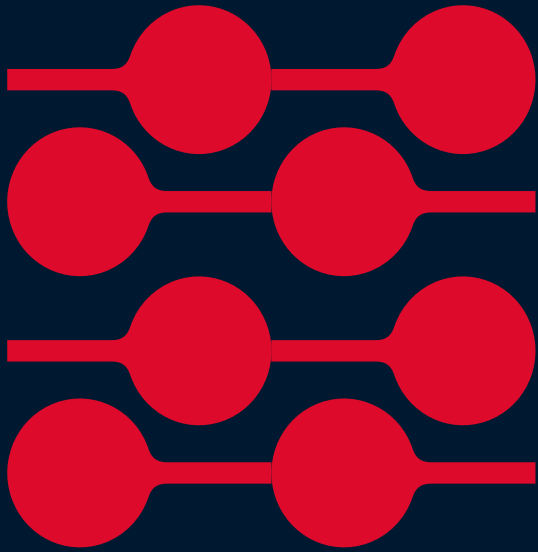




Pūrongo ā-Tau

Animal Management Unit

Annual Report

1 July 2025 – 30 June 2026





Our cover star is Hilti who is at our Pukekohe Adoption Centre looking for her forever home. Find out more about Hilti [here](#).

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 mohoao
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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Foreword

Dogs play an important role in the lives of many Aucklanders, providing companionship, connection and support to families and communities. While many dog owners are responsible and care for their dogs appropriately, a small proportion of irresponsible owners continue to create significant challenges for our communities and our staff.

Roaming dogs and dog attacks remain significant challenges but we are beginning to see positive results from our increased investment in prevention, education and proactive enforcement.

This year's Annual Report highlights the progress Auckland Council has made in addressing these challenges. Animal Management has continued to tackle these issues from various avenues through its action plan.

In last year's Annual Report, it was noted that some of these actions would take time to see positive impacts, and we are starting to see some of those now. This includes the transition from a predominantly reactive service to one that places greater emphasis on preventing harm before it occurs.

This year's Annual Report shows a significant increase in proactive patrols; more than 2000 dogs were desexed; dog attacks have reduced; and there has been a decrease in roaming dog complaints. Dog registration compliance also reached its highest level since the 2021/2022 financial year.

The Animal Management Action Plan focusses on five key areas:

1. Community education and engagement

The newly established Community, Partnership and Engagement team has strengthened relationships with Māori, Pasifika and Auckland's diverse communities, working alongside community organisations, government agencies and partner organisations to improve access to education, desexing, registration and other support services. This community-led approach reflects our commitment to delivering services that are accessible, inclusive and focused on long-term behavioural change. Alongside these initiatives, targeted public awareness campaigns, proactive compliance activities and stronger partnerships have helped increase public understanding of responsible dog ownership and the important role every owner has in keeping people, animals and communities safe.

2. Compliance and enforcement

Auckland Council recognises that 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.

3. Dog population control

A major milestone this year has been the success of desexing initiatives. Through the Henderson dog desexing clinic and our partnership with the SPCA, 2134 dogs were desexed, preventing hundreds of unwanted litters of puppies. The Henderson dog desexing clinic was responsible for desexing more than 1,700 dogs.

4. Shelter capacity

The Pukekohe Adoption Centre completed its first full year of operation, helping more dogs find homes directly while easing pressure on the three main shelters used for impoundment. Construction has also continued with the expansion of the Manukau Animal Shelter to increase kennel capacity. This is part of ongoing work to ensure Animal Management facilities can meet the growing needs of Auckland.

5. Advocating to government for legislation change

Auckland Council continues to advocate for changes to the Dog Control Act 1996. The government has agreed to a review of this legislation and Auckland Council is contributing to ensure changes proposed will improve public safety and give the council stronger tools to address irresponsible dog ownership.

Despite these positive outcomes, challenges remain and some of the statistics in this report are confronting. The pressure and demand for Animal Management services remains high, highlighting the need for continued and focussed effort to reduce dog related harm. Our team are committed to investing in initiatives that improve public safety, animal welfare and responsible dog ownership.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the dedication and professionalism of our Animal Management staff. Whether responding to incidents in the field, caring for animals in our shelters, delivering veterinary treatment, educating communities or supporting our operational services, their commitment continues to make a positive difference for Aucklanders every day.

I also want to thank the many responsible dog owners who continue to register, desex and care for their dogs, helping make Tāmaki Makaurau a safer place for people and animals alike.

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 2025 to 30 June 2026, in accordance with [Section 10A](#) of the [Dog Control Act 1996](#).

Dog population

At the end of June 2026, Auckland's known dog population was 128,099, a decrease of 2.3 per cent from the previous year. This is largely attributed to improved data quality.

There were 116,098 registered dogs, representing 90.6 per cent of Auckland's known dog population. Registration compliance improved by 2.3 per cent to its highest level since the 2021/2022 financial year.

Unknown dogs and dogs that are not desexed continue to present a challenge. Of the 9593 dogs impounded, 42.9 per cent were unknown to Auckland Council, and 84.1 per cent were not desexed.

Dog attacks

Reported dog attacks decreased by 5 per cent to 2722 incidents during the year. Attacks on both people and other animals declined.

The reduction is supported by Animal Management's continued investment in proactive education, enforcement and targeted awareness campaigns, including the 'Any Dog Can Bite' and 'Roaming Dog' initiatives, which focus on responsible dog ownership in high-risk communities.

During the year, Auckland Council initiated 134 prosecutions through the District Court for serious breaches of the Dog Control Act 1996, consistent with the previous year and 15 appeals were filed in higher courts.

High-risk dogs

Auckland had 6379 dogs classified as menacing and 24 classified as dangerous at the end of the reporting period.

Compliance with mandatory desexing requirements increased to 71.2 per cent, up 6.2 per cent from the previous year. This improvement was supported by targeted desexing campaigns.

Service response

Animal Management responded to 32,270 requests for service during the year, a decrease of 18 per cent.

Field officers completed 13,672 proactive activities, including patrols, compliance visits and targeted inspections, representing a 65.5 per cent increase on the previous year. This reflects the continued shift from a predominantly reactive service to a more proactive operating model.

Reports of roaming dogs decreased by 24.8 per cent to 12,592, while reports of aggressive dog behaviour decreased by 10 per cent to 3,468 incidents. This can likely be attributed to our significant increase in proactive patrolling.

In total 17,419 infringement notices were issued during the year. Of these, 9,849 (56.5 per cent) related to unregistered dogs.

Shelter services

Auckland Council impounded 9593 dogs across its three animal shelters. Shelter capacity remained under significant pressure throughout the year and limits compliance activities.

Claim rates increased to 38.9 per cent, while the euthanasia rate reduced to 56.7 per cent.

Owner relinquishments increased by 9.5 per cent to 579 dogs. In addition, staff received over 500 phone enquiries from owners wishing to surrender dogs, many of which could not be accommodated due to limited shelter capacity.

The four animal shelters continued to support adoption outcomes, contributing to a 72.3 per cent increase in direct Auckland Council adoptions, with 286 dogs adopted. A further 108 dogs were transferred to the SPCA, rescue organisations and breed rescue groups. Rehoming of abandoned and impounded dogs remains a key focus; however, sadly, too many dogs impounded are not suitable for adoption as they have not been properly socialised or cared for by their owners and public safety must take priority.

To support shelter capacity constraints, 33 new kennels were constructed at the Manukau Animal Shelter. A further 14 kennels are being built over the next 12 months for holding dangerous and high-risk dogs.

Desexing services

The new Henderson desexing clinic completing its first full year of operation. The clinic has enabled Animal Management to expand targeted free desexing services for high-risk communities, menacing breeds and for dogs exhibiting aggressive behaviour.

During the year:

- 1763 dogs were desexed through the desexing clinic
- 995 dogs were microchipped.

A partnership with the SPCA also provided free desexing vouchers. Of these, 637 vouchers were issued and 265 redeemed.

The partnership also supported rescue organisations by funding desexing for adoption-ready dogs before rehoming.

Additional initiatives also contributed to the overall programme with a further 106 dogs desexed, supporting the council's efforts to reduce unwanted litters and promote responsible dog ownership.

Across all initiatives, a total of 2134 dogs were desexed during the reporting year.

Community engagement, education and partnerships

While most Aucklanders are responsible dog owners, roaming dogs and aggressive behaviour continue to be linked to poor ownership practices.

Animal Management remains committed to education, proactive enforcement and community engagement to reduce harm before incidents occur and to encourage responsible dog ownership across Auckland.

A new Community, Partnership and Engagement team was established to strengthen community relationships and support a community-led approach to responsible dog ownership.

The team worked alongside Kāinga Ora, Tāmaki Housing Association, Blind Low Vision NZ, and community groups to deliver education programmes and connect communities with free desexing, microchipping and registration initiatives.

To promote dog safety and responsible dog ownership, numerous school programmes, community events and dog safety education programmes were delivered across Auckland.

Animal Management continued to deliver public education through targeted media campaigns and community engagement initiatives.

Campaigns during the year included dog registration renewals, roaming dogs, adoption events, 'Any Dog Can Bite', and broader responsible dog ownership messaging, helping improve public awareness and supporting positive behavioural change.

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 2025 to 30 June 2026.¹

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.

1.2 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 Kuri 2025 | Policy on Dogs 2025](#) explains how the council manages dogs in Auckland, including where dogs can be taken in public places (dog access rules)
- [Ture a Rohe Tiakina Kuri 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 government as required by the Dog Control Act 1996.

Auckland Council consistently advocates for changes to the Dog Control Act 1996 (the Act), seeking stronger powers to address roaming and dangerous dogs and improve community safety. The government has responded by launching a comprehensive review of the Act, recognising that the legislation is outdated and considering stronger tools and powers for councils.

Updates to the legislation, policy and bylaw

Legislative, policy and bylaw changes affecting dog management came into effect during the 2025/2026 reporting period.

Administrative amendments to Sections 10A and 37 of the Dog Control Act 1996 came into effect on 6 June 2026. New national animal welfare regulations came into effect on 25 September 2025, introducing enforceable restrictions on prolonged tethering and prohibiting the tethering of vulnerable dogs in specified circumstances.

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.

Auckland Council's amended policy on dogs and most changes to the Dog Management Bylaw came into effect on 1 August 2025, following their adoption by the Governing Body on 26 June 2025. The updated policy and bylaw refreshed Auckland Council's overall approach to dog management and clarified how dog access rules are reviewed and applied across Tāmaki Makaurau.

The next statutory review of Auckland Council's Policy on Dogs and Dog Management Bylaw is due by 2 July 2034.

Changes and clarifications to dog access rules

Dog access rules are reviewed periodically in response to changes in how public places are used. This may include creating new opportunities for dog-friendly access, responding to increased use of parks and beaches, and protecting wildlife and environmentally sensitive areas.

Decisions on dog access rules continue to be shared between the Governing Body and local boards. The Governing Body determines Auckland-wide rules and dog access rules for Regional Parks and beaches. Local boards determine dog access rules for local parks and beaches.

Revised dog access rules came into effect on 1 August 2025 at several Regional Parks, local parks and beaches across Auckland. These included changes at Auckland Botanic Gardens, Hūnua Ranges, Te Oneroa o Kahu / Long Bay, Mahurangi, Pākiri, Te Hāruhi / Shakespear, Tāpapakanga, Waitawa and Whakanewha Regional Parks.

Clarifications, with no change to existing rules, were also made at Te Ara I Tautahi / Ambury, Muriwai, Tāwharanui and Wenderholm Regional Parks.

Changes were also introduced at:

- Gooseberry Flat, Pah Beach and Sandhills Reserve in the Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board area
- designated dog exercise areas and Kawakawa Bay Beach in the Franklin Local Board area
- Howick Historical Village in Lloyd Elsmore Park in the Howick Local Board area
- 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 in the Kaipātiki Local Board area
- Freeland Reserve, Smallfield Reserve, Walmsley Park and Underwood Park in the Puketāpapa Local Board area. The proposed changes at Monte Cecilia Park were delayed and had not come into effect during the reporting period
- Parry Kauri Park, Snells Beach, Vera Reserve Baddeleys Road, Baddeleys Creek Reserve, Pigeon Place Accessway and Wonderview Road Esplanade in the Rodney Local Board area
- Rosedale Park in the Upper Harbour Local Board area
- Big Oneroa Beach and Blackpool Beach in the Waiheke Local Board area.

