Rangitikei District Council Report Pursuant to Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996

For Period 01 July 2012 – 30 June 2013

PART 1 – Dog Control Policy and Practices

1. Dog Control in the District

- Number of dog owners in District 2211.
- Number of registered dogs in District – 4966 comprising, 2801 working dogs, 2049 Good Dog Owners and 116 non working dogs.
- Four Dog Control Officers are employed by Council, three based in Marton, one in Taihape.
- Dog Control Officers respond to priority one calls after hours. Priority one calls include dog attacks and securing wandering dogs .

Dog control within the Rangitikei has evolved into an enforcement based on legislation model within this reporting period. Considerable efforts have been made to ensure that all dogs are registered, and furthermore, registered correctly according to their classification pursuant to the Dog Control Act 1996.

Furthermore, significant efforts have been made to ensure that dogs classified as menacing (by breed or type) in accordance with the Dog Control Act 1996, are complying with the associated conditions.

As a result of the more 'pro-active' approach, there has been a noticeable decline of detected offences in previous problem areas, and also specific types of incidents (such as roaming) have declined.

2.Dog Control Enforcement Practices

Dog Control Officers from this district, along with the Manawatu District (through a shared service agreement) were utilized in physically checking every known property within the district that possibly had un-registered dogs. Numerous offences were detected as a result.

- Dog Control Officers responded to 965 service requests/complaints during the reporting period in response to the following:
  - 65 attacks (human and animal – includes rushing)
  - 107 barking
  - 165 wandering/stray
  - 76 Animal Welfare/Property Investigation

- 89 Found
- 116 Lost
- 11 Stock Worrying
- 336 Other

- 64 infringement notices were issued

3.Dogs Prohibited, Leash Only and Exercise Areas

The problem of dogs in public places or otherwise prohibited areas is not one that is common within this district. On occasion dogs are reported as wandering un-accompanied within such areas, and on these occasions, the Dog Control officers are quick to attend

4.Dog Control Registration and Other Fees

- Non working dogs registration increased from $162 to $165
- Non working neutered/spayed increased from $142 to $151
- Good Dog Owner non neutered/spayed no increased from $65 to $60
- Good Dog Owner neutered/spayed increased from $45.00 to $51.00
- Working Dogs increased from $35.50 to $36.00

The direct costs of registration and impounding should be fully recovered through dog registration and impounding fees. The dog registration fees reflect the respective levels of service required by each category of dog owner. Reduced fees therefore apply to working dogs and dogs belonging to good dog owners. The good dog owner system aims to provide an incentive within the registration fee structure that promotes responsible dog ownership. The fee structure will reward dog owners who:
* adequately fence their section
* de-sex their dog
* have a good record of dog ownership
* register their dog on time
*care for their dogs properly, i.e. provide them with a secure yard and a kennel that is weatherproof, of sufficient size and clean and sanitary.

Council's approach to dogs that remained un-registered after the usual warnings and penalties etc. was that all known properties were physically visited by Dog Control Officers and checks were made to ascertain whether a dog was still housed at that property.

After verification that a dog was still owned, infringements were sent to owners, and in some cases, dogs were impounded.

5.Dog Education and Dog Obedience courses

Rangitikei District Council has contracted an instructor to deliver training to educational institutions within the district. Results this reporting year were poor. A new instructor will be contracted in the new reporting year.

6.Disqualified and Probationary Dog Owners

No owners were classified as disqualified or probationary during the reporting period.

7.Menacing and Dangerous Dogs

- The Council has not had any issues with owners of menacing dogs not complying with the requirements relating to their classification.
- There are 3 dogs classified as dangerous in the District

PART 2 – Statistical Information

Category	**As at 30 June 2012**	**For Period 01 July 2012 – 30 June 2013**
1) Total Registered Dogs	4819	4966
2) Total Probationary Owners	Nil	Nil
3) Total Disqualified Owners	Nil	Nil
4) Total Dangerous Dogs	1	3
Dangerous by Owner Conviction Under s31(1)(a)	Nil	2
Dangerous by Sworn Evidence s31(1)(b)	1	Nil
Dangerous by Owner Admittance in Writing s31(1)(c)	Nil	1
5) Total Menacing Dogs	7	43
Menacing under s33A(1)(b)(i) – i.e. by behavior	1	2
Menacing under s33A(1)(b)(ii) by Breed Characteristics	1	2
Menacing under s33C(1) by Schedule 4 Breed	5	39
6) Total Infringement Notices	180	64
7) Total Complaints Received	938	965
8) Total Prosecutions Taken		Nil
9) Infringements Sent to Court	68	22