

Reference Number: 2024/1167

17 December 2024

Tēnā koe

Thank you for your email dated 21 November 2024 requesting under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA), information relating to dog control activities. Please see outlined below a response to each part of your request.

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.

Dog registration fees and charges for 2023-24 were consulted on as part of Councils Annual Plan 2023/24 process. Notice of the review of the dog control fees and charges was published in the Community Connection pages in the Horowhenua Chronicle, dated 16 June 2023; and notice of dog registration fees being due was published in the Community Connection pages of the Horowhenua Chronicle on 7 July and 21 July 2023. A media release was also published on Councils website, and sent to media contacts on 2 June 2023.

A copy of the media release can be found here: <https://www.horowhenua.govt.nz/News-Events/News/Water-Infrastructure-Fees-and-Charges-and-other-big-decisions-made-at-Council-meeting>

A copy of the fees and charges was published on Councils website on 30 June 2023. A copy of this publication can be found here: <https://www.horowhenua.govt.nz/News-Events/Public-Notices/Dog-Registration-Fees-20232024>

Dog registration fees for 2024-25 were consulted on alongside the 2024-2044 Long Term Plan (LTP) process, and were adopted on 12 June 2024. A copy of the 2024-25 dog control fees and charges was published on Councils website on 9 July 2024, and can be found here:

<https://www.horowhenua.govt.nz/Services/Home-Property/Dogs-Animals/Animal-Control-Fees-Charges>

Information on the consultation process can be found here:

<https://letskorero.horowhenua.govt.nz/LTP2024-44-SupportingDocs>

b. Dog Control Policy and Practices Report for the financial years 2022-23 & 2023-24.

Please find a copy of each report attached. You will also find a copy of the 2022-23 report on Councils website here: <https://www.horowhenua.govt.nz/Services/Home-Property/Dogs-Animals/Dog-Owners-Information#Dog-Control-Policy-and-Practices-Annual-Report-5>

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.

A copy of the application form and information provided to dog owners that register their dog online, can be found on Councils website here:

<https://www.horowhenua.govt.nz/Services/Home-Property/Dogs-Animals/Register-your-dog>

A dog owner can register their dog online via Councils website, or in person at a Council Office or Service Centre.

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.

Upon review of the dog registration process as prompted by this request, it has been identified that no written information was provided to dog owners following the registration of a dog. It was intended that the back page of the registration form was to be given back to the owner, however in recent years this information has been printed on the reverse side of the registration form and retained by Council.

This has since been changed, and now a copy of what was the back of the registration form is being provided to dog owners. A copy of this information is attached.

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.

Dog registration fees for 2023-24 were reviewed and set as part of the annual plan process for 23/24 that happened alongside our Councils 2021 - 2041 Long Term Plan Amendment (LTPA) process. Public consultation on both happened from 13 March to 14 April 2023, and the fees formally adopted with the final LTPA and Annual Plan at the extraordinary meeting held on 28 June 2023.

Information on the process can be found here: <https://letskorero.horowhenua.govt.nz/hub-page/ltpa>

A copy of the adopted fees and charges for 2023-24 can be found on pages 879, 880 in the attachments for the extraordinary meeting of Council that occurred on 28 June 2023.

https://horowhenua.infocouncil.biz/Open/2023/06/CO_28062023_ATT_EXCLUDED_EXTRA.PDF

Dog registration fees for 2024-25 were reviewed as part of the 2024-2044 Long Term Plan (LTP) process, which also included a review of Councils Revenue and Financing Policy. The Revenue and Financing Policy sets out the Council's activities, services, and facilities (what we do and why we do it) and who uses, benefits, and should pay for them. For the dog control activity, it informs that 80-90% of the cost to deliver the activity should be funded by

the dog owner, and with the remaining 10-20% funded through rates. Public consultation happened from 15 March to 15 April 2024, and with the 2024/25 fees being adopted at the 19 June 2024 meeting of Council, and prior to the final LTP being adopted on the 26 June 2024.

