



AGENDA

Regulatory Hearings Panel meeting Wednesday, 16 September 2026

I hereby give notice that a Regulatory Hearings Panel meeting will be held on:

Date: Wednesday, 16 September 2026

Time: 1:00 pm

**Location: Tauranga City Council Chambers
L1, 90 Devonport Road
Tauranga**

**Marty Grenfell
Chief Executive**

Terms of reference – Regulatory Hearings Panel

Membership

Chair	Alan Tate
Deputy Chair	Mary Hill
Members	Puhirake Ihaka Amy Robinson Brent Lincoln
Hearings	Four members to be invited to each hearing on a rotating basis (i.e. Hearing 1, members A, B, C, and D; Hearing 2, members B, C, D and E; Hearing 3, members c, D, E and A; and so on). If one of the four members is unavailable, the fifth member will then be invited. This will not affect the future rotation pattern.
Quorum	At least two members
Meeting frequency	As required

Role

- To conduct hearings and make decisions of a quasi-judicial nature on regulatory matters through specific hearings and decision-making.

Scope

Regulatory matters

- To conduct hearings and make decisions of a quasi-judicial nature on behalf of the Council on any regulatory matter that the Council is legally:
 - empowered or obligated to hear and determine;
 - permitted to delegate to a subordinate decision-making body of Council under the Local Government Act 2002, or any other Act.
- To exercise this function in accordance with:
 - the applicable legislation;
 - the Council's corporate strategies, policies, plans and bylaws; and
 - the principles of administrative law and natural justice.
- Regulatory matters include (but are not limited to):
 - dog control matters;
 - matters arising from the exercise of Council's enforcement functions; and
 - regulatory matters that require a hearing under Council's policies (including, without limitation, Council's Gambling Venues Policy) and bylaws.

Matters excluded from scope

- The following are excluded from the scope of the Regulatory Hearings Panel:
 - matters relating to the sale and supply of alcohol;

- o matters under the Resource Management Act 1991; and
- o matters the Council is precluded from delegating to a subordinate decision-making body by the Local Government Act 2002, or any other Act.

Power to act

Regulatory matters

- All powers, duties and discretions necessary to conduct hearings and make decisions of a quasi-judicial nature on behalf of the Council on any regulatory matter that the Council is legally empowered or obligated to hear and determine, including (but not limited to):
 - o All powers, duties and discretions necessary to hear and make decisions on behalf of the Council in respect of any matter that the Council is empowered or obligated to hear and determine under the Dog Control Act 1996, the Local Government Act 2002, the Local Government Act 1974 and any regulatory matters that require a hearing under Council's policies and bylaws.
- For the avoidance of doubt, the above delegation includes authority to hear and make decisions on appeals under Council's Gambling Venues Policy, including to decline an application to appeal.
- The power to establish and amend hearings protocols relating to the general conduct of hearings and hearings related matters in accordance with the applicable legislation and the principles of administrative law and natural justice.
- The power to co-opt expert advice on an as required basis.

Matters excluded from power to act

- For the avoidance of doubt, the Regulatory Hearings Panel does not have the power to hear:
 - o matters relating to the sale and supply of alcohol;
 - o matters under the Resource Management Act 1991; or
 - o matters that the Council is precluded from delegating to a subordinate decision-making body by the Local Government Act 2002, or any other Act.

Power to recommend

- The Regulatory Hearings Panel is unlikely to need to make recommendations to the Council as it has the power to conduct hearings and make decisions of a quasi-judicial nature on behalf of Council as per its powers to act. However, the Panel may make recommendations to the Council if, in the circumstances of a matter, it considers it appropriate to do so.

Note:

The Regulatory Hearings Panel is established as a subordinate decision-making body of Council and delegated the powers specified in its Terms of Reference under clauses 30 and 32 of Schedule 7 Local Government Act 2002 respectively. It is not a committee or subcommittee of Council.

Regulatory Hearings Panel

Summary of hearings procedure



Who is involved in a hearing?

- Regulatory Hearings Panel – these are independent persons who make the decision
- Tauranga City Council staff – staff who write the report and attend the hearing
- Applicant/objector or their representative – those who will present their evidence
- Witnesses/experts – called by staff or applicant/objector



What happens before the hearing?

- The applicant/objector will be given at least seven days' notice of the date, time and place of the hearing.
- An agenda with the staff report and any documents will be sent to the panel members and the applicant/objector before the hearing.
- The applicant/objector can organise evidence and call witnesses in support of their application/objection.
- If the applicant/objector can't be present at the hearing they can organise a representative to attend on their behalf.

What happens at the hearing?

