

REPORT

TO: Chief Executive

FOR: Council meeting – 13 December 2023

FROM: Animal Control Team Leader – Steve Clarke

DATE: 27 November 2023

SUBJECT: **DOG CONTROL POLICY AND PRACTICES REPORT 1 JULY 2022 to 30 JUNE 2023**

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council:

- i) Receives and adopts this report covering The Dog Control Policy and Practices Report for the period 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023;*
- ii) Notes that the Report is notified in the Council Call (Selwyn Times); and*
- iii) Resolves to send this Report to the Secretary for Local Government within one month of adoption.*

1. PURPOSE

The report is being presented for the Council's consideration to meet the reporting requirements on dog control activities contained in the Dog Control Act 1996.

2. SIGNIFICANCE ASSESSMENT/COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

This has been assessed against the Significance Policy and the following is noted:

The matter does not:

- Affect all or a large portion of the community in a way that is not inconsequential,
- Have a potential impact or consequence on the affected persons (being a number of persons) that is substantial,
- Have financial implications on the Council's resources that would be substantial, and
- Is likely to generate a high degree of controversy.

Accordingly, the matter is considered to be of low significance in terms of the Council's Significance Policy.

3. HISTORY/BACKGROUND

The Dog Control Act 1996 requires Territorial Authorities to publicly report each financial year on:

- The administration of its Dog Control Policy and Dog Control Practices (Section 10 A(1); and
- A variety of dog control related statistics (Section 10A(2)).

In accordance with:

- Section 10A (3) the Territorial Authority must give public notice of the report in:
 - One or more daily newspapers circulating in the Territorial Authority District.
 - One or more other newspapers that have at least an equivalent circulation in that district to the daily newspapers circulating in that district and
 - By any means that the Territorial Authority thinks desirable in the circumstances.
- Section 10A(4) the Council must send a copy of the report to the Secretary for Local Government within one month of adoption.

The report which follows contains information and statistics on the Council's dog control activities for the year 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023.

4. PROPOSAL

Annual Report on Dog Control Policy and Practices for the year ending - 30 June 2023

Dog Control in Selwyn District

Dog Control activities in the Selwyn District are undertaken by Council staff. At the time of this report the Animal Control Team consists of three Animal Control Officers and two Animal Control Administrators.

The Animal Control Team operates a 7-day, 24 hour service.

The Animal Control activity reports to the Head of Regulatory who deals with escalated complaints and legal questions regarding dog and animal control.

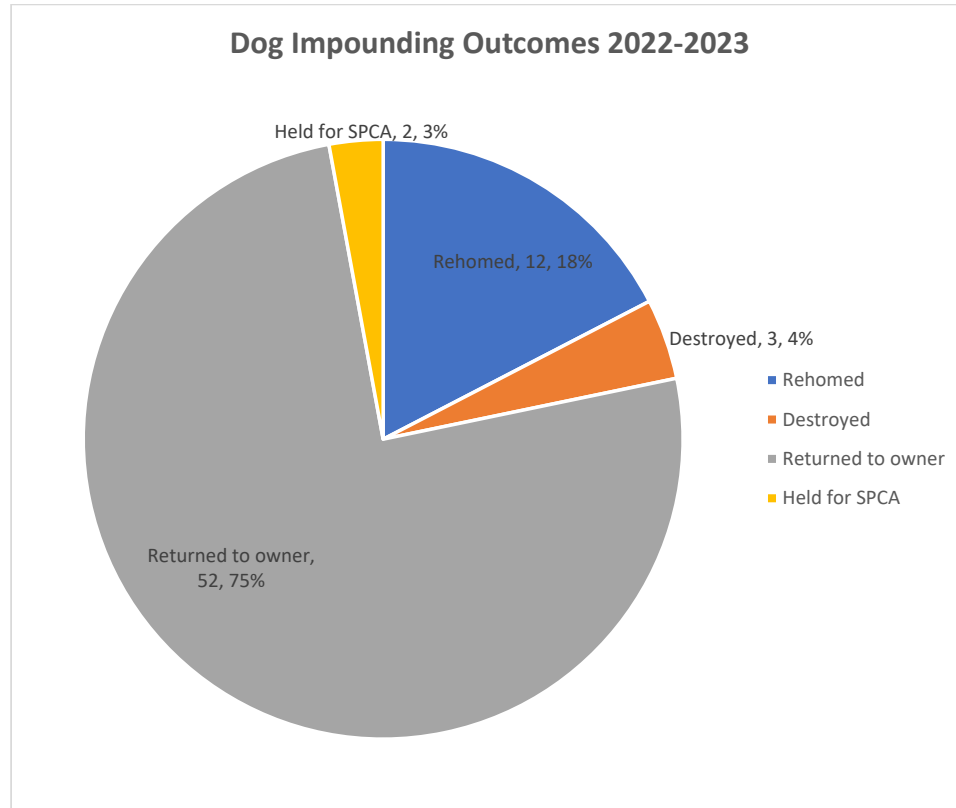
The team works closely with Dog Watch to rehome dogs.

