



NAPIER
CITY COUNCIL

Te Kaunihera o Ahuriri

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FUTURE NAPIER COMMITTEE

Open Attachments (Under separate cover 1)

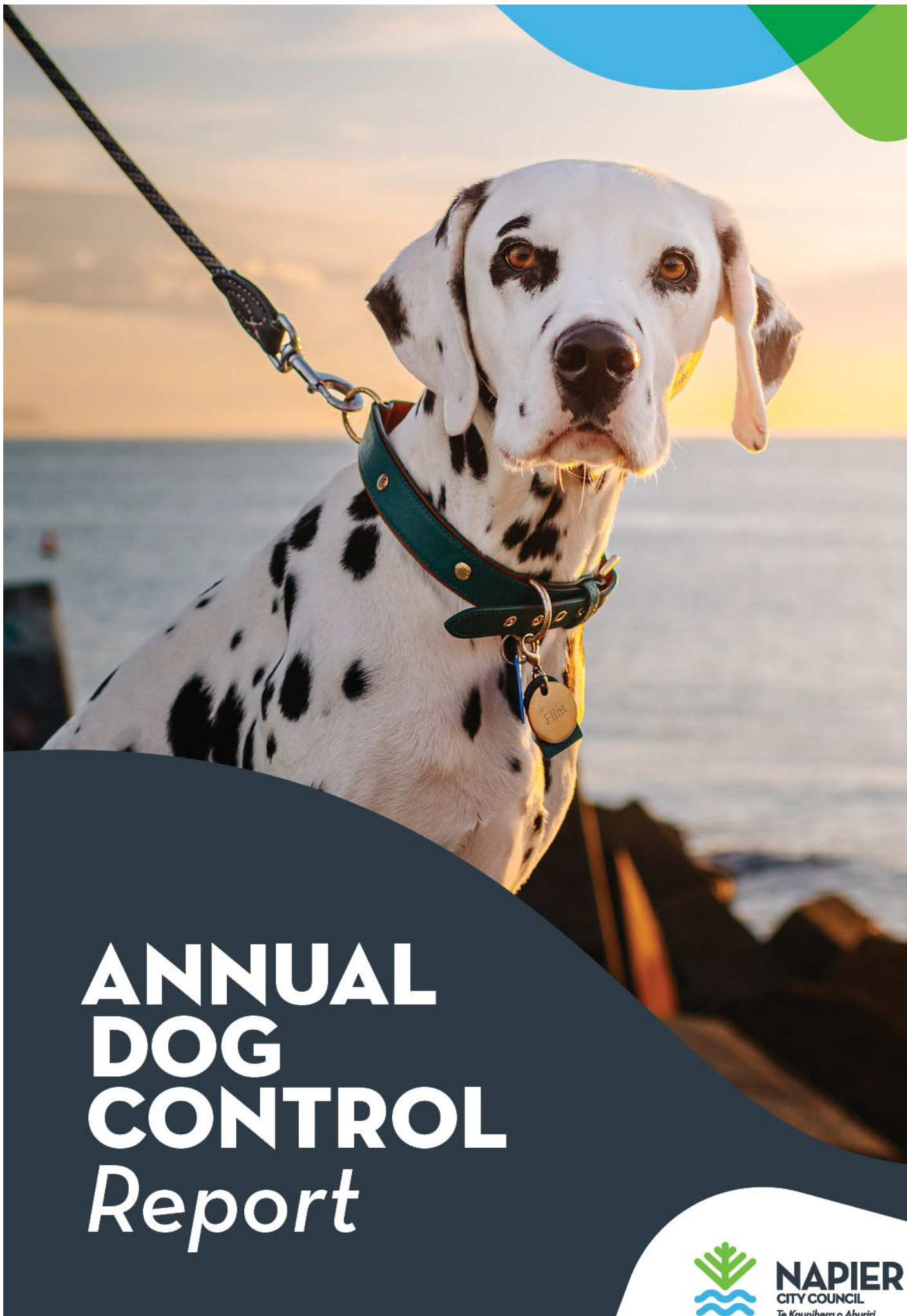
Meeting Date: Thursday 1 August 2024

Time: Following Sustainable Napier Committee

Venue: Chapman Room
Level 1, Chapman Pavilion
McLean Park
Latham Street
Napier

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ANNUAL DOG CONTROL *Report*



1. Introduction

The Napier City Council, as a territorial authority, is required to manage and enforce provisions of the Dog Control Act 1996 (the Act). Section 10A of the Act requires the Council to report annually to the Secretary of Local Government on its Dog Control Policy and practices.

This report fulfils this statutory requirement for the dog registration year:

- 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024.

2. The Council's Dog Control Policy and Practices

2.1. Policy objectives

The current Dog Control Policy was adopted in 2022 and took effect from 1 October 2022.

The objectives of the current policy are to:

- provide clear guidance to the public and staff in the administration of the Dog Control Act 1996,
- provide a safe and healthy environment for citizens and visitors,
- minimise dog attacks by appropriate enforcement of the policy, bylaw and Act, and
- provide for the general welfare of dogs and ensure dogs kept under human care are well cared for.