- The hearings will be conducted without a lot of formality and will make sure that all parties and witnesses receive a fair hearing.
- Staff will present Council's case (including evidence and any witnesses) in support of its decision that is the subject of the application/objection.
- The applicant/objector presents their case (including any evidence and any witnesses).
- Council staff have a right of reply but can't submit any new evidence or call any further witnesses.
- The chairperson and panel members may ask questions from any party or witness.
- Other persons may ask the chairperson to put a question to any party or witness on their behalf but that is at the discretion of the chairperson as to whether the question is put.

- No cross examination is permitted.
- The chairperson's rulings on any matter is final.
- The hearing is generally open to the public unless there is good reason to have the hearing with the public excluded.

What happens after the hearing?

- The panel will usually deliberate in private immediately after the hearing and make their decision.
- The panel may, but is not required to, deliver its decision in the open section of a meeting. A notice of decision will be given (or sent) in writing to the applicant/objector as soon as practicable after the panel has made its decision.
- The chairperson will then close the hearing.
- If the chairperson has allowed further information to be provided before the hearing is closed, then the hearing will be adjourned, and the panel will reserve its decision until it has considered the further information.
- Where the applicant/objector has a right to appeal the panel's decision, that will be advised in writing.
- No discussions or communication of any kind will happen outside of the hearing between the panel, the parties or witnesses until a decision is issued, including during any site visits, adjournment or break.
- Minutes of the meeting will be kept as evidence of the hearing.

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- 1 OPENING KARAKIA**
- 2 APOLOGIES**
- 3 DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

4 BUSINESS

4.1 Regulatory Hearings Panel Report – Objection to Menacing Classification – Laura Furey

File Number: A21029886

Author: Oscar Glossop, Team Leader: Animal Services

Authoriser: Sarah Omundsen, General Manager: Regulatory and Community Services

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to determine an objection lodged by Laura Furey under Section 33B, Dog Control Act 1996 against the decision of Tauranga City Council to classify the dog Oden as *menacing by deed*, following a domestic animal attack incident that occurred on 30 May 2026 in Waipuna Grove, Welcome Bay.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Regulatory Hearings Panel:

- (a) Receives the report "Regulatory Hearings Panel Report – Objection to Menacing Classification – Laura Furey".
- (b) The Panel may:
 - (i) **Uphold** the menacing classification (**Recommended**); or
 - (ii) **Rescind** the menacing classification.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. On 30 May 2026, the Objector's dog Oden was being walked off leash on a public street/footpath in Welcome Bay. Oden chased and attacked a domestic cat belonging to the Victim. The cat sustained significant injuries and was subsequently euthanised.
3. Following an investigation, Animal Services determined that Oden met the statutory threshold for classification as a menacing dog under Section 33A(1)(b)(i) of the Dog Control Act 1996. A menacing classification and infringement for failure to keep the dog under control were issued.

BACKGROUND

4. The Objector, Laura Furey, is the registered owner of Oden, a seven-year-old male Staffordshire Bull Terrier.
5. Oden was registered at the time of the incident.
6. Oden had previously come to the attention of Animal Services following an incident in February 2025 where he escaped his property and rushed at a person, resulting in an infringement for failing to keep a dog under control and a warning letter explaining dog owner obligations. (**Attachment 1**)
7. At approximately 11:45am on 30 May 2026, Oden was being walked off lead a public street/footpath in Welcome Bay. A cat ran from a nearby property frontage and Oden chased, caught and shook the cat before being verbally recalled. The cat suffered significant injuries and was subsequently euthanised following veterinary assessment.

8. Animal Services investigated the incident, obtained statements from the Victim and the dog owners, reviewed veterinary evidence and Council records.
9. The Victim quoted the Objector's husband as saying, "how they had tried to train that out of the dog."
10. Following the investigation, Oden was classified as menacing under Section 33A(1)(b)(i) of the Dog Control Act 1996 and the Objector was issued an infringement for failing to keep the dog under control. **(Attachment 2)**
11. In objecting to the classification, the Objector submits that Oden had been walked off lead for several years without previous issues, had previously encountered cats without incident, and that the incident occurred after the cat unexpectedly ran across his path. **(Attachment 3)**
12. Animal Services acknowledges these submissions; however, Section 33A(1)(b)(i) does not require a history of previous attacks. The classification was based on Oden's behaviour during this incident, namely chasing, catching and causing fatal injuries to a domestic animal.
13. The Objector further notes that responsibility was accepted, veterinary costs were reimbursed, and future controls including lead use have been implemented.
14. Animal Services acknowledges these positive actions. However, they do not alter the facts of the incident or the demonstrated risk that formed the basis for the classification.
15. Accordingly, Animal Services considers the menacing classification to be a proportionate and appropriate regulatory response to manage that risk.

