
Dog policy, bylaw and regional park access rules 2025

Q2 Policy and bylaw matters

**(Q2C. Clarify who can provide behavioural assessments
in relation to menacing dog classifications)**

Comments sorted by submitter's local board

Date published: Monday, 7 April 2025

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Sub #	Q2C Menacing dog assessments	Q2C Tell us why
ALBERT-EDEN LOCAL BOARD		
176	Support	It needs to be consistent and at the City's
960	Support	Needs to be a professional to class the animal, not a random council member that doesn't know a dog from a cow
1622	Support	It should only be people properly trained and specialised in animal and dogs, it is useless to have a council member or member of society providing this.
3062	Do not support	professional can give report but they dont actually know the dog
3076	Support	I'm not against regulation—I support it! I believe in uplifting the industry through education to raise standards, licensing for accountability, and solutions that genuinely address the issues. Regulation by numbers alone won't solve the problem. Please work with real life dog walkers and trainers to come up with better solutions, rather than having a very small portion ruin it for a lot of people and dogs.
4182	Support	People who provide behavioural assessments should be well qualified to do so. A behavioural assessment should be done in the presence of the owner. It is significant to see how an owner relates to a dog and whether they can control their dog. It doesn't make much sense to only focus on the dog.
4368	Support	This is probably not council staff. Need more independence, if that's possible. Council classifications (and indeed those of their compliant behavioral assessment consultants) should not be influenced by pound capacity, or at least not while council appears to be all response and no pro-action around desexing.
5130	Support	Should involve best practice by professional people
5485	Support	'Menacing' dog owners can be as bad as the 'menacing' breeds, which demonstrate 'menacing' behaviours
6749	Support	I think unbiased professional animal behaviourists externals should be contracted for these roles and decisions
AOTEA/GREAT BARRIER LOCAL BOARD		
1748	Support	Council needs to come up with a good vetting system when using any private dog trainer to determine this as a lot of dog trainers are unaware of what a true aggressive or menacing dog is. they could classify a dog menacing by misreading its behavior and reasons for biting someone. the people who own the dog should also be classified as to if they are fit for looking after a menacing dog
DEVONPORT-TAKAPUNA LOCAL BOARD		
598	Support	I don't understand why this question is being asked - surely there must already be expertise in clarifying menacing dogs?
1558	Support	The dog should need at least 3 opinions from a behaviourist.
1852	Support	It should be a few people that make comment - vet, trained dog behaviourist
2107	Do not support	You haven't clearly stated who you're referring to so how can we comment?
2322	Do not support	. Rather list the dogs included so it's clear to owners and no confusion. If an owner seeks clarification on who made the rule they can contact the council

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3643	Support	Only certified dog trainers or behavioural professionals. Could be aswell someone that did studies based on animal care with specialization on companion animals that one of their subject studies is Dog Behaviour.
3762	I don't know	No one should be able to define this. It is too subjective. Dogs protect their families and that is what they have been bred for over time
3880	Do not support	Dogs that are classified as menacing dogs can often be the victim of another dog attacking them. This is due to them retaliating to an attack. Because the attacked dog may be of a certain breed and retaliated it is classified as the menacing dog not the dog who initially attacked. This is wrong.
4260	Support	This is very important to have someone with expertise making such assessments. Surely there's already expertise involved in this area!?
5192	Support	one of my friends was bitten by a dog at Sherwood Reserve in the morning when she was walking and the dog and its owner just ran away. My friend was not able to work for a few days.
6725	Support	Where available, a veterinarian with appropriate specialist training/skills would be likely to more accurately judge the behavioural features of such a dog. However, in view of the increase in dog attacks, and the apparent tendency for persons with a criminal background to prefer dogs with aggressive characteristics I think that ANY dog which has made an unprovoked attack should be euthanised automatically - and quickly.
FRANKLIN LOCAL BOARD		
350	Support	Rather than looking at just qualification experience needs to be hugely taken into account also - after all we all know the best teacher is life & experience.
958	Support	Only someone with experience with menacing dogs should be allowed to, or someone who can relate on a personal level, someone who themselves own one of the menacing breeds.
1206	Support	A qualified dog trainer (recognized qualifications, not back yard so called experts) or veterinary qualified behaviourist.
1336	Support	This should definitely be controlled by the council. Owners are attempting to circumvent "dangerous breed" laws by interbreeding dogs and claiming their dog is not a purebred fighting dog.
1731	Support	Definitely needs to be regulated somehow
1922	Support	Only qualified dog behaviourists not someone at the council who looked at something couldn't tell the breed and decided they looked scary
1968	Support	Support this only if the person doing assessments is unbiased and trained in dog behaviour.
2242	Support	These need to be vetted by public so a random council appointed idiot isnt making decisions. Ive worked in govt for 23 years so i know well enough
3376	Support	Again, why are we allowing menacing dogs???
3553	Support	A Registered trained vet or qualified dog handler who has the appropriate qualifications shod make these assessments.