Information on the process can be found here: <https://letskorero.horowhenua.govt.nz/hub-page/ltp2024-44>

A copy of the consultation on the fees and charges for 2024/2025 can be found here: <https://letskorero.horowhenua.govt.nz/LTP2024-44-SupportingDocs>

A copy of the adopted fees and charges for 2024-25 can be found on pages 57-60 in the agenda for the 12 June 2024 meeting of Council here: https://horowhenua.infocouncil.biz/Open/2024/06/CO_12062024_AGN_AT.PDF

Council publishes a copy of only the current fees and charges applicable each financial year, and so the 2023-24 fees are no longer on display (although would've been published in the same location as our current fees). A copy of the current fees and charges is published on Councils website here: <https://www.horowhenua.govt.nz/Services/Home-Property/Dogs-Animals/Animal-Control-Fees-Charges>

b. The Dog Control Policy and Practices Report for the financial years 2022-23 & 2023-24, and a link to where those reports are located on the Council website.

Please find a copy of each report attached. You will also find a copy of the 2022-23 report on Councils website here: <https://www.horowhenua.govt.nz/Services/Home-Property/Dogs-Animals/Dog-Owners-Information#Dog-Control-Policy-and-Practices-Annual-Report-5>

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.

Financial statements for the dog control activity for the 2022-23 and 2023-24 including operating expenses and income from infringement fees and fines, are in the tables below.

Horowhenua District Council Compliance Dog Control Master Account Resource Details For Period 2023/24		Horowhenua District Council Compliance Dog Control Master Account Resource Details For Period 2022/23	
Resource	2023/24 YTD Actuals	Resource	2022/23 YTD Actuals
Grand Total	(239,705)	Grand Total	(125,919)
Community Experience and Services	(239,705)	Community Experience and Services	(125,919)
Compliance - Dog Control	(239,705)	Compliance - Dog Control	(125,919)
Income	(1,624,354)	Income	(836,796)
Expenditure	1,384,649	Expenditure	710,877

If the dog control activity, or any part, has not been performed by the Horowhenua 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:

- 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.***

Council delivered the dog control activity in-house, therefore an answer to this question is not applicable.

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

Horowhenua District Council publishes responses to Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA) requests that we consider to be of wider public interest, or which relate to a subject that has been widely requested. To protect your privacy, we will not generally publish personal information about you, or information that identifies you. We will publish the LGOIMA response along with a summary of the request on our website. Requests and responses may be paraphrased.

If you would like to discuss this decision or any of the information provided as part of this request, please contact Brent Harvey (Group Manager Community Experience and Services) on brenth@horowhenua.govt.nz, or LGOIMAOfficer@Horowhenua.govt.nz.

Ngā mihi



Ashley Huria
Executive Sponsor

OFFICE USE ONLY	
OWNER ID:	
DOG ID:	
EXPIRY:	

Dog Registration Application

1. Owner Information *(person in charge of dogs) MUST BE OVER THE AGE OF 16 YEARS*

Surname:

First names:

Postal Address:

Telephone: Mobile:

Email:

Owner's date of birth:

Your date of birth is required to enable you to be distinguished from other persons with the same name. Certainty of identification is required in the enforcement of the provisions of the Dog Control Act 1996.

Do you have/own any other dogs at your property? Yes No How many?

2. Dog Information

Dog's name:

Address dog normally kept at:

Sex: *(please tick)* Male Female Age: *(Years)* *(Months)*

Desexed: *(please tick)* Yes No

Microchip number:

Primary breed:

Secondary breed:

Dog's primary colour: *(please circle)* Black | Blue | Brindle | Brown | Gold | Grey | Orange | Red | Tan | Tri | White

Dog's secondary colour: *(please circle)* Black | Blue | Brindle | Brown | Gold | Grey | Orange | Red | Tan | Tri | White

Distinguishing marks/features:

Note: Cross-breed can only be used for a secondary breed, not primary.

3. Transfer Details *(if applicable)*

For dogs currently registered with another Council

Name of council:

Year of registration: Tag number:

OFFICE USE ONLY	
TAG NO.	
REG. FEE: (INC. GST)	
RECEIPT NO.	
IMPOUND REGISTER:	
STAFF INITIAL:	
DATE:	

4. Declaration

Please note: If any of the information requested in this form is not supplied it may prevent the registration of your dog.

