

Kaipara District Council

Annual Animal Management Report for 2020-2021



A Dog's Tale.....

I wish someone would tell me, why am I home alone for so long, why must I stay all locked up? what was it, that I did wrong?

They seemed so glad to have me, when I came home as a pup, there was so many things we'd play and do, whilst I was growing up.

They couldn't wait to train me, as family and part of the crew, they told me that I will not fear again, without being in the company of you.

The children said they'd feed and play with me, said they'd brush me every day, they even begged the leader of the pack, if I could only stay.

But now the family hasn't the time or need, they say I shed my hair, and they cast me from the sheltered house, sometimes abandoned without care.

No one ever walks me, they always say "Not now", yet I am so excited and pleased to see them, won't someone tell me the why and how?

All I am is faithful, I wish they would explain, why they said they wanted me, yet here I amfastened all day to this cold and unfriendly chain?



If you cannot afford the costs associated with or the time for a family dog.... please reconsider and think again.

For further advice on "your family dog" - call one of the Council's Animal Management Officers.

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Executive Summary

This is the Kaipara District Council Animal Management annual report on dog control activities during the period 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021, as required by section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996.

The 2020-2021 registration year proved to be remarkably different from the previous year for two reasons. Firstly, our team's routine work was partly affected during a fragmented year by the COVID-19 lockdown period and the progression through the subsequent lower alert levels and secondly, it has been the first year that the registration function was brought in-house and not carried out by the contractors "Reg The Dog".

- **Total number of dogs**

The 2020-2021 registration year has seen a 6% decrease in the total number of known dogs in Kaipara, which has gone from 5,410 dogs in the previous year to 5,084 this year – a decrease of 326 dogs.

Our ongoing focus after bringing the registration of dog's in-house (5,468 known dogs of those 384 remain unregistered), dog registration compliance has achieved a 93% success rate. This result can be attributed due to the proactive measures taken during the lockdown by the Customer Service Team (CSC), the Monitoring & Compliance Services Technical Administration Team (M&CSTAT) and Animal Management Officer's (AMO).

- **Harm caused by dogs**

The highest priority for our team is still to keep all Kaipara residents and visitors to our district safe from harm caused by dogs. The increased effort by our Animal Management Team has seen a reduction in all aggression-related incidents, with 9.3% fewer attacks on people.

- **New Policy and Bylaw**

On 1 November 2019, the new Policy on Dogs and the Dog Management Bylaw 2019 came into effect. The aim of the new policy and bylaw were mostly to create consistent rules and controls for multiple-dog ownership, and new rules for some of our parks and beach areas.

- **High-risk dogs**

It is also a high priority for our team to get full compliance from dog owners with high-risk dogs, which includes menacing and dangerous dogs. At the end of the registration year, a total of 29 dogs were classified as menacing, and 1 dog was classified as dangerous. Overall compliance with the neutering requirement for all menacing and dangerous dog classifications is 63%. This result may be attributed to the Northland Dog Rescue subsidised neutering campaign.

- **Dealing with COVID-19**

As essential workers, our AMO's have had to find new ways of interacting with customers and other stakeholders, whilst also keeping their own health and safety a top priority within the differing COVID alert levels. Any dogs that were initially picked up by the officers after being found roaming the streets were returned to their owners, rather than taken to the Whangarei District Council (WDC) animal shelter. The officers handling complaints continued to provide advice and assistance to dog owners and complainants during the subsequent alert level periods.

- **Animal Management Officers**

The Animal Management Team responded to 1,192 requests for service during the year, which is 7% lower than the previous year. The AMO's substantially increased their proactive work relating to beaches, parks, reserves and other public places, and visits to these areas increased from 40 to 139.

A total of 34 dogs were impounded this year in the WDC animal shelter (30 impounds from the previous year). This is an increase of 12% from the previous year.