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3923	I don't know	While I am not sure of the current process I do know that the environment of a pound or animal shelter is not the best place to assess a dogs temperament or personality. The dog is often terrified, surrounded by strange noises, smells and people and will be very stressed.
4209	Support	I believe labelling a dog as a menacing breed based solely on its genetics is inaccurate. Behavioural assessments should be conducted by experts on an individual basis, regardless of breed classification. Cases of so-called menacing breeds often result from poor ownership and systemic negligence.
4342	Support	This should be an independent investigation not made from dog rangers as they are often inexperienced and lacking life skills.
4428	Support	Ensure that whoever is recommended to provide the behavioural assessment is qualified to do so and that proof is obtained that the owner of the menacing dog has actually been to an assessor. Again, if the owner does not abide by this rule the dog should be taken off them and put down.
4690	Do not support	Not enforceable
4726	Support	Trained dog behaviourist not a council worker
5574	Support	In addition to some formal method from by Council, I'd like to have a clear method for citizens to raise concerns perhaps through a formal channel through local Boards
5906	I don't know	I am hesitant to agree to this, as I believe you will just hire a council worker, and not a dog expert to ascertain whether a dog is menacing or not. And I believe people should be allowed menacing dogs as long as they keep them responsibly so they are not a threat to other people or pets. I know trained farm dogs that would be menacing if they were to end up with another owner, but who respond extremely well to their owners commands, and who's owners do not have them in situations in which they could pose risk to others.
6073	Support	It should be someone well qualified like Mark Vette
HENDERSON-MASSEY LOCAL BOARD		
239	Do not support	Dog behavioural science is changing rapidly and often "experienced" handlers follow methods that are completely debunked by modern research. I'm concerned that mistakes will be made and innocent dogs will die thanks to old fashioned prejudices to their breed or trauma history.
832	Support	This is a severe classification and should be made by experts....and there needs to be a clear distinction of the definition of menace - a dog which s defending itself or it's owner should not be declared menacing and small untrained dogs which are aggressive towards bigger dogs should have to follow the same rules. As a big dog owner we are often confronted by aggressive small dogs whose owners blame thr bigger dog.
940	Do not support	Dont believe SPCA and the like should make the decision as they purposely kill dogs . I think separate associations, that as a whole look after animals and could do a review on the specific animal rather than a breed . If the SPCA wanted to help animals they would have put in place the checking across registrations - would be simple to implement.

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950	Do not support	Only those who are trained vets or QUALIFIED AND CERTIFIED dog behaviour specialists should be able to comment on dogs. All other UNQUALIFIED idiots should stay to their professions. If you lack the necessary knowledge you should not have a say. Would you let any man off the streets treat your family member in hospital ?
998	Support	I want to remind you that most dog owners are responsible, and shouldn't be penalized because of a few who disregard the rules, the same few who will also disregard any new tighter restrictions.
1609	Support	The industry is unregulated and there are many dubious 'behaviouralists' with no proper qualifications. Proper expertise is important in ensuring consistent regulations.
1666	Do not support	This is NOT a job for the council for a start, Proper DNA tests and many behavioural tests in a different environment should be conducted before meting out a death sentence on an animal. The shelter is a strange environment that really stresses out any dog, even a well balanced dog like mine who loves people would probably be aggressive in that ***** hole. Breed specific legislation should be ceased immediately. IT DOES NOT WORK. Again, if we actually go back to the data we see that since the introduction of BSL, dog attacks have increased, international statistics prove this legislation to be ineffective and cruel and many dogs that actually would have made great family pets have been killed because of irresponsible owners and revolting council mandates and practices.
1751	Do not support	The only people who can comment is ones who know the dog and see the dog regularly other than the owners.. like their vets or neighbours or park friends
2293	Support	It should be a dog behavioural specialist to ensure that the dog can or cannot be supported in behavioural changes
2449	Do not support	A professional and should be two independent reports to determine behaviour issues
3837	Do not support	I've sat there and tried to go through the associated legislation - https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1996/0013/latest/whole.html#DLM375498, but it doesn't define for me who exactly is allowed to define a dog as menacing or dangerous? A territorial authority would mean that it's an Auckland Council member who has that power. Basically, I think the only dangerous dogs are a danger as a result of being pushed in those directions by an owner. None of these rules will change the neglect that I see.
4381	Do not support	Clarity in the policy is important. This is not a useful survey question to ask. The question is better asked is on the policy detail. However, that information is not in the policy documents (it is not specified in the Appendix A, B or C).
4924	Do not support	I cannot find this clarification in any of the discussion documents. I would feel more comfortable if it was determined by veterinary behaviourists, but since there are not enough n NZ than compromise needs to be made

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5401	Support	This should be done by qualified behavioural specialists and not by some halfwit working in the pound.
6105	I don't know	Who can currently do this? What qualifications are required to do this? What does it involve, and what science is being used to determine behaviour.
6681	Support	Any improvements to clarify are to be encouraged.
HIBISCUS AND BAYS LOCAL BOARD		
214	Support	This needs to be clear and fair and transparent.
319	Support	Dog behavior experts, who are trained professionals and often work at animal shelters and rescue centres, are more than capable of determining if a dog is high risk.
579	Support	It would remove the ambiguity about which dogs are classified as menacing
607	Support	A dog that is consistently/continuously reported off-lead and roaming it's neighbourhood should be considered menacing because it is not under any control of a human. Dogs repeatedly found roaming should be removed from owners. If owners could apply for a loan to buy a large kennel enclosure with enclosed fence attached, this might be a solution (to avoid roaming or chained dogs).
771	Support	Some dogs are classified menacing solely on breed, but there are others which are menacing due to a lack of control by the owner. And these are the ones that people think are cute.
776	Support	Assessors should be highly-skilled in the understanding of dogs and their behaviour.
864	Support	This is not just one person, if a dog is classed as menacing it should be vet, behaviour specialist etc to ensure a well rounded view of the dog.
1153	Do not support	Not interested in more rules. Let dogs in the parks. There are very early any issues and when there are there isn't any support from council anyway. Who's going to patrol the beach on dog watch?
1308	Support	Have true experts in what classifies a menacing dog, and not just basing it on breed.
1324	Support	The proposed policy makes no mention of who can make behavioural assessments in relation to menacing dog classifications, not what qualifications they should have.
1532	Support	They should not be allowed off leash in dog exercise areas. More information needs to be added regarding their dna. Often they are registered as mix instead of a certain breed mix
1537	Support	Needs to be reasonable assessment and accessible providers, without costing a huge amount
1634	Support	Should only be qualified personnel such as veterinarians and Council Animal control staff
2084	Support	It needs to be more than one assessment by a qualified person - not a complaining member of the public
2290	Support	As before the owner of the dog should be assessed and not the dog.
2523	Support	This has to be assessed by a professional. And there have to be clear steps to be taken once a dog is deemed menacing.