I confirm that the information above is correct

Signature (dog owner) Date:

I'd like to receive future Renewal registration forms by email and these will be sent to the email address I've provided on this form Yes No

Dog owner responsibilities

If you're registering your dog in the Horowhenua District for the first time, or transferring your dog from another area, there's some important information and obligations you need to understand and agree to as part of the registration process.

Notes on Registration

All dog owners with dogs ordinarily kept in the Horowhenua District must register with the territorial authority (Horowhenua District Council).

All dogs **over the age of three months** must be registered. It's an offence to keep a dog older than three months which is unregistered. On conviction, a Court may impose a fine of up to \$3,000.

The completed application form, together with the fee payable, must be completed online, posted to the Dog Registrar, Horowhenua District Council, Private Bag 4002, Levin or delivered to Horowhenua District Council's main office. It's an offence when making an application for the registration of a dog to make any written statement knowing that statement to be false. On conviction, a Court may impose a fine of up to \$3,000.

Dog tags (discs)

Replacement discs may be collected from the Horowhenua District Council if the current disc has been lost or stolen. Any dog that isn't wearing a collar that has a current registration label or disc attached will, until proven otherwise, be deemed to be unregistered.

Change of ownership

On change of ownership of any registered dog, both the previous owner and the new owner must give written notice to Horowhenua District Council within 14 days of the change of ownership. This notice must include the residential address of the new owner and the address at which the dog will be kept. It's an offence not to comply with this requirement. On conviction, a court may impose a fine of up to \$500.

Change of address

If the owner's address changes within the district, the owner must give written notice of the change to Horowhenua District Council within 14 days.

Transfer of dog registration

If any dog is transferred to and kept in the district of another territorial authority, other than the one in which it has been kept, for one month or more the owner must give written notice of the transfer to both authorities within six weeks of the transfer. This notice must set out the address at which the dog will be kept. It's an offence not to comply with this requirement. On conviction, a court may impose a fine of up to \$500.

Deceased dog

Where the fee for the registration of a dog is paid and that dog dies, a refund will be made on request as follows:

- where a dog dies before the commencement of the year, the full fee will be refunded;
- where the dog dies during the year, one-twelfth of the

annual fee for each complete month remaining in the registration year after the date of application for a refund will be refunded.

Registration fees

Where any dog is first required to be registered after 1 August in any registration year, the fee shall be one-twelfth of the annual fee for each complete month remaining in the registration year after the date of that registration. The registration fees include GST. Owners wishing to claim a reduced fee for desexed (neutered) dogs must produce a veterinary surgeon's certificate certifying that the dog has been desexed.

If any dog over the age of three months is found on land other than it's owners or in any public place and is not wearing a collar that has a current registration label or disc attached, the dog may be seized and impounded.

Control of dogs

(Section 52, 53 and 65 Dog Control Act 1996)

The owner of any dog must keep that dog under control at all times and, when in a public place, must use or carry a leash at all times.

A dog will be deemed to be not under control:

- if it is found at large (loose or wandering) on any land or premises other than a public place or a private way without the consent (express or implied) of the occupier or person in charge of the land or those premises; or
- if it is found at large in any public place or in any private way in contravention of any regulation or bylaw.

You'll commit an offence and be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$3,000 or an infringement fee of \$300 if you fail to comply with this provision.

Obligations of dog owners

(Section 54, Dog Control Act)

The owner of any dog must:

- ensure the dog receives proper care and attention and is supplied with proper and sufficient food, water, shelter; and
- ensure the dog receives adequate exercise.

You'll commit an offence and be liable on conviction to imprisonment for up to three months or to a fine not exceeding \$5,000 if you fail to comply with this provision.

Obligations of dog owners on owner's property

(Section 52A and 65, Dog Control Act 1996)

When the dog is on land or premises occupied by the owner, the owner of a dog must ensure:

- the dog is under the direct control of a person; or
- the dog is confined within the land or premises in such a way that it cannot freely leave the land or premises.

You'll commit an offence and be liable on conviction to a fine of \$3,000 or an infringement fee of \$300 if you fail to comply with this provision. In addition, a dog control officer or dog ranger may seize and impound the dog.

Dog Control Policy and Practices

Annual Report 2022-2023



Introduction

Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996 requires Council to report annually to the Secretary of Local Government on its dog control policy and practices. This report is to fulfil this requirement for the 22/23 financial year from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023.