STATUTORY CONTEXT

16. The Tauranga City Council Dog Management Bylaw 2018 requires a dog to be controlled on a leash when on a public road or footpath adjacent to a road.
17. Section 62 of the Dog Control Act 1996 applies when an owner knows their dog to be dangerous or to have attacked any person, stock, poultry, or property of any kind. A domestic cat may properly be regarded as property for the purposes of that provision. Where s 62 applies, the owner must ensure the dog is both muzzled and controlled on a leash when in a public place (except as otherwise provided by the Act). Accordingly, even if a menacing classification were successfully challenged, the obligations imposed by s 62 may continue to apply following an attack on a domestic cat.
18. Under Section 33A(1)(b)(i), Dog Control Act 1996, a territorial authority may classify a dog as menacing that the authority considers may pose a threat to any person, stock, poultry, domestic animal, or protected wildlife because of any observed or reported behaviour of the dog.
19. A menacing classification requires that the owner of the dog ensures the dog is muzzled when in any public or private way, unless completely contained in a vehicle or cage.
20. A menacing classification also requires that the owner ensures the dog is neutered and provide evidence of this. Oden has been neutered.
21. Owners have the right to object to a menacing classification under Section 33B, with the objection determined by the Regulatory Hearings Panel.
22. In considering the objection the Panel 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.

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

23. This contributes to the promotion or achievement of the following strategic community outcome(s):

	Contributes
We are an inclusive city	✓
We value, protect and enhance the environment	☐
We are a well-planned city that is easy to move around	✓
We are a city that supports business and education	☐
We are a vibrant city that embraces events	☐

24. The matter aligns with Tauranga City Council's objectives of **public safety**, **responsible dog ownership**, and **effective regulatory enforcement** to minimise harm to people and animals.

OPTIONS ANALYSIS

25. The Panel may:
- (a) **Uphold** the menacing classifications (**Recommended**); or
 - (b) **Rescind** the menacing classification, if not satisfied the statutory threshold is met.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

26. There are no foreseeable financial considerations associated with this decision.

RISKS AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

27. The decision must be demonstrably based on evidence and statutory authority to withstand judicial review.

TE AO MĀORI APPROACH

28. This matter is a regulatory enforcement issue. No specific Te Ao Māori considerations have been identified as applicable.

CONSULTATION / ENGAGEMENT

29. Engagement has been completed with the Objectors and Victim. Further engagement is not applicable for this matter.

SIGNIFICANCE

30. The Local Government Act 2002 requires an assessment of the significance of matters, issues, proposals and decisions in this report against Council's Significance and Engagement Policy. Council acknowledges that in some instances a matter, issue, proposal or decision may have a high degree of importance to individuals, groups, or agencies affected by the report.
31. In making this assessment, consideration has been given to the likely impact, and likely consequences for:
- (a) the current and future social, economic, environmental, or cultural well-being of the district or region
 - (b) any persons who are likely to be particularly affected by, or interested in, the decision.
 - (c) the capacity of the local authority to perform its role, and the financial and other costs of doing so.

32. In accordance with the considerations above, criteria and thresholds in the policy, it is considered that the decision is of low significance.

ENGAGEMENT

33. Taking into consideration the above assessment, that the decision is of low significance, officers are of the opinion that no further engagement is required prior to Council making a decision.

NEXT STEPS

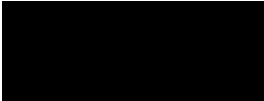
34. Following the hearing, the Panel's decision will be formally notified to the Objector. Any ongoing compliance or enforcement actions will be undertaken in accordance with the final determination.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Previous warning letter - A21061428  
2. Menacing Classification - A21061734  
3. Objection - A21061810  

12 February 2025

LAURA FUREY



Dear Laura

Investigation of complaint 1180043

We have now completed our investigation into the incident in which the complainant alleged that at 5:00pm Saturday 1 February 2025, a Tan crossbreed dog did aggressively rush at a person.

Based on the information obtained, it appears that your Staffordshire bull terrier called Oden was the dog involved.

On this occasion Council has concluded that you have failed to meet your obligations under the Dog Control Act 1996 and because of the nature of this incident have included a \$200 infringement for failing to control your dog.

The Dog Control Act 1996 provides obligations that as a dog owner you need to be aware of:

Every owner must:

- ensure that their dog is kept under control at all time.
- take all reasonable steps to ensure that their dog does not injure, endanger, intimidate, or otherwise cause distress to any person.
- take all reasonable steps to ensure that their dog does not injure, endanger, or cause distress to any stock, poultry, domestic animal, or protected wildlife.
- take all reasonable steps to ensure that their dog does not damage or endanger any property belonging to any other person.