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2875	Support	As a qualified trainer it's scary watching unqualified trainers giving advice and guidance to owners. Assessing a dog isn't a simple process and the person should be required to be qualified to do so. It's no different from someone who's not qualified in medical giving medical advice.
3416	Support	You are not telling us who is going to be allowed to do this. Vets? Fine. Old men who don't like barking? Not fine.
3446	Support	The Public is the best guide, however most people are abused by owners of dogs displaying aggressive, unruly behaviour. Vets, Pet Store owners, neighbours are also good judges of a dog's character
3842	Do not support	Why does the council make it hard for people to find out the information in this survey? Why is there not a link for each question to the specific area being changed so that people can easily find the proposed changes. Instead they have to search online. It's almost like you are deliberately making it difficult to dissuade people from commenting. Since the information is not clearly presented, I am against it.
3988	Support	Animal Control, Vets & victims of attacks
4354	Support	I was bitten by a medium size petagree, dog Las year off of lesh.
4730	Do not support	I do not trust that your assessors would be non biased. All I heard from the council representatives yesterday was "legislations say". "We just have to follow legislation". Auckland council is a group of biased dog haters and I don't trust in the slightest. I have spoken to SPCA and again if they were to come out and assess they confirmed that the bully breeds a simply destroyed and no time is given to the testing. I would want to find an independent professional behaviorist that is not connected to government.
5712	Support	I think there is a terrible bias towards certain dog breeds. a personal experience is trying to seek training for my rottweiler and being turned down from public classes without even meeting my dog due to the breed. I think people who make these judgments should be veterinary behavioralists or have an alternative qualification that is recognized and a veterany allied qualification.
5984	Support	We'll train animal inspectors should be plentiful until the problem is resolved
6396	Support	See previous comment
6431	Support	I support that a person trained in dog behaviour be required to asses such dogs rather than any person such as a neighbour who may have a grievance with the owner and is claiming the dog is aggressive to get at the dog's owner.
6494	Do not support	There are all manner of professional Animal behaviourists out there that that carry much weight in this profession and community that no doubt the council will deem unworthy of being one of these providers. How can we trust the council to therefore give ruling on this when there is so much nepotism within the council. Giving the council the ability to rule what is menacing and what isn't is giving them biased power that can bring unwarranted damage to all manner of dog breeds. As the council has already shown us.
HOWICK LOCAL BOARD		
407	Support	Ban pitbull type dogs

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521	Support	This is a big responsibility and can only fairly be done by dog behaviour experts. A support system for owners to learn good dog control and support systems would be a valuable inclusion in this area would be valuable.
541	Support	Partially support this as it needs to be an appropriately highly qualified person of whom there are few in NZ. Someone like Mark Vette would be appropriately qualified.
1805	Support	Behavioural assessments should be done by a qualified practicing veterinarian or a veterinarian with a membership in animal behaviour.
2216	Do not support	The council have already stated a clear cut list of “menacing dogs” that’s enough. It’s a rate payers choice to pick the dog they own
2218	Support	I would like to see clear guidelines for these behavioural assessments and the research that backs up the qualifications for the assessment.
2516	I don’t know	No one has the right to choose for owners who chose to want to care for any dog If we pay registration and care for the dog safely Then no one can choose for me and my dog I refuse to get him neutered.
2692	I don’t know	Didn’t see this covered in the material provided. This classification can only depend on the characteristics of the owner, not the breed of the dog. It must be a qualified professional with a fair court process, with significant opportunity for the owner to input. There must be wide discretion in the criteria and a very high bar, with checks and balances to ensure no bias in the process.
4099	Support	As above, an assessment alone is good enough, as often dog lover assessors will err in favour of the dog. DNA is needed, taking away any human involvement.
4225	Support	Whoever takes on this role must be an absolute expert in the field. I am talking Mark Vette expert here. Not some rookie, who has done a little bit of training, but has no experience in dealing with the very real issues facing some of these dogs. I have a rescue high needs dog (friendly, just deeply disturbed emotionally due to the abuse he has suffered), and after 2 years I have seen progress, but it is ongoing and I work with what he can cope with and manage him. There are so many of these dogs that can live successfully in the community, but need the care and training to enable this. So I say, anything less than Mark Vette expertise is probably not going to work.
4357	Support	Specific clarifications and also metrics around any assessments and how many. There has to be specifics added to ensure there is not just some prejudiced fool making poor choices. So yes I do support specifics being clarified with key details around who can provide that assessment.
4629	Support	Support as long as long as the person in charge has no bias
KAIPĀTIKI LOCAL BOARD		
21	Support	Only trained professionals should be doing the behaviour assessments. Otherwise it becomes biased and unfair.
186	Support	Dogs deemed menacing should be assessed by dog behaviour experts.
260	Support	It's not a matter for amateurs or people with dubious qualifications.

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476	Support	Dogs are potentially fatal, assessments need to mirror other potentially fatal items.
572	Support	Get a panel of dog behavioral experts
1353	Support	With clear structure and reporting, as well as the option to get a second opinion. There should also be independence from Council.
1380	Support	Dog expert only who are trained with qualifications and experience
1679	Do not support	no one is ever neutral on these topics also creates excessive beurocracy and costs
4523	Support	An actual qualification or experience not just someone qualified by nature of being in the job
4806	Support	This needs to be done with caution. There needs to be a clear understanding of dogs and animal behaviour.
5455	Support	Provide causes so anyone can attend and be certified
6092	Support	Behavioural assessments should be conducted by qualified, independent canine behaviourists rather than only council-appointed assessors. This ensures fairness and prevents unnecessary menacing classifications based solely on breed rather than behaviour.
6290	Support	I support clarification, because the public has a right to know what is going on.
MĀNGERE-ŌTĀHUHU LOCAL BOARD		
590	I don't know	Again don't know what the options are. Clarify please.
4270	Support	Yes but surely a menacing dog is known by its behaviour and its ownership ...
4772	Support	Im actually not sure what the current rules on this are but it makes sense that a qualified person make this assessment.
6024	Support	Dog behaviour specialists, and those with knowledge to rehabilitate dogs, should be making assessments not judges, vets, or general pound workers.
6050	Support	Who would be the suitable person to conduct such assessment? Would council invest on this? We shouldn't classify the dog is menacing per breed types. e.g. A chihuahua can be menacing if they aren't trained properly, they are indeed a small breed but can cause more detrimental damage than bigger breeds if triggered.
6154	Support	A person who is qualified such as an animal behaviour expert is the obvious choice to ensure these decisions have animal welfare at the forefront. Someone who is able to provide a professional, unbiased assessment of a dogs behaviour is the most appropriate person for the job. This ensures we are targeting behaviours and not targeting breeds based on appearance.
6685	Support	Please make sure this person is suitable for this job and not being biased because of the dog breed.
MANUREWA LOCAL BOARD		
45	Support	Better and clearer compliance requirements on those Behavioral Assessors
144	Support	Would need to ensure that all methods of training is considered when someone is deciding on if a dog should be classed as menacing or if simply they have had improper training and handling.