A total of 6 dogs were adopted from our shelter, which is another good result. A total of 15 impounded dogs were returned to their owners.

- **Barking**

Nuisance barking complaints had a sharp decline at the start of the lockdown – this is believed to be due to the fact that many dog owners were home during the COVID alert levels and able to control their dogs better.

Our AM Team responded to 160 barking complaints and issued 4 warning letters during the year to those who failed to reduce their barking dog issues in a timely manner.

- **Community education**

Unfortunately, the majority of our planned events were cancelled in the year due to the effects of COVID-19 and only one education event with a local kindergarten was carried out. The AM Team will be looking at further ways to carry out community education and to promote responsible dog ownership.



- **Future projects**

Animal Management is committed to improving processes and work practices – one to ensure a safer Kaipara, a much-improved customer experience and value for money service. Over the next year we will be looking at ways we can assist the organisation to save money and maximise resources during the 2021-2022 registration year the AM Team will facilitate a project to rejuvenate the existing Dargaville kennel and shelter services.

Part 1: Introduction

1.1 Purpose of the Annual Report

Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996 (the Act) requires each territorial authority to report on its dog control policy and practices and to provide specific statistical information. This report acts as a medium for this statutory requirement, and to provide an update to all stakeholders on the activities and performance of the Kaipara District Council's Animal Management Team.

1.2 Arrangement of the Report

The structure of this report follows a new arrangement to previous annual reports, this is to allow for ease of assessing the success story of our service delivery.

1.3 Achievements and activities of the 2020-2021 year

- **Registration and Classification** - *Promote dog registration across all of the Kaipara District.*
- **Responsible Dog Ownership** - *Educate and inform dog owners how to take care of their dogs.*
- **Dog Access Principles** - *Provide a balanced approach to dog access in Council-controlled public places.*
- **Monitoring measures of success** - *Annually reporting to Council's Governing Body (through a public agenda report) and to the Department of internal Affairs as required by the Dog Control Act 1996.*

1.4 Policy on Dogs 2019 and Dog Management Bylaw 2019

On 1 November 2019, the new Policy on Dogs 2019 and the Dog Management Bylaw 2019 came into effect. The objective of the new policy on dogs is to see dogs as a positive part of the life in the Kaipara District by:

- Maintaining opportunities for owners to take their dogs into public places
- Adopting measures to minimise the problems caused by dogs, and
- Protecting dogs from harm and ensuring their welfare.

Together, the policy and bylaw will:

- Provide a consistent approach to multiple dog ownership
- Provide a consistent monitoring approach that apply at beaches
- Address dog access rules for the protection of wildlife in protected areas, and
- Northland Dog Rescue subsidised neutering campaign to incentivise responsible dog ownership for owners of dogs that have been classified as menacing due to their behaviour (Section 33A of the Act).

1.5 Our Services

The Animal Management Team's main function is to ensure that dogs and other animals are sufficiently controlled to prevent harm and nuisance to the public.

This helps to fulfil the overall goal of the Monitoring & Compliance Services Team (M&CS) by protecting the Kaipara district's residents and public, free from nuisance and harm, as well as improving, protecting and promoting the health of the community.

These goals are achieved via a number of the animal management services:

- Providing information and education to the public relating to dog control and other animal management issues
- Dog registration and database administration
- Dog access to public places
- Dog classification and monitoring of menacing and dangerous dogs
- Complaint response (including aggression, rushing, roaming, and barking nuisance complaints)
- Shelter services (including lost and found, adoption/rehoming and microchipping)

1.6 Animal Management Structure – Our Teams



Kaipara District Council operates on a shared service agreement with WDC – kennelling service, within a district-wide Animal Management Team which currently has a total of three AMO's and in addition to this the M&CS Manager.

The AMO Team are a multi-functional team that includes, education, barking, general complaints and a regulatory arm. The AMO's are supported by a 'dog registration hub', which operates at the beginning of every new registration year through the CSC and M&CSTAT teams, who provide administrative support to the AMO's.

