

From: [BDC Lgoima](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Official information request for Dog Control Activity Ref: OIA149/24
Date: Thursday, 19 December 2024 3:35:46 pm
Attachments: [Dog Control.xlsx](#)
[07 2023-2024 Animal Control 10a Report Reviewed \(1\).pdf](#)
[2022-2023 Animal Control 10a Report draft \(002\).pdf](#)
[07.1 Attachment 1 - Annual Statistical Information.pdf](#)

Dear [REDACTED]

We refer to your official information request dated 21 November 2024 for documents related to Council dog control activity.

Please find our answers in red below and as attached.

1. A copy of, and the date and place of publication of the notice for the:

- a. Dog control and poundage fees for financial years 2023-24 & 2024-25.
- b. Dog Control Policy and Practises Report for the financial years 2022-23 & 2023-24.

Please find attached 2022/2023 and 2023/2024 reports.

2. In relation to the dog registration process:

- a. The application form and all other information or documents provided to a person seeking to apply to register a dog for or during registration years 2023-24 & 2024-25. All documents requested can be found at the following council website address:

<https://bullerdc.govt.nz/dogs-and-animal-control/>

- b. All documents and information provided to a person from whom an application to register a dog has been received for or during registration years 2023-24 & 2024-25. All documents requested can be found at the following council website address:

<https://bullerdc.govt.nz/dogs-and-animal-control/>

3. Links to the Council documents dealing with:

- a. Setting dog registration and poundage fees and charges for registration years 2023-24 & 2024-25, and a link to where those fees and charges are located on the Council website. <https://bullerdc.govt.nz/your-council/fees-and-charges/>

- b. The Dog Control Policy and Practises Report for the financial years 2022-23 & 2023-24, and a link to where those reports are located on the Council website. <https://bullerdc.govt.nz/media/tsmeesij/2022-23-annual-report-dog-control-policy-and-practice.pdf>

4. The financial statements for the “dog account” or dog control activity for the financial years 2022-23 & 2023-24, including details of operating expenses, and income from infringement fees and fines. Please see attached spreadsheet – Dog Control.

5. If the dog control activity, or any part, has not been performed by the Buller District Council during the last five calendar years, for example because it has been *contracted out*, performed pursuant to a *Memorandum of Understanding* or some other arrangement: **The Dog Control activities have not been outsourced**

- a. The name of the party performing the work, the nature of the work being performed, and the period the work was performed by them.
- b. The documentation relating to that arrangement, preferably by linking to the documents on the Council website.
- c. The most recent copy of the *section 17A Report* and related documents reviewing

the arrangement, or the documents dealing with the determination no such review was required.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact the Buller District Council by return email to lgoima@bdc.govt.nz.

Please note that it is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests where possible. Our response to your request may be published at <https://bullerdc.govt.nz/district-council/your-council/request-for-official-information/responses-to-lgoima-requests/> with your personal information removed.

Kind regards,

Simon Bastion | Group Manager Regulatory Services
Mobile 027 375 7508 | Email Simon.Bastion@bdc.govt.nz

Buller District Council | Phone 0800 807 239 | bullerdc.govt.nz
PO Box 21 | Westport 7866

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Westport office closed 12 pm Tuesday 24 December 2024, reopening 8:30 am Monday 6 January 2025.

Reefton Visitor & Service Centre closes 12 pm Tuesday 24 December 2024, reopening normal hours 9 am Monday 6 January 2025.
Reduced hours and limited services available between these dates.

To notify urgent noise or animal complaints during this time, please call 0800 807 239.

Council wishes Buller residents a happy and safe festive season

BULLER DISTRICT COUNCIL

13th December 2023

AGENDA ITEM

Prepared by Tracy Judd
Senior Animal Management Officer

Reviewed by Sean Judd
Group Manager Regulatory Services

ADOPTION OF REPORT UNDER SECTION 10A OF THE DOG CONTROL ACT 1996

1. REPORT PURPOSE

The report is an overview of Animal Management practices and statistical information pursuant to s10A of the Dog Control Act 1996 relating to the 2022 / 2023 financial year. This report is required to be adopted by Council and publicly notified before a copy is sent to the Secretary for Local Government.