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2295	Support	Spca needs more power. Animal management should not be outsourced. That's the reason they half hearted attend call outs. Their liability is minimal. That's the reason they can say things such as "oh those are difficult people or household. We can't do anything". That is utter nonsense. Closed on public holidays as well. What a joke.
6340	Support	Dog Professional needed
6735	Do not support	Again, menacing dog classifications are so outdated. People stereotype the dogs historically catergorized as menacing and hold an unconscious bias.
MAUNGAKIEKIE-TĀMAKI LOCAL BOARD		
18	I don't know	I am not sure how the criteria of 'who' could carry out behavioural assessments would be set, and even then there is variation in what deems someone suitable to assess a dog. Often people with lots of experience working with dogs has the best knowledge but may not have formal qualifications. It has been my professional experience that many individuals that hold themselves out as trainers or behavioural experts have the 'book knowledge' and lack the hands on experience which means they could make an accurate behavioural assessment of a dog. I employ a canine behaviourist on my staff, who holds Post Graduate Diploma in Companion Animal Clinical Ethology and she has had to take time to immerse herself into handling dogs (walking) to balance her learned experience with actual experience to become well rounded and able to assess dogs for walking services accurately.
235	Support	Random untrained people should not have the authority to report or classify dogs. There are too many self-righteous humans that would classify a dog as menacing because they don't like the bread.
639	Do not support	Focus on the problems. It's pretty obvious what the dangerous dogs are.
698	Support	Whoever does provide behavioural assessments in relation to menacing dogs should also be accountable as the dog owner/owners.
840	Support	Council experts need to be able to assess the dogs and not those who get them for free from other backyard breeders.
909	Support	It needs to be someone who knows a lot about breeds and what they can do to harm people. Also license the owners.
993	Support	Once again I have no faith in the council to do anything
1437	Support	Properly qualified people should make these type of assessments.
2023	Support	Behaviourists and veterinarians, as well as certified dog walkers should be able to assess. Not just council
3559	Do not support	as stated above
3760	Support	Would be good to know .

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4470	I don't know	This is tricky, Chopper the dog was forced to go into hiding by a vet who broke a bunch of rules and he was put to death for it. I do not want that to happen again. I do not want vets having any power here.
4672	Support	All owners who own a dog, not yet neutered, must have a signed certificate (from a vet or animal professional) who can give a time frame on being neutered as it also depends on the breed ,size and age that's best for that dog.
5265	I don't know	There are presently no regulations, in New Zealand, to define who or what deems an individual to be an appropriately qualified Canine Behaviourist. That is. not to say there aren't qualifications available, however it is my experience professionally that there are varied qualifications, which need to be balanced with the appropriate experience in order for an individual to be deemed a Canine Behavioural professional. And in many instances some of the most thorough and experienced Canine Behavioural professionals may not have formal qualifications, but have extensive experience and dogmanship which makes such an individual equally qualified.
5522	Support	We need an outside impartial contractor performing all behavioral issues with a full report released to the public with the public are able to intervene before any further action is taking.
5572	Support	Trained people for this position
6581	Support	Only accredited qualified professionals should be used
ŌRĀKEI LOCAL BOARD		
322	Support	Should be a qualified behavioural vet assessing.
447	Support	If there is a decision to be made after a member of public complains about being menaced then an approved dog trainer could make the determination
535	Support	There are people trained in dog behaviour who would give an unbiased , educated evaluation There are numerous reports of meanacing dogs biting people, usually children and the owners always say ..he was never aggressive, they probsbly were but the families do not know the danger signs
610	Support	Only vets with clear accreditations. I really want to avoid innocent dogs being wrongfully classified and euthanised.
643	Support	I don't think that behavioural assessments relating to menacing dogs can be undertaken by one person. There should be a process that involves 2 - 3 contributing bodies, eg a Vet, a dog trainer/behaviouralist and the Council. This ensures that all aspects are taken into consideration before an action or ruling is undertaken.
818	Support	Classification itself is a fool's errand.
880	Support	This is a very haphazard thing - dangerous dog was adopted from the pound next door because of inadequate and amateur assessment. Must be qualified and must err on the side of caution!
952	Support	As pr my remark earlier. Council can't make the decision which dog is menacing
962	Support	What actions are taken should be outlined.
1128	Support	Dogs behavior can be complex. You need someone with experience. Think we should have the same for dog owners!!!!