In addition to this, the owner of a dog must ensure at all times that:

- a) The dog is under the direct control of a person; or
- b) The dog is confined on its property in such a manner that it cannot freely leave the property, and
- c) Where necessary, the dog is controlled by a lead (not greater than 2 metres long) to prevent it causing nuisance or danger to any person or animal. It is good practice to place your dog on a lead whenever you approach another person or animal.

Please Note:

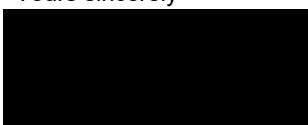
- d) If you are caring for a dog or in charge of any dog, you are deemed to be the owner and may be held responsible for any incident that occurs.
- e) If you are the owner of a dog and allow another person to walk or exercise your dog, you may be held responsible if an incident happens while the dog is in their care.
- f) You may be liable for any damages caused by your dog including medical or veterinarian expenses.

The penalties for breaches of the Dog Control Act can be significant with fines of up to \$20,000. In some serious situations the court is likely to make an order for the dog's destruction.

Please help keep Tauranga a safe, dog friendly environment by ensuring your dog is controlled in such a way that it cannot cause nuisance or danger. Thank you for your cooperation and assistance with this investigation.

If you would like to discuss the matter further, please contact us on 07 577 7000.

Yours sincerely



Animal Services team
Tauranga City Council

07 577 7000
info@tauranga.govt.nz

NOTICE OF CLASSIFICATION



Menacing dog classification – Section 33A, Dog Control Act 1996 (behaviour of the dog)

Date 5/06/2026 CCM 1275129

Name LAURA ELIZABETH FUREY

Address

DELIVERY CONFIRMATION

Recipient name Laura Furey

Signature

Date 8/6/26

Time 12:55

Served by

Signature

Dog details

Dog ID

Primary breed STAFFORDSHIRE BULL TERRIER

Microchip No

Secondary breed

Name ODEN

Primary colour TAN

Sex MALE

Secondary colour

Age 7 yrs 3 mths

Address where the dog is kept

Classification details

This is to notify you that this dog has been classified as a menacing dog under section 33A (1)(b)(i) of the Dog Control Act 1996 with effect from the date of this notice.

This is because Tauranga City Council considers that the dog may pose a threat to any person, stock, poultry, domestic animal, or protected wildlife, because of observed or reported behaviour of the dog, namely: ODEN has chased and attacked a cat @ 1145hrs on 30 May 26 on

A summary of this classification and your right to object is provided on the reverse. Objections must be in writing and can be sent to the addresses provided or delivered to the Tauranga City Council Service Centre.

Classification requirements

Neutering: Your dog is already Neutered; you are compliant with this requirement.

Microchip: Your dog is already microchipped; you are compliant with this requirement.

Muzzle: Your dog must now be muzzled when it is at large or in any public place or private way, and it must be kept under control at all times.

The required documents can be sent by mail to: **Animal Services, Tauranga City Council, Private Bag 12022, Tauranga 3143, New Zealand** or by email to: dog.registration@tauranga.govt.nz

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Signature

Dated: 5/06/2026

Name Oscar Glossop

Position Animal Services Team Leader

EFFECT OF CLASSIFICATION AS A MENACING DOG***Sections 33E, 33F and 36A Dog Control Act 1996***

- a) You must not allow your 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) You must produce to Tauranga City Council within one month after receipt of this notice a certificate issued by a registered veterinary surgeon certifying:
 - (i) that the dog is or has been neutered; or
 - (ii) that for reasons that are certified in the certificate, the dog will not be in a fit condition to be neutered before a date specified in the certificate; and
- c) If your dog is not fit to be neutered before a specific date as mentioned above, then you must produce to Tauranga City Council within one month after that specified date, a further certificate under paragraph (b)(i).

You will commit an offence and be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$3,000 if you fail to comply with any of the matters in paragraphs (a) to (c) above. In addition, a dog control officer or dog ranger may seize and remove the dog from you and keep the dog until you demonstrate that you are willing to comply with paragraphs (a) to (c) above.

If applicable, if not already microchipped, you are also required, for the purpose of providing permanent identification of the dog, to arrange for the dog to be implanted with a functioning microchip transponder. This must be confirmed by making the dog available to Tauranga City Council in accordance with the reasonable instructions of Tauranga City Council for verification that the dog has been implanted with a functioning microchip transponder of the prescribed type and in the prescribed location.

You will commit an offence and be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$3,000 if you fail to comply with this requirement within 2 months after this notice.