Overview

Council delivers its Animal Control services in-house, with funding of the dog control component being a mixture of user pays (dog registration fees) and rates, as set out by Councils revenue & finance policy. During the 2022/23 year the Council adopted an amendment to the Long-Term Plan which saw a change in the level of user pays component in the funding of the dog control activity; to now recover 80-90% Private Good (through fees and charges) and 10-20% Public Good (through rates), from the previously set 70-80% Private Good and 20-30% Public Good (as applied for the financial year relevant to this report).

The Animal Control team is part of the Customer and Compliance team, which is in the Community Experience and Services Group at Council. During the 2022-23 year, the Animal Control team comprised of a team leader, four full time officers and two part time officers with support provided by a Customer Support Officer assisting the administration needs of the Animal Control function.

The Dog Pound is located on Council land off Mako Mako Road, Levin. The facility has kennelling for up to 28 dogs at any one time, housed within a large exercise yard. The Pound is closed to the public on a day-to-day basis, but provides an appointment-based system for owners of impounded dogs to collect their animal.

A review of Council's Dog Control Policy and Bylaw was undertaken in June 2015 and following the public consultative process was subsequently adopted in August 2015. This bylaw is due for review by June 2025.

This year the Animal Control team put focus on proactive communication around what our Animal Control and Compliance Teams provide to the Community, as well as concentrated effort on increasing our emailable dog owner database. This mahi has included the creation of new Dog Control electronic newsletter communication as well as improving our internal systems for receiving electronic notifications from owners. It also saw our team attending community events such as Neighbours Day 2022 organised by Levin Community Patrol.

Dog Numbers

The year started with a known 6,319 dogs on Council's Dog Database, decreasing to 6,090 known dogs by the end of the registration year.

<i>Dogs at 1 July 2022</i>	<i>Dogs at 30 June 2023</i>
6,319	6,090

For dog owners that did not register their dogs, and where the non-registration came to Animal Control staff's attention, infringement notices were issued to the dog owner for failing to register their dog/s. If the infringement notice was not paid, it was lodged with the Ministry of Justice for collection.

Council also offers a time payment arrangement for owners who may not be able to pay their dogs registration fees in full immediately. Time payment arrangements are offered by direct debit only, and are to be paid in full by 31 August.

Dog Registration Fees

Councils' dog registration fee structure is designed to reflect the makeup of our community and to reward responsible ownership. The following fee structures apply:

<i>Dog Registration Type</i>	<i>Fees 2022/23</i>
Disability Assist Dog	Free
Selected Owner Status	\$68.00
NZKC Registered Status	\$68.00
Racing Greyhound Registered Status	\$68.00
De-sexed Pet	\$81.50
Entire Pet	\$136.00
Working Dog	\$60.00
Stock (Farm) Dog	\$60.00
Puppy	\$57.00
Superannuitant Owner	\$81.50
Dangerous Dog De-sexed	\$122.25
Dangerous Dog Entire	\$204.00
Late Penalty Fee	+50%

Registration Notices for 2023/24 were distributed to all current dog owners in our database in the first weeks of July 2023. For the new 23/24 year dog owners, who elected to receive their registration renewal information via email, received an email on the 6 July 2023.

This is the third year Council has distributed dog registration renewal information in this way, and it is expected the number of dog owners wishing to opt into this service will continue to increase in the coming years as they have trended upwards in the last two years.

Impounded Dogs

The number of dogs impounded during the year:

<i>2019/2020</i>	<i>2020/2021</i>	<i>2021/2022</i>	<i>2022/2023</i>
220	155	167	248

Probationary Owners/Disqualified Owners

There were no disqualified owners in the District as at 30 June 2023.

Prosecutions

There were no prosecutions completed during the year.

Dangerous/Menacing Dogs

The number of dogs classified as dangerous under section 31 of the Dog Control Act 1996:

Category	2022/23
Dangerous 31(1)(a)	0
Dangerous 31(1)(b)	9
Dangerous by owner admission (31(1)(c))	0
TOTAL	9

The number of dogs classified as menacing under sections 33A or 33C of the Dog Control Act 1996:

Category	2022/23
Menacing by behavior 33A(1)(b)(i)	73
Menacing by breed characteristic 33A(1)(b)(ii)	0
Menacing by breed 33C(1)	79
TOTAL	152

Complaints

All complaints received by Council are recorded on our Dog Database. All complaints are investigated with the outcome advised to the complainant. There were 1,106 complaints during the year including a number of dog attacks.