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1135	Support	Animal control
1863	Support	Should be multiple vets that force neutering on this basis and not just one
1905	I don't know	WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY CLARIFY??? I think that only a dog professional should be able to classify a dog as menacing, where barking or defensive behavior to protect itself if threatened should not allow a dog to be classified as menacing. this should not become an easier process, and should only be done by certified, veternerians dog behaviour experts professionals. QUESTION IS UNCLEAR.
3358	Support	It needs to be a qualified and experienced expert of animal training and behaviour. Absolutely not a rookie Animal Management Control officer who has no business making such a serious decision when that decision could result in the dog being euthanised.
3745	I don't know	I don't think anyone in council is qualified to make the above assessments, so as long as it's a pet professional that is fine.
3753	Support	An independent veterinarian(s) and qualified dog behaviourist(s) should be involved in the assessment process for prevention and for determining the right course of action following an attack. Too many dangerous dogs are released under a mandate of muzzle and leash that is not monitored nor enforceable
4052	Support	The dogs are barking, jumping on kids, urinating on kids, drink bottles while they train, which obviously raises some health and safety issues.
4117	Do not support	This is another bureaucratic proposal that is unnecessary and prejudicial to the vast majority of dog owners. It is a solution to a minor problem that does not need fixing. Commonsense and experience in understanding and dog handling should suffice.
4799	I don't know	This is not hard - have the right people in this job who take action - no visibility on this as yet
4831	Support	As above, if you go down this route, you need a clear framework to define menacing and implement the change.
4943	Support	There is so much ignorance around dogs. People who have no idea about dog behaviour are making unsubstantiated claims that a dog is "aggressive" if he is just exhibiting normal dog behaviour. This result in complaints, wasting people's time, with dog control officers treating people as victims on the hearsay of one disgruntled member of the public. A common sense approach is needed and a compliant must provide real proof of aggression, not simply decide on the strength of their fear. A dog attack has not taken place if there is no visible injury to the animal. That is a dog maybe warning another dog etc
5520	Support	Yes, that person need to have some fancy animal behaviour degree with laminated certificate! And they should be actively working with dogs and understand them. Again, don't just based it on historical data!
6122	Do not support	You need to do better on this regardless.
6224	Support	Vet behaviouralist specialist should be the person doing assessment
6379	I don't know	Behavioral assessments are subjective and not all behavioral assessors would be equal.

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6645	Support	I support clarity but I don't think that members of the general public should be able to make this assessment. Dog's of all breeds can be menacing on occasion, but often harmlessly and in order to serve as a warning to certain behaviours from people or other animals. I think such assessments should be made by a dog behaviour specialist.
6687	Support	I support clarity on who can provide behavioural assessments, however I believe people who have the ability to provide assessments MUST be qualified professionals. I do not believe members of the general public or council workers who do not have expertise in ascertaining dog behaviour should be given the ability to 'label' a dog without formal/registered training. As mentioned previously, dogs of all breeds can be menacing on occasion, and I firmly dispute blanket labelling a breed (form of discrimination of the canine kind!).
6772	Support	That would be great to have proper trained professionals that could do it
6788	Support	This should be done by Behaviourist vets because they're the only ones who can have a full perspective of a case. Behaviour is influenced by multiple factors, such as health conditions. No other professional can rule out physiological disorders.
ŌTARA-PAPATOETOE LOCAL BOARD		
2245	Do not support	There are far too many biases with council and how you clarify menacing dogs. People need far better education on the owners and how they have taught dogs to be harmful
2529	Support	Managing the breeding would be good. If not authorized breeder, don't breed. Random checks on households for dogs - registration and desex certificates.

Sub #	Q2C Menacing dog assessments	Q2C Tell us why
2530	Support	This change wont change the fact that dangerous dogs are still roaming around the suburban neighbourhoods harming people and other animals. There needs to be a change on how people are able to aquire dogs and a monitring of people who breed dogs. I live in South Auckland and the amount of dogs that roam around freely is shocking. Its unsafe to walk around as these dogs dont get caught straight away and when they do theres nothing done about them. If the council know the owners have had a history of not taking care of their dogs then they need to be fined and complete;y banned from ever owning a dog as a lot of these dogs are not trained either. Even they say that the dogs on the property so the council can.t do anything but literally i've seen dogs jump over their fence to attack people. While I was walking my dog recently a unleashed pitbull was with with a group of young children aging around the youngest being about 6 or 7 to the others that were around 8-9 years old. That pit bull straigh away saw my dog which was harnessed and on a leash, and tried to attack my dog whos quite small and is maltese x shih tzu. I protected my dog as much as i could as she was crying from trying to be attacked and i had to shield her between a fence and my legs as the other dog was trying to get to my dog. I then had grab the pitbull and throw it away onto the road and yell at him, then he ran off back to the children taht it was walking with. This is the one of many case around the country, especially in South Auckland where backyard breed pitbull/Staffy terriers are being left to roam around by themselves or roam around with people that dont seem to worry about their dogs behaviour the fact that it needs to on a leash. I mean look at this example. No dog should be ever left with children that young and if it has to be then the dog needs to on a leash. Its a joke honestly the council needs to enforce better laws around roaming dogs in suburban areas before even thinking about putting rules in parks. Nowadays I see people that do walk their dogs in my area, carry sometime of pole or stick with them just in case if they or their dog gets attacked by another roaming dog or a dog that's able to jump the fence and onto the pathway and attack. DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE ROAMING DOGS THAT ARE ATTACKIGN OTHER DOGS
2850	Support	This rule/policy exists but there's bias because it is highly likely the people who will be providing behavioural assessments are people who have dogs so their view will always be biased. Dog owner don't realise how non dog owners feel when their dogs bark at them. Our council doesn't as well and so non dog owners have to suffer all the time getting attacked or chased by dogs.
2974	Support	IT SHUD BE A QUAILIFED DOG TRAINOR NOT THE POUND THEY ARE HARASSES
6691	Support	Not a dog ranger or such who deems to know everything about a dog, without knowing dog's history from responsive owner. Not someone in authority who applies punitive penalties; rather have someone who can at least understand and talk with owner and assess the dog fairly.

Sub #	Q2C Menacing dog assessments	Q2C Tell us why
6826	I don't know	I have a proposal regarding this question that can work to the benefit of both owners and AMOs. It would be to include a training scheme offered to people who have uncontrolled pets as a second chance to return their pets. The statistics show (In the Auckland Region) that only 44% of owners' pets are returned. It is not because of the provisions set out, it is because of the "lack of support" regarding the retrievals. For example: The requirements for the return are the typical policies (AMO financial criteria), yet there are no ease of payment applications. We are requested a lump sum which is ridiculously high for the low socioeconomic regions. Auckland Council expects half a grand within 1 week! The other example is the need for collaboration with Kainga Ora. They do not provide adequate fencing despite the support I have requested from AMOs who have taken images and sent them in as they also agree this is a necessary change to assist in keeping the public safe too. We would also have a higher chance of getting our pets back! Our dogs are just doing their jobs, and they require appropriate confinement sections. I do NOT support chained animals.
PAPAKURA LOCAL BOARD		
1282	Support	I support this proposal only if the people making the assessment are not the council employed dog control people as they have shown time and time again that they just don't give a ***** and when it comes to menacing animals they just want to put them down straight away.
1305	Support	This will just be fair for dog owner's too
1406	Support	Too many dogs are mislabelled due to breed or normal behaviours like barking, and it affects them. It is important to have clear assessments from one source to compare all dogs.
2109	Support	There are a significant amount of variables and as long as it is taken into account and the required training given to individuals then this would be preferable
2426	Support	how will you enforce this? so many dogs are not registered so how will you know? most dogs in this category are not sold legitimately at all, just passed around. Just look on the streets of Mangere
3072	Do not support	This sounds like it may far too complicated & costly for most families to manage. Ideally simplify things without complicating them further.
4455	Support	I support assessments but think rescues should be included and the dogs need a chance. Currently the assessments are too hard and dogs in bad families are penalized for humans not doing their job to look after and train dogs
6461	Support	Need to make sure that whoever provides the behavioural assessment is appropriately qualified to do so. Also, need to obtain proof that the owner of the menacing dog has actually been to an assessor.
PUKETĀPAPA LOCAL BOARD		

Sub #	Q2C Menacing dog assessments	Q2C Tell us why
262	Support	Same comments as above for "menacing breeds". I agree if there are situations where there is an aggressive dog then it should be clear that a dog behaviorist should look into it and not be determined by an unqualified person within Council. Dogs should be considered on a case by case and not under an umbrella breed.
2460	Do not support	I do not support this proposal because it fails to provide transparent, impartial criteria for selecting "council-approved" assessors. It grants excessive discretion to the Council in removing a menacing classification, coming dangerously close to authoritarianism. This lack of accountability undermines fairness, as there is no obligation for the Council to follow professional recommendations, and no guarantee that an assessor will be independent. Such open-ended discretion is at odds with democratic principles and invites potential overreach, leaving responsible dog owners vulnerable to arbitrary decisions.
2489	Do not support	I don't agree with this proposal because it doesn't explain clearly enough how council-approved assessors are chosen. It gives the Council too much power to ignore expert recommendations, which isn't fair. If the Council can do whatever they want regardless of expert opinion, responsible owners might end up with decisions based on personal bias rather than real evidence.
2689	Support	I think that it must be from wide range of cohorts who work in the animal field. Whether they are vets, animal management, spca and also rescue organisations.
2810	Support	As with (B) above. The owner has a right to know the qualifications of those making these classifications.
3653	Support	Clarity and reduces the capacity of dispute over the assessment and subsequent classification
4424	Support	the only persons who should be able to do this are vets
4436	Support	Decisions should be made by someone qualified in dog behaviour. Too many good dogs are being destroyed/labelled by random decisions based on breed specific characteristics (i.e what the dog looks like), rather than menacing behaviours shown.
5494	Support	It needs to be certified animal carers or breeders etc with VALID qualifications without any discrimination on breed.
6500	Do not support	It should not just be the Animal Control Officer whom makes the decision for behavioural assessments. There should be a process which includes a proper offsite behavioural assessment of the dog in a different environment for it to be assessed by dedicated canine behavioural assessors, perhaps utilising the SPCA for this.
RODNEY LOCAL BOARD		
68	Support	No expert required, if the animal can not live in the community it is a menace.

Sub #	Q2C Menacing dog assessments	Q2C Tell us why
564	Support	I am supportive of professional behavioural assessments being carried out BUT would wish for a right to reply : ask for a second opinion. One of my dogs is 'menacing' and the other is 'dangerous'. We had an exceptional dog behavioural expert who assessed our dogs over a number of visits rather than one hour long appointment and this allowed them to accurately detail areas of concern and what we could do to mitigate.
972	Support	We need to have limited professionals who are clearly qualified to make such determinations
1283	Support	As I am qualified at degree level there is an understanding from a scientific and proven perspective. Other trainers 'behaviourists' can cause further damage if they do not have an understanding of the canine brain along with other things.
1320	Support	I support this BUT it should NOT be solely council employees. Quite often they are not qualified to undertake this assessment. Assessments should be by TWO independent professionals.
1589	Support	There needs to be an easy way for people to report aggressive or inappropriate dog behaviour. Online/anonymously etc. It can be challenging to reach council via phone.
1646	Do not support	There are a whole number of perfectly capable people who are connected to a dog who can give their opinion... such as those who know the dog well.... kennels, fellow walkers etc
1678	Support	One puncture that requires stitches makes the dog qualified as menacing
1869	Support	I'm all for assessments rather than a blanket rule. Again it's the owners who are a result of this behaviour and quite often with blanket rules you will punish the good owners.
1936	Support	There is scientific evidence that some dog breeds are high risk for aggressive behavior as they are bred to hunt and attack other animals. Only people who are trained should be allowed to make professional assessments on dog behaviors.
1995	Support	One person's menacing is another's friendly. I think the only person that can truly assess a dog's behavior taking into account the circumstances should be qualified to do so, Blanket Bans on breeds may make this job more manageable to administer but I don't believe it really identifies specific dangerous dogs. Neither does being registered. Not being registered is a problem for many reasons but it does not identify whether the dog is menacing or dangerous.
2143	Support	Because you will be creating another layer of only qualified people can assess a dog at what cost
2178	Support	It is a very subjective matter and some dogs don't react well when confronted by a stranger - so it would need to be very carefully thought out - perhaps a multi person assessment and plenty of time allowed. You should not be assessing a dog as "menacing" because it is frightened or confused by the assessor.