If the dog is in the possession of another person for a period not exceeding 72 hours, you must advise that person of the requirement to not allow the dog to be at large or in any public place or in any private way (other than when confined completely within a vehicle or cage) without the dog being muzzled in such a manner as to prevent the dog from biting, but to allow it to breathe and drink without obstruction.

You will commit an offence and be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$500 if you fail to comply with this requirement.

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

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

You may object to the classification of your dog as menacing by lodging with Tauranga City Council a written objection within 14 days of receipt of this notice setting out the grounds on which you object.

You have the right to be heard in support of the objection and will be notified of the time and place at which your objection will be heard.

All objections must be in writing and can be sent via email to dog.registration@tauranga.govt.nz or by mail to: **Animal Services, Private Bag 12022, Tauranga 3143, New Zealand.**

Note: Any objection heard by the Regulatory Hearings Panel is a publicly notified meeting and members of the public, including the media may attend. The details of the Council report and the hearing, including your name and your dog's name, may be published. Your contact details will not be reported.

Re: Request for Review of Menacing Dog Classification

Animal Services Team Leader

Oscar Glossop

Dear Oscar

Apologises for the delay in this email, my husband has been away overseas with work and we wanted to discuss in person prior to sending this email

I am writing to respectfully request a review of the decision to classify our dog, Oden, as a menacing dog following the incident involving the death of a cat on 30 May 2026.

First, I acknowledge that our dog was off leash at the time of the incident. We accept responsibility for this and sincerely regret the distress caused to the cat's owners and the community. We understand the importance of responsible dog ownership and have reflected seriously on the circumstances surrounding the event.

However, I respectfully submit that the incident was an isolated event driven by instinctive prey-chase behaviour rather than aggression towards people or a demonstrated ongoing threat to public safety. Prior to this incident, Oden has not attacked or injured any person and has not been involved in any similar incidents involving animals.

Since the incident, we have taken steps to ensure it does not happen again, including:

- Keeping our dog on leash in public areas.
- Reviewing our management and containment practices.
- Implementing additional training and control measures where appropriate.

We respectfully ask the Council to consider our dog's overall history, temperament, and behaviour record when assessing whether a menacing classification is necessary and proportionate in this case. We believe that with appropriate management, the risk of a similar incident occurring can be effectively addressed without the need for a menacing classification.

We appreciate the Council's role in protecting public safety and animal welfare and would welcome the opportunity to discuss this matter further or provide any additional information that may assist in the review.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kind regard

Laura Furey

4.2 Regulatory Hearings Panel Report – Objection to Disqualification as a Dog Owner – Camila Lenhart

File Number: A21037700

Author: Oscar Glossop, Team Leader: Animal Services

Authoriser: Sarah Omundsen, General Manager: Regulatory and Community Services

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To consider an objection by Camila Lenhart to being disqualified as a dog owner under Section 26 of the Dog Control Act 1996 ("the Act").

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Regulatory Hearings Panel:

- (a) Receives the report "Regulatory Hearings Panel Report – Objection to Disqualification as a Dog Owner – Camila Lenhart".
- (b) Resolves to either:
 - (i) **Uphold** the disqualification for three years (Recommended); or
 - (ii) **Bring forward** the date of termination of the disqualification; or
 - (iii) **Immediately terminate** the disqualification.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. On 24 June 2026 the Objector Camila Lenhart was disqualified from dog ownership for three years, following repeated infringements for her classified dangerous dog, Ollie.
3. On 28 July 2026 the Objector's dog was seized and impounded due to her breaching her disqualification.
4. The Objector subsequently submitted an objection to the disqualification.
5. In considering any objection under section 26 of the Dog Control Act 1996, the territorial authority shall have regard to:
 - (a) the circumstances and nature of the offence or offences in respect of which the person was disqualified; and
 - (b) the competency of the person objecting in terms of responsible dog ownership; and
 - (c) any steps taken by the owner to prevent further offences; and
 - (d) the matters advanced in support of the objection; and
 - (e) any other relevant matters.

BACKGROUND

6. The Objector, Camila Padilha Lenhart, is the owner of Ollie, a 6-year-old male Border Collie/Huntaway cross. Ollie is classified as a dangerous dog. Council records note that the Objector is currently disqualified from dog ownership until 27 January 2029.
7. Ollie was registered for the current registration year only after being seized. Prior to this, Ollie had not been registered since 2024/25 registration year.

