

7.3 Dog Control Annual Report 2019/2020

Author: Debbie Fortuin, Environmental Compliance Manager
Joanne Hamilton, Senior Animal Control Officer

Authoriser: Tracy Tierney, Group Manager Environmental Services

Recommendation

That the Dog Control Report 2019/2020 be adopted and that, as required by the Act, the report be publicly notified and forwarded to the Secretary for Local Government.

Purpose of Report

- 1 The purpose of this report is to inform Council of dog control activities during the period 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020.

Assessment of Significance

- 2 This matter is not deemed significant under the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

Background

- 3 Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996 (the Act) requires that Timaru District Council (TDC) provides specific information to the Secretary for Local Government by way of an annual report each financial year (within one month of the Council adopting this report). This report is provided to satisfy that requirement.

Discussion

- 4 The dog control data provided in this report is similar to previous years in most respects with two notable changes:
 - 4.1 The number of infringements for failure to register dog increased by 56, or 38%.

This may indicate a complacency within the community around the requirements to register dogs. Animal Control Officers go to considerable lengths to encourage compliance prior to issuing infringements. Reminders letters are sent out then a visit to the property is undertaken with a notice left reminding them of the requirement to register their dog. If owners fail to register at that point an infringement is issued.
 - 4.2 The number of infringements for failure to comply with micro-chipping requirements increased by 119 infringements or 97%. This increase was due to an audit and follow up programme undertaken by the Animal Control Officers. Micro-chipping notices are sent out advising dog owners of the requirement to microchip their dog and a free micro-chipping clinic is offered to dog owners. Infringements are sent out after micro-chipping clinics have taken place and non-complying owners have not taken up the offer. The uptake of the free micro-chipping clinics saw a substantial increase from 80 during the previous financial year to 157. This was an encouraging result.

5 The report meets the reporting requirements of section 10A of the Act and it will be submitted to the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) once adopted by Council. 6. The following dog control data relates to the 12 month period ending 30 June 2020.

6 Number of Registered Dogs in the District

Class	2018/19	2019/20
Working	1,225	1,292
Rural Pet	2,407	2,389
Pet	5,654	5,584
Disability Assist	4	6
Dangerous	15	16
Menacing	75	75
Total	9,380	9,362

7 Total Number of Disqualified Owners in the District

Period	2018/19	2019/20
Total	2	1

8 Number of Dogs Classified as Dangerous during the Reporting Year

Period	2018/19	2019/20
Total	6	1

9 Number of Dogs Classified as Menacing during the Reporting Year

Total Residing in District	2018/19	2019/20
Section 33C – Breed	4	3
Section 33A – Behaviour	13	13

10 Number of Infringement Notices Issued

Infringement	2018/19	2019/20
Failure to Register Dog	91	147
Dog Not Under Control / Dog Wandering	41	14
Dog in Prohibited Area	0	0
Failure to Comply with Micro-chipping Requirements	3	122
Failure to Advise of Change of Address	0	0
Failure to Advise of Change of Ownership	0	1
Non-Compliance with Fencing Order	0	2
Obstruction	1	1
Providing False Information	0	1
Failure to Comply with Classification	4	3
Fouling	0	0
No Leash	0	0
Failure to Comply with Bylaw (Excluding Prohibited Area)	19	8
Failure to Comply with Effects of Disqualification	1	0
Failure to Comply with Barking Abatement	1	0
Failure to Comply with Effects of Probationary Owner	1	0
Total	162	299
<i>* Note: The total number of infringement notices served excludes cancellations.</i>		

11 Number and Nature of Dog Related Service Requests Received

Service Request	2018/19	2019/20
Barking Dog	416	404
Dog Wandering	457	392
Dog Found	252	215
Dog Lost	284	263
Unregistered Dog	18	27
Microchip Appointment	80	157
Dog Attacking Animal	73	79
Dog Bylaw Breach (including Dogs in Prohibited Area and Off Lead)	36	62
Dog Adoption	92	64
Dog Rushing, Attacking & Biting Person	98	105
Dog Fouling	16	22
Total	1,822	1,790

12 Number of Prosecutions Undertaken

Prosecutions	2018/19	2019/20
Total	0	0

13 Total Number of Probationary Owners in the District

Period	2018/19	2019/20
Total	3	2

Options and Preferred Option

14 The provision of an annual report is a statutory requirement.

Consultation

15 No consultation was deemed necessary in respect of this report.

Relevant Legislation, Council Policy and Plans

16 The relevant legislation, Council policy and plans are:

- Dog Control Act 1996
- Timaru District Council Bylaw Chapter 6 - Control of Dogs
- Timaru District Council Policy Document - Dog Control.

Financial and Funding Implications

There are no funding implications associated with this report.

Other Considerations

There are not considered to be any other relevant issues.

Attachments

Nil