

ANIMAL MANAGEMENT

Annual Report

2022 - 2023



Mihi

Toko ake rā e koutou o te ngākau māhora,
o te hinengaro māhaki,
o te whakaaro nui,
o te wairua atawhai.

Tukua hei a tātou ngā reo mō te wahangū
me te piringa ā-mahue noa.

Koutou i huakina ai ngā tatau o kāinga-rua
ki ngā mōkai a kāinga-tahi
kua kāwhakina ki tāhaki
e whakaaro kore rāua ko manawa poto.
Ki a koutou, ā mātou mihi
me ā mātou whakamānawa.

Tēnei mātou te toro atu nei ki a koutou,
kia kotahi mai tātou ki te kawē ake
i te mānuka e piki ai te mātauranga,
e āhuru ai te noho a o tātou hapori
i ngā mōreareatanga o te kīrehe mohoa
me te mea anō hoki e piki ai
te aronui o te iwi ki ngā kawenga o te tiaki kurī.

E hora ake nei ko tā mātou pūrongo
mō ngā mahi i oti me ngā arohanga
ki ngā mea hei kawē ake ā ngā ra e tū mai nei.
Mauri ora ki a koutou katoa.

Welcome to all you of open heart,
humble mind,
kind thought
and caring spirit.

Let us be voices for the voiceless
and give shelter to the abandoned.

To you who gave a second home
to pets of those who cared less
the pets cast out
by negligence and short-term affection.
To you, we express our thanks
and gratitude.

Again, we reach out to you all,
to act together and help us meet
the challenge that is to increase education,
so that our communities are safe
from the dangers of wayward animals
and to inform
the people of their obligations to dog ownership.

The following is our report
of the work that has been completed already
and the work that is yet to be done.
Greetings to you, one and all.

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Executive Summary

This is the Auckland Council Animal Management annual report on dog control activities during the period of 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023, as required by section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996.

Dog Population

The known dog population in Auckland increased this year by 5.4 per cent to **131,795** dogs, with 110,398 individual dog owners. This is an increase of 6,779 dogs, which continues the upward trend seen in previous years.

There were 116,209 dogs registered in Auckland at the end of June 2023, which is 88 per cent of all known dogs. This is a **2.2** per cent increase in the total number of registered dogs, but a **2.8** per cent decrease in the registration rate.

The unit's operational focus on registration compliance was significantly affected by the high occupancy levels in all three animal shelters, which were operating near full capacity for the majority of the year.

Dog Attacks

The total number of dog attacks reported this year increased by 28 per cent to 2,437. There were 250 more attacks on people and 280 more attacks on other animals reported this year.

A comprehensive bite prevention strategy was developed during the year, which includes exploring international best practice guidance to address dog aggression. Several initiatives were introduced, and these involve an increased focus on community outreach programmes and working with elected members to focus on the most affected communities.

As a result of these dog attacks, Auckland Council initiated 112 prosecutions during the year against dog owners for serious breaches of the Dog Control Act 1996. A diversion scheme was implemented in December 2022, which is targeted at reparation for the victim, the rehabilitation of the offender, and the elimination or reduction of risk that attacking dogs may pose.

There were eight appeals filed in the High Court against destruction orders made in the District Court, but these appeals were all dismissed. One appeal was filed in the Court of Appeal.

High-risk Dogs

Auckland currently has 5,410 dogs classified as menacing and 10 dogs classified as dangerous. This is a small increase in the number of menacing and dangerous dogs.

Overall compliance with the requirement for menacing and dangerous dogs to be neutered is currently at 79 per cent, which is four per cent lower than the previous year. The reduced availability of veterinary services during the past three years continues to affect this rate of compliance.

Service Response

Field officer teams responded to 33,301 requests for service during the year, which is 34 per cent higher than the previous year.

Officers performed 6,913 proactive patrols, property visits, and registration checks during the year.

Roaming or uncontrolled dogs still account for the highest number of service requests received by the field teams, and officers responded to 12,737 reported incidents of roaming dogs and 3,025 reports of dogs behaving aggressively to people or other animals. These aggressive behaviour incidents increased by 59 per cent from the previous year.

A total of 5,357 requests to collect a dog that was found roaming by a member of the public were also received.

Field officers responded to 637 incidents of stock roaming or straying on public roads.

Barking complaints increased significantly this year, and the unit investigated 6,670 complaints about nuisance barking, which is a 21 per cent increase from the previous year.

Shelter Services

There were 6,596 dogs impounded this year in the three Auckland animal shelters. This is a significant increase from the previous year, which placed a huge strain on shelter resources and capacity.

Only 53 per cent of impounded dogs were claimed by their owners, and this caused the shelters to operate above 80 per cent capacity for every day of the year, and at almost full capacity for the majority of the year.

Several adoption drives and shelter open days were organised to raise awareness of the dogs in the shelters that were available for adoption, and this was extensively covered by the mainstream media, radio broadcasters, and other online platforms.

A total of 382 dogs were adopted from our shelters or transferred to rescue organisations, which is only slightly higher than the previous year.

There was a large increase in the total number of dogs euthanised at the three shelters, which can mostly be attributed to the increased number of unwanted puppies impounded, as well as an increase in the number of aggressive and poorly-socialised dogs ending up in the shelters.

The Animal Management Dog Rehoming Policy was reviewed during the year, and a positive outcome is that all dogs, regardless of breed, will now be considered for adoption if they are of suitable temperament and in good health.

Supporting the Community and Other Agencies

Despite the large increase in workload, the Animal Management unit worked tirelessly to assist the community during the unprecedented weather and flooding events that Auckland and other areas in the North Island experienced in early 2023.

Large donations of dog food were received by the shelters, and these were distributed to the most affected communities.

Tonnes of food were delivered to Whenuapai air base to be flown to Hawkes Bay, and throughout Auckland, deliveries were made to emergency centres and marae.

Staff also volunteered their free time to assist at some of the emergency centres, and used the opportunity to provide advice and education to dog owners.

Emergency boarding of 50 pets belonging to flood-affected owners was provided free of charge.

Welfare-related complaints increased by 1,183 per cent during the year, which is evident of the dire situation many dog owners found themselves in. The teams worked with other organisations, like SPCA and NZ Police, to address these issues before these dogs ended up in the animal shelters, which would have increased their occupancy beyond sustainable levels.

Animal Shelter staff arranged special events where they groomed dogs for free, as well as providing free registration and microchipping for the dogs of the most affected dog owners.

Education

The unit increased the delivery of dog safety awareness programmes during the year, and held a large event over a 3-day period that educated at least 300 at-risk workers.

Outdoor community events were also attended where possible to raise public awareness of responsible dog ownership and safety around dogs, as well as to find suitable homes for some of the dogs available for adoption from our shelters.

Ongoing Work and Projects

The Animal Management Lead Team is working extensively on strategic planning, with the key focus still on dog bite prevention. A sector-based approach to in-house staff training in public and private organisations, as well as fostering partnerships with community groups and leaders in high-risk areas, is currently being explored.

Animal Management is planning a multi-year communications and marketing approach to engage communities, focusing on those most at risk of dog aggression. The unit is currently in discussions with Starship Foundation, ACC and SafeKids regarding a mandatory reporting tool partnership for medical professionals to report dog attacks more effectively, particularly those on children.

Significant planning is also underway to manage and improve resources as part of the Auckland Council long-term plan, which will be critical to the unit in light of the constant increase in dog population and the demand for their 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 Auckland Council Animal Management unit.

1.2 Arrangement of the Report

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

Except for the statistics provided in the tables in **Part 3 and 4**, other statistics provided throughout this report are indicated by a  symbol.

1.3 Policy on Dogs 2019 and Dog Management Bylaw 2019

The Policy Objective of the Auckland Council Policy on Dogs 2019 forms the basis of this report.

Policy Objective: “To keep dogs as a positive part of the life of Aucklanders 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.”

The Policy Objective is addressed throughout this report with the provision of information, photos, and statistics in relation to the activities, achievements, and service delivery of the Animal Management unit.

The principles applied by Animal Management to achieve the Policy Objective include these:

- **Registration and Classification**
Promote dog registration across all of Auckland.
- **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 report to the Governing Body (through a public agenda report) and to the national government as required by the Dog Control Act 1996.

This annual report represents a thorough and reliable account of all Animal Management activities during the financial year period of 1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023.

