



**GREAT LAKE TAUPŌ**  
Taupō District Council

**Taupō District Council**  
**Annual Dog Control**  
**Report 2019/20**  
**Dog Control Act 1996 Section 10A**

This report has been prepared by:

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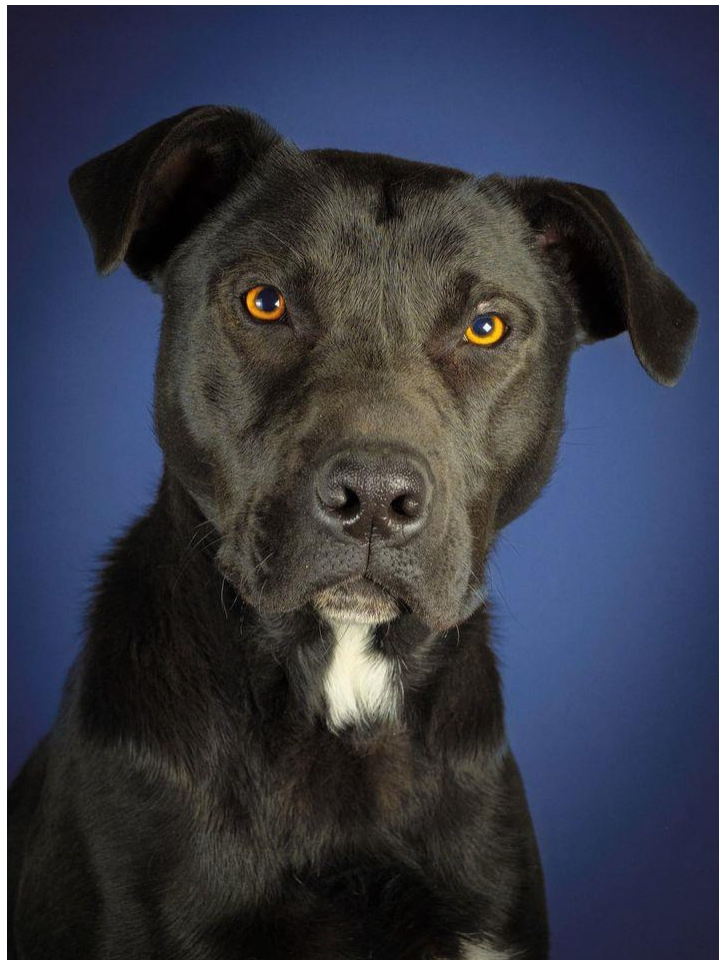


## 1. Introduction

In accordance with section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996 (the Act), territorial authorities are required to report each financial year on the administration of their dog control policy and dog control practices.

The report must include information relating to:

- The number of registered dogs in the territorial authority district;
- The number of probationary owners and disqualified owners in the territorial authority district;
- 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;
- 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;
- The number of infringement notices issued by the territorial authority;
- The number of dog related complaints received by the territorial authority in the previous year and the nature of those complaints; and
- The number of prosecutions taken by the territorial authority under the Act.



## 2. Section 10A(1)(a) Dog Control Policy

Taupō District Council adopted a policy dated 23 September 2013. The objectives of this Policy are:

- To ensure the protection of public health and safety in areas used by the general public as well as dog owners and their dogs.
- To provide for exercise and recreational needs of dogs and their owners.
- To minimise the fear of dogs attacking or intimidating people.
- To avoid danger from uncontrolled dogs entering children's play areas.
- To minimise danger, distress and nuisance caused by dogs.
- To have all dogs registered and micro-chipped.

The principles of the Policy are:

- Taupō District Council places a high priority on ensuring that dogs are registered.
- Taupō District Council recognises that the large majority of dog owners are very responsible and, as a result, the interaction between dogs and the public is generally positive.
- Dogs need the ability to exercise unrestrained and within a social setting. There are designated dog exercise areas throughout the District. Dog owners are encouraged to act responsibly, evaluate the circumstances and then to take all reasonable steps to ensure that their dogs do not cause a nuisance, in these areas.
- Taupō District Council believes that conflicts can be resolved and managed in a way that protects the public, manages the pet population, prevents cruelty to animals and balances the interests of many people in the community.

Legislation and bylaws also affect the Policy and how it relates to the control of dogs and the obligations of the Taupō District Council.

During the reporting period, the Compliance Team has continued its commitment to the Policy. Some of the ways the Team has achieved this are:

- Ensuring our procedures for the care of dogs is regularly monitored. This year we have focussed on the way the facility is cleaned and maintained to ensure that the appropriate precautions are taken to mitigate the introduction of illness and diseases such as Parvovirus etc. Compliance has been achieved by assisting and educating dog owners rather than by infringements alone.
- Continual improvement of our investigation practices to ensure that the response from Council is fair, measured and in the best interest of the community.
- Patrols of the district's reserves and open spaces.
- Registration for the year was in excess of 99 percent of known dogs in the district – this is a great result achieved through proactive actions such as contact with our owners, education, patrols and compliance action prior to and post the month registration is due.