The education program "Dog Smart" has been presented to 7 schools and organised groups throughout the District and continues to be a successful mechanism to educate children and adults in dog safety.

Dog Pound

The Animal Control Team operates a Council owned facility.

During the reporting period 69 dogs were impounded. The number of dogs impounded is low when compared to the number of dogs microchipped which was 15,498 by the end of the reporting period.



Dog Control Enforcement Practices

During the reporting period the Council has dealt with 1,251 complaints and issued 1,519 Infringement Notices for a variety of offences under the Dog Control Act. A breakdown of the Infringement Notices issued and complaints dealt with can be found in Figure 1, and Tables 1 and 2 below.

Table 1. List of Infringement offence issued during 2022-2023

Serial	Offence	Section of The Act	Number	Fine
1	Failure to register a dog	Section 42	1499	\$300
2	Failure to advise change of address	Section 49(4)	0	\$100
3	Failure to keep a dog controlled or confined	Section 52A & 53(1)	11	\$200
4	Failure to implant a microchip transponder in a dog	Section 36(A)(6)	0	\$300
5	Failure to advise change of dog ownership	Section 48(3)	0	\$100
6	Failure or refusal to supply information or wilfully providing false particulars	Section 19(2)	1	\$750
7	Failure to comply with menacing classification	Section 33EC(1)	1	\$300
8	Failure to comply with dangerous classification	Section 32(2)	0	\$300
9	False statement relating to registration	Section 41	0	\$750
10	Falsely notifying the death of dog	Section 41(A)	0	\$750
11	Wilful obstruction of a Dog Control Officer	Section 18	0	\$750
12	Failure to comply with any authorised bylaw	Section 20(5)	7	\$300
13	Failure to comply with barking dog abatement notice	Section 55(7)	0	\$200
14	Releasing dog from custody	Section 72(2)	0	\$750
	TOTAL		1519	

Dog exercise facilities

McHugh's Forest Park, Darfield, Rolleston and Leeston Dog Parks are extremely popular with dog owners. Council have opened a new Dog Park in Prebbleton. The Council Reserves and Domains are a popular option for those not wishing to use the Dog Parks. ECan have a dog park at 'The Willows'.

Dog registration and other fees

The Council's dog registration and other associated fees are published on the Council's website. All revenue received is allocated to the Dog Control account.

Dog registration fees for 2022-2023 are \$60 for the first dog and \$45 for each subsequent dog with a discounted fee during July of \$45 for the 1st dog and \$35 for each subsequent dog.

Dog education and dog obedience courses

The Selwyn District Council has not required any owners to undergo dog education or obedience courses.

Disqualified and probationary dog owners

1 person is disqualified or classified as probationary dog owners during the reporting period.

Menacing and dangerous dogs

Selwyn District Council has 77 dogs classified as menacing and 10 dogs classified as dangerous at the end of the reporting period.

Other information

100% registration of all known and registered dogs that still reside in the District from the previous financial year was attained.

The Council provides a monthly microchipping service which is free for dogs that are legally required to be microchipped.

Council achieved an 91.02% compliance rate of dogs legally required to be microchipped.

Table 2 – Statistical Information

Category	For Period 01 July 2022 – 30 June 2023
1) Total # Registered Dogs	17,064
2) Total # Dog Owners	11523
3) Total # Probationary Owners	0
4) Total # Disqualified Owners	1
5) Total # Dangerous Dogs	10
* Dangerous by Owner Conviction Under s31(1)(a)	0
* Dangerous by Sworn Evidence s31(1)(b)	1
* Dangerous by Owner Admittance in Writing s31(1)(c)	9
6) Total # Menacing Dogs	77
* Menacing under s33A(1)(b)(i) i.e. by Deed	58
* Menacing under s33A(1)(b)(ii) - by Breed Characteristics	10
* Menacing under s33C(1) - by Schedule 4 Breed	9
7) Total # Infringement Notices	1,519
8) Total # Complaints Received	1,251
* Wandering/Pick up	552
* Barking	263

* Attack	83
* Rushing/aggressive	69
* Found	284
9) Prosecutions	0

5. OPTIONS

This report contains the information required by Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996. Therefore, it is recommended that Council adopt this report.

6. VIEWS OF THOSE AFFECTED / CONSULTATION

No consultation was required.



Steve Clarke
ANIMAL CONTROL TEAM LEADER

Endorsed for agenda



Robert Love
ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH