

Notice is given that an ordinary meeting of the Animal Control Subcommittee will be held on:

Date: Tuesday 1 July 2025
Time: 1.30pm
Meeting Room: Tasman Council Chamber
Venue: 189 Queen Street, Richmond
Zoom conference link: Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86310725458?pwd=8sJKad4tubuHHS�br87IGsNbCfdqAU.1>
Meeting ID: 863 1072 5458
Meeting Passcode: 058882

Animal Control Subcommittee

AGENDA

MEMBERSHIP

Chairperson	Councillor C Hill
Members	Councillor M Kininmonth Councillor K Maling

(Quorum 2 members)

Contact Telephone: 03 543 8400
Email: tdc.governance@tasman.govt.nz
Website: www.tasman.govt.nz

AGENDA

1 OPENING, WELCOME, KARAKIA

2 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Recommendation

That the apologies be accepted.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

4 REPORTS

4.1 Menacing Classification Appeal 4

5 CONFIDENTIAL SESSION

Nil

6 CLOSING KARAKIA

4 REPORTS

4.1 MENACING CLASSIFICATION APPEAL

Decision Required

Report To:	Animal Control Subcommittee
Meeting Date:	1 July 2025
Report Author:	Sandy Vale, Regulatory Support Officer
Report Authorisers:	Shannon Green, Team Leader - Regulatory Support
Report Number:	RACS25-07-1

1. Purpose of the Report / Te Take mō te Pūrongo

- 1.1 To explain the process and reasoning behind the imposition of the 'Menacing' classification of the dog **Stanley** and allow the Subcommittee to decide on whether this was the appropriate classification in the circumstances.

2. Summary / Te Tuhinga Whakarāpoto

- 2.1 The Council classified **Stanley** on 11 April 2025 as a menacing dog in accordance with Section 33A(1)(b)(i) of the Dog Control Act 1996 (the Act), following an attack on 27 January 2025.
- 2.2 **Stanley** is a five year, 10-month-old, tan, Bearded Collie cross, registered, and owned by Dina Schulze and Paul Atkinson, living at [REDACTED]
- 2.3 An objection to the 'Menacing' classification of **Stanley** was lodged by Dina Schulze on 21 April 2025 under Section 33B(1) of the Act. She has requested a hearing in support of her objection.
- 2.4 The victim of the 27 January 2025 attack was **Arlo**, a two-year, 10-month-old, male, Golden Retriever, registered and owned by Abraham Tuthill.
- 2.5 Actions available to the Council under the Act range from:
 - 2.5.1 prosecution and destruction of the dog;
 - 2.5.2 classification as dangerous;
 - 2.5.3 imposition of financial penalties; and
 - 2.5.4 classification as menacing.
- 2.6 The scale of the injuries and the associated factors led to the decision to classify the dog as Menacing. This decision is now under challenge.
- 2.7 The Subcommittee may uphold or rescind the classification.

3. Recommendation/s / Ngā Tūtohunga

That the Animal Control Subcommittee

1. receives the Menacing Classification Appeal report, RACS25-07-1; and
2. pursuant to Section 33B of the Dog Control Act,
EITHER
upholds the Menacing Classification for Stanley, owned by Dina Schulze and Paul Atkinson
OR
rescinds the Menacing Classification for Stanley, owned by Dina Schulze and Paul Atkinson.

4. Background / Horopaki

- 4.1 The Council has classified **Stanley** as a Menacing dog and to do this the Council must consider the requirements of Section 33A of the Act:
- 4.2 **33A Territorial authority may classify dog as menacing**
 - (1) *This section applies to a dog that—*
 - (a) *has not been classified as a dangerous dog under section 31; but*
 - (b) *a territorial authority considers may pose a threat to any person, stock, poultry, domestic animal, or protected wildlife because of—*
 - (i) *any observed or reported behaviour of the dog; or*
 - (ii) *any characteristics typically associated with the dog's breed or type.*
 - (2) *A territorial authority may, for the purposes of section 33E(1)(a), classify a dog to which this section applies as a menacing dog.*
 - (3) *If a dog is classified as a menacing dog under subsection (2), the territorial authority must immediately give written notice in the prescribed form to the owner of—*
 - (a) *the classification; and*
 - (b) *the provisions of section 33E (which relates to the effect of classification as a menacing dog); and*
 - (c) *the right to object to the classification under section 33B; and*
 - (d) *if the territorial authority's policy is not to require the neutering of menacing dogs (or would not require the neutering of the dog concerned), the effect of sections 33EA and 33EB if the owner does not object to the classification and the dog is moved to the district of another territorial authority.*
- 4.3 It is the opinion of staff that the reported behaviour of **Stanley** warrants the imposition of the Menacing Classification.
- 4.4 On 27 January 2025, at 1010hrs, Carol Syme presented to Tasman District Council, reporting a dog attack against a dog, stating that, an off-lead dog came rushing towards them, growling with heckles up and attacked their daughter's dog, **Arlo**. Regulatory Enforcement Officers gathered evidence relating to the attack, and this was considered in the decision to classify the dog as Menacing.
- 4.5 From the evidence gathered we believe the following happened.

4.5.1 At approximately 9.30am on Monday, 27 January 2025, Carol Syme was playing with her dog Frankie and her daughters dog **Arlo**, on the beach in front of their property at Best Island.

4.5.2 An off-lead dog, rushed towards the playing dogs, with heckles up and started attacking **Arlo**, in the water.

4.5.3 There was no person in charge of **Stanley**.

4.5.4 Carol Syme and her husband, John, yelled at **Stanley** who returned to his own property.

4.5.5 **Arlo** was treated at Town & Country Vet Richmond for his wounds.

4.6 Carol Syme's statement is attached as **Attachment 1**.

4.7 Dina Schulze's statement is attached as **Attachment 2**.

4.8 **Arlo's** vet record is attached as **Attachment 3**.

5. Analysis and Advice / Tātaritanga me ngā tohutohu

5.1 Dogs attacking persons or animals is considered a serious offence under the Act. The punitive options available to the Council in this instance are:

5.1.1 Prosecution under Section 57 – Dogs attacking persons or animals, which carries a maximum fine of \$3,000 plus reparation to the victim. The dog involved must also be destroyed unless there are extenuating circumstances.

5.1.2 Classification as Dangerous under Section 31. This puts requirements on the owner to ensure that there is a safe access way to their property, muzzling of the dog in public, neutering of the dog, increased registration fees and consent from the Council to transfer ownership to another person.

5.1.3 An Infringement Notice for \$200 for failure to keep a dog under effective control.

5.1.4 Classification as Menacing under section 33A. the primary effect of Menacing classification is the dog must be muzzled when in public.

5.2 Given the facts, the decision was made on 11 April 2025 to issue an infringement to Dina Schulze for failing to control or confine and classify Stanley as Menacing under Section 33A of the Act. The classification is attached as Attachment 4.

