

ATTACHMENTS

**Ordinary District Dog Control Committee
Meeting**

28 May 2026

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**TAUPŌ DISTRICT COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY DISTRICT DOG CONTROL COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, LEVEL 1, 67 HOROMĀTANGI STREET, TAUPŌ
ON THURSDAY, 30 APRIL 2026 AT 10.00AM**

PRESENT: Cr Kevin Taylor, Mayor John Funnell, Cr Hope Woodward

IN ATTENDANCE: Cr Nicola de Lautour (until 10.28am)

General Manager – Strategy and Environment (W Zander until 12.12pm), General Manager – People and Community Partnerships (H Tattle until 12.12pm), Environmental Services Manager (J Sparks), Compliance and Regulatory Manager (C Tait), Senior Compliance Officer (T Dobbyn), Compliance Team Leader (A Gradwell), Compliance Officer (R Klue), Compliance Officer (M Smith), Compliance Officer (N Marshall), Senior Committee Advisor (K Watts), Legal and Governance Coordinator (M Cammell)

MEDIA AND PUBLIC: 2 members of the public

1 KARAKIA

2 WHAKAPĀHA | APOLOGIES

DDC202604/01 RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Kevin Taylor

Seconded: Mayor John Funnell

That the apology received from Cr Christine Rankin be accepted.

CARRIED

Note: All members present at the District Dog Control Committee meeting voted in favour of resolution DDC202604/01 above.

3 NGĀ WHAKAPĀNGA TUKITUKI | CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil

4 WHAKAMANATANGA O NGĀ MENETI | CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Nil

5 NGĀ KAUPAPA HERE ME NGĀ WHAKATAUNGA | POLICY AND DECISION MAKING

5.1 OBJECTION TO MENACING CLASSIFICATION- JONAH 256441

The Chair of the committee explained the process of District Dog Control Committees and how the meeting was going to run. Dog Control Committees were quasi-judicial and decisions were binding. There were four things to take into consideration; the evidence which formed the basis of the classification of the dog, any steps the owner had taken to prevent threat of safety to people or animals, matters the objector was relying on in support of their objection, and any other relevant matters they wished to address. Nothing outside of the four things that the statute required would be considered. The objector would be given plenty of opportunity to present and question as the meeting went on.

The first objection to menacing was for Jonah, registration number 256441.

The Compliance and Regulatory Manager introduced himself and the Senior Compliance Officer. He outlined the purpose of the classification and its application. He highlighted that the classification was a behavior tool meant to prevent risk. The dog had not yet met the threshold to be classified as dangerous and this menacing classification had allowed them to step in early.

The Senior Compliance Officer then described the incident in May 2025 that resulted in the menacing classification. The dog, Jonah, had attacked another dog that was tethered to its property while he was roaming. The Compliance team felt that behavior presented a clear risk to other dogs in application of Section 33A(1)(b)(i) of the Dog Control Act 1996 (the Act). The Senior Compliance Officer did note that the dog's owner had made improvements to their property to prevent the dog from pushing through the gate and roaming again.

In response to the compliance team's evidence, the committee members queried the following:

- The matrix that the compliance team used to classify the dog as menacing was developed by the New Zealand Institute of Animal Management.
- To classify a dog as dangerous, the compliance team would have to gather sworn evidence regarding the dog's behaviour. The witnesses in this case would not provide more evidence in order to do so but the scoring on the matrix was within the threshold to classify the dog as dangerous.

The objector then had an opportunity to ask questions of the compliance team. In response to queries, the following was clarified:

- There were two matrixes in the agenda. One matrix scored Jonah at 23 points and the menacing classification applied to dogs scoring between 24-27 points. The matrix was a guide- not a rule. It was meant to remove bias. The matrixes were reviewed by a more senior compliance officer and there was often a discrepancy in scoring.
- The completion date of 1 January 2025 on one of the matrixes was an administrative error. It would have predated when the incident occurred.
- At the time of the incident, the victim dog owner did not want to proceed with providing a statement because the objector was going to pay the vet bills for the victim dog. When this did not happen, they decided to give a statement.
- The witness statements were not taken together. The Senior Compliance Officer took the statement for the victim and a colleague took the other.
- When a compliance officer referred to closing something off they were referring to "closing off" an internal service request- not an investigation. An investigation could be reopened at any time with any information the team felt was relevant.

Before the time to question the compliance team ended, the committee members had a few follow up questions. In response to queries, the following was clarified:

- Without a statement from a witness, Council would not have evidence of the observed or reported behaviour per the Act required to classify a dog as menacing and the investigation would not have moved forward.
- In some cases, compliance officers could classify a dog owner as probationary and they would have to attend obedience classes but that result did not apply to cases such as this. Compliance officers also complete property inspections and make suggestions as to things dog owners could do to make sure there was not another incident. This was done in this case; however, the onus was on the dog owner to be aware of their responsibilities.
- The compliance team did not have the resourcing to ensure all menacing classifications were complied with, however, there were provisions in the Act for failing to comply. If a dog with a menacing classification was seen in public unmuzzled they could be fined or Council could hold the dog in custody until the owner complied.

The Chair then invited the objector to present any steps they had taken as the dog's owner to prevent threat of safety to person or animal. The objector highlighted that she did offer to pay the vet bill at the time of the incident but an invoice from the vet was not provided to her. She had also requested a copy of the photos of the victim dog's injuries because she questioned whether her dog, an 8-year-old American bulldog with no teeth, could have caused them. She claimed that Jonah had one lower fang that was chipped, no top fangs and rotten teeth in general.

The Chair asked the objector if she had photos of the dog's teeth to provide the committee to which she stated that they were not printed but on her phone. The Chair requested that the objector send the photos via email to the Environmental Services Manager and asked whether the objector was arguing that it was not her dog that caused the injury to the victim dog.

The objector noted that there were differences in the witness statements and that some of the fencing was chain link which could have been the cause of the victim dog's injuries if he jumped the fence.

The following was discussed:

- The report from the vet stated that there were lower teeth punctures of the gum of the victim dog and two teeth puncture holes on the left-hand side gum. It did not say the injuries were caused by wire.
- While the vet was told the injuries were caused by a dog attack, the committee could not presume to know what the vet was thinking or if they had considered that the injuries could have been caused by anything else.
- The compliance team was not told at the time of the incident that Jonah did not have teeth.
- The objector described Jonah as brown with white patches, blind with a bulging eye and quite large. The Chair pointed out that this description matched that of one of the witness statements.
- The objector referenced a witness statement on page 14 paragraph 5 that did not say anything about the attacking dog or which of the neighbours dogs attacked to which the Chair pointed out that the paragraph above that provided further detail.
- The objector was not arguing that her dog was not there during the incident but believed that Jonah was not the aggressor, he was on property that the other dogs do not live on and both dogs had gone over the fence.
- The Chair noted that the victim dog was chained and not moving at the time of the incident to which the objector said the dog was not chained when she saw it.
- There was some debate over whether the dogs were on the neighbour's property or the victim dog's property. It was established that the victim dog's owner and the neighbouring home were family members so it would not be uncommon for family members to have each other's dogs on their properties.

The objector had some technical difficulties with sending the photos of her dog's teeth via email. Instead, a member of the committee took a picture of the picture on her phone, showed it to the Chair and also sent it to the committee member who was online via text message. The objector described the photos as being of the side view of Jonah's upper and lower teeth.

The objector then asserted that all the dogs were on the wrong property and dogs were pack animals and she did not believe the fight was one-on-one. When questioned by a member she stated that there were no other marks on any other dogs.

The following was discussed:

- The objector had seen the photos of the victim dog which led to the question of how could Jonah do that damage when he had half of one fang.
- She once again referred to the chain link fence and stated that she had seen injuries caused by chain link fences on animals when she lived on a farm.
- The Chair and the objector once again discussed what was stated in the vet report about the cause of the victim dog's injuries.

The Chair then asked if there were any other matters the objector would like to put to the committee to consider. The objector once again stated that all of this came about because of the unpaid bill. She did not believe her dog had attacked the victim dog and it was more likely to have happened because of dogs going over fences and being on the wrong properties in her opinion. She felt that there was no proof that the injuries on the victim dog were caused by Jonah and the witnesses had too much time between the incident occurring and statements being made which could have led to fabrication of details.

The mother of the objector was also present and stated that she had seen the dogs being driven around in the back of a ute soon after the incident occurred which she had found suspicious.

The objector then informed the committee that the offending dog, Jonah, no longer lived on her property. He had been sent to live in Tolaga Bay. The Chair questioned the dog owner history that was included in the attachments on the agenda in which there were several reports relating to the objector's dog ownership. The objector acknowledged that Jonah often took himself for walks and went roaming but she was not aware of

any other incidents.

The Chair wrapped up this portion of the meeting by asking for any other questions of the objector. Members asked a few questions of clarification:

- The victim dog's owner was not present and would not address the committee.
- In response to this incident, the objector sent Jonah to Tolaga Bay and had reinforced the gate on her property so dogs were no longer able to escape.

The Chair then adjourned the meeting from 11.25am to 12pm so that members could deliberate in private.