Clarifications, with no change to existing rules, were also made at Clevedon Showground Reserve, sports fields in the former Franklin District, and shell banks and coastal areas from Waiau Pa to Ellets Beach in the Franklin Local Board area.

Further clarifications were made at Chelsea Bay, Fitzpatrick Bay, the Tuff Crater foreshore and mangrove, the foreshore of Shoal Bay east of the motorway and north of the Tennyson Street pedestrian underpass, and Little Shoal Bay in the Kaipātiki Local Board area.

Revised dog access rules for Te Ārai Regional Park came into effect on 1 September 2025.

New commercial dog walking rules

New multiple-dog walking rules came into effect across Auckland on 1 January 2026. Under the new rules, members of the public may walk up to four dogs at one time, with no more than two off leash, while registered qualified dog walkers may walk up to 12 dogs, subject to Auckland Council requirements and conditions.

During the reporting period, the council issued 298 certificates of approval, including 242 to commercial dog walkers.

1.3 Animal Management structure

Auckland Council's Animal Management unit is responsible for implementing the Policy on Dogs 2025, Dog Management Bylaw 2025, and administering the council's responsibilities under the Dog Control Act 1996.

At the end of June 2026, the unit consisted of 171 FTE across five operational areas:

- Field Services
- Shelter Services
- Desexing clinic
- Community, Partnership and Engagement
- Operational Services.

Together, these teams deliver animal management services across Tāmaki Makaurau, with a focus on public safety, responsible dog ownership, animal welfare, education and regulatory compliance.

Field Services

Field Services provide a 24-hour, seven-day response to urgent and high-priority animal management incidents across Tāmaki Makaurau.

The service consists of seven field teams, together with a Regional Proactive team and a Barking and Registration team. At the end of the reporting period, Field Services consisted of 78 Animal Management Officers, including Senior Animal Management Officers.

Animal Management Officers respond to reports of roaming and aggressive dogs, dog attacks, nuisance complaints and livestock incidents, including animals on the Auckland motorway, where incidents are treated as a high priority. Officers also undertake proactive patrols, targeted compliance activities, investigations and registration enforcement to reduce risk and promote responsible dog ownership across the region.



Field Services work closely with the Animal Shelter teams to support property inspections for adoptions and provide operational assistance where required.

Barking Advisors investigate nuisance barking complaints, provide advice to dog owners on practical methods to reduce nuisance barking and assist neighbours to resolve complaints where appropriate.

Registration and Compliance Officers support the proactive registration programme by identifying unregistered dogs, promoting compliance with the Dog Control Act 1996 and supporting field operations through targeted registration initiatives.

To support staff capability and wellbeing, Animal Management introduced a structured cohort training programme for both new and existing staff during the reporting period. The programme combines classroom, field and practical learning, providing officers with a broader understanding of Animal Management operations, including Field Services, Shelter Services and the desexing clinic. During the year, the first cohort of 12 officers successfully completed the programme and became warranted, while a second cohort of 10 officers commenced training.



Shelter services

Animal Management operates three main animal shelters: Henderson Animal Shelter (HAS), Manukau Animal Shelter (MAS) and Silverdale Animal Shelter (SAS) and the Pukekohe Adoption Centre (PAC), New Zealand's first dedicated dog adoption centre.



The shelter teams are responsible for the care, welfare and management of impounded, surrendered and seized dogs. Their work extends well beyond daily animal care and includes behavioural assessments, training, reunification with owners, adoption, working with partner organisations, and supporting investigations and enforcement activities.

In addition to their operational responsibilities, shelter staff contribute to community education through adoption events, open days and public engagement activities, helping raise awareness of responsible dog ownership and the importance of adoption.

Desexing clinic

Animal Management has historically supported community desexing and microchipping through its animal shelters and external veterinary providers.



During the 2025/2026 reporting period, Animal Management established an in-house desexing clinic as a one-year pilot. The service became fully operational on 1 July 2025 and is based at the Henderson Animal Shelter and has now been made permanent.

The team consists of a Head Veterinarian, a Clinical Veterinarian, two Veterinary Nurses and two Animal and Customer Care Officers.

The clinic provides a pick-up and drop-off service for eligible dogs between their homes and the Henderson clinic. This helps remove practical barriers for owners who may otherwise be unable to access desexing services.

Community, Partnership and Engagement services



Community Engagement and Partnerships provide a dedicated community-focused approach to supporting responsible dog ownership across Tāmaki Makaurau.

The team works proactively with communities, hapū, marae, government agencies, community organisations and key stakeholders to build trusted relationships, improve access to Animal Management services and promote long-term behavioural change.

The team's primary focus is to increase community awareness and education around responsible dog ownership, while reducing the risks associated with roaming dogs, dog attacks and uncontrolled breeding. This is achieved through targeted engagement in communities with higher levels of dog-related incidents, helping connect residents with services such as free desexing, microchipping, registration and responsible dog ownership education.

Operational services

Operational Services provides strategic, operational and specialist support across the Animal Management unit, enabling consistent service delivery and supporting continuous improvement across all service areas.

These specialist roles provide expert advice and operational support across a wide range of functions. Their responsibilities include leading investigations into complex and high-risk matters, coordinating operational training programmes, analysing performance and service data, identifying opportunities for continuous improvement, supporting business planning, and ensuring operational policies and procedures remain current and effective.

Operational Services also plays a key role in developing and maintaining capability across the unit. The team coordinates internal training, facilitates workshops, manages document and policy reviews,

supports official information requests, oversees operational systems and equipment, and leads a range of strategic projects that improve the effectiveness and consistency of service delivery.

Part 2: Service Delivery

2.1 Field service response



2.1.1 Proactive work

Animal Management continued to strengthen its proactive service delivery model during the 2025/2026 reporting period, with an increased focus on preventing incidents before they occur through education, engagement, targeted enforcement and compliance activities.

Field officers proactively patrol parks, beaches and other public spaces with high levels of dog activity and visit properties with compliance requirements. These activities help identify potential risks early, encourage responsible dog ownership and improve compliance with the Dog Control Act 1996.

During the reporting period, field officers completed 13,672 proactive activities, including property inspections, patrols and registration checks. This represents a 65.5 per cent increase compared with the previous reporting year and reflects Animal Management's continued shift towards a prevention-focused operating model.

Proactive response

The regional Proactive team continues to play a key role in delivering preventative animal management services across Tāmaki Makaurau. Working alongside the area-based field teams, the

team delivers targeted patrols, community engagement and compliance initiatives in locations identified through service requests, intelligence and emerging trends.

Regular patrols are undertaken in high-risk areas, popular parks, beaches and neighbourhoods with a history of roaming dogs or dog-related incidents. The team also carries out patrols around schools to help improve safety for Tamariki travelling to and from school.

Alongside enforcement activities, the team works closely with the Community, Partnership and Engagement team to participate in community events, school visits and public education initiatives. These activities provide opportunities to engage directly with residents, promote responsible dog ownership and increase awareness of services such as free desexing, microchipping and dog registration.

The continued investment in proactive activities reflects Animal Management's strategic focus on preventing incidents through education, early intervention and targeted compliance. By identifying risks before they escalate, the teams help improve community safety, reduce demand on reactive services and support better outcomes for both people and dogs.

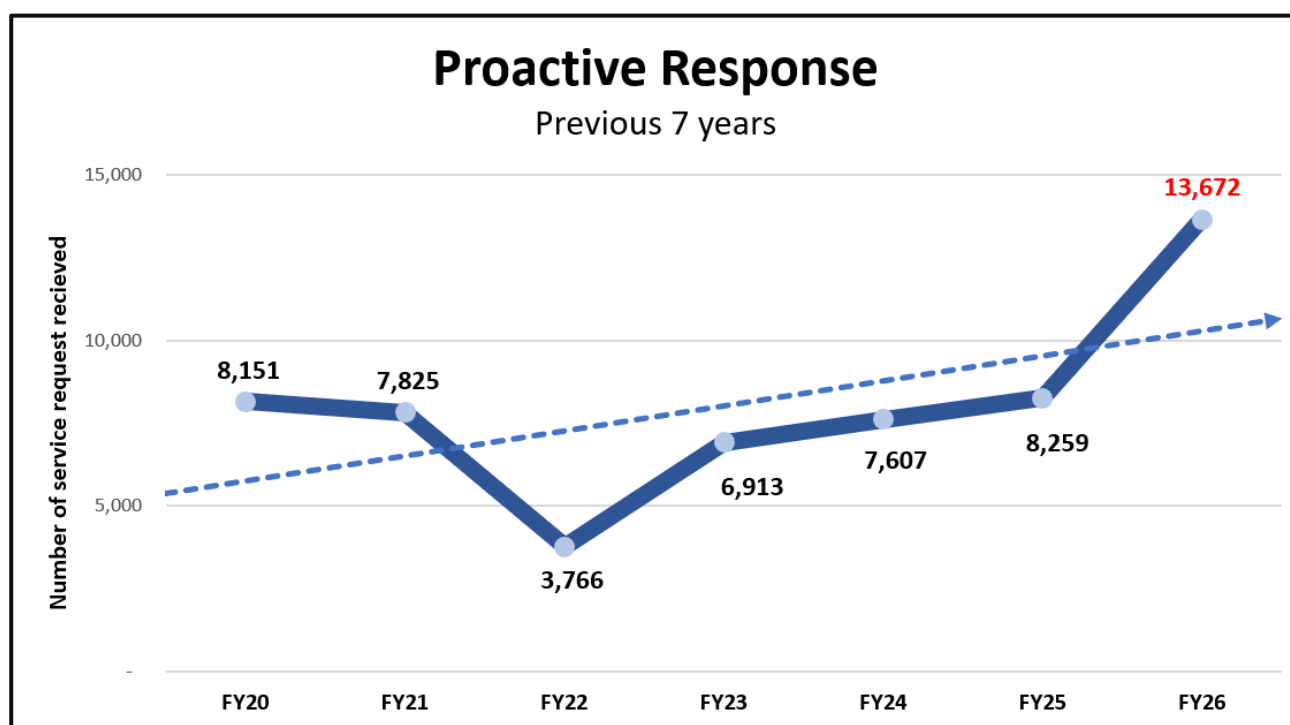


Figure 1 – Number of proactive activities over the previous seven financial years (with trend line)

- Figure 1 demonstrates the continued growth in proactive activities over the past seven financial years, with the highest level of proactive response recorded during the 2025/2026 reporting period. The upward trend reflects the unit's ongoing transition from a predominantly reactive service model to one that places greater emphasis on prevention, education and community engagement.

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 60.5 per cent of all Requests For Service which is a 6.5 per cent decrease from the previous year.

- Officers responded to a total of 32,270 requests for service. This is not including their proactive work.
- Reactive service requests decreased by 7104 (18 per cent) from the previous year, with the majority of these being for roaming and uncontrolled dogs.

