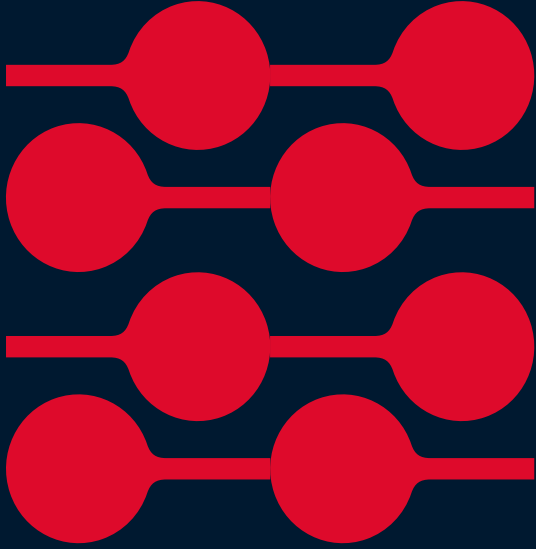




Pūrongo ā-Tau

Annual Report

1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025





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 mohao
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.

Contents

- Mihi** 3
- Foreword**..... 5
- Executive Summary**..... 7
- Part 1: Introduction**.....10
 - 1.1 Purpose of the Annual Report10
 - 1.2 Arrangement of the report.....10
 - 1.3 Policy on Dogs and Dog Management Bylaw10
 - 1.4 Updates to the Policy and Bylaw10
 - 1.5 Animal Management structure 12
- Part 2: Service Delivery**15
 - 2.1 Service response15
 - 2.2 Community engagement and education19
 - 2.3 Working with other agencies 22
 - 2.4 Shelter services 23
 - 2.5 Health, safety and wellbeing of Animal Management staff..... 27
 - 2.6 Media interest and marketing campaigns..... 27
- Part 3: Dogs in Auckland** 29
 - 3.1 Dog owners in Auckland 29
 - 3.2 Dog population in Auckland..... 29
 - 3.3 Other interesting facts about dogs in Auckland 33
- Part 4: Dog Control Statistics** 34
 - 4.1 Registrations..... 34
 - 4.2 Classifications..... 34
 - 4.3 Requests for service (RFS)..... 35
 - 4.4 Enforcement 38
 - 4.5 Animal shelters.....40

Foreword

Dogs make wonderful companions and provide joy and support for many people in Tāmaki Makaurau. But dog ownership is a big responsibility, and it must come with a commitment to treat the dog with love and care for the duration of its life.

Sadly, many of the issues detailed in this year's Annual Report are caused by irresponsible owners who do not desex their dogs, provide the right shelter and food, socialise their dog, or keep them contained on their properties. Because of the actions of these owners, the region is facing unprecedented levels of roaming dogs and high numbers of dog attacks on people and other animals.

Auckland Council is taking all possible steps within the tools currently available to it to tackle these issues. Council has increased funding by \$5.9 million and implemented a multi-pronged action plan to ensure public safety.

The plan recognises the enormity of the issue and the need to tackle it from various avenues, noting that some actions will take years to see the positive effects. The actions are to promote responsible dog ownership, reduce the number of roaming dogs and attacks, lift the number of desexed dogs, and improve compliance with bylaws and legislation, such as registrations.

The actions fall under five focus areas:

1. Community education and engagement

It is important that dog owners understand their responsibilities, and how not registering, desexing, or keeping their dogs contained can negatively impact the community, as well as their dogs. Council education and engagement initiatives include proactive marketing campaigns around dog attacks and roaming dogs, targeted outreach to high-risk communities and engagement with the public through community events, educational sessions, and primary school programmes.

A new function has been established to lead community education, stakeholder engagement and partnerships. To effect change, a true community embedded approach is needed.

2. Compliance and Enforcement

Auckland Council recognises it cannot rely on irresponsible dog owners to shift their behaviour voluntarily and that a stronger compliance approach is required. The council has increased frontline roles and proactive patrols in high-risk areas for roaming dogs. A new operational function has been established to enhance investigations and prosecutions, along with a dedicated barking and registration team.

Over the past year, impounds have increased by almost 2000 dogs, and approximately 17,000 infringements have been issued. Since 2020, 611 prosecutions have been concluded.

3. Dog Population Control

A female dog can have in excess of 50 puppies over a period of five years. Controlling the dog population is necessary to break the cycle of unwanted dogs being abandoned or given to owners that are not in the position to adequately care for them.

Auckland Council is taking a range of actions to address this issue, including free desexing campaigns for menacing and dangerous dogs, a desexing partnership with the SPCA, and the establishment of an in-house veterinary service at our Henderson Animal Shelter. We are on track to desex 2000 dogs

over the next 12 months through these actions. The council is also exploring community-based desexing clinics and further targeted campaigns in high-risk areas.

4. Shelter strategy

Shelters are permanently full, as the number of dogs impounded in the last three years has doubled, but the numbers of dogs collected has not increased. To mitigate this problem, the council has invested in expanding its facilities. This includes the opening of the Pukekohe Adoption and Education Centre, which adds 40 kennels and provides more opportunity for dogs to be rehomed, and an expansion of the Manukau Animal Shelter, which will add 33 more kennels.

Further short- and long-term kennel development plans are underway. This is focussed on ensuring council has fit-for-purpose facilities as Auckland continues to grow.

5. Advocating for government support

Current dog legislation has not kept pace with rising risks, particularly in Auckland. That is why Auckland Council is advocating to central government to improve controls and powers under the Dog Control Act 1996 to protect communities, create more accountability for repeat offenders and bad practices, and empower councils with tools to help get the situation under control.

Finally, I want to acknowledge that while some of the statistics in this report are sobering, the majority of Auckland's dog owners take great care to meet their obligations as responsible pet owners.

We sincerely thank these dog owners for doing the right thing and for their continued cooperation and support of Animal Management's efforts in Auckland.

Ngā mihi nui,

Robert Irvine

General Manager, Licensing and Compliance, Auckland Council

Executive Summary

Reporting period

This document outlines Auckland Council's Animal Management activities for the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025, in accordance with [section 10A](#) of the [Dog Control Act 1996](#).

Dog population

At the end of June 2025, Auckland's known dog population was 131,123. This is a 3.3 per cent decline from the previous year. This decline is mostly attributed to improved data accuracy, resulting from an extensive campaign to address unregistered dogs in Auckland.

The number of registered dogs reached 115,869, representing 88.4 per cent of the total known dog population. This marks a 4.8 per cent improvement in registration compliance (the highest since financial year 2021/2022). There are 110,027 known individual dog owners across the region.

Unknown dogs remain a problem. Only 40 per cent of impounded dogs were known to Auckland Council, and only 32 per cent of these were registered.

Dog attacks

Reported dog attacks rose slightly to 2864 incidents. While attacks on other animals dropped by 70, attacks on people increased by 88. This is largely attributed to a rise in roaming dogs.

The council's ongoing 'Dog Bite Prevention' initiative continues to target high-risk communities, promoting safety and responsible dog ownership.

During the year, 134 prosecutions were initiated through the District Court for serious violations of the Dog Control Act 1996. Seven appeals were filed in higher courts.

High-risk dogs

Auckland has 6732 dogs classified as menacing and 21 as dangerous—an overall increase of 4.6 per cent in the high-risk dog classifications.

Desexing compliance among these dogs has dropped to 65 per cent, which is down 4 per cent from the previous year. Free desexing events were held to boost compliance. Enforcement remains constrained by limited shelter capacity.

Service response

Animal Management teams responded to 39,374 service requests—an increase of 4.8 per cent. Roaming dogs remain a persistent issue, with 16,739 reports received. Aggressive dog behaviour incidents rose by 4.9 per cent, totalling 3852 cases.

There were 5223 requests to collect stray dogs and 710 incidents involving livestock on public roads.

Complaints about nuisance barking fell by 2.6 per cent, with 6426 cases investigated and 41 abatement notices issued.

Welfare-related concerns increased by 13.8 per cent, reflecting ongoing financial pressure on dog owners.

Field officers conducted 8259 proactive patrols, property inspections and registration checks.

The Proactive Animal Management team continued its outreach through school patrols, community engagement and dog safety education.

Field officers issued 17,430 infringement notices for offences against the Dog Control Act 1996. This is a 173 per cent increase from the previous year. Of these, a total of 10,149 infringement notices, 58 per cent, were issued to dog owners who failed to register their dogs.

Shelter services

A record 10,214 dogs were impounded across Auckland's three shelters, up 23 per cent from the previous year. This continues to put pressure on shelter capacity.

Only 35 per cent of these dogs were claimed by their owners, resulting in a 60 per cent euthanasia rate—the highest ever recorded for Auckland Council animal shelters.

A total of 332 dogs were adopted or transferred to rescue groups, a decline from the previous year. Most rescue groups are also struggling with the increase in available dogs and have limited capacity to take more dogs into their care.

The opening of the Pukekohe Adoption and Education Centre in March 2025 marked a significant milestone, providing a new hub for adoption and public education.

Community engagement and partnerships

The Proactive team participated in numerous community events, school visits and training sessions for high-risk workers. They led the council's free desexing initiative and worked closely with Māori and Pasifika communities to foster responsible dog ownership.

A new partnership with the SPCA was launched to provide free desexing in underserved areas.

Collaborations with the Ministry for Primary Industries and the Tūpuna Maunga Authority supported education and conservation efforts. A newly established community engagement and partnerships team will continue to focus on driving a community led approach for the year ahead.

Strategic projects and initiatives

Construction commenced on a major expansion of the Manukau Animal Shelter to enhance shelter capacity and services.

A new internal veterinary services pilot was established at the Henderson animal shelter to support desexing and to reduce unwanted litters.

The council continued to advocate for legislative reform under the Dog Control Act 1996 to better address issues related to roaming and aggressive dogs. It is calling on central government to grant councils stronger powers under the act.

Key legislative changes have been outlined that would give the council more tools to manage dog-related issues.

Promoting responsible ownership

While many Aucklanders are responsible dog owners, rising issues such as roaming and aggression are often linked to poor dog ownership practices.

Animal Management remains committed to education, enforcement and community outreach to encourage safe and responsible dog ownership.

Staff safety and wellbeing

Staff safety remains a high priority, with 466 incidents reported, which included 137 involving violence or aggression. Four incidents were classed as high-risk, and one incident of serious threats of harm was reported.

Staff receive ongoing de-escalation training and have been supported by a dedicated Hauora Advisor and Health, Safety and Wellbeing Business Partner.

Part 1: Introduction

1.1 Purpose of the Annual Report

This report provides an update on the administration of Auckland Council's Policy on Dogs and dog management practices from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.¹

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.