Some educational events that occurred outside of the previous financial year, but prior to the release of this report, may be included due to public and staff interest.

1.4 Our Services

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

This helps to fulfil the overall goal of the Licensing and Regulatory Compliance department of protecting the public of Auckland from nuisance and harm, as well as improving, protecting, and promoting the health of the public of Auckland.

These goals are achieved via a number of services:

- Providing information and education to the public relating to dog control and other animal management issues
- Dog registration and database administration
- Monitoring dog access to public places
- Dog bite prevention (including the classification and monitoring of menacing and dangerous dogs)
- Complaint resolution (including aggression, roaming, and barking nuisance complaints)
- Shelter services (including lost and found, adoption, and microchipping)
- Enforcement activities (investigation of breaches of the Dog Control Act 1996 and the Auckland Council Dog Management Bylaw 2019)
- Control of livestock on roads and other public places (services under the Impounding Act 1955)
- Public stock pound (as required by the Impounding Act 1955)

1.5 Animal Management Structure

Auckland Council operates a single, regional Animal Management unit with **104** permanent staff.

The unit consists of Field Services teams, Animal Shelter teams, Barking Advisors, and a Lead team, which includes the Animal Management Specialists.

A Dog Registration Hub, which operates at the beginning of every registration year, a Regulatory Support team, and a Dispatch Support team within the same department provide administrative and operational support to the Animal Management unit.

Field Teams

The Animal Management unit was restructured during the year to create a new East team, and the unit now has five field services teams, consisting of **62** Animal Management Officers (AMOs): Central, East, North, South, and West. The Waiheke Island personnel are part of the West team, and the Great Barrier Island personnel are now part of the North team.

The Barking and Field team was disestablished, and the Barking Advisors are now part of the new East team.

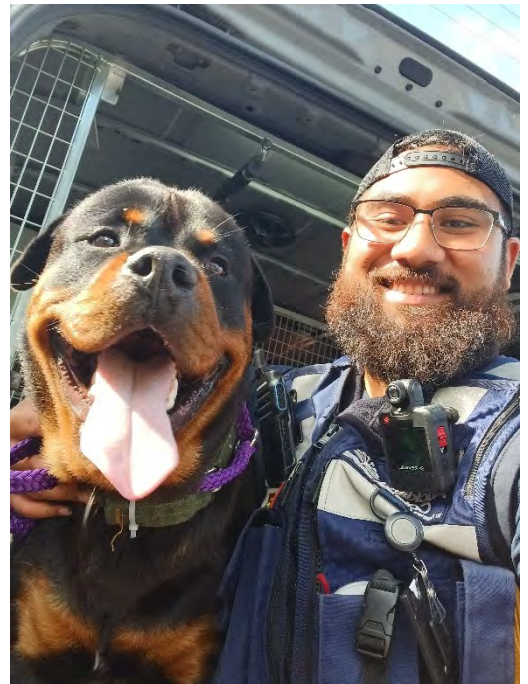
These teams are responsible for the field services provided by the unit. This includes a reactive response and investigations into complaints about dogs that are not under control, or that are causing a nuisance.

Our teams provide a 24/7 response to all urgent and high priority requests.

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

Our field teams cover the entire Auckland motorway network and will respond to all incidents of animals on the motorway as a high priority. Specialised training is provided to all field staff to deal with motorway incidents.

Requests to deal with other domestic animals are frequently received, and they also work closely with the Animal Shelters to provide support for property inspections that are required for adoptions from the shelters.



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.

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

Barking Advisors deal with all initial barking complaints and provide advice to dog owners on practical methods to correct nuisance barking, and they also mediate between neighbours to resolve the complaint.

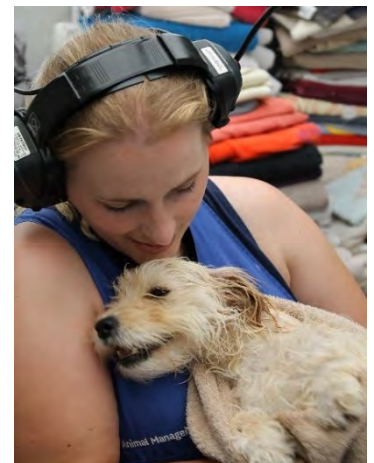
Animal Shelter Teams

The unit operates three main animal shelters: Henderson (**HAS**), Manukau (**MAS**), and Silverdale (**SAS**). A temporary shelter on Great Barrier Island is managed by the field officer employed on the island and does not have any fulltime shelter personnel.

Each of these shelters is responsible for the care and management of impounded animals.

These animals may be the subject of legal prosecutions or were impounded due to being found wandering at large, not registered, welfare concerns, or they were surrendered by their owners.

Animal Shelters 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, including microchipping, have been offered to the community through the animal shelters.

Shelter staff also assist with educational activities and community events, with a focus on educating dog owners on their responsibilities and how to care for their dogs.



Lead Team

The Animal Management Lead Team consist of the Manager Animal Management, five Field Team Leaders, three Shelter Managers, and four Principal Specialists.

The Team Leaders and Shelter Managers are responsible for managing, supporting, and developing their individual teams and facilities, and the Principal Specialists assist mostly with legal, strategic, and operational support to the Animal Management teams and other internal and external stakeholders.

The Principal Specialists also facilitate the majority of training sessions, internal workshops, document and policy reviews, official information requests, as well as system and equipment maintenance and support.



Part 2: Service Delivery

FIELD SERVICES

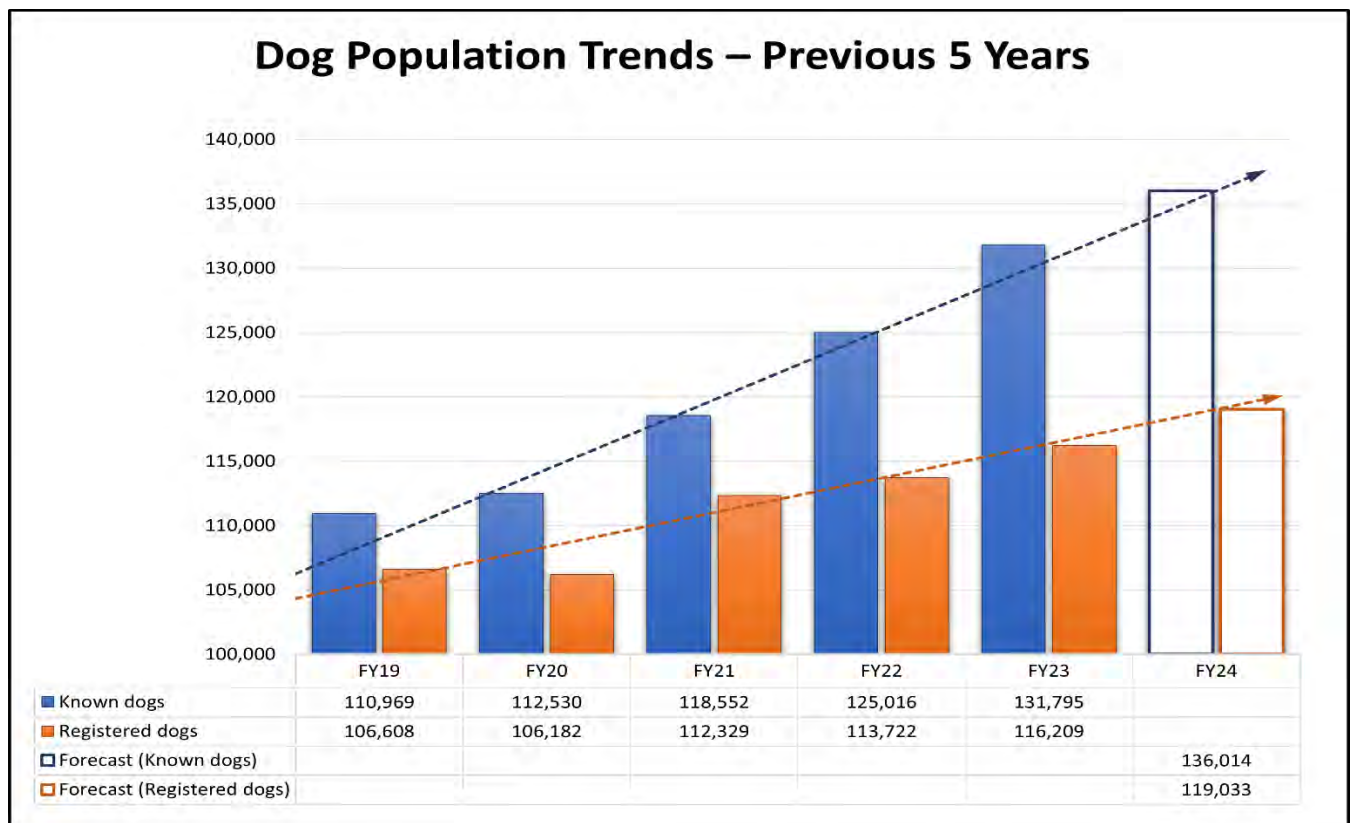


2.1 Dog Population Growth

The known dog population in Auckland increased by **6,779** dogs in the last year (5.4%). However, based on the percentage of unknown dogs impounded across Auckland, it is estimated that there could be up to 70,000 unknown dogs living in the Auckland region.

