

To	Ordinary Council
From	Kaihautū Ratonga Waeture / Regulatory Services Manager, Chantelle Denton
Date	9 September 2026
Subject	Annual Dog Control Policy and Practices Report – 2025/26

(This report shall not be construed as policy until adopted by full Council)

Whakarāpopoto Kāhui Kahika / Executive Summary

1. The Council is required under section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996 (the Act) to report annually on the administration of its Dog Control Policy (the Policy), dog control practices and related statistical information. The Annual Dog Control Report for 2025/26, provided as Appendix 1, fulfils this statutory reporting requirement.

Taunakitanga / Recommendation(s)

THAT the Council;

- a) Approves the South Taranaki District Council Annual Dog Control Report for 2025/26 in accordance with Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996; and
- b) Notes that approval will trigger public notification of the report and that a copy will be provided to the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA).

Kupu Whakamārama / Background

2. Every financial year the Council is required under the Act to report on the administration of its policy and practices. Legislation requires the report to be published on the Council's website. The Act is specific on the scope of the report and how it is publicised.

Local Government Purpose

3. Under the Local Government Act 2002, the Council's purpose is to "*promote the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of communities in the present and for the future*". The purpose of the Local Government Act 2002 aligns with the considerations under section 10A of the Act.

Whaiwhakaaro me ngā aromatawai / Considerations and Assessments

Assessment of Significance and Engagement

4. South Taranaki District Council's general approach to determining the level of "significance" will be to consider:

Criteria	Measure	Assessment
Degree	The number of residents and ratepayers affected and the degree to which they are affected by the decision or proposal.	Low – the Annual Dog Control Report provided is retrospective in nature, although it is acknowledged that over the course of the year, the exercise of the dog control function can impact a significant proportion of the community.
LOS	The achievement of, or ability to achieve, the Council's stated levels of service as set out in the Long Term Plan (LTP).	Low – given the retrospective nature of the Annual Dog Control Report, the decision to adopt will not affect the Council's ability to deliver levels of service as outlined in the LTP.
Decision	Whether this type of decision, proposal or issue has a history of generating wide public interest within South Taranaki.	Low – this decision has not generated wide public interest in the past, although it is acknowledged that a small number of individuals have taken an interest in the year-end results of this activity over recent years.
Financial	The impact of the decision or proposal on the Council's overall budget, or included in an approved LTP and its ability to carry out its existing or proposed functions and activities now and in the future.	Low – there is no impact on the Council's budgets, given its retrospective nature.
Reversible	The degree to which the decision or proposal is reversible.	Medium – once the report is presented to the DIA, the decision cannot be reversed.
Environment	The degree of impact the decision will have on the environment.	Low – the report does not constitute an impact on the environment, although it is acknowledged that the performance of the dog control function does have a carbon footprint, primarily through the operation of the pound and the routine deployment of response vehicles.

5. In terms of the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy, the adoption of the report is of low significance.
6. It should be noted that the Council is required to make a copy of the report publicly available and publish it on its website.

Legislative Considerations

7. Under Section 10A of the Act, the Council must, for each financial year, report on the administration of its policy (as adopted under Section 10) and its dog control practices. The report (in Appendix 1) is required to include the following for each financial year:
- (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 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 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; and*
 - (g) the number of prosecutions taken by the territorial authority under this Act.*
8. The Act specifies the requirements for advertising the report and that the report must be provided to the government as specified below:
- 3) *The territorial authority must give public notice of the report -*
 - (a) by means of a notice published in –*
 - (i) One or more daily newspapers circulating in the territorial authority district; or*
 - (ii) One 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 one month after adopting the report, send a copy of it to the Secretary for Local Government.*

Financial/Budget Considerations

9. There are no financial or budget considerations regarding this report, given its retrospective nature.

Consistency with Plans/Policies/Community Outcomes

10. Nothing in this report is inconsistent with any Council policy, plan or strategy and reports on the administration of the Policy as required under the Act.

Affected Parties Consultation

11. No formal consultation on the document is required, as it is a statutory requirement to report on the activities of the previous financial year. The Act requires that the public be notified of the report via a newspaper that is circulating in the District. It is standard practice that the report is also available online on the Council's website.

Whakakapia / Conclusion

12. This report seeks to obtain the approval of the attached Annual Dog Control Report, which provides information on the administration and enforcement of the Act and the Policy for the 2025/26 financial year.