2. REPORT SUMMARY

Section 10A of the Act requires Council to report on the administration of its Dog Control Policy and practices each financial year. It also specifies certain information that must be included in the report.

- The statistical information is attached as Annex A
- The information document that outlines what your registration pays for is attached as Annex B
- The full text relating to section 10A of the Act is included in the Report for reference as Annex C.
- Council's Dog Control Policy is attached as Annex D

3. DRAFT RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopts the Buller District Council Annual Report on Dog Control Policy and Practices for the 2022/2023 financial year.

4. BACKGROUND - Practices s10A(1)(b)

The *Dog Control Policy* and the supporting Bylaw are enforcement tools for ensuring that the legislation is complied with. Day to day dog control is enforced in accordance with the graduated response model and only in the event of continued non-compliance or sufficiently serious matters are infringement notices or prosecution options pursued.

The majority of the district's dog owners are responsible and compliant. Animal Control Officers have focused on educating the non-compliant owners and while this is more time consuming, we generally achieve a positive result.

An outline of the dog control activities undertaken by Animal Control Officers, entitled "*What Your [Dog] Registration Pays For*" is attached as Annex B. This document is used as an educational tool for dog owners.

4.1 Public Education and Information

Current activities include recognition for dog owners displaying positive behaviour and provision of information about responsible dog ownership. We continue to offer education visits to schools and local organisations.

Animal Management continue to work with DAWGS who are a non-profit organisation operating in the Buller District. They are financed via local fundraising initiatives and have assisted by covering the cost to spay or neuter impounded dogs so that they may be suitable for rehoming.

We continue to have success using social media as a communication platform for consistent messaging. Our communication includes dogs available for adoption, advising owners of registration dates and our dog socialisation group. We have huge success in matching lost dogs with their owners through our Animal Management Facebook page. One negative aspect with the increased use of social media are the negative and often ill-informed comments from some individuals in the community. This has seen staff personally singled out and criticised and the impact to the staff involved is significant.

Animal Control continues to run a Dog Socialisation Group that meets several times each week at the Westport Domain (mostly over summer months). The group is designed to get dogs socialised and owners educated in dog behaviours and relevant law. This has turned out to be very popular and has received positive feedback from participants. We offer a free microchipping service to owners who attend this group. Last year we introduced a working dog rate for dogs used primarily or exclusively for stock work. This has received positive feedback from the rural sector.

The Animal Management Team are currently investigating possibilities and options for a dog park in Westport. The identification of a suitable site is proving difficult and consideration must also be given to the placement of the proposed floodwall.

Animal Management will be holding another Mutt dog show in 2024, as part of the annual A & P show. This event is always very popular and positive. Classes such as the obstacle course always attract a big crowd.

5. OPTIONS

Not Applicable

6. CONSIDERATIONS

6.1 Strategic Alignment

Council is committed to providing a professional service in relation to its obligations under the Dog Control Act 1996

6.2 Significance Assessment

This is of low significance in accordance with our policy.

6.3 Tangata Whenua Considerations

No specific considerations have been identified.

6.4 Risk Management Implications

If Council does not adopt a report on its Dog Control Policy and practices for the 2022/2023 financial year, it will not meet the requirements of section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996.

6.5 Policy Framework Implications

The Report can be used to measure the effectiveness of Council's Dog Control Policy and practices, and to inform their review.

6.6 Legal Implications

Once adopted, the Act requires Council to give public notice of the Report and send a copy of it to the Secretary for Local Government within one month of its adoption.

6.7 Financial / Budget Implications

Not significant

6.8 Consultation Considerations

Nil consultation considerations identified.

STATISTICAL INFORMATION - Attached as Annex A is the statistical information required to be reported on under section 10A (2) of the Act.

