



Media release
Friday 20 May 2016

Selwyn meets 100% dog registration target for eighth year

For the eighth consecutive year Selwyn District Council has achieved 100% re-registration of the district's dogs.

During the 2015/16 year more than 12,500 dogs were registered with the Council – up slightly from 12,352 the previous year – and all dogs still in the district from 2014/15 were re-registered.

Senior Animal Control Officer Steve Clarke says that result indicates the majority of Selwyn dog owners are responsible and take good care of their dogs.

“The Dog Control Act gives Council officers power to seize any unregistered dogs, but thankfully it hasn't come to that,” he says. “People love their dogs and are usually more than happy to pay the registration fee to avoid seizure.”

Steve says a number of factors contribute to the Council maintaining its 100% registration, as required by law.

“The comparatively low fees are one reason that people are registering their dogs. The fee is discounted if it's paid in July, with the full fee payable from August. If fees are not paid the dog owner can expect a visit from an Animal Control Officer to discuss and encourage payment before an infringement notice is issued.”

“Online registration which was implemented this year has made it even easier for people to register their dogs,” Mr Clarke says. Over 2,300 dog owners used the new online system to register their dogs.

Fees collected from registration help to fund the Council's dog control operation which operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It includes community education and the “Dog Smart” education programme provided in schools, along with enforcement activities, operating the dog pound and providing free microchipping for the district's dogs.

Dog registration for the year beginning 1 July gets under way soon, and existing dog owners can expect to receive their renewal notices in the post or by email, if they have chosen that option, before the end of June.

“We encourage dog owners to register early – and to sign up to receive their renewals by email and use the convenient online system,” says Mr Clarke.

To sign up for electronic notifications and online registration, dog owners can visit the Dogs Online web pages at www.selwyn.govt.nz/dogs or email dogrego@selwyn.govt.nz, or phone the Council on 347 2800.

Ends

Photo: *Rolleston resident Jenny McMillan with four-year old Maltese-Shih Tzu cross Harry, showing off his registration tag.*

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