	
Total number of known dogs	16,079
Total number of registered dogs	12,550
Percentage of registered dogs	78.05%

PROSECUTIONS	
Number of prosecutions initiated	2
Number of prosecutions completed	2



<b>IMPOUNDED DOGS</b>	
Total number of impounded dogs	770
Impounded dogs returned to owner	214
Impounded dogs euthanised	372
Impounded dogs rehomed	184
Held pending prosecution	1

<b>CLASSIFICATIONS</b>	
Total Number of Probationary Owners	0
Total Number of Disqualified Owners	2
Total Number or dogs classified as Dangerous	25
Dangerous by Owner Conviction Under S31(1)(a)	0
Dangerous by Sworn Evidence S31(1)(b)	19
Dangerous by Owner Admittance in Writing S31(1) (c)	6
Total Number of Dogs Classified as Menacing	172
Menacing under S33A(1)(b)(i) by Behaviour	88
Menacing under S33A(1)(b)(ii) by Breed Characteristics	3
Menacing under S33C(1) by Schedule 4 Breed	78

<b>INFRINGEMENTS ISSUED</b>		
<b>SECTION</b>	<b>NUMBER</b>	<b>OFFENCE</b>
<b>18</b>	Wilful obstruction of dog control officer or ranger	0
<b>19(2)</b>	Failure or refusal to supply information or wilfully providing false particulars	0
<b>19A(2)</b>	Failure to supply information or wilfully providing false particulars	0
<b>20(5)</b>	Failure to comply with any bylaw authorised by the section	16
<b>23A(2)</b>	Failure to undertake dog owner education programme or dog obedience course (or both)	0
<b>24</b>	Failure to comply with obligations of probationary owner	0
<b>28(5)</b>	Failure to comply with the effects of disqualification	0
<b>32(2)</b>	Failure to comply with the effects of classification of dog as dangerous dog	1
<b>32(4)</b>	Fraudulent sale or transfer of dangerous dog	0
<b>33EC(1)</b>	Failure to comply with effects of classification of dog as menacing dog	0
<b>33F(3)</b>	Failure to advise person of muzzle and leashing requirement	0
<b>36A(6)</b>	Failure to implant microchip transponder in dog	0
<b>41</b>	False statement in relation to dog registration	0
<b>41A</b>	Falsely notifying death of dog	0
<b>42</b>	Failure to register dog	43
<b>46(4)</b>	Fraudulent procurement or attempt to procure replacement dog registration label or disc	0
<b>48(3)</b>	Failure to advise change of ownership	0
<b>49(4)</b>	Failure to advise change of address	1
<b>51(1)</b>	Removal, swapping, or counterfeiting of registration label or disc	0
<b>52A</b>	Failure to keep dog controlled or confined	79



<b>53(1)</b>	Failure to keep dog under control	19
<b>54(2)</b>	Failure to provide proper care and attention, to supply proper and sufficient food, and to provide adequate exercise	1
<b>54A</b>	Failure to carry a leash in public	0
<b>55(7)</b>	Failure to comply with barking dog abatement notice	0
<b>62(4)</b>	Allowing dog known to be dangerous to be at large unmuzzled or unleashed	0
<b>62(5)</b>	Failure to advise of muzzle and leashing requirements	0
<b>72(2)</b>	Releasing dog from custody	0
<b>Total Number of Infringements</b>		<b>159</b>