The meeting was reconvened at 12pm. The Chair reminded all present that no recording or photography was allowed. He then described the committee's responsibilities according to the Act. The law was two-fold regarding menacing dog classifications and could be invoked for two reasons. One being behaviour of the dog and the risk it might pose to people or animals or virtue of it's breed. The second condition was not being considered- just the dog's behavior was taken into account. There were four matters the committee was required to consider; the evidence presented, any steps taken by the owner to mitigate behaviour, matters relied on in support of the objection and any other relevant matters. The Chair confirmed that the committee had read the evidence and heard from the compliance team. They had also heard from the owner and thanked her for attending and the information she presented. Based on what they had heard, the committee was satisfied that Jonah had been adequately identified in terms of the balance of probabilities as being the dog involved in the incident and based on witness statements stating that they had seen a white and brown dog.

In response to issues raised by the objector, the Chair addressed the following:

- Addressing the variances in the matrixes, the Chair noted that the original matrix put the dog into the "dangerous" classification but that had been downgraded by a more senior staff member. The second number put it marginally below the standard for classifying a dog as menacing but the matrix was only one of the tools used to determine classifications.
- In regard to the vet bill and what the vet may or may not have been told about the incident, the committee did not have independent information to verify so they had to take what was presented at face value. The vet described puncture wounds and tooth marks. The committee was satisfied that a dog attack was what happened to the victim dog.
- Motivation (for submitting witness statements) was also challenged but it was not a matter upon which the committee could rely to make a determination about this classification.
- The objector also brought up a variance in statements. The committee respectfully felt that rather than being suspicious, it added credibility to the statements; unless they were completely contradictory. If statements were identical it was likely that people had colluded and agreed on what statement they would provide.
- The objector also brought up that the injuries on the victim dog could have been caused by the chain link fence, however, photographs were shown to the committee that confirmed that Jonah had at least one fang with which he could cause injury. The standard in this case is not to prove "beyond a reasonable doubt" such as would be required in a criminal jurisdiction. The committee did not have to judge things on that basis here and they were comfortable that Jonah had been involved in the incident and that the injuries sustained on the victim dog were the result of an attack. They were also comfortable that the matrix was an accurate reflection of the event that day.

The committee acknowledged the work done on the part of the objector to improve the fencing on her property and move Jonah out of the district. They also acknowledged how difficult it was to come before a committee such as this in a foreign environment.

The committee then voted on the resolution.

DDC202604/02 RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Kevin Taylor

Seconded: Mayor John Funnell

That the District Dog Control Committee upholds the menacing dog classification for Jonah

CARRIED

Note: All members present at the District Dog Control Committee meeting voted in favour of resolution DDC202604/02 above.

The meeting was adjourned at 12.11pm and reconvened at 12.13pm.

5.2 OBJECTION TO MENACING CLASSIFICATION - ROXY 257286

The Chair introduced the next item on the agenda which was an objection to menacing classification for Roxy. He briefly described the process of this committee and how it works. He once again described the four things that the committee would consider in the objector's appeal to the classification; the evidence which formed the basis of the classification of the dog, any steps the owner had taken to prevent threat of safety to people or animals, matters the objector was relying on in support of their objection, and any other relevant matters they wished to address.

This process was a quasi-judicial hearing; like a courtroom but at a lower level. In that respect the standard they used was the civil standard which was the balance of probabilities. This standard was different than the criminal standard which was "beyond a reasonable doubt."

The Compliance and Regulatory Manager then gave the same introduction that he had for the previous agenda item. He also noted that there was a small mistake in the "Background" section of Roxy's report. It should state that the "owner then untied the dog and walked to her vehicle with her unleashed dog."

The Senior Compliance Officer then described the incident. In February 2026, while tethered and unattended outside of Pak n Save, Roxy bit a person. The Compliance team felt that the dog's behaviour in a public setting presented a clear risk to people in application of Section 33A(1)(b)(i) of the Dog Control Act 1996 (the Act). The dog's owner had acknowledged that the dog was unattended in a public area and had taken steps to indicate change.

The committee members were then allowed to ask questions of the compliance team. In response to queries, the following was clarified:

- The dog was sitting calmly outside the store prior to being approached by the victim.

Committee members felt it would be helpful to then view CCTV footage (A3937992) of the incident which was shared to the screens in the Chambers via a compliance team member's laptop.

Following the viewing of the CCTV footage a member asked the dog owner what steps had been taken since the incident.

In response to queries, the following was clarified:

- Since the incident, the dog had been muzzled in public and the owner had not taken it back to Pak n Save.
- Another biting incident had not occurred since February 2026. The dog's owner had people approach her and ask to pet the dog. She always assessed her first to see if she was ok with being pet. Some people asked permission to pet the dog or they just ignored her.

The Chair noted that the committee had jumped ahead of procedure a bit and now was the time to ask questions of the compliance team rather than the objector.

The objector was then allowed to ask questions of the compliance team.

In response to queries, the following was clarified:

- The objector was issued a \$300.00 fine for having an unleashed dog in a public area. Pak n Save's carpark was privately owned but still considered a public area for the purposes of this infringement.

The objector felt that her dog should not receive a consequence for human error. She stated that she should not have left her where she did but the victim had invaded the dog's privacy. As soon as she came out of Pak n Save, Roxy was happy to see her and was under control when she walked her to her van.

The Chair referred to the four areas to be addressed and asked if the objector had any other evidence to present. The objector referred to the video that showed that her dog was calm and not upset.

When asked if she had taken any steps to prevent an incident like this from happening in the future, she noted again that she had muzzled Roxy in public and had not brought her back to Pak n Save. Even though

she was not yet required to muzzle Roxy she had already done so for their walks along the lakefront.

The Chair asked if there was any other information that the objector would like the committee to take into consideration. The objector stated that this was a one-off mistake caused by the dog feeling threatened. She had never done something like this before. Roxy was registered and chipped and had been to puppy school. The objector stated that she did not see the justification for having Roxy spayed as part of the menacing classification.

A member asked some follow-up questions of the compliance team. In response to queries, the following was clarified:

- The risk factors ticked on page 111 of the agenda were taken into account when reviewing the incident. The injury severity was not considered serious, the dog initiated the encounter in terms of aggressive behaviour, there was not another dog involved, the incident occurred in a public place, the dog was left in an area where it could be approached by members of the public.
- While the owner had cooperated, there was a likelihood of recurrence based on posts on the objector's Facebook page that depicted the dog on the lakefront unleashed and unmuzzled.
- There was no indication in the statement of the witness whether the pat was friendly.

The Chair then asked if there was anything else the objector would like to share with the committee. The following was discussed:

- The objector was hopeful that the committee would take the last 3 years without any incidents into consideration.
- The objector did not believe spaying Roxy was justified based on human error.
- While the objector did not believe the victim was at fault, she also thought that the victim could have had anything in her hands.
- The objector had purchased a sign for Roxy's leash that said "please ask before you approach." She was motivated to purchase it so that a similar incident would not happen again as she felt that Roxy would be watched closely. The Chair asked if the sign on the leash indicated that the objector had concerns about Roxy's potential for another incident. The objector noted that she had qualms with humans who thought they could approach someone else's dog.
- Once again it was noted that the objector now muzzled Roxy in public.
- Having the dog spayed was a consequence of the menacing classification.

The Chair then adjourned the meeting from 12.52pm until 1.22pm to allow the committee to deliberate in private.

When the committee returned the Chair thanked the objector for her patience and noted that the reason they took longer than 20 minutes was that they take these matters very seriously. He said that he would be speaking to the matters legally and look at what they'd heard from the objector and compliance team. He was not going to give an indication of which way they were going until they put it to a vote.

In summary, the Chair stated that in regard to agenda item 5.2 Objection to Menacing – Roxy 257286, the committee had heard from the compliance team and the objector. Prior to hearing from the team the committee had received the agenda with matters relating to the incident. He thanked the objector for attending and presenting. There were four matters to take into account:

- The first was the evidence which formed the basis for the classification. There was no argument that this incident involved Roxy. There was also no argument that the victim was bitten (the chair also noted that the objector had referred to Roxy as a victim as well).
- Secondly, they had to consider the steps the owner had taken to prevent an incident like this from occurring again. The Chair acknowledged that the objector had muzzled Roxy in public, was intending to buy a coat or collar with a sign that said "check before petting" or "check with mum." The Chair also acknowledged that the objector had said she would not leave Roxy in that position again. This incident was caused by human error on the objector's part and human error on the part of the person who pet the dog. While CCTV was very unclear and from a distance, it was evident that Roxy was tied up outside Pak n Save and it was a public place.
- Next was matters the objector relied upon in support of the objection. In the objector's mind, the dog made a mistake, it was human error and the mitigating factor for the objector was the victim who was bitten should not have approached a dog they did not know. The Chair said that this matter, specifically, was discussed by the committee in deliberation.

- As far as other relevant matters, the Chair said he was struggling to find something in terms of what they had heard and read that could be considered relevant. There would be some knock-on consequences if the classification remained but that was not something they could take into consideration. The fact remained, the dog did bite someone and there were injuries.

The Chair acknowledged that the decisions of this committee affected people and he did not take that lightly. He then read the recommendation.