Sub #	Q2C Menacing dog assessments	Q2C Tell us why
2244	Support	I do think this is a good idea, however the appointed entity should be separate and not related in anyway to local or region government. This should be a diverse appointment made up from different animal welfare groups.
2537	Support	A trained professional who is certified.
2640	I don't know	what is a menacing dog???
3252	Support	Absolutely. It should be very clear who can provide assessments and how those assessments are obtained. Define the rules please
4120	Do not support	Same as above. I do not find for instance pit bulls more menacing than other breeds. I find it is ignorant or irresponsible dog owners who are the real problem.
4128	Support	should only be done by veterinarians with special training in behaviour medicine
4307	Support	This should be done by a qualified vet.
4408	Support	So long as these are not random council workers, so long as they are people who have worked with and trained dogs of a similar nature and truly understand what their actions will be doing
4640	Support	Encourage establishment of dog training facilities to require properly trained dog handlers.
4747	Support	Dog trainers are currently an unregulated industry, just like dog walkers, anyone can decide to advertise themselves as a dog trainer and there is a wide spectrum of knowledge and skills, some have one or the other and occasionally they'll have both. My concern is that you could probably currently find anyone to support your favoured outcome if you shop around.
4821	I don't know	What does Clarify who can provide behavioural assessments in relation to menacing dog classifications mean?
5013	I don't know	Any animal control should having the training to be able to tell if an animal is aggressive and thus be able to assess the animal on if it's aggressive. More advocate and campaigning for animal training would help all of these issues and more
5275	Support	Informed dog behaviourists are essential.
5440	Support	100% have a list of registered qualified people. I am not sure what this qualification should be as a lot of skilled trainers / behaviourists don't hold qualifications in New Zealand but they could do a council course to register.
5717	Support	this bylaw changed makes no sense UNLESS it is an independent body doing the classifying of the menacing dog. It cannot be council making the classification. IE : should be a local vet or dog behavioural specialist chosen by dog owner but fully qualified - ie qualified vet / qualified specialist.
6170	Support	As long as it's done by a qualified animal behaviorist
6387	Support	see below
6470	I don't know	This depends entirely on who is allowed to make the classification and do the assessment. There are a lot of behaviourists and trainers who are not capable or qualified to, in spite of their claims to the contrary. The market is saturated with trainers and behaviourists across the spectrum from force free to maximum force only, and a lot of them cannot show results which make a difference.

Sub #	Q2C Menacing dog assessments	Q2C Tell us why
6632	Support	Providing this is not the SPCA policing and will be open to actual dog trainers. Great.
UPPER HARBOUR LOCAL BOARD		
129	Support	Qualified behaviouralist or vet behaviouralist - not council staff who's bulk of experience is dogs they've seen through council (no offence but they aren't the nicest dogs lol)
179	Support	Yes please make it clearer and have a guideline
1166	Do not support	Adding more specific government chosen people to do jobs we don't actually need. More costs, more red tape etc.
1218	I don't know	Bring the cats regulations!!! The cats must be registered, chipped, not allowed to wonder around without owners. Example: a cat came to our property, attacked 2 our dogs. One dog almost died, we paid over \$2000 of excess insurance costs for surgery and hospitalisation. No way to even find whose the cat was, why it was in our enclosed backyard.
1363	Support	Only dog behaviorist should be making those calls, people are not qualified and mistakes can be made
1637	Support	A dog that continues to bark at someone, while straining on it's lead is a menacing dog and has no rights to be in a park
2701	Support	To make sure that dog owners of menacing dogs abide by the rules.
4488	Support	Creating and having a database of qualified Trainers and using their skill sets to assess the dog in question would benefit everyone. Using real-world trainers who work with all breeds of dogs would be the best way to do this. Not just judging the dog purely off the breed.
5447	Support	Only a qualified vet behaviourist should be doing this. Not a protocol set up by council with no research or supporting evidence. Far too many animals have been killed because of terrible council laws.
5873	Support	It is stupid to get the dogs deemed as menacing by send in photos of what the dog looks like. It should have to be put through training as deemed menacing by someone who is trained to recognize actually dangerous dogs
5880	I don't know	This would be excellent IF the list of trainers included ones such as myself who don't necessarily have the "nz recognised qualifications (as the nz qualification is hugely lacking and only supports purely positive trainers). It is important to not be bias towards one ideology. I have put a lot of time and money into my training and believe that it is important to have an array of different trainers with various techniques and ideologies to support the community as a whole.
WAIHEKE LOCAL BOARD		
4893	Support	This needs to be assessed by more than one professional. ie. Vet or Dog Behaviourist. Or if they have attacked a person or another dog then they may not need this assessment or the assessment can be done by the Dog Ranger.
WAITĀKERE RANGES LOCAL BOARD		
506	Support	Too many terrible dog owners in this city. Roaming pitbulls all over Auckland. I'm hoping I can make comments on this and changes will be made. We need to ban pitbulls and pitbull mutts.