Category	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023
Barking	556	413	228	407
Wandering	398	411	327	449
Attacks	92	106	99	117
Aggressive Behavior	75	96	93	133
Stock Worrying	5	4	0	0
TOTAL	1,126	1,030	747	1,106

Infringements

Whilst Council Officers issue infringement notices to errant dog owners, this is normally the last resort as all else has failed.

176 infringements were issued this year, comprising:

<i>Infringement Type</i>	<i>Number issued</i>
Wilful Obstruction of Officer	1
Failure to Implant Microchip	1
Failure to Register	147
Failure to keep dog controlled/confined	20
Failure to carry leash in public	1
Falsely notifying death of dog	1
Failure to comply with effects of classification of dog as dangerous dog	0
Failure to comply with effects of classification of dog as menacing dog	5

Afterhours Service

Animal Control Officers are rostered to provide an 'emergency' after hours service, 365 days of the year. Afterhour's services relate to Dog Control and Stock Control emergency needs.

Community Connection

Issue 181 JUNE 2023

Horowhenua
DISTRICT COUNCIL



Bernie Wanden

Message from the Mayor

Kia ora koutou,

There has been a lot to celebrate since the last Community Connection.

On Sunday 4 June the doors opened to a new-look Youth

Space at Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō after a short four-week closure while renovations took place. It has had a fresh paint job, new carpet has been installed and exciting new technology, games and furniture have been added to take our already popular dedicated Youth Space to the next level. This special and versatile spot for rangatahi aged between 12 and 24 years is a safe and exciting place to hang out at after school, in the weekends and in the holidays. It houses youth development programmes to help our young people gain resilience, feel connected and acquire real life capabilities, all while having fun.

As a Council, we are committed to investing in Community Facilities like the Youth Space, and we are excited to have received \$300,000 from the Lottery Community Facilities Fund towards the \$4.5M Waitārere Beach Surf Life Saving Community Facility which is currently under construction and coming along nicely.

There are a lot of future focused people in our community, and I am delighted that we have also secured funding to continue our Mayors Taskforce for Jobs (MTFJ) initiative for another two years. A nationwide programme with Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) and the Ministry of Social Development (MSD), MTFJ focuses on connecting

young people with suitable training, employment and mentoring opportunities. It helps to remove barriers to employment or training while providing a platform for job creation. Our district is leading the way in matching employers with employees, with more than 100 people finding new job opportunities through MTFJ in the 2022/2023 financial year. If you'd like to learn more about MTFJ or connect with the team to see how they can help you, visit horowhenua.govt.nz/MTFJ.

On Friday 9 June I was humbled to attend the 10th Volunteer Central Volunteer Recognition Event in Palmerston North, cheering on 19 people from Horowhenua who were honoured alongside other community heroes from Manawatū. Volunteers play a very important role in ensuring our communities thrive, and it was fantastic to see their selfless mahi and personalities celebrated in this way. They prove that age is no barrier to selfless deeds – the youngest volunteer recognised was 12 years old and the eldest 97. On behalf of our community, I thank you all for what you do and for the example you set.

I am pleased to announce that after months of hard work from our dedicated team and engagement with our community, the Long Term Plan 2021-2041 Amendment (LTPA) and Annual Plan 2023/2024 (AP) will be adopted on 28 June, paving the way for future projects.

Until next time,

Mayor Bernie Wanden

Horowhenua Volunteers recognised at the 10th Volunteer Recognition Event

Barbara McGowan - Skills4living

Lisa Gillian - Skills4living

Lynette Metcalfe - Shannon Kai Hub

Gaye Falkner - Shannon Kai Hub

Maggie Pearce - Prouse Management Group

Sharon Williams - MentorED

Dr Bob Hoskins - Manawatū Estuary Trust/Foxton Wildlife Trust (34 years' service)

Ron Gibbard - Menz Shed

Marta Buchanan - Horowhenua Health Trust

Treva Wilson - Adult Day Care (34 years' service)

