

DUNEDIN CITY COUNCIL'S ANIMAL SERVICES ANNUAL REPORT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS FOR PERIOD ENDING 30 JUNE 2025

Dog Control Policy and Practices

1. The Dunedin City Council (DCC) covers a large geographical area, which includes both urban and rural dog owners. As of 30 June 2025, there were 17876 dogs registered, out of a total of 18817 known dogs. This is a decrease of 676 registered dogs on the previous year.
2. To deliver an animal control service, the DCC has an Animal Services Team consisting of a Team Leader, and six FTE Animal Service Officers. The team is supported by the Compliance Solutions administration team, and the Compliance Solutions Manager. All Animal Services Officers are trained to deliver dog safety education in schools and workplaces.
3. The Animal Services Team has a close working relationship with key stakeholders in the community such as the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, local veterinarians, Police, Kainga Ora, NZTA, the Department of Conservation and Dog Rescue Dunedin.
4. The DCC Dog Control Policy and Bylaw were reviewed late 2024, with the updates coming into effect on 05 May 2025. Key changes included the introduction of a permit requirement for individuals responsible for more than six dogs in public spaces, updates to designated areas where dogs may be allowed in the CBD, and the introduction of a leash requirement in coastal dunes to protect wildlife.

Dog Control Enforcement Practices

5. The Animal Services Team operates a seven-day service from 7.00am to 8.00pm during the summer (daylight saving) and between 8.30am and 5.00pm during the winter for all requests for service. In addition, the DCC operates a 24-hour standby service for emergency calls. This service is provided by an external contractor, and they have warranted Dog Rangers to cover the afterhours call outs on evenings, weekends and public holidays.
6. During the year ending 30 June 2025, the Animal Services team responded to 2,110 dog-related complaints, a decrease of 83 from the previous year. These included:
 - Aggressive behaviour: 145
 - Dog attacks on people: 51
 - Dog attacks on other animals: 99
 - Barking: 595
 - Wandering dogs: 773 (includes patrol requests where the dog was not known at the time of complaint, and wandering complaints where the dog's address was provided)
 - Fouling: 16
 - Suspected unregistered dogs: 21
 - Contained: 410

7. In most cases where a contained dog was registered, the microchip and owner details were current, and it was a first-time wandering incident, DCC facilitated the return of the dog to its owner with a warning.
8. In total, 134 dogs were impounded during the review period, a decrease of 26 on the previous year.
9. In the year ending 30 June 2025, a total of 349 infringement notices were issued to dog owners, an increase of 15 on the previous year.
10. One prosecution was undertaken against a dog owner for breaches of the Dog Control Act 1996, which resulted in a conviction and a destruction order for two dogs involved in the incidents.
11. In addition to dog-related matters, the Animal Services Team also responded to 92 wandering stock complaints under the Impounding Act 1955, and 48 other animal nuisance issues under the DCC Keeping of Animals Bylaw 2022. These activities are noted here for context, but no further detail is required for this report.

Dogs Prohibited, Leash Only and Dog Exercise Areas

12. Dunedin City Council maintains nine designated dog exercise parks; three for small dogs and six for all dogs. These spaces support dog socialisation, responsible ownership, and community interaction.
13. Each park is uniquely designed to suit the surrounding landscape and is regularly maintained and upgraded. Features include:
 - Double-gated entry (airlock system) for safe access and exit
 - Refillable dog waste bag dispensers
 - Most parks also include drinking fountains, seating and shelters, agility equipment, and solar lighting
14. The ratio of dog exercise areas to known dogs (registered and unregistered) is approximately 1:2091.
15. Animal Services Officers also carry out regular proactive patrols in areas with a high volume of dog-related complaints. These patrols include visits to popular walking tracks, reserves, and beaches frequently used by dog owners, helping to promote compliance and responsible behaviour in public spaces.

Dog Registration and Other Fees

16. Dog registration fees were increased for the 2024/2025 registration year. The 2024/2025 pet dog registration fee was \$115. The fee for the first working dog was \$56 and the second and subsequent working dogs was \$29. The annual rebate for registered neutered dog/s remained at \$10. Dogs registered as “Special dog” (Disability Assist, Police or Search and Rescue) are registered free of charge.
17. Owners that didn’t register their dogs within the required timeframe were issued with reminder notices and if possible, contacted via telephone, text or home visits.

18. As part of the 2024/2025 registration process, the dog owner information brochure offered owners the option to provide an animal email address to receive future registration information electronically, in addition to the standard posted renewal forms. This initiative supports improved communication and convenience for dog owners.

Dog Education

19. The Animal Services Team runs a proactive education programme aimed at improving public safety and promoting responsible dog ownership. Free dog safety education sessions are offered to pre-school, primary and intermediate children, as well as workplaces where staff may encounter dogs during their duties. Animal Services Officers bring dogs into schools to help teach rangatahi practical safety skills around dogs in a hands-on and engaging way.
20. During the 2024/2025 year:
- 79 education sessions were delivered to schools and kindergartens
 - Five workplace sessions were conducted
21. DCC's Responsible Dog Owner (RDO) Policy recognises and rewards responsible dog ownership. Dog owners who have not received any valid complaints in the previous two years may apply for RDO status, which entitles them to a 44% discount on future dog registration fees. As at 30 June 2025, 30.7% of pet owners were classified as Responsible Dog Owners.
22. As part of the RDO assessment process, an Animal Services Officer conducts a property inspection with the owner present. The inspection ensures the property meets fencing requirements and assesses the owner's understanding of their responsibilities under the DCC Dog Control Bylaw and Policy and the Dog Control Act 1996.
23. The Animal Services Team also runs regular public awareness campaigns through newspapers, radio, and social media. These campaigns have proven to be an effective way to promote responsible dog ownership and support the acceptance of dogs in urban environments.