This steep population growth places an ever-increasing strain on the unit's resources and workload.


Figure 1



2.1 Service Response

2.1.1 Proactive Work

Field officers proactively visit properties and patrol some of the most popular beaches and parks with a high volume of users. This service was reduced since 2020, but officers have increased their proactive work in this last financial year.

 A total of **6,913** proactive property visits, patrols, and registration checks were done during the year.

2.1.2 Reactive Response to RFS

Complaints about roaming and uncontrolled dogs (excluding attacks) make up the largest number of requests for service, and together with requests from the public to collect confined stray dogs, account for **63.4%** of all requests for service.




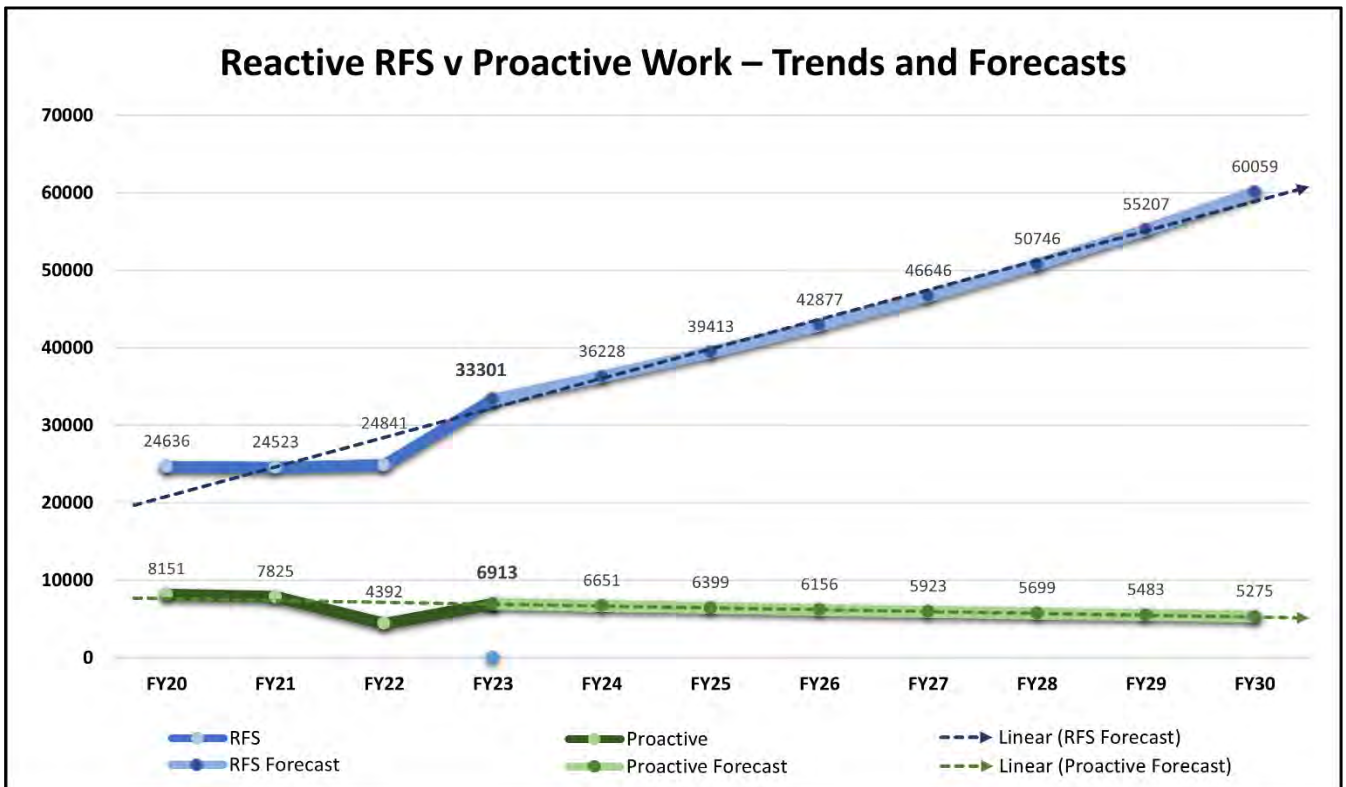
-  AMOs responded in total to **33,301** requests for service. This is not including their proactive work.
-  The field teams investigated **3,025** reports of dogs behaving aggressively to people or other animals, which is an increase of **59%** from the previous year.
-  A total of **12,735** complaints about roaming dogs were received, and **5,357 dogs** were confined by members of the public and collected by Animal Management.

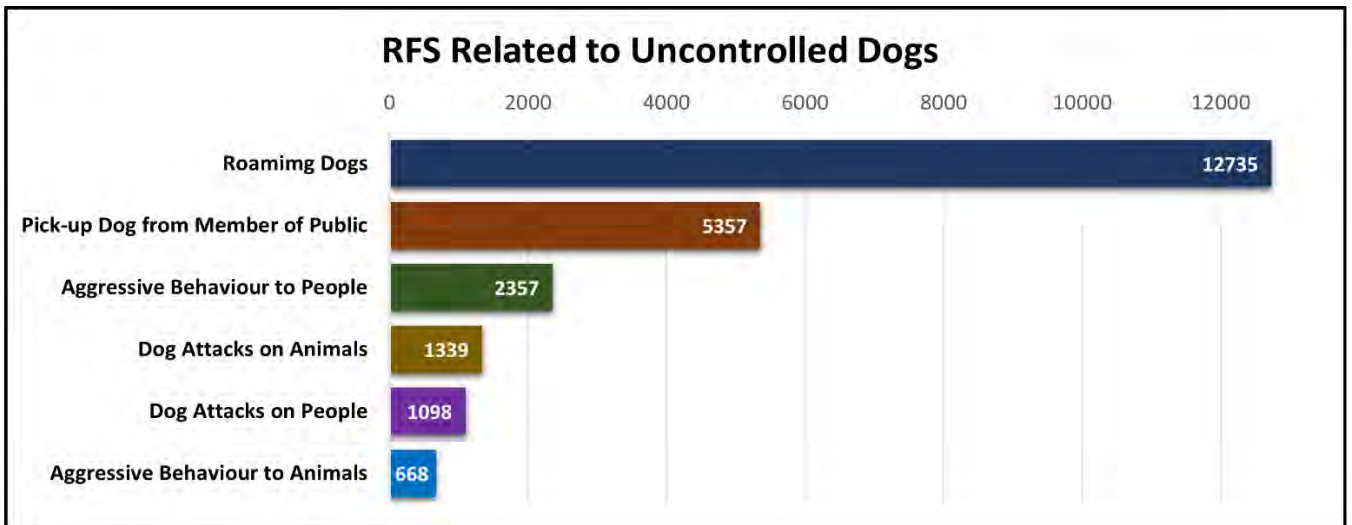
Figure 2



The forecast models above show that the unit’s ability to perform proactive work will diminish even further with the constant increase in requests for service.