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

1.3 Policy on Dogs and Dog Management Bylaw

Auckland Council adheres to the following policy and bylaw in the commissioning of its responsibilities:

- **Kaupapa mo ngā Kurī 2019 | Policy on Dogs 2019** explains how the council manages dogs in Auckland, including where dogs can be taken in public places (dog access rules)
- **Ture a Rohe Tiakina Kurī 2019 | Dog Management Bylaw 2019** enables the council to enforce rules identified in the Policy.

The goal of the policy is “to keep dogs as a positive part of the life of Aucklanders” by taking action across four areas of focus:

1. **Registration and classification**
Promote dog registration across all of Auckland.
2. **Responsible dog ownership**
Educate and inform dog owners how to take care of their dogs.
3. **Dog access principles**
Provide a balanced approach to dog access in council-controlled public places.
4. **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.

1.4 Updates to the Policy and Bylaw

The Policy on Dogs 2019 and Dog Management Bylaw 2019 were reviewed and updated by the Governing Body on 26 June 2025, with changes coming into effect on or after 1 August 2025.

The review focussed on the council's overall approach. This included the things the council considers when deciding whether to update dog access rules.

¹ This report meets the requirements of section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996 and focus area (Monitoring) of the Policy on Dogs 2019.

Updates to dog access rules are made periodically in response to changes in the use of these public places, for example, to:

- identify new opportunities for dog-friendly access in neighbourhoods with limited off-leash areas
- restrict access for new park developments, more people, increased presence of protected wildlife, or new threats to natural habitat.

Next year's report will update section 1.3 above to reflect the updated focus areas and actions in the refreshed '**Policy on Dogs 2025**'.

Decisions on dog access rules are shared between the Auckland Council Governing Body and local boards. The Governing Body decides Auckland-wide dog access rules (for example on roads and playgrounds) and regional park and beach rules. Local boards decide local park and beach rules.

This year, updates were made to dog access rules and the Policy on Dogs and Dog Management Bylaw after considering feedback from more than 5200 people and organisations, including:

- new limits on walking multiple dogs in council-controlled public places (such as parks) from 1 January 2026 of four dogs (with no more than two allowed off-leash at any time), with the ability for people to obtain approval from council for up to 12 dogs (conditions apply)
- changes at Auckland Botanic Gardens, Hunua Ranges, Long Bay, Mahurangi, Pākiri, Shakespear, Tāpapakanga, Waitawa and Whakanewha Regional Parks
- clarifications (with no rule change) at Ambury, Muriwai, Tāwharanui and Wenderholm Regional Parks
- changes at Gooseberry Flat, Pah Beach and Sandhills Reserve (Aotea/Great Barrier Local Board area)
- changes at designated dog exercise areas and Kawakawa Bay Beach (Franklin Local Board area)
- changes at Howick Historical Village in Lloyd Elsmore Park (Howick Local Board area)
- changes at Sulphur Beach Reserve, Gold Hole Reserve, Kauri Glen Reserve, Kauri Park, Kauri Point Domain, Muriel Fisher Reserve, Soldiers Bay, Søren G Christensen Reserve, 54 Tonar Street and Te Ara Awataha Greenway (Kaipātiki Local Board area)
- changes at Freeland Reserve, Monte Cecilia Park, Smallfield Reserve, Walmsley Park and Underwood Park (Puketāpapa Local Board area)
- changes at Parry Kauri Park, Snells Beach, Vera Reserve Baddeleys Road, Baddeleys Creek Reserve and Pigeon Place Accessway and Wonderview Road Esplanade (Rodney Local Board area)
- changes at Rosedale Park (Upper Harbour Local Board area)
- changes at Big Oneroa Beach and Blackpool Beach (Waiheke Local Board area)
- clarifications (with no rule change) at Clevedon Showground Reserve, sports fields in former Franklin District, shell banks and coastal areas from Waiau Pa to Ellets Beach (Franklin Local Board area)
- clarifications (with no rule change) at Chelsea Bay, Fitzpatrick Bay, Tuff Crater foreshore and mangrove, the foreshore of Shoal Bay east of the motorway and north of the Tennyson Street pedestrian underpass, Little Shoal Bay (Kaipātiki Local Board area)
- a refresh to reorganise, simplify and clarify Policy and Bylaw content.

A decision for dog access at Te Arai Regional Park was scheduled to be made on 28 August 2025, and not able to be included at the time this report was published.

More information about the updates can be viewed at the council's [AK Have Your Say](#) webpage.

The next statutory review of the Policy and Bylaw is due by 2 July 2034.

1.5 Animal Management structure

Auckland Council's Animal Management unit's main function is to implement the Policy and Bylaw on Dogs.

At the end of June 2025, the unit consisted of **155** permanent staff across four areas: field services, shelter services, veterinary services and supporting services, which includes the animal management specialists.

Field services

Staff providing field services respond to and investigate reports of dog attacks and dogs that are roaming or otherwise not under control, or that are causing a nuisance.

The Animal Management unit has five area-based field teams: Central, East, North, South and West. The Waiheke Island personnel are part of the West team, and the Great Barrier Island personnel are part of the North team.

Barking Advisors form part of the East team but deal with all barking-related complaints across the region. The team currently has five Barking Advisors. In financial year 2025/2026, this team will move from the East team into a newly established regional Barking and Registration team.

The Proactive team is part of field services and works across the entire region.

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

Field officers also deal with stray or roaming livestock on our roads, which includes the entire Auckland motorway network. Incidents of animals on the motorway are treated as a high priority.

Officers occasionally also deal with livestock trespassing on private property.



Requests to deal with other domestic animals are frequently received, and field teams work closely with the animal shelter teams 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 regularly patrol areas with a high number of complaints. Proactive work includes visits to the 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. They also mediate between neighbours to resolve complaints.

Shelter services

The unit operates three main animal shelters: Henderson Animal Shelter (**HAS**), Manukau Animal Shelter (**MAS**) and Silverdale Animal Shelter (**SAS**).

Pukekohe Adoption and Education Centre (**PAC**) opened in March 2025. It is the first dedicated dog adoption shelter in New Zealand.

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

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 every impounded dog.

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.



Veterinary services

Desexing campaigns and other veterinary services, including microchipping, have always been offered to the community through the animal shelters.

During the 2024/2025 financial year, the Animal Management unit established an internal veterinary services team as a one-year pilot. This service became fully operational from 1 July 2025.

The main focus of this new team is to make desexing of dogs more available to targeted communities in Auckland to help reduce the number of unwanted puppies.

The team also provides transport for dogs from their home to the veterinary clinic at the Henderson Animal Shelter. This add-on service has been very well received by the community, as it removes some of the barriers for people to having their dogs desexed.

Desexing will be provided based on need, with proactive campaigns in areas with high numbers of roaming dogs as the main focus. Referrals from the field and shelter teams are a secondary focus.



Supportive services

The field, shelter and veterinary services are complemented by specialist roles that manage and develop teams and facilities. The specialists also assist with legal, strategic and operational support to the Animal Management teams and other internal and external stakeholders. This includes data analysis and reporting.

The specialists also facilitate most training sessions, internal workshops, document and policy reviews, official information requests, and system and equipment maintenance and support.

Supportive services also include the dog registration hub.

Future state

Key structural changes to the Animal Management unit will be implemented in July 2025, which will enhance the unit's ability to focus on delivering priority actions.

These changes include:

- Establishing a new regional barking and registration team, which will improve responsiveness to barking complaints and registration.
- Establishing a community engagement and partnerships team, to lead community education, stakeholder engagement and partnerships.
- The creation of additional management roles to ensure the safe and effective operation of our facilities and shelters, to allow focus on programmes and initiatives, operational efficiencies, and to increase proactive engagement with stakeholders and partners.
- Establishment of new investigation roles, to manage complex prosecutions and address rising concerns around dog attacks.

Once the restructuring is complete, the unit will consist of five main service areas: Field Services, Shelter Services, Operational (Specialist) Support, Community Engagement and Partnerships, and Veterinary Services.

Part 2: Service Delivery

Field services



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 number of users. This service is mostly performed by the Proactive team, but the other field teams also contribute to the proactive effort to reduce incidents of harm caused by uncontrolled dogs.

- A total of **8259** proactive property visits, patrols and registration checks were carried out during the year by field officers.

Proactive team

The Proactive team continues its commitment to community engagement, delivering educational initiatives and executing targeted enforcement operations in high-risk areas.

This team performs a number of patrols, some of which may include an entire suburb, which is patrolled for several hours at a time.

Regular patrols are conducted in high-risk and hotspot areas, including patrolling around schools to ensure tamariki are safe when walking to and from home.

The team actively participated in numerous community events across Tāmaki Makaurau, allowing them to connect directly with the public, and promote key messages around dog safety and responsible ownership.

- During the year, the Proactive team assisted dog owners in desexing a total of **207** dogs that were classified as high-risk.

2.1.2 Reactive response

Complaints about roaming and uncontrolled dogs (excluding attacks) make up the largest number of requests for service. Together with requests from the public to collect confined stray dogs, these calls account for **67** per cent of all requests for service.

- Officers responded to a total of **39,374** requests for service. This is not including their proactive work.
- Reactive service requests increased by **1816 (4.8%)** from the previous year, and the majority of these are for roaming and uncontrolled dogs.