The AM Team has three field officers who operate across the west and east coasts of the Kaipara district. The team is responsible for the field services which includes a reactive response to investigations of complaints about dogs that are not under control, or that are causing a nuisance.

Other responsibilities include ensuring compliance with the Dog Control Act 1996, encouraging responsible dog ownership, and actively enforcing the registration of all dogs in our region.

The AM field officers also deal with stray or roaming livestock on all our roads, and sometimes have to deal with stock trespassing on private property.

In addition, the officers also do regular patrols in areas with a high volume of complaints. Proactive work includes visits to most popular beaches used by dog owners.

The team provides a 24 hour a day response to all urgent and high priority requests. They work closely with the WDC animal shelter to provide support for property inspections for dogs that are required to be returned and/or for adoptions from the WDC shelter.



The shelter is responsible for the care and management of impounded animals. These animals may be the subject of legal prosecutions, or were impounded for being found wandering at large, not registered, or were surrendered by their owners.

KDC's AMO's promote the adoption of unclaimed, suitable dogs and work collaboratively with other welfare and rescue agencies to find the best possible outcome for these dogs. Various de-sexing campaigns and other veterinary services have also been offered to the community through the work of the officers and the animal shelter.

Specialists – Other officers available for their input include Environmental Health Officers (EHO's) for noise, the M&CS Team Manager, and the Enforcement Panel for any legal advice, if enforcement action is required to resolve any escalated and ongoing complaints.

Part 2: Policy Objectives

2.1 Registration and Classification

It is the aim for Kaipara District Council's animal services that all dogs are to be registered.

2.1.1 Dog registrations

The Act requires all dog owners to register their dogs every year, and it also requires every territorial authority to keep a register of all dogs.

Having dogs registered significantly increases the Council's ability to manage dog-related safety and nuisance issues.

The annual dog registration year runs from 1 July to 30 June the following year. Failure to register a dog can result in a \$300 infringement notice, or a court may impose a fine of up to \$3,000.

- Animal Management continues to focus on dog registration compliance during the 2020-2021 year. The number of known dogs in the Kaipara district equated to 5,468 dogs for this registration year.
- A total of 163 infringement notices were issued.
- Dog registration and animal management fees remained the same as the 2019-2020 financial year.

2.1.2 Classification of high-risk dogs

All menacing dogs living in the Kaipara district are required to be neutered, even if the classification by another territorial authority does not require it.

As of 30 June 2021, a total of 29 dogs were classified as menacing. Overall compliance with the classifications increased compared to the previous year.

- It is a requirement in the Act that menacing dogs are to be classified either by behaviour or breed, the majority of our classifications are by breed.
- A total of 62% of all menacing dogs are currently neutered.

2.1.3 Neutering campaign

The successful 2020-2021 Desexing campaign, which received funding from North Auckland Dog Rescue (NADR), will facilitate another subsidised neutering programme, during the 2021-2022 year.



A total of 40 dogs were neutered during the year under this programme will continue to be rolled out for the coming year.

2.2 Responsible Dog Ownership

“Dog owners will care for their dogs and control them around people, to protect wildlife, other animals, property and natural habitats.”

2.3 Dog Access Principles

“Provide a balanced use of public places for dogs and their owners that is safe”. Animal Management continues to promote and encourage the safe and responsible presence of dogs in public places.

2.3.1 Beaches, Parks and Reserves

The new Policy on Dogs 2019 and Dog Management Bylaw 2019 have simplified access to most beaches, parks, and reserves for dog owners. A review of all old signage at beaches, parks, and reserves has recently been undertaken. Although the signage project is not facilitated by Animal Management, the field staff are assisting the policy department in identifying and documenting inaccurate, missing, or damaged signage.



2.3.2 Working with the community

Animal Management continued to focus primarily on reducing harm caused by dogs. Specific ‘high-risk’ areas have been targeted as part of the intelligence-led approach taken by our AMO’s.