Buller District Council Annual Report on Dog Control Policy and Practices

Dog Control Annual Statistics (DCAS) Registration statistics		
Registration - s10A(2)9(a)-(d)	Year	
	2021/22	2022/23
Number of registered dogs	2,020	2,210
Number of probationary owners	0	0
Number of disqualified owners	0	0
Number of dogs classified dangerous under Section 31 1B due to sworn evidence	1	3
Number of dogs classified as menacing under Section 33C (by breed)	0	4
Number of dogs classified as menacing under Section 33A 1 (b) (I) (by threat)	0	3

Number of infringement notices issued for - S10A (2)(e):	Year	
	2021/22	2022/23
Failing to register a dog	0	4
Failure to comply with menacing classification	0	0
Failure to comply with dangerous classification	0	1
Failure to keep dog under control	0	8
Failure to comply with Bylaw	0	0
Falsely notifying death of dog	0	0
Total Infringement Notices -	0	13

Number of dog related complaints - s10A(f)(g)	Year	
	2021/22	2022/23
Barking complaints	56	60
Wandering dogs/impounded	145/25	88/19
Dog/s aggressive behaviour including rushing	20	26
Dog/s attack	25	28
Miscellaneous (including lost, found, neglected, information related enquiries, & defecating dogs)	247	228
Prosecutions	0	1
Total Dog Related Complaints	488	430

ANNEX B

WHAT YOUR REGISTRATION PAYS FOR:

Response to Complaints

- Barking
- Wandering
- Attacks on people
- Attacks on stock
- Animal welfare concerns

Impounding Service

- Maintenance of Pound facilities Westport
- Portable traps and cages
- Extensive Re-Homing of dogs
- Destruction of unwanted dogs
- Catching equipment and safety equipment

Enforcement Activity

- Property inspections
- House to house registration checks
- Issuing permits
- Court costs
- Dangerous/Menacing dog classification and follow ups
- Issue and processing of infringement fines

Annual Costs

- Two officers covering Westport, Karamea, Reefton, Punakaiki & Springs Junction
- Registration tags/forms/postage
- Pamphlets– forms, advertising
- Vehicle maintenance, replacement, mileage
- Maintenance of National Dog Database

Associated Costs

- Maintenance of dog register
- Office space, computer system
- Phones and on call numbers
- Maintenance of signs
- Secretarial work
- Ranger education
- Public information

DOGS NEED TO BE REGISTERED BEFORE 12 WEEKS OF AGE

ANNEX C – EXTRACT FROM DOG CONTROL ACT 1996

Section 10A Territorial Authorities must report on dog control policy and Practices

[10A Territorial authority must report on dog control policy and practices

- (1) A territorial authority must, in respect of each financial year, report on the administration of—
 - (a) its dog control policy adopted under section [10](#); and
 - (b) its dog control practices.
- (2) The report must include, in respect of each financial year, information relating to—
 - (a) the number of registered dogs in the territorial authority district:
 - (b) the number of probationary owners and disqualified owners in the territorial authority district:
 - (c) the number of dogs in the territorial authority district classified as dangerous under section [31](#) and the relevant provision under which the classification is made:
 - (d) the number of dogs in the territorial authority district classified as menacing under section [33A](#) or section [33C](#) and the relevant provision under which the classification is made:
 - (e) the number of infringement notices issued by the territorial authority:
 - (f) the number of dog related complaints received by the territorial authority in the previous year and the nature of those complaints:
 - (g) the number of prosecutions taken by the territorial authority under this Act.
- [[(3) The territorial authority must—
 - (a) give public notice, as defined in section [5\(1\)](#) of the Local Government Act 2002, of the report; and
 - (b) make the report publicly available, as described in section [5\(3\)](#) of that Act.]]

ANNEX D – POLICY s10A(1)(a)

Council has a *Dog Control Policy* adopted under section 10 of the Act.

This Policy was originally adopted in 1997 and was reviewed and reaffirmed in August 2004. Provisions relating to enforcement procedures and neutering of classified menacing dogs were added to the Policy in 2006. In 2010 all of Council's policies relating to dog control were combined into one document under the title *Dog Control Policy*. This incorporated the *Spay/Neuter Reduction and Unclaimed Dogs Destruction Fee Policy* into the *Dog Control Policy*.