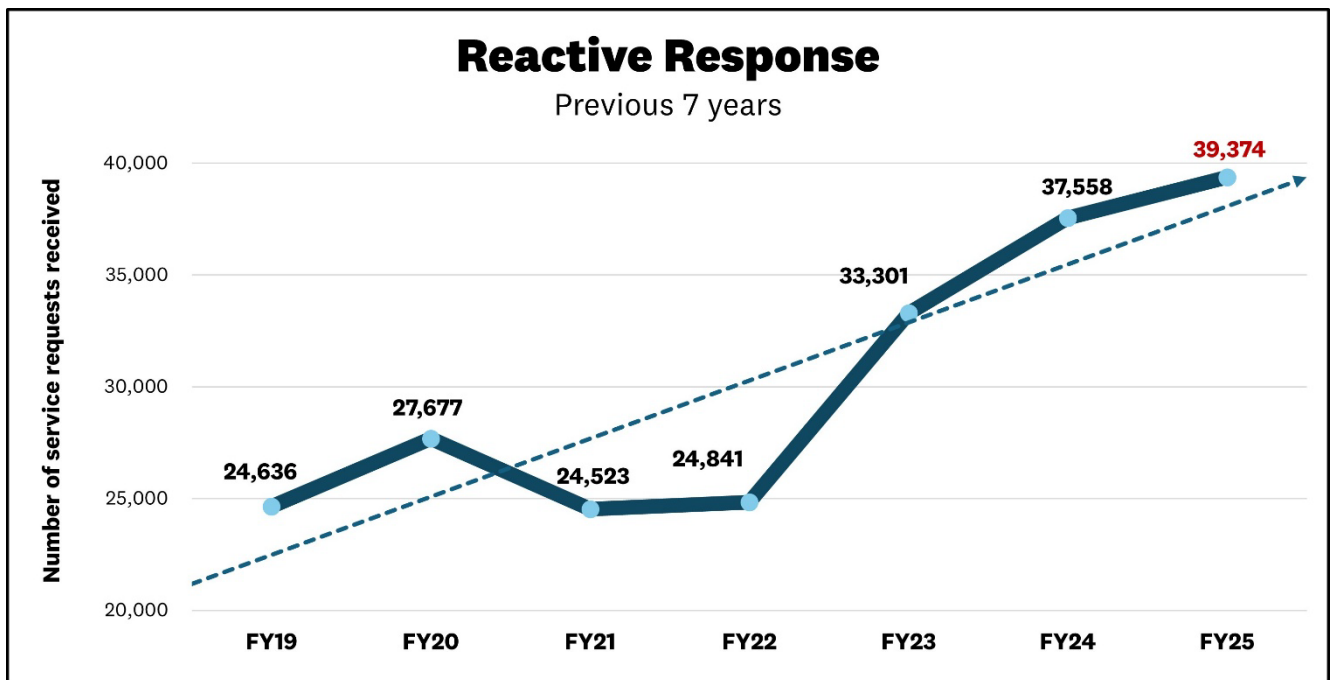


Figure 1 – Number of service requests received over the previous seven financial years (with trend line)

Uncontrolled and roaming dogs

Complaints about roaming dogs increased by **1593 (11%)** during the year. This placed a significant strain on the field teams' resources and the animal shelters' capacity to house dogs.

In addition, an increase in roaming dogs normally leads to an increase in dog attacks and incidents of aggressive behaviour.

- A total of **16,739** complaints were received about roaming dogs, and **5223** dogs were confined by members of the public and collected by officers.
- The field teams investigated **3852** reports of dogs behaving aggressively towards people or other animals, which was an increase of **179 (4.9%)** from the previous year.

In June 2025, Auckland Council launched a marketing campaign to help address the problem of roaming dogs in Auckland.

The campaign is designed to deliver maximum impact across radio, TV-on-demand and YouTube™, with plans to add social media and outdoor advertising. This is in addition to other proactive initiatives and educational work already being carried out by the teams.

Service Response – Uncontrolled Dogs

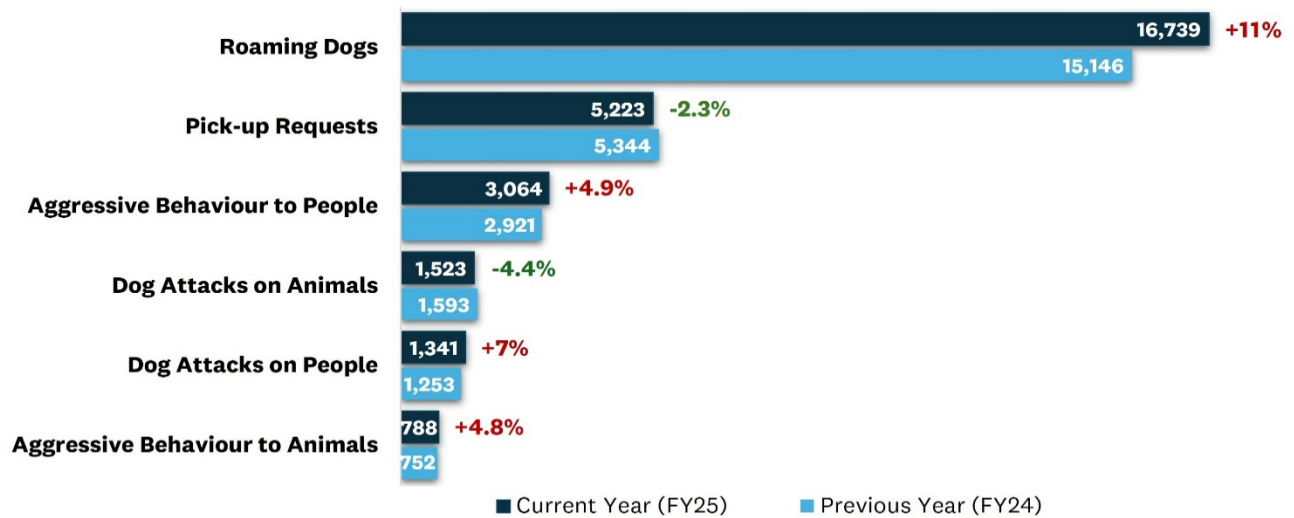


Figure 2 – Number of service requests related to uncontrolled dogs (compared to the previous financial year)

Dog attacks

Dog attacks on people increased, but attacks on other animals decreased during the year. The total number of attacks were significantly lower than forecasted in the previous year's report.

- A total of **2864** dog attacks were investigated during the year. There were **70** fewer attacks on other animals and **88** more attacks on people reported than in the previous year.
- For this year, attacks on children (0-15 years) were recorded separately, and these totalled **228** attacks. There were **1113** attacks on adults (16+ years).²
- Overall, attacks on people increased by **seven** per cent, and attacks on other animals decreased by **4.4** per cent, which is an increase of **0.6** per cent for all attacks combined.

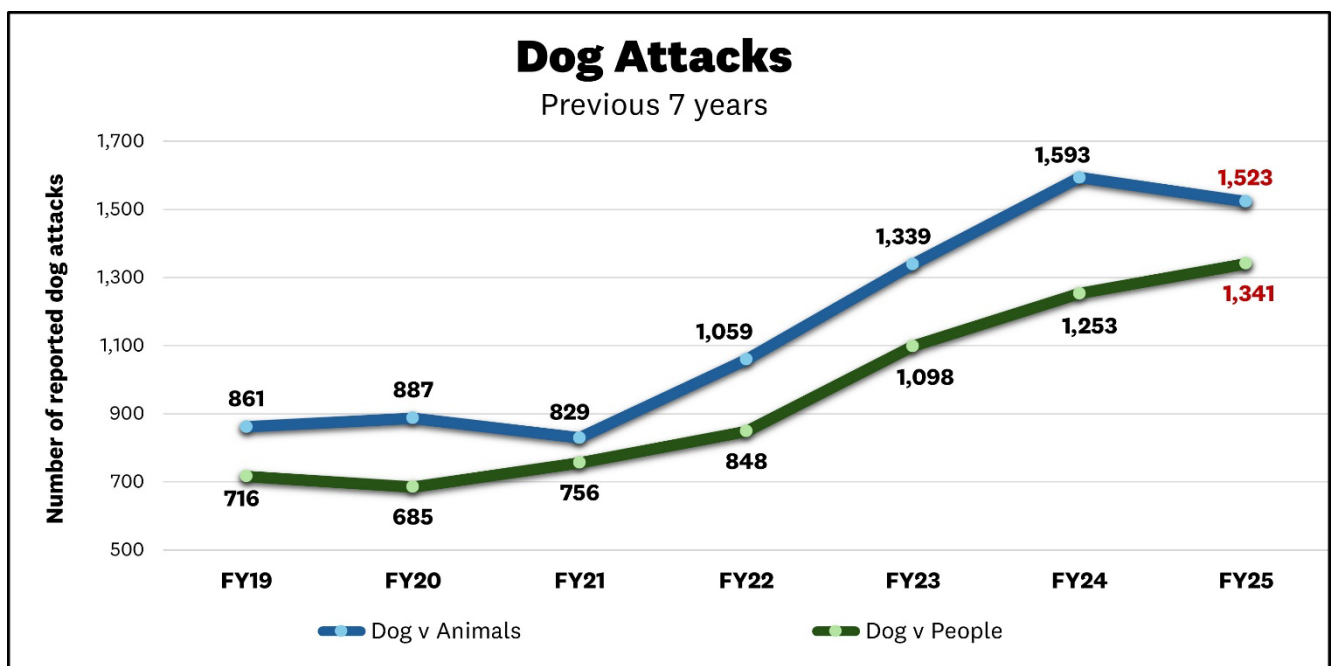


Figure 3 – Number of reported dog attacks on people and animals over the previous seven financial years

² In FY26, a separate comparison relating to attacks on children and adults will be provided, but these cannot currently be compared to FY24.

Barking complaints

A total of **6426** barking-related complaints were received during the year, which is a **2.6** per cent decrease from the previous year.

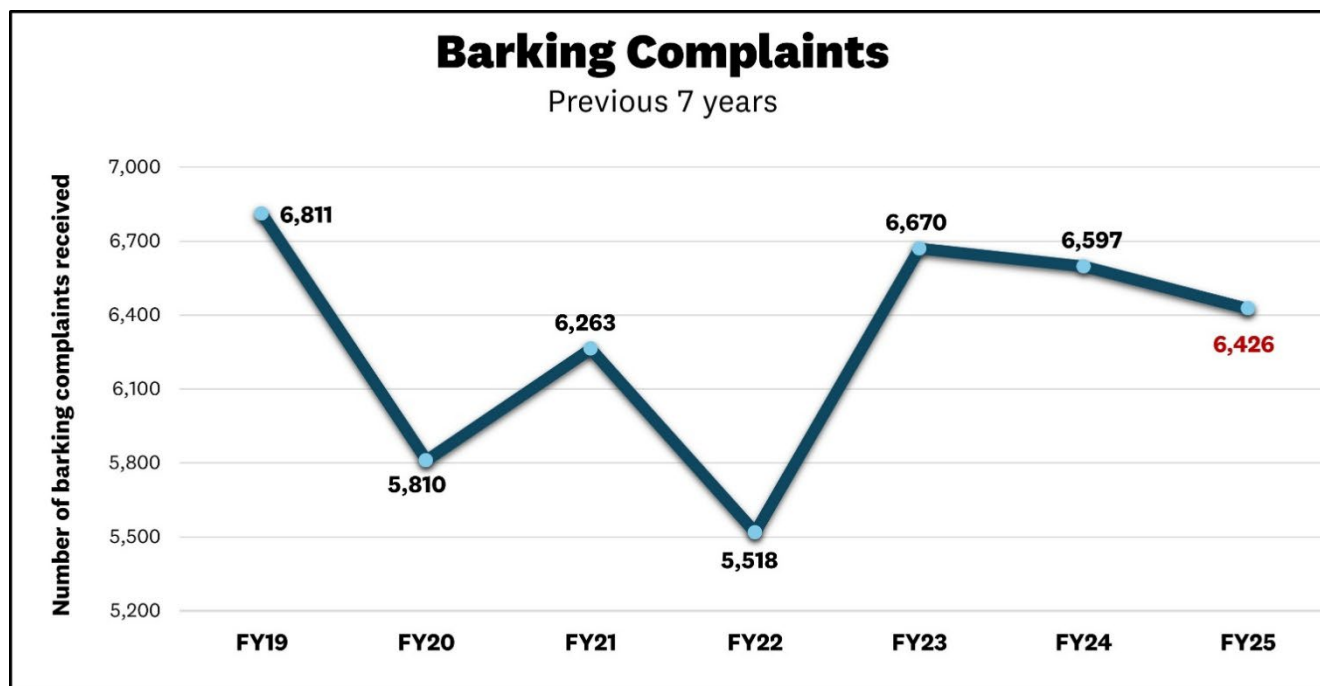


Figure 4 – Number of barking complaints received over the previous seven financial years

2.1.3 Enforcement

Dog registration

The annual dog registration year runs from 1 July to 30 June of the following year. Failure to register a dog can result in a \$300 infringement notice, or a court imposed fine of up to \$3,000.