5.3 Kenton Starr of Molloy Batts, Lawyers and Advisers, emailed us on 29 April 2025, advising they are representing Ms Schulze in this matter.

6. Financial or Budgetary Implications / Ngā Ritenga ā-Pūtea

6.1 Nil.

7. Options / Kōwhiringa

7.1 The options are outlined in the following table:

Option		Advantage	Disadvantage
1.	To uphold the classification of Stanley as Menacing	Prevention of future attacks and safer community	Added requirements on the owner
2.	Rescind the classification of Stanley as Menacing	Stanley is allowed unmuzzled in public	Risk of another attack

7.2 Option 1 is recommended.

8. Legal / Ngā ture

- 8.1 Section 5(f) of the Act requires owners of dogs to take all reasonable steps to ensure the dog does not injure, endanger, intimidate, or otherwise cause distress to any person.
- 8.2 Section 5(g) of the Act requires owners of dogs to take all reasonable steps to ensure that the dog does not injure, endanger, or cause distress to any stock, poultry, domestic animal, or protected wildlife.
- 8.3 Section 52 of the Act requires a dog to be under control at all times. Under control means that the dog is on a leash and restrained by a person capable of doing so or that the dog responds immediately to voice, hand, or other commands.
- 8.4 Section 52A of the Act requires a dog to be under direct control of a person or confined within the land or premises in such a manner that it cannot freely leave the land or premises.
- 8.5 Section 33B(2) of the Act states the territorial authority considering an objection under subsection (1) may uphold or rescind the classification, and in making its determination must have regard to—
- (a) the evidence which formed the basis for the classification; and
 - (b) any steps taken by the owner to prevent any threat to the safety of persons or animals; and
 - (c) the matters relied on in support of the objection; and
 - (d) any other relevant matters.
- 8.6 Staff consider **Stanley** to be a threat to other dogs so should be muzzled when in a public place. A Menacing Classification under Section 33A of the Act is a means by which Council can require dog owners to muzzle their dogs.

9. Iwi Engagement / Whakawhitiwhiti ā-Hapori Māori

- 9.1 Not applicable.

10. Significance and Engagement / Hiranga me te Whakawhitiwhiti ā-Hapori Whānui

- 10.1 Low

	Issue	Level of Significance	Explanation of Assessment
1.	Is there a high level of public interest, or is decision likely to be controversial?	None	
2.	Are there impacts on the social, economic, environmental or cultural aspects of well-being of the community in the present or future?	None	
3.	Is there a significant impact arising from duration of the effects from the decision?	None	
4.	Does the decision relate to a strategic asset? (refer Significance and Engagement Policy for list of strategic assets)	None	
5.	Does the decision create a substantial change in the level of service provided by Council?	None	
6.	Does the proposal, activity or decision substantially affect debt, rates or Council finances in any one year or more of the LTP?	None	
7.	Does the decision involve the sale of a substantial proportion or controlling interest in a CCO or CCTO?	None	
8.	Does the proposal or decision involve entry into a private sector partnership or contract to carry out the deliver on any Council group of activities?	None	
9.	Does the proposal or decision involve Council exiting from or entering into a group of activities?	None	
10.	Does the proposal require particular consideration of the obligations of Te Mana O Te Wai (TMOTW) relating to freshwater or particular consideration of current legislation relating to water supply, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure and services?	None	

11. Communication / Whakawhitiwhiti Kōrero

- 11.1 The letter sent to Dina Schulze, advising of the classification are attached as **Attachments 4 and 5**.
- 11.2 Kenton Starr has provided a submission in support of Ms Schulze's objection on 16 June 2025 and is attached as **Attachments 6 and 7**.

12. Risks / Ngā Tūraru

- 12.1 The classification will reduce the risk of future attacks on other dogs.

13. Climate Change Considerations / Whakaaro Whakaaweawe Āhuarangi

- 13.1 Not applicable.

14. Alignment with Policy and Strategic Plans / Te Hangai ki ngā aupapa Here me ngā Mahere Rautaki Tūraru

- 14.1 Not applicable.








15. Conclusion / Kupu Whakatepe

- 15.1 The Council has a responsibility to insist that owners of dogs meet the obligations designed to ensure that dogs do not cause a nuisance to any person and do not injure, endanger, or cause distress to any person, animal, or wildlife. By upholding the Menacing classification, the Council will be seen to be taking the action necessary to significantly reduce the chance of **Stanley** being involved in future attacks. If the classification is rescinded, it would make it very difficult to consistently deal with any future dog attacks of a similar nature.

16. Next Steps and Timeline / Ngā Mahi Whai Ake

- 16.1 The Council must, as soon as practicable, give written notice to the owners of:
- (a) The Council's determination of the objection; and
 - (b) the reasons for the Council's determination.

17. Attachments / Tuhinga tāpiri

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Time: 10.07

Date: 27/01/25

Place:

My full name is Carol Beverly Syme, I am 67 years of age and I am retired

I live at [REDACTED] And my contact phone

Number is [REDACTED]

At about 0910 am on 27th January 2025,

My Husband I were playing with our daughter's dog Arlo and our dog "Frankie" they were chasing sticks on the beach front of our property at [REDACTED]

I recognised our neighbours dog Stanley who came rushing towards our dogs growling with his hackles up. He then started attacking Arlo while he was in the water and is now screaming.

Both my Husband John and I yelled at Stanley who ran back to his own property.

Our dogs kept walking along and I noticed blood on Arlo, when I got closer noticed a gash to his rib area.

We took Arlo to the vet who says he requires stitches.

The dog that attacked/rushed me was Stanley from [REDACTED]

It was roaming on its own.

My dog Arlo requires stitches

And required treatment at Town and country Vets.....

I have read this statement and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

I am aware that this statement may be shared and used as evidence in any court proceedings.

Name: Carol Beverly Syme

Signed [Signature]

Add as much details as possible. Add or delete anything you think necessary.

Statement SR2501885 Dog attack Dog

My name is Dina Schulze (49 years /pharmacist) and I am sharing the responsibility for and ownership of our dog Stanley with my partner Paul Atkinson (62 years/self-employed).

We are residing at

[REDACTED]

(Phone Dina: [REDACTED])

Description of incident:

On Monday the 27.01.25 our dog Stanley woke me up in the early morning.

I assumed that Stanley has to go potty so I got up to let him out the back door (the property is fully fenced in that direction).

I met my partner Paul in the kitchen and asked him if I can let the dog out and if the gates are closed and he said yes.

I had a look at the gates from far. They looked closed to me.

I let Stanley out and went back to lie down for a little bit longer as I felt tired and exhausted.

