



5 May 2025

Andrew Buntain

s7(2)(a)

Dear Andrew

Request for Information – Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act (LGOIMA) 1987

We refer to your official information request dated 2 April 2025 for:

"I request information about dog related incidents at Avalon Park, during the last reporting period and preferably during previous reporting periods as well. Specifically:

- How many complaints or reports were received, and how many of them would constitute infringement offences (Dog Control Act 1996) if they were accurate?*
- How many incidents have Animal Services staff actually observed or have firm evidence for (beyond just a report) and how many of them constitute infringement offences?*
- How many incidents were caused by dogs which **were** in compliance with the rules for the southern part of the park (ie. dogs must be on lead and stay on the marked paths) and how many of them would constitute infringement offences? How many of these were reported, and how many are confirmed to have occurred by staff observation or evidence.*
- How many infringement notices were issued in total relating to incidents at Avalon Park?*

Additionally, the Hutt City Council Annual Dog Control Report 2023-2024 says that "We have issued 191 infringement notices for either breeches of

the Animal Control act or Hutt City animal control bylaws" and also that "139 infringements were issued for failing to microchip."

Are the 139 a subset of the 191, meaning that 191 infringement notices were issued in total? Or are the 139 a separate category from the 191, meaning that 330 infringement notices were issued in total?"

Answer:

- How many complaints or reports were received, and how many of them would constitute infringement offences (Dog Control Act 1996) if they were accurate?

Response: See attachment for number of complaints received from 2020 to 2024 which mentions Avalon Park. It is not possible to say which of these complaints would constitute offences as they are what a member of the public have reported. It is not possible or feasible to retrospectively ascertain if each of these complaints were attended by an officer and would constituted an offense.

- How many incidents have Animal Services staff actually observed or have firm evidence for (beyond just a report) and how many of them constitute infringement offences?

Response: There is no timeframe for this request. Officers have reported that they have seen dogs regularly off leash and on leash but off the designated walking paths.

- How many incidents were caused by dogs which **were** in compliance with the rules for the southern part of the park (ie. dogs must be on lead and stay on the marked paths) and how many of them would constitute infringement offences? How many of these were reported, and how many are confirmed to have occurred by staff observation or evidence.

Response: HCC does not have any data capturing how many dogs have strayed off designated paths. Animals Services takes a graduated enforcement approach to all offences and dogs straying off a path would be most likely on be spoken to by an Officer and not issued an offense.

- How many infringement notices were issued in total relating to incidents at Avalon Park?

Response: HCC does not hold infringement data by specific areas such as a park. We have found one reported infringement of \$200 issued in 2021 for a dog which bite a child's face in Avalon park.

Additionally, the Hutt City Council Annual Dog Control Report 2023-2024 says that "We have issued 191 infringement notices for either breeches of the Animal Control act or Hutt City animal control bylaws" and also that "139 infringements were issued for failing to microchip."

Are the 139 a subset of the 191, meaning that 191 infringement notices were issued in total? Or are the 139 a separate category from the 191, meaning that 330 infringement notices were issued in total?

Response: 330 tickets were issued in total. The 139 microchips are a subset of these.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response to your information request may be published on Hutt City Council's website: [Proactive releases | Hutt City Council](#)