A dog registration enforcement campaign was launched in October 2024, aimed at encouraging the registration of unregistered dogs.

As part of this effort, **22,929** letters were sent to dog owners notifying them that their unpaid registration renewal fees were due and outlining the consequences of non-payment.

This initiative has improved data accuracy with more than **3000** notifications received about dogs leaving Auckland or passing away. It also led to the receipt of **470** hardship requests.

- There were **115,869** dogs in Auckland with current registration at the end of the 2024/2025 financial year, which is **88.4** per cent of all known dogs.
- The dog registration rate increased by **4.8** per cent from the previous year.
- Field officers proactively visited **2805** properties with unregistered dogs.



Prosecutions and infringement notices

- A total of **134** new prosecutions for serious offences against the Act were initiated against dog owners in the District Court during the year, and **seven** appeals were filed in higher courts.
- Field officers issued **17,430** infringement notices for offences against the Dog Control Act 1996.
- Of these, a total of **10,149 (58%)** infringement notices were issued to dog owners who failed to register their dogs.

Classification of high-risk dogs

[Section 33C](#) of the Dog Control Act 1996 requires territorial authorities to classify as menacing all dogs that belong wholly or predominantly to the breeds or type of dog listed in [Schedule 4](#) of the Act.

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



- As of 30 June 2025, there were **6732** dogs classified as menacing and **21** dogs classified as dangerous in Auckland.
- Of these classified dogs, a total of **4392 (65%)** are compliant with the neutering requirement.

2.1.4 Other duties

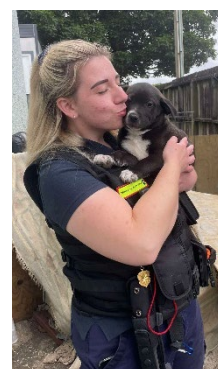
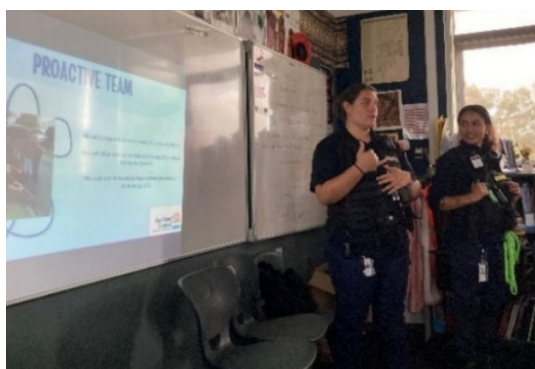
Our field officers' duties also include dealing with stray or roaming livestock on roads and in other public places, including the entire Auckland motorway network.

- Officers responded to **710** incidents of stray or roaming stock during the year, and **66** requests to collect stray or trespassing stock.
- A total of **48** animals (other than dogs) were impounded in Auckland public stock pounds.



2.2 Community engagement and education

The Animal Management Proactive team's main focus is on public engagement, dog safety education and proactive enforcement in high-risk areas.



Dog bite prevention

The Proactive team delivered engaging dog safety presentations at Tāmaki Makaurau libraries, focusing on educating young audiences about safe interactions with dogs. They presented age-appropriate talks, interactive activities and guidance on recognising canine body language and responsible behaviour around animals.



Kura (schools)

Pukekohe Adoption and Education Centre staff assisted the Proactive team to deliver dog safety presentations at **26** schools, kindergartens and daycare centres, predominantly within high-risk suburbs across Auckland.

These sessions emphasised key messages designed to educate our tamariki on essential dog safety practices, such as appropriate handling of dogs and how to respond if they encounter roaming dogs on the street, particularly on their way to school.

Where possible, dogs were also present, allowing children to apply their newly acquired knowledge through supervised interactions. These real-life experiences reinforced the lessons learnt and deepened their understanding.



The Proactive team went along on school walks in South Auckland, gave the children a safety briefing on what to do if they encounter a dog, then joined them on the walk to ensure they were kept safe from dogs.



Community events

The Proactive team regularly attended local community safety ngā hui in Ōtara and Ōtāhuhu, as well as The Asian Network Incorporated to engage with local communities and promote key messages.



Ōtāhuhu family fun day



Barking Mad - Pukekohe



Their involvement in many events enables them to reach diverse audiences throughout the region, and these include Save the Kiwi, Wilderfest, Polyfest, Pasifika Festival, Henderson Heroes, Pet Expo, Lost Dog Disco, Love Your Maunga, Ōtara Geek Camp, Wynyard Pavilion and Barking Mad.



Pasifika festival



Polyfest

The team also continues to deliver dog safety talks across Auckland, responding to requests from frontline workers such as postal and courier employees, City Care, Plunket, Healthy Waters, Kāinga Ora and building inspectors.

These sessions equip frontline workers with practical tools and strategies to safely enter properties and manage situations where they may be confronted by aggressive dogs. This enhances their safety and confidence while performing their duties.



Tō Tātou o Manurewa



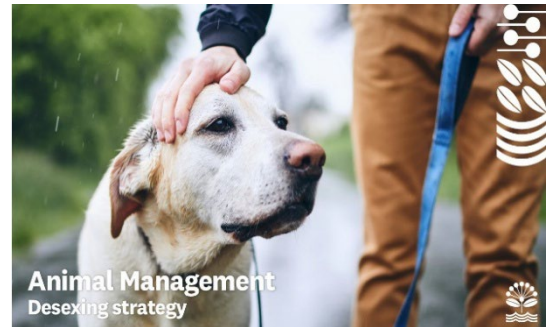
Waitangi Day 2025

2.3 Working with other agencies

Desexing strategy with SPCA

Auckland Council and the SPCA have formed a significant new partnership to address one of the city's growing challenges—roaming and un-desexed dogs. A pilot programme will provide free dog desexing services in high-need communities.

Backed by a funding agreement between Auckland Council and the SPCA, the programme aims to desex at least **445** dogs across ten priority suburbs with high numbers of roaming dog complaints: Manurewa, Papakura, Ōtara, Papatoetoe, Māngere, Henderson, Massey, Pukekohe, Māngere East and Mount Wellington.



Thanks to a new SPCA Outreach Voucher Portal, Auckland Council's animal management officers and shelter staff will be able to issue SPCA desexing vouchers directly to the public, using their mobile devices to send them to dog owners via email.

The vouchers will be redeemable at **17** participating veterinary clinics, mostly in south and west Auckland.

Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI)



Key Animal Management staff attended the 'Caring for animals in a civil defence emergency' training programme in August last year at the MPI offices in Māngere.

They found it valuable and feel much better equipped to help both people and companion animals in case of any emergencies or natural disasters.

Tūpuna Maunga Authority (TMA)



Love Your Maunga day

The Animal Management unit continues a strong relationship with the Tūpuna Maunga Authority (TMA). This year they celebrated Matariki with the TMA and Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board, Māori Arts and the Māngere Mountain Education Centre.

The events included Te Pane o Mataoho – Maunga walks, Kēmu Māori, Matariki workshops, conservation kōrero and much more.



Animal Shelters



2.4 Shelter services

2.4.1 Impounded dogs

There were **10,214** dogs impounded at the three main animal shelters in Auckland this year, which is the highest number ever for the Auckland region. This amounts to **1908** more dogs impounded than the previous year—an increase of **23** per cent.

Only **3585 (35%)** impounded dogs were claimed by their owners, which is a further **7.5** per cent reduction from the previous year’s record-low claim rate. This new all-time lowest claim rate caused all the animal shelters to exceed their capacity for almost the entire year.

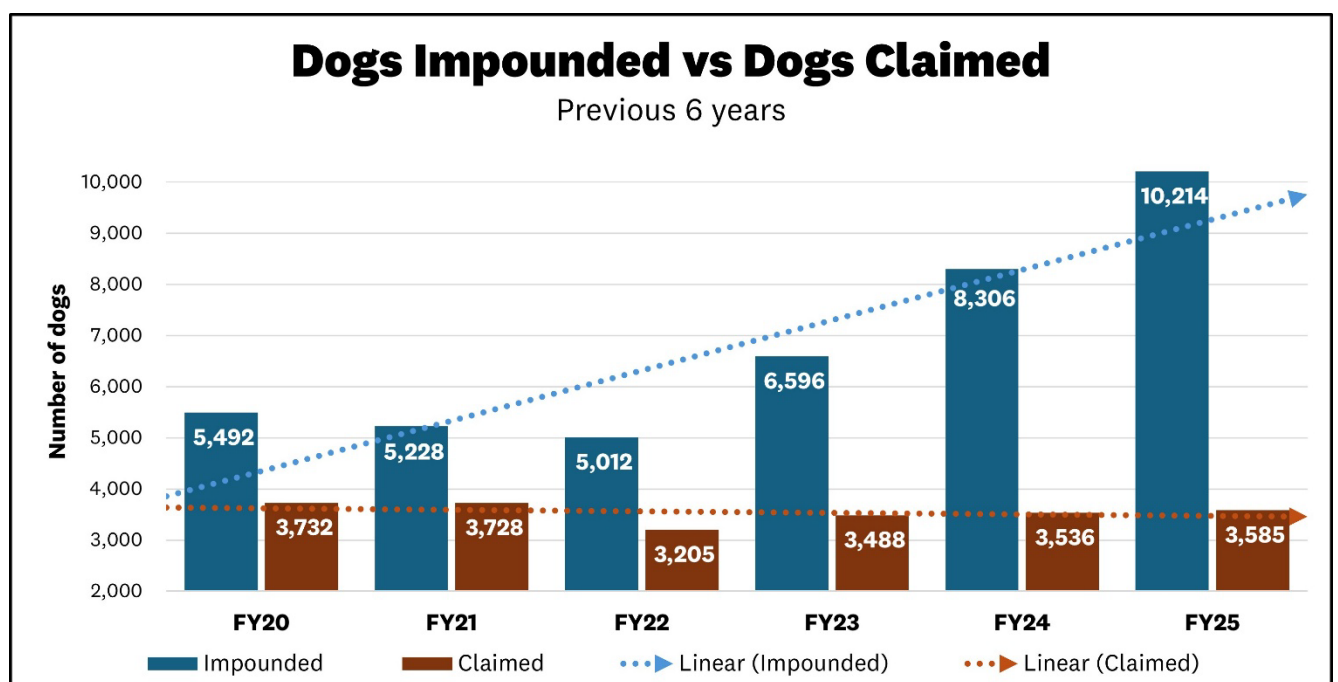


Figure 5 – Number of dogs impounded vs number of dogs claimed over the previous six financial years (with trend lines)

The majority (**74%**) of impounded dogs were either found roaming, collected on request, or were dropped off at the shelters.