About 30 to 40 minutes later I heard a knock on the front door. It was our neighbour John Syme who informed us that Stanley had bitten a dog at the beach. Stanley was right next to me at that point.

I can not 100% recall the rest of the communication with John.

The situation caused a severe panic attack for me and brought up a mental health crisis, so I did not function properly at that point and the memory is blurry. (Carol Symes email to me demanding for our dog to be put down did not help)

Later in the day when I managed to somehow get a grip I noticed that Stanley had issues with his tail. He was not able to lift it or move it properly. His lower back was very sensitive to touch as well.

I checked the gates. The gate to the beach was missing a board at the bottom which was only visible when getting close as there were some cut off branches in front. I assume that Paul forgot to put the board back, lock the gate properly [REDACTED].

Background information Paul and Dina

[REDACTED]

I have fought very very hard to keep things in line for my two guys (Paul and Stanley) that mean the world to me. (We do not have any other family in New Zealand)

I have been severely exhausted and burnt out for a long time before the dog incident and I have tried to “hang in there” as good as I can, as there was simply no one else to take the burden of me.

During the time of the dog incidence I was basically at the end of my rope. (and lost the rope directly after).

[REDACTED]

I am deeply sorry that I have failed to keep my dog Stanley safe and contained and I would like to emphasize that this has not happened out of carelessness, neglect or ignorance but as a result of extreme and very difficult circumstances [REDACTED]

Background information Stanley

Paul and I have adopted Stanley in July 2020.

He is our baby and we deeply love him.

He was about 1 year old then, very skinny and scruffy and anxious.

We gave him lots of love and training and Stanley thrived.

SPCA had assessed him as a friendly dog that is good with other dogs.

We have never seen any aggression in Stanley, never had any issues with him being aggressive or provocative at all.

Stanley is very well socialized and has met hundreds of dogs over the years on dog walks, with dog sitters, on Best Island, visiting stores like Bunnings or Mitre 10. There have never been any issues.

Stanley got bitten by another dogs and did not fight back.

[REDACTED]

I have attached letters of support from friends, dog sitters, dog walkers and neighbours.

I have worked with 2 dog behaviourists over the last months (Sue from Dog almighty and Cat from Canine know how) and both confirmed that Stanley is not displaying any aggressive behaviour.

I have attached the reports from Sue to this email and I have already forwarded both reports from Cat.

[REDACTED]. He
pics up on anxiety and mood and gives us lots of love and affection.
Stanley is essential for our mental well being and emotional support.

[REDACTED]

I would like to add that Stanley is very vocal when playing (Huntaway, deep voice) and that the hair on his back is standing up constantly (Ridgeback?). This might be misinterpreted by people that do not know dogs well.

Stanley sleeps in my bed at night, not outside on his own.

Injury Stanley

As mentioned already I noticed a tail injury on the day of the dog/dog incident. Stanley was not able to move his tail properly. It took approximately 10 days until these problems where not obviously visible any more. The tail and lower back are still sensitive to touch today.

[REDACTED] I was not able to take him to the vet straight away [REDACTED]

The tail injury is still visible on the video made by dog behaviourist Sue Walsh on the 4th of Feb 2025 (8 days after the incident) and I have made some screen shots as well and attached to this email.

Sue advised to see the vet on the 18th of Feb. because there was still discomfort in Stanley's tail as well as pain in his lower back. Please find attached the vet report from 18th of Feb as well as the notes from Sue Walsh regarding the tail.

Till today (08.04.2025) Stanley has discomfort in his tail but also his lower back.

I have brought him into Nelson vets this morning and after assessment and pain the vet has recommended an x-ray which they did today.

The X-ray confirmed the tail injury. The reason for the back pain is not clear but its presence was confirmed. It might be a muscle injury but the vet was not able to rule out a disc injury either.

I have attached the vet report.
Please also note comments of Cat Watson regarding Stanley's hip /back from 7th of April.

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[illegible]

Shortly after the dog/dog incident I took Stanley on a leash into the water in front of [REDACTED]. The tide was high up and it was very hot, so I wanted him to be able to cool down. I was too anxious to take him off his leash and walked into the water with him. Carols dog approached on his own and came directly towards us. He was between 5 and 10 meters away. Stanley stayed relaxed.

I shouted many times at him to go home and he finally left, back towards Carols property. Looking at him leaving I saw Carol standing on her property looking at us (about 35 to 40 meters). What I find concerning is

I would like council to please take this seriously.

- I have self reported to council
- I have apologized
- We have paid Arlos vet bill in good faith (I have not seen his vet report yet, only the bill. Can council please let me know if it was provided)
- My parents came from Europe and stayed for 2 months to look after Stanley and to support and help us and this gave us a chance to get on top of the situation.
- Paul has trained with his occupational therapist (Dean Wood) to close the doors and gates
- self closing hinges and locks have been installed on the gates
- a self closing mechanism has been installed on the entrance door
- the missing board on the beach gate was attached
- a large gate has been put up towards the road (I have attached a photo)

- I have been in contact with 2 dog behaviourists and followed their advise (please refer to paperwork Sue Walsh)
- I have started to go on walks with dog behaviourist Cat Watson to further assess Stanley's behaviour and will continue to do so
- I have talked to various dog owners on Best Island. None of them has reported any issues with Stanley and I have just received positive feedback.
- when I am at work Stanley stays on a long leash and wears a harness as an extra precaution for now

Additional Information

On the 11.06.24 I went to the TDC office in Richmond (to pay Stanley's yearly fees) and had a talk to the very nice lady at the counter and I asked her to please send correspondence regarding Stanley to the both of us and not only to Paul. [REDACTED]

Before this date I have personally not received any correspondence from Council regarding Stanley and I am worried that I missed something.

I would hereby like to ask Council to please take all of the above information into consideration when making a decision regarding our dog Stanley.

If you need any further information, please let me know.

Thank you very much for taking the time to read my statement and the opportunity to make one.