The current Napier City Council Animal Control Bylaw was adopted in 2022 and took effect from 1 October 2022.

The objectives of the current bylaw are to:

- enhance the safety of the public and children by minimising the distress, nuisance and intimidation caused by dogs to the community,
- avoid the inherent danger of uncontrolled dogs in public places, and
- provide dogs and their owners with the ability to satisfy their recreational needs.

2.2. Summary of Practices

The operational functions of the Act are carried out by our Animal Control team within the City Services Directorate. Regulatory decisions are separated from operations and decided by our regulatory team in the City Strategy Directorate.

A dog pound is operated by Council and acts as a safe holding place for dogs. Those dogs that are suitable to be rehomed are put up for adoption.

The team maintain the Park Island and Taradale dog agility parks, the dog shower at Park Island, and keep the poo-bag dispensers topped up.

A large proportion of their work is responding to public safety issues and taking necessary action to keep people and dogs safe following an incident. To prevent these incidents from occurring, the Animal Control team proactively patrol reserves and beaches, parks and playgrounds to ensure compliance with the Act and Napier City's Dog Control Policy.

Educating people – of all ages – is a big part of what the team do to promote a culture of responsible dog ownership. The education they provide to schools and kindergartens isn't just to teach children how to be safe around dogs, but how to be better, gentler dog owners themselves.

They also provide advice, help check fences and gates, help install running wires to keep dogs contained, and help dog owners understand their dog's behaviour.

2.3. Fees

The Government has made councils responsible for the implementation of the Dog Control Act 1996.

Councils meet its requirements under the Act by the development of a policy on dog control and by applying appropriate resources to implement and enforce the policy.

Council's dog control services apply to all owners and members of the public and the annual registration fee is the mechanism provided through the legislation to enable Council to fund the share of dog control activities that Council determines are to be funded by owners.

The determination of the portion of costs paid by owners and that funded from rates is a policy matter that is determined by each Council.

Currently approximately 70% of the costs of the Napier City Council's animal control activity are funded from dog owners and 30% to 35% of costs are funded from rates. Council review this mix every 3 years as part of the development of a Revenue and Financing Policy that is included in the Council's Long-Term Plan.

3. Dog Control Statistics

The information provided below sets out the statistical information required by Section 10(A)(2) of the Act.

Number of Registered Dogs

Category	2022/23	2023/24
Number of dogs registered by Council	7,590	8,532

**Data counted for the registration year being 1 July through to 30 June*

Dangerous and Menacing Dogs

Total number of dogs classified as dangerous (Section 31)

Category	2022/23	2023/24
Total Dangerous Dogs	36	31

**Total number of dogs classified as dangerous at 30 June.*

Total number of dogs classified as menacing (Section 32A and 33C)

Category	2022/23	2023/24
Total Menacing Dogs	194	165

**Total number of dogs classified as menacing at 30 June.*

Infringements

Number of infringement notices issued

Category	2022/23	2023/24
Infringement notices issued	344	434

**The Animal Control team work with dog owners to encourage registration in the first instance rather than issuing infringements.*

Classification of Dog Owners

Number of classified dog owners

Category	2022/23	2023/24
Probationary Owners	0	0
Disqualified Owners	1	9

* Total number of classified dog owners at 30 June.

Prosecutions

Number of prosecutions taken for offences under the Dog Control Act 1996

Category	2022/23	2023/24
Prosecutions	0	0

Complaints

Number and nature of dog complaints received

Category	2022/23	2023/24
Public Safety related complaints		
Dog attack on people – minor	40	32
Dog attack on people – serious	19	17
Dog attack on other animals	81	87
Dog attack on stock	5	3
Dog worrying stock	7	2
Dog chasing	15	12
Dog rushing	65	53
Aggressive dog behaviour other than rushing	68	58
Roaming dogs reported by public	682	615
Non-safety concerns		
Roaming dogs contained by public	364	336
People's dogs that are reported lost	148	199
Barking	519	515
Fouling	4	8
Bylaws breach	36	32
Unregistered dog	23	15
Welfare concerns	23	37
Miscellaneous	0	0
Licence/Permit	76	178
Information requests	165	169
Registration Enquiry	75	44
Refill Dispenser	85	215
Total	2,549	2,627

Impounding and Rehoming

Category	2022/23	2023/24
Total dogs impounded	539	519
Outcomes of impounding¹:		
Dogs returned to owner	252	261
Registered dogs returned home without charge (1 st impounding)	65	50
Dogs rehomed	55	54
Dogs surrendered to SPCA	0	0
Dogs euthanised	163	142
Other (removed from custody)	3	1
Alive and in pound	1	6

**Of the number of dog's euthanised, 71 were surrendered by owner to euthanise due to attacking/biting, aggression or failure to pass the rehoming assessment. In addition to this, 6 due to poor health on arrival at the pound, 36 dogs were notably aggressive or had behavioural issues and were unable to be rehomed, 29 dogs were classified menacing dogs and not suitable for rehoming.*

¹ The outcome date may not have occurred until the next reporting year, however it is reported against this reporting year for completeness