Chantelle Denton

**Kaihautū Ratonga Waeture /
Regulatory Services Manager**



[Seen by]

Liam Dagg

**Kaiarataki Taiao /
Group Manager Environmental Services**

APPENDIX 1

South Taranaki District Council 2025/26 Annual Dog Control Report



Dog Control Policy and Practices

1.0 The Dog Control Act 1996

The Dog Control Act 1996 (the Act) requires territorial authorities to publicly report on dog control policies and practices as outlined under Section 10A. This report fulfils the statutory requirement for the dog registration year 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026.

2.0 Dog Control Policy and Bylaw

A comprehensive review was undertaken of the Council's Dog Control Policy (the Policy) and Dog Control Bylaw (the Bylaw) in 2019. The Policy was due for a review in 2024. However, in early 2025, the Council deferred the review of the policy until 2026, so that the Policy and the Bylaw could be reviewed at the same time. This will allow the review periods to be aligned and would allow there to be one consultation on both documents rather than separate consultations. This may also align with the recently announced review of the Dog Control Act by Central Government.

The Council promotes the Policy and the Bylaw through communications with residents and dog owners through:

- The Council Webpage and Facebook page,
- One on one contact with dog owners,
- Education through Compliance Officers.

2.1 Dog Control Areas

Dogs must be on a leash at all times within the South Taranaki district's public urban areas, with the exception of designated unleashed dog exercise areas. The Council has also designated prohibited dog areas.

3.0 Administration

3.1 Personnel

The Regulatory Services Manager, Compliance Team Leader, and four Compliance Officers ensure 24-hour, seven-day-a-week coverage of dog control activities. An after-hours contractor covers this function on statutory holidays, as well as during staff absences.

3.2 Hours of Operations

Compliance Officers work an eight-hour rostered shift starting between the hours of 6.00am to 8.30pm, seven days a week and respond to all animal complaints during these times. After-hours are covered by an on-call roster available from 8.30pm to 6.00am, seven days a week and responds to all animal complaints. Public Holidays are covered by a contractor

who responds to all public safety complaints. Collectively, the officers and contractor provide the district with a 24-hour dog control service.

3.3 Dog Pound

The Council's Dog Pound is open to the public from 1.00pm to 2.00pm, Monday to Friday, excluding public holidays. Weekend access is available by appointment only.

The pound has 28 kennels and three exercise areas, one of which is covered. Of the 28 kennels, 16 are general purpose, seven for puppies, three isolation kennels and two kennels for dangerous dogs. Half of the kennels are under roof.

Impounded dogs may be claimed by their owners within seven days. Dogs not claimed within that period are assessed by officers for rehoming suitability and are either rehomed or euthanised.