DDC202604/03 RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Kevin Taylor
Seconded: Mayor John Funnell

That the District Dog Control Committee upholds the menacing classification for Roxy

In Favour: Cr Kevin Taylor, Mayor John Funnell

Against: Cr Hope Woodward

CARRIED

6 NGĀ KŌRERO TŪMATAITI | CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

Nil

The meeting closed at 1.35pm.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Ordinary District Dog Control Committee Meeting held on 28 May 2026.

.....
CHAIRPERSON

3/9/26, 3:08 PM

Dog Control Act 1996 | New Zealand Legislation

Territorial authority may classify dog as menacing

This section applies to a dog that—

- (a) has not been classified as a dangerous dog under [section 31](#); but
- (b) a territorial authority considers may pose a threat to any person, stock, poultry, domestic animal, or protected wildlife because of—
 - (i) any observed or reported behaviour of the dog; or
 - (ii) any characteristics typically associated with the dog's breed or type.

A territorial authority may, for the purposes of [section 33E\(1\)\(a\)](#), classify a dog to which this section applies as a menacing dog.

If a dog is classified as a menacing dog under subsection (2), the territorial authority must immediately give written notice in the prescribed form to the owner of—

- (a) the classification; and
- (b) the provisions of [section 33E](#) (which relates to the effect of classification as a menacing dog); and
- (c) the right to object to the classification under [section 33B](#); and
- (d) if the territorial authority's policy is not to require the neutering of menacing dogs (or would not require the neutering of the dog concerned), the effect of [sections 33EA](#) and [33EB](#) if the owner does not object to the classification and the dog is moved to the district of another territorial authority.

Section 33A: inserted, on 1 December 2003, by [section 21](#) of the Dog Control Amendment Act 2003 (2003 No 119).

Section 33A(3): amended, on 1 November 2004, by [section 10](#) of the Dog Control Amendment Act 2004 (2004 No 61).

Section 33A(3)(c): amended, on 28 June 2006, by section 13 of the Dog Control Amendment Act 2006 (2006 No 23).

Section 33A(3)(d): added, on 28 June 2006, by section 13 of the Dog Control Amendment Act 2006 (2006 No 23).

Animals - Dog Attack

Request Summary

Classification: Request for Service
 Reference Id: REQ2026-000206
 Tracking Number: REQ2026-000206.COL
 Received: 02-Jan-2026 13:39:14
 Priority:
 Status: Active
 Recategorised From: REQ2026-000047
 Stage: In Progress
 Source: NA
 Address:
 Detail: 02/01/2026 | 1.13 |

Details of the event: Dog attack on dog then person outside of -Time & date of incident 10:30am 01/01/2025 -Where incident occurred outside of -What occurred: Offending dog attacked caller's dog and also caller (when he tried to get the dog off their's). Caller advised they were walking on the pavement and as passed the house of the dog shot out from the door way straight to their dog and started biting it right away. It wouldn't let go and a person looking after the dog ran out trying to chase it. Caller wrestled the offending dog to release their dog (the carer of the dog from the house pulled then collar locked dog in the house. They came back out once this had happened to check on caller and dog. Caller advised that the dog was not the carer's dog but their girlfriend's dog. -Description of dog/s - colour sex breed collar tags: XL Bull dog type light tan colour pretty sure it is female and a collar. -Address of dogs if known: -Location of dog/s at time of call: N/A -Details of any injury received: Puncture marks are on the front of the chest and top of the left front leg. Dog has been taken to the vet in Taumaranui overnight is still there. Hoping to pick up at 4:30pm this afternoon. Caller went to ED minor lacerations on thumb wrist and both hands. Location:

Categorisation

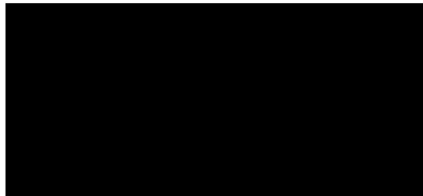
Request Type Animal Management
 Request Category Animals - Dog Attack

Stage Updates

Date Completed Stage
 05-Jan-2026 In Progress
 05-Jan-2026 New Request

Customer

Customer ID:
 First Name:
 Surname:
 Email Address:
 Phone Number:
 Address:
 Notification By:





Service Request: REQ2026-000206

TERMS OF REFERENCE

INVESTIGATION INTO AN ALLEGED OFFENCE UNDER THE DOG CONTROL ACT 1996

1. BACKGROUND

PROVIDE A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE INCIDENT AND CIRCUMSTANCES THAT LED TO THE INVESTIGATION:

On 02/01/2026 1:39:14 PM Council received a report that a dog owned by [REDACTED] allegedly attacked another dog at [REDACTED]. The alleged conduct may constitute an offence under sections of the Dog Control Act 1996.

2. LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

THIS INVESTIGATION IS CONDUCTED UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE DOG CONTROL ACT 1996, IN PARTICULAR (cross which applies):

<input type="checkbox"/> - Section 32(2): Offence of Failing to comply with classification of dog as dangerous dog <input type="checkbox"/> - Section 33EC(1): Offence of Failing to comply with classification of dog as menacing dog <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> - Section 52A: Control of dog on owners' property <input type="checkbox"/> - Section 53: Offence of failing to keep dog under control	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> - Section 57: Dogs attacking persons or animals <input type="checkbox"/> - Section 57A: Dogs rushing at persons, animals, or vehicles <input type="checkbox"/> - Section 58: Dogs causing serious injury
Specify any other relevant bylaws or sections of the Act: Click or tap here to enter text.	



3. PURPOSE OF THE INVESTIGATION

THE PURPOSE OF THIS INVESTIGATION IS TO:

- Establish the facts and circumstances surrounding the alleged offence.
- Determine whether an offence under the Dog Control Act 1996 has been committed.
- Identify the dog(s) and owner(s)/person(s) in control of the dog that were involved.
- Assess the risk posed by the dog(s) to public safety.
- Recommend appropriate enforcement action in accordance with legislation, Council policy, and evidential standards.

4. SCOPE OF INVESTIGATION

MATTERS WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THIS INVESTIGATION:

- Gathering and assessing evidence relating to the incident.
- Interviewing the complainant(s), witnesses, and the dog owner(s).
- Conducting site visits and inspections.
- Reviewing veterinary or medical reports (If applicable).
- Reviewing the dog and owner history with Council records.
- Consulting with NZ Police or other external agencies if relevant.

MATTERS OUT OF THE SCOPE OF THIS INVESTIGATION:

- Civil liability or compensation matters.
- Broader policy changes or unrelated complaints.

5. INVESTIGATION PROCESS

THE INVESTIGATION WILL FOLLOW THESE KEY STEPS:

- a. Initial assessment of incident
- b. Evidence gathering
 - i. photographs, video footage, physical evidence



- ii. witness statements
- iii. veterinary/ medical reports
- iv. compliance officer observations
- c. Owner interview and opportunity to respond.
- d. Analysis of evidence against legislative requirements
- e. Risk assessment of the dog's behaviour
- f. Findings and recommendations
- g. Report submission for review.
- h. Enforcement decision and execution.

6. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

LEAD INVESTIGATOR / COMPLIANCE OFFICER

Responsible for conducting the investigation, gathering evidence, interviewing parties, preparing the investigation file, and making recommendations on enforcements actions.

SENIOR COMPLIANCE OFFICER

Responsible for overseeing investigation, advising lead investigator when required, reviewing investigation file, and preparing summary of facts

COMPLIANCE AND REGULATORY MANAGER

Responsible for ensuring compliance with legislation, reviewing investigation file and approving final recommendations.

7. TIMEFRAMES

Investigation start date: 2/01/2026

Target completion date: 20/03/2026

Interim updates to be provided every week.

Start date 02.01.2026



8. STANDARDS AND PRINCIPLES

THE INVESTIGATION WILL BE CONDUCTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH:

- a. Dog Control Act 1996
- b. Council Dog Control Policy and Bylaws
- c. Evidence Act 2006
- d. Privacy Act 2020
- e. Search and Surveillance Act 2012

9. DELIVERABLES

THE INVESTIGATION FILE WILL CONTAIN THE FOLLOWING:

- a. Summary of incident and allegations
- b. Supporting evidence
- c. Assessment against relevant legal provisions
- d. Findings and conclusions
- e. Recommended enforcement actions

10. APPROVAL

THE TERMS OF REFERENCE IS APPROVED AND THE INVESTIGATION IS AUTHORISED TO PROCEED.

APPROVED BY:

X 

CO82
SENIOR COMPLIANCE OFFICER



Taupo District Council Incident Statement v1.0

Name: [REDACTED]

Date of birth:

Residential address: [REDACTED]

Telephone number: [REDACTED]

Email address: [REDACTED]

Incident: Dog attack

Caution:

My name is Taylor , I am Compliance Officer number 48 . I am warranted by council (produce warrant card) under Section 13 of the Dog Control Act 1996.

I have been informed that you may have information relating to an offence I am investigating.

I am speaking to you about (give reason).

You are not being detained.

You do not have to make any statement.

Anything you say will be recorded and may be given as evidence in court.