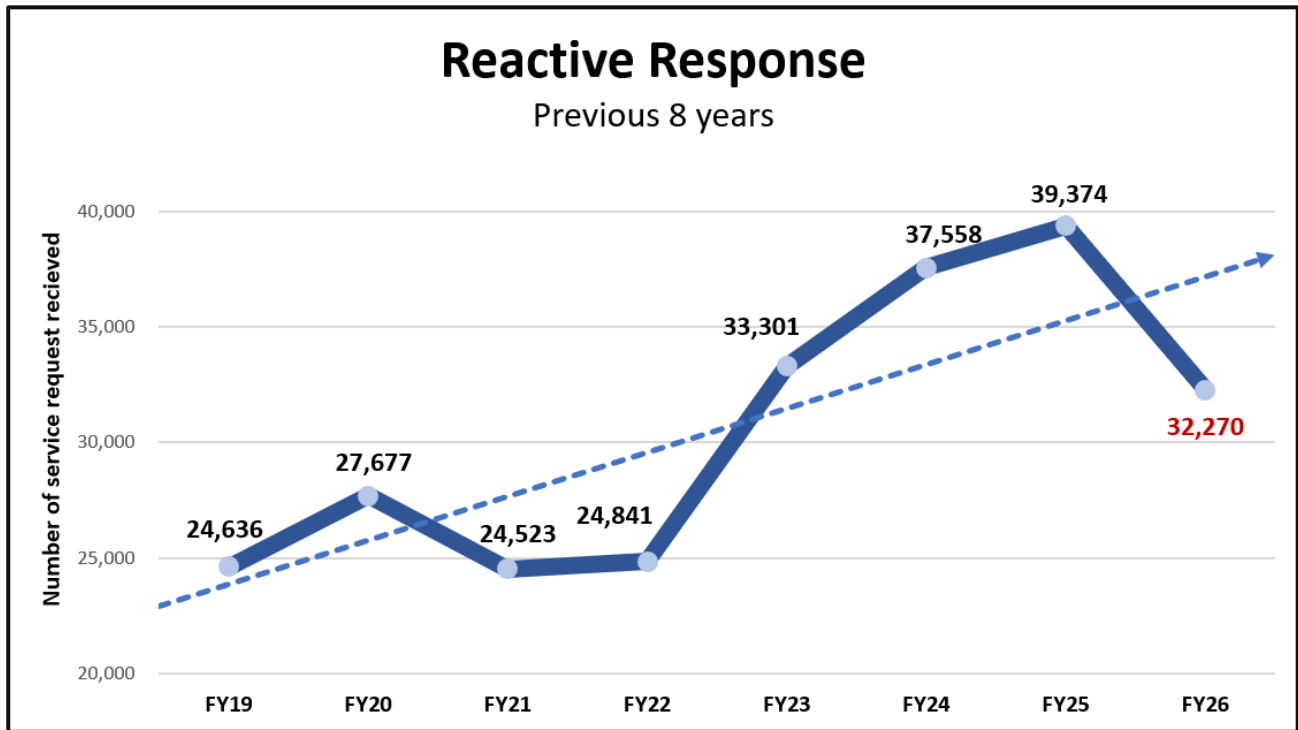


Figure 2 – Number of service requests received over the previous eight financial years (with trend line)

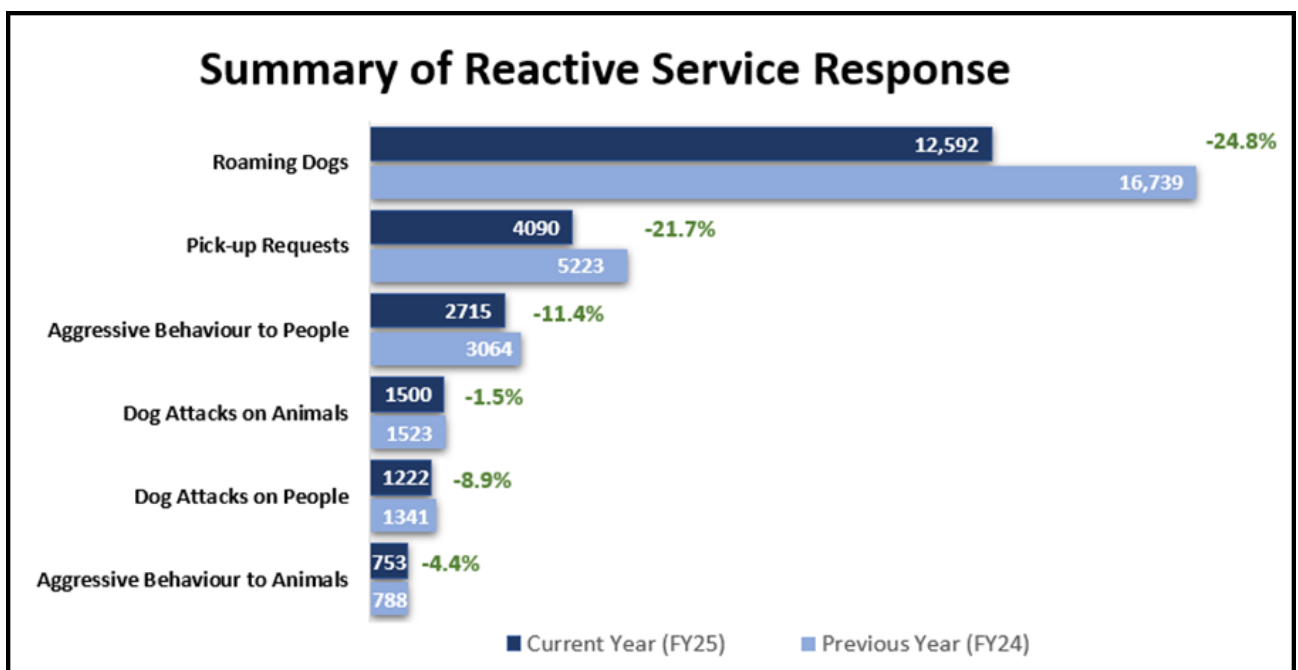


Figure 3 – A summary of key reactive service requests (compared to the previous financial year)

Roaming dogs

Reports of roaming dogs from the public was 12,592 for the year. This decreased by 4147 (24.8 per cent) from the prior year. This reduction coincided with increased proactive patrols, targeted

compliance activity, community education and public awareness initiatives aimed at addressing roaming before it results in harm.

Despite the decrease, the high number of roaming dogs continue to place significant pressure on Field Services and Auckland Council's animal shelters. Officers must respond to and investigate reports, locate and secure dogs, and arrange transport to shelters where kennel capacity remains limited.

Roaming dogs can present a risk to people, other animals and the dogs themselves. They are also commonly associated with reports of aggressive behaviour and dog attacks. During the reporting period, reported attacks on people and other animals also decreased. This occurred alongside Animal Management's increased focus on prevention, early intervention and responsible dog ownership.

In August 2025, Auckland Council launched a public awareness campaign to highlight the effects of roaming dogs on people and communities. The campaign used radio, television on demand and YouTube, supported by social media and outdoor advertising, alongside the education and proactive work delivered by Animal Management teams.

- Post-campaign research showed 35 per cent more respondents understood that roaming dogs can harm people or cause lasting effects
- 20 per cent more respondents agreed that roaming dogs make neighbourhoods feel unsafe
- 32 per cent fewer respondents reported that roaming dogs had no effect on their community.

These results indicate that the campaign increased awareness of the risks and wider community impacts associated with roaming dogs. Animal Management will continue combining public education, community engagement, proactive patrols and targeted enforcement to encourage owners to keep their dogs safely contained.

Dog attacks

Reported dog attacks on both people and other animals decreased during the 2025/2026 reporting period. The total number of attacks was also lower than forecast in the previous year's annual report.

Field teams investigated 2722 reported dog attacks during the year, with 1222 on people and 1500 on other animals. Compared with the previous reporting period, there were 119 fewer attacks on people and 23 fewer attacks on animals.

Attacks on people are recorded separately by age group. There were 246 reported attacks involving children aged 15 years and under, representing a slight increase from the previous year. Reported attacks involving people aged 16 years and over decreased significantly to 976.

While the overall reduction is encouraging, attacks involving vulnerable people, including children remains a significant concern. Animal Management continues to address the risk of dog attacks through targeted enforcement, proactive patrols, community engagement and public education initiatives, including the Any Dog Can Bite campaign.

Field Services investigated 3468 reports of dogs behaving aggressively towards people or other animals, a decrease of 10 per cent from the previous year.

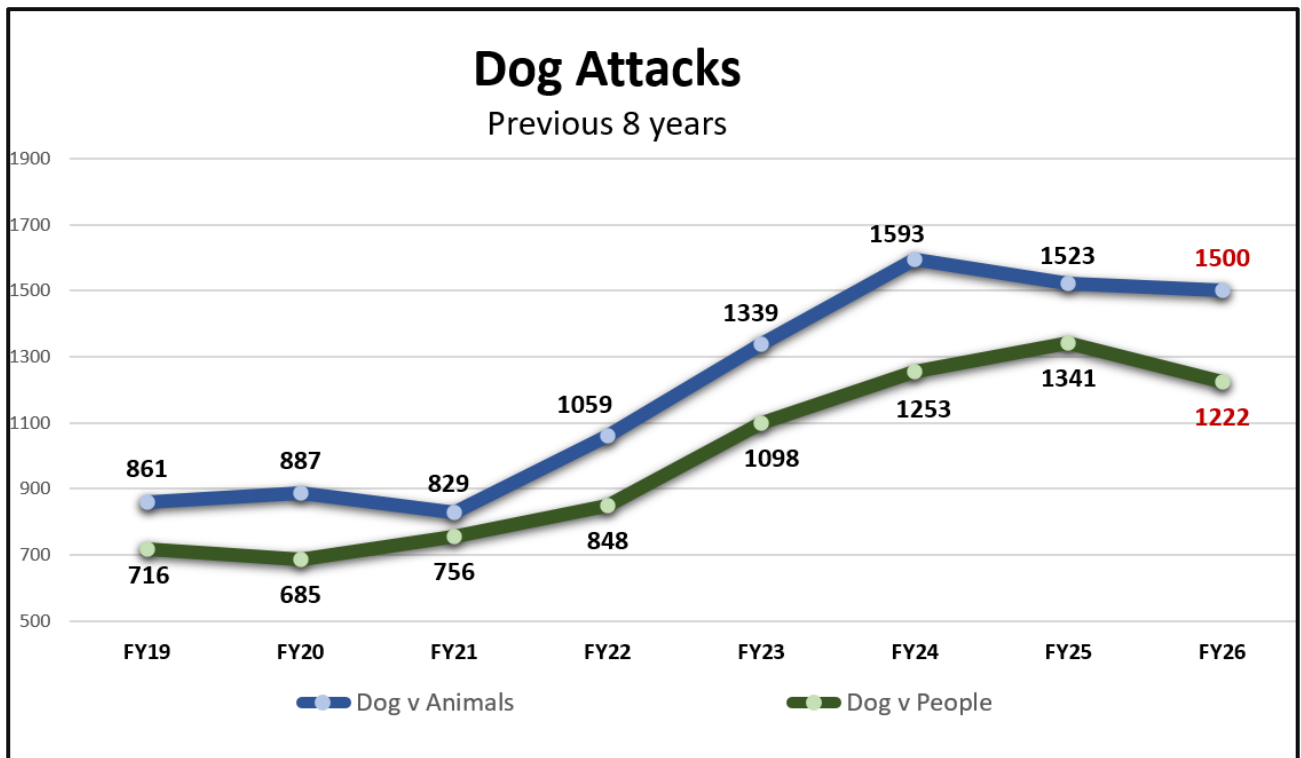


Figure 4 – Number of reported dog attacks on people and animals over the previous eight financial years

Barking complaints

A total of 5619 barking-related complaints were received during the year, which is a 12.6 per cent decrease from the previous year.

The reduction reflects a streamlined case management process, designed to provide customers with a more consistent experience and avoids creating multiple requests for the same ongoing barking complaint.

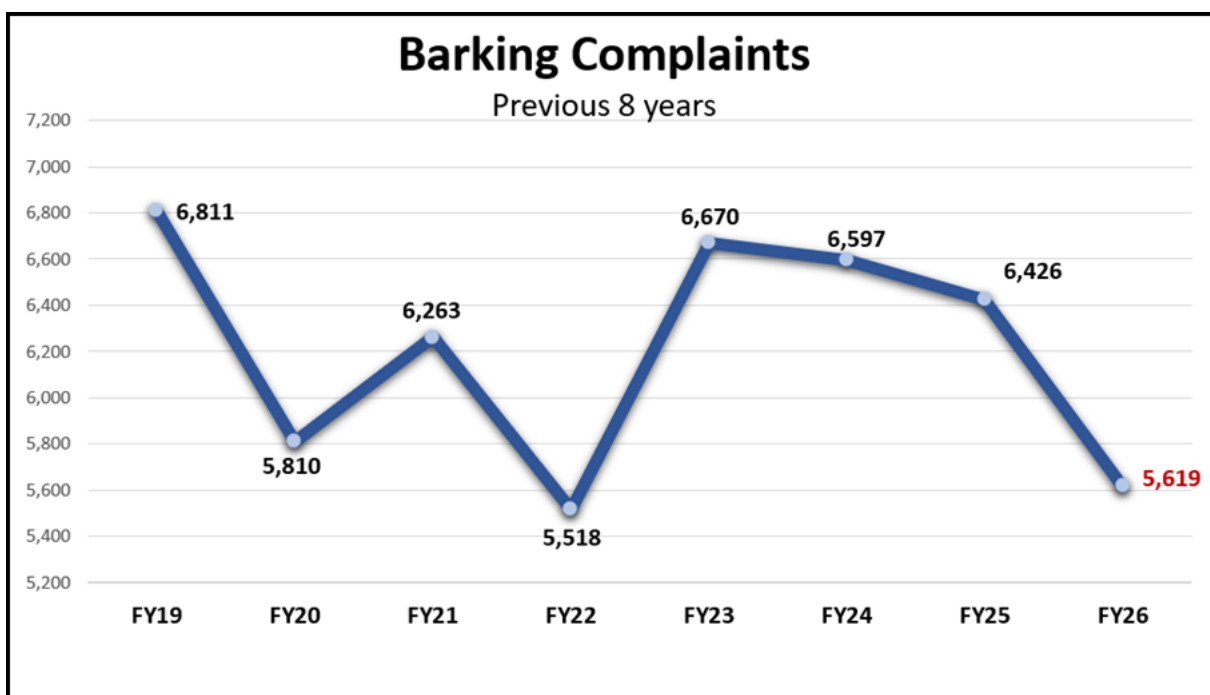


Figure 5 – Number of barking complaints received over the previous eight financial years

2.1.3 Enforcement

Dog registration

The dog registration year runs from 1 July to 30 June. Dogs must be registered each year, and owners who fail to register their dogs may receive a \$300 infringement notice or, if prosecuted, a court-imposed fine of up to \$3,000.