- A total of **2091** dogs (**20** per cent of total impounds) were seized for offences against the Dog Control Act 1996, including **734** for attacks on people or other animals.
- There were **529** dogs voluntarily surrendered to the shelters by their owners—an increase of **35** per cent from the previous year.
- The breed most impounded is the Staffordshire Bull Terrier (**2329** in total), which is **23** per cent of all impounded dogs.
- The suburb where the most dogs were impounded was Manurewa (**983** dogs in total).

2.4.2 Adoptions

A total of **332** dogs (**3.3** per cent of total impounds) were adopted from the shelters or were transferred to rescue organisations and breed rescue groups.

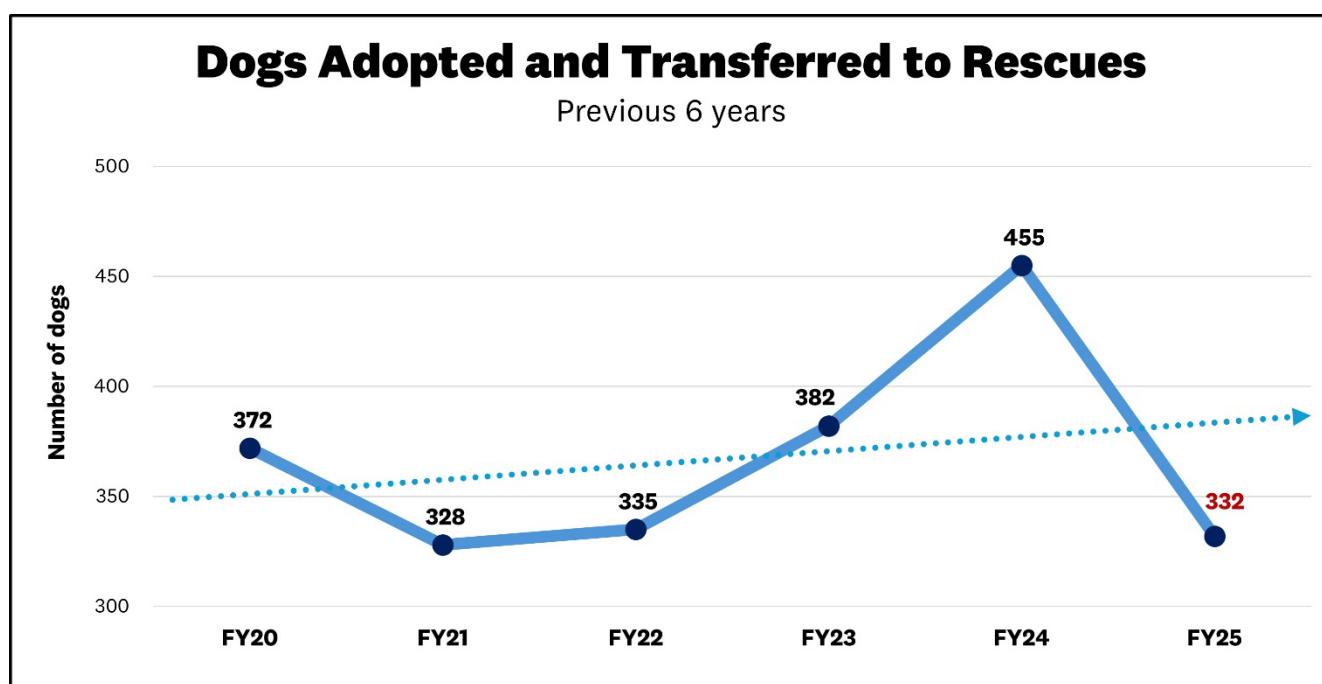


Figure 6 – Number of dogs adopted and transferred to rescue organisations over the previous six financial years (with trend line)

2.4.3 Adoption initiatives

The Pukekohe Adoption and Education Centre officially opened on 15 March 2025 and is the first dedicated dog adoption centre of its kind in New Zealand.

This centre's main focus is supporting the three main animal shelters by taking dogs that are suitable for adoption and helping them to find their forever homes.

This has increased the holding capacity of the three main shelters. The team dedicate their time to setting dogs up for successful adoptions through good care, socialisation and training.

Pukekohe Adoption and Education Centre – Opening day



Councillors, local board members and Auckland Council staff attended the opening ceremony.



The event opened with karakia, upholding tikanga Māori and grounding the day in connection and purpose.



More than 500 visitors attended the opening day, and there was lots of interest in all the dogs available for adoption.

This attendance far exceeded expectations!



A free sausage sizzle, ice cream and other refreshments were provided to visitors at the opening day.

Face painting, balloon animals, vendor stalls and great raffle prizes were also part of the entertainment on the day.

Overall, a fun day out for the entire family!



All shelter teams are working hard to foster positive relationships with the public to encourage responsible dog ownership. This in turn helps to promote dog safety and responsibility in our communities.

The Pukekohe team also started dog owner education sessions and provided dog safety talks and ‘how to safely meet a dog’ talks to kindergartens, in collaboration with the Proactive team.

The team will expand their work in this area over the coming months and will also provide onsite sessions in future.

2.4.4 Other success stories



Cola weighed 18kg when impounded, and 27.7kg when adopted.

Cola and her pup, Jacob, were transferred to PAC after being impounded at Henderson Shelter for welfare reasons.

Both were emaciated when they arrived at PAC.



Jacob weighed 14.3kg when impounded, and 21.1kg when adopted.



These two precious pups were found dumped in tiny cat cages behind a dumpster.

They were scared and confused when they came to us, but thankfully, their story had a happy ending!

One of them has found a forever home with our vet. The other has been taken in by one of our hard-working rescue groups, where they will be safe, loved and eventually find the perfect home.

2.4.5 Ongoing projects

Shelter expansion – Manukau Animal Shelter

Construction commenced in June on a major expansion of the Manukau Animal Shelter, aimed at increasing kennel capacity and improving facilities for both animals and staff.



The project includes the addition of three new kennel rows, providing 33 new kennels—28 standard and five purpose-built for female dogs with puppies.

A new laundry and dedicated storage area are also being built to support daily operations.

The office building will be extended to support the needs of a growing team.

Once completed at the end of the year (2025), the expansion will increase the shelter's capacity by approximately **25** per cent and significantly enhance the functionality of the workspace.



2.5 Health, safety and wellbeing of Animal Management staff

We continue to see a high level of violent behaviour and aggression towards our Animal Management staff.

During the year, there have been **466** incident reports recorded in council's health and safety management platform. These include **60** new hazard reports.

There were:

- **Four** high-risk reports, which included **one** serious threat of violence and aggressive behaviour towards our staff
- **137** reports related to violent and aggressive behaviour from people towards our staff.

We work in close collaboration and meet regularly with the New Zealand Police. The police are notified about all threats, ensuring appropriate measures are taken to ensure staff safety.

The top three reported risk categories are:

- animal aggression and movement
- violent and aggressive behaviour from people
- slips, trips and falls.

A number of initiatives are underway to target the increased violent and aggressive behaviour that staff are facing.

Health and safety representatives, a HSW Business Partner and a newly formed Continuous Improvement Committee, all work together to ensure that hazards, risk registers and improvement ideas are updated or implemented in a timely manner.

2.6 Media interest and marketing campaigns

Barking up the right tree: media shines light on dog safety

Over the past financial year, dog-related issues have dominated headlines and not always for good reasons.

With public concern around dog attacks and roaming dogs growing, our media work has played a vital role in helping Aucklanders understand the challenges we face and the action we are taking.



We hosted eleven successful media ride-alongs with our Animal Management Officers, giving journalists a front-row seat to the realities on the ground. These stories were consistently supportive of the work our teams do every day to keep communities safe.

Coverage of prosecutions following serious dog attacks helped reinforce accountability and community safety. The opening of the Pukekohe Dog Adoption and Education Centre gained widespread positive media, spotlighting both the need for responsible ownership and the hope of rehoming dogs.

Our first infringement campaign targeting unregistered dogs gained strong media attention across all three phases and contributed to a lift in dog registrations.



Interview with Kea Kids News

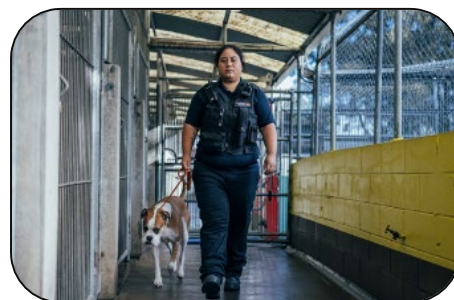
This year's roaming dogs campaign, and the council's call for stronger legislation under the Dog Control Act, helped to highlight the many ways we are working to reduce dog-related harm in our communities.

It has been a year of meaningful media engagement, fronted by a range of Animal Management leaders, animal management officers and shelter staff.

Tails of success: marketing campaigns back the council's dog action

The council has developed a dog-related communications and marketing strategy to run over the next two years. The key component of this strategy is a campaign designed to make people aware of the problem roaming dogs present.

The campaign's creative concept "For you, your dog and your neighbours" aims to connect emotionally with the personal motivations of owners to prevent their dogs from roaming in the first place.



The campaign also supports our Animal Management staff by highlighting the importance of the work they do in keeping our communities free from harm.

Other tactical campaigns to support the strategy include educating dog owners on the importance and benefits of registration, desexing and responsible dog ownership, as well as general dog safety education for all Aucklanders.