Kind regards,

Dina Schulze

Town & Country Vet Richmond
 35 McGlashen Avenue, Richmond 7020
 035441200

Date Printed 11 APR 25 Page 1

Report Clinical History

Name Arlo	Owner Ms Tuthill
Colour Golden	Code WATSO23
Microchip [REDACTED]	Address [REDACTED]
Breed Retriever - Golden	[REDACTED]
DOB 2 MAR 22	Sex: M (Neuter)
Opt. Weight 0.000	Phone [REDACTED]
	Mobile 0211020517

Date	30 JAN 25 08:15	Vet TF	Weight	31.500	Temp	Scores: Body	Dental
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Clinical Details

post dog fight - check wounds - no nurses available at this time.
 - minimal drainage from the drain exit
 - happy and recovered well
 - no current concerns

PE

- wound well opposed w no inflam or other concerns
 - no drain discharge present
 - no swelling or other concern

Drain removed

To limit activity another 10 days - no recheck needed unless any concerns

Drugs Dispensed

1 of Consult - At Clinic -

Date	27 JAN 25 09:45	Vet TF	Weight	30.500	Temp	Scores: Body	Dental
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Clinical Details

Pre-op check:
 Dog fight wound
 - happened while with 2 people walking him
 - was in the water when other dog rushed up behind

PE

- bright and alert
 - MM pink CRT 1s
 - no LN enl
 - no ocular concerns
 - HR 100 bpm w no murmur or arryht
 - no concerns on resp auscl
 - R lateral abd appears 5cm diam full thickness skin wound
 - no concerns on abd palp
 - no MSK concerns

Plan - admit for sedate, clip and clean wound and suture
 Discussed risks of complications with dog fight wounds
 Due vaccination

Microchip scanned: as to file

Due for vaccination?: RB checked and he isnt due

Sedation:

Dom/torb: Dom: 0.4 Tor: 0.3

Antisedan: 0.4

Anaesthesia notes: Nice medium level of sedation, bit light at start then went to sleep nicely. HR mean was 65bpm, RR was 10bpm

Procedure (RSB) : Ring block of local. Debrided, penrose drain placed then closed with s/c and intradermal 2 metric seravet.
 Surgery time: 15 mins

Medication: 1.5 ml of clavulox. 2.4ml of rimadyl
 Went home with 6 days of clav - 500mg 1 bid. Carprieve 3 days worth- 1 50mg bid

Post-op care: Keep exercise restricted

Stitches: intradermal, none to remove: Yes intradermals

Revisit: In 3 days for drain out

Town & Country Vet Richmond
35 McGlashen Avenue, Richmond 7020
035441200

Date Printed 11 APR 25 Page 2

Report Clinical History

Name Arlo

Owner Ms Tuthill

Mobile [REDACTED]

Nurse: KJS

Drugs Dispensed

1.5 of We Dont Have Clavulox R T U Injection Per MI -

2.4 of Rimadyl Inj 50mg/MI 20ml -

4 of Local 2% Per MI -

.4 of Antipam/Reversamed 5mg Per MI -

.3 of Torbugesic/Butorgesic Per MI -

.4 of Sedamed/Domitor Inj Per MI -

12 of Clavaseptin 500mg Per Tablet - Give One Tablet TWICE daily - 12hours apart

* Starting tomorrow morning*

6 of Carprieve/Carprofen 50mg Tablet - Give ONE tablet TWICE daily - 12hours apart
Anti-inflammatory. Give with food. Stop if any vomiting/diarrhoea

* Start tomorrow evening *



Sandy.vale@tasman.govt.nz
Phone 03 543 8431
SR File: 2501885

11 April 2025

Dina Schulze



Dear Dina

Incident involving Stanley

I write in relation to an incident involving Stanley attacking another dog as reported to Council on 27 January 2025.

Upon investigation, we believe that offences have been committed under the Dog Control Act 1996, namely, Section 52A – Failure to keep a dog under control or confined, and Section 57 – Dogs attacking persons or animals.

In this instance, we have decided to classify Stanley as Menacing under Section 33A(1)(b)(i) – observed or reported behaviour of the dog. This is to ensure that a similar incident cannot occur in the future, and to issue an infringement under Section 52A for failing to keep him under control or confined.

Attached to this letter are menacing classification papers for Stanley. Please read them carefully to ensure you know the implications and your rights in relation to the menacing classification. Also attached is an infringement notice under Section 52A for failing to control or contain Stanley. Please read it carefully to ensure you know the implications and your rights in relation to the infringement notice.

Please be aware that any further substantiated incidents of a similar nature, could result in further enforcement action being taken.

If you have any questions or seek clarification on the above, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Sandy Vale
Regulatory Support Officer

Tasman District Council
Email info@tasman.govt.nz
Website www.tasman.govt.nz
24 hour assistance

Richmond
189 Queen Street
Private Bag 4
Richmond 7050
New Zealand
Phone 03 543 8400
Fax 03 543 9524

Murchison
92 Fairfax Street
Murchison 7007
New Zealand
Phone 03 523 1013
Fax 03 523 1012

Motueka
7 Hickmott Place
PO Box 123
Motueka 7143
New Zealand
Phone 03 528 2022
Fax 03 528 9751

Takaka
78 Commercial Street
PO Box 74
Takaka 7142
New Zealand
Phone 03 525 0020
Fax 03 525 9972



11 April 2025

D407

Direct Dial 03 5438431

Dina Schulze



Dear Dina

**NOTICE OF CLASSIFICATION OF DOG AS
A MENACING DOG** *Section 33A Dog
Control Act 1996*

YOUR REFERENCE: 28253

DOG DESCRIPTION: Stanley, Collie, Bearded/Cross, Tan

This is to notify you that your dog, **Stanley**, has been classified as a menacing dog under **Section 33A** of the Dog Control Act 1996. Tasman District Council considers this dog may pose a threat to any person, stock, poultry, domestic animal or protected wildlife because of:

Observed or reported behaviour of the dog in that on 27 January 2025 your dog Stanley escaped your property and attacked another dog.

Or:

~~Any characteristics typically associated with the dog's breed or type in that your dog on the~~

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

This notice was delivered ~~by leaving it at the address/ by post/ by registered post~~ on the 11 April 2025

Sandy Vale
Regulatory Support Officer

Tasman District Council
Email info@tasman.govt.nz
Website www.tasman.govt.nz
24 hour assistance

Richmond
189 Queen Street
Private Bag 4
Richmond 7050
New Zealand
Phone 03 543 8400

Murchison
92 Fairfax Street
Murchison 7007
New Zealand
Phone 03 523 1013

Motueka
7 Hickmott Place
PO Box 123
Motueka 7143
New Zealand
Phone 03 528 2022

Tākaka
78 Commercial Street
PO Box 74
Tākaka 7142
New Zealand
Phone 03 525 9972

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

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

You will commit an offence and be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$3000 if you fail to comply with any matters in paragraphs a) to c) above.

As from the 1 July 2006, you are also required, for the purpose of providing permanent identification of the dog, to arrange within 2 months after classification for the dog to be implanted with a functioning microchip transponder. This must be confirmed by the Tasman District Council. 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.

In addition if you fail to comply with the above requirements a dog control officer or dog ranger may seize and remove the dog from your possession and retain custody of the dog until the Tasman District Council has reasonable grounds to believe that you will comply with these requirements.

2. **Section 33F.** Owner must advise person with possession of menacing dog of requirement to muzzle dog in a public place

This applies if the dog in the possession of another person not exceeding 72 hours. Failure to comply if convicted may result in a maximum fine of \$500.00

3. **Section 33B. Right of objection to classification.** You may within 14 days of receiving this Notice of Classification, object in writing to the Tasman District Council in regard to this classification. You have the right to be heard in support of your objection and you will be notified of the date, time and place when your objection will be heard.