2.4 Monitoring Measures of Success

“Annually report to the Governing Body (through a public agenda report) and to the national government (DIA) as required by the Dog Control Act 1996”

This annual report represents a thorough and reliable account of all Animal Management activities during the 2020-2021 financial year.

Part 3: Service Delivery and Activities

3.1 Education and Community Events

Animal Management staff attended a kindergarten community event this year, unfortunately, some popular events like the Northland Field Days and other planned school / community events were cancelled due to COVID-19.



3.1.2 At-risk workers

We will endeavour to provide refresher training to agencies and organisations with 'at-risk' workers, including FENZ, Housing New Zealand, New Zealand Post and the New Zealand Police.

This year, Animal Management are engaged with local Police to deliver training sessions to frontline Police Officers in relation to dog safety.

During the training sessions, the Animal Management staff will demonstrate tools and techniques used by AMO's on a daily basis to keep themselves safe, especially when entering properties with unknown dogs.

3.2 Animal Shelter Services

3.2.1 Impounds

The WDC animal shelter has seen a reduction in the number of impounded dogs during this registration year which has seen a 32% reduction. In part this is due to the return to home policy for first offenders where and when deemed practicable. This directly links to the lower number of service requests received, as well with the lower number of offences detected by our field officers.

There were 32 dogs impounded in the WDC animal shelter throughout the region during the 2020-2021 year. A total of 15 dogs were returned to their owners, which is 47% of all impounds.



3.2.2 Adoptions

The AMO Team have worked hard throughout the year to find the best possible homes for dogs in their care that were suitable for adoption.

The WDC animal shelter and AMO's continue to work closely with rescue organisations and utilise other social media or internet platforms, like Facebook, etc. to find as many suitable homes as possible.



A total of 19% of the dogs impounded were adopted from the shelters during the 2020-2021 year.

3.2.3 Projects

The business case to rejuvenate Kaipara District Council's kennels and shelter was successful and is now part of the project management group which is to bring the shelter services in-house for 01 July 2022.

Bringing the kennels in-house will create a total Kaipara Animal Management Service. It will provide a consistent customer experience, with services that will be maintained locally for the community and gain efficiencies across the Animal Management Services i.e., less travel time between sites.

Benefits include:

- Cost savings
- Agile, flexible, and local management that will provide consistency for staff and community.

By repairing and rejuvenating the existing redundant kennels we will be providing a cost-efficient customer service and much improved customer experience to the Kaipara community.

The rejuvenated facility will provide six kennels and two mobile kennels providing kennelling for eight dogs if needed. There will also be a fenced exercise area and general administration office.

3.3 Field Services

3.3.1 Proactive work

The AMO field officers proactively visit and patrol most of the popular beaches that have a high volume of visitors.

A total of 139 proactive visits and patrols were carried during the year.

3.3.2 Response to requests for service

The AMO's experienced a busy year dealing with animal management issues, but the team also recorded a reduction in serious incidents.

- ❖ The field officers responded to 1,192 requests for service – a 7.4% decrease from the year before.
- ❖ A total of 41 dog attacks were investigated which resulted in a 9.7 % decrease in attacks on people than the previous year.
- ❖ The largest volume of all service requests relates to the Dog Management Bylaw.

3.3.3 Enforcement activities

Animal Management operates on a graduated educational and enforcement model, which includes educational warnings, infringement notices, and in serious cases – prosecutions.

- During the year, AMO's issued a total of 165 infringement notices and 4 formal warnings for all offences under the Act. The total number of infringement notices issued increased by 35 % from the previous year.
- No prosecutions were brought against dog owners for serious offences against the Act for the 2020-2021 year

3.3.4 Other Duties

Our field officers' duties also include dealing with stray or roaming livestock on roads and other public places, throughout the entire Kaipara district including the highway network. This work is time-consuming, sometimes dangerous and can account for a large part of the officers' after-hours response times.