Uncontrolled Dogs

Figure 3

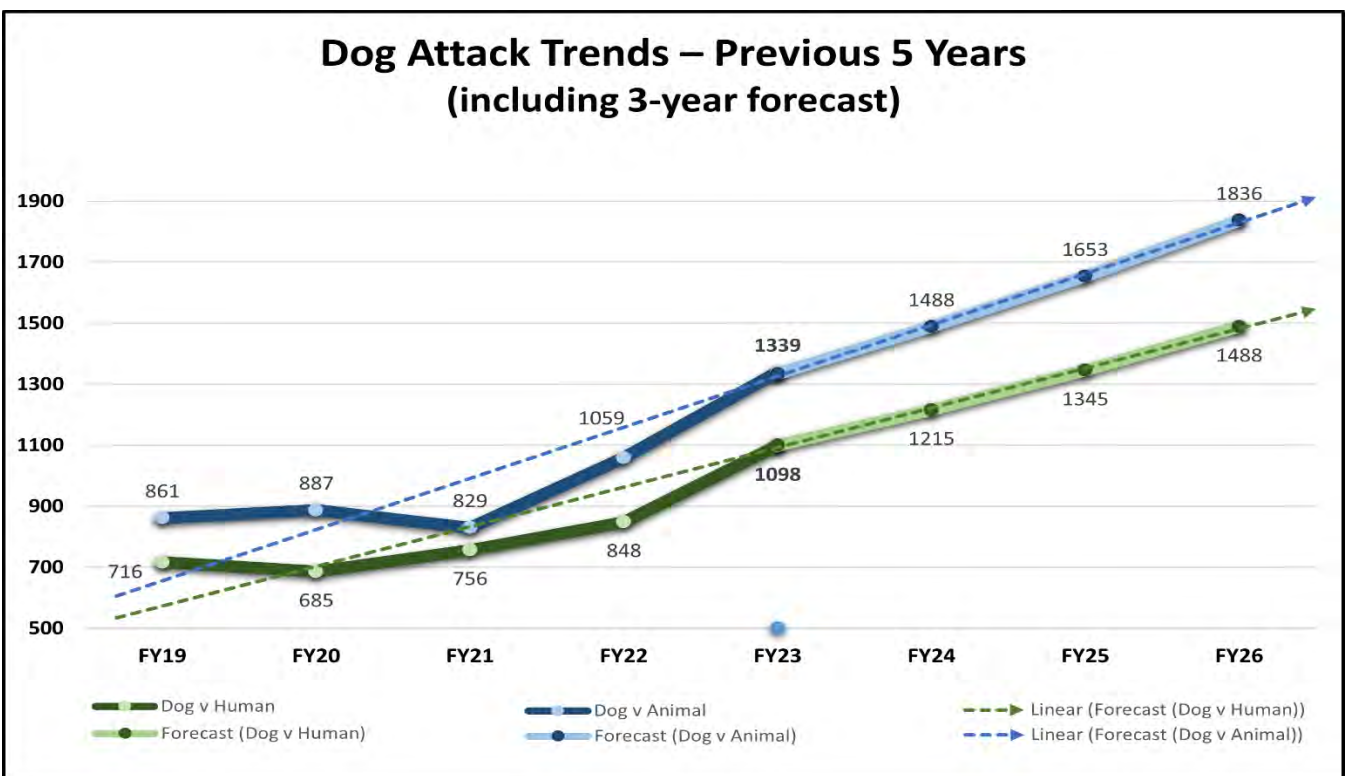


Dog Attacks

Dog attacks on people and on other animals continued to increase significantly throughout the year.

- A total of **2,437** dog attacks were investigated during the year.
- There were **250** more attacks on people and **280** more attacks on other animals reported than the previous year.
- Overall, attacks on people increased by **29.5%** this year, and attacks on other animals increased by **26.5%**.

Figure 4

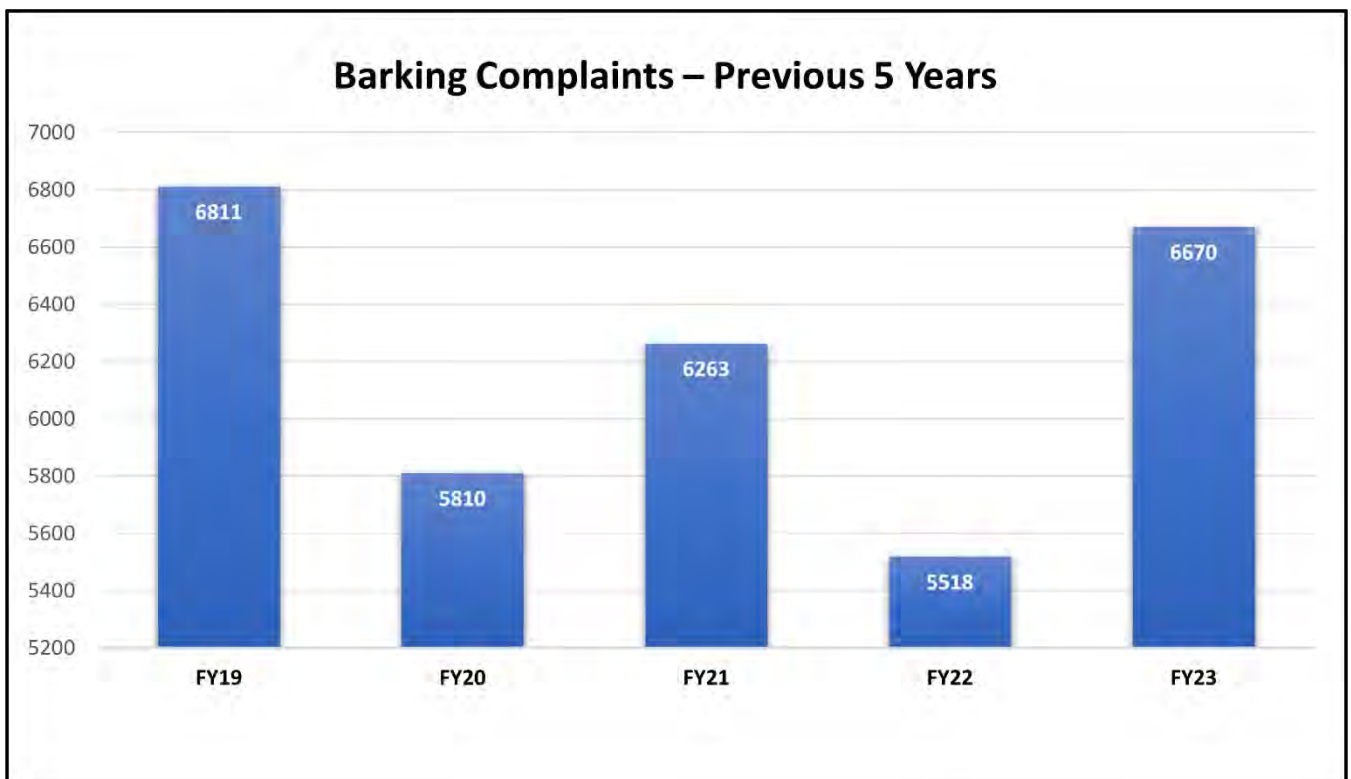


Barking Complaints

The unit has seen a significant increase of **21%** in nuisance barking complaints from the previous year.

- 🐾 A total of **6,670** barking-related complaints were received during the year, which is **20%** of all requests for service (not including proactive work).
- 🐾 These complaints resulted in the issuing of **60** nuisance abatement notices to **56** dog owners who failed to reduce the barking of their dogs within seven days of receiving the notice.

Figure 5



2.1.3 Enforcement

Prosecutions

- 🐾 A total of **112** new prosecutions were initiated against dog owners in the District Court during the year for serious offences against the Act, and **9** appeals were heard in higher courts.

Diversions

On 1 December 2022, Auckland Council implemented a diversion scheme that is broadly consistent with the equivalent diversion scheme operated by the NZ Police in their prosecutions.

The Auckland Council diversion scheme allows offenders under the Dog Control Act 1996 to take responsibility for their offending outside the court system and avoid getting a criminal record. It is targeted at reparation for the victim, the rehabilitation of the offender, and the elimination or reduction of risk that the attacking dog may pose.

- 🐾 **Nine** diversions were completed (resulting in the withdrawal or dismissal of charges), and **one** application for diversion was declined.
- 🐾 There are **nine** diversions still before the courts pending completion of conditions.

Dog Registration

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 \$3000.

- 🐾 The Animal Management unit focussed on proactive dog registration compliance during the year. Several programmes were undertaken to assist with reduced or free registration to flood-affected victims and some dog owners who are suffering from extensive financial hardship.
- 🐾 There were **116,209** registered dogs in Auckland at the end of the financial year, which is **88.2%** of all known dogs. This is a **2.2%** increase in the total number of registered dogs, but a **2.8%** decrease in the registration rate.

