

Environmental Services Committee
for the Meeting of 4 September 2018

Report for Agenda Item No 8

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Dog Control Annual Report 2017 / 2018

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to inform the Committee of dog control activities during the period 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018.

Background

2. 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.

Options

3. It is a statutory requirement for TDC to provide an annual report each financial year which must be publicly notified and forwarded to the Secretary for Local Government.

Identification of Relevant Legislation, Council Policy and Plans

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

Assessment of Significance

4. This matter is not deemed significant under the Council's Significance Policy.

Consultation

5. No consultation is proposed in respect of this report.

Summary of Data Findings and Changes

6. The dog control data provided in this report is similar to previous years in most respects, with one notable change in the number of infringements issued for failing to register a dog. This has dropped by 101 infringements over the year, and is a reflection of work done in the previous two years by the Animal Control team. The team followed up any person on the dog register who failed to register their dog, after being given a warning, and not complying within a prescribed timeframe, would generate the infringement fine. This effort in enforcement is now bearing fruit in terms of increased levels of compliance in the district.
7. On 27 February 2018, Council adopted a reviewed and amended Dog Control Policy and Bylaw as part of a Bylaw review conducted under the Local Government Act 2002. Minor amendments occurred that included changes relating to dogs now being able to access cafes and restaurants under the Food Act 2014. Another change was the addition of a prohibited area at either end of Caroline Bay Beach, and measures put in place after community consultation in order to protect penguins that nest at either end of the beach.
8. In the format of this report, we have changed section 7.1 to include all registered dogs, including those living in the district that are classified Dangerous or Menacing. This has enabled sections 7.3 and 7.4 to reflect the number of dogs that have been classified either Dangerous or Menacing during the reporting year. The most obvious change in numbers is the addition of the dogs classified as Menacing or Dangerous to the total number of dogs registered in the district. This is a minor change to simplify reporting.
9. The report meets the reporting requirements of section 10A of the Act and it will be submitted to the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) on 4 September 2018, once adopted by the Committee.
10. The following dog control data relates to the 12 month period ending 30 June 2018.

10.1. Number of Registered Dogs in the District

Class	2016/17	2017/18
Working	1,254	1,262
Rural Pet	2,267	2,359
Pet	5,092	5,567
Disability Assist	2	3
Dangerous	8	9
Menacing	62	76
Total	8,685	9,276

10.2. Total Number of Disqualified Owners in the District

Period	2016/17	2017/18
Total	2	2

10.3. Number of Dogs Classified as Dangerous during the Reporting Year

Period	2016/17	2017/18
Total	1	1

10.4. Number of Dogs Classified as Menacing during the Reporting Year

Period	2016/17	2017/18
Total	15	14

10.5. Number of Infringement Notices Issued

Infringement	2016/17	2017/18
Failure to Register Dog	227	126
Dog Not Under Control/Dog Wandering	33	24
Dog in Prohibited Area	7	0
Failure to Comply with Micro-chipping Requirements	6	5
Failure to Advise of Change of Address	4	7
Failure to Advise of Change of Ownership	4	4
Non-Compliance with Fencing Order	0	0
Obstruction	1	2
Providing False Information	2	0
Failure to Comply with Classification	13	7
Fouling	0	0
No Leash	3	0
Failure to comply with Bylaw (Excluding Prohibited Area)	3	5
Total	303	180

Note: The total number of infringement notices served excludes cancellations.

10.6. Number and Nature of Dog Related Service Requests Received

Service Request	2016/2017	2017/2018
Barking Dog	381	414
Dog Wandering	378	361
Dog Found	321	260
Dog Lost	340	297
Unregistered Dog	23	14
Microchip Appointment	67	64
Dog Attacking Animal	90	60
Dog bylaw breach (including dogs in Prohibited Area and off lead)	22	40
Dog Adoption	79	80

Dog Rushing, Attacking & Biting Person	88	99
Dog Fouling	32	17
Total	1,821	1,706

10.7. Number of Prosecutions Undertaken

Prosecutions	2016/2017	2017/2018
Total	0	0

Recommendation

- a) That the Dog Control report be adopted.
- b) That, as required by the Act, the report be publicly notified and forwarded to the Secretary for Local Government.