These stories will help Aucklanders to better understand the work we do and provide opportunities for strong public messaging on responsible dog ownership.

Part 3: Dogs in Auckland³

3.1 Dog owners in Auckland

- As of 30 June 2025, the Auckland region had a total of **110,027** dog owners, which is a decrease of **3327 (2.9%)** from the previous year.
- 31,724 (28.8%)** dog owners have a Responsible Dog Owner Licence (RDOL), and **4801 (4.4%)** dog owners qualify for a discount on dog registration with their SuperGold card.
- There are **123** dog owners in Auckland classified as probationary owners, and **54** dog owners are disqualified from owning any dogs.

3.2 Dog population in Auckland

- The total number of known dogs in Auckland decreased from 135,546 in FY24 to **131,123** in FY25 – a decrease of **3.3** per cent. This is significantly lower than forecasted for the year.
- Of the **131,123** known dogs in Auckland, **68,925 (52.6%)** are male and **62,198 (47.4%)** are female. A total of **43,599 (63.3%)** male dogs and **41,572 (66.8%)** female dogs are desexed.
- The number of dogs that were registered in FY25 increased to **115,869** – this is **2526** more than FY24. This accounts for **88.4** per cent of known dogs in Auckland (a **4.8** per cent increase).
- A total of **6732** dogs are classified as menacing and **21** dogs are classified as dangerous.

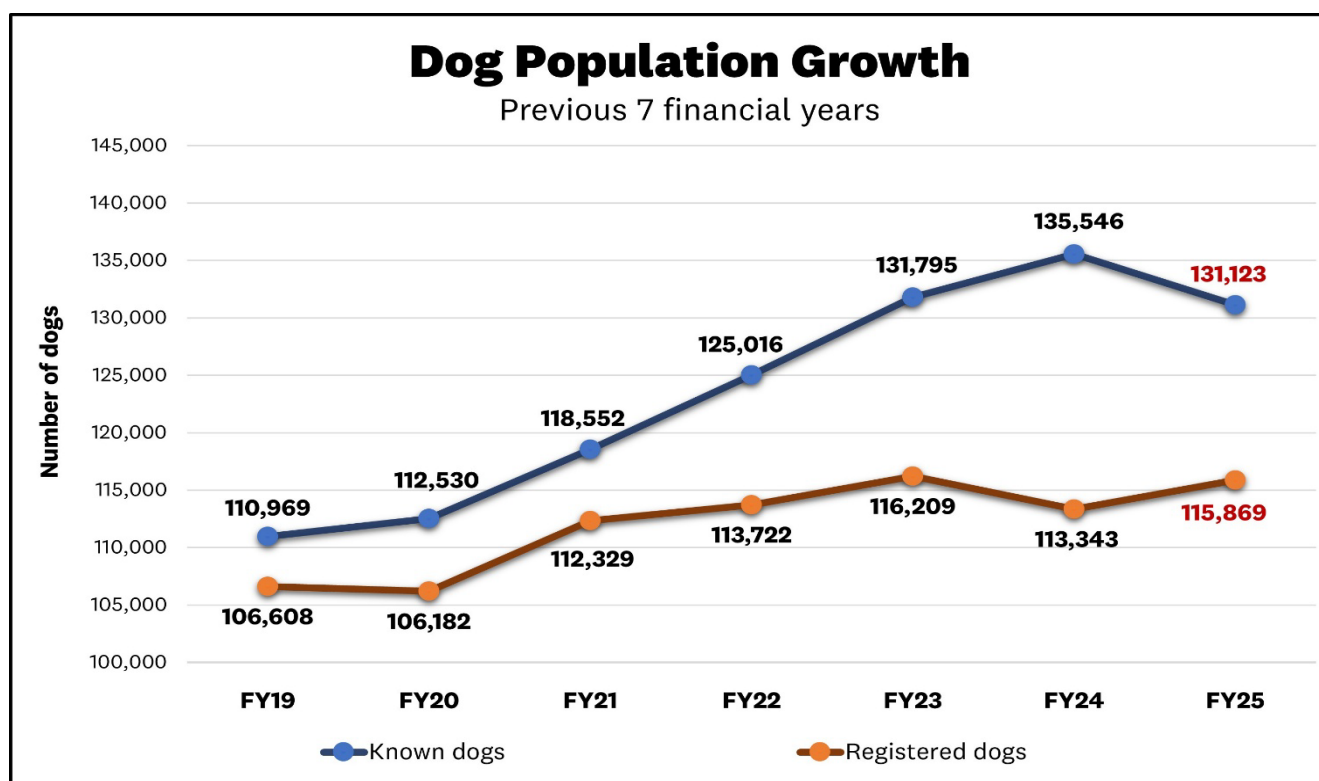


Figure 7 – Population growth for known dogs and registered dogs over the previous seven financial years

³ All statistics in this section are based on known dogs in Auckland.

3.2.1 Most popular dog breeds in Auckland

Ranking	Primary breed ⁴	Male	Female	Total
1	Labrador Retriever	7,855	7,104	14,959
2	Staffordshire Bull Terrier	3,951	4,523	8,474
3	Border Collie	3,098	3,072	6,170
4	Miniature Schnauzer	2,605	2,295	4,900
5	Cavalier King Charles Spaniel	2,535	2,249	4,784
6	Golden Retriever	2,541	2,095	4,636
7	Shih Tzu	2,236	1,980	4,216
8	German Shepherd	2,197	1,999	4,196
9	American Pit Bull Terrier	2,169	1,739	3,908
10	Jack Russell Terrier	1,914	1,727	3,641
11	Maltese	1,862	1,530	3,392
12	Huntaway	1,578	1,613	3,191
13	Toy Poodle	1,499	1,359	2,858
14	Miniature Poodle	1,485	1,301	2,786
15	Bichon Frise	1,480	1,249	2,729

3.2.2 Rarest dog breeds in Auckland (only one in the register)

Primary breed	Male	Female
Belgian Shepherd (Laekenois)	0	1
Bergamasco Shepherd	0	1
Bluetick Coonhound	1	0
Bolognese	0	1
Icelandic Sheepdog	1	0
Otter Hound	1	0
Pyrenean Mastiff	1	0
Shikoku	0	1
Tree Walker Coonhound	0	1

3.2.3 Most populated suburbs (by total number of dogs)

Ranking	Area / Suburb	Total
1	Papakura	4,176
2	Pukekohe	4,010
3	Manurewa	2,959
4	Henderson	2,670
5	Massey	2,305
6	Remuera	2,289
7	Waiuku	2,065
8	Papatoetoe	2,007
9	Howick	1,873
10	Titirangi	1,823

Hauraki Gulf islands	Total
Waiheke Island	1,220
Great Barrier Island	349
Rakino and Outlying Islands	7



Interesting facts:
The biggest growth in dog population was in **Ōtara** (168 more dogs than in FY24) and the biggest decline in dog population was in **Papakura** (237 fewer dogs than in FY24).

⁴ The 'primary 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.

3.2.4 Dog population by local board

Ranking	Local board	% of Known dogs	Total
1	Rodney Local Board	9.7%	12,659
2	Hibiscus and Bays Local Board	9.5%	12,511
3	Franklin Local Board	9.1%	11,963
4	Henderson-Massey Local Board	7.8%	10,288
5	Howick Local Board	6.8%	8,904
6	Ōrākei Local Board	5.5%	7,161
7	Kaipātiki Local Board	4.8%	6,293
8	Albert-Eden Local Board	4.8%	6,233
9	Waitākere Ranges Local Board	4.6%	6,064
10	Papakura Local Board	4.5%	5,958
11	Manurewa Local Board	4.4%	5,808
12	Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board	4.2%	5,484
13	Upper Harbour Local Board	4.2%	5,464
14	Ōtara-Papatoetoe Local Board	4.0%	5,192
15	Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board	3.7%	4,809
16	Devonport-Takapuna Local Board	3.5%	4,592
17	Waitematā Local Board	3.3%	4,310
18	Whau Local Board	2.8%	3,694
19	Puketāpapa Local Board	1.7%	2,180
20	Waiheke Local Board	0.9%	1,207
21	Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board	0.3%	349

3.2.5 Dog population by area

Ranking	Area	% of Known dogs	Total
1	North	34.6%	45,314
2	West	18.2%	23,879
3	Central	17.3%	22,717
4	East	15.4%	20,254
5	South	14.5%	18,959

3.2.6 Dog gender and age distribution

Gender status	% of Known dogs	Male	Female	Total
Desexed	65%	43,599	41,572	85,171
Entire	35%	25,326	20,626	45,952

Age group	% of Known dogs	Male	Female	Total
0-6 months	1.4%	928	880	1,808
7-12 months	2.9%	2,014	1,738	3,752
1-5 years	46.8%	32,718	28,605	61,323
6-10 years	27.1%	18,806	16,778	35,584
10+ years	21.9%	14,459	14,197	28,656
Total		68,925	62,198	131,123

3.2.7 Menacing classifications by primary breed

Top classified breeds – menacing			
Section 33A (behaviour)		Section 33C (breed or type)	
Primary breed	Total	Primary breed	Total
Staffordshire Bull Terrier	178	American Pit Bull Terrier	3,538
Labrador Retriever	104	American Staffordshire Terrier	1,749
German Shepherd	85	Dogo Argentino	20
Shar Pei	71		
American Bulldog	66		
Siberian Husky	63		
Rottweiler	60		
Mastiff	57		
Huntaway	35		
Border Collie	35		

Note

It is standard practice for Animal Management not to issue a classification on a dog under section [33A](#) if the dog is already classified as menacing under section [33C](#).