- Officers responded to 122 incidents of stray or roaming stock during the year.
- A total of 103 incidents related to animals roaming at large on the highway network.

3.4 Nuisance Issues

3.4.1 Barking complaints

- A total of 160 barking complaints were received in the 2020-2021 year.
- These complaints resulted in 4 nuisance abatement notices issued during the year to dog owners who failed to reduce the barking of their dogs.

Part 4: The Kaipara District – our people and their dogs

4.1 Dog owners in Kaipara

❖ As at the 30 June 2021, the Kaipara District had a total of 3,341 known dog owners.

4.1.1 Menacing and dangerous dogs:

There is a total decrease of 13 dog attacks which is a total of 24%. Incidents where dogs rushed to people or other animals, but didn't result in an attack, increased by 28% from 21 in the previous year to 29 this year.

Part 5: Dog Control Statistics

5.1 Registrations Tables

Totals	2019-2020	2020-2021
Registered Dogs	5,410	5,084

Registered dogs by area	Number of dogs
Ararua	14
Dargaville	1644
Donnellys Crossing	33
Kaihu	10
Kaiwaka	501
Mangawhai	889
Matakohe	183
Maungaturoto	374
Oruawharo	7
Paparoa	248
Ruawai	246
Taipuha	31
Tangiteroria	217
Te Kopuru	25
Tinopai	85
Topuni	41
Waiotira	6
Whakapirau	13
Whangarei	3
Not applicable	71

5.2 Classifications Tables

Probationary Owners	0	2
Dangerous Dogs - still active	0	1
▪ by Owner Conviction under s31(1)(a)	0	0
▪ Dangerous by Sworn Evidence s31(1)(b)	0	1
▪ Dangerous by Owner Admittance in writing s31(1)(c)	0	0
Menacing Dogs – active total	27	29
▪ under s33A(1)(b)(i) – i.e. by behaviour	10	10
▪ under s33A(1)(b)(ii) – by breed characteristics	4	2
▪ under s33C(1)(ii) by Schedule 4 breed	13	17

5.2.1 Dangerous Dogs Statistics

Classified s31	Sex	Neutered	Located
American Bulldog	Male	Yes	Aratapu

5.2.2 Menacing Dogs Statistics

Location	
East Coast	6
Maungaturoto	6
West Coast	17

Breeds			
s33A Classified (behaviour)		s33C Classified (breed)	
Staffordshire Terrier	3	American Pitbull Terrier	16
American Pit Bull Terrier	2	Neapolitan Mastiff	1
Boxer	1		
German Shepard	1		
Labrador Retriever	1		
Mastiff/Retriever	1		
Sheepdog	1		
Rottweiler Cross	1		
Siberian Husky	1		