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



16 June 2025

Tasman District Council
Regulatory Support Office

By Email: sandy.vale@tasman.govt.nz

Dear Sandy

Menacing Dog Classification – Stanley

1. We act for Dina Schulze.
2. On 11 April 2025 the Tasman District Council (**Council**) issued to Ms Schulze:
 - (a) Notice of Classification of Dog as a Menacing Dog (s 33A Dog Control Act 1996 (**DCA**)) in respect of our client's dog Stanley (**Classification Notice**); and
 - (b) Infringement Notice for failure to keep dog controlled or confined (s 52A DCA) (**Infringement Notice**).
3. The notices were sent by post and received by Ms Schulze on 17 April 2025. Mrs Schulze filed an objection on 21 April 2025. The initial objection was pro forma because Ms Schulze was concerned around timeframes to object given the late receipt of the notices. In her covering email, Ms Schulze referred to information she had provided to the Council on 9 April 2025.
4. As foreshadowed in our previous correspondence with you, we now provided submissions supporting Ms Schulze's objection to the classification. We are also instructed to raise matters for consideration relating to the infringement notice.

Objection to menacing dog classification

Background

5. Ms Schulze lives with her partner Paul Atkinson at [REDACTED]
6. As you will be aware, Best Island is a small semi-rural community.

Level 5, Hobson Towers West, 26 Hobson Street, Auckland 1010
PO Box 91083, Victoria Street West, Auckland 1142

1670/1 – 288557

+64 (0)9 368 1810
molloybatts.co.nz

7. Stanley is a 5.5-year-old Collie/Huntaway cross.
8. The couple adopted Stanley from the SPCA in July 2020 when he was still a puppy.
9. [REDACTED]
10. [REDACTED]
11. [REDACTED]
12. The relationship with Arlo's owner's parents, Carol and John Symes, is poor. The Symes' live in a neighbouring property. On about 6 occasions within the last year, [REDACTED]
13. [REDACTED]

Stanley's reported behaviour

14. The Classification Notice provides that the Council considers that Stanley may pose a threat because of his observed or reported behaviour on 27 January 2025. Namely, it refers to the report that Stanley escaped his property and attacked another dog.
15. As the 27 January events are the only grounds on which the menacing dog classification was issued, any other material is irrelevant to the Council's decision.
16. Our client's knowledge of events from that day is as follows:
 - (a) Early in the morning on 27 January 2025 Ms Schulze and Mr Atkinson were at home with Stanley sleeping.
 - (b) Stanley woke Ms Schulze to toilet. Ms Schulze asked Mr Atkinson if the exterior gate to the property was closed, which he affirmed. Ms Schulze then let Stanley out the back door. She visually checked the gates from a distance and confirmed they were closed. Ms Schulze then went back to bed.
 - (c) When the exterior gate is shut, the property is fully enclosed.

- (d) About 30-40 minutes later their neighbour John Symes knocked on the door and told them that Stanley had bitten another dog at the beach. Stanley was with Ms Schulze during this conversation.
 - (e) [REDACTED]
 - (f) Subsequent to the events, Ms Schulze reviewed their CCTV footage. It showed that Mr Atkinson opened the exterior gate and briefly left the property. During that window of time, Stanley followed Mr Atkinson through the gate and apparently left to the beach. It does not appear from the footage that Mr Atkinson would have seen Stanley follow him out of the property.
 - (g) Neither Mr Atkinson nor Ms Schulze were present at the beach to witness the events involving Stanley and Arlo.
17. Arlo is a 3-year-old Golden Retriever. He is owned by the daughter of Carol and John Symes who were looking after Arlo next door at the time of the 27 January incident, along with their own two dogs.
18. According to Ms Symes' report, Arlo was off leash on the beach at the time of the incident. There is no fencing at the Symes' property.
19. Ms Symes reported that Stanley rushed and attacked Arlo unprovoked. This is not corroborated by other witnesses. As already noted, Carol Symes has shown significant and ongoing hostility to Mr Atkinson and Ms Schulze. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
20. Arlo was seen by Town & Country Vet. The vet report says that Arlo received a 5cm skin wound which required treatment including stitches. The report did not specify that it was a bite wound.
21. Stanley was also injured during the incident. When visiting Sue Walsh (Dog Behaviour Consultant, Dog Almighty) on 18 February 2025, Ms Walsh noticed that Stanley had obvious discomfort around the tail. Looking back at older videos in her possession, Ms Schulze can see that the tail injury was present from 28 January 2025.
22. Ms Schulze took Stanley to Nelson Vets on 18 February which confirmed that Stanley was unable to hold his tail up and appeared to be in pain. A subsequent Xray found two vertebrae with bony change likely to correlate with a ligamentous tail injury from the January 2025 incident. Suspected also muscular tear. The vet noted to Ms Schulze that Stanley's claws were long and needed clipping. That may be consistent with Stanley scratching rather than biting Arlo. Copies of the reports are **enclosed**.
23. About a week after the incident, Ms Schulze took Stanley to the beach while leashed. One of the Symes' dogs (believed to be Frankie) approached directly toward Ms Schulze and Stanley while unaccompanied (and therefore unleashed). It reached between 5-10 metres away. Stanley stayed relaxed despite the approach.

24. Ms Schulze was required to shout at the dog to make it leave. She then saw Ms Symes in the background who had made no attempt to call her dog back. Ms Schulze considered that was inconsistent with Ms Symes reporting that Stanley had attacked Arlo – as she was unconcerned about her dog approaching Stanley. Ms Schulze’s mother Monika Boeker was present at the time.

Assessment of Stanley’s personality and ordinary behaviour

25. Prior to being adopted by Ms Schulze and Mr Atkinson, the SPCA assessed Stanley for re-homing as a “friendly” dog that got along well with other dogs.
26. Ms Schulze and Mr Atkinson have never seen any aggression or provocative behaviour in Stanley. They confirm that Stanley has met many other dogs on walks and with dog sitters, visiting public shops etc. They have never any issues with Stanley’s behaviour toward others.
27. On one occasion Ms Schulze saw Stanley get bitten by another dog but he did not fight back. [REDACTED]
28. Ms Schulze have looked after injured seabirds and hedgehogs at their home from time to time, without being bothered by Stanley.
29. Mr Atkinson owns a short-term holiday rental home. Stanley would previously accompany Mr Atkinson for meet-and-greet with guests. Guests reported enjoying Stanley’s presence. There were never any issues.
30. Their direct neighbour [REDACTED] allows his small dog Gringo to play with Stanley with no issues. Another set of neighbours [REDACTED] asked Ms Schulze to dog sit for them in April 2025 (at her home with Stanley).
31. After the 27 January 2025 incident, Ms Schulze engaged several dog behaviour consultants to work with Stanley. Their letters were provided to the Council earlier but are **enclosed** again for ease of reference. Both Sue Walsh (Dog Almighty) and Cat Watson (Canine Know How) provide in their letters that Stanley demonstrates a calm and gentle temperament and is friendly and social with other dogs.
32. Ms Watson refers to another incident on 7 April 2025 (letter of same date) where she was present walking Stanley with Ms Schulze:

“Midway through the walk, we identified a group of dogs ahead and realized this included Arlo, the golden retriever with whom Stanley was previously reported to have had an incident. We decided to avoid the group to prevent any potential escalation. However, Arlo broke away from his group and approached us, despite his owner’s repeated calls for him to return.