3.2.8 Menacing classifications by suburb

Top suburbs with menacing dogs			
Section 33A (behaviour)		Section 33C (breed or type)	
Suburb	Total	Suburb	Total
Papakura	48	Manurewa	523
Papatoetoe	36	Ōtara	408
Massey	35	Papakura	362
Manurewa	34	Māngere	354
Māngere	33	Papatoetoe	260
Pukekohe	32	Māngere East	258
Māngere East	31	Massey	184
Henderson	27	Pukekohe	165
Glen Eden	24	Henderson	160
Avondale	21	Mount Wellington	143

3.2.9 Breeds mostly impounded for attacks and roaming

Attacks		Roaming	
Primary breed	Total	Primary breed	Total
American Pit Bull Terrier	162	Staffordshire Bull Terrier	1,767
Staffordshire Bull Terrier	105	American Pit Bull Terrier	1,288
American Bulldog	78	Labrador Retriever	577
Shar Pei	52	American Staffordshire Terrier	502
Mastiff	50	Shar Pei	493
American Staffordshire Terrier	46	Mastiff	472
Labrador Retriever	36	German Shepherd	296
German Shepherd	27	Huntaway	254
Rottweiler	24	American Bulldog	211
Siberian Husky	22	Border Collie	197
Border Collie	16	Rottweiler	174

3.2.10 Breeds mostly not claimed from animal shelters

Primary breed	% of Total dogs not claimed	Total
Staffordshire Bull Terrier	27.2%	1,806
American Pit Bull Terrier	21.3%	1,413
Shar Pei	8.0%	533
American Staffordshire Terrier	6.8%	449
Labrador Retriever	6.2%	408
Mastiff	6.1%	403
Huntaway	3.4%	226
German Shepherd	3.0%	201
American Bulldog	2.4%	162

3.3 Other interesting facts about dogs in Auckland

3.3.1 Most preferred dog names

Male dogs		Female dogs	
Most popular name	Total	Most popular name	Total
Charlie	965	Bella	1,337
Max	839	Luna	1,174
Buddy	714	Coco	905
Rocky	690	Poppy	855
Milo	655	Molly	800
Teddy	594	Daisy	759
Archie	564	Ruby	757
Toby	538	Nala	685
Bear	498	Rosie	630
Ollie	445	Lola	578

3.3.2 Most interesting cross-breeds⁵

Primary breed X Secondary breed
American Pit Bull Terrier X Miniature Pinscher
Bulldog X Siberian Husky
Chihuahua, Long Coat X Staffordshire Bull Terrier
Chihuahua, Smooth Coat X Siberian Husky
Dalmatian X Fox Terrier (Smooth)
German Shepherd X Jack Russell Terrier
German Shepherd X Welsh Cardigan Corgi
Golden Retriever X Toy Poodle
Great Dane X Border Collie
Labrador Retriever X Pug
Miniature Smooth Haired Dachshund X Staffordshire Bull Terrier
Rottweiler X Miniature Smooth Haired Dachshund
Yorkshire Terrier X Rottweiler

⁵ These are just some of the hundreds of interesting cross-breeds our staff discovered in the Dog Register.

Part 4: Dog Control Statistics

1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025

4.1 Registrations

Category	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24		FY25
Known dogs	118,552	125,016	131,795	135,546	↓	131,123
Registered dogs	112,329	113,722	116,209	113,343	↑	115,869
% Known dogs registered	94.8%	91.0%	88.2%	83.6%	↑	88.4%
RDOL holders ⁶	28,780	39,930	42,495	42,697	↓	41,333
SuperGold card holders ⁷	4,359	5,368	5,521	5,771	↓	5,709

4.2 Classifications

Dog owner classifications	FY24	FY25
Probationary owners	121	123
Disqualified owners	61	54
Total classified owners	182	177

Menacing dog classifications	FY24	FY25
Section 33A (observed or reported behaviour)	1,363	1,067
Section 33C (breed or type in Schedule 4)	5,075	5,665
Total menacing dogs	6,438	6,732

Dangerous dog classifications	FY24	FY25
Section 31(1)(a) – owner conviction	3	4
Section 31(1)(b) – sworn evidence	10	15
Section 31(1)(c) – owner admitted in writing	0	2
Total dangerous dogs	13	21

Compliance with neutering requirement	FY24	FY25
Menacing dogs (section 33A) neutered	(75.9%) 1,035	(76.6%) 817
Menacing dogs (section 33C) neutered	(67.6%) 3,433	(62.8%) 3,559
Dangerous dogs neutered	(100%) 13	(76.2%) 16

⁶ This item refers to the number of dogs registered under this category, and not the number of owners holding an RDOL.

⁷ 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 (excluding proactive work)

Category	Central	East	North	South	West	Total
Priority 1 (critical)	2,664	2,770	2,488	2,769	2,455	13,146
Priority 2 (urgent)	5,758	5,983	4,228	5,272	4,987	26,228
Total RFS received	8,422	8,753	6,716	8,041	7,442	39,374

4.3.2 RFS received by type (reactive response)

Category	FY24	FY25
Roaming dog	15,146	16,739
Barking or howling	6,597	6,426
Pick up (contained dog)	5,344	5,223
Aggressive behaviour to people	2,921	3,064
Dog attack on animals	1,593	1,523
Dog attack on people	1,253	1,341
Welfare	1,111	1,264
Bylaw breach	690	918
Aggressive behaviour to animals	752	788
Roaming stock	843	710
Unregistered dogs ⁸	734	504
Dog / stock on motorway	140	291
Relinquish dog	94	233
Police / SPCA assistance	151	206
Dog traps	103	78
Pick up (contained stock)	86	66
Total reactive RFS received	37,558	39,374

4.3.3 Proactive work

Category	FY24	FY25
Patrolling public areas (including bylaw breaches, roaming dogs, etc.)	4,258	3,612
Unregistered dogs	1,223	2,085
Targeted compliance (monitoring classifications, service of notices, etc.)	513	1,007
Property inspections	827	907
Other proactive work (not specified by category)	786	648
Total proactive tasks	7,607	8,259

⁸ The 'unregistered dogs' category can be reactive or proactive depending on the type of work. It therefore shows in both the reactive RFS and proactive work categories.

4.3.4 RFS actioned by suburb (top suburbs by total RFS)

Suburb	Known dog population	Total RFS actioned
Manurewa	2,959	3,255
Papakura	4,176	2,490
Ōtara	1,694	2,307
Māngere	1,614	1,721
Papatoetoe	2,007	1,501
Henderson	2,670	1,395
Massey	2,305	1,334
Māngere East	1,388	1,200
Pukekohe	4,010	1,090
Waiheke Island	1,200	1,070
Mount Wellington	1,397	1,032
Ōtāhuhu	707	805
Mount Roskill	1,056	795
Glen Eden	1,672	767
Onehunga	1,395	670
Avondale	1,195	666
Flat Bush	1,518	622
Glen Innes	617	603
Manukau Central	826	595
Māngere Bridge	800	589
Great Barrier Island	349	550
Takanini	698	512
Ranui	924	483
New Lynn	932	446
Weymouth	533	441
Te Atatū Peninsula	1,242	429
Panmure	511	418
Randwick Park	385	392
Clendon Park	426	385
Te Atatū South	1,010	354
Pakuranga Heights	693	352
Mount Albert	1,047	349
Three Kings	396	336
Beach Haven	1,071	329
Point England	316	326
Glenfield	961	314
Waiuku	2,065	309
Remuera	2,289	304
Howick	1,873	295
Titirangi	1,823	293

4.3.5 RFS actioned (by local board area)

Local board	Known dog population	Total RFS actioned
Manurewa Local Board	5,808	4,405
Henderson-Massey Local Board	10,288	3,989
Ōtara-Papatoetoe Local Board	5,192	3,964
Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board	4,809	3,952
Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board	5,484	3,020
Papakura Local Board	5,958	2,971
Franklin Local Board	11,963	2,221
Howick Local Board	8,904	2,167
Albert-Eden Local Board	6,233	1,502
Whau Local Board	3,694	1,441
Hibiscus and Bays Local Board	12,511	1,414
Kaipātiki Local Board	6,293	1,252
Rodney Local Board	12,659	1,205
Puketāpapa Local Board	2,180	1,188
Waitākere Ranges Local Board	6,064	1,174
Ōrākei Local Board	7,161	1,083
Upper Harbour Local Board	5,464	744
Waitematā Local Board	4,310	740
Devonport-Takapuna Local Board	4,592	589
Waiheke Local Board	1,207	202
Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board	349	151

4.3.6 Dog attacks (by local board area)

Local board	On animals	On people	Total attacks
Manurewa Local Board	157	151	308
Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board	144	115	259
Ōtara-Papatoetoe Local Board	124	134	258
Henderson-Massey Local Board	129	122	251
Papakura Local Board	113	101	214
Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board	82	111	193
Franklin Local Board	111	59	170
Howick Local Board	71	86	157
Rodney Local Board	98	39	137
Hibiscus and Bays Local Board	69	60	129
Albert-Eden Local Board	58	69	127
Waitākere Ranges Local Board	69	45	114
Whau Local Board	59	44	103
Kaipātiki Local Board	51	43	94
Puketāpapa Local Board	48	43	91
Ōrākei Local Board	40	46	86
Waitematā Local Board	24	30	54
Devonport-Takapuna Local Board	31	21	52
Upper Harbour Local Board	24	16	40
Waiheke Local Board	19	6	25
Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board	2	0	2

4.4 Enforcement

4.4.1 Prosecutions and appeals

Court	FY24	FY25
District Court Manukau	38	61
District Court Auckland	28	34
District Court Papakura	10	14
District Court Waitākere	12	13
District Court North Shore	19	8
District Court Pukekohe	2	4
High Court Appeal	7	5
Court of Appeal	1	1
Supreme Court Appeal	0	1
Total prosecutions and appeals filed <i>(Note: There may be more than one charge in many of these prosecutions)</i>	117	141

4.4.2 Nuisance abatement notices (NANs)

Category	FY24	FY25
NANs issued	54	41
Number of properties NANs issued to	50	40

4.4.3 Objection hearings (Regulatory and Safety Committee)

Category	Outcome	Total
Objection to section 33A classification	One upheld, one dismissed	2
Objection to Probationary classification	None	0
Objection to Disqualification	All dismissed	3
Objection to NAN	All dismissed	1

4.4.4 Classifications issued

Classification	Field teams	HAS	MAS	SAS	Total
Section 33A – Menacing Dog	377	0	6	1	384
Section 33C – Menacing Dog	12	5	26	5	48
Section 31 – Dangerous Dog	6	0	1	0	7
Total classifications issued	395	5	33	6	439

4.4.5 Other compliance

Category	HAS	MAS	SAS	Total
Registrations issued	362	713	320	1,395
Microchips implanted	415	837	380	1,632

4.4.6 Infringement notices issued (by offence)

Infringement notices issued relating to the Dog Control Act 1996		FY24	FY25
Section	Description of offence	Total infringements	
18	Wilful obstruction of dog control officer or ranger	11	19
19(2)	Failure or refusal to supply information or wilfully providing false particulars	9	15
19A(2)	Failure to supply information or wilfully providing false particulars about dog	5	6
20(5)	Failure to comply with any bylaw authorised by the section	2,031	4,008
23A(2)	Failure to undertake dog owner education programme or dog obedience course (or both)	8	15
24	Failure to comply with obligations of probationary owner	0	3
28(5)	Failure to comply with the effects of disqualification	27	56
32(2)	Failure to comply with the effects of classification of dog as dangerous dog	3	3
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	250	514
33F(3)	Failure to advise person of muzzle and leasing requirements	0	1
36A(6)	Failure to implant microchip transponder in dog	53	91
41	False statement relating to dog registration	1	0
41A	Falsely notifying death of dog	4	4
42	Failure to register dog ⁹	2,305	10,149
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	7	8
49(4)	Failure to advise change of address	12	14
51(1)	Removal, swapping, or counterfeiting of registration label or disc	3	5
52A(3)	Failure to keep dog controlled or confined	172	373
53(1)	Failure to keep dog under control	1,394	2,064
54(2)	Failure to provide proper care and attention, to supply proper and sufficient food, and to provide adequate exercise	5	9
54A(2)	Failure to carry leash in public	2	2
55(7)	Failure to comply with barking dog abatement notice	83	69
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	2	2
Total infringements issued		6,387	17,430

⁹ The Regulatory Support unit, which is part of the Licensing & Compliance Department, issued a large number of the infringements for failure to register a dog.