Analysis and forecast models (see Figure 1) show that the gap between known dogs and registered dogs is widening, most likely due to the cost of living and people's ability to pay for their dog's registration.

Classification of High-Risk Dogs

Schedule 4 of the Dog Control Act 1996 requires territorial authorities to classify as menacing all dogs that belong wholly or predominantly to the breeds or the type of dog listed in the Act.



The Policy on Dogs 2019 requires all menacing dogs living in Auckland to be neutered, even if the classification by another territorial authority did not require it.

- 🐾 As of 30 June 2023, a total of **5,410** dogs were classified as menacing, and **10** dogs were classified as dangerous.
- 🐾 Of these classified dogs, **4,270 (78.9%)** are currently neutered.

2.1.4 Other Duties

Our field officers' duties also include dealing with stray or roaming livestock on roads and in other public places, including the entire Auckland motorway network.

- 🐾 Officers responded to **637** incidents of stray or roaming stock during the year – down **17.9%** from the previous year.



2.2 Working with the Community

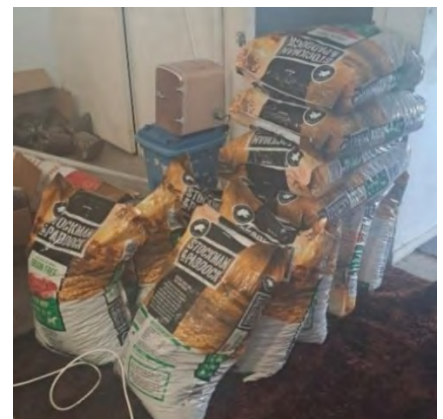
Severe Weather in Auckland

In January 2023, Auckland and the upper North Island experienced widespread catastrophic floods caused by heavy rainfall, with Auckland significantly affected. Animal Management staff assisted the community in various ways by delivering donated dog food to the most impacted areas.

Black Hawk donated approximately **15 tonnes** of dog food and Royal Canin donated approximately **4.5 tonnes** of wet and dry food. This was used to distribute to several affected communities, including Hawkes Bay. Generous pet food donations were also received from Stockman & Paddock and Pet Addiction.



- 🐾 Two tonnes of food were flown down to Hawkes Bay area from Whenuapai air base.
- 🐾 Two pallets of food were sent over to Great Barrier Island to distribute to the community.
- 🐾 Food was also provided to the Māngere welfare centre for staff to hand out to flood-impacted communities, along with the Ardmore location that was set up as an emergency centre.
- 🐾 AMOs transported food to an Auckland Emergency Management centre at the Auckland Viaduct, which also assisted with the distribution.
- 🐾 A large amount of food was given to HUHA to assist in their disaster deployment and response.



Māngere Welfare Centre



Barking Advisors from Animal Management worked alongside SPCA staff and Māori Wardens, delivering pet food, and offering free registration to flood-impacted communities.



Animal Management staff also provided free dog grooming at Māngere Welfare Centre.

Papakura Marae

A dog food delivery was made to Papakura Marae, and they were very happy to receive the donated food.



Great Barrier Island



Great Barrier Island staff working with NZ Post and Kawa Marae, organising and delivering food parcels on Great Barrier Island.

Animal Management would like to thank everyone for their generous donations of food and their support during this difficult time.

2.3 Supporting Other Agencies

SPCA and NZ Police

Several joint operations between Auckland Council, SPCA, and NZ Police were undertaken during the year. Most of these operations focussed on areas where an alarming increase in welfare-related incidents occurred.



- Welfare issues reported to Auckland Council increased from 48 in the 2021-22 year, to **616** in the 2022-23 year – this is an increase of **1,183%** in one year.
- The majority of these welfare issues related to owners unable to care for their dogs, but were not seeking any assistance.

Operation 'Speedo'

Several staff members were involved in the launch of Operation Speedo 'Waitākere Ranges Safety Campaign' in the beginning of 2023, which is all about beach safety on the West Coast beaches.

The campaign focuses on keeping the public safe, with NZ Police, Fire and Emergency NZ, St Johns Ambulance, Surf Lifesavers, Drowning Prevention Auckland, Civil Defence, Park Rangers and Summer Rangers, Community Patrols, Waitākere Ranges Local Board, and Animal Management all working together to ensure this happens.

Approximatively **600** excited schoolkids attended the launch and were very excited to meet our adoption dogs and to ask questions about them. Perhaps the biggest excitement for them was being able to climb in the back of an Animal Management vehicle and pretend to be dogs!




Chained Dog Rehabilitation & Rehoming

In June 2023, Chained Dog Rehabilitation & Rehoming organised an event with Kāinga Ora, specifically for Kāinga Ora tenants in the Ōtara area.

Auckland Council attended as well to assist with registrations and microchipping. On the day, dog owners just had to turn up with their dogs for free vaccinations, microchipping, registration, and to sign up for free desexing of their dogs.

Acana™ and Orijen™ also sponsored the event and donated **three tonnes** of food, which was all given out on the day.

The response from the community was incredible, which caused the event to run out of vaccinations and microchips.

 **170** dogs were vaccinated and microchipped, **110** unknown dogs were registered, and **120** dogs were booked for free desexing.



Special Summer Initiative

From November 2022 - June 2023, Waitākere Ranges Local Board and Auckland Council's Environmental Services team funded a fixed-term position for an Animal Management Officer to patrol the West Coast beaches from Bethells / Te Henga to Whatipū.

The focus of the officer was to ensure that all dogs were kept under control and that dog owners complied with bylaws and dog access rules along the West Coast beaches.

In addition, the officer worked with local stakeholders, including the Surf Lifesavers, Dotterel Minders, Park and Summer Rangers, and Environmental Services, to educate dog owners on their obligations and on the local shorebirds and protected wildlife in the area, such as Little Penguin / Kororā and New Zealand Dotterel / Tūturiwhatu.

These collaborative efforts boosted Animal Management's visibility in the community, and increased education of dog owners and the public on the local protected wildlife – with a strong emphasis on keeping wildlife safe from dogs.



2.4 Community Education

2.4.1 At-Risk Workers

Animal Management staff delivered dog safety sessions throughout the year to frontline staff of other organisations, including NZ Police, Kāinga Ora, Te Korowai O Waiheke, Ministry of Social Development, Census staff, Anglican Trust for Women and Children, Oranga Tamariki, as well as other departments in Auckland Council.

- 🐾 23 individual sessions were held during the year.
- 🐾 18 sessions were held for Omexom during a 3-day event, with 300 staff attending.



2.4.2 Community Events

Auckland Pet & Animal Expo 2023



Animal Management staff attended the annual Auckland Pet & Animal Expo event, where 23,089 people visited the venue over two days. This was a great opportunity to educate dog owners and to show some of the adoption dogs to the public.

Bark in the Pool 2023



In April 2023, staff attended the Bark in the Pool event, which is a great success every year. Dog owners and their dogs enjoyed a fun day out, and Animal Management staff were available to assist with advice and to help keep the K9 peace.

ANIMAL SHELTERS



2.5 Shelter Services

2.5.1 Impounded Dogs

There were **1,584** more dogs impounded this year at the three main animal shelters in Auckland, compared to the previous year – an increase of **31.6%**.

The majority (**51.8%**) of impounded dogs were collected at the request of members of the public. Only **52.9%** of dog owners claimed their dogs, which caused all three shelters to run at almost full capacity throughout the year.

- There were **6,596** dogs impounded in Auckland's animal shelters throughout the region during the year.
- A total of **3,488** dogs were claimed by their owners, which is **11%** lower than the previous year.
- There were **364** dogs relinquished to the shelters by their owners.

2.5.2 Adoptions

The dedicated shelter staff worked tirelessly throughout the year to find great homes for all adoptable dogs in the shelters.

- A total of **382** dogs were adopted from the shelters or transferred to rescue organisations.



Some of the happy dogs that found new forever homes – colourful names given by the shelter staff.

2.5.3 Adoption Drives

Field and shelter staff combined forces to raise as much awareness as possible of the adoption dogs available from the shelters, and to find great new homes for these dogs.

These wonderful staff members arranged several 'adoptathons' during the year in areas like Mission Bay, Hobsonville, and Henderson, with a great result for many of these dogs.



In December 2022, the Henderson Animal Shelter held an open day, which included raffle tables, face painting, colouring competitions for the kids, etc.



This was a great effort to engage with the community and raise awareness of the dogs available for adoption from the shelters.