Dave Grant - Horowhenua Kai Club

Ezekiel Taylor - Libraries Horowhenua

Daphne Barrett - Horowhenua Breathe Easy

Yvonne Seng - Levin Basketball Association

Kevin Miles - Horowhenua History Group

Arnim Lattik - Manawatū Estuary Trust

Bev Young - Covid Response Volunteer

Laurie Smith - Covid Response Volunteer

Cliff Rayna - Covid Response Volunteer

In the Works



We are making great strides on the Foxton Pools project. Both ends of the building have been demolished and the framing of the enhanced staffroom and storage area has been completed. Our newly revamped reception area has been skilfully framed on its expanded footprint. The much-anticipated spa pool is also starting to take shape with foundations and water connections being completed.



To ensure there is sufficient capacity for future growth, a new sewer pipeline is being installed on Tararua Road, Levin as part of the Tara-Ika development. Work is progressing well and we appreciate your patience while this work is undertaken. It is expected that the work will be finished by the end of August 2023.

Events workshops

On Wednesday 21 June the last session of our Events Workshops series will be held at Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō, focusing on Traffic Management, Security, Māori Wardens & using Council Parks & Facilities.

If you want to host an event in Horowhenua and need help with these, or any aspect of the event planning process, please contact our friendly team or find more information online at

horowhenua.govt.nz/organisingevents

HOW ARE WE REALLY DOING? LEADERSHIP AND ENGAGEMENT



Scan this QR code and give us your feedback about Leadership and Engagement in the district.

This survey should take less than two minutes to complete. We'd love to hear your thoughts.



Dog renewal registrations



You'll be able to renew your dog registration from 10am on Thursday 6 July, slightly later than our usual opening date of 1 July.

The extra time has allowed us to consult on Fees and Charges as part of the Annual Plan 2023/2024. Following public consultation, Council resolved to increase dog registration fees for the 2023/2024 registration period. The 2023/2024 registration period also sees the introduction of a new

registration class so people who own four or more stock dogs will receive a \$10 discount per dog. The new fees and charges will be adopted at a Council meeting on Wednesday 28 June. The Dog Control and Animal Control activity costs have been separated in the Revenue and Financing Policy to reduce the public funding component for the Dog Control activity. Moving forward, through dog registration fees and related increased charges, dog owners will pay a higher percentage of the costs for these services to ease the burden on ratepayers who do not own canines. Dog registration fees will increase so that owners pay for 80-90% of Dog Control services as most of the benefit is 'private'.

Be sure to renew your dog registration by Saturday 5 August 2023 to avoid a 50% late fee penalty. You can learn more about dog registrations and responsible dog ownership at

horowhenua.govt.nz/pawsonline

Important Notices

Waitāre Beach access closure

To upgrade services to the Waitāre Beach Surf Life Saving Community Facility, the beach access west of Rua Avenue, Waitāre Beach will be temporarily closed or disrupted between Monday 19 June and Friday 14 July 2023.

Between Monday 19 June and Friday 30 June 2023, access to the beach will be down to one lane with priority give way between 7am and 6pm each weekday. Between Monday 3 July and Friday 14 July, access to the beach will be closed between 7am and 6pm each weekday. The road will be open outside of these hours. Access to the beach is recommended through Windsor Street. We apologise for any inconvenience.

Council Meetings

21 Council Public Forum
Wednesday 21 June 2023, 12pm to 12.30pm
Council Chambers, 126 Oxford Street, Levin

21 Council Meeting
Wednesday 21 June 2023, 1pm
Council Chambers, 126 Oxford Street, Levin

26 Te Awahou Foxton Community Board Public Forum
Monday 26 June 2023, 5.30pm to 6pm
Foyer, Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom, 92 Main Street, Foxton

26 Te Awahou Foxton Community Board Meeting
Monday 26 June 2023, 6pm
Ngārongo Iwikātea Room, Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom, 92 Main Street, Foxton

28 Community Wellbeing Committee Meeting
Wednesday 28 June 2023, 10am
Council Chambers, 126 Oxford Street, Levin

28 Council Meeting: LTPA/AP Adoption
Wednesday 28 June 2023, 1pm
Council Chambers, 126 Oxford Street, Levin

Meeting dates and times are subject to change. Please refer to horowhenua.govt.nz/Council/Council-Meetings for the full meeting schedule, minutes and agendas.