You are free to leave at anytime

Do you understand what I have just told you? **YES / NO**

This statement is being made to Compliance Officer:

Place: [REDACTED]

Time and Date: 1400pm - 05.01.2025

SR

Initial: [REDACTED]

Date: 6/1/26

1. The incident happened at approx. 10:30am on the 01.01.2026.
2. I was heading past property [REDACTED] walking Harry on lead to give him some exercise prior to leaving him home, as we had a big walk planned around Lake Roto pounamu.
3. We were on the left-hand side of [REDACTED] Street, this being the side property [REDACTED] is located on.
4. As we were walking past property [REDACTED] the next thing I knew, this attacking dog had come straight out of the property. I only noticed the dog at the very last moment, at which point it had a very clear intention, and that was to attack Harry.
5. There was no warning, just like a bullet — I have never seen a dog move so fast.
6. My initial reaction was to lift Harry up by his lead, but that would have resulted in him being strangled. However, this was too late as the dog had come in and grasped him around the chest area. To me, it looked as if he was trying to get to his neck.
7. I think the offending dog made at least two attempts at grabbing Harry, and my initial response was to attempt to grab hold of the jaws and pry it apart. Obviously, one could argue that this is probably not the most sensible thing to do, but I could see that if there wasn't some attempt made, Harry wouldn't be here today.
8. When I attempted to separate the attacking dog from Harry, primarily it was the attacking dog that made contact with my hands, due to the fact that I was in its mouth area trying to separate it from Harry.
9. This all happened so quickly, and I seem to recall, though I may be wrong, that it was the owner who pulled the attacking dog off. Whether or not he was choking it or not, somehow to get it to release Harry I'm not sure, but when it let go, he dragged the dog inside.
10. He shortly returned outside and was clearly shocked at what had happened and apologetic. He was concerned for the welfare of Harry, which is understandable. He offered to cover any vet bills involved; however, the sincerity behind this offer has still to be seen.
11. Harry has since been back to the vets twice the second time is because Harry was in so much pain, he was so unsettled the whole night whimpering and crying. He had multiple stitches plus two drains in his chest and is now on multiple medication to keep him comfortable, this costing us just over \$2,000 in vet treatment.

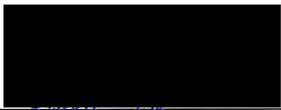

I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true and by virtue of the Oaths and Declarations Act 1957.

SR

Initial: [REDACTED]

Date: 6/1/26

 (Name of declarant)


 (Signature of declarant)

Date: 0th January 2026


Cons (Name or CO number of witness)

 (Signature of witness)

Date: 06/01/26

Time interview finished: 1300hrs

SR

Initial: 
Date: 01/26



**Taupo District Council
Incident Statement v1.0**

Name: [REDACTED]
 Date of birth: [REDACTED]
 Residential address: [REDACTED]
 Telephone number: [REDACTED]
 Email address: [REDACTED]

Incident: Dog attack

Caution:

My name is Taylor; I am Compliance Officer number 48 . I am warranted by council (produce warrant card) under Section 13 of the Dog Control Act 1996.

I have been informed that you may have information relating to an offence I am investigating.

I am speaking to you about the **dog attack that happened on the 01.01.2026**

You are not being detained.

You do not have to make any statement.

Anything you say will be recorded and may be given as evidence in court.

You are free to leave at anytime

Do you understand what I have just told you? **YES / NO**

This statement is being made to Compliance Officer:

Place: [REDACTED]

Time and Date: 1030am 05.01.2025

SR

Initial: [REDACTED]

Date: 6-1-26

1. The incident happened at approx. 10:30–11:00am on 01.01.2026.
2. I had taken Emmaus out of her kennel as I'm getting her used to being on the property. She would sit by me, follow me around the property off her lead, and she would listen.
3. At this time, Emmaus was sitting right next to me as I was off and on the bench press. She walked off towards the driveway entrance, so I started calling her, "Emmaus, come here," but this time she didn't listen, so I immediately stood up and walked after her.
4. I got to the entrance of my driveway and had seen Emmaus notice the other dog being walked on lead past the property by a male. I called her again, to which she heard me as she raised her head up.
5. She has continued to walk over to them and has approached from the back of them, to which she ended up on the road trying to sniff the other dog. She was interested in the dog however she didn't immediately attack the dog (without hesitation) she went around them to try sniff. What happened next was the other dog has freaked out, the smaller dog has panicked, and she has attacked Emmaus first, which to my belief is what caused Emmaus to react the way she did. That's what I recollect seeing.
6. There was a brief delay (approximately 4-5 seconds) between the meeting of both dogs to the incident happening, as I was only like 8ft away from this happening, so I saw it all happen.
7. What's happened is the smaller dog has been arcing up and attacked Emmaus first, which is why Emmaus has just grabbed the dog around the shoulder/chest area.
8. When Emmaus has made contact, the guy was yelling at me, "Get your dog, get your dog," which is when I ran over and have grabbed Emmaus around the neck area and placed her in a headlock. Emmaus hasn't released, so I've squeezed her unconscious, which only took a few seconds.
9. She released the dog after becoming unconscious. Her tongue went blue, so I hit her chest twice and she gained consciousness again.
10. I've collected Emmaus and have taken her back to her kennel and locked her inside, and then I ran inside to grab paper towels, band-aids, really anything to help the other dog owner.
11. I think when he has put his hands in to try separate the dogs, his dog has made contact with his hands, as Emmaus grabbed the dog once and hadn't let go, so it couldn't have been her. That's truly my belief of what has happened.

SR

Initial: 

Date: 6-1-26

I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true and by virtue of the Oaths and Declarations Act 1957.

[Redacted] (Name of declarant)

[Redacted] (Signature of declarant)

Date: 6-1-26
CONS (Name or CO number of witness)

[Handwritten Signature] (Signature of witness)

Date: 06.01.26

Time interview finished: 130pm

SR

Initial: [Redacted]
Date: 6/1/26



NOTICE OF SEIZURE AND REMOVAL OF DOG

TAUPO DISTRICT COUNCIL

Private Bag 2005, Taupo Mail Centre, Taupō 3352, New Zealand
 T 07 376 0899 - E info@taupo.govt.nz

To: [REDACTED] 0763
[name of owner or, if the owner is not present, name of person appearing to be in charge of land or premises]

Address: [REDACTED]

Tag No. or Name	Breed	Colour	Sex
EMMAUS - 279592	AB	Tis-Laka	Female

This is to notify you that the dog/s were seized and removed from the address above in accordance with the Dog Control Act 1996 as indicated below.

<input type="checkbox"/>	S. 15	Power of dog control officer or dog ranger to feed and shelter dogs
<input type="checkbox"/>	S. 32	Effect of classification as dangerous dog
<input type="checkbox"/>	S. 33EC	Offence to fail to comply with section 33E(1) or 33EB
<input type="checkbox"/>	S. 42	Offence of failing to register dog
<input type="checkbox"/>	S. 52	Control of dogs generally
<input type="checkbox"/>	S. 52A	Control of dog on owner's property
<input type="checkbox"/>	S. 55	Barking dogs
<input type="checkbox"/>	S. 56	Removal of barking dog causing distress
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	S. 57	Dogs attacking persons or animals
<input type="checkbox"/>	S. 57A	Dogs rushing at persons, animals, or vehicles

The owner* may apply for the return of the dog and should contact a Compliance Officer of the Taupo District Council for details.

The owner may be required, within 7 days of the date of this notice to pay any fees incurred in the seizure, custody, sustenance, and transport of the dog.

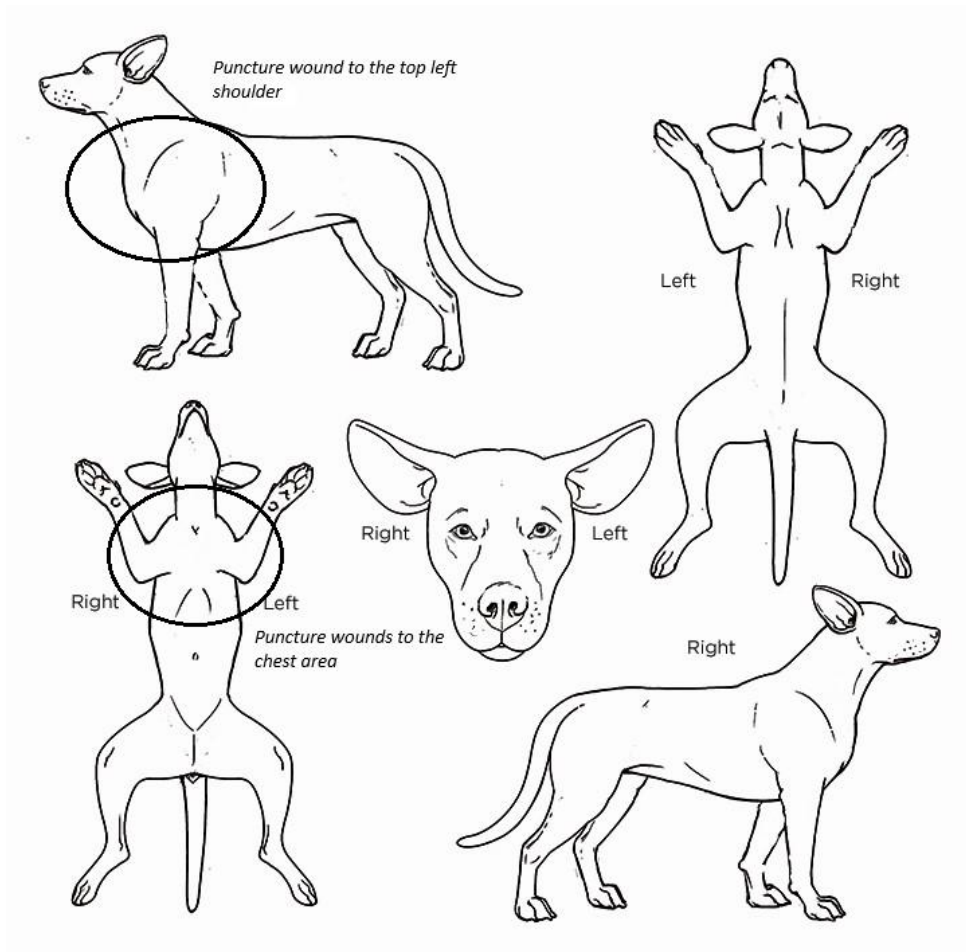
Signature: CO#: 148. Date: 04/01/26.

