

7.2 Dog Control Annual Report 2018 / 2019

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Recommendation

That the Dog Control Report 2018/2019 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 2018 to 30 June 2019.

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. Firstly, the number of infringements issued for failing to register a dog has dropped by 35 (27%). This is a reflection of work done in the previous three years by the animal control team to follow up and issue warnings if required. The cumulative effect has resulted in increased levels of compliance in the district.
 - 4.2. Secondly, the number of service requests for wandering dogs has increased by 96 (26%) complaints. A number of these complaints involved the same dogs frequently wandering. In some cases fencing orders were issued in an attempt to prevent the same dogs wandering. Where the dog owner did not comply with the fencing order, they were subsequently infringed for failure to comply with the Bylaw. This has resulted in an increase of 14 infringements issued for failing to comply with the Bylaw and also an increase of 17 infringements for dog not under control / dog wandering.
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) on 4 September 2019, once adopted by Council.
6. The following dog control data relates to the 12 month period ending 30 June 2019.

6.1. Number of Registered Dogs in the District

Class	2017/18	2018/19
Working	1,262	1,225
Rural Pet	2,359	2,407
Pet	5,567	5,654
Disability Assist	3	4
Dangerous	9	15
Menacing	76	75
Total	9,276	9,380

6.2. Total Number of Disqualified Owners in the District

Period	2017/18	2018/19
Total	2	2

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

Period	2017/18	2018/19
Total	1	6

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

Total Residing in District	2017/18	2018/19
Section 33C – Breed	7	4
Section 33A – Breed	14	13

6.5. Number of Infringement Notices Issued

Infringement	2017/18	2018/19
Failure to Register Dog	126	91
Dog Not Under Control / Dog Wandering	24	41
Dog in Prohibited Area	0	0
Failure to Comply with Micro-chipping Requirements	5	3
Failure to Advise of Change of Address	7	0
Failure to Advise of Change of Ownership	4	0
Non-Compliance with Fencing Order	0	0
Obstruction	2	1
Providing False Information	0	0
Failure to Comply with Classification	7	4
Fouling	0	0
No Leash	0	0
Failure to Comply with Bylaw (Excluding Prohibited Area)	5	19
Failure to Comply with Effects of Disqualification	0	1
Failure to Comply with Barking Abatement	0	1
Failure to Comply with Effects of Probationary Owner	0	1
Total	180	162

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

6.6. Number and Nature of Dog Related Service Requests Received

Service Request	2017/18	2018/19
Barking Dog	414	416
Dog Wandering	361	457
Dog Found	260	252
Dog Lost	297	284
Unregistered Dog	14	18
Microchip Appointment	64	80
Dog Attacking Animal	60	73
Dog Bylaw Breach (including Dogs in Prohibited Area and Off Lead)	40	36
Dog Adoption	80	92
Dog Rushing, Attacking & Biting Person	99	98
Dog Fouling	17	16
Total	1,706	1,822

6.7. Number of Prosecutions Undertaken

Prosecutions	2017/18	2018/19
Total	0	0

6.8. Total Number of Probationary Owners in the District

Period	2017/18	2018/19
Total	0	3

Consultation

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

Relevant Legislation, Council Policy and Plans

8. 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.

Attachments

Nil