Yours sincerely

Lakna Siriwardena

Legal Operations Advisor

566488	20/04/2022	80	avalon, Pitt bull dog brown with white underneath head, Dog is with teenagers and is on a lead. Caller is concerned as she has been attacked by a dog before. Currently Near the big swings at the park. Hello, my name is and i was walking my 8yr old scottish cairn dog in avalon at 6.45pm last night, Sunday 21 March 2021. I was looking for a toilet to use in the main block and since all front and side ones were out of action I went around the back from sth end. A lady was there and a untethered dog which promptly came towards me and without any cause attacked my dog who was standing at my feet. It took her a good full minute to secure the dog. A guy came out of the toilets (another cleaner) to see what the noise was about. He took their dog hitting it around the face and telling it off. I told him the dog shouldn't be there not tied up and it's not the dogs fault but the owners. I headed home to sth and the , dog was tied up to corner of toilet block. See pic taken once it was tied up. was badly shaken and still reacting to this unprovoked attack. Please take some action that this doesn't happen again to another dog or person. The dog may be a pitbull or cross.	avalon	ANIM	IABB	KTA	Central
513029	22/03/2021	80	Dog Attack on Animal: M and his dog has been rushed by a White Bull, being looked after by three Maori Youths 1 female and 2 males between 13 and 18. Believes they have run into. The White Pitbull has charged at him and his dog in avalon, he has picked up his dog, and the pitbull has been lunging up and trying to get at his dog, but may have nipped dog as it has yelped after the log has lounge, The three persons responsible for the dog have told the caller to F off when he has asked them to keep their dog under control, The dog was not collared, leshed or controlled in any way, and as far as he could tell is not registered.	avalon Public Toilets	ANIM	IADD	KTA	Central
541652	18/10/2021	80	Was about to go walking by avalon around 11am with his little dog and there was a lady there with 2 dogs without leads, one large dog called charged him and got attacked his dog who is now at the vets receiving treatment. Dog also tried to attack N	Taita Drive, Avalon, Lower Hutt	ANIM	IADD	KTA	Central
1004473	22/03/2023	80	Aggressive Dog: Caller advised she was at avalon with her 4 and 7 year old. She advised she was at the tiny kids playground of avalon, she said there is lady with a red hoodie, smoking with a man and they have 2 dogs. There was a black bull terrier, massive, that rushed at her son, she advised she approached the lady but she threatened to beat her. The caller advised another family left the park out of fear for the dogs. She said she took her kids and left too. Caller also advised the dog was on a lead however the owner did not have control over the dog.	777 A High Street, BOULCOTT	ANIM	IADD	KTA	Central
512065	13/03/2021	80	2 pit bulls in avalon, with 2 teenagers. Dogs are barking and intimidating. Dogs are near the children play area, by the swings in the centre of the park.	61 Taita Drive, Avalon, Lower Hutt	ANIM	IADT	KTA	Central
566484	20/04/2022	80	hi team i recently registered my lab cross male age years. chipped. desexed. im in taita drive opposite avalon. been here july 2018. im not impressed of other dog owners in the park legally meant to have leash on at all times. while walking my leashed dog through more than once i have unleashed approach myself also my dog in unacceptable mood . i quickly shorten leash on my dog standover him so feet on ground sitting on ground between my legs . yelling at the other dog to back off. where do i legally stand if my dog is attacked by another dog unleashed. if owners hits me then im not hesataing in assult charges. should my dog be injured then im not going to be happy person at all. might have to do squirt bottle onion juice into the eyes as we not allowed stun guns like cops. just thought i would step up lay it on the table see where to go from here. lot of people seen exerciscing there dogs unleashed. leave this with you	avalon Playground	ANIM	IADT	KTA	Central
586402	21/10/2022	80	Dog off lead, owner and dog are aggressive. avalon	avalon	ANIM	IADT	KTA	Central
1018439	22/08/2023	80	Found Dog: Stray dog has been picked up near avalon. Close to intersection of Fairway Drive and Taita Drive sitting in a . Dog is small white dog with a blue tag with number - . Callers details:	61 Taita Drive, AVALON	ANIM	IADT	ACO	Central
528818	26/07/2021	80	Found Dog: Secured dog at avalon at the Pavilion. Called in by, phone	Taita Drive, Avalon, Lower Hutt	ANIM	IAFA	ACO	Central
546171	23/11/2021	80	Found Dog: now has the dog on a lead and is going to wait for ACO. I have called The caller is not local to the area. But describe their location as being in a carpark, near the children's playground possibly by avalon. Just by a bridge that leads to some footpaths. In a purpleish car with 3 other dogs. Registration number: Callers name and number: Was originally logged as a roaming dog. To whom it may concern. 5 days ago I was walking dog at avalon around 8pm took pic if mother duck for first time with 9 babies. The next day rain and wind was due around lunchtime. I went to park at 9.30am and fed ducks rolled oats as previous evg and usually do. The same mother ?? came along with ONLY one duckling. I stood there and cried. Can't we please do something about it? Ps. Maybe ducks more cannabals because of less bread ?? . Funny cause In last 2 wks I've had conversation with 3 lots of family groups feeding ducks bread. No one seems to read signs in avalon, duck ones or dogs. Cheers.	Taita Drive, Avalon, Lower Hutt	ANIM	IAFA	ACO	Central
1011194	28/05/2023	80	At 7:30 1/03/2021 my partner, leashed small cavoodle (8kg) dog and myself were waking in avalon on the marked path by the children's cycle course. I noticed a large tan mixed breed dog off leash running in the middle of the children's cycle course (the women accompanying the dog was several meters away from it). It ran up to us and we tried to just keep walking but it started to growl and lunge at our dog. By then the women who was with the dog came up and said "it's just a puppy" (probably 20kg though). We asked for the dog to be leashed, we told her this is a leash only area. She took immediate offense and started following arguing (did not leash the dog). Our dog was distressed. We picked up our dog and walked off. She said "I'll get my partner he'll give you the bash." then started fluming us and following us for a while but we just kept walking. I don't think her dog had a registration tag.	6 Harcourt Werry Drive, Taita, Lowe	ANIM	IAFA	ACO	Central