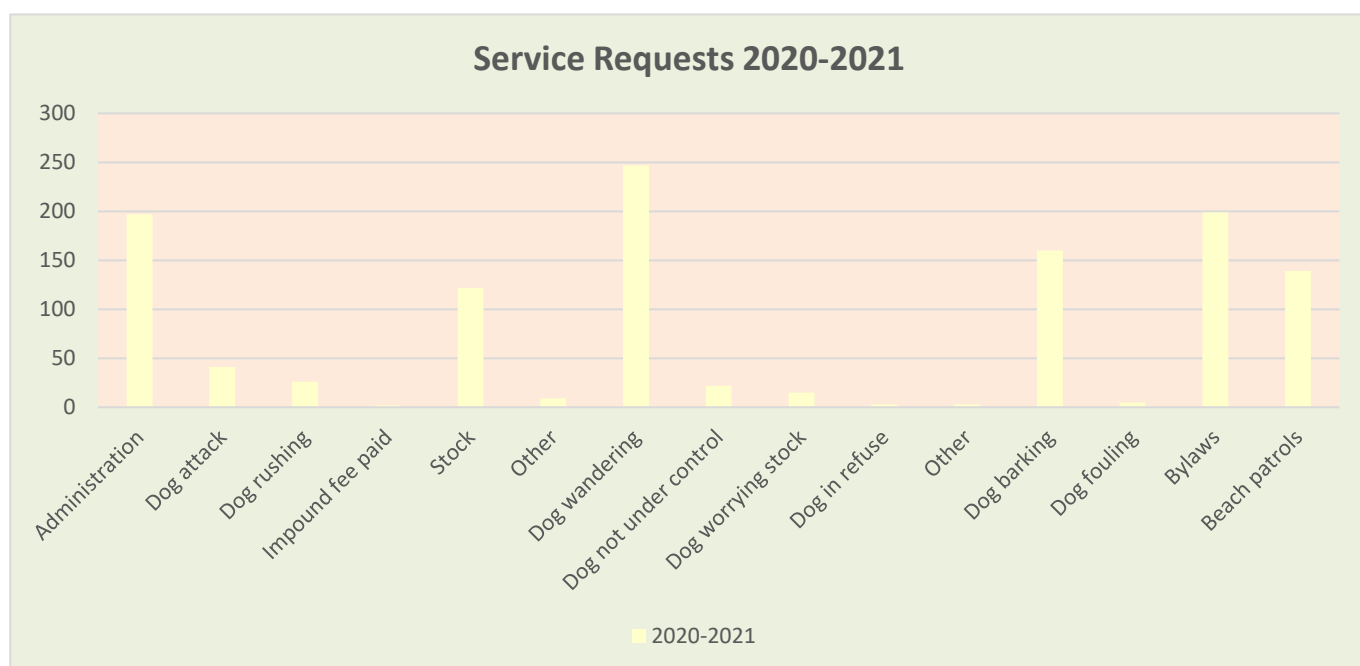
Neutered	Yes	No
s33A Classified (behaviour)	7	5
s33C Classified (breed)	11	6
Sex	M	F
s33A Classified (behaviour)	7	5
s33C Classified (breed)	9	8