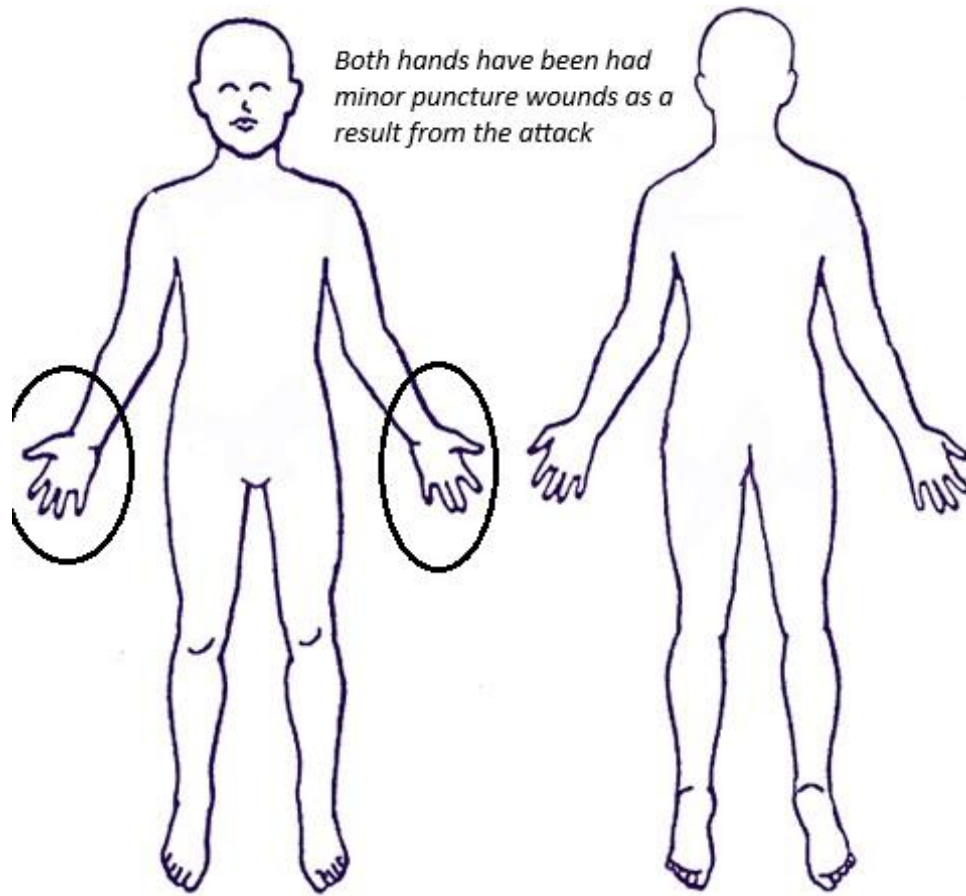
IMPORTANT INFORMATION: If fees are not paid, the territorial authority may dispose of the dog/s by means of sale, destruction or other and this may not relieve you of liability for payment of fees incurred.

*For the purposes of the Dog Control Act 1996, you are the owner of a dog if-

- . you own the dog; or
- . you have the dog in your possession (otherwise than for a period not exceeding 72 hours for the purpose of preventing the dog causing injury, or damage, or distress, or for the sole purpose of restoring a lost dog to its owner); or
- . you are the parent or guardian of a person under 16 who is the owner of the dog and who is a member of your household living with and dependent on you.

Quality Print





















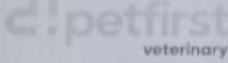















For ANIMAL TREATMENT ONLY
Keep out of reach of children


Transaction Summary


Patient Harry
Trans No 6952626
Details

Service Provided	No	Amount
01/01/2026		
Afterhour Services		
Afterhours A& E : Consultation incl. Call Out & Assessment. (Before 10pm)	1.00	285.00
Professional Services		
Professional Service : Treatment : Veterinarian	20.00	272.50
Diagnostic Services		
Radiography : Initial 2 Views	1.00	211.25
Anaesthesia & Sedation		
Anaesthesia : Patient Monitoring	20.00	89.88
Anaesthesia : Sedation	1.00	112.38
Fluid Therapy		
Fluid Therapy : Daily Maintenance	1.00	66.25
Fluid Therapy : Therapeutic : Setup & Administration	1.00	161.25
CA Procedure : Surgical		
Surgical : Patient Preparation	1.00	29.01
Treatment Facilities	1.00	52.50
Surgical Equipment : Additional Requirements	1.00	37.59
Surgical Instrument Pack : Each	1.00	32.83
Restricted Veterinary Medicine		
Alfaxan	0.50	6.55
Domitor	0.04	2.26
Lopaine Injection	7.00	12.25
Metacam Chewable Tab 1mg	5.00	24.04

By signing this form, the owner/manager agrees that: the dispensed on-farm drugs will be stored according to the instructions; they will observe special conditions; and they will observe withholding times. The animal/s treated, time, date, dosage and withholding periods will be recorded.

King Country - Other P.Other E.Other






For ANIMAL TREATMENT ONLY
Keep out of reach of children

Transaction Summary

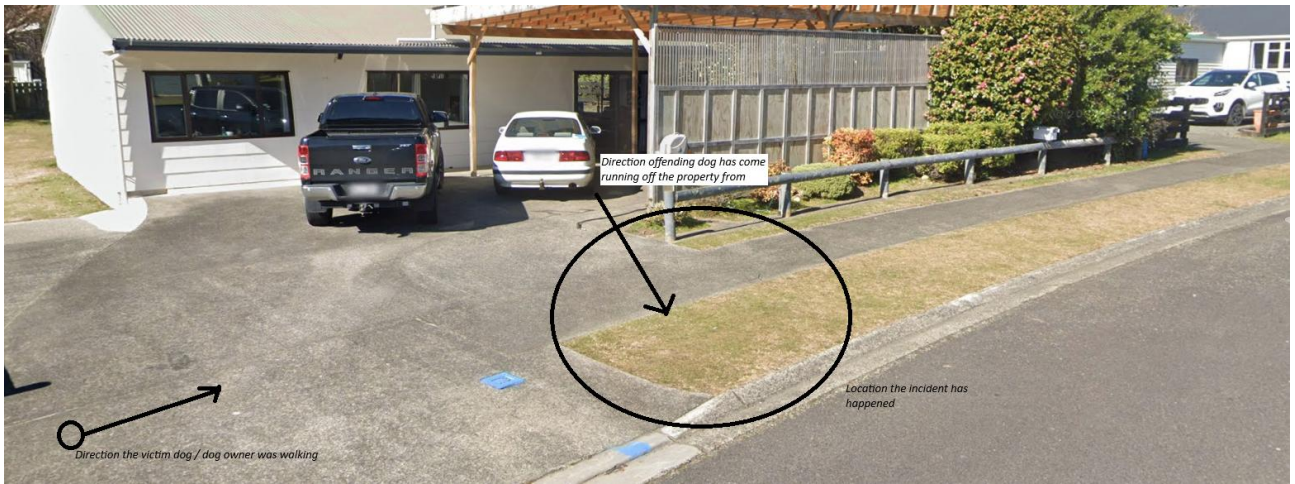
Patient Harry
Trans No 6953457
Details

Service Provided	No	Amount
04/01/2026		
Restricted Veterinary Medicine		
RVM Injection : Analgesic (293915)	0.90	47.58
Mirtazapine 30mg	1.00	17.37
Nupentin Caps 100mg	15.00	20.51
Prevomax Injection 20ml	1.00	41.32
Vetergesic Injection 10ml	0.70	29.70
Hospitalisation		
Hospitalisation : Patient Reassessment	1.00	96.88
Hospitalisation : Overnight	1.00	177.25
Total:		430.61
Includes GST of:		56.17

Paid 

By signing this form, the owner/manager agrees that: the dispensed on-farm drugs will be stored according to the instructions; they will observe special conditions; and they will observe withholding times. The animal/s treated, time, date, dosage and withholding periods will be recorded.