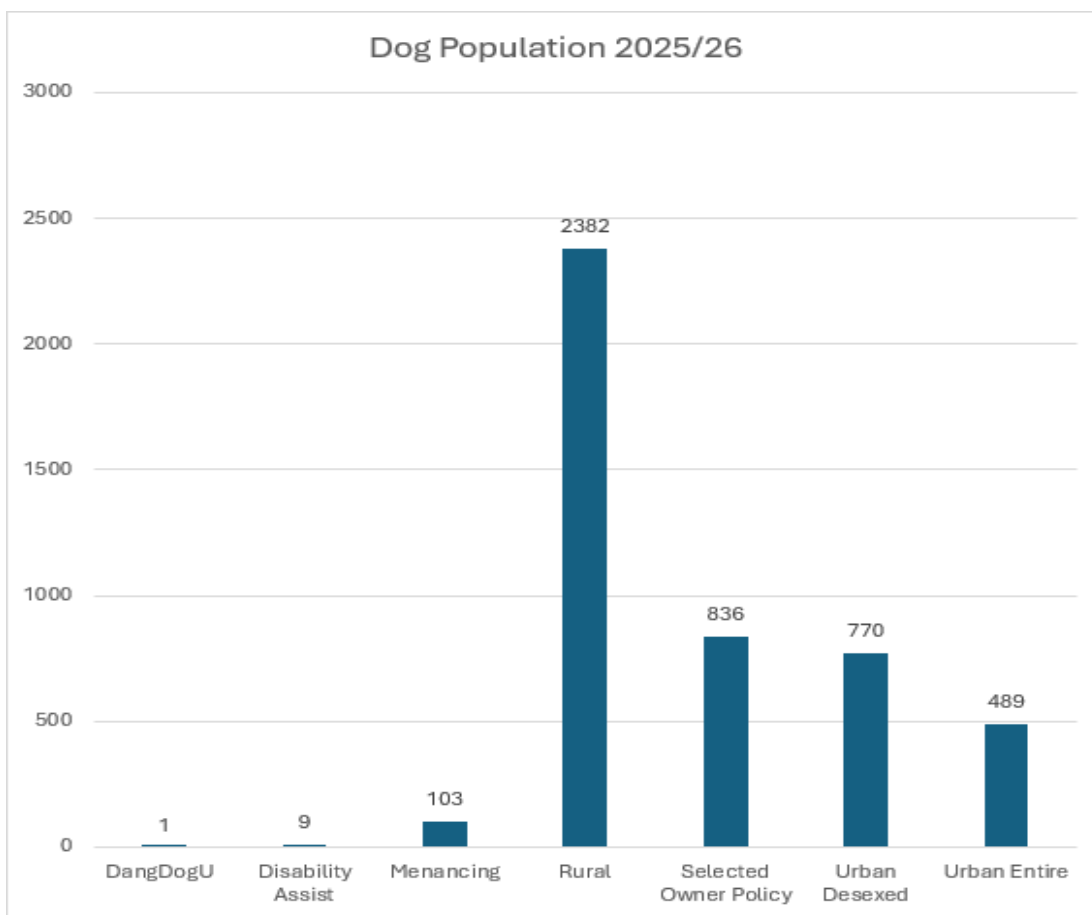
4.0 Fees and Charges

The following table provides the fees and charges associated with running the Council's Animal Compliance service for the 2025/26 year. The Council policy seeks to recover 80% of the total cost associated with dog control through registration, control fees and enforcement. General rates funding is used to meet the remaining 20% of dog related costs, reflecting the wider community benefits of effective dog control. Dog registration fees are set by Council resolution.

Charges	Fee for 2025/26 year (GST inclusive)
Urban	\$208.00
Urban (spayed/neutered)	\$179.00
Selected Owner Policy (SOP)	\$125.00
Selected Owner Policy (SOP) – Spayed/Neutered	\$95.00
Rural – first two dogs (each)	\$81.00
Rural – third and subsequent dogs (each)	\$68.00
Seeing Eye Dog/ Hearing Dog (Schedule 5)	Free
Dangerous Dogs	Base fee + 50%
Dog impounding (1 st)	\$179.00
Dog impounding (2 nd)	\$298.00
Dog impounding (3 rd)	\$356.00
3+ Dog Permit	\$95.00
Sustenance per day (payable on impound and every 24 hours thereafter)	\$22.00
Destruction of Dog	Actual Cost
Dog Re-homing fee	\$60.00
Microchipping (at the Pound)	\$81.00
Microchipping (by arrangement)	\$81.00

5.0 Dog Population Analysis

The chart below shows the different classes of dogs which make up the 4,590 registered dog population in the district.



6.0 Enforcement

6.1 Complaints

A total of 1,440 complaints were received during the 2025/26 year and is compared to previous years as follows:

Type of Complaint Received	2025/26	2024/25	2023/24	2022/23
Dog Attack	39	53	49	41
Rushing/Threatening	48	30	36	55
Roaming	522	559	579	675
Barking	593	626	358	391
Welfare	3	0	0	0
General Dog Complaints	235	196	208	208
Total	1,440	1,464	1,230	1,370

6.2 Impounding

A total of 105 dogs were impounded during the year, of which 58 were either returned or re-homed, and 47 euthanised. The number of dogs impounded decreased over this period compared to the previous reporting period (124 in 2024/25). The decline may be due to Compliance Officers' proactive community presence and continuous oversight of the activity, rather than reliance on an after-hours contractor.

6.3 Classification of Dog Owners

	2025/26	2024/25	Total in District
Probationary Owner	0	0	10
Disqualified Owner	4	0	25

6.4 Classification of Dogs

Under the Council's Policy, all dogs classified as menacing are required to be de-sexed and to be muzzled in public.