During the 2025/2026 reporting period, Auckland Council continued its registration compliance campaign, contacting owners of unregistered dogs and providing opportunities to register or update their dog's details before further enforcement action was taken. A total of 21,618 final reminders were issued, while more than 1000 updates were received for dogs that had died or moved outside Auckland, improving the accuracy of council records.

The newly established Registration Compliance Officer team also provided a more targeted approach to non-compliance, and as part of a cold-calling initiative a further 1201 dogs being registered and 1962 infringement notices being issued. Field officers completed an additional 2419 proactive registrations for previously unregistered dogs.

The new Community, Partnerships and Engagement team supported this work through 83 community activations across Auckland, helping increase awareness of registration requirements and providing owners with opportunities to engage directly with Animal Management services.

At the end of the reporting period, 116,098 dogs were registered across Auckland, representing 90.6 per cent of the known dog population and an increase of 2.3 per cent from the previous year.

Prosecutions and infringement notices

During the period, Auckland Council initiated 134 prosecutions in the District Court for serious offences under the Dog Control Act 1996.

A total of 15 appeals were filed during the year, including 11 appeals in higher courts and four other court appeals.

Field officers issued 17,419 infringement notices for offences under the Dog Control Act 1996. Of these, 9849 notices more than half of the notices were issued to owners who had failed to register their dogs.

At the end of the reporting period, Auckland had 360 classified dog owners, including 253 probationary owners and 107 disqualified owners.

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 2025 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 2026, Auckland had 6379 dogs classified as menacing and 24 dogs classified as dangerous.

Of the dogs subject to desexing requirements, 4539 were recorded as compliant, representing a compliance rate of 71.2 per cent. This is an increase from the previous year and reflects the continued focus on improving compliance through proactive engagement, targeted desexing initiatives and enforcement activities.

2.1.4 Other services

In addition to dog-related services, Field Services respond to incidents involving stray or roaming livestock on roads and in other public places across Tāmaki Makaurau, including the Auckland motorway. These incidents are treated as a high priority due to the significant risk they can pose to public safety, road users and animal welfare.

Officers work closely with livestock owners, emergency services and other agencies to safely secure and remove animals, helping minimise disruption and reduce the risk of injury.

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.

- **537 incidents** involving stray or roaming livestock were responded to by field officers.
- **91 animals**, excluding dogs, were impounded in Auckland's public stock pounds.



2.2 Community engagement and education



Preventing dog-related incidents before they occur continues to be a key focus for Animal Management. Throughout the reporting period, the field teams worked closely with the newly established Community, Partnership and Engagement team and Shelter Services to deliver education, build community partnerships and increase awareness of responsible dog ownership across Tāmaki Makaurau.

Working alongside community organisations, government agencies and other stakeholders, the teams focused on improving public safety through education, early intervention and targeted engagement in communities with higher levels of roaming dogs and dog-related incidents.

Dog safety education

The Proactive team continued to deliver dog safety presentations throughout Tāmaki Makaurau to schools, early childhood centres, libraries, Auckland Council staff whose roles place them at greater risk of interacting with dogs.

Training focused on recognising dog behaviour, understanding safe interactions with dogs and responding safely when encountering roaming or aggressive dogs.

The team also continued providing dog safety training for frontline staff whose roles regularly involve entering private properties, helping improve confidence and reduce the risk of dog-related injuries.

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.



Proactive patrols

The field teams continued targeted patrols in high-risk communities, around schools, parks, beaches and major public events to improve public safety and encourage responsible dog ownership.

This included regular patrols along school routes during morning and afternoon travel times to help keep children safe, patrols at popular beaches including Milford, Takapuna and Cheltenham, monitoring major events at Auckland Domain, and joint operations with Forest & Bird at Big Manly Beach to help protect wildlife.

Community events and awareness

The continued investment in community engagement, education and proactive patrols generated positive feedback from schools, community organisations and partner agencies throughout the year.



Animal Management supported the delivery of the Eye on Nature School Days, where officers provided on-site support during student arrivals and departures to help manage one of the event's key health and safety risks. The event welcomed 1186 students from 47 schools, with almost 1550 students, teachers, staff and volunteers attending over four days.

Schools also continued to provide positive feedback following dog safety presentations, with teachers highlighting the value of practical education that helps children recognise safe behaviours around dogs.

Community groups in Ōtara reported increased visibility of Animal Management officers and observed fewer roaming dogs within their neighbourhoods, while Auckland Botanic Gardens acknowledged the ongoing value of proactive patrols during busy periods.

The benefits of Animal Management's education programme were also demonstrated through feedback from an Auckland Council staff member who successfully applied techniques learnt during a dog safety training session to avoid being bitten while carrying out field work.

The Proactive team continued to engage with communities across Tāmaki Makaurau through a range of community events and public awareness initiatives. These events provided opportunities to promote responsible dog ownership, increase awareness of Animal Management services and educate the public on dog safety.



During the reporting period, the team attended a variety of community events across Auckland, including the Easter Show, Pasifika Festival, Pet Expo, Ōtāhuhu Family Fun Day, Ōtāhuhu Safety Activation, Heart of the South 2026, Papakura Santa Parade, Darren Life Society, and the opening of Te Aka Rātā (Puhinui Stream).

These events enabled Animal Management staff to engage directly with residents, answer questions, promote responsible dog ownership and provide information on initiatives such as dog registration, free desexing and microchipping, and dog safety.



2.3 Working with other agencies

Partnerships and collaboration

Collaboration remained an important part of Animal Management's proactive approach.

During the year, the teams worked alongside a range of organisations including New Zealand Police, Kāinga Ora, Tāmaki Regeneration, Forest & Bird, SPCA, the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) and Auckland Council departments to deliver education, targeted patrols and community initiatives.

Animal Management also shared knowledge and best practice with other councils by delivering operational training to Animal Management staff from Far North, Tauranga, Waikato, Queenstown and Invercargill City district councils.



The unit also hosted delegations from French Polynesia and Singapore to showcase our approach to animal management, responsible dog ownership and shelter operations.

Desexing strategy with SPCA and rescues

Auckland Council continued its partnership with SPCA to improve access to desexing services and address the growing number of roaming, unregistered and entire dogs across Tāmaki Makaurau.

Through a funding agreement with SPCA, Auckland Council supported the delivery of more than 700 free desexing vouchers. Animal Management officers and shelter staff issued vouchers to dog owners experiencing barriers to accessing veterinary care, with a focus on communities experiencing high numbers of roaming dog complaints.

The programme aimed to desex at least 700 dogs across 10 priority suburbs: Manurewa, Papakura, Ōtara, Papatoetoe, Māngere, Henderson, Massey, Pukekohe, Māngere East and Mount Wellington.

During the year, the council provided additional funding to increase the number of vouchers available. A portion of this funding was also allocated to affiliated rescue organisations to support the desexing of dogs being prepared for rehoming, helping reduce costs and improve adoption outcomes.

The SPCA Outreach Voucher Portal enabled Animal Management officers and shelter staff to issue vouchers directly to dog owners using mobile devices. Vouchers were sent by email and could be redeemed at 17 participating veterinary clinics, primarily located in South and West Auckland.

By making desexing more accessible in priority communities, the programme supports responsible dog ownership, helps prevent unwanted litters and contributes to reducing future pressure on Auckland's animal shelters.

2.4 Community, Partnership and Engagement services



The Community, Partnership and Engagement team works alongside communities experiencing higher levels of dog-related harm to improve access to support, strengthen relationships and promote responsible dog ownership.

The team consists of one manager and three Community, Partnership and Engagement Advisors. The team delivers outreach and partnership activities across Tāmaki Makaurau, working with hapū, marae, housing providers, government agencies and community organisations.

This includes working with vulnerable communities to better understand local needs, remove barriers to Animal Management services and connect dog owners with practical support.

Community activations provide residents with direct access to education and services in familiar, trusted locations. Depending on community need, these activations may include responsible dog ownership advice, free desexing referrals, microchipping, registration support and information on safely containing and caring for dogs.

The team works closely with Field Services, Shelter Services and the desexing clinic to coordinate follow-up support and ensure residents can access the right service. This joined-up approach helps address roaming dogs, uncontrolled breeding and low registration compliance before they result in harm.

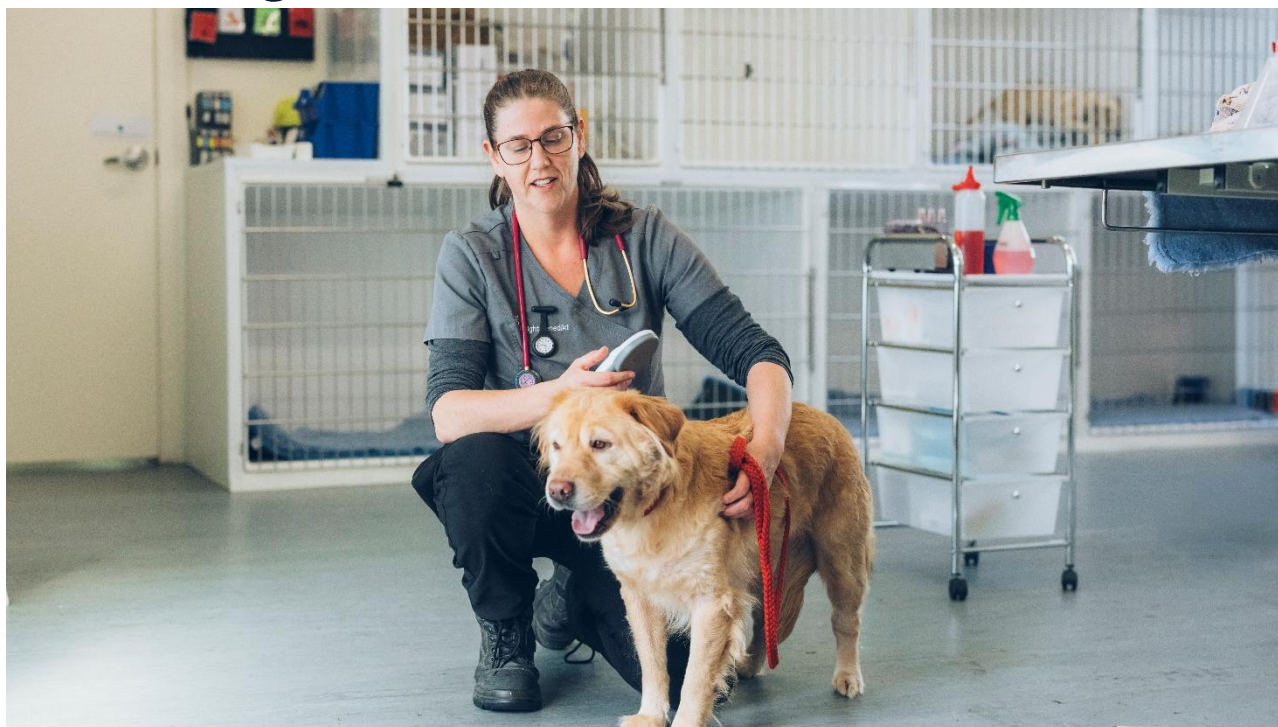
Partnerships with organisations including Kāinga Ora, Tāmaki Housing Association, and Blind Low Vision NZ have supported outreach programmes, community education and targeted prevention initiatives across Tāmaki Makaurau.