506118	21/01/2021	80	We just came across a lady with her little dog who thought it would be ok to walk her dog by the duck pond and even let it swim in the duck pond. I've approached her and made her aware that this isn't appropriate but she was very ignorant. As a responsible dog owner myself I find such behaviour very disappointing as this kind of behaviour might prohibit dogs from avalon completely. I feel there's nothing I can do about it apart from making the dog owner aware but most of the time it only results in ignorance or even abuse. Is there anything else that can be done about this issue? I've attached a picture. **have called**	2 Fairway Drive AVALON	ANIM	IAMC	KTA	Central
510628	1/03/2021	80	Other - Note what in details: reports that there are 2 x med/large dogs in the children's playground area at avalon. They are on leash however this is signed as no dogs in park. She spoke to the owners who left the area but returned as soon as they drove off. avalon by the train, A male is with his dog with no collar or lead. Big fat black lab is over the road at the entrance by the new houses, He has verbally abused XX. is wanting to be contact please with the outcome. He came in a car rego	2 Fairway Drive AVALON	ANIM	IAMC	KTA	Central
514870	8/04/2021	80	Hi. I've been to avalon this afternoon with my grandkids. There were dogs there, on leads thank goodness, in the playground. These were not little dogs but medium sized, menacing looking dogs (mastiff type dogs but don't know exactly what). One, in particular, was growling at the other dogs and even growled at a tall man standing nearby. I've seen on your website that dogs are not allowed in the playground area. Can you please police this. The playground was absolutely packed today on our first sunny day for ages and being in the school holidays. I imagine these dog owners would not pay any attention to park users asking them to remove their dogs. Why you'd even take a dog to a playground is beyond me. They can't play. Regards.	avalon Playground	ANIM	IAMC	KTA	Central
584797	6/10/2022	80	Email sent to Campbell Barry and Contact centre. Photo attached from Hi Campbell, I'm writing to you out of frustration and somewhat desperation. We reside close to avalon. We walk our dog, on leash, twice a day. According to the bylaws, it is a place that is meant to be safe to walk and enjoy without the constant anxiety of dealing with dogs off leash. Unfortunately that is not the case, as we are too frequently having to confront other dog owners who flout the rules and themselves have no control over their dogs. We've had other dogs approach our own, causing a chain reaction of behavior that we then have to resolve, and that is after having to interject putting ourselves and our dog in danger. Often times that we have spoken to the other dog owners, we ourselves have been abused and threatened, and even now purposefully targetted by some owners who know that their dog causes us to feel unsafe. We have spoken to animal control and yet nothing has changed. Now we have seen on social media that a dog has been attacked by two off leash dogs, see below. Something needs to change, otherwise more dogs and potentially people (including children who often frequent the park) will be injured. While some of us dog owners know and respect the rules (and bylaws) it seems many do not, and we would hope that the council dedicates some priority and resource to ensure we all can enjoy this area without feeling a sense of danger and stress. Please feel free to give me a call or email to discuss this further, and help your community feel better in our own backyard.	Taita Drive, Avalon, Lower Hutt	ANIM	IAMC	KTA	Central
1004718	24/03/2023	80	Complaint - Dog owner is walking his dog off-lead at avalon. Dog is a medium size, skinny, brindle. Breed unknown. The dog walker is described as a white male with long hair and a beard. Caller reports this happens multiple times a week. He is at the avalon with his dog now.	avalon	ANIM	IAMC	KTA	Central
1000920	20/02/2023	80	Other - Note what in details: Caller informed that there is man walking his dog at the avalon without a lead on the dog and when she told him that he has to have a lead on the dog, he got aggressive towards her. She said it is a Border Collie She wanted me to log the job and have a so informed that we cannot go out for this job.	avalon	ANIM	IAOC	KTA	Central
1007620	20/04/2023	80	large white dog off lead at avalon currently. currently by the kids bike area.	Taita Drive, Avalon, Lower Hutt	ANIM	IAOC	KTA	Central
1009333	8/05/2023	80	Dog off leash where shouldn't have been, Avalon I'm emailing about a dog off a leash in avalon on Sunday afternoon with hoards of kids at the biking area. Is this dog ban enforced? I was afraid my 4 year old was going to be mauled by what turned out to be a 5 month old dog (so fairly unpredictable) that a couple let out of their car and then it ran up to my kid who was scooting quite far away from me (I also had a one year old in a pram). All I could do was yell instinctively in fright to 'hey! Get your dog on a leash' and then up close, 'I'm sorry, I overreacted, I'm afraid of dogs' all this before they even leashed it (and in retrospect I should never have even apologised). I then got abused by the female owner (she called me an 'evil lady'). No apology, seemed to think I had done something wrong. Made me feel really awful and in front of my kids. Honestly I don't understand why dog owners think their pets are cute but don't understand how scary it is for mothers. The dog was running after my kid, who was running away from the dog, holding his scooter up. It's not the first time I've seen people with dogs off leashes in that area. I guess I'm wondering about enforcement. Thanks	avalon	ANIM	IAOC	KTA	Central
1012955	29/05/2023	80	dog off leash at avalon - by the bike track end of the park . has zero recall and keeps going up to the other dogs - Black and whote cotlie	avalon	ANIM	IAOC	KTA	Central