A big thank you to everyone involved in making it a fun day!

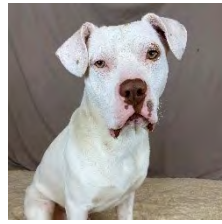
2.5.4 Other Success Stories

Meryl's mother Missy was impounded after she fell off the back of a ute.



Meryl and nine other pups were born at the shelter. All were quickly adopted, except wee Meryl.

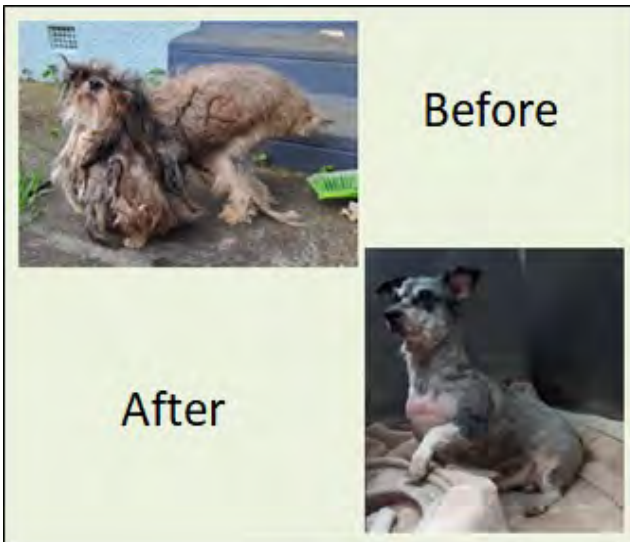
After **268** days, she was adopted and headed off to her new home in Hamilton.



Timata (featured on the cover page of this report), whose name means '*start, beginning, commencement*', is the first Pit Bull Terrier rehomed by Auckland Council.



This follows a change in the council's Rehoming Policy, which now allows certain restricted breeds to be rehomed.



An AMO seized a severely matted dog and collaborated with the SPCA to investigate the welfare issue further.

The officer did an outstanding job working with the owner to obtain possession of the dog, which was understandably quite traumatised due to the dire condition it was in.

In the 'before' picture it is almost unrecognisable as a dog, so it was quite a surprise to see what a cutie was beneath all those matts!

Rolland was impounded at Henderson Animal Shelter as a pick-up, and it was clear that an old injury had not been cared for by his owner.

He had the best personality and really wanted to be loved. After transferring him to a rescue group, he has had an amputation and is now living his best life!



SPECIALISTS

2.6 Specialist Services

2.6.1 Training

Animal Management Specialists delivered the majority of staff training during the year, with assistance from Senior AMOs and Shelter staff.

A new training system was developed to track all internal training, and the staff Competency Assessment Framework was reviewed as well.

Several new guidance documents were developed and reviewed by the Specialists, which further assist the unit's staff with their professional development.



AMOs doing stock training at Henderson Animal Shelter

2.6.2 Official Information Requests

The Animal Management Specialists, Team Leaders, and Shelter Managers are responsible for retrieving, collating, and summarising all information requested under LGOIMA (Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987).

 A total of **123** LGOIMA requests were processed by the Lead team during the year.



Part 3: Auckland Dog Population

3.1 Dog Owners in Auckland

- As of 30 June 2023, the Auckland region had a total of **110,398** dog owners, which is an increase of **5,734 (5.5%)** from the previous year.
- 32,263 (29.2%)** dog owners have a Responsible Dog Owner Licence (RDOL), and **4,649 (4.2%)** dog owners qualify for a discount on dog registration with their SuperGold card.¹
- There are **87** dog owners in Auckland classified as probationary owners, and **40** dog owners are disqualified from owning any dogs.

3.2 Dogs in Auckland

- The total number of known dogs in Auckland increased from 125,016 in 2021-2022 to **131,795** in **2022-2023** – an increase of **5.4%**, which is similar to the previous year.
- 69,569 (52.8%)** of all dogs are male, and **62,226 (47.2%)** are female. A total of **66.4%** of male dogs and **69.4%** of female dogs are desexed.
- The number of dogs that were registered for the 2022-2023 registration year increased to **116,209** – this is **2,487** more than the previous year (**2.2%** increase) and accounts for **88.2%** of all dogs in Auckland.
- A total of **5,410** dogs are classified as menacing and **10** dogs are classified as dangerous.

3.2.1 Most Popular Dog Breeds in Auckland

Ranking	Primary Breed	Male	Female	Total
1	Labrador Retriever	8293	7465	15,758
2	Staffordshire Bull Terrier	3586	4063	7649
3	Border Collie	3176	3167	6343
4	Miniature Schnauzer	2685	2363	5048
5	Shih Tzu	2486	2143	4629
6	German Shepherd	2313	2058	4371
7	Golden Retriever	2307	1808	4115
8	Jack Russell Terrier	2164	1892	4056
9	Cavalier King Charles Spaniel	2135	1853	3988
10	American Pit Bull Terrier	2052	1589	3641
11	Maltese	1976	1580	3556
12	Huntaway	1669	1692	3361
13	Bichon Frise	1705	1426	3131
14	Fox Terrier (Smooth)	1380	1381	2761
15	Toy Poodle	1397	1310	2707

¹ For SuperGold Community Services combo card, SuperGold card and Community Services card, or Veteran Gold card holders only.

3.2.2 Rarest Dog Breeds in Auckland (Only One in Register)

Primary Breed	Male	Female	Total
Bergamasco Shepherd	0	1	1
Bolognese	0	1	1
Bluetick Coonhound	1	0	1
Tree Walker Coonhound	1	0	1
Eurasier	0	1	1
Great Swiss Mountain Dog	0	1	1
Otter Hound	1	0	1
Icelandic Sheepdog	1	0	1
Pyrenean Mastiff	1	0	1
Clumber Spaniel	0	1	1
Glen of Imaal Terrier	1	0	1

3.2.3 Most Preferred Dog Names

Ranking	Most Popular Name	Total
Male dogs		
1	Charlie	1048
2	Max	977
3	Buddy	744
4	Rocky	633
5	Milo	615
6	Toby	610
7	Teddy	577
8	Oscar	544
9	Archie	536
10	Bear	477

Ranking	Most Popular Name	Total
Female dogs		
1	Bella	1538
2	Luna	974
3	Molly	933
4	Poppy	931
5	Coco	888
6	Ruby	828
7	Daisy	715
8	Rosie	671
9	Roxy	616
10	Nala	595

Most Interesting Dog Names (In the Author's Opinion)	
Thor God of Barking and Destroying Toys	Super Sonic Robbie Dobhi Mutton Bird
PATOU MAXIMILIAN des TREILLES de SALVERT	Albus Percival Wulfric Brian Dumbledore
Kiri Wiri Piri Wepu Hiwa i Te Rangi	Chase Milty Mumu Archibald Potempkin

3.2.4 Most Populated Suburbs (By Number of Dogs)

Ranking	Area / Suburb	Total
1	Papakura	4320
2	Pukekohe	4036
3	Manurewa	2753
4	Henderson	2542
5	Remuera	2375
6	Massey	2213
7	Waiuku	2169
8	Howick	1963
9	Titirangi	1847
10	Papatoetoe	1840

Hauraki Gulf Islands	Total
Waiheke Island	1269
Great Barrier Island	325
Rakino Island	1



Interesting Fact:

These 10 suburbs account for **20%** of all dogs in Auckland.

3.2.5 Menacing Classifications by Predominant Breed²

Top Classified Breeds – Menacing			
Section 33A (Behaviour)		Section 33C (Breed Or Type)	
Primary Breed	Total	Primary Breed	Total
American Pit Bull Terrier	179	American Pit Bull Terrier	2992
Staffordshire Bull Terrier	158	American Staffordshire Terrier	1004
American Staffordshire Terrier	138	Dogo Argentino	13
German Shepherd	86		
Labrador Retriever	83		
Siberian Husky	53		
Shar Pei	52		
Rottweiler	47		
American Bulldog	46		
Mastiff	44		

Note

It is standard practice for Animal Management not to issue a **S.33A** classification on a dog if the dog is already classified as menacing under **S.33C**.

Owners with a dog classified under **S.33A** may apply after 12 months for a review of the classification.