8. Animal Services' engagement with the Objector has occurred over several years and includes multiple investigations, infringements, impoundments, and classification actions.
9. In **May 2022**, Animal Services investigated a complaint that Ollie attacked a puppy at Marine Parade. An infringement was issued for failing to keep the dog under control. Further registration-related infringements were issued in **August 2022**, **October 2023**, and **March 2026** after Ollie was found to be unregistered on multiple occasions.
10. In **December 2023**, Animal Services investigated an incident in which a person was bitten by Ollie at Marine Parade. Ollie was found roaming and unsupervised and was impounded. Following investigation, Ollie was classified as a Menacing Dog, and a further infringement was issued for failing to keep the dog under control.
11. In **August 2024**, the Objector was issued with an infringement for failing to comply with the requirements of Ollie's Menacing Dog classification after Ollie had not been desexed as required. Animal Services notes that opportunities and extensions had previously been provided to assist the Objector to achieve compliance.
12. In **April 2025**, Animal Services investigated a further complaint alleging Ollie attacked another dog at Marine Parade. Following investigation, witness statements, an owner interview and an attack assessment, Ollie was classified as a Dangerous Dog. A further infringement was issued for failing to comply with the Menacing Dog classification requirements.
13. Council records show that a previous disqualification was revoked following an objection process, providing the Objector with a further opportunity to demonstrate compliance. Despite this, Animal Services continued to record registration-related offending and further enforcement action.
14. The current disqualification was issued following the Objector's pattern of non-compliance, including multiple infringement offences, classification-related offending, and repeated enforcement intervention. Animal Services considers this history relevant when assessing the Objector's competency in terms of responsible dog ownership under section 26 of the Dog Control Act 1996.
15. At the time of writing this report, Animal Services had not received written submissions from the Objector specific to their suitability as a dog owner. The submissions received at the time of writing this report are process related.
16. Following the seizure of Ollie in July 2026, the Objector raised concerns regarding the actions of Animal Services and the disqualification process, claiming not to have received mailed documentation.
17. Animal Services sent a letter in May 2026 advising the Objector of impending disqualification, seeking a response of any relevant matters to be considered before disqualifying. No response was received. **(Attachment 1)**
18. Animal Services hand delivered the notice of disqualification to the Objectors mailbox in June 2026. **(Attachment 2)**
19. The law is clear that the delivery of infringements and notices, issued under the Dog Control Act 1996, to the registered address is sufficient service.
20. The Objectors claim that they did not receive documentation does not alter the facts of non-compliance leading to disqualification.
21. The Objector submits that Animal Services entered her property without authority, removed Ollie without written notification, and did not provide an opportunity to appeal prior to seizure. Animal Services notes that Ollie was seized under section 28(7) of the Dog Control Act 1996 because the Objector was a disqualified dog owner, which provides clear legal grounds for entry, search and seizure. Council records also show that the Objector has been advised of, and previously exercised, her objection rights. **(Attachment 3)**

22. These matters do not alter the established history of non-compliance that resulted in the disqualification.
23. Animal Services acknowledges that the Objector initially engaged with Council regarding the transfer of Ollie to a prospective new owner. Unfortunately, the two prospective owners put forward were not prepared to own a dangerous dog. The Objector has not put forward any further potential owners, instead leaving Ollie impounded whilst going through the Objection process.
24. Animal Services considers that the matters advanced by the Objector do not materially alter the circumstances that gave rise to the disqualification and that the disqualification remains justified and proportionate.

STATUTORY CONTEXT

25. The Dog Control Act 1996 stipulates functions, duties and powers conferred on Territorial Authorities, such as Tauranga City Council, to facilitate the objects of the Act.
26. This report references several sections of the Dog Control Act 1996 which prescribe obligations and provisions:
 - (a) Section 5 - Obligations of dog owners
 - (b) Section 20 - Dog control bylaws
 - (c) Section 25 - Disqualification of owners
 - (d) Section 26 – Objection to disqualification
 - (e) Section 27 – Appeal to District Court
27. The statutory threshold of three infringement offences within a 24-month period has been met.
28. The Tauranga City Council Regulatory Hearings Panel has authority to make decisions by way of delegation as per the Local Government Act 2002.
29. The Objector may appeal the decision of the Regulatory Hearings Panel to the District Court within 14 days of notification of the decision.
30. Upon confirmation of the Disqualification, the Objector must dispose of any dog owned by them within 14 days. They shall not be disposed of to any person who reside at the same address as the person disqualified.

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

31. This contributes to the promotion or achievement of the following strategic community outcome(s):

	Contributes
We are an inclusive city	✓
We value, protect and enhance the environment	☐
We are a well-planned city that is easy to move around	✓
We are a city that supports business and education	☐
We are a vibrant city that embraces events	☐

32. Effective enforcement of the Dog Control Act supports safer public spaces, responsible dog ownership, and reduced animal related incidents, contributing to a safer and more liveable city.