Arlo advanced with a stiff posture, raised tail, and visible hackles—indicative of tension or assertiveness rather than friendly intent. In response, Stanley

remained calm and chose to sit. We stayed still to avoid provoking any interaction and to allow the situation to defuse. Despite his owner's continued shouting, Arlo lingered for several minutes before finally returning to his group.

From my perspective, Arlo's approach was inappropriate and lacked the body language of a friendly dog. Furthermore, his owner was unable to recall him effectively, suggesting a lack of control in a public space. Stanley, by contrast, handled the situation with composure and restraint."

33. Other dog owners on Best Island have been approached who were not aware of any issues with Stanley.
34. The report by Ms Symes of Stanley's behaviour conflicts with these other assessments. Our client submits that it would be inappropriate and unreasonable for the Council to determine the menacing dog classification based on Ms Symes' uncorroborated report.
35. It is possible that Ms Symes' report was not truthful, and that Arlo initiated an attack on Stanley. It is also possible that Stanley's behaviour on 27 January was uncharacteristic.

Steps taken in mitigation

36. Ms Schulze's parents came over for two months in February and March 2025 to help look after Stanley and support Mr Atkinson and Ms Schulze.
37. Significant improvements have been made to Ms Schulze's and Mr Atkinson's property to prevent recurrence. These include:
 - (a) Installation of a higher fence;
 - (b) Replacement of the external gate with one which automatically closes and locks;
 - (c) Installation of self-closing hinges on entrance doors to the home;
 - (d) A large external gate has been erected toward the road-side;
 - (e) Ms Schulze checked the perimeter fence and repaired a missing board which may have facilitated Stanley escaping;
38. Ms Schulze immediately paid Arlo's vet bill in good faith because she was initially told that Stanley bit Arlo.
39. Cat Watson from Canine Know How has been going on regular training walks with Ms Schulze and Stanley.

Grounds for classification

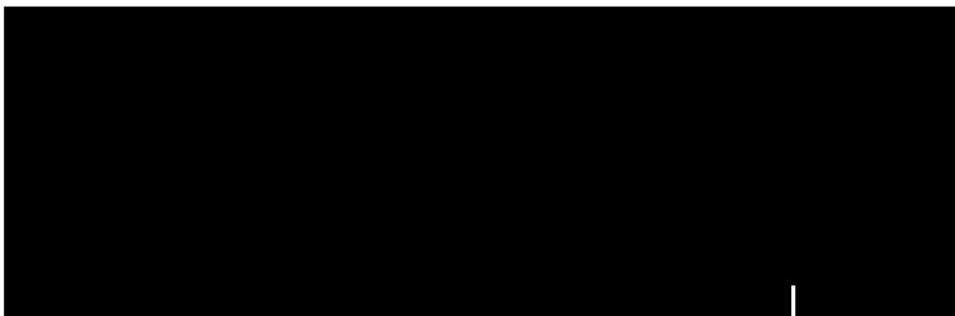
40. A dog may only be classified as menacing where the Council considers that its observed or reported behaviour demonstrates that the dog may pose a threat to a person or specified animal (including domestic animals) (Section 33A DCA).
41. When hearing an objection, the Council must have regard to (Section 33B DCA):
- (a) The evidence which formed the basis for the classification;
 - (b) Any steps taken by the owner to prevent any threat to the safety of persons or animals;
 - (c) The matters relied on in support of the objection;
 - (d) Any other relevant matters.
42. As already submitted, there is limited evidence of threatening behaviour by Stanley. Ms Symes' statement is uncorroborated. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
43. Evidence from other sources demonstrates that Stanley is ordinarily friendly and well socialised toward other dogs.
44. Ms Schulze and Mr Atkinson have gone to significant expense to fortify the perimeter at their property to ensure that Stanley does not escape again. [REDACTED]
Atkinson's memory limitations led to Stanley being able to [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
45. There is a causal disconnect between the purpose of a menacing dog classification and the grounds on which the classification was made. The effect of a menacing dog classification is to impose the additional requirement that Stanley be muzzled when in public. Stanley was only at the beach because he escaped the property and was unaccompanied. The menacing dog classification would therefore not prevent a repeat of the 27 January incident.
46. The classification is redundant as Sections 52A, 53 and 54A DCA already deal with the requirements for a dog to be kept confined and under control.
47. A menacing dog classification is future focused. Its purpose is to prevent threats. Given the steps taken to avoid Stanley leaving the property unaccompanied and the evidence that he is normally friendly and well socialised to other dogs, it is submitted that the menacing dog classification is unnecessary.
48. In light of the above, our client submit that the menacing dog classification should be withdrawn.

Proposal

49. As a middle ground to offer assurances if the Council withdraws the classification, Ms Schulze will agree to voluntarily muzzle Stanley while outside of the property for a further period of 6 months. She is willing to provide an undertaking to that effect.
50. Ms Schulze is also willing to provide ongoing reports from the dog behaviourist (Ms Watson) who will continue to be engaged during that time.

Matters for consideration – Infringement Notice

51. It is accepted that Ms Schulze and Mr Atkinson did not keep Stanley contained within their property on 27 January.

52. 

53. 

54. An infringement in the context of a DCA offence is intended both as a punitive measure and to ensure future compliance. The couple have provided assurances of future compliance. A punitive response from the Council would be unreasonable in the circumstances.