This work demonstrates Animal Management's commitment to working alongside Māori, Pacific peoples and Auckland's diverse communities in ways that are inclusive, accessible and responsive to local needs.

Through regular engagement and a visible presence in communities, the team continues to build trust, strengthen local relationships and support longer-term changes in dog ownership practices. These activities contribute to safer communities, improved animal welfare and reduced pressure on reactive Animal Management services.



2.5 Desexing services



The 2025/2026 period marked the first full year of operation for Auckland Council's in-house desexing services team. Established as a one-year pilot and based at Henderson Animal Shelter, the service has now been confirmed as a permanent part of Animal Management following the success of the pilot.

A key focus is making desexing more accessible in communities experiencing high numbers of roaming dogs, dog-related incidents and unwanted litters. The programme continues to focus on priority areas while expanding into other communities where emerging need is identified.

Through the in-house clinic and the council's partnership with SPCA, a total of 2134 dogs were desexed through Auckland Council desexing initiatives, including 1763 dogs through the in-house service. These desexing procedures will have prevented hundreds of unwanted litters.

Reducing unwanted litters is an important part of easing future pressure on Auckland's animal shelters. Although the clinic has only been operating for a relatively short period, preliminary results are encouraging, with 438 fewer puppies impounded during the year.

By combining community desexing initiatives, partnerships with external providers, microchipping and veterinary treatment for dogs in council care, Animal Management is supporting responsible dog ownership, improving animal welfare and helping more dogs to be safely reunited with their owners or successfully rehomed.

The team also provides veterinary care for dogs in Auckland Council's shelters, including health assessments, medical treatment, surgery, desexing and microchipping. Access to in-house treatment gives dogs with injuries or medical conditions a greater opportunity to recover and, where suitable, be reunited with their owners, adopted or transferred to rescue organisations.

Access to in-house treatment gives dogs with medical conditions or injuries a greater opportunity to recover and, where suitable, become available for adoption. In previous years, some of these dogs may not have had the same opportunity to be treated and rehomed.

By combining targeted community desexing, accessible transport and veterinary treatment for shelter dogs, the service improves animal welfare, supports responsible dog ownership and helps reduce future pressure on Auckland's animal shelters.

An Animal Management Officer referred a family for free desexing support for two dogs. Further engagement identified five adult dogs and seven puppies at the property, following previous barriers to accessing desexing services.

The in-house desexing clinic was able to desex all of the dogs, including two females found to be in very early stages of pregnancy, preventing an estimated 20 additional unwanted puppies from being born.

This support helped break a cycle of unwanted litters and reduced pressure on a family experiencing housing instability, while giving the dogs and puppies a better foundation for responsible ownership and future rehoming.



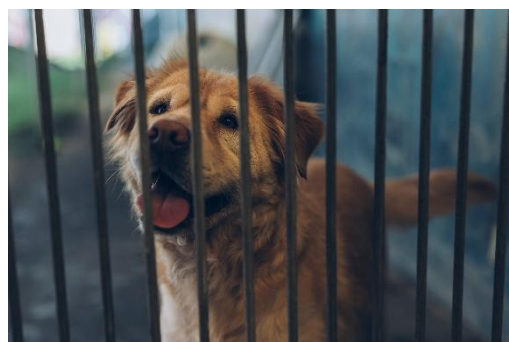
2.6 Animal shelter services



2.6.1 Impounded dogs

During the 2025/2026 reporting period, 9593 dogs were impounded across Auckland Council's three main animal shelters. This was 621 fewer dogs than the previous year.

Additionally, 438 fewer puppies, including 36 fewer unwanted litters, were impounded. While our in-house desexing clinic has only been operating for a relatively short period of time, this noticeable shift in unwanted litters is a positive sign.



Of the dogs impounded during the year, 3734 (38.9 per cent) were claimed by their owners, representing an increase of 4.2 per cent compared with the previous year. The improved claim rate reflects the importance of dog registration and microchipping, enabling owners to be identified and contacted more quickly when their dogs are impounded.

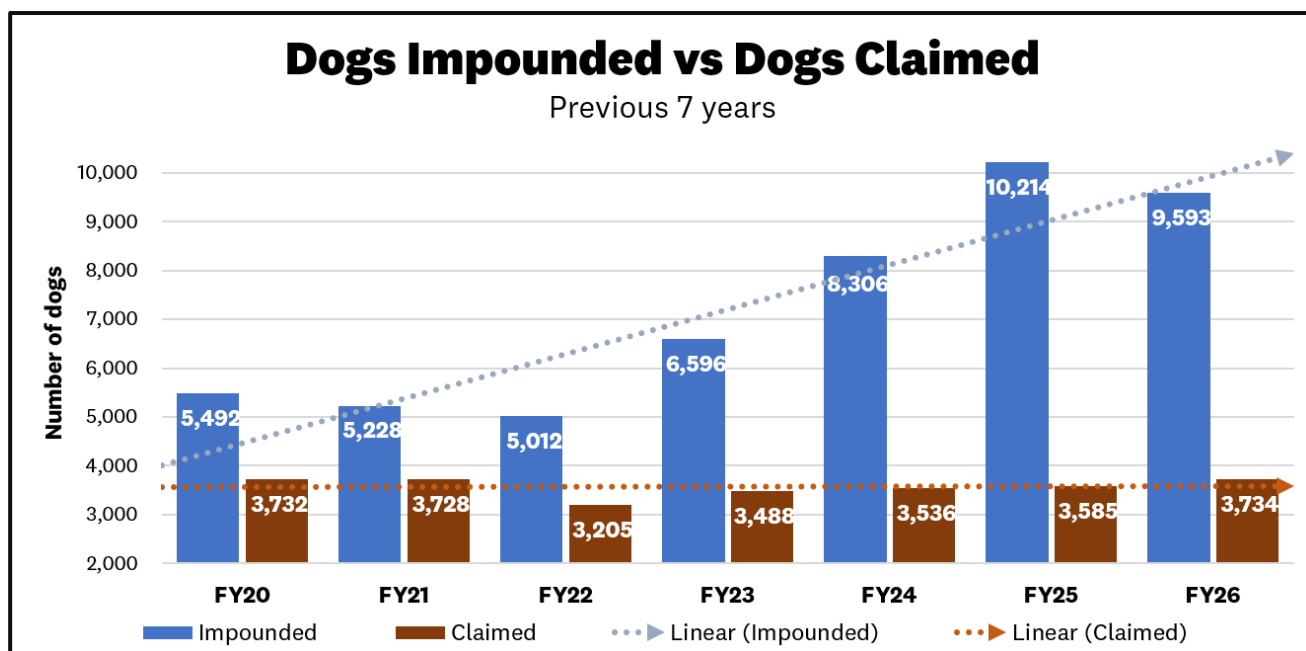


Figure 6 – Number of dogs impounded vs number of dogs claimed over the previous six financial years (with trend lines)

The majority of impounded dogs were found roaming, collected in response to public requests or voluntarily surrendered by their owners.

- 704 dogs were seized and impounded following attacks on people or other animals.
- 579 dogs were voluntarily surrendered by their owners, an increase of 50 dogs from the previous year.
- Staffordshire Bull Terriers remained the most commonly impounded breed, with 2246 dogs impounded during the year.
- Manurewa continued to record the highest number of impounded dogs, with 1007 dogs impounded.

Most dogs entering the shelter system were impounded for the first time:

- 7297 dogs (76.1 per cent) were impounded for the first time.
- 1271 dogs (13.2 per cent) were impounded for a second time.
- 1025 dogs (10.7 per cent) were impounded three or more times.

These results indicate that while most impounded dogs are first-time admissions, a smaller group of repeat impoundments continues to place ongoing demand on Animal Management resources. Targeted education, registration compliance and desexing initiatives remain important in reducing repeat impoundments and improving long-term outcomes for both dogs and the community.

The shelters continue to operate under significant capacity pressures due to the increasing number of incoming dogs. Despite these challenges, staff remain committed to maintaining high standards of animal welfare while balancing operational demands and supporting public safety.

During the reporting period, Animal Management introduced an Afterpay pilot across its shelters, which was later extended to field officers. The initiative enables eligible customers to spread

impound-related costs over four instalments, helping ease immediate financial pressures and supporting the timely return of dogs to their owners. This also has the potential to reduce the length of time dogs remain in council shelters.

Shelter expansion – Manukau Animal Shelter

Construction began in June 2025 on a major expansion of the Manukau Animal Shelter to increase kennel capacity and improve facilities for both animals and staff.



The project includes three new kennel rows, providing 33 additional kennels. Of these, 28 are standard kennels and five are purpose-built to accommodate female dogs with puppies.

A new laundry, dedicated storage area and an extension to the existing office building are also being developed to support daily operations and the needs of the growing shelter team.

A further 14 kennels are now being planned to house dangerous and high-risk dogs.

Once completed, the expansion will increase the shelter's capacity by approximately 25 per cent and provide a safer, more functional environment for animals and staff.



2.6.2 Adoptions

During the reporting period, 394 dogs were adopted from Auckland Council shelters or transferred to the SPCA, rescue organisations and breed-specific rescue groups. This is over a 18.7 per cent increase from the previous year.

The Pukekohe Adoption Centre and new Adoptable Dogs webpage contributed to a significant shift in rehoming outcomes, with more dogs adopted directly through Auckland Council rather than transferred to external organisations.

A total of 286 dogs were adopted directly from Auckland Council shelters, while 108 dogs were transferred to the SPCA, rescue organisations and breed-specific rescue groups. This reflects the growing role of Auckland Council's shelter network in finding suitable homes for adoptable dogs while continuing to work closely with external partners.

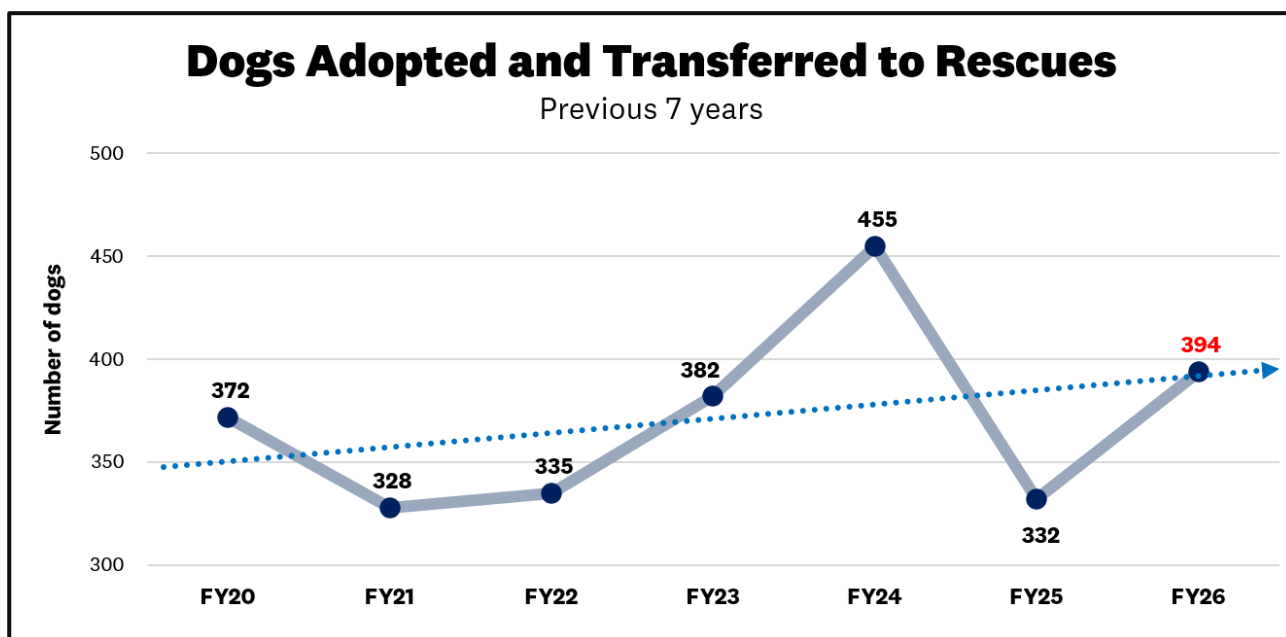


Figure 7 – Number of dogs adopted and transferred to rescue organisations over the previous seven financial years (with trend line)

2.6.3 Adoption initiatives

The Pukekohe Adoption Centre completed its first full reporting year of operation after opening on 15 March 2025. It is New Zealand's first dedicated dog adoption centre and plays an important role in supporting Auckland Council's three main animal shelters.