	2025/26	2024/25	Total in District
Menacing classification under section 33A – by behaviour	3	8	59
Menacing classification under section 33C – by breed	13	8	44
Dangerous classification under section 31	0	0	2

6.5 Infringements

A total of 479 infringement notices were issued during 2025/26 for the following offences:

Infringement Offences	2025/26	2024/25	2023/24	2022/23
Failure to provide care and attention	0	0	0	0
Failure to register a dog	424	386	508	523
Falsely notifying of death of dog	0	0	0	0
Failure to comply with class as menacing dog	0	0	0	0
Wilfully obstructed dog control officer or ranger	0	0	0	0
Provided false particulars relating to dog owner	1	0	0	0
Failed or refused to supply information relating to a dog owner	0	1	0	0
Owner failed or refused to supply information relating to their dog	0	3	0	0
Had possession of a dog when disqualified	0	1	0	0
Had possession of a counterfeited dog registration label or disc	0	1	0	0
Failed to keep dog controlled or confined	54	46	40	77
Failed to keep dog under control	0	6	6	0
Owner failed to carry or use leash in public place	0	0	0	0
Failed to muzzle dog classified as menacing	0	0	1	0
Failed to neuter dog classified as menacing	0	0	1	0
Owner failed to have dog implanted with microchip transponder	0	1	0	0
TOTAL	479	445	556	600

6.6 Number of Prosecutions taken

There were six prosecutions undertaken for offences under the Act for the 2025/26 year, and one prosecution was still ongoing.

Category	2025/26	2024/25
Dog Attack on Person	1	1

Attack on Another Animal/Poultry	5	2
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7.0 Other Services/Initiatives

7.1 Multiple Dog Permits (3+ Permit)

A permit is required to keep more than two dogs in an urban area, and the decision to issue this permit is based on the suitability of the owner, their property and a survey carried out with potentially affected neighbours. A total of eight permits were issued for the 2025/26 year.

7.2 Selected Owner Policy (SOP) Status

SOP status provides a discounted rate on dog registration as an incentive to good dog owners who meet the specified criteria under the policy. The requirements to meet SOP status are that the dog(s) are well cared for (this includes feeding, housing, exercise and a secure section) and have a current vaccination certificate. The owner must be present during the inspection. If the person owns a menacing or dangerous dog, they cannot apply for SOP status.

An owner must have resided in the district and have owned the dog for 12 months and have no history of dog control issues. Owners transferring into the district can apply if they have held SOP status in their previous district, with no reported dog control issues for the previous 12 months.

	2025/25	2024/25	2023/24
Dogs on Selected Owner Policy	836	788	809

7.3 Free Microchipping

Council undertook a 3-month free microchipping campaign to boost compliance and support responsible dog ownership. Microchipping is a requirement under legislation, however, also offers peace of mind to owners should a dog goes missing.



South Taranaki District Council

16 July 2025 · 🌐

Free Microchip Wednesdays during July, August and September



Meet Ian and his dog Spade – the very first to take up our Free Microchipping service at the pound!

Council is offering free microchip Wednesdays throughout July, August and September, to help local owners comply with legal requirements and keep their pets safe.

The free microchipping service is available to registered dogs living in South Taranaki. No appointment is necessary, owners can simply visit the South Taranaki Pound on Beach Road, Hāwera, any Wednesday between 12noon and 1pm, with proof of current registration (red tag or a receipt of payment).

Click on the link below for more information <https://www.southtaranaki.com/our-council/news?item=id:2utm8iwz417q9se5377c>



7.4 Social Media

Facebook is being successfully used to promote dogs that need adopting.

A colorful adoption poster for a dog named Kiko. The poster has a green and yellow background with a pattern of small circles. At the top, it says "KEEP-A-KURI" in large, bold, black letters, with "COUNCIL'S DOG ADOPTION PROGRAMME" underneath. On the left, there is a logo for the "South Taranaki District Council" and three small photos of Kiko. In the center, it says "HI, MY NAME IS" in a playful font, followed by "ADOPTED!" in a blue, bubbly font, and "KIKO" in large, bold, black letters. To the right of the name, there is a list of bullet points: "• Male", "• 2.8 years old", and "• American Staffordshire". Below this, there is a paragraph of text: "I'm a handsome, affectionate boy searching for my forever home." followed by another paragraph: "I may only have three legs, but don't let that fool you. I get around well and it doesn't slow me down. I'm resilient, happy and love being with people who are ready to share plenty of love." and a final paragraph: "I have been neutered and am ready to go home with the right family who will see past my disability and appreciate the wonderful companion I am." At the bottom, it says: "If you'd like to know more about me, call the Council on the number below."