



ANNUAL
DOG
CONTROL
REPORT
2023/24

Report on the administration of the Gore District Council’s policy and practices in relation to the control of dogs for the year 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024.

Dog control in the Gore District

The total number of registered dogs in the Gore District as at 30 June 2024 was 3,401. Approximately one-third of these dogs are pets domiciled in the urban areas of the Gore District.

The Council employs five part-time animal services officers. Two of these officers work Monday to Friday, while the remaining three provide after-hours and weekend cover on a roster system.

Dog control enforcement practices

During the year under review, the Council received 20 formal safety-related complaints regarding the behaviour of dogs. Of the complaints received, seven involved dog attacks on people and 13 involved attacks on animals. All complaints were investigated and appropriate actions were taken to address the concerns of the complainants.

The Council continues to encounter instances where dogs are not claimed by their owners after being impounded. This appears to be due to the cost associated with registering/microchipping the dogs and paying impounding fees, which must be settled in full before the dogs can be released. These dogs are rehomed if they are of suitable temperament, usually through Furever Homes in Invercargill or, in some cases, to private individuals after appropriate checks are conducted on them and their properties. If rehoming is not an option, they are taken to a veterinarian to be euthanised.

Over the course of the year, a total of 127 infringement notices were issued. Council representatives contacted dog owners via phone, text, or in person to remind them to register their dogs after reminder notices for non-registration were issued. Unfortunately, some dog owners did not heed the warnings given, forcing the Council to issue infringement notices for non-registration. The Council offers a payment plan to dog owners struggling to make payment in full and is utilized by several dog owners.

Dog registration and other fees

A comparison of the dog registration fees for the year ending 30 June 2024 with the previous year is as follows:

	2022/23	2023/24
Registration fee – urban dog	\$120.00	\$120.00
a. Less – no dog complaints, impoundments or infringements within a two year period	-\$20.00	-\$20.00
b. Less – neutered or spayed	-\$40.00	-\$40.00
Registration fee if all the requirements as detailed in a and b are met.	\$60.00	\$60.00
Licence fee for three or more dogs	\$150.00	\$150.00
Registration fee – rural dog	\$25.00	\$25.00
a. Add – dog complaints, impoundment or infringement within a two-year period	\$30.00	\$30.00
Late registration fee		

Urban dog	+40%	+40%
Rural dog	+40%	+40%
Poundage		
First impoundment		
a. Dogs with current GDC registration	\$50.00	\$50.00
b. Unregistered dogs	\$80.00	\$80.00
Every subsequent impoundment	\$150.00	\$150.00
Destruction costs for known owners of dogs	Cost	Cost
Sustenance – per day	\$15.00	\$15.00
Additional fee for impounding or releasing dogs at weekends, public holidays or outside Council office hours	\$50.00	\$50.00

The Council takes a vigilant approach to the non-registration of dogs. Dog owners who fail to register their dogs may be subject to prosecution under the Dog Control Act. The Council's efforts to encourage owners to register their dogs include sending texts, letters or making personal visits, as well as issuing infringement notices before initiating legal proceedings.

Dog education

The Council's Animal Services team continues to provide owners with information on how to prevent incessant barking and offers advice on how to keep dogs from wandering. The team also conduct regular patrols of parks in Gore and Mataura, educating dog owners about their responsibilities when exercising their dogs in these areas.

The Council's staff have made a concerted effort to clamp down on unregistered dogs in the District. Patrols in Gore and Mataura appear to have positively impacted on wandering dogs in the area.

Menacing and dangerous dogs

In the year under review, three dogs in the Gore District were classified by the Council. Two were classified as menacing following complaints of dog attacks and aggressive behaviour, while one was classified as menacing due to its breed.

There are currently five dogs in the District classified as menacing (by breed) under Section 33C of the Dog Control Act 1996, and a further six (by behaviour) under Section 33A. Additionally, three dogs are classified as dangerous under Section 31(1)(b), and there are two probationary dog owners under Section 21(2).

Statistical information

Pursuant to Section 10A(2)(a) of the Dog Control Act 1996, attached is a schedule detailing relevant statistics covering dog control issues in the Gore District for the year ending 30 June 2024.

Debbie Lascelles
Chief Executive

Statistical information

Category	As at 30 June 2024	For period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024
Total number of registered dogs	3,401	
Total number of probationary owners	2	2
Total number of disqualified owners	0	0
Total number of dangerous dogs	3	
• Dangerous by owner conviction under s33(1)(a)	0	0
• Dangerous by sworn evidence under s31(1)(b)	3	1
• Dangerous by owner admittance in writing under s31(1)(c)	0	0
Total number of menacing dogs	11	
• Menacing under s33A(1)(b)(i) – i.e. by behavior	6	3
• Menacing under s33A(1)(b)(ii) – i.e. any characteristics associated with dog's breed	0	0
• Menacing under s33C(1) – i.e. schedule 4 breed/type	5	4
Total number of infringements	127	
Total number of complaints received (see table below)	564	
Total number of prosecutions taken	0	

Complaints received Category	Number for year ended 30 June 2023	Number for year ended 30 June 2024
Total number of complaints received	638	564
Public safety related complaints		
• Dog attacks on people – minor	8	7
• Dog attacks on people – serious	0	0
• Dog attacks on other animals	5	8
• Dog attack on stock (worrying sheep)	9	5
• Dogs rushing	20	16
• Roaming dogs reported by public (including registered dogs that are found)	240	201
Non-safety concerns		
• People's dogs that are reported lost/found	119	105
• Barking	109	91
• Fouling/bylaw breach	N/A	N/A
• Unregistered dogs	N/A	N/A
• Welfare concerns	N/A	N/A
• Miscellaneous – stock calls	90	85
• Miscellaneous – dog enquiries	38	46