Yours faithfully

Molloy Batts



Kenton Starr

Associate

kenton@molloybatts.co.nz

Ph: 09 368 1810

**Nelson Vets - Saxton**

2 Findlay Place
Saxton
Nelson, 7011
Ph: 035445678
Email: saxton@nelsonvets.co.nz

CLINICAL SUMMARY

Consult Vet(s)
Date Range

18-02-2025 to
18-02-2025

Printed At
Printed By

Kelly Phillips

Clinical Summary for Stanley**Client Details**

Name Schulze, Dina
Address [REDACTED]
Phone [REDACTED]

Animal Details

Name Stanley
Species Canine (Dog)
Breed Bearded Cross
Colour
Age 5 years 6 months
Sex Male Neutered
Microchip [REDACTED]

Tuesday the 18th of February 2025

02:44PM	<p> Medication</p> <p>Prescribed By: Kelly Phillips 15 x Carprofen 100mg Tablets <i>Give 1.5 tablet(s) orally ONCE daily at 24 hour intervals with food, Start Wed pm. Stop if gastrointestinal problems occur & call vet.</i> 2.8 x Carprofen/Rimadyl 50mg/ML Injection</p>
02:40PM	<p> Presenting Problem(s)</p> <p>Unable to hold tail up for 10 days and is in pain</p>
02:36PM	<p> Health Status</p> <p><i>Weight(kg): 35.30</i> <i>Temp(°C): 38.5</i></p>
02:34PM	<p> History - SOAP</p> <p>Kelly Phillips</p> <p>Vet KP Vet Nurse EL</p> <p>History</p> <p>Presented for: Escaped property and got into a dog fight on a nearby beach - another dog owner states that Stanley bit their dog. Owner thinks Stanley had his tail injured at the time, has been sore since, not raising his tail fully or wagging it in the way he normally does. Owner wasn't present so not 100% sure on circumstances. Has been reported to council. Owner reports they have upgraded fencing. Adopted from SPCA, owner reports previous history of muscle wasting in right hip due to neglect as a puppy prior to coming into SPCA care. Other concerns: None Appetite: Normal Thirst: Normal Toileting: Normal</p>

Clinical Exam

Microchip: 982126053887815 Microchip Scanned and verified

Mentation: BAR

Eyes and ears: WNL

Teeth: 202 is broken

Heart Rate and Rhythm and lungs: WNL

Abdominal palpation: WNL

Musculoskeletal: Triggering down lumbar spine. Some thickening present one third of the way down the tail. Pain on palpation. No bite marks visible. Discomfort on raising the tail.

Skin: WNL

Problem List:

Painful tail/loss of mobility in tail

DDx:

Soft tissue injury of tail

Fracture of tail

Treatment plan:

Course of anti-inflammatories (carprofen injection in consult, carprofen tablets dispensed to go home - 1.5 tablets once daily)

Sedation to X-ray tail (booked in for one weeks time, owner to discuss with partner and decide whether to proceed)

Medical progress exam due: One week for X-rays

Notes complete Y

**Nelson Vets - Saxton**

2 Findlay Place
Saxton
Nelson, 7011
Ph: 035445678
Email: saxton@nelsonvets.co.nz

CLINICAL SUMMARY

Consult Vet(s)
Date Range

07-04-2025 to

Printed At
Printed By

Grace Omer-McWalter

Clinical Summary for Stanley

Tuesday the 8th of April 2025

01:16PM

Discharge Summary

08-04-2025

Discharge Instructions - X-rays under sedation

X-Rays were taken of: Hips, pelvis, tail and lumbar spine

Other diagnostics: Blood tests were all normal

Findings include: : There are two tail vertebrae with some bony change which is likely to correlate to a ligamentous tail injury from the incident a few months ago. There is no fracture or dislocation, and no surgical tail injury evident on x-ray

The hips look quite good, with no significant arthritis or dysplasia

The intervertebral disc spaces are normal with no disc space narrowing or mineralization to indicate IVDD. Without an MRI I cannot completely rule out a bulging disc

There is quite a lot of tension/tenderness in the region of the right iliopsoas and I would be very suspicious suspicious of a muscular tear here

Recovery

Stanley will be recovering from the sedation tonight. It frequently takes 24-48 hours for an animal to recover completely from this, so please keep Stanley in a warm quiet place indoors until he is fully recovered.

Offer a small amount to eat tonight and Stanley's appetite should be back to normal within 24 hours.

Any fur clipped from Stanley's leg is from where medication was administered, and any fur clipped from the neck is where a blood sample was taken. This will grow back within 6-8 weeks.

Stanley may have been provided with an Elizabethan or soft-collar to go home with, please ensure it is worn until his next recheck.

Medications - see label for dose instructions:

Date/Time	Drug Name	Quantity	Instructions	Dispensed
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08-04-2025	Meloxicam Dog Oral 50ml - Whole Bottle	1	Give 2.4ml by mouth once daily with food. Please discontinue use if there are signs of gastrointestinal upset, and contact the vet.	1
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Exercise Restrictions:

Please keep Stanley's exercise restricted for

For dogs this means short leash walks, no jumping or swimming.

For cats this means keeping them inside with a litter tray.

Progress checks due: 14 days

If you are concerned about your pet at any time please call us on 035445678.

Training Plan



20 Feb - Phone call with Darren Leader from TDC

I called Darren today to let him know I was working with Dina and Stanley. I updated him on our approach to training and management of Stanley by Dina including muzzle training and improved fencing. I also let him know that I had seen Stanley playing with some dogs in the garden and told him how friendly Stanley had been with these neighbourhood dogs. See video below.

Session # 2

Date: 18 Feb 2025

Dog: Stanley (5.5 yrs, F, Collie/Huntaway)

Owner: Dina Schultz

Location: [REDACTED]

Today's Recommendations:

- Keep going with your muzzle training. Try to build duration. Continue to do your muzzle training in different locations when ready. Great that you have a "truffle muzzle" on the way.
- We had a walk to review recall training for Stanley. He is responsive to Dina when there are little distractions around. We didn't get to assess responsiveness around distractions but we discussed the approach to getting good training around distractions.
- Stanley has obvious discomfort around his tail. He needs to go to the vet for review.
- Great work on the gates - the spring will really help on the side gate.
- Keep in touch with progress.

Session # 1

Date: 4 Feb 2025

Dog: Stanley (5.5 yrs, F, Collie/Huntaway)

Owner: Dina Schultz

Location: [REDACTED] (Home)

(See end for background info)

Objectives:

- To take advice about the recent fight incident between Stanley and Arlo when Arlo got injured by Stanley.

Recommendations:

- As a priority, make sure your property is secure so that Stanley cannot escape and roam. It is important for his safety and it is also important that you supervise all interactions with other dogs until we figure out what is going on.
- We didn't discuss this much but I do think it would also be prudent to make sure Stanley is pain free. Has he seen a vet at all recently? When there is a sudden change in behaviour, it can be as a result of physical pain or discomfort. So this should be ruled out for Stanley by closely observing him and seeking a vet health check if you feel necessary.
- It would be very beneficial to train Stanley to wear a muzzle so well done for making a start on this. See more below for muzzle training plan and link to the truffle muzzles we discussed. For the Baskerville Ultra muzzle, he needs a size 5 so he can open his mouth inside to pant and drink.
- Keep Stanley on a long lead when walking him in public. Protect him from being overwhelmed by other dogs and be cautious about introducing him to new dogs, especially male dogs. We can assess his social skills with other dogs at a later date together if you like. He seemed to have a lovely social play with the regular neighbourhood dogs during our session and that is good for him to do.
- Stanley needs more stimulation or activities in his life. Think of starting a new hobby with him that you can practice for a few minutes each day. Sniffer dog games are great for stimulation and it

sounds like he is already good at finding his ball. Can you hide a few balls around the garden and teach him to find them all? You can also hide treats if he needs extra motivation.