The centre receives dogs assessed as suitable for adoption from the other three shelters and provides them with care, socialisation and training to prepare them for successful rehoming. Moving adoption-ready dogs to Pukekohe also creates additional capacity within the main shelters for incoming and higher-needs dogs.



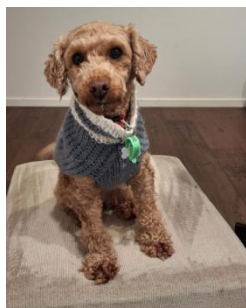
During the reporting period, the centre delivered or participated in 21 adoption, education and community events. These included Puppy Love, the centre's first anniversary celebration, the Easter Show, Picnic in the Park, adoption days, adoption barbecues and the Ōtāhuhu Life Expo. Some events were delivered in partnership with the Proactive team.

The Adoptable Dogs webpage on Our Auckland was also launched, making it quicker and easier for people to scroll and find their perfect dog, the site allows you to see all available dogs at our shelters and has been very popular since going live in January 2026.

These initiatives increased public awareness of dogs available for adoption and created opportunities for prospective owners to meet dogs in a supported environment. The centre contributed to the increase in dogs adopted directly through Auckland Council shelters during the year.

The Pukekohe team also expanded its education activities by delivering responsible dog ownership sessions and dog safety presentations in partnership with the Proactive team. This included age-appropriate sessions for early childhood centres on how to safely approach and interact with dogs.

Across the shelter network, staff continue to build positive relationships with the public, promote responsible dog ownership and support adopters to make informed decisions. This helps improve adoption outcomes and contributes to safer communities for people and dogs.



If you read last year's Annual Report, you may remember the dumped puppy who found her forever home with one of our vets. We're pleased to share that she has settled in very well and has now taken on the unofficial role of veterinary office support dog, providing a friendly welcome to dogs visiting the clinic for free desexing and microchipping.



2.7 Health, safety and wellbeing of Animal Management staff

The health, safety and wellbeing of Animal Management staff remains a high priority. Staff continue to experience a high level of violence and aggression while carrying out their duties in the community.

During the reporting period, 759 incidents were recorded in council's health and safety management system, a 63 per cent increase from the previous year. Of these, eight were classified as high risk.

A total of 291 incidents involved violent or aggressive behaviour from members of the public towards staff, representing a 112 per cent increase from the previous year and highlighting the ongoing risks faced by frontline teams.

The three most commonly reported risk categories were:

- violent and aggressive behaviour from people
- animal aggression and movement
- psychosocial risk

Animal Management continues to work closely with New Zealand Police, to support staff safety and ensure suitable follow-up action is taken.

Health and safety representatives, the Health, Safety and Wellbeing Business Partner and the Continuous Improvement Committee also work together to review hazards, maintain risk registers and implement improvements to strengthen staff safety and wellbeing.

2.8 Media interest and marketing campaigns

Media interest

Dog-related issues continued to attract significant media attention throughout the year, particularly in relation to roaming dogs and dog attacks.

We continued to provide media with behind-the-scenes access to Animal Management operations, including ride-alongs with officers and tours of our shelters and desexing clinic. These opportunities

helped build understanding of the challenges facing the service while providing a platform to promote key messages about responsible dog ownership and community safety.

Media highlights included feature stories on Paddy Gower Has Issues and The Hui, both of which explored the scale of Auckland's roaming dog problem and the work being undertaken by staff to address it. These and other media opportunities allowed us to reinforce calls for increased desexing and stronger legislative powers under the Dog Control Act, including TVNZ Breakfast and Radio NZ interviews.

Online commentary and social media does not always reflect the full circumstances of individual cases, with Rachel Kelleher – Auckland Council Director of Community, authoring an NZ Herald opinion piece highlighting the impact of this behaviour and providing greater context around shelter operations.



The Pukekohe Adoption and Education Centre also attracted positive media attention, promoting adoption opportunities, responsible ownership and successful dog rehoming programmes.

Marketing campaigns

During 2025/2026 Auckland Council's marketing programme helped increase compliance, encourage safer interactions with dogs and support responsible dog ownership across the region.

Covering dog registration, dog bite prevention, dog roaming and responsible ownership, these campaigns targeted non-compliant dog owners with an increased focus on areas with high roaming and attack incidences.



The Roaming Dog campaign was designed to drive behavioural change among dog owners by focusing on the real consequences of roaming for them, their dogs and their communities. Hard-hitting video on demand and radio ads were supported by out of home advertising. 75% of people reported that the advertising made them feel responsible for keeping their dogs from roaming so that others wouldn't get hurt. The campaign was awarded two Worthies Awards recognising marketing success in driving behavioural change in the public sector.



The dog registration renewal campaign ran from 4 June to 1 August 2025 and used social media, digital and out of home advertising to encourage owners to register before the deadline. The campaign used ownership and registration data to target owners yet to register, refreshing the audience weekly and increasing the urgency of messaging as the deadline approached, with the intent of reducing cost and staying front of mind with non-compliant owners. The marketing cost averaged 56c per registration.

The Any Dog Can Bite campaign focused on South and West Auckland and reinforced the importance of supervising children around dogs to prevent dog bites. The campaign had a strong behavioural impact, with 59% of those exposed to the advertising reporting that they supervised children and dogs more closely. Intent to adopt this behaviour was particularly high among Pasifika (83%) and Asian (79%) audiences.

Ongoing dog education messaging also improved public understanding of registration, containment, desexing and responsible dog ownership, particularly in South Auckland.

A Valentine's Day-themed dog adoption campaign promoted the new [adoption website](#) as the starting point for adopting a puppy or dog from the Pukekohe Adoption and Education Centre.

Together, these campaigns supported Animal Management's shift towards prevention, education and early intervention.

National webinar

Auckland Council also hosted a nationwide webinar, *Tackling our Roaming Dog Issues: A Comms and Marketing Approach*, bringing together animal management, communications and marketing professionals to share knowledge on addressing roaming dogs and dog attacks. The session highlighted Auckland's challenges, the use of behaviour change campaigns and strategic communications to promote responsible dog ownership and provided practical resources that other councils can adapt and use within their own communities.

Part 3: Dogs in Auckland²

3.1 Dog owners in Auckland

- As of 30 June 2026, the Auckland region had a total of 107,777 dog owners, which is a decrease of 2250 (2.1 per cent) from the previous year.
- 39,773 dog owners have a Responsible Dog Owner Licence (RDOL), and 4842 dog owners qualify for a discount on dog registration with their SuperGold card.
- There are 253 dog owners in Auckland classified as probationary owners, and 107 dog owners are disqualified from owning any dogs.

3.2 Dog population in Auckland

- The total number of known dogs in Auckland decreased from 131,123 in FY25 to 128,099 in FY26 – a decrease of 2.3 per cent. This is significantly lower than forecasted for the year, the decline is due to ongoing efforts of improving data.
- Of the 128,099 known dogs in Auckland, 65,886 (51.4%) are male and 62,213 (48.6%) are female. A total of 42,839 (65.0%) male dogs and 41,147 (66.1%) female dogs are desexed which is a slight increase from the previous year.
- The number of dogs that were registered in FY26 increased to 116,098 – this is 229 more than FY24. This accounts for 90.6 per cent of known dogs in Auckland.
- A total of 6379 dogs are classified as menacing and 24 dogs are classified as dangerous.
- The unknown dog population continues to create challenges for Auckland communities. In the reporting period 9593 dogs were impounded, with many not previously known to council. In the new reporting year Animal Management will increase its focus on identifying these dogs to support earlier intervention, registration and responsible ownership.

²All statistics in this section are based on known dogs in Auckland.

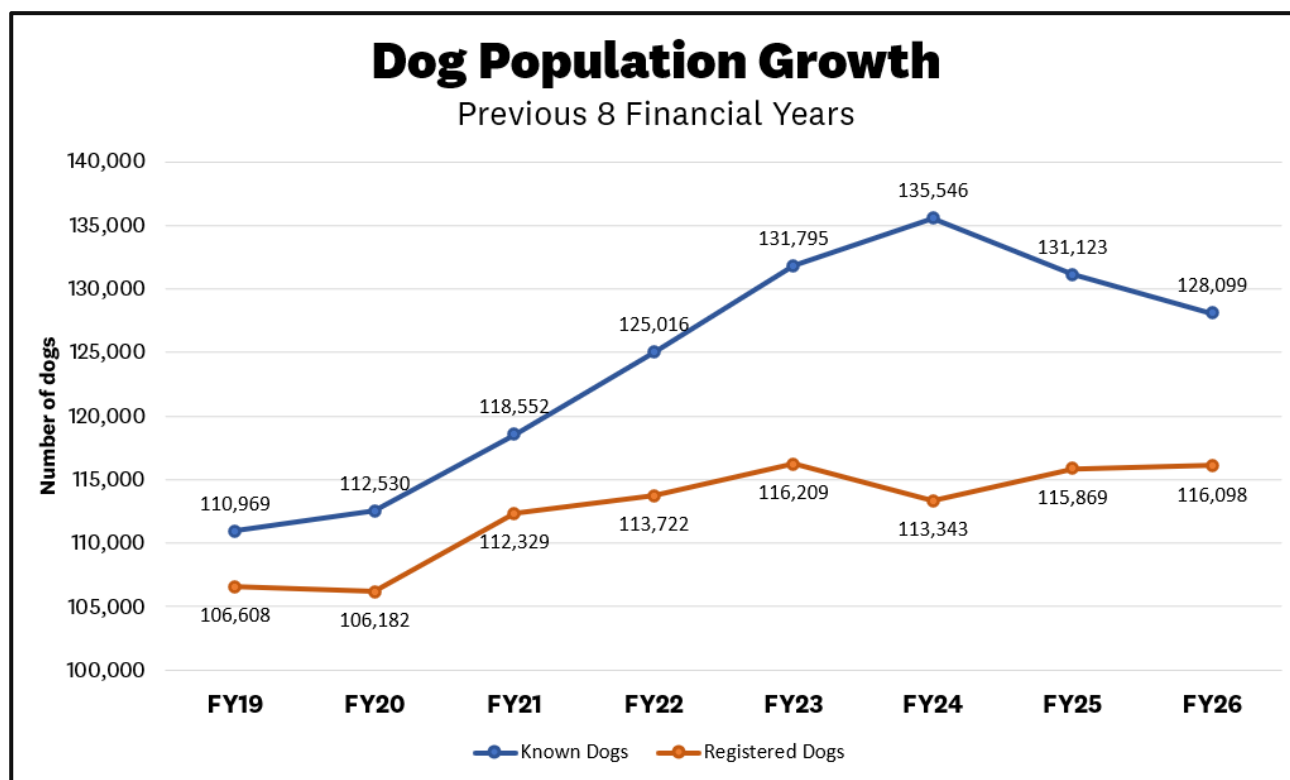


Figure 8 – Population growth for known dogs and registered dogs over the previous eight financial years

3.2.1 Most popular dog breeds in Auckland

Ranking	Primary breed ³	Male	Female	Total
1	Labrador Retriever	7327	6734	14,061
2	Staffordshire Bull Terrier	3753	4402	8155
3	Border Collie	2973	2940	5913
4	Cavalier King Charles Spaniel	2672	2365	5037
5	Golden Retriever	2630	2138	4768
6	Miniature Schnauzer	2494	2193	4687
7	Shih Tzu	2057	1824	3881
8	German Shepherd	2024	1808	3832
9	Jack Russell Terrier	1782	1571	3353
10	Maltese	1765	1461	3226
11	American Pit Bull Terrier	1765	1412	3177
12	Huntaway	1474	1502	2976
13	Miniature Poodle	1527	1329	2856
14	Toy Poodle	1473	1372	2845
15	Rottweiler	1443	1081	2524

³ 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.