5.3 Requests for Service (RFS) Tables

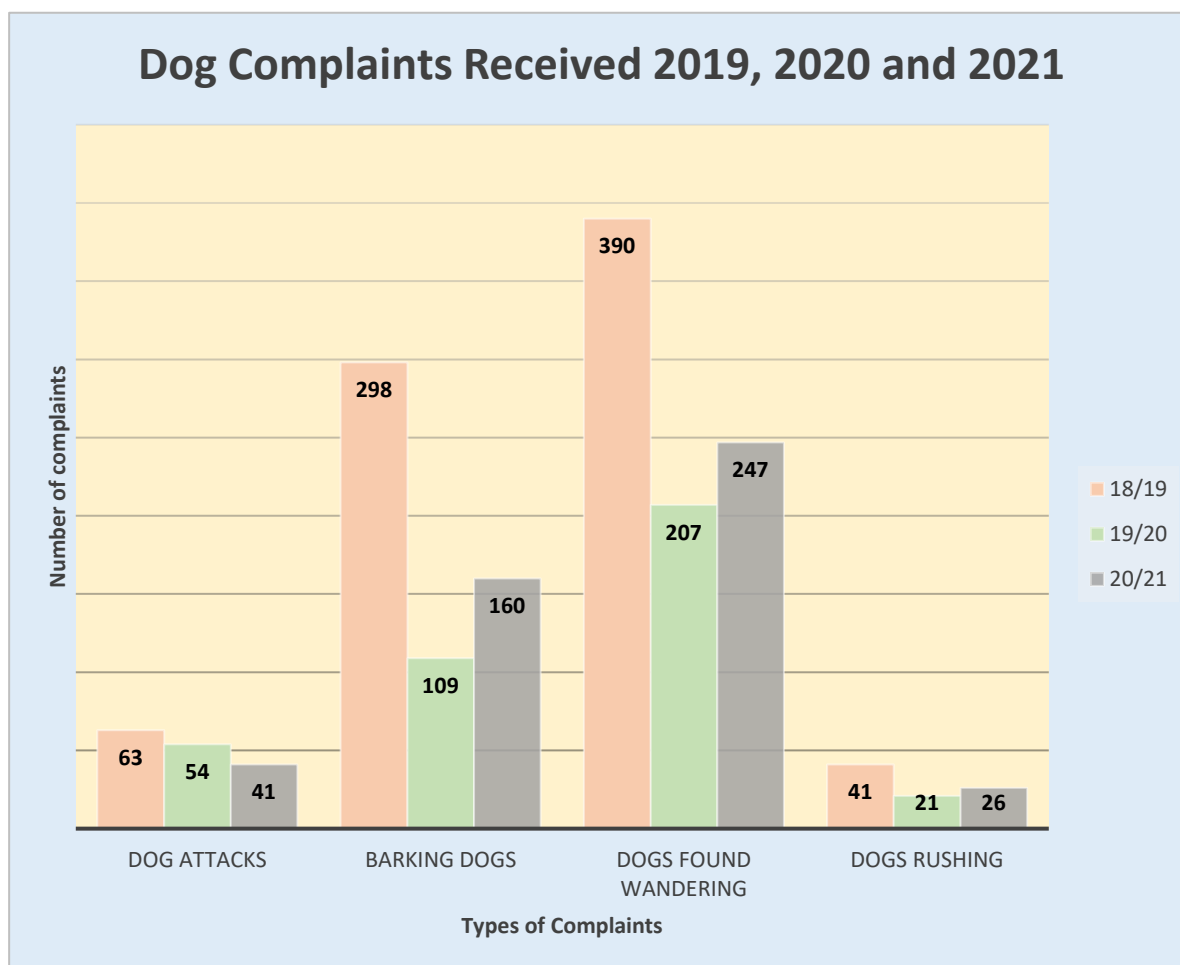
5.3.1 Service requests

Type of Service Request	2020-2021
Animal management administration	197
Dog attack	41
Dog rushing	26
Impound fee paid	2
Stock	122
Other	9
Dog wandering	247
Dog not under control	22
Dog worrying stock	15
Dog in refuse	3
Other	3
Dog barking	160
Dog fouling	5
Bylaws	199
Beach patrols	139
Total	1,192

Total SR's for the year	2019-2020	2020-2021
Service Requests received	1,286	1,192



Dog complaints



5.4 Enforcement - Tables

5.4.1 Prosecutions

Nil prosecutions.

5.4.2 Infringement notices

Dog Infringements issued			
Description of offence	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Obstruction of a Dog Control Officer (AMO)	0	0	4
Fail to supply or wilfully provide false information	0	0	2
Failure to comply with Council's Dog Policy	0	0	2
Failure to comply with Dangerous Dog Classification	0	1	0
Failure to comply with Menacing Dog Classification	0	1	1
Failure to implant microchip in dog	61	14	21
Kept an unregistered dog	120	36	91
Failure to keep a dog controlled or confined	67	24	35
Failure to keep a dog under control	0	4	7
Failure to provide proper care	0	0	0

Dog Infringements issued			
Description of offence	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Releasing a dog from custody	1	0	0
Total number of dog infringement issued	249	80	163

5.5 Animal Shelter - Tables

5.5.1 Impounded dogs

Impounded Dogs	2019/20	2020/21
▪ In the shelter at the end of the financial year	2	2
▪ Euthanised	4	11
▪ Adopted	7	6
▪ Returned to owner	17	15
Reasons for impounded dogs	2019/20	2020/21
▪ Attacked person or animal	11	13
▪ Stray	15	13
▪ Wandering	4	8
Total	30	34