The Policy identifies dog control areas and places restrictions and requirements on dog owners regarding:

- Prohibited dog areas
- Leash control areas
- Dog exercise areas
- Conservation prohibited areas
- Menacing dogs

The Policy also contains provisions relating to the issue of infringement notices, delegations and procedures for the return of roaming dogs.

Section 10 of the Act also requires territorial authorities to give effect to their policies on dogs by "*making the necessary bylaws*".

Council has made the *Control of Dogs Bylaw*, which has been adopted from *NZS 9201 Part 12:1999* (the Model General Bylaw produced by Standards New Zealand), with local amendments based on the Policy.

The Bylaw was reviewed and reaffirmed, under section 158 of the Local Government Act 2002, on 10 June 2008. It is currently due for review, pursuant to section 159 of the Local Government Act 2002.

BULLER DISTRICT COUNCIL

18 DECEMBER 2024

AGENDA ITEM: 7

Prepared by Tracy Judd
Compliance Manager

Reviewed by Simon Bastion
Group Manager Regulatory Services

Attachments

1. Annual Statistical Information
2. What Your Registration Pays For
3. Extract From Dog Control Act 1996
4. Policy s10a(1)(a)

Public Excluded: No

ADOPTION OF REPORT UNDER SECTION 10A OF THE DOG CONTROL ACT 1996

1. **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The report is an overview of Animal Management practices and statistical information pursuant to s10A of the Dog Control Act 1996 relating to the 2023 / 2024 financial year. This report is required to be adopted by Council and publicly notified before a copy is sent to the Secretary for Local Government.

2. Section 10A of the Act requires Council to report on the administration of its Dog Control Policy and practices each financial year. It also specifies certain information that must be included in the report.

3. **DRAFT RECOMMENDATION**

1. **That Council adopts the Buller District Council Annual Report on Dog Control Policy and Practices for the 2023/2024 financial year.**

2. **That the Secretary for Local Government is advised that it has been published in accordance with Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996, and Section 5(1) of the Local Government Act 2002.**

4. **ISSUES & DISCUSSION**

5. **BACKGROUND**

The *Dog Control Policy* and the supporting Bylaw are enforcement tools for ensuring that the legislation is complied with. Day to day dog control is enforced in accordance with the graduated response model and only in the event of continued non-compliance or sufficiently serious matters are infringement notices or prosecution options pursued.

6. The majority of the known dog owners within the district are responsible and compliant. Animal Control Officers have focused on educating the non-compliant owners and while this is more time consuming, we generally achieve a positive result.

7. An outline of the dog control activities undertaken by Animal Control Officers, entitled "*What Your [Dog] Registration Pays For*" is attached as Annex B. This document is used as an educational tool for dog owners.

8. Current activities include recognition for dog owners displaying positive behaviour and provision of information about responsible dog ownership.

9. Animal Management continue to work with DAWGS who are a non-profit organisation operating in the Buller District. They are financed via local fundraising initiatives and have assisted by covering the cost to spay or neuter impounded dogs so that they may be suitable for rehoming.

10. Social media remains an effective communication platform for delivering consistent messaging. Our posts highlight dogs available for adoption, registration date reminders etc. Notably social media has reunited lost dogs with owners.

11. Animal Management will be holding another Mutt dog show in 2025, as part of the annual A & P show. This event is always immensely popular and positive. Classes such as the obstacle course always attract a big crowd.

12. **OPTIONS**

There is a legislative requirement for Council to adopt an Annual Report on Dog Control Policy and Practices and make the report publicly available in the same year. This report is submitted for adoption in accordance with those legislative requirements