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

Primary breed	Male	Female
American Water Spaniel	1	0
Belgian Shepherd (Laekenois)	0	1
Bolognese	0	1
Dingo	0	1
Estrela Mountain Dog	1	0
German Hunting Terrier	0	1
Japanese Tosa	1	0
Komondor	1	0
Norwegian Buhund	0	1
Shikoku	0	1
Yakutian Laika	1	0

3.2.3 Most populated suburbs (by total number of known dogs)

Ranking	Area / Suburb	Total	Hauraki Gulf islands	Total
1	Papakura	3940	Waiheke Island	1166
2	Pukekohe	3855	Great Barrier Island	318
3	Manurewa	2653	Herald Island	97
4	Henderson	2636	Rakino and outlying Islands	7
5	Massey	2249		
6	Remuera	2212		
7	Waiuku	2003		
8	Papatoetoe	1916		
9	Howick	1798		
10	Titirangi	1762		

3.2.4 Known dog population by local board

Ranking	Local board	% of known dogs	Total
1	Rodney Local Board	9.7	12,471
2	Hibiscus and Bays Local Board	9.7	12,376
3	Franklin Local Board	9.0	11,558
4	Henderson-Massey Local Board	8.0	10,208
5	Howick Local Board	6.8	8663
6	Ōrākei Local Board	5.5	7013
7	Albert-Eden Local Board	4.9	6250
8	Kaipātiki Local Board	4.8	6150
9	Waitākere Ranges Local Board	4.7	5975
10	Papakura Local Board	4.4	5619
11	Upper Harbour Local Board	4.2	5410
12	Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board	4.2	5372
13	Manurewa Local Board	4.2	5349

14	Ōtara-Papatoetoe Local Board	3.9	4992
15	Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board	3.6	4656
16	Devonport-Takapuna Local Board	3.5	4443
17	Waitematā Local Board	3.3	4247
18	Whau Local Board	2.8	3643
19	Puketāpapa Local Board	1.7	2163
20	Waiheke Local Board	0.9	1172
21	Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board	0.2	318

3.2.5 Known dog population by area

Ranking	Area	% of known dogs	Total
1	North	33.0	42,275
2	West	20.3	25,993
3	Central	17.4	22,285
4	East	15.3	19,654
5	South	13.9	17,841

3.2.6 Dog gender and age distribution

Gender status	% of known dogs	Male	Female	Total
Desexed	66	42,839	41,147	83,986
Entire	34	24,386	19,727	44,113

Age group	% of known dogs	Male	Female	Total
0-6 months	0.6	346	404	750
7-12 months	2.5	1593	1547	3140
1-5 years	35.4	23,599	21,768	45,367
6-10 years	39.4	26,235	24,258	50,493
10+ years	22.1	14,113	14,236	28,349
Total		65,886	62,213	128,099

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	185	American Pit Bull Terrier	3216
American Pit Bull Terrier	150	American Staffordshire Terrier	1657
Labrador Retriever	105	Dogo Argentino	20
American Bulldog	93		
German Shepherd	92		
American Staffordshire Terrier	79		
Shar Pei	71		
Rottweiler	71		
Mastiff	70		
Siberian Husky	66		

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	63	Manurewa	414
Mangere	52	Otara	343
Manurewa	50	Mangere	310
Papatoetoe	47	Papakura	301
Pukekohe	45	Mangere East	248
Massey	45	Papatoetoe	241
Mangere East	38	Pukekohe	163
Henderson	35	Henderson	142
Otara	33	Massey	134
Glen Eden	30	Mount Wellington	129

3.2.9 Breeds mostly impounded for attacks and roaming

Attacks		Roaming	
Primary breed	Total	Primary breed	Total
Pit Bull Terrier	161	Staffordshire Bull Terrier	1203
Staffordshire Bull Terrier	146	Pit Bull Terrier	786
American Staffordshire Terrier	82	Shar Pei	382
Shar Pei	62	Labrador Retriever	378
Mastiff	60	American Staffordshire Terrier	373
American Bulldog	51	Mastiff	246
Labrador Retriever	46	Huntaway	195
Rottweiler	32	American Bulldog	153
German Shepherd	26	Border Collie	144
Huntaway	20	German Shepherd	136

3.2.10 Breeds mostly not claimed from animal shelters

Primary breed	% of total dogs not claimed	Total
Staffordshire Bull Terrier	30.2	1,738
Pit Bull Terrier	21.1	1,211
Shar Pei	9.8	564
American Staffordshire Terrier	7.0	402
Labrador Retriever	6.5	372
Mastiff	6.1	349
Huntaway	3.2	182
American Bulldog	3.1	179
Border Collie	2.1	118
German Shepherd	1.8	104

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	887	Bella	1,190
Max	777	Luna	1,185
Buddy	660	Coco	876
Rocky	642	Poppy	807
Milo	627	Daisy	745
Teddy	606	Molly	732
Archie	555	Ruby	708
Toby	502	Nala	661
Bear	471	Rosie	598
Ollie	416	Lola	527

3.3.2 Most interesting cross-breeds and dog names⁴

Primary breed X Secondary breed
Bernese Mountain Dog X Toy Poodle
Golden Retriever X Smooth Coat Chihuahua
Rottweiler X Shih Tzu
Papillon X Huntaway
Pomeranian X Siberian Husky
Yorkshire Terrier X Rottweiler
Rottweiler X Shih Tzu
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

Dog names
(Ver)SacÃ©
2020 Glitter Sparkles
Albus Dumbledog
Apollo13
Bella Stevie Nicks Cupcakes
Big Mac
Buddha (Llanddona Enlightened One)
Cabbage
Chief Apa Angaaetau Tupou Taliauli
Deputy Dawg
Deputy Sheriff Norton

⁴ These are just some of the hundreds of interesting cross-breeds and dog names our staff discovered in the Dog Register.

Franza Duke of France 10 (Hamish)
Jalepeno Pepper
Otis McFluffypants Bannerman-Oxley

Part 4: Dog Control Statistics

1 July 2025 – 30 June 2026

4.1 Registrations

Category	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25		FY26
Known dogs	125,016	131,795	135,546	131,123	↓	128,099
Registered dogs	113,722	116,209	113,343	115,869	↑	116,098
% known dogs registered	91.0%	88.2%	83.6%	88.4%	↑	90.6%
RDOL holders ⁵	39,930	42,495	42,697	41,333	↓	39,773
SuperGold card holders ⁶	5368	5521	5771	5709	↓	4842

4.2 Classifications

Dog owner classifications	FY25	FY26
Probationary owners	123	253
Disqualified owners	54	107
Total classified owners	177	360

Menacing dog classifications	FY25	FY26
Section 33A (observed or reported behaviour)	1067	1362
Section 33C (breed or type in Schedule 4)	5665	5017
Total menacing dogs	6732	6379

Dangerous dog classifications	FY25	FY26
Section 31(1)(a) – owner conviction	4	4
Section 31(1)(b) – sworn evidence	15	16
Section 31(1)(c) – owner admitted in writing	2	4
Total dangerous dogs	21	24

Compliance with neutering requirement	FY25	FY26
Menacing dogs (Section 33A) neutered	(76.6%) 817	(80.1%) 1091
Menacing dogs (Section 33C) neutered	(62.8%) 3559	(68.7%) 3448
Dangerous dogs neutered	(76.2%) 16	(95.8%) 23

⁵ This item refers to the number of dogs registered under this category, and not the number of owners holding an RDOL.

⁶ 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 per area (proactive and reactive)

Proactive	Central	East	North	South	West	Other	Total
Priority 1 (critical)	10	19	34	31	16	0	110
Priority 2 (urgent)	780	834	1906	1977	790	0	6287
Priority 3 and below	911	1078	1399	1580	2071	236	7275
Total RFS received	1701	1931	3339	3588	2877	236	13,672

Reactive	Central	East	North	South	West	Other	Total
Priority 1 (critical)	2157	1858	2072	2218	2486	0	10,791
Priority 2 (urgent)	4084	3633	4215	4045	5286	0	21,263
Priority 3 and below	37	27	54	60	38	0	216
Total RFS received	6278	5518	6341	6323	7810	0	32,270

4.3.2 RFS received by type (reactive response)

Category	FY25	FY26
Roaming dog	16,739	12,592
Barking or howling	6426	5619
Pick up (contained dog)	5223	4090
Aggressive behaviour to people	3064	2715
Dog attack on animals	1523	1500
Dog attack on people (Combined people and child)	1341	1222
Welfare	1264	1135
Bylaw breach	918	960
Aggressive behaviour to animals	788	753
Roaming stock	710	518
Unregistered dogs	504	370
Dog / stock on motorway	291	327
Relinquish dog	233	216
Police / SPCA assistance	206	133
Dog traps	78	69
Pick up (contained stock)	66	51
Total reactive RFS received	39,374	32,270

4.3.3 Proactive work⁷

Category	FY25	FY26
Patrolling public areas (including bylaw breaches, roaming dogs, etc.)	3612	5148
Proactive Roaming dog	-	2640
Unregistered dogs	2085	2419
Targeted compliance (monitoring classifications, service of notices, etc.)	1007	1804
Property inspections	907	960
Other proactive work (not specified by category)	648	236
Bylaw breach	-	137
Relinquish dog	-	87
Welfare	-	58
Police / SPCA assistance	-	47
Pick up (contained dog)	-	41
Dog traps	-	41
Roaming stock	-	19
Aggressive behaviour to people	-	15
Barking or howling	-	13
Dog / stock on motorway	-	3
Aggressive behaviour to animals	-	3
Pick up (contained stock)	-	1
Total proactive tasks	8259	13,672

⁷In FY26, the former 'Other proactive work' category was separated into specific activity types to better reflect the growth in proactive work and Animal Management's increasing focus on prevention and early intervention. As these are new measures, comparable FY25 data is not available..

4.3.4 RFS actioned by suburb (top 40 suburbs by total RFS)

Suburb	Known dog population	Total RFS actioned
Manurewa	2653	3753
Papakura	3940	2394
Ōtara	1672	2242
Māngere	1579	1561
Henderson	2636	1459
Papatoetoe	1,916	1366
Massey	2249	1333
Waiheke Island	1165	1313
Pukekohe	3855	1113
Māngere East	1314	1078
Mount Wellington	1422	849
Glen Eden	1676	661
Great Barrier Island	318	661
Weymouth	483	645
Mount Roskill	1048	644
Onehunga	1317	634
Avondale	1185	619
Takanini	626	596
Flat Bush	1518	585
Clendon Park	407	578
Ōtāhuhu	677	562
Manukau Central	790	559
New Lynn	943	492
Randwick Park	372	455
Ranui	939	452
Glen Innes	606	405
Waiuku	2003	392
Te Atatū Peninsula	1266	392
Māngere Bridge	797	378
Te Atatū South	1040	361
Panmure	481	361
Pakuranga Heights	702	341
Point England	311	336
Remuera	2212	304
Beach Haven	1077	304
Howick	1798	277
Glenfield	964	260
Three Kings	380	258
Titirangi	1762	243
Mount Albert	1073	224

4.3.5 RFS actioned (by local board area)

Local board	Known dog population	Total RFS actioned
Manurewa Local Board	5349	6168
Henderson-Massey Local Board	10208	4710
Ōtara-Papatoetoe Local Board	4992	4323
Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board	4656	3776
Papakura Local Board	5619	3270
Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board	5372	2845
Franklin Local Board	11558	2525
Howick Local Board	8663	2227
Hibiscus and Bays Local Board	12376	1807
Kaipātiki Local Board	6150	1603
Whau Local Board	3643	1593
Rodney Local Board	12471	1453
Waitākere Ranges Local Board	5975	1442
Albert-Eden Local Board	6250	1435
Waiheke Local Board	1172	1314
Ōrākei Local Board	7013	1144
Puketāpapa Local Board	2163	1081
Upper Harbour Local Board	5410	958
Devonport-Takapuna Local Board	4443	686
Waitematā Local Board	4247	685
Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board	318	661

