



Thames-Coromandel District Council

Annual Dog Control Report 2021/22

Section 10A report in accordance with the Dog Control Act 1996

1. Requirement to report

Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996 (the Act) requires every territorial authority to report each financial year on the administration of its dog control policy and its dog control practices. This report is required to be submitted annually to the Secretary for Local Government.

2. Dog control policy

The Thames-Coromandel District Council Dog Control Policy sets out the Council's approach to supporting responsible dog ownership and dealing with the effects of irresponsible dog ownership so as to ensure wider public safety.

Policy objectives are to:

- Enable people to enjoy the benefits of dog ownership and provide for the exercise and recreational needs of dogs and their owners.
- Encourage and support responsible dog ownership.
- Minimise potential danger, distress and nuisance to the community generally and native wildlife.
- Enable, to the extent that it is practicable, the public to use streets and public amenities without fear of attack or intimidation by dogs.

3. Summary of dog control practices

The animal control functions of the Act are managed by Council's Compliance Team consisting of a manager, team leader, six compliance officers and two part time pound keepers. There is always an officer on call and staff are rostered on over weekends.

We have a proactive communication approach to remind all registered dog owners of the need to re-register their dogs annually. This includes messaging via the Council website, social media, and letters to all dog owners.

This year we also had dog registration reminder messaging, "RED-gisterd yet?", on the side of our bylaw's vehicles.

On-line payments and PDF fillable forms make it easier for dog owners to renew their registration.

We provide brochures and leaflets to support understanding of our dog rules and about responsible dog ownership.

We continue to engage with dog owners who we see exercising their dogs in public places and often provide leads to people. This is part of the continued “Lead the Way” campaign which assists with the promotion of responsible dog control with ‘TCDC’ branded leads on display throughout the district. Before the busy summer season this year we ran a communications plan for “Lead the Way” which also promoted the changes to the dog rules over summer.



We proactively patrol and monitor for dog control issues across the district particularly in public places such as beaches, town centres, children's playgrounds and sports areas. These patrols increase over the summer period.

Response is provided quickly to all complaints (requests for service) about dog control issues including reports about concerns for welfare, roaming dogs, excessive barking, dogs rushing and dog attacks on people and animals. Priority response is provided where there is immediate danger to people and animals.

We actively use all powers available to ensure all dogs classified as menacing and dangerous are neutered and muzzles are worn when these dogs are in a public place. We make annual property inspections to ensure every owner of a dog classified as menacing or dangerous is compliant with requirements of the Act. We also continue to offer a competitively priced microchipping service.

We encourage the re-homing of all dogs that pass temperament testing. This includes advertising dogs available for re-homing on the TCDC website, social media pages and working closely with adoption agencies. Our proactivity in this area is reflected in the low numbers of euthanasia and high numbers of adoption.

We use qualified vets to ensure all dogs that are to be euthanised, due to their inability to be re-homed because of assessed risk to the community, are done so in a humane manner.

4. Dog control statistics required under section 10A(2) of the Act

(2)(a) Registered dogs

There were 5057 registered dogs in the district.

(2)(b) Disqualified and probationary dog owners

There was one disqualified owner and no probationary owners in the district.

(2)(c) Dangerous dogs

There were five dogs classified as dangerous (under s31 of the Act).

(2)(d) Menacing Dogs

There were seven dogs classified as menacing under s33A and s33C of the Act.

(2)(e) Infringements issued

We issued 85 infringement notices over the year.

Offence type and description	Number
Failure to comply with bylaw, dogs not on lead	2
Failure to comply with bylaw/20(5)	3
Failure to implant microchip transponder	3
Failure to supply info, false particulars	1
Failure to keep dog controlled or confined / 52A	11
Failure to keep dog under control / 53(1)	33
Failure to register Dog / 42	32
Total infringements	85

(2)(f) Dog related incidents / requests for service

There were 952 incidents / requests for service over the year

Category	Number
Dog attack person	36
Dog attack animal	52
Dog aggressive / rushing	65
Dog barking	231
Dog collection	136
Dog fouling	6
Dog loose / uncontrolled	217
Dogs microchipping	93
Miscellaneous dog issue	69
Dog ownership	2
Dog in a prohibited area	10
Welfare check	35
Total incidents / request for service	952

(2)(g) Dog prosecutions

There were 3 prosecutions over the year, two of which are currently going through the District Court.