13. **Advantages**
Council meets its obligations of the Act by adopting the Annual Report on Dog Control Policy and Practices thus maintaining legislative requirements.
14. **Disadvantages**
Failure to adopt the report would mean council breaches the ACT.
15. **PREFERRED OPTION**
Adopt the report as per the recommendations.
16. **NEXT STEPS**
The Secretary for Local Government is advised that it has been published in accordance with Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996, and Section 5(1) of the Local Government Act 2002.
17. **CONSIDERATIONS**
18. **Strategic Impact**
The adoption of the attached Annual Report is an administrative function required of Council under the Dog Control Act 1996 and is therefore of low significance in accordance with Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.
19. **Significance Assessment**
Section 76AA of the Local Government Act requires the Council to adopt a policy on significance and engagement. The Council Policy on significance can be found by clicking the following link:
20. <https://bullerdc.govt.nz/media/f2ofzb4z/buller-district-council-significance-and-engagement-policy-2021-2031-ltp.pdf>
21. As this item does not trigger Council's Significance and Engagement Policy, public consultation is not required. It is a legislative requirement under the Dog Control Act 1996, that following adoption, must be notified and made publicly available online
22. **Risk Management Implications / Opportunities**
The following risks or opportunities are identified with the issues identified in this report:
23. If Council does not adopt a report on its Dog Control Policy and practices for the 2023/2024 financial year, it will not meet the requirements of section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996.
24. **Engagement - external**
No external engagement has been conducted.

25. **Engagement – internal**
The Senior Leadership Team has reviewed the report and approved the release to council for consideration
26. **Policy & Legislative Considerations**
The Report can be used to measure the effectiveness of Council’s Dog Control Policy and practices, and to inform their review.
27. Once adopted, the Act requires Council to give public notice of the Report and send a copy of it to the Secretary for Local Government within one month of its adoption
28. **Māori Impact Statement**
The decision does not involve a significant decision in relation to ancestral land or a body of water or other elements of intrinsic value, therefore this decision does not specifically impact Tangata Whenua, their culture and traditions.
29. **Financial Considerations**
There is no financial implication relevant to this decision
30. **Communication Internal / External**
As this item does not trigger Council’s Significance and Engagement Policy, public consultation is not required. It is a legislative requirement under the Dog Control Act 1996, that following adoption, must be notified and made publicly available online.

ANNUAL STATISTICAL INFORMATION - Attached is the statistical information required to be reported on under section 10A (2) of the Act.

Buller District Council Annual Report on Dog Control Policy and Practices

Dog Control Annual Statistics (DCAS) Registration statistics		
Registration - s10A(2)9(a)-(d)	Year	
	2022/23	2023/24
Number of registered dogs	2,210	2,245
Number of probationary owners	0	0
Number of disqualified owners	0	0
Number of dogs classified dangerous under Section 31 1B due to sworn evidence	3	2
Number of dogs classified as menacing under Section 33C (by breed)	0	0
Number of dogs classified as menacing under Section 33A 1 (b) (l) (by threat)	3	3

Number of infringement notices issued for - S10A (2)(e):	Year	
	2022/23	2023/24
Failing to register a dog	4	8
Failure to comply with menacing classification	0	1
Failure to comply with dangerous classification	0	0
Failure to keep dog under control	8	11
Failure to comply with Bylaw	0	0
Falsely notifying death of dog	0	0
Total Infringement Notices -	12	20

Number of dog related complaints - s10A(f)(g)	Year	
	2022/23	2023/24
Barking complaints	60	57
Wandering dogs/impounded	88/19	99/34
Dog/s aggressive behaviour including rushing	26	49
Dog/s attack	28	26
Miscellaneous (including lost, found, neglected, information related enquiries, & defecating dogs)	228	184
Prosecutions	1	0
Total Dog Related Complaints	430	415

Buller District Council
Dog Control
Account Details
For Period 2022/23 & 2023/24

Account	2022/23 Full Year Actuals	2023/24 Full Year Actuals
Grand Total	120,671	28,776
Revenue	(155,376)	(162,281)
Fees & Charges	(152,724)	(157,772)
Dog Registration Fees	(142,576)	(146,252)
33070616. Fees - Pound	(9,154)	(10,267)
Replacement Registration Tags	(65)	(48)
Miscellaneous	(928)	(1,205)
Other Income	(2,652)	(4,509)
Expenses	276,047	191,057
Depreciation & Amortisation	10,149	0
Employment Costs	180,960	81,785
Finance Costs	1,485	1,487
Other Expenses	83,453	107,786