Disqualified and Probationary Dog Owners

24. Over the last 12 months there were three dog owners classified as a disqualified owners and one as a probationary owner.

Menacing and Dangerous Dogs

25. As of 30 June 2025, DCC has 147 dogs classified as menacing by breed or by action. 18 dogs were classified over the last 12 months. Of that total, 15 were classified as menacing due to action and the remaining three were classified by breed under section 33C (1) Schedule 4 of The Act.
26. As of 30 June 2025, The DCC has 11 dogs classified as dangerous which is four fewer than the previous year. During the last 12 months, four dogs were classified by Dunedin Animal Services as dangerous by sworn evidence¹.

Pound Facility

27. The DCC dog pound is operated by an external contractor and based at a local boarding kennels. The contractor is required to keep kennels available to Animal Services 24/7. All feeding, exercise and maintenance is provided. There was one recorded security incident last year involving a dog owner at the pound.

¹ 'Sworn evidence'- evidence given by a person who witnessed the event.

General Information

28. As of 30 June 2025, a total of 10779 pet dogs have been neutered in Dunedin. This is 61% of the total number of pet dogs, the same as the previous year.
29. The DCC promotes a dog neutering programme for owners who would have difficulty meeting the costs. Dog owners with community services card, or are experiencing hardship and recommended by an Animal Services Officer may apply to have their registered dog neutered. The full cost of the operation is paid by the DCC and the number of dogs neutered under this programme in the last 12 months was 77.
30. 94% of all known dogs are microchipped which is the same as the previous year. This includes 100% of the classified dangerous dogs and 91% of the classified menacing dogs.
31. When dog owners register a dog, they are given information brochures that contain advice on how to care for their dog and their responsibilities as a dog owner.
32. Over the last year, 96.3% of impounded dogs (129 of 134) were either claimed by their owners (96), adopted (31) or transferred over to the SPCA (2). 3.7% of impounded dogs were euthanised due to either a court order (2) or being found unsuitable for rehoming (3) due to an existing classification or their behaviour when assessed by the Animal Services Officer.
33. Dog Rescue Dunedin (DRD) continues to work alongside the DCC's Animal Services Team under a Memorandum of Understanding, helping to provide homes for unwanted or unclaimed pound dogs. DRD were responsible for the adoption and fostering of 48.4% of the dogs adopted from the pound.
34. Trail cameras are used on rural properties to assist Animal Services Officers to gather evidence when dogs have attacked stock.
35. Due to the high number of barking complaints received annually by the Animal Services Team, the Animal Services Officers continue to use bark boxes to record barking. This device has been found to be invaluable when dealing with barking complaints, particularly when dog owners are often not at home and don't realise how often their dog/s are barking.
36. Under the DCC Dog Control Policy and Bylaw, dog owners in residential areas are required to obtain a licence to keep two or more dogs on a property (kennel permit). This process provides an opportunity for Animal Services Officers to confirm that dogs are adequately contained and to offer advice to dog owners. In the 2024/2025 year, 284 kennel permits were issued. All kennel permit applications are also checked for RDO eligibility, and where applicable, the inspection includes assessment for RDO status.

DOG CONTROL STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Section 10A (2) of the Act requires territorial authorities to publicly report each financial year on a variety of dog control related statistics in a tabular format.

Column B shows the total number as of 30 June 2025 on DCC record and Column C shows the number recorded during the period from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025. For example, as of 30 June 2025, the DCC has 11 dangerous dogs on record. This number changes each year as some dogs may have died and others may have moved district.

CATEGORY (A)	(B) Total in Dunedin City as of 30 June 2025	(C) Period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025
1) Total # Registered Dogs	17876	Statistics not required
2) Total # Probationary Owners	2	1
3) Total # Disqualified Owners	7	3
4) Total # Dangerous Dogs	11	4
Dangerous by Owner Conviction	4	0
Dangerous by Sworn Evidence	6	4
Dangerous by Owner Admittance in Writing s31(1)(c)	1	0
5) Total # Menacing Dogs	147	18
Menacing under s33A(1)(b)(i) - i.e. by Behaviour	101	15
Menacing under s33A(1)(b)(ii) - by Breed Characteristics	0	0
Menacing under s33C (1) by Schedule 4 Breed	46	3
6) Total # Infringement Notices	Statistics not required	349
7) Total # Complaints Received	Statistics not required	2110
Aggressive	Statistics not required	145
Attack	Statistics not required	150
Barking	Statistics not required	595
Fouling	Statistics not required	16
Wandering + Patrols	Statistics not required	773
Dogs Contained	Statistics not required	410
Dogs unregistered	Statistics not required	21
8) Total # Dogs Impounded	Statistics not required	134
9) Total # Prosecutions Taken	Statistics not required	1
10) Total # Pet Dogs	Statistics not required	17604
11) Total # Pet Dogs Neutered	Statistics not required	10779
12) Total # Responsible Dog Owners	Statistics not required	4568
13) Total # Dog safety education sessions	Statistics not required	84
13) Total # Dog Exercise Areas	Statistics not required	9
Ratio of Known Dogs to Exercise Areas	Statistics not required	1:2091