Puanga Matariki

Matariki is about connection. It heralds the start of the Māori New Year as we reflect on the year that has been. There's no better way to celebrate past achievements and look forward to future successes than with whānau and friends.

In partnership with Iwi and hapū, we're proud to host a number of Matariki events to cater for all people in our district. The programme of events runs between 14 June and 22 July, and we look forward to connecting with you as we celebrate this special occasion. Learn more about our Matariki programme online at:

horowhenua.govt.nz/matariki

JULY

10 Te Putanga mai o Matariki – Karakia at Punahau with Muaūpoko
Monday 10 July, 5am
Kohuturoa Marae (Off Hōkio Beach Road)

Matariki Storytelling with Kirsty Wadsworth
Monday 10 July, 10.30am to 11.30am
Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō

11 Matariki Storytelling with Kirsty Wadsworth
Tuesday 11 July, 10.30am to 11.30am
Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom

Matariki Storytelling with Kirsty Wadsworth
Tuesday 11 July, 3pm to 4pm
Shannon Library

12 Make a Matariki Kite
Wednesday 12 July, 10.30am to 11.30am
Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō

Harakeke Whetū (Star) Workshop
Wednesday 12 July, 1pm to 3pm
Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō

13 Make a Matariki Kite
Thursday 13 July, 10.30am to 11.30am
Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom

Make a Matariki Kite
Thursday 13 July, 1.30pm to 2.30pm
Shannon Library

Harakeke Whetū (Star) Workshop
Thursday 13 July, 1pm to 3pm
Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom

Night Lights over Te Awahou
Thursday 13 July, 4pm to 8pm
Te Awahou Riverside Cultural Park

14 Matariki Pool Party
Friday 14 July, 3pm to 5pm
Levin Aquatic Centre

Matariki ki Otāuru (Shannon)
Friday 14 July, 10am to 3pm
Te Maire Park

15 Whānau Movie – The Lion King Reo Māori
Saturday 15 July, 1pm to 3pm
Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō

16 Puna Kaukau
Sunday 16 July, 5.45am to 7am
Poas Road, Gladstone River swing bridge

19 Matariki Day Out
Wednesday 19 July, 9.30am to 2pm
Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō

20 Matariki for Tamariki
Thursday 20 July, 10.30am to 11.30am
Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō

Rongoā Display
Thursday 20 July, 1pm to 3pm
Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō

21 Friday Concert - Konohete
Friday 21 July, 12pm to 2pm
Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō

Kapahaka and Community Kai
Friday 21 July, 5pm to 8pm
Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō

22 Taitoko Matariki Night Market
Saturday 22 July, 4pm to 8pm
Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō

Dog Control Policy and Practices

Annual Report 2023-2024



Introduction

Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996 requires Council to report annually to the Secretary of Local Government on its dog control policy and practices. This report is to fulfil this requirement for the 23/24 financial year from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024.

Overview

Council delivers its Animal Control services in-house, with funding of the dog control component being a mixture of user pays (dog registration fees) and rates, as set out by Councils revenue & finance policy.

The Animal Control team is part of the Customer and Compliance team, which is in the Community Experience and Services Group at Council. During the 2023-24 year, the Animal Control team comprised of a team leader, four full time officers and two part time officers with support provided by a Customer Support Officer assisting the administration needs of the Animal Control function.

The Dog Pound is located on Council land off Mako Mako Road, Levin. The facility has kennelling for up to 28 dogs at any one time, housed within a large exercise yard. The Pound is closed to the public on a day-to-day basis, and provides an appointment-based system for owners of impounded dogs to collect their animal.

A review of Council's Dog Control Policy and Bylaw was undertaken in June 2015 and following the public consultative process was subsequently adopted in August 2015. This bylaw is due for review by June 2025.

Over the 2023/24 year, the Animal Control team extended their business hours to offer a wider range of services during the weekdays and on weekends to support the needs of the community. The operating hours for the animal control activity are Monday to Friday, 7am to 7pm, and Saturday to Sunday, 8am to 4:30pm, representing an increase from the previous hours of Monday to Friday, 7:30am to 4pm, with weekends limited to emergency after-hours services only. Thus, enabling the team to increase their focus on proactive officer patrols and collaborating with dog owners directly, to address and problem-solve recurring nuisance issues such as wandering and barking dogs.

