



Media release

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## Top dog registration rates in Selwyn

If you're a dog in Selwyn, Animal Control will have your number.

That's because for the fifth year running, the Animal Control Team at Selwyn District Council have managed to track, re-register or otherwise account for every one of the dogs on its database in Selwyn District. This year, all dogs have been re-registered by January, five months ahead of the Council's target of June 2014.

Dog owners are required to register dogs over three months old with the Council every year.

"We are lucky in Selwyn to live in an area where most people are responsible dog owners. They register their dogs on time, take good care of them and generally we don't have many issues with dog behaviour," says Animal Control Team Leader Steve Clarke.

Steve says that Selwyn is one of only a small number of areas in New Zealand that have re-registered all of the dogs on their database. "This is good for our dog owners as with high registration rates they can more easily find their dogs if they go missing."

While most owners register their dogs on time, in the space of a year since the last registration, some owners will have left the district, moved to another property or the dog may have died.

As Selwyn has around 11,400 dogs registered, tracing the whereabouts of every dog and ensuring that they are re-registered or taken off the district's dog database if they no longer need to be registered, is a big job for the Animal Control Team.

"We are pleased that this year all the dogs in Selwyn on our databases have been registered or accounted for by January, as this process can often take many more months," says Steve.

The Council is planning to introduce an online dog registration system this year which will make it easier for owners to register their dogs, and is also investigating offering a reduced dog registration rate for dogs who have been registered on time for a number of years without having any reported problems.

Ends

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