

RESOURCE PLANNING AND REGULATION COMMITTEE

FOR THE MEETING OF 21 OCTOBER 2008

Report for Agenda Item No 6

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Dog Control Annual Report - 2007/2008

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to acquaint Council of dog control activities during the period 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008 and to satisfy the reporting requirements of section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996.

Background

Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996 requires that Council provide specific data to the Secretary for Local Government by way of an annual report each financial year. The report must comment on the administration of the dog control policy and practices of the district and provide statistical information to demonstrate its activity in this area.

Options

It is a statutory requirement of Council to provide an annual report.

Identification of Relevant Legislation, Council Policy and Plans

- Dog Control Act 1996
- Timaru District Council Bylaw, Chapter 12 - Control of Dogs
- Timaru District Council Policy Document - Dog Control (1997)

Assessment of Significance

This issue is not considered significant in relation to the overall Council activities.

Consultation

Once the report is completed, the Council must give public notice of the report in the daily newspaper of the district. It may also give notification by any other means that it deems is desirable.

Funding Implications

There are no funding implications associated with this report.

Dog Control Statistics

The following dog control data relates to the 12-month period ending 30 June 2008. Bracketed numbers indicate comparative data for the previous year (2006/2007).

1	<u>Number of registered dogs</u>		
	Timaru	2780	(3194)
	Geraldine	1548	(1256)
	Pleasant Point	195	(181)
	Temuka	1335	(2012)
	Pareora	345	(99)
	Rural areas	859	(2447)
	Non-designated	-----	(47)
	Total	7062	(8336)
2	<u>Number of probationary owners</u>		
	Total	2	(2)
3	<u>Number of disqualified owners</u>		
	Total	1	(1)
4	<u>Number of dogs classified as dangerous</u>		
	Timaru	3	(1)
	Temuka	1	(1)
	Total	4	(2)
5	<u>Number of dogs classified as menacing</u>		
	Timaru	30	(32)
	Temuka	4	(0)
	Geraldine	0	(1)
	Pareora	1	(1)
	Total	35	(34)
6	<u>Number of dog related service requests received</u>		
	Person wanting to adopt a dog	33	(18)
	Barking dog	249	(235)
	Dog biting an animal	34	(53)
	Dog attacking a person/vehicle	22	(26)
	Dangerous Dog	2	(2)
	Dog fouling a public place	13	(12)
	Dog found by a person	448	(378)
	Dog lost by owner	386	(342)
	Miscellaneous - Dog	154	(134)
	Unregistered dog	11	(11)
	Dog in prohibited area	5	(1)
	Dog rushing person in a public place	96	(69)
	Dog at large among stock	1	(6)
	Dog wandering	243	(333)
	Total	2059	(1620)

7	<u>Number of dogs impounded</u>		
	Collected by owner	273	(243)
	Destroyed	170	(56)
	Adopted from pound	30	(28)
	Dogs currently in the Pound	2	(2)
	Total	475	(329)
8	<u>Number of infringement notices issued</u>		
	Unregistered	123	(30)
	No control	34	(37)
	Dog in Prohibited Area	0	(1)
	Obstruction	4	(0)
	Failure to advise of change of address	0	(1)
	Total	161	(69)
9	<u>Number of prosecutions undertaken</u>		
	Total	2	(0)

Discussion

Council employs two full-time and four part time Animal Control Officers. The two full time officers are based in the Timaru office and provide services for the entire district. The five part time employees are effectively on call to attend to after hours call outs, but can be called to assist during office hours if required.

There has been an increased requirement for situations which has necessitated a need for officers having to visit some situations in pairs for safety reasons. It also has the advantage of securing a witness to events in case of further disputes.

Customer feedback has indicated a positive response to the improved after hours service provided by the Animal Control team. Other issues are discussed under topic headings below:

Statistics

Total Number of Service Requests received

	2005/2006	2006/2007	2007/2008
Service Request	1486	1620 ↑ (9%)	2059 ↑ (27%)

The number of service requests has risen by 27% relative to last year.

This increase can be explained by a greater awareness by people about the obligations placed upon dog owners by the Dog Control Act 1996 and Chapter 12 of the Timaru District Bylaw 2004 (Dog Control). The increase also means that there continues to be a greater demand for Dog Control services in the Timaru District.

Total Number of Dogs Impounded

	2005/2006	2006/2007	2007/2008
Impounding	343	329 ↓ (4%)	473 ↑ (44%)

This increase can be explained by the community awareness of the required behaviour by dog owners and dogs.

Total Number of Dogs Registered

	2005/2006	2006/2007	2007/2008
Registered	8224	8336 ↑ (1%)	7062 ↓ (15%)

Menacing dog numbers have remained steady. The main reason for this is that new dogs have been classified but others have either transferred out of the district or have died. There are only four classified dangerous dogs in the district.

The increase in Micro chipping of Dogs should assist with the identification of dogs through out New Zealand, The Council has access to the National Dog Database.

Recommendation

That the Annual Report for Dog Control 2007/2008 be received, adopted, advertised and sent to the Secretary for Local Government as per the requirements of section 10A(3) of the Dog Control Act 1996.