1023475	19/10/2023	80	<p>Hi, "Roaming Dogs" was the closest category I could find. Yesterday is the 4th time this person and their unleashed dog have disrupted my own dog walking in avalon. The guy just looks at his phone and ignores his dog as it runs everywhere from the park entrance on Taita over to the skate ramps on Fairview. I don't want to go near them, so my entrance to the park is blocked by their activities. Yesterday in particular his dog was not well controlled. It spent several minutes barking at something in the stand of pine trees (harassing wildlife?) and he didn't seem able to recall it. Owner: Average size/build. Seems to always wear a hoody (up) or hat, and white sneakers. Dog: Black or very dark brown, pit/mix or bulldog, quite "low slung." Car: I *think* I saw him and his dog in a grey car with plate . If I contacted you every time I see an off leash dog at the park, it would be several times every week (even though I'm only at the park for ~20 minutes each day). I'm not trying to waste your time, so I only bother in the worst cases or when it actually impacts me.</p>	2 Fairway Drive AVALON	ANIM	IAOC	KTA	Central
1043501	13/05/2024	80	<p>I already called about this, so if you spoke to her already then don't worry about it. An off leash dog ran out of the avalon playground, ran up to me causing my dog to bark. I asked the owner to leash her dog and remove it from the playground. She said "What are you going to do about it?" I said I'd report it to animal control. She said "It will be your word against mine." so I took a video of the dog with her in the playground, off leash. Then she started saying I don't have permission to film her etc. etc. I would like to add a few details that I forgot in the phone call. - The dog is called called "XX" or "XX" and is some sort of small terrier(maybe a XX? I'm not an expert). - She left in a tan Subaru people mover with license plate XX. - Later that day, her husband assaulted me in the park. I've made a police report about it. - Obviously I can provide you with video if that helps. I know you've probably got better things to do so sorry about bringing this to you. I've learned to ignore most of the shit people get up to, but when a dog actually runs up to me and stresses out my dog, and then the owner is completely unapologetic, I feel obliged to make a report.</p>	2 Fairway Drive AVALON	ANIM	IAOC	KTA	Central
1047125	2/07/2024	80	<p>Hi. I picked "roaming dogs," because it seemed to be the best fit. There's no category for "dog owner consistently ignoring relevant laws." * On Saturday 22/06/2024 There was a guy exercising 2 off leash dogs by the carpark at the pavilion in avalon. I had to change my own dog walking route because I didn't want to walk my dog in the vicinity of his off leash dogs. * On Wednesday 26/06/2024 the same guy was exercising the same two dogs off leash near the path entrance to avalon at the intersection of Taita Drive and Frederick Street. Again I had to take a different route because I don't want to walk my dog near his off leash dogs. * Today on Monday 02/07/2024 The same person arrived in his car as I entered the park. He had the same two dogs off leash, but headed into the north part of the park which wasn't where I was going. * I'm pretty certain I made a similar complaint about this same person few months ago, but he has different dogs now. He always seems to wear black pants and a black hoody or jacket, and often white sneakers. His car is a grey Mazda hatchback with plate XX. The dogs look to me (not an expert) like two young dark coloured pits or pit-mixes. I always wear a body camera now when I walk the dog, so I can provide video of this if you want (it's not sufficient to identify a face, but you can clearly see that the dogs are running around off leash after emerging from his car).</p>	2 Fairway Drive AVALON	ANIM	IAOC	KTA	Central