Sub #	Q2C Menacing dog assessments	Q2C Tell us why
523	Do not support	The process for classifying dogs as menacing need a complete overhaul, its not working
876	Support	There should be up to 3 people that can assess one dog and each have a say. None of these people should be paid by council.
965	Support	These assessments should only be conducted by qualified animal behaviour specialists... not veterinarians or dog trainers
1079	Support	There seems to be a current 'process' as to who provides behavioral assessments in relation to roaming dogs, however, it has been noted that processes are not always adhered to leaving others confused as to the proper processes and who provides these assessments
1600	Support	Early detection and response to reported animal cruelty, neglect and abuse is needed to reduce the number of animals becoming menacing.
1930	Support	This needs to be clearly set out and qualifications need to be established. Only behavioural experts should be allowed to assess and there should be more than one assessment with more than one expert before a decision is reached. All assessment notes etc should be shared with the owner.
2176	Support	This is hugely contentious and subjective and for it to be fair, the process needs transparency and consistency
3639	Support	We need to know the qualifications of the person assessing the dog. It should possibly be done by multiple people and the other party in the situation needs to be assessed - the person or other dog in whatever conflict as to their part in it.
4001	Support	As above its most certainly NOT a Council employee only. Sometimes it's easy and yes we all agree the dog is menacing but it's a serious decision and mistakes are made. A panel involving dog 'experts' and ratepayers with experience should also be involved.
4220	Support	I believe trained professionals should be making these kinds of assessments, not bureaucrats.
5480	Support	I support if you regulate the dog training industry.
5579	Support	This absolutely needs to be done by a trained and qualified professional.
5896	Support	The proposed change should include behavioral assessments and TRAINING. Entire breeds should definitely be considered but not mandatory
6447	Do not support	'Experts' are purchased to say whatever the council thinks will grab votes.
6765	I don't know	Information on this change is difficult to find. I would support any changes that allow for independent, unbiased experts who are not dependent on the council for their livelihood to perform behavioral assessments.
WAITEMATĀ LOCAL BOARD		
366	Support	I said yes because I asked a query in earlier question. WHO does behavioural assessments in relation to menacing dog classifications currently?
1048	Support	Professionals need to be utilised
1404	Support	When they are making behavioural assessments the same should be done with the owner and the suitability of the property to contain the dog.
1544	Do not support	Who's running this, get them off

Sub #	Q2C Menacing dog assessments	Q2C Tell us why
1923	Support	This needs to be someone who is actually qualified and can understand the dynamics of what led to this situation. You don't want a dog who was maybe unfairly triggered or mistreated to be victimised in the process.
2184	Do not support	Because this is a vague statement and needs more clarification
2232	Support	As long as it's a someone that understands balanced training methods.
2611	Support	Again, not all dogs are registered and the cost of registering a dog is prohibitive. This system of fee taking is not identifying menacing dogs, unneutered dogs or irresponsible owners until an attack occurs and is reported. Responsible owners who register their dogs and pay the exorbitant fee, are funding owners who may have their dogs deemed menacing (by a qualified dog behaviourist) after an attack.
4064	Support	Actions like this could help professional dog trainers like me to develop prevention work and raise awareness of dog obedience.
5310	Support	There does need to be a high level of experience for this. There are many dogs who are nervous and reactive and need training (training for their owners especially) but are not menacing. I would want to see 2 categories, and know that the assessment is being made consistently. I have heard heart-breaking stories of dogs being ordered to be put down for the wrong reasons and lack of understanding.
6445	Support	This needs to be someone objective. I expect many dogs find the pound environment extremely overwhelming and the behaviours they display there may be quite different from typical behaviours.
WHAU LOCAL BOARD		
80	Support	Make sure the people doing the assessment are experts and that they are capable of training dog owners as to how to train their dogs properly.
1447	Support	This should be a neutral party and shouldn't cost the dog-owners as the burden of proof lies to the council
2455	Support	i have dogs
2544	Support	The onus should be on the professional to determine that a menacing dog is "more often than not" menacing. A one time act should not determine that a dog is menacing.
2819	Support	More clarity around who is giving a dog a life sentence to be muzzled.
4025	Support	Should be a group rather than individual,
4157	Support	Assessment I feel has to be based on species or mixed species that have been involved in actual documented attacks on humans, not on the breed purely because of its genetic makeup. Strong dogs do not necessitate aggressive dogs. ie, pure bred pit bull terriers are well known to be great young family pets. BUT any breed of dog that is not socialised as a pup will as an adult be apprehensive around strange humans and animals which will lead to aggressive behaviour. Owner licensing enforcement is key.

Sub #	Q2C Menacing dog assessments	Q2C Tell us why
4879	Support	If a dog has been menacing = put it to rest! If it has potential = ban that breed. The average member of public has below average intelligence. Don't give them the ability to devide!
5023	Support	I think a dog behaviourist should be the only person who can provide an assessment on whether a dog should be classified as menacing. And I think people should be allowed a second opinion. A dog doesn't bite without a cause whether that's another dog, a child or being bored and roaming (It will see the entire neighbourhood as its home and will thus protect it). Other factors should be looked at too, e.g. how is the dog being looked after, does it get regular walks, has it had incidents before, etc.
UNDECLARED LOCAL BOARD		
2183	Support	This would need to be strict, those registered would need consistent refresher training and individual behaviour assessment to ensure they aren't falsifying their assessment to harm animals. There would also need to be a review period with the owners to allow time to seek behavioural development for their dog before the procedure could take place and a final assessment given from another registered staff member to avoid bias.
2423	Support	Anybody with a criminal conviction should be banned from owning a menacing dog and certain breeds of dogs that are known to typically menace people.
2584	Do not support	Stop trying to control everything. Provide the required support for owners instead! If dogs misbehave or are treated badly it's your responsibility to act as required. You cannot make every single owner pay the mistakes of your poor administration!
2652	I don't know	Could not find reference to check who would do behavioral assessments. Seems a lot of the information is scattered across multiple documents making this much harder.
2684	Do not support	Anyone should be able to
4150	I don't know	More experts probably required.
4468	Support	Refer above
5466	Do not support	As I say above, this is so stereotypical and no person really has a good grasp on how a dog acts apart from the owner. Yes they can look scary but there is no way random people can classify who they think is menacing!
5884	Do not support	Breed standards need to be adhered to. IF a dog is determined to be a menace, testing should be done on the owner of the dog to determine they are of sound enough mind to be raising a dog. If not, the OWNER should be punished - NOT THE DOG!
7261	Support	BEHAVIOUR ASSESSMENTS: These are necessary at times and need to be carried out by suitably qualified people
OUTSIDE AUCKLAND		
932	Support	There should be nominated expert witnesses. Who are trained and knowledgeable in animal behaviour and legislation.

Sub #	Q2C Menacing dog assessments	Q2C Tell us why
1671	Support	Not all behaviorists are actually good at dealing or assessing menacing dogs, they need to also go through a proper program with a army or police approved dog trainer to make sure they are capable of making the correct decisions
4517	Support	It should be a group of trainers. Not just one and not someone who works for the council