

**Title:** “Good dog owners in the majority” for  
licensing pets

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**FOR RELEASE:** Immediate

**Animal Control Officers are handing out bags of dog biscuits as a reward for dogs which are checked in the street over the next couple of weeks and found to be registered with the new blue licence tag.**

Taking time out from a patrol around the district, Animal Control Officer Phill is keen to emphasise that most of the dogs he comes across on his patrols have been licensed, and the blue tag is what he is looking for when he drives past a dog being exercised. “If the new blue tag is on the collar, I’m pleased. Issuing infringement notices to owners for an unlicensed dog is definitely not a good part of the job. We do this job because we love dogs”.

Environmental Services Manager, Dave Armstrong explains the need to reward good owners and crack down on offenders, “It’s a good opportunity to thank those responsible dog owners who are taking the trouble to get their pets licensed, and keeping them under control, and the Timaru District Council acknowledges these owners are in the majority”.

However under the Dog Control Act, and local bylaws, the Council is entitled to impose \$300 infringement notices on those owners who are not abiding by the rules, and even impound the dog if that becomes necessary. “Owning a dog is a responsibility, not a right, and keeping the dog legal is just part of that responsibility. While maybe 5% of dog owners are doing their own thing, either out of ignorance or obstructiveness, the rest are doing the right thing to license and control their dogs, so a BIG thank you from Timaru District Council”.

**ENDS**

This Media Release has  
been prepared by  
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Animal Control Officer, Phill, checks the blue tags are present:

Left: Mrs Horsburgh with Mia (Golden Retriever)

Right: Carmen Wood with Spark (Chocolate Labrador)