3.2.6 Menacing Classifications by Suburb

Top Suburbs With Menacing Dogs			
Section 33A (Behaviour)		Section 33C (Breed Or Type)	
Suburb	Total	Suburb	Total
Papakura	60	Manurewa	454
Manurewa	56	Ōtara	297
Massey	50	Papakura	287
Māngere	43	Māngere	240
Papatoetoe	43	Māngere East	209
Ōtara	32	Papatoetoe	183
Pukekohe	31	Pukekohe	135
Henderson	30	Henderson	125
Glen Eden	27	Massey	100
Māngere East	24	Mount Wellington	88

3.2.7 Breeds Mostly Involved in Attacks (People and Animals Combined)

Ranking	Primary Breed	Total
1	American Pit Bull Terrier	149
2	Staffordshire Bull Terrier	72
3	Mastiff	46
4	Shar Pei	35
5	Labrador Retriever	35
6	American Bulldog	29
7	American Staffordshire Terrier	28
8	Siberian Husky	20
9	Rottweiler	20
10	German Shepherd	11

Note:

This information is based on impounded dogs only, as many dog attack incidents have ongoing investigations and some of the dogs involved in these incidents may not have been located or identified yet.



² The 'predominant breed' is the breed most identifiable by visual means, or as provided by the dog owner on the registration documentation. Some dogs may display the visual characteristics of multiple breeds, and sometimes only the primary breed is recorded.

Part 4: Dog Control Statistics

1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023

4.1 Registrations

Category	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22		2022-23
Known dogs	110,969	112,530	118,552	125,016	↑	131,795
Registered dogs	106,608	106,182	112,329	113,722	↑	116,209
% Known dogs registered	96.1%	94.4%	94.8%	91.0%	↓	88.2%
RDOL holders ³	26,809	27,663	28,780	39,930	↑	42,495
SuperGold Card Holders ⁴	<i>Not supplied</i>	<i>Not supplied</i>	4359	5368	↑	5521

4.2 Classifications

Dog Owner Classifications	2021-22		2022-23
Probationary owners	73		97
Disqualified owners	23		46
Total Classified Owners	96	↑	143

Menacing Dog Classifications	2021-22		2022-23
Section 33A (observed or reported behaviour)	1444		1183
Section 33C (breed or type in Schedule 4)	3925		4227
Total Menacing Dogs	5369	↑	5410

Dangerous Dog Classifications	2021-22		2022-23
Section 31(1)(a) – owner conviction	2		3
Section 31(1)(b) – sworn evidence	5		6
Section 31(1)(c) – owner admitted in writing	1		1
Total Dangerous Dogs	8	↑	10

Compliance with Neutering Requirement	2021-22		2022-23
Menacing dogs (S.33A) neutered	(81.9%) 1183		(81.2%) 961
Menacing dogs (S.33C) neutered	(82.7%) 3247		(78.1%) 3300
Dangerous dogs neutered	(100%) 8		(90%) 9

³ This item refers to the number of dogs registered under this category, and not the number of owners holding an RDOL.

⁴ This item refers to the number of dogs registered under this category, and not the number of owners holding a SuperGold card.

4.3 Requests for Service (RFS)

4.3.1 RFS Received per Team by Priority (Excluding Proactive Work)

Category	Central	North	South	West	Total
P1 (high priority)	3563	2080	5321	2713	13,677
P2 (normal priority)	5042	3214	6658	4710	19,624
Total RFS Received	8605	5294	11,979	7423	33,301

4.3.2 RFS Received by Type – Reactive Response

Category	2021-22	2022-23
Roaming dog	8461	12,737
Barking or howling	5518	6670
Pick up - dog (contained)	4112	5357
Aggressive behaviour to people	1461	2357
Dog attack on other animals (stock, poultry, domestic animals)	1059	1339
Dog attack on people	848	1098
Bylaw breach	716	826
Aggressive behaviour to other animals	445	668
Roaming stock	751	637
Welfare	48	616
Unregistered dogs ⁵	486	608
Police / SPCA assistance	82	138
Relinquish dog	126	93
Pick up - stock (contained)	98	69
Dog traps	38	58
Dog / stock on motorway	31	30
Total Reactive RFS Received	24,280	↑ 33,301

4.3.3 Proactive Work

Category	2021-22	2022-23
Patrolling public areas (inc. bylaw breaches, roaming dogs, etc.)	1943	2736
Unregistered dogs	767	1817
Property inspections	541	797
Targeted compliance (monitoring classifications, service of notices, etc.)	704	918
Other proactive work (<i>not specified by category</i>)	437	645
Total Proactive Tasks	4392	↑ 6913

⁵ The 'unregistered dogs' category can be reactive or proactive, depending on the type of RFS, and in previous years these have been combined under the proactive work category.

4.3.4 RFS Breakdown by Suburb – Top 40 Suburbs

Category	Known Dog Population	Total RFS
Manurewa	2753	2073
Papakura	4320	1943
Papatoetoe	1840	1419
Ōtara	1238	1184
Massey	2213	1105
Māngere	1341	1064
Henderson	2542	947
Pukekohe	4036	936
Glen Eden	1644	834
Mount Wellington	1301	823
Māngere East	1177	760
Mount Roskill	1042	629
Ōtāhuhu	637	576
Glen Innes	587	556
Avondale	1173	507
New Lynn	921	487
Flat Bush	1451	477
Onehunga	1345	464
Manukau Central	841	412
Takanini	721	402
Ranui	906	395
Howick	1963	378
Te Atatū South	990	348
Panmure	489	327
Waiuku	2169	327
Weymouth	485	319
Te Atatū Peninsula	1208	314
Remuera	2375	312
Māngere Bridge	768	305
Clendon Park	409	298
Waiheke Island	1269	289
Beach Haven	1057	265
Pakuranga Heights	748	263
Point England	261	260
Randwick Park	333	260
Orewa	1323	252
Torbay	1534	251
West Harbour	874	251
Stanmore Bay	1363	243
Mount Albert	1049	241

4.4 Enforcement

4.4.1 Prosecutions and Appeals

Court	2021-22	2022-23
District Court Manukau	36	40
District Court Waitākere	30	27
District Court Auckland	18	16
District Court North Shore	16	17
District Court Papakura	5	5
District Court Pukekohe	5	7
High Court Appeal	5	8
Court of Appeal	1	1
Total Number of Prosecutions / Appeals Filed <i>(Note: There may be more than one charge in many of these prosecutions)</i>	117	↑ 121

4.4.2 Nuisance Abatement Notices (NANs)

Category	2021-22	2022-23
NANs issued	49	60
Number of properties NANs issued to	43	56

4.4.3 Objection Hearings (Regulatory and Safety Committee)

Category	Outcome	Total
Objection to S.33A classification	All objections dismissed and classifications upheld	9
Objection to NAN	All objections dismissed and NANs upheld	2
Objection to Disqualification	All objections dismissed and disqualifications upheld	1

4.4.4 Classifications Issued

Classification	Field Teams	HAS	MAS	SAS	Total
S.33A – Menacing Dog	58	16	54	27	155
S.33C – Menacing Dog	112	59	149	52	372
S.31 – Dangerous Dog	1	1	0	0	2
Total Classifications Issued	171	76	203	79	529

4.4.5 Other Compliance

Category	HAS	MAS	SAS	Total
Registrations issued	544	1162	459	2165
Microchips implanted	361	795	284	1440

4.4.6 Infringement Notices by Offence

Infringement Notices Issued		2021-22	2022-23
Section	Description of Offence	Total Infringements	
18	Wilful obstruction of dog control officer or ranger	7	8
19(2)	Failure or refusal to supply information or wilfully providing false particulars	2	2
19A(2)	Failure to supply information or wilfully providing false particulars about dog	0	5
20(5)	Failure to comply with any bylaw authorised by the section	1105	1437
23A(2)	Failure to undertake dog owner education programme or dog obedience course (or both)	0	5
24	Failure to comply with obligations of probationary owner	0	0
28(5)	Failure to comply with the effects of disqualification	4	9
32(2)	Failure to comply with the effects of classification of dog as dangerous dog	0	1
32(4)	Fraudulent sale or transfer of dangerous dog	0	0
33EC(1)	Failure to comply with effects of classification of dog as menacing dog	76	256
33F(3)	Failure to advise person of muzzle and leashing requirements	0	1
36A(6)	Failure to implant microchip transponder in dog	2	14
41	False statement relating to dog registration	0	0
41A	Falsely notifying death of dog	2	1
42	Failure to register dog	763	1490
46(4)	Fraudulent procurement or attempt to procure replacement dog registration label or disc	0	0
48(3)	Failure to advise change of dog ownership	0	3
49(4)	Failure to advise change of address	1	4
51(1)	Removal, swapping, or counterfeiting of registration label or disc	0	0
52A(3)	Failure to keep dog controlled or confined	106	83
53(1)	Failure to keep dog under control	1128	1337
54(2)	Failure to provide proper care and attention, to supply proper and sufficient food, and to provide adequate exercise	3	2
54A(2)	Failure to carry leash in public	2	2
55(7)	Failure to comply with barking dog abatement notice	70	87
62(4)	Allowing dog known to be dangerous to be at large unmuzzled or unleashed	0	0
62(5)	Failure to advise of muzzle and leashing requirements	0	0
72(2)	Releasing a dog from custody	0	1
Total Infringements Issued		3271	↑ 4748