4.3.6 Dog attacks (by local board area)

Local board	On animals	On people	Total attacks
Henderson-Massey Local Board	168	129	297
Manurewa Local Board	135	133	268
Ōtara-Papatoetoe Local Board	126	111	237
Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board	95	104	199
Franklin Local Board	122	65	187
Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board	81	80	161
Papakura Local Board	77	83	160
Rodney Local Board	121	28	149
Hibiscus and Bays Local Board	94	53	147
Howick Local Board	59	71	130
Whau Local Board	66	61	127
Albert-Eden Local Board	48	55	103
Waitākere Ranges Local Board	52	36	88
Kaipātiki Local Board	44	41	85
Ōrākei Local Board	41	43	84
Upper Harbour Local Board	49	33	82
Waitematā Local Board	37	41	78
Puketāpapa Local Board	33	28	61
Devonport-Takapuna Local Board	36	19	55
Waiheke Local Board	14	8	22
Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board	2	0	2

4.4 Enforcement

4.4.1 Prosecutions and appeals

Court	FY25	FY26
District Court Manukau	61	52
District Court Auckland	34	41
District Court Papakura	14	13
District Court Waitākere	13	12
District Court North Shore	8	12
District Court Pukekohe	4	4
High Court Appeal	5	11
Court of Appeal	1	4
Supreme Court Appeal	1	0
Total prosecutions and appeals filed <i>(Note: There may be more than one charge in many of these prosecutions)</i>	141	149

4.4.2 Nuisance abatement notices (NANs)

Category	FY25	FY26
NANs issued	41	46
Number of properties NANs issued to	40	45

4.4.3 Objection hearings (Regulatory and Safety Committee)

Category	Outcome	Total
Objection to Section 33A classification	All upheld	3
Objection to Probationary classification	None	0
Objection to Disqualification	All upheld	4
Objection to NAN	None	0

4.4.4 Classifications issued

Classification	Field teams	HAS	MAS	SAS	Total
Section 33A – Menacing Dog	289	18	127	26	460
Section 33C – Menacing Dog	4	33	126	30	193
Section 31 – Dangerous Dog	0	3	0	0	3
Total classifications issued	293	54	253	56	656

4.4.5 Infringement notices issued (by offence)

Infringement notices issued relating to the Dog Control Act 1996		FY25	FY26
Section	Description of offence	Total infringements	
18	Wilful obstruction of dog control officer or ranger	19	18

19(2)	Failure or refusal to supply information or wilfully providing false particulars	15	7
19A(2)	Failure to supply information or wilfully providing false particulars about dog	6	6
20(5)	Failure to comply with any bylaw authorised by the Section	4008	2208
23A(2)	Failure to undertake dog owner education programme or dog obedience course (or both)	15	31
24	Failure to comply with obligations of probationary owner	3	6
28(5)	Failure to comply with the effects of disqualification	56	82
32(2)	Failure to comply with the effects of classification of dog as dangerous dog	3	2
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	514	468
33F(3)	Failure to advise person of muzzle and leashing requirements	1	2
36A(6)	Failure to implant microchip transponder in dog	91	136
41	False statement relating to dog registration	0	2
41A	Falsely notifying death of dog	4	26
42	Failure to register dog ⁸	10,149	9849
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	8	20
49(4)	Failure to advise change of address	14	26
51(1)	Removal, swapping, or counterfeiting of registration label or disc	5	2
52A(3)	Failure to keep dog controlled or confined	373	967
53(1)	Failure to keep dog under control	2064	3486
54(2)	Failure to provide proper care and attention, to supply proper and sufficient food, and to provide adequate exercise	9	10
54A(2)	Failure to carry leash in public	2	3
55(7)	Failure to comply with barking dog abatement notice	83	58
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	4
Total infringements issued		17,430	17,419

⁸ 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 shelters⁹

4.5.1 Impounded dogs (summary)

Category	% of total	HAS	MAS	SAS	FY25	FY26
Dogs impounded		2214	5817	1562	10,214	↓ 9593
Claimed / Returned to owner	↑ 38.9	Not supplied separately			(35.1%) 3585	↑ 3734
Euthanised	↓ 56.8	Not supplied separately			(60.1%) 6079	↓ 5443
Adopted / Transferred to rescues	↑ 4.1	Not supplied separately			(3.3%) 332	↑ 394

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)	37.9	867	2194	573	3634
Roaming at large (public place)	21.3	447	1300	296	2043
No current registration	8.0	192	421	152	765
Attack on person or animal	7.3	183	371	150	704
Dropped off at shelter by member of public	7.0	137	487	47	671
Relinquish (voluntary surrender by owner)	6.0	159	261	159	579
Welfare concerns	4.7	53	343	58	454
Not under control or confined on owner's property	2.7	49	180	26	255
Dog rushing / aggressive behaviour	1.3	30	75	16	121
At large on private property w/o consent of occupier	1.1	33	40	36	109
Failure to comply with disqualified owner	1.0	28	48	23	99
Dead	<1	11	54	1	66
Failure to comply with menacing dog classification	<1	13	18	8	39
Breach of abatement notice (barking / howling)	<1	7	12	7	26
Breach of conditions of release under Section 71	<1	3	10	4	17
Court order for destruction of dog	<1	1	2	6	9
Police assist	<1		1		1
Failure to comply with dangerous dog classification	<1	1			1
Total impounds		2214	5817	1562	9593

4.5.3 Outgoing dog totals (by exit reason or outcome)

Exit reason	% of total	Total
Euthanised	56.2	5443
Claimed by owner (released from shelter)	32.9	3187
Returned to owner by AMO	4.4	429
Adopted	3	286
Released on conditions (Section 71)	1.2	118
Transferred rescue groups or breed rescues	1.1	108
Dead on arrival	<1	81
Transferred to SPCA	<1	15
Died in shelter	<1	15
Stolen or escaped from shelter	0	0
Total exits		9682

⁹ 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	487	Staffordshire Bull Terrier	1,545	Pit Bull Terrier	230
Pit Bull Terrier	283	Pit Bull Terrier	1,150	Staffordshire Bull	214
American Staffordshire Terrier	189	Shar Pei	517	American Staffordshire Terrier	132
Labrador Retriever	173	American Staffordshire Terrier	431	Shar Pei	129
Shar Pei	167	Labrador Retriever	340	Labrador Retriever	116
Mastiff	117	Mastiff	331	Mastiff	93
American Bulldog	87	American Bulldog	195	Huntaway	63
Huntaway	76	Huntaway	166	American Bulldog	60
Rottweiler	57	German Shepherd	143	Border Collie	60
German Shepherd	49	Rottweiler	141	German Shepherd	53
Border Collie	44	Siberian Husky	109	Rottweiler	37
Siberian Husky	41	Border Collie	104	Siberian Husky	31
Bull Mastiff	37	Jack Russell Terrier	54	Australian Cattle	22
Rhodesian Ridgeback	26	Bearded Collie	52	Bull Mastiff	21
Shih Tzu	24	Australian Cattle	41	Bull Terrier	21

4.5.5 Most impounded dogs (by suburb)

Henderson Shelter (HAS)		Manukau Shelter (MAS)		Silverdale Shelter (SAS)	
Suburb	Total	Suburb	Total	Suburb	Total
Henderson	328	Manurewa	906	Massey	116
Massey	101	Otara	618	Silverdale	76
Glen Eden	100	Papakura	551	Henderson	52
Ranui	97	Mangere	523	Manurewa	43
Mount Wellington	88	Mangere East	356	Otara	43
Avondale	87	Papatoetoe	321	Papakura	41
Mount Roskill	65	Pukekohe	215	Hobsonville	35
Mangere	58	Manukau Central	205	Mangere	35
Manurewa	58	Weymouth	166	West Harbour	31
New Lynn	57	Takanini	161	Beach Haven	28
Onehunga	55	Flat Bush	136	Ranui	27
Te Atatu South	53	Clendon Park	131	Avondale	25
Point England	46	Mount Wellington	122	Randwick Park	25
Otahuhu	43	Randwick Park	114	Mount Roskill	23
Panmure	39	Otahuhu	77	Mount Wellington	23
Sunnyvale	39	Mangere Bridge	74	Papatoetoe	22
Te Atatu Peninsula	38	Drury	65	Point England	22
Remuera	35	Glen Innes	65	Glen Eden	21
Otara	34	Point England	53	Glenfield	21

4.5.6 Total dogs impounded (by local board area)

Local board	% of total	Total
Manurewa Local Board	17.1	1638
Ōtara-Papatoetoe Local Board	13.9	1333
Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board	13.4	1285
Henderson-Massey Local Board	10.1	968
Papakura Local Board	9.1	874
Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board	7.8	746
Franklin Local Board	5.5	530
Howick Local Board	3.9	377
Whau Local Board	3.0	290
Waitākere Ranges Local Board	2.3	218
Rodney Local Board	2.0	188
Albert-Eden Local Board	1.9	186
Hibiscus and Bays Local Board	1.9	180
Puketāpapa Local Board	1.6	157
Ōrākei Local Board	1.6	154
Kaipātiki Local Board	1.6	150
Upper Harbour Local Board	1.3	124
Waitematā Local Board	1.3	121
Devonport-Takapuna Local Board	<1	59
Waiheke Local Board	<1	10
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)	56	101	43	200
Classified as menacing – Section 33C (breed/type)	103	306	60	469
Classified as dangerous – Section 31	2	5	0	7
Dogs with current registration	1693	3177	1183	(63%) 6053
Dogs with functioning microchip	1708	3175	1237	(64%) 6120
Desexed	457	705	364	(16%) 1526
Known dogs	1489	2874	1118	(57%) 5481
1 st impounding	1584	4572	1141	(76%) 7297
2 nd impounding	339	697	235	(13%) 1271
3 rd impounding or more	292	547	186	(11%) 1025

4.5.8 Other animals impounded (public and temporary pounds)

Species	HAS	MAS	SAS	Total
Goats	4	1	31	36
Sheep	21	0	14	35
Poultry	4	1	1	6
Pigs	0	1	4	5
Horses	0	3	1	4
Cattle	0	3	0	3
Ducks	2	0	0	2
Total impounds	31	9	51	91

4.5.9 Euthanasia¹⁰ (by reason)

Reason for euthanasia	FY25	FY26
Failed temperament test	3307	3567
Shelter full	1613	934
Health issues (determined by a veterinarian)	366	267
Infectious disease (Parvo virus)	365	278
Involved in an attack (Section 57)	290	255
Involved in a rushing incident (Section 57A)	42	35
No longer suitable for adoption	43	40
Order for destruction made by court	27	42
Classified as menacing (Section 33A - behaviour)	24	24
Classified as dangerous (Section 31)	2	1
Total euthanised	6079	5443

4.6 Vet clinic and desexing

4.6.1 Desexing referral method

Referral method	FY26
Shelter	(30%) 640
AMO	(29%) 612
Owner	(16%) 347
Adoption dog	(11%) 235
Unknown	(8%) 165
External Vet	(5%) 106
External organisation	(1%) 29

¹⁰ 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.

4.6.2 Top 10 breeds desexed by clinic

Primary Breed	FY26
Staffordshire Bull Terrier	397
Pit Bull Terrier	346
Shar Pei	204
Labrador Retriever	145
American Staffordshire Terrier	121
Mastiff	74
American Bulldog	64
Huntaway	64
Rottweiler	58
Not specified	149

4.6.3 Top 10 suburbs desexed by clinic

Suburb	Male	Female	Total
Manurewa	87	93	180
Massey	72	79	151
Otara	71	78	149
Henderson	72	65	137
Mangere	59	52	111
Papakura	59	36	95
Ranui	30	38	68
Mangere East	36	29	65
Pukekohe	22	33	55
Papatoetoe	16	29	45

4.7 Dog walker registration

4.7.1 Top 20 dog walker registrations by suburb

Suburb	FY26
Grey Lynn	30
Whenuapai	21
Parnell	15
Stanmore Bay	9
Glen Eden	8
Onehunga	8
Massey	7
Beach Haven	6
Beachlands	6
Helensville	6
Taupaki	6
Henderson	5
Kumeu	5
Mount Albert	5
Orewa	5
Parau	5
Te Atatu Peninsula	5
Titirangi	5
Ararimu Valley	4
Birkenhead	4
Epsom	4
Hillsborough	4
Kohimarama	4
Total	177

4.7.2 Top walker application type

Application type	FY26
Commercial Dog Walking Business	242
Dog Owner	31
Dog Breeder	5
Dog Fosterer	4
Dog Rescuer	16
Total	298

Abbreviations and indicators

MAS	Manukau Animal Shelter
HAS	Henderson Animal Shelter
SAS	Silverdale Animal Shelter
PAC	Pukekohe Adoption 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. FY26 is financial year 2025/2026
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 2025.	