King Country - Other P:Other E:Other





GREAT LAKE TAUPŌ
Taupō District Council

INTERACTION LOG CO48 REQ2026-000206

Date	Time	Interaction Summary	Type / Action	Status
02/01/2026	13:30–15:23	Afterhours report received of dog attack. Contact made with victim [REDACTED]; dog seriously injured (chest drains). Plan to visit property and seize dog.	Incident response	Completed
02/01/2026	16:57	Property visit at [REDACTED] Spoke with [REDACTED] (person in charge). Containment inspected. Owner [REDACTED] contacted (voicemail).	Site visit / enquiry	Completed
02/01/2026	17:19	Photos of containment uploaded. Statement arranged with [REDACTED]	Evidence collection	Completed
03/01/2026	12:28	Victim dog condition updated – serious injuries. Vet reports/photos pending.	Evidence update	Completed
03/01/2026	13:53	Spoke with owner [REDACTED]. Decision made to uplift dog. Arranged delivery to pound.	Enforcement decision	Completed
03/01/2026	12:13–12:27	Dog seized and impounded under s57 Dog Control Act. Seizure notice issued.	Enforcement action	Completed
04/01/2026	10:16	Statements booked with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]	Investigation planning	Completed
04/01/2026	12:09	Statement completed with [REDACTED] sent for confirmation.	Evidence collection	Completed
05/01/2026	10:24	CRM updated. Owner advised to contain dog and use muzzle.	Risk management advice	Completed
05/01/2026	10:29	Investigation tasks identified (statements, matrix, photos).	Investigation planning	Completed
05/01/2026	15:56	Statement completed with [REDACTED] awaiting [REDACTED] confirmation.	Evidence collection	Completed
06/01/2026	13:53–14:00	Statements signed from [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] Conflicting accounts noted. Possible witness identified.	Evidence collection	Completed
07/01/2026	14:00–14:32	Attempts to contact witness [REDACTED]. No response; left voicemails.	Witness enquiry	Completed
08/01/2026	11:17	No witness contact. File progressing to completion.	Investigation update	Completed
09/01/2026	16:26	Final summary completed. Findings: dog not under control. Recommendations: menacing classification, fencing improvements, infringement.	Outcome recommendation	Completed
08/03/2026	09:37	Investigation outcome emailed to victim [REDACTED]	Communication	Completed
08–09/03/2026	10:40	Letters sent to owner. Email copy also provided.	Enforcement communication	Completed

10/03/2026	07:48	Owner indicates potential objection. 14-day statutory period noted.	Process management	Pending
12/03/2026	14:45	Follow-up text to confirm receipt of letters. Awaiting reply.	Follow-up	Pending
17/03/2026	15:33	Formal objection received under s33B Dog Control Act. Request for council review.	Legal objection	Pending

Taupo District Council Dog Classification Evaluation



This matrix is a GUIDELINE document only . It is used simply to find a benchmark of where the complaint sits in relation to the classification spectrum (i.e. No action/Warning/Infringement/Classification/Prosecution). The outcome may reflect a lesser or higher score than the final enforcement action taken due to factors that may not be obvious within the matrix process. If the enforcement action is not equal to the matrix outcome an explanatory note will be made at the bottom of the document.

DATE MATRIX COMPLETED: 6.1.26			
Service request number:		00026	
Owner Name record #, name and address:		[REDACTED]	
Dog name and registration number:		279592 - Emmaus	
1	NATURE OF INCIDENT	Domestic pet injured	8
2	PUBLIC INTEREST	Public interest is factored into report, remains constant	2
3	LEGISLATIVE INTENT	Legislative intent factored into report, remains constant	2
4	CLASSIFIED DOG	Dog not classified	0
5	VICTIM IMPACT	The victim is concerned about the outcome	2
6	DOG SURRENDERED or SEIZED	The dog has been seized pending investigation	0
7	DOG AGGRESSION	Complainant/Witness attest to aggression under caution	2
8	NEGLIGENCE	A lack of understanding of the true nature of dogs	2
9	OWNER CO-OPERATION	Co-operative and forthcoming with information	0
10	DOGS PREVIOUS HISTORY	No history	0
11	DOG REGISTERED AT THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT	The dog is not currently registered or unregistered at the time	4
12	RESTRAINT	The dog was not under control of a person or secured	1
13	KNOWLEDGE OF AGGRESSION	Not known by the owner or council to have shown previous aggression	0
14	RECURRENCE LIKELIHOOD	Unable to determine	1
15	TRAINED AGGRESSION	Not trained to be aggressive	0
16	DAMAGES	Did not offer to pay any damages or damages remain unpaid	1
17	BREED CHARACTERISTICS	Known as a guard dog breed	1
TOTAL			26
OUTCOME		Menacing dog classification and/or infringement: 24 - 27	
CLASSIFICATION		MENACING	

NOTES:	My recommendation as a result of the incident involving the offending dog EMMAUS she should be classified "MENACING" under section 33A(1)(b)(i) of the dog control act 1996 .
OFFICER NUMBER:	Officer 48

NOTE:
When saving in owner file ensure you have chaged to save as PDF .
The file name should be as follows:
TDC Dog Classification Evaluation Matrix SR111111 CO 00

Taupo District Council Dog Classification Evaluation



This matrix is a GUIDELINE document only . It is used simply to find a benchmark of where the complaint sits in relation to the classification spectrum (i.e. No action/Warning/Infringement/Classification/Prosecution). The outcome may reflect a lesser or higher score than the final enforcement action taken due to factors that may not be obvious within the matrix process. If the enforcement action is not equal to the matrix outcome an explanatory note will be made at the bottom of the document.

DATE MATRIX COMPLETED: 23/02/2026			
Service request number:		REQ2026-000206	
Owner Name record #, name and address:		[REDACTED]	
Dog name and registration number:		255922 Emmaus	
1	NATURE OF INCIDENT	Domestic pet injured	8
2	PUBLIC INTEREST	Public interest is factored into report, remains constant	2
3	LEGISLATIVE INTENT	Legislative intent factored into report, remains constant	2
4	CLASSIFIED DOG	Dog not classified	0
5	VICTIM IMPACT	The victim is concerned about the outcome	2
6	DOG SURRENDERED or SEIZED	The dog has been seized pending investigation	0
7	DOG AGGRESSION	Complainant/Witness attest to aggression under caution	2
8	NEGLIGENCE	A lack of understanding of the true nature of dogs	2
9	OWNER CO-OPERATION	Co-operative and forthcoming with information	0
10	DOGS PREVIOUS HISTORY	No history	0
11	DOG REGISTERED AT THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT	The dog is not currently registered or unregistered at the time	4
12	RESTRAINT	The dog was not under control of a person or secured	1
13	KNOWLEDGE OF AGGRESSION	Not known by the owner or council to have shown previous aggression	0
14	RECURRENCE LIKELIHOOD	Unable to determine	1
15	TRAINED AGGRESSION	Not trained to be aggressive	0
16	DAMAGES	Did not offer to pay any damages or damages remain unpaid	1
17	BREED CHARACTERISTICS	Known as a guard dog breed	1
TOTAL			26
OUTCOME		Menacing dog classification and/or infringement: 24 - 27	
CLASSIFICATION		MENACING	

NOTES:	
OFFICER NUMBER:	Officer 82

NOTE:
When saving in owner file ensure you have chaged to save as PDF .
The file name should be as follows:
TDC Dog Classification Evaluation Matrix SR111111 CO 00

SUMMARY OF FACTS AND FURTHER ACTION FOR DOG INCIDENT



Taupō District Council v [REDACTED]

Service Request: REQ2026-000206

Reviewed 16 February 2026

Name: [REDACTED]

Dog Owner Number: 167924

Dog Details: Dog | Domestic Dog | Bulldog, American | Tri-Colour/Brown | Female
Entire | Emmaus | 255922

Offence: **Dog Control Act: Section 57 Dog Control Act 1996**

Dog Control Act: Section 53 Dog Control Act 1996

SUMMARY OF FACTS

On the 1st of January 2026 at approximately 10.30am, complainant [REDACTED] was walking his dog “Harry” on [REDACTED]. As they walked past [REDACTED]. Around this time David Poole had taken dog “Emmaus” out of her kennel and was walking her around the property at [REDACTED]. “Emmaus” then walked out toward the road and attacked “Harry”. [REDACTED] alleges that “Harry” was frightened by “Emmaus” and has reacted by attacking first. “Emmaus” grabbed hold of “Harry” and had to be choked unconscious before letting “Harry” go. [REDACTED] also received bite wounds while attempting to release the dogs. “Harry” required chest drains and stitches to close his wounds with total vet treatment costing just over \$2000. “Emmaus” is registered to [REDACTED].

SUMMARY OF FACTS AND FURTHER ACTION FOR DOG INCIDENT

Conclusion and Decision

On the completion of the investigation, a critical analysis of the investigation file has been conducted considering the:

- Clarity of Objectives*
- Procedural Integrity*
- Analytical Depth*
- Stakeholder Engagement*
- Transparency and Accountability*
- Adaptability and Flexibility*

**See the Explanatory Note at the bottom of this document.*

Facts that can be relied upon:

1. The date and time of the attack are established.
2. The location of the incident is correct.
3. The offending dogs have been identified,
4. The ownership of the offending dog has been established,
5. The offending dog was not under the direct control of a person when the incident occurred.

