

Dog Control Policy and Practices: 2019/20

1. The policy in force during the 2019/20 financial year became operative on 1 September 2012 following a resolution of Council's Policy Committee on 22 June 2011. This policy complies with the Dog Control Act 1996 and all subsequent amendments.
2. The policy outlines expected standards and behaviours from dog owners and provides information about how Council will administer dog control. The following issues are addressed by the policy:
 - Restriction on the number of dogs
 - Leashing requirements of all dogs in specified public places
 - Fouling in public places
 - Confinement
 - Diseased dogs
 - Impounding or removing dogs from a property
 - Minimum standards of accommodation for dogs
 - Nuisance barking
 - Classification of probationary owners
 - Disqualification of owners
 - Classification as dangerous dog
 - Classification of menacing dog
 - Hearing of objections
 - Micro-chipping of dogs
 - Fees and charges
 - Revenue
 - Infringement notices
 - Bylaws

3. Over this year, Council has seen an increase in the number of registered dogs due to better database management along with a greater emphasis on compliance/enforcement. It is expected that this will continue in future years to drive greater compliance with the Dog Control Act 1996.
4. The Council's dog control policy is to be reviewed in the 2021 calendar year.

Statistical Reporting for the 2019/20 financial year

5. The Council is required to provide information in regard to several key areas of interest and this detailed in the table below.

Area of interest as at 30 June 2020	Number	Comment
Number of registered dogs	6,119	
Number of probationary owners	0	Council favours the use of disqualification rather than probation.
Number of disqualified owners	0	
Number of dogs classified as dangerous	5	
Number of dogs classified as menacing	43	Total number
Under section 33A	36	Classified due to aggressive behaviour
Under section 33C	7	Classification by breed
Number of infringement notices issued	41	Total number
	9	Failure to keep dog controlled or confined
	28	Keeping unregistered dog
	2	Failure to keep dog under control
	1	Failure to comply with effects of classification of dog as dangerous dog
	1	Failure to comply with effects of classification of dog as menacing dog
Number of dog complaints received	1,378	Total number
	47	Attack – Bite
	62	Attack – Rush at/Startle
	581	Barking
	400	Straying/impounding
	277	General Complaint
Number of prosecutions under the Act	0	