4.5 Animal shelters¹⁰

4.5.1 Impounded dogs (summary)

Category	% of Total	HAS	MAS	SAS	FY24	FY25
Dogs impounded		2,315	6,039	1,860	8,306	↑ 10,214
Claimed / Returned to owner	↓ 35.1%	Not supplied separately			(42.6%) 3,536	↑ 3,585
Euthanised	↑ 60.1%	Not supplied separately			(48.2%) 4,007	↑ 6,079
Adopted / Transferred to rescues	↓ 3.3%	Not supplied separately			(5.5%) 455	↓ 332

4.5.2 Incoming dog totals (by impound reason)

Impound reason	% of Total	HAS	MAS	SAS	Total
Pick-up (request from member of public to collect)	40.4%	1,216	2,337	569	4,122
Roaming at large (public place)	23.9%	342	1,537	561	2,440
Dropped off at shelter by member of public	8.5%	176	642	48	866
Attack on person or animal	7.2%	200	394	140	734
Relinquish (voluntary surrender by owner)	5.2%	122	204	203	529
Welfare concerns	4.5%	51	317	92	460
Not under control or confined on owner's property	3.0%	43	216	44	303
No current registration	2.8%	71	130	89	290
At large on private property w/o consent of occupier	<1%	35	38	24	97
Failure to comply with disqualified owner classification	<1%	8	48	25	81
Dog rushing / aggressive behaviour	<1%	13	46	14	73
Dead	<1%	13	51	5	69
Police assist	<1%	14	25	22	61
Failure to comply with menacing dog classification	<1%	6	17	12	35
Breach of abatement notice (barking / howling)	<1%	0	22	6	28
Breach of conditions of release under section 71	<1%	3	9	4	16
Court order for destruction of dog	<1%	1	5	1	7
Failure to comply with dangerous dog classification	<1%	1	1	1	3
Total impounds		2,315	6,039	1,860	10,214

4.5.3 Outgoing dog totals (by exit reason or outcome)

Exit reason	% of Total	Total
Euthanised	60.1%	6,079
Claimed by owner (released from shelter)	30.8%	3,115
Returned to owner by AMO	3.9%	393
Adopted	1.6%	166
Transferred to SPCA, rescue group, or breed rescue	1.6%	166
Dead on arrival	<1%	79
Released on conditions (section 71)	<1%	77
Died in shelter	<1%	33
Stolen or escaped from shelter	<1%	2
Total exits		10,110

¹⁰ PAC is not listed in these tables, as dogs are not generally impounded at PAC but transferred there from the other shelters.

4.5.4 Most impounded dogs (by primary breed)

Henderson shelter (HAS)		Manukau shelter (MAS)		Silverdale shelter (SAS)	
Breed	Total	Breed	Total	Breed	Total
Staffordshire Bull Terrier	505	Staffordshire Bull Terrier	1,549	American Pit Bull Terrier	295
American Pit Bull Terrier	307	American Pit Bull Terrier	1,316	Staffordshire Bull Terrier	275
American Staffordshire Terrier	200	Shar Pei	494	American Staffordshire Terrier	152
Labrador Retriever	193	Labrador Retriever	396	Labrador Retriever	151
Shar Pei	133	Mastiff	389	Shar Pei	115
Mastiff	124	American Staffordshire Terrier	351	Huntaway	107
Huntaway	94	German Shepherd	245	Mastiff	94
American Bulldog	87	American Bulldog	172	Rottweiler	57
German Shepherd	76	Huntaway	142	German Shepherd	56
Border Collie	71	Rottweiler	136	Siberian Husky	54
Rottweiler	54	Border Collie	128	Border Collie	53
Siberian Husky	51	Siberian Husky	116	American Bulldog	42
Australian Cattle Dog	46	Bull Terrier	45	Bull Mastiff	41
Bull Mastiff	28	Heading Dog	44	Australian Cattle Dog	22
Bulldog	24	Jack Russell Terrier	41	Jack Russell Terrier	19
Australian Kelpie	21	Shih Tzu	41	Golden Retriever	17
Jack Russell Terrier	21	Australian Cattle Dog	39	French Bulldog	16

4.5.5 Most impounded dogs (by suburb)

Henderson Shelter (HAS)		Manukau Shelter (MAS)		Silverdale Shelter (SAS)	
Suburb	Total	Suburb	Total	Suburb	Total
Henderson	336	Manurewa	892	Massey	145
Mount Wellington	115	Ōtara	778	Ōtara	107
Ranui	101	Papakura	625	Silverdale	82
Avondale	91	Māngere	593	Māngere	74
Glen Eden	73	Māngere East	357	Manurewa	62
Mount Roskill	73	Papatoetoe	349	Henderson	59
Glen Innes	72	Manukau Central	214	Mount Wellington	49
Ōtāhuhu	66	Pukekohe	197	Glen Innes	48
Massey	63	Randwick Park	137	Avondale	43
Ōtara	56	Takanini	131	Papakura	41
Māngere	55	Clendon Park	127	Ranui	41
Onehunga	55	Flat Bush	115	Papatoetoe	40
New Lynn	53	Māngere Bridge	105	Ōtāhuhu	35
Papakura	50	Weymouth	101	Glenfield	33
Te Atatū South	43	Mount Wellington	88	Pukekohe	32
Mount Albert	40	Wiri	81	Glen Eden	30
Point England	38	Ōtāhuhu	76	Birkdale	25
Three Kings	36	Favona	71	Māngere East	23
Panmure	33	Waiuku	70	Onehunga	23

4.5.6 Total dogs impounded (by local board area)

Local board	% of Total	Total
Ōtara-Papatoetoe Local Board	16.5%	1,682
Manurewa Local Board	16.0%	1,638
Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board	14.8%	1,513
Henderson-Massey Local Board	9.3%	951
Papakura Local Board	9.2%	940
Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board	7.6%	777
Franklin Local Board	4.8%	490
Howick Local Board	3.9%	397
Whau Local Board	2.7%	277
Albert-Eden Local Board	2.3%	240
Waitākere Ranges Local Board	1.8%	183
Hibiscus and Bays Local Board	1.8%	179
Puketāpapa Local Board	1.7%	175
Ōrākei Local Board	1.6%	165
Rodney Local Board	1.5%	157
Kaipātiki Local Board	1.5%	153
Waitematā Local Board	1.1%	109
Upper Harbour Local Board	1.0%	101
Devonport-Takapuna Local Board	<1%	70
Waiheke Local Board	<1%	8
Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board	<1%	2

4.5.7 Other shelter statistics (dogs only)

Reporting category (at time of impounding)	HAS	MAS	SAS	Total
Classified as menacing – section 33A (behaviour)	39	77	47	163
Classified as menacing – section 33C (breed/type)	79	321	87	487
Classified as dangerous – section 31	2	3	0	5
Dogs with current registration	933	1,752	619	(32%) 3,304
Dogs with functioning microchip	934	1,617	614	(31%) 3,165
Desexed	331	574	324	(12%) 1,229
Known dogs	1,087	2,119	861	(40%) 4,067
1 st impounding	1,639	4,814	1,425	(77%) 7,878
2 nd impounding	299	665	231	(12%) 1,195
3 rd impounding or more	377	560	204	(11%) 1,141

4.5.8 Other animals impounded (public and temporary pounds)

Species	HAS	MAS	SAS	Total
Sheep	2	1	18	21
Poultry	7	4	0	11
Pigs	4	2	5	11
Goats	0	0	3	3
Cattle	0	0	2	2
Total impounds	13	7	28	48

4.5.9 Euthanasia¹¹ (by reason)

Reason for euthanasia	FY24	FY25
Failed temperament test	1,997	3,307
Shelter full	985	1,613
Health issues (determined by a veterinarian)	256	366
Infectious disease (Parvo virus)	279	365
Involved in an attack (section 57)	227	290
No longer suitable for adoption	88	43
Involved in a rushing incident (section 57A)	71	42
Order for destruction made by court	19	27
Classified as menacing (section 33A - behaviour)	16	24
Classified as dangerous (section 31)	3	2
Total euthanised	4,007	6,079

Abbreviations and indicators

MAS	Manukau Animal Shelter
HAS	Henderson Animal Shelter
SAS	Silverdale Animal Shelter
PAC	Pukekohe Adoption and Education Centre
FY	Financial Year (1 July – 30 June). The number provided after FY refers to the year in which the financial year ended, e.g. FY25 is financial year 2024/2025
RFS	Request for service *
↑	Up from the previous year
↓	Down from the previous year
↕	Unchanged from the previous year
* Note: Where a ‘section’ is mentioned, this refers to the relevant section of the Dog Control Act 1996, and where a ‘clause’ is mentioned, it refers to the relevant clause in the Auckland Council Dog Management Bylaw 2019 (now updated).	

¹¹ Euthanasia and other outcome totals are not provided separately for each shelter, as the dogs are frequently transferred between shelters based on the availability of kennels, and to combine the use of veterinary services where possible.

Auckland Council – Animal Management

Dog Control Annual Report

Financial year 2024/2025

Author and data
analysis:

Christo van der Merwe

Process and Improvement Specialist, Animal
Management

Data provided by:

Christo van der Merwe

Process and Improvement Specialist, Animal
Management

Eva Kirk

Senior Reporting and Insights Specialist, Animal
Management

Reviewed by:

Corne van der Merwe

Operations and Training Specialist, Animal
Management

Nikki Cripps

Regional Shelter Manager, Animal Management

Alice Galletly

Specialist, Corporate Communication and Media

Lisa Cribbens

Principal Advisor, Licensing and Compliance

Approved by:

Elly Waitoa

Manager, Animal Management

Robert Irvine

General Manager, Licensing and Compliance

Rachel Kelleher

Director, Community