4.5 Animal Shelters

4.5.1 Impounded Dogs – Summary

Category	% of Total	HAS	MAS	SAS	2021-22	2022-23
Dogs impounded		1623	3755	1218	5012	↑ 6596
Claimed / Returned to owner	↓ 52.9%	1012	1817	659	3205	↑ 3488
Euthanised	↑ 39.6%	531	1660	424	1329	↑ 2615
Adopted / Transferred to Rescues	↓ 5.8%	70	205	107	335	↑ 382

4.5.2 Impounded Dogs by Impound Reason

Impound Reason	% of Total	HAS	MAS	SAS	Total
Pick-up (request from member of public to collect dog)	51.8%	953	1731	730	3414
Roaming at large (public place)	17.1%	237	782	107	1126
Attack on person or animal	8.3%	104	332	109	545
Relinquish (voluntary surrender by owner)	5.5%	65	205	94	364
Dropped off at shelter by member of public	5.5%	124	175	63	362
Not under control or confined on owner's property	2.9%	21	150	22	193
No current registration	2.7%	40	105	36	181
Welfare concerns	2.0%	20	99	14	133
Dog rushing / aggressive behaviour	1.3%	15	60	8	83
Police assist	1.0%	14	42	12	68
Dead	<1%	5	38	2	45
Failure to comply with dog classification	<1%	6	9	3	18
Failure to comply with owner classification	<1%	10	5	2	17
At large on private property w/o consent of occupier	<1%	4	5	5	14
Other council (holding on behalf)	<1%	0	2	9	11
Court order for destruction of dog	<1%	2	8	1	11
Breach of abatement notice (barking / howling)	<1%	3	7	0	10
Unlawful release of dog from custody	<1%	0	0	1	1
Total Impounds		1623	3755	1218	6596

4.5.3 Impounded Dogs by Exit Reason (Outcome)

Exit Reason	% of Total	HAS	MAS	SAS	Total
Claimed by owner (Released from Shelter)	46.8%	842	1606	614	3062
Euthanised	40.0%	531	1660	424	2615
Returned to owner by AMO	6.5%	170	211	45	426
Adopted	3.4%	44	97	81	222
Transferred to Rescue Group	2.2%	23	97	25	145
Dead on arrival	<1%	4	44	2	50
Transferred to SPCA	<1%	3	6	0	9
Died in shelter	<1%	0	6	0	6
Transferred to Breed Rescue	<1%	0	5	1	6
Stolen	<1%	1	0	0	1
Total Exits		1618	3732	1192	6542

Note: The difference between the total number of dogs impounded and the total number of dogs leaving is the number of dogs still in the shelters at the time of reporting.

4.5.4 Impounded Dogs – Top 15 by Predominant Breed⁶

Henderson	
Breed	Total
Staffordshire Bull Terrier	312
American Pit Bull Terrier	229
Labrador Retriever	160
Shar Pei	91
Mastiff	86
Huntaway	59
American Staffordshire Terrier	50
American Bulldog	49
German Shepherd	48
Border Collie	36
Rottweiler	36
Fox Terrier (Smooth)	32
Siberian Husky	30
Jack Russell Terrier	28
Australian Cattle Dog	26

Manukau	
Breed	Total
American Pit Bull Terrier	803
Staffordshire Bull Terrier	795
Labrador Retriever	286
Mastiff	242
Shar Pei	226
American Bulldog	143
Huntaway	139
American Staffordshire Terrier	127
Border Collie	122
German Shepherd	115
Rottweiler	102
Siberian Husky	99
Australian Cattle Dog	60
Jack Russell Terrier	50
Shih Tzu	35

Silverdale	
Breed	Total
American Pit Bull Terrier	171
Staffordshire Bull Terrier	170
Labrador Retriever	124
Mastiff	66
American Bulldog	54
Border Collie	53
German Shepherd	44
Shar Pei	42
Rottweiler	39
American Staffordshire Terrier	37
Huntaway	36
Siberian Husky	30
Whippet	29
Bull Terrier	22
Jack Russell Terrier	18

4.5.5 Impounded Dogs – Top 15 by Suburb

Henderson	
Suburb	Total
Henderson	238
Massey	124
Glen Eden	83
Mount Roskill	79
Mount Wellington	75
Avondale	53
Ranui	48
Glen Innes	48
New Lynn	43
Mount Albert	34
Point England	32
Remuera	31
Panmure	29
Ōtāhuhu	29
Te Atatū South	27

Manukau	
Suburb	Total
Manurewa	495
Papakura	347
Ōtara	300
Māngere	287
Papatoetoe	260
Wiri	196
Pukekohe	143
Māngere East	139
Takanini	123
Weymouth	113
Clendon Park	104
Randwick Park	75
Māngere Bridge	68
Flat Bush	64
Manukau Central	62

Silverdale	
Suburb	Total
Silverdale	116
Massey	46
Glenfield	39
Māngere	35
Papakura	34
Ōtara	34
Albany	26
Beach Haven	25
Henderson	23
Manurewa	22
West Harbour	21
Mount Wellington	19
Helensville	18
Hobsonville	18
Avondale	17

⁶ The 'predominant breed' is the breed most identifiable by visual means, or as provided by the dog owner on the registration documentation.

4.5.6 Other Shelter Statistics (Dogs Only)

Reporting Category (At Time of Impounding)	HAS	MAS	SAS	Total
Classified as menacing – S.33C	99	330	69	498
Classified as menacing – S.33A	13	59	20	92
Classified as dangerous	2	1	1	4
Current registration	589	976	365	(29%) 1930
Microchipped	854	1588	595	(46%) 3037
Known dogs	1032	1608	650	(50%) 3290
1 st impounding	1229	2940	1003	(78%) 5172
2 nd impounding	225	505	122	(13%) 852
3 rd impounding	87	180	50	(5%) 317
4 or more times impounded	82	130	43	(4%) 255

4.5.7 Stock and Other Animals Impounded (Public Pounds and Temporary Pounds)

Species	HAS	MAS	SAS	2021-22	Total
Sheep	3	12	11	45	26
Poultry	1	15	5	26	21
Goats	4	4	3	25	11
Horses	1	1	5	14	7
Pigs	0	6	1	14	7
Cattle	0	4	2	43	6
Rabbits	0	0	2	2	2
Total Stock Impounds	9	42	29	170	80

4.5.8 Euthanasia

Reason for Euthanasia	HAS	MAS	SAS	2021-22	Total
Failed temperament test	351	833	293	662	1477
Classified as menacing (Section 33C)	52	307	38	348	397
Health issues (determined by a veterinarian)	38	177	33	151	248
Involved in an attack (Section 57)	41	128	35	105	204
Shelter full	23	122	6	0	151
Infectious disease (Parvo virus)	13	55	13	0	81
Involved in a rushing incident (Section 57A)	9	18	1	6	28
Classified as dangerous (Section 31)	0	0	0	2	0
Classified as menacing (Section 33A)	2	12	2	34	16
Order for destruction made by court	2	8	3	30	13
Total Euthanasia	531	1660	424	1338	↑ 2615

Abbreviations and Indicators

MAS = Manukau Animal Shelter	↑ = up from the previous year
HAS = Henderson Animal Shelter	↓ = down from the previous year
SAS = Silverdale Animal Shelter	↕ = unchanged from the previous year
<i>Note: Where a 'section' is mentioned, this refers to the relevant section of the Dog Control Act 1996.</i>	

Auckland Council – Animal Management

Dog Control Annual Report for FY 2022-2023

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