OPTIONS ANALYSIS

33. **Option 1: Uphold** the proposed disqualification (Recommended). This reflects the infringement history and repeated non-compliance despite prior engagement and enforcement measures. **Or**
34. **Option 2: Bring forward the date** of termination of the disqualification. This option relies on the any proposed corrective actions and stated commitment to compliance. **Or**
35. **Option 3: Immediately terminate** the disqualification. This option is least likely to prohibit non-compliance and impacts to others.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

36. Costs have been incurred through repeated enforcement actions including impounds and administration. Future costs will depend on enforcement decisions.

RISKS AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

37. The disqualification process is supported by the Dog Control Act 1996, with the statutory threshold satisfied.
38. If not upheld, there remains a risk of continued non-compliance based on historical behaviour. If upheld, the decision must demonstrate proper consideration of the objection and proportionality.

TE AO MĀORI APPROACH

39. The matter remains a regulatory enforcement decision under the Dog Control Act 1996.

CONSULTATION / ENGAGEMENT

40. Engagement has occurred through statutory notifications and correspondence with the affected parties. Wider consultation is not relevant to this matter.

SIGNIFICANCE

41. The Local Government Act 2002 requires an assessment of the significance of matters, issues, proposals and decisions in this report against Council's Significance and Engagement Policy. Council acknowledges that in some instances a matter, issue, proposal or decision may have a high degree of importance to individuals, groups, or agencies affected by the report.
42. In making this assessment, consideration has been given to the likely impact, and likely consequences for:
 - (a) the current and future social, economic, environmental, or cultural well-being of the district or region
 - (b) any persons who are likely to be particularly affected by, or interested in, the decision.
 - (c) the capacity of the local authority to perform its role, and the financial and other costs of doing so.
43. In accordance with the considerations above, criteria and thresholds in the policy, it is considered that the decision is of medium significance.

ENGAGEMENT

44. Taking into consideration the above assessment, that the decision is of medium significance, officers are of the opinion that no further engagement is required prior to Council making a decision.

NEXT STEPS

45. Following the hearing, the Panel's decision will be formally notified to the Objector.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Pending disqualification advisory letter - A21062673 [↓](#) 
2. Disqualification Notice - A21062654 [↓](#) 
3. Previous response to an objection - A21062626 [↓](#) 

8 May 2026

CAMILA PADILHA LENHART



Dear Camila,

Disqualification on third or subsequent infringement
Dog owner reference number:

As your disqualification was previously revoked or suspended on the basis of ongoing compliance, your subsequent reoffending has voided that decision, and you are therefore again subject to disqualification from dog ownership.

Our records show you have committed three or more infringement offences against the Dog Control Act 1996.

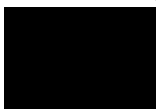
These offences were committed:

- within a continuous 24-month period
- each incident was on a separate occasion
- each was for a separate incident.

Section 25 of the Dog Control Act 1996 states you must be disqualified from owning a dog for a period not exceeding five years unless Tauranga City Council is satisfied that the circumstances of the offences are such that the disqualification is not warranted.

If there is any information you would like to be taken into consideration regarding your possible disqualification, please submit this in writing by 22 May 2026. If a submission is not received by this date, a decision will be made based on the facts before council at the time.

Yours sincerely



Oscar Glossop
Animal Services team leader
Tauranga City Council

07 577 7000
info@tauranga.govt.nz

DISQUALIFICATION FROM DOG OWNERSHIP

24 JUNE 2026

*No one home
left in letter box*

Delivery Confirmation:

Recipient name:

Signature:

Date: 25/06/26 Time: 1401

Served by:

Signature:

CAMILA LENHART

Notice of disqualification from dog ownership (Section 25, Dog Control Act 1996)

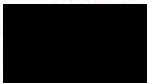
This is to inform you that you have been disqualified under section 25 (1) (a) of the Dog Control Act 1996 from owning any dog.

This follows three or more infringement offences (not relating to a single incident or occasion) having been committed by you, within a continuous period of 24 months.

This disqualification will apply from 28 January 2026 and will expire on 27 January 2029.

A summary of the effect of the disqualification and your right to object is provided below.

Yours sincerely,


Oscar Glossop
Animal Services: Team Leader
07 577 7000
info@tauranga.govt.nz

EFFECT OF DISQUALIFICATION
Section 28, Dog Control Act 1996

You are required to dispose of every dog owned by you within 14 days of the date of this notice. However, you may not dispose of a dog:

- to a person who resides at the same address as you.
- in a way that constitutes of an offence against the Dog Control Act 1996 or any other Act.