- We met dogs in the front garden and Stanley was friendly and social. Stanley knows these dogs well from the community. Here is a video link of the interaction:

<https://vimeo.com/1071212607/069d0f609b?share=copy>

Training

- Practice 10 minutes training every day at home with Stanley. Click here for guidance about how to design your daily training sessions: [☰ Training Sessions](#)
- Here are training plans for the exercises we covered:
 - Muzzle training - [PDF Muzzles.pdf](#)
 - How about a new fun trick?
[▶ How to Teach Your Dog to Spin In a Circle - AKC Trick Dog](#)
- Use lower value treats when training at home. Always aim for a healthy balanced diet for Stanley including treats.

Exercise:

- Let Stanley sniff and it will increase the benefit he gets from his walk. So, slow down and let them smell the roses! Vary your walking areas and routes to keep it interesting for you both if possible. But only go places where you are comfortable until you build your confidence.
- Keep practicing training on every walk day to build responsiveness. Keep it easy so you set Stanley up for success. Carry higher value treats for training in public to help motivate Stanley to listen.

Enrichment:

- Increase Stanley's daily stimulation with puzzle toys. Click here for more: [☰ Puzzle Toys & Chewing](#)
- Stanley needs a "hobby" - think of some fun activities you might like to learn together. You can attend a class, learn in private training or find info online. Consider the following options:
 - Agility
 - Nosework
 - Tricks training, or
 - Tramping/camping.

Products:

- Long line: [Ezy Dog Track n Train Long Lead](#)
- Anti-pull harness: [Gentle Leader Easy Walk Harness](#)
- Muzzle: <https://www.trufflemuzzles.com/>
- A variety of puzzle toys: [Interactive dog toys Pet Direct](#)

Next Steps:

- Follow the advice outlined above and keep in touch with questions and updates.
- Get in touch if you would like to book a follow up session. Tuesday sound like a good day for us to aim for every few weeks.
- Check out "Club Dog Almighty" for dog videos and online courses if you are interested: [Club Dog Almighty](#)

Sue Walsh

Dog Behaviour Consultant
www.dogalmighty.co.nz

Background:

- Got him from Nelson SPCA 4.5 yrs ago with a lot of anxiety.
- Sit,paw,come, lay down, stay, on your mat, go outside, jump, where is your ball, walks good on leash, recall mostly good.
- Walk everyday. Lots of dog friends in the community. Also walks with a pack with the petsitter.
- Stanley has been wandering a bit, this is cultural at best island.
- Stanley bit a dog called Arlow. The second next neighbour. Medium to large dog, unsure if neutered. The brother human is also around.
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- A child said Stanley bit Arlo the dog a few weeks back. Adult came to tell them. Afterwards, Dina went to the beach with Stanley and ran into Arlo and it was immediately tense.
- Last week Arlo escaped the property and went for a wander and got in a fight with Arlo. Details are unclear. Bill from the vet for Arlos injuries was under \$500, puncture wounds that needed sutures and antibiotics.

- Arlos owner is retired from correction work and there has been a personality clash before.



Canine Know How
Dog training
10 Porritt Place
Stoke
Nelson
7011
0224769174
09/03/2025

To Whom it may concern.

I am writing to provide a character reference for Stanley Schulze, a dog I have had the opportunity to assess and observe on a couple of occasions. Throughout my interactions with Stanley, he has consistently demonstrated a calm, gentle temperament and has shown no signs of aggression towards other dogs.

Stanley has met with my own dogs, as well as several other dogs who frequently wander onto his property. In every instance, Stanley has remained relaxed and non-reactive, interacting appropriately and without any signs of tension or hostility. Based on my professional assessment, I do not believe Stanley poses a danger to other dogs.

During my most recent visit to Dina and Stanley, I personally observed one of the dogs belonging to the complainant roaming the surrounding area unsupervised. I have included photos of this as evidence.

In addition to Stanley's reliable and easy-going nature, his owners have taken proactive steps to further ensure safety and prevent any future incidents. These measures include installing self-closing hinges on all external doors and adding a secure gateway across the driveway. Their commitment to Stanley's well-being and the safety of others is clear through their investment in these additional precautions.

From my observations, Stanley has proven himself to be a laid-back and gentle soul. I am confident that with the ongoing care and safety measures his owners have implemented, he will continue to interact peacefully with other dogs and members of the community.

Should you require any further information, please feel free to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Cat Watson
CPDT – KA

Canine Know How

DOG TRAINING



Setting you up to succeed!

Session date: 7/4/25**Observation Report – Walk with Stanley at Saxtons Field**

Today I accompanied Dina and Stanley on a walk around Saxtons Field. The purpose of this outing was to observe Stanley's interactions with other dogs in a public setting.

Throughout the walk, Stanley encountered several dogs of varying breeds, sizes, and energy levels—both on-lead and off-lead. He displayed excellent social manners, greeting other dogs politely without being overbearing. Notably, Stanley was able to disengage appropriately from dogs that were not interested in interacting, demonstrating calm and respectful behavior in all situations.

Midway through the walk, we identified a group of dogs ahead and realized this included Arlo, the golden retriever with whom Stanley was previously reported to have had an incident. We decided to avoid the group to prevent any potential escalation. However, Arlo broke away from his group and approached us, despite his owner's repeated calls for him to return.

Arlo advanced with a stiff posture, raised tail, and visible hackles—indicative of tension or assertiveness rather than friendly intent. In response, Stanley remained calm and chose to sit. We stayed still to avoid provoking any interaction and to allow the situation to defuse. Despite his owner's continued shouting, Arlo lingered for several minutes before finally returning to his group.

From my perspective, Arlo's approach was inappropriate and lacked the body language of a friendly dog. Furthermore, his owner was unable to recall him effectively, suggesting a lack of control in a public space. Stanley, by contrast, handled the situation with composure and restraint.

Following this, Stanley continued his walk in a relaxed manner, engaging calmly with several more dogs without incident. Dina maintained good control throughout the walk, and Stanley responded well to her guidance.

For the duration of the walk, Stanley was kept on a long line due to noticeable stiffness and soreness in his hips, along with a visible rotation in his pelvis. Dina is currently arranging for veterinary assessment to address these concerns.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions regarding this observation.

Cat Watson (CPDT-KA)

Canine Know How

0224 769 174 | cat@canineknowhow.co.nzwww.canineknowhow.co.nz