

6.2 Dog Control Annual Report

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Recommendation

That the Dog Control Report 2020/2021 be noted and received and that, as required by the Dog Control Act 1996, 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 the Committee and the Secretary for Local Government of the dog control activities during the period 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021.

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 some small fluctuations in data as follows:
 - 4.1 The number of infringements for failure to register a dog and failure to comply with micro-chipping requirements has increased by 59 (28%) and 23 (15%) respectively. This is largely due to continued efforts by staff to target these areas of non-compliance. Prior to issuing infringements, Animal Control Officers go to considerable lengths to encourage compliance. Reminder letters are sent out, property inspections undertaken and in the case of micro-chipping, free micro-chipping clinics are offered.
 - 4.2 Wandering dog requests for service has reduced by 111 (39%), which may be attributed largely to many wandering dogs being reunited by the community through social media.
 - 4.3 Barking dog complaints have increased by 46 (10%). This could potentially be attributed to people being more stressed post COVID-19 lockdown and therefore having lower tolerance.
 - 4.4 One prosecution was taken as a result of a dog attack, and the courts found in favour of Council.

5 Number of Registered Dogs in the District

Class	2019/20	2020/21
Working	1,292	1,246
Rural Pet	2,389	2,428
Pet	5,584	5,814
Disability Assist	6	6
Dangerous	16	16
Menacing	75	82
Total	9,362	9,592

6 Total Number of Disqualified Owners in the District

Period	2019/20	2020/21
Total	1	1

7 Number of Dogs Classified as Dangerous during the Reporting Year

Period	2019/20	2020/21
Total	1	4

8 Number of Dogs Classified as Menacing during the Reporting Year

Total Residing in District	2019/20	2020/21
Section 33C – Breed	3	8
Section 33A – Behaviour	13	13

9 Number of Infringement Notices Issued

Infringement	2019/20	2020/21
Failure to Register Dog	147	206
Dog Not Under Control / Dog Wandering	14	9
Dog in Prohibited Area	0	0
Failure to Comply with Micro-chipping Requirements	122	145
Failure to Advise of Change of Address	0	0
Failure to Advise of Change of Ownership	1	0
Non-Compliance with Fencing Order	2	2
Obstruction	1	0
Providing False Information	1	0
Failure to Comply with Classification	3	2
Fouling	0	2
No Leash	0	0
Failure to Comply with Bylaw (Excluding Prohibited Area)	8	5
Failure to Comply with Effects of Disqualification	0	0
Failure to Comply with Barking Abatement	0	0
Failure to Comply with Effects of Probationary Owner	0	0
Failure to provide proper care and attention, to supply food, water, and shelter	0	7
Releasing dog from custody unlawfully	0	1
Total	299	379
<i>* Note: The total number of infringement notices served excludes cancellations.</i>		

10 Number and Nature of Dog Related Service Requests Received

Service Request	2019/20	2020/21
Barking Dog	404	450
Dog Wandering	392	281
Dog Found	215	188
Dog Lost	263	230
Unregistered Dog	27	28
Microchip Appointment	157	153
Dog Attacking Animal	79	61
Dog Bylaw Breach (including Dogs in Prohibited Area and Off Lead)	62	43
Dog Adoption	64	64
Dog Rushing, Attacking & Biting Person	105	77
Dog Fouling	22	12
Total	1,790	1,587

11 Number of Prosecutions Undertaken

Prosecutions	2019/20	2020/21
Total	0	1

12 Total Number of Probationary Owners in the District

Period	2019/20	2020/21
Total	2	1

Options and Preferred Option

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

Consultation

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

Relevant Legislation, Council Policy and Plans

15 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

16 There are no funding implications associated with this report

Other Considerations

17 There are no other known relevant issues.

Attachments

Nil