Upon thorough evaluation of all the above points the following offence has been proven:

Dog Control Act 1996, section 57, Dogs attacking person or animal

Dog Control Act 1996, section 53, Failure to keep dog under control

SUMMARY OF FACTS AND FURTHER ACTION FOR DOG INCIDENT**Senior Compliance Officer Recommendation**

My recommendation is that [REDACTED] receive a warning dog incident letter, and that [REDACTED] receive an infringement under s53 of the Dog Control Act 1996. I also recommend that dog "Emmaus" be classified as MENACING under s33A(1)(b)(i) of the Dog Control Act 1996.

Tim [REDACTED]

Senior Compliance Officer**Compliance and Regulatory Manager Decision**

The investigation into the complaint has concluded and a comprehensive review has been conducted by the Senior Compliance Officer and myself. The evidence has been interrogated and the facts that can be relied upon have resulted in a clear determination of an outcome which is outlined in the below enforcement actions. The file will be returned to the investigating Officer to complete the enforcement actions and inform the parties concerned of the outcome.

Cameron [REDACTED]

Compliance and Regulatory Manager

SUMMARY OF FACTS AND FURTHER ACTION FOR DOG INCIDENT

Enforcement Action

The following Enforcement actions are to be carried out as soon as practicable:

1. Issue infringement: Dog Control Act 1996 Section 53 Offence of failing to keep a dog under control.
2. A statement has been taken attesting to the incident. The dog “Emmaus” is to be classified as menacing IAW section 33A(1)(b)(i) DCA 1996 Territorial authority may classify a dog as MENACING.
3. The dog is to be neutered or a certificate from a registered veterinarian verifying the dog has been neutered.
4. If the dog owner has a Responsible Dog Owner Permit this is to be revoked immediately.
5. Issue a Warning dog Incident letter.

Explanatory Note:*Guide to the Critical Analysis:****Clarity of Objectives:**

The investigation file establishes clear objectives from the outset. It delineates the scope, purpose, and desired outcomes of the investigation, providing a roadmap for subsequent decision-making.

Evidential Rigor:

The robustness of the investigation file is its commitment to evidential rigor. Decision-making appears anchored in factual data, witness testimonies, and consideration of the offence ingredients. This evidential foundation lends credibility to the decisions rendered, instilling confidence in its validity and impartiality.

Procedural Integrity:

The investigation is conducted with procedural integrity using known practice/methodology, protocols, and ethical standards. Such transparency enhances accountability and mitigates the risk of procedural lapses or bias.

Analytical Depth:

Decision-making within the investigation file reflects a commendable depth of analysis. It demonstrates an understanding of the multifaceted factors at play, including legal precedents, organisational policies, and the relevance of all the information gathered. This analytical rigor enriches the decision-making process, fostering robust and defensible conclusions.

Stakeholder Engagement:

Decision-making appears informed by consultations with relevant parties, including victims, witnesses, and subject matter experts. This inclusive approach fosters legitimacy and ensures that diverse perspectives are duly considered.

Transparency and Accountability:

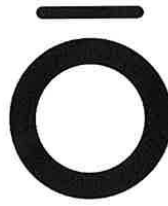
A hallmark of effective decision-making is transparency and accountability, both of which are evident throughout the investigation file. All decisions are documented, and show the rationale used, any

SUMMARY OF FACTS AND FURTHER ACTION FOR DOG INCIDENT

dissenting opinions are duly noted. This transparency enhances trust in the process and facilitates constructive feedback and scrutiny.

Adaptability and Flexibility:

In navigating the complexities of the investigation, the file demonstrates adaptability and flexibility in its decision-making approach. It adeptly adjusts course in response to emerging evidence, legal developments, and stakeholder feedback. Such agility enhances the resilience and relevance of the investigative process.



GREAT LAKE TAUPŌ
Taupō District Council

DOG ATTACK INVESTIGATION – ENFORCEMENT DECISION CHECKLIST
(Dog Control Act 1996)

Service Request: Req 2026 - 000206
 Investigating Officer: TAYLOR [REDACTED]
 Reviewing Manager: CAMERON [REDACTED]
 Date: 06/03/2026

1. INCIDENT VERIFICATION

- Date and time of incident established
- Exact location confirmed
- Identity of offending dog confirmed
- Ownership / person in control confirmed

2. EVIDENCE QUALITY

- Victim statement obtained
- Witness statement(s) obtained (if available)
- Photographs of injuries taken
- Scene photographs / diagram completed
- Veterinary or medical report obtained (if injury occurred)

Evidence threshold met:
 Yes No

3. OFFENCE INGREDIENTS (DOG CONTROL ACT)

Section 57 – Attack on person or animal

- Dog behaviour involved aggression (bite, maul, pursue etc.)
- Victim was lawfully present
- Injury or aggressive contact occurred

Section 52A / 53 – Control of dog

- Dog was not under direct control of a person OR
- Dog was able to leave property / containment failure

Offence proven:

s52A / s53

s57

Both

4. RISK FACTORS

Injury severity

Dog initiated the encounter

Dog left property / containment failure

Incident occurred in public area

Previous complaints or aggression history

Owner cooperation level

Likelihood of recurrence

Overall Risk Level:

Low

Moderate

Elevated

High

5. ENFORCEMENT OPTIONS

Education / Advice

Warning Letter

Infringement Notice (s52A or s53)

Menacing Classification (s33A)

Dangerous Classification (s31)

Prosecution (s57 / s58)

Recommended Enforcement Action:

6. PROPORTIONALITY CHECK

Enforcement action matches seriousness of incident

Enforcement action consistent with council policy

Enforcement action supports public safety

Enforcement action is legally defensible

Approved by Manager:

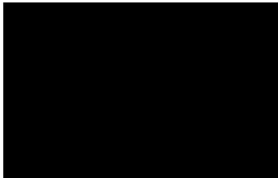
Name: CAMERON 

Signature: 

Date: 06/23/2026



09 March 2026



Phone +64 7 376 0899
30 Tongariro St, Taupō 3330
Private Bag 2005, Taupō 3352

Dear [REDACTED]

Dog Control Warning Notice - Section 57 and 57A, Dog Control Act 1996

Customer ID: 167924

Animal ID | Description: 279592 | Dog | Domestic Dog | Bulldog, American | Tri-Colour/Brown
Emmaus

On the 01/01/2026 on [REDACTED] Turangi your dog was involved in an incident where she has exited the property at [REDACTED] street and ended in a result of her attacking another dog being walked past the property

As a result of the investigation carried out in relation to the incident above, this letter is a **Warning Notice** that further complaints may result in the following action:

1. Prosecution under the Dog Control Act 1996 Section 57 - if convicted you would be liable for a fine not exceeding \$3000 in addition to any liability that may incur for any damage caused by the attack.
2. If convicted of an offence under the Dog Control Act 1996 Section 57 you may be disqualified as an owner in accordance with the Dog Control Act 1996 Section 25 for a period up to 5 years.

You will receive the following:

- The dog identified above will be classified as Menacing in accordance with the Dog Control Act 1996.
- Warning in accordance with the Dog Control Act 1996 52A or 53.
- Infringement in accordance with the Dog Control Act 1996 53.
- Loss of Responsible Owners status in accordance with the conditions of the Permit - you may re-apply for this after a period of 24 months.

If you have any enquiries regarding this notice, please contact the Compliance Team on 0800 ASK TDC (0800 275 832) or email info@taupo.govt.nz.

Kind regards



Compliance Team
Taupō District Council
CO-48

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Taupō District Council



0800 ASK TDC (275 832)



info@taupo.govt.nz



www.taupo.govt.nz



09 March 2026



Phone +64 7 376 0899
 30 Tongariro St, Taupō 3330
 Private Bag 2005, Taupō 3352

Dear [Redacted]

Notice of Classification of Dog as a Menacing Dog - Section 33A, Dog Control Act 1996

Customer ID: 167924

Animal ID | Description 279592 | Dog | Domestic Dog | Bulldog, American | Tri-Colour/Brown | Emmaus

This is to notify you¹ that this dog has been classified as a menacing dog under **Section 33A (2)** of the Dog Control Act 1996.

This Taupō District Council considers this dog may pose a threat to any person, stock, poultry, domestic animal or protected wildlife because of:

A full summary of the effects of the classification and your right to object is provided on the following page.

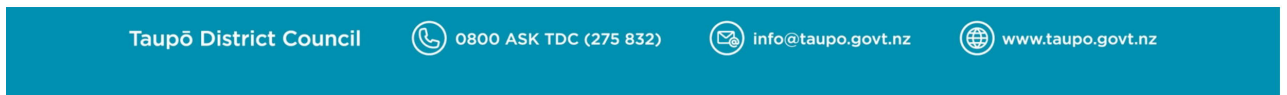
If you have any enquiries regarding this letter, please contact the Compliance Team on 0800 ASK TDC (0800 275 832) or email info@taupo.govt.nz.

Kind regards

Compliance Team Leader
 Taupo District Council
 CO-48

¹¹ For the purposes of the Dog Control Act 1996, you are the owner of a dog if—

- you own the dog; or
- you have the dog in your possession (otherwise than for a period not exceeding 72 hours for the purpose of preventing the dog causing injury, or damage, or distress, or for the sole purpose of restoring a lost dog to its owner); or
- you are the parent or guardian of a person under 16 who is the owner of the dog and who is a member of your household living with and dependent on you.