### 3. Section 10A(1)(b) Summary of Practices

The Animal Control functions of the Dog Control Act 1996 are managed by our Compliance Team. This is made up of:

- A Team Leader;
- A Senior Compliance Officer;
- 4 x Compliance Officers;
- A Pound Keeper Compliance Officer; and
- A Part time Pound Assistant

The Council Animal Control facility is located at 131 Centennial Drive Taupō along with the Pound/ Animal Shelter. There is also a small Pound/ Animal Shelter located at Turangi, this is not open to the public and houses dogs on a temporary basis only.

This Taupō facility is operated by Council staff and acts as a welfare centre for day to day care of animals as well as being available for companion animals during a major event such as a natural disaster. It has kennelling for 42 dogs, an exercise yard and three amnesty drop cages.

The Council Animal Control facility is co-located next to the Taupō SPCA which we work closely with when dealing with animal welfare issues and rehoming of dogs. Rehoming is also undertaken with other animal rescue centres, pet shops and through our own dedicated Facebook page.

Registration services are available at the Animal Control facility as well as low cost micro-chipping, discounted leads and collars.

Compliance Officers aim to build great relationships with our community and promote the benefits of compliance which we enforce with reason and compassion, taking into account individual circumstance where appropriate. This creates a better place to be for our community, and Compliance Officers get an opportunity to interact with the public and hand out education cards that provide information about dogs and the Taupō district.

During this report period the Compliance Team also dealt with the challenges presented by the Covid-19 Pandemic and various levels of lockdown. We continued to run our 'Take the Lead' Campaign which ran over the last summer period. This involved Compliance Officers targeting those owners that had their dog off lead in areas where a lead is required and if they were not carrying a lead a free lead, were gifted one alongside the opportunity to chat and inform them of their responsibilities. This has again been a positive experience with our community responding to the message.

Our Compliance Officers regularly patrol Taupō district's reserves and open spaces to achieve greater compliance and interact with dog owners in a positive way. The patrols increase over our District's busy summer and holiday periods which assist Council to achieve its aim of balancing the needs of dogs and their owners, while minimising any potential issues to the community and environment.

The Taupō District Council, in association with Department of Internal Affairs (DIA), continues to promote free neutering (de-sexing) for menacing dogs. There is also a discount for microchipping and registering menacing dogs that have not been previously registered.

Dog education is provided by the Compliance Team and continues to grow its audience. The Dog Smart Programme is presented mainly to primary school and preschool age children and community groups. Community events are also attended to promote dog rehoming and safe handling around dogs.

#### 4. Section 10A(2)(a-g)

<b>Dog Control Act 1996 Section 10A Report - End of Financial Year 2019/20</b>		
<b>10A(2)(a)</b>	The number of registered dogs	7,367
	The number of owners	4,983
<b>10A(2)(b)</b>	The number of probationary owners	3
	The number of disqualified owners	9
<b>10A(2)(c)</b>	<b>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:</b>	26
	Section 31(1)(a) Conviction under Section 57A(2)	0
	Section 31(1)(b) Sworn Evidence	20
	Section 31(1)(c) Owner admission	6
<b>10A(2)(d)</b>	<b>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:</b>	133
	Section 33A	84
	Section 33C	49
<b>10A(2)(e)</b>	<b>The number of infringement notices issued by the territorial authority:</b>	1181
<b>10A(2)(f)</b>	<b>The number of dog related complaints received by the territorial authority in the previous year and the nature of those complaints:</b>	
	Animal Care/Welfare	24
	Dogs/Animal Management and After Hours	102
	Attack	83
	Barking	324
	Lost/Found	334
	Pound/Impounding	555
	Registration checks	535
	Roaming/Fouling	447
	Rushing/Aggression	79
<b>10A(2)(g)</b>	<b>The number of prosecutions taken by the territorial authority under this Act.</b>	0

# ANNEX A

## Dog Control Act 1996 Section 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 give public notice of the report—

- (a) by means of a notice published in—
  - (i) 1 or more daily newspapers circulating in the territorial authority district; or
  - (ii) 1 or more other newspapers that have at least an equivalent circulation in that district to the daily newspapers circulating in that district; and
- (b) by any means that the territorial authority thinks desirable in the circumstances.

**(4)** The territorial authority must also, within 1 month after adopting the report, send a copy of it to the Secretary for Local Government.

**Please contact the Taupō District Council Compliance Team if you have any questions regarding this report.**