Dog Numbers

The year started with a known 6,090 dogs on Council's Dog Database, increasing to 6,543 known dogs by the end of the registration year.

<i>Dogs at 1 July 2023</i>	<i>Dogs at 30 June 2024</i>
6,090	6,543

For dog owners that did not register their dogs, and where the non-registration of the dog came to Animal Control staff's attention, infringement notices were issued to the dog owner for failing to register their dog/s. If the infringement notice was not paid, it was lodged with the Ministry of Justice for collection.

Council offer a time payment arrangement in advance, by way of direct debit or automatic payments for owners who may not be able to pay their dogs registration fees in full immediately. Any payment arrangements need to be paid in full by 30 June, before the start of the new registration year. Once paid in full, the new registration tag will then be sent out in July for the new registration period.

Dog Registration Fees

Councils' dog registration fee structure is designed to reflect the makeup of our community and to reward responsible ownership. The following fee structures apply:

<i>Dog Registration Type</i>	<i>Fees 2023/24</i>
Disability Assist Dog	Free
Selected Owner Status	\$80.00
NZKC Registered Status	\$80.00
Racing Greyhound Registered Status	\$80.00
De-sexed Pet	\$96.00
Entire Pet	\$160.50
Working Dog	\$70.80
Stock (Farm) Dog	\$70.08
Puppy	\$67.00
Superannuitant Owner	\$80.00
Dangerous Dog De-sexed	\$144.00
Dangerous Dog Entire	\$240.75
Late Penalty Fee	+50%

Registration Notices for 2023/24 were distributed to all current dog owners in our database in the first weeks of July 2023. For the 23/24 year, dog owners who elected to receive their registration renewal information via email, received an email on 6 July 2023.

This is the fourth year Council has distributed dog registration renewal information in this way, and it is expected the number of dog owners wishing to opt into this service will continue to increase in the coming years as they have trended upwards in the last three years.

Impounded Dogs

The number of dogs impounded during the year:

<i>2020/2021</i>	<i>2021/2022</i>	<i>2022/2023</i>	<i>2023/2024</i>
155	167	248	261

Probationary Owners/Disqualified Owners

There were no disqualified owners in the District as at 30 June 2024.

Prosecutions

There were no prosecutions completed during the year.

Dangerous/Menacing Dogs

The number of dogs classified as dangerous under section 31 of the Dog Control Act 1996:

Category	2023/24
Dangerous 31(1)(a)	0
Dangerous 31(1)(b)	5
Dangerous by owner admission (31(1)(c))	0
TOTAL	5

The number of dogs classified as menacing under sections 33A or 33C of the Dog Control Act 1996:

Category	2023/24
Menacing by behavior 33A(1)(b)(i)	79
Menacing by breed characteristic 33A(1)(b)(ii)	0
Menacing by breed 33C(1)	51
TOTAL	130

Complaints

All complaints received by Council are recorded on our Dog Database. All complaints are investigated with the outcome advised to the complainant. There were 1,106 complaints during the year including a number of dog attacks.

Category	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024
Barking	413	228	407	544
Wandering	411	327	449	465
Attacks	106	99	117	88
Aggressive Behavior	96	93	133	115
Stock Worrying	4	0	0	3
TOTAL	1,030	747	1,106	1,215

Infringements

Whilst Council Officers issue infringement notices to errant dog owners, this is normally the last resort, after initial efforts to engage with the dog owner and seek cooperative solutions have failed.

255 infringements were issued this year, comprising:

<i>Infringement Type</i>	<i>Number issued</i>
Wilful Obstruction of Officer	0
Failure to Implant Microchip	3
Failure to Register	203
Failure to keep dog controlled/confined	36
Failure to carry leash in public	0
Falsely notifying death of dog	0
Failure to comply with effects of classification of dog as dangerous dog	0
Failure to comply with effects of classification of dog as menacing dog	13

Afterhours Service

Animal Control Officers are rostered to provide an 'emergency' after hours service, 365 days of the year. Afterhours services relate to Dog Control and Stock Control emergency needs.