EFFECT OF CLASSIFICATION AS MENACING DOG*Section 33E 33F and 36A , Dog Control Act 1996***Section 33E Effect of classification as a menacing dog**

- (1) If a dog is classified as a menacing dog under section 33A or section 33C, the owner of the dog—
 - (a) must not allow the dog to be at large or in any public place or in any private way, except when confined completely within a vehicle or cage, without being muzzled in such a manner as to prevent the dog from biting but to allow it to breathe and drink without obstruction; and
 - (b) must, if required by the territorial authority, within 1 month after receipt of notice of the classification, produce to the territorial authority a certificate issued by a veterinarian certifying—
 - (i) that the dog is or has been neutered; or
 - (ii) that for reasons that are specified in the certificate, the dog will not be in a fit condition to be neutered before a date specified in the certificate; and
 - (c) must, if a certificate under paragraph (b)(ii) is produced to the territorial authority, produce to the territorial authority, within 1 month after the date specified in that certificate, a further certificate under paragraph (b)(i).
- (5) Subsection (1)(a) does not apply in respect of any dog or class of dog that the territorial authority considers need not be muzzled in any specified circumstances (for example, at a dog show).

Section 33F Owner must advise person with possession of dangerous or menacing dog of requirement to muzzle and leash dog in public

- (1) This section applies to an owner whose dog has been classified as—
 - (a) dangerous under section 31; or
 - (b) menacing under section 33A or section 33C.
- (2) If the dog is in the possession of another person for a period not exceeding 72 hours, the owner must advise the person of the requirement to comply with section 32(1)(b) or section 33E(1)(a), as the case may be (which relate to the requirement to muzzle and leash the dog in public).
- (3) Every person who fails to comply with subsection (2) commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$500.

Section 36A Microchip transponder must be implanted in certain dogs

- (1) This section applies to a dog that—
 - (a) is classified as dangerous under section 31 on or after 1 December 2003; or
 - (b) is classified as menacing under section 33A or section 33C on or after 1 December 2003; or
 - (c) is registered for the first time on or after 1 July 2006.
- (2) The owner of the dog must, for the purpose of providing permanent identification of the dog, arrange for the dog to be implanted with a functioning microchip transponder of the prescribed type and in the prescribed manner.
- (2A) Subsection (2) does not apply to a dog as defined in paragraph (b)(ii) of the definition of working dog in section 2 registered as a working dog under section 46(1) and wearing a collar, label, or disc as provided in section 34(4)(b).
- (3) Subsection (2) is complied with by the owner,—
 - (a) for a dog that is classified as dangerous or menacing, by making the dog available, in accordance with the reasonable instructions of the territorial authority, for verification that it has been implanted with a functioning microchip transponder of the prescribed type and in the prescribed location;
 - (b) for a dog that is registered for the first time on or after 1 July 2006, by—



- (i) making the dog available, in accordance with the reasonable instructions of the territorial authority, for verification that it has been implanted with a functioning microchip transponder of the prescribed type and in the prescribed location; or
 - (ii) providing to the territorial authority a certificate issued by a veterinarian certifying—
 - (A) that the dog is or has been implanted with a functioning microchip transponder of the prescribed type and in the prescribed location; or
 - (B) that, for the reasons that are specified in the certificate, the dog will not be in a fit condition to be implanted with a functioning microchip transponder of the prescribed type and in the prescribed location before a date specified in the certificate.
- (3A) A certificate issued by a veterinarian under subsection (3)(b)(ii) must include the following information:
- (a) the unique identifier of the microchip transponder (if subsection (3)(b)(ii)(A) applies); and
 - (b) the name and sex of the dog; and
 - (c) a physical description of the dog, which may include the breed, the colour, and any distinguishing marks; and
 - (d) if the dog is registered, the registration number of the label or disc issued for the dog; and
 - (e) the name, date of birth, and address of the owner of the dog.
- (4) If a certificate under subsection (3)(b)(ii)(B) is produced to the territorial authority, the owner must produce to the territorial authority, within 1 month after the date specified in the certificate, a further certificate under subsection (3)(b)(ii).
- (5) The owner must comply with subsection (2)—
- (a) within 2 months from 1 July 2006, if the dog is classified as dangerous or menacing on or after 1 December 2003 but before 1 July 2006; or
 - (b) within 2 months after the date on which the dog is classified as dangerous or menacing or is registered (as the case may be), in any other case.
- (5A) Subsection (2) does not apply if—
- (a) as a requirement of this Act, the dog has been previously implanted with a functioning microchip transponder of the prescribed type and in the prescribed location; or
 - (b) in any other case, the territorial authority has verified that the dog has been implanted with a functioning microchip transponder of the prescribed type and in the prescribed location.
- (6) Every person commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$3,000 who fails to comply with subsection (2) or subsection (5).

Full details of the effect of the classification of a dog as menacing are provided in the Dog Control Act 1996.

RIGHT OF OBJECTION TO CLASSIFICATION UNDER SECTION 33A
Section 33B, Dog Control Act 1996

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Taupō District Council



0800 ASK TDC (275 832)



info@taupo.govt.nz



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Section 33B Objection to classification of dog under section 33A

- (1) If a dog is classified under section 33A as a menacing dog, the owner—
 - (a) may, within 14 days of receiving notice of the classification, object in writing to the territorial authority in regard to the classification; and
 - (b) has the right to be heard in support of the objection.
- (2) The territorial authority considering an objection under subsection (1) may uphold or rescind the classification, and in making its determination must have regard to—
 - (a) the evidence which formed the basis for the classification; and
 - (b) any steps taken by the owner to prevent any threat to the safety of persons or animals; and
 - (c) the matters relied on in support of the objection; and
 - (d) any other relevant matters.
- (3) The territorial authority must, as soon as practicable, give written notice to the owner of—
 - (a) its determination of the objection; and
 - (b) the reasons for its determination.

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Taupō District Council



0800 ASK TDC (275 832)



info@taupo.govt.nz



www.taupo.govt.nz



26 March 2026

Phone +64 7 376 0899
30 Tongariro St, Taupō 3330
Private Bag 2005, Taupō 3352

Dear [REDACTED]

Acknowledge Objection to Menacing Dog Classification – Section 33B, Dog Control Act 1996

Customer ID: 167924

Animal ID | Description: 279592 | Dog | Domestic Dog | Bulldog, American | Tri-Colour/Brown | Emmaus

Please be advised that Taupō District Council has received your written objection to the Menacing Dog Classification notice issued under Section 33A of the Dog Control Act 1996.

The Council is currently arranging a suitable hearing date and venue for this objection to be heard and you will be notified in writing as soon as this has been arranged.

With reference to the hearing, please read and be familiar with section 33B of the Dog Control Act 1996.

If you have any enquiries regarding this letter, please contact the Compliance Team on 0800 ASK TDC (0800 275 832) or email info@taupo.govt.nz.

Kind regards

Compliance Team

Taupō District Council
CO-82







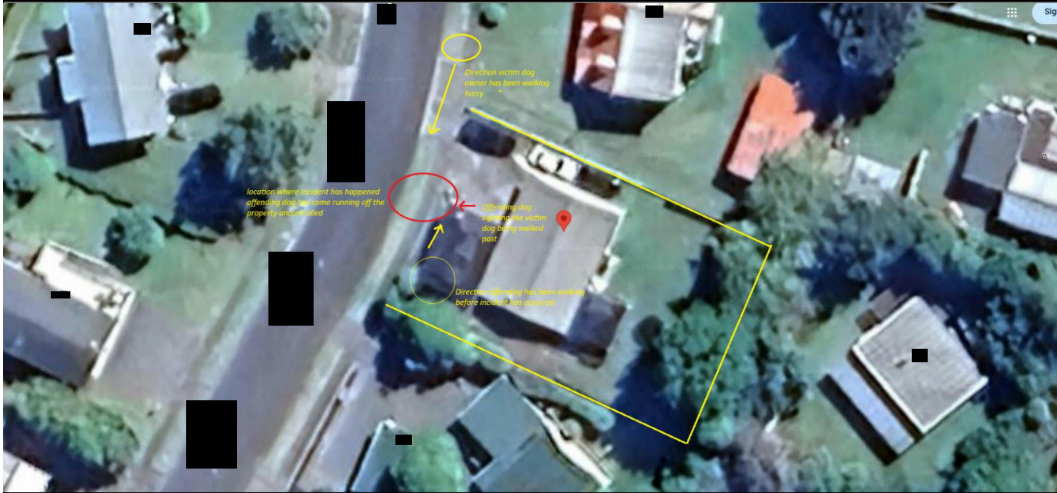






DOG CONTAINMENT INSPECTION REPORT

OFFICER	CO48	DATE	07.01.2026
DOG OWNER#	167924	REQUEST#	000206
NAME	[REDACTED]	LOCATION	[REDACTED]



PHOTO#	DESCRIPTION	INFORMATION
1	<p style="font-size: small; margin-top: 5px;">06 January 2026 1:18 pm</p>	<p>Front of the section , No fencing in this area</p>
2	<p style="font-size: small; margin-top: 5px;">08 January 2026 1:19 pm</p>	<p>Right side of the house nearest to the Kenneling for Emmaus This side is fenced but the fencing stops roughly 4 meters from the kenneling.</p>