You must not become the owner, even on a temporary basis, of any dog while you are disqualified. You may have possession of a dog only for the purpose of:

- preventing it from causing injury, damage, or distress.
- returning, within 72 hours, a lost dog to a territorial authority for the purpose of restoring the dog to its owner.

You will commit an offence and be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$3000 if you:

- fail to dispose of every dog owned by you within 14 days of this notice.
- at any time while disqualification, become the owner of any dog.
- dispose of a dog owned by you:
 - to a person who resides at the same address as you.
 - in a manner that constitutes an offence against the Dog Control Act 1996 or any other Act.

If you are convicted of the first or second of these offenses, your period of disqualification may be further extended. You will also commit an offence and be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$3000 if you dispose or give custody or possession of a dog to a person knowing that person to be disqualified from ownership under section 25 of the Dog Control Act 1996.

Full details of the effect of disqualification are provided in the Dog Control Act 1996.

RIGHT OF OBJECTION TO DISQUALIFICATION
Section 26, Dog Control Act 1996

You may object to the disqualification by lodging a written objection with Tauranga City Council setting out the grounds on which you object. You are entitled to be heard in support of your objection and will be notified of the time and place when your objection will be heard.

No objection can be lodged within 12 months of the hearing of any previous objection to the disqualification. If an objection is lodged within 14 days after the date of this notice, the requirement to dispose of every dog owned by you will be suspended until Tauranga City Council has determined the objection.

There is a further right of appeal to a District Court if you are dissatisfied with the decision of Tauranga City Council on your objection.

Note: In the event of a Council hearing, the council report and minutes of the hearing will be posted on the Council's website. Any objection heard by the Regulatory Hearings Panel is a publicly notified meeting, and members of the public, including the media, may attend. While your name and your dog's name may be published, your contact details will not be reported.

30/05/2025

Hi Camila

I have reviewed your request to have the Dangerous Dog Classification for Ollie cancelled.

The Dog Control Act 1996 states that Council must classify a dog as dangerous if either the dog owner admits in writing that the dog constitutes a threat to people or animals or Council receives a sworn statement attesting to the aggressive behaviour of the dog and believe the dog constitutes a threat to the safety of any person or animal.

On the 13 April 2025, Ollie was reported to Council for attacking another dog. An aggravating aspect of the attack was the fact that he wasn't wearing a muzzle as required of a classified menacing dog. This was the third act of aggression from Ollie which has been reported to Council with the attack on a dog in 2022, an attack on a person in December 2023 and this attack.

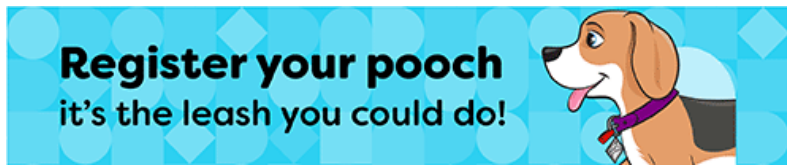
For this last attack, the owner of the victim dog made a sworn statement attesting to the aggressive nature of the attack and you admitted during the interview that Ollie had acted dangerously. In addition, a video of the incident shows Ollie making an unprovoked attack on the dog which was under lead control and walking away from where Ollie was.

Based on the above circumstances I have not revoked the dangerous dog classification for Ollie.

Please read the conditions of owning a classified dangerous dog on the notice which has been given to you. It is important that you comply with these to avoid any further issues.

Kind Regards

Hyperlink: <https://www.tauranga.govt.nz/register-your-dog>



Brent Lincoln | Team Leader: Animal Services

Tauranga City Council | 07 577 7000 | www.tauranga.govt.nz

5 PUBLIC EXCLUDED SESSION

Resolution to exclude the public

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting.

The general subject matter of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48 for the passing of this resolution
5.1 – Deliberations - Objection to Menacing Classification – Laura Furey	To enable the Panel to deliberate in private on the objections heard.	s48(1)(d) That the exclusion of the public from the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting is necessary to enable the Council to deliberate in private on its decision or recommendation in any proceedings before a Council where the Council is required, by any enactment, to make a recommendation in respect of the matter that is the subject of those proceedings.
5.2 – Deliberations – Objection to Disqualification as a Dog Owner – Camila Lenhart	To enable the Panel to deliberate in private on the objections heard.	s48(1)(d) That the exclusion of the public from the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting is necessary to enable the Council to deliberate in private on its decision or recommendation in any proceedings before a Council where the Council is required, by any enactment, to make a recommendation in respect of the matter that is the subject of those proceedings.

6 CLOSING KARAKIA