Dog Control Policy and Practices Report

1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026

Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996 requires the Council to report on its dog control policies and practices for the registration year.

PART 1 – DOG CONTROL POLICY

The current policy was adopted in December 2020 and outlines the Council's requirements regarding controlling dogs.

Key Aspects of the policy are:

- The requirement for all dogs classified as menacing to be neutered.
- When taking dogs out in public, owners must always use or carry a leash.
- Specific dog exercise areas have been identified in Alexandra, Clyde, Cromwell, Ranfurly, Naseby, Roxburgh and Pisa Moorings
- A maximum of three dogs are permitted to reside on a residential private property, unless granted a licence.
- Specific on-leash areas have been identified around town centres and sports ground playing surfaces.

PART 2 – DOG CONTROL PRACTICES

Cougar Security have continued being contracted to provide dog control services during office hours (8.30am – 5.00pm) and provide contracted services afterhours and during public holidays, weekends, and periods of leave.

There were 6688 (99.78%) dogs registered during the 2025/2026 financial year, reflecting an approximate 1% (60) reduction of registered dogs in the 2024/2025 year.

The MagiQ Cloud dog registration system that was introduced during previous registration years has provided and supported greater visibility of dog registration information and reporting, whilst maintaining the simplicity of on-line dog registration.

Service Requests

The service requests received through the year are for roaming/wandering, barking and aggressive behaviour. There was 1 report of dogs worrying stock. Roaming dogs and barking remains the main issue reported. These areas will continue to be a focus for the team for communications, education, patrols, and enforcement for the coming year.

Dog Registration Fees

The dog control activity is funded through our dog registration fees. The registration fees for the 2025-2026 registration remained the same at:

- Working dogs $12.00
- Pet dogs $72.00
- Dangerous Dog $108.00

Non-payment of registration fees within the required timeframe incurs a 50% penalty added to the initial registration fee, followed by issue of infringement notices. Unpaid infringement fines are referred to the Courts for collection.

Microchipping

All non-working dogs registered for the first time on or after 1 July 2006 and all dogs classified as dangerous or menacing since 1 December 2003 are required to be microchipped.

Following the implementation of the Councils integrated dog registration database i.e. MagiQ, there is a greater level of clarity regarding the number of dogs that are microchipped.

We currently have 3116 (71.81%) of dogs microchipped as required.

Council staff will continue to educate dog owners regarding this legislative requirement, and where necessary enforce this requirement for the outstanding 1223 (30%) over the next registration period.

Disqualified and Probationary Owners

There is one disqualified owner in the Central Otago District.

There are no probationary owners in the Central Otago District.

Menacing and Dangerous Dogs

There was 1 dog classified as dangerous for the 2025-2026 registration period. This dog has since been euthanised.

There are 11 dogs classified as menacing under Section 33A (observed or reported behaviour) and 5 dogs identified as menacing under Section 33C (based on type or breed) of the Dog Control Act 1996.

PART 3 – STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Council received a total of 344 service requests, which is a 9% reduction compared to the previous year (379). Council continues to prioritise service requests in this space, which may be the provide some explanation as to this reduction.

Dog Control remains a high area of focus for the Central Otago District Council, which strives to:

a. Ensure all dogs that live in the district are registered
b. Maintain responsible dog ownership by all dogs being kept under control at all times
c. Provide ongoing education to dog owners regarding their responsibilities and obligations

Category of Complaint	2025-2026	2024-2025
Public Safety related complaints		
Dog attack on people - minor	5	10
Dog attack on people - serious	2	8
Dog attack on animal - minor	4	7
Dog attack on animal - serious	6	6
Dog attack on stock (worrying)	1	2
Dog rushing	13	12
Wandering/roaming dogs	42	53
General concern	68	47
Non-safety Concerns		
Barking	112	136
Fouling	2	6

Attacks

When an attack occurs on a person or animal, the incident can be extremely distressing to all parties involved.

The number of dog attacks over the last year has decreased, which is believed to be a result of more responsible dog ownership and increased patrolling of the district.

Barking Dogs

The number of barking dog complaints remains the largest issue, however there was a reduction compared to the previous period.

The team continue to educate dog owners regarding barking dogs, providing support and advice to remedy barking e.g. raise owners' awareness of the effects of boredom of dogs, the availability of bark collars to borrow at no cost to assist in training and where appropriate a bark-box to record the frequency and duration of alleged barking incidents to use at properties to gather evidence for enforcement where necessary.

Wandering and Roaming Dogs

The number of roaming dogs remains a key issue, however there was a reduction (20.75%) to the previous year. Roaming dogs can frighten, intimidate, and annoy the community in addition to potentially attacking people and other dogs. We have continued our focus on patrols and communication regarding responsible dog ownership through the year, with positive outcomes.

Impounding

There were seven dogs impounded during the registration period, which were united with their owners. 1 dog was surrendered to the SPCA for care and eventual re-homing after been found emaciated. This is an increase by 133% compared to the previous year (3).

Prosecutions

There were no prosecutions undertaken during the 2025/2026 financial year.

Infringements

There was a decrease in the number of infringements issued in the 2025/26 year compared to the infringements which were issued last year. This may be attributed to the notifications and publications which went out the dog owners throughout the registration period, and dog owners becoming aware that the enforcement team are following up on unregistered dogs.

CODC still remains one of the most economic dog registration fees in the country.

OFFENCE	2025-2026	2023-2024
Failure to Comply with effects of Disqualification	1	0
Failure to register dog	156	252
Failure to keep dog controlled or confined	12	6
Failure to keep dog under control	0	4
Failure to comply with any bylaws authorised by the section	1	0
Failure to supply information or willing providing false information about a dog	2	0
Failure to supply information or willing providing false information about an owner	1	0
Total:	173	262