

# REPORT

**TO:** Chief Executive

**FOR:** Council Meeting – 20 November 2019

**FROM:** Senior Animal Control Officer  
Regulatory Manager

**DATE:** 5 November 2019

**SUBJECT:** **Dog Control Policy and Procedures Report 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019**

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## RECOMMENDATION

*‘That the Council resolves :*

- i) The Dog Control Policy and Practices Report for the period 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 be adopted.*
- ii) That the Report is notified in Council Call.*
- iii) That the Report is sent 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 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
- 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 10 A(2)).

In accordance with:

- Section 10 A (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 activity for the year 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019.

### 4. PROPOSAL

#### **Annual Report on Dog Control Policy and Practices for the Year Ending - 30 June 2019**

##### *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 two qualified Animal Control Officers, an Animal Control Administrator and an Animal Control Assistant who undertakes Animal Control duties after hours and some administration tasks.

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

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

The Council has a contract with a local veterinarian to euthanise dogs that are not able to be rehomed; the team also work closely with Dog Watch to rehome dogs.

The school education program "Dog Smart" has been presented to six schools throughout the District and continues to a successful mechanism to educate children in dog safety.

### *Dog Control Enforcement Practices*

During the reporting period the Council has dealt with 1,582 complaints and issued 535 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.

### *Dog Pound*

The Animal Control Team operates a Council owned facility.

During the reporting period 63 dogs were impounded. The number of dogs impounded is low when compared to the number of dogs microchipped which was 11,176 by the end of the reporting period.

*Figure 1: The number and type of Infringements issued during 2018-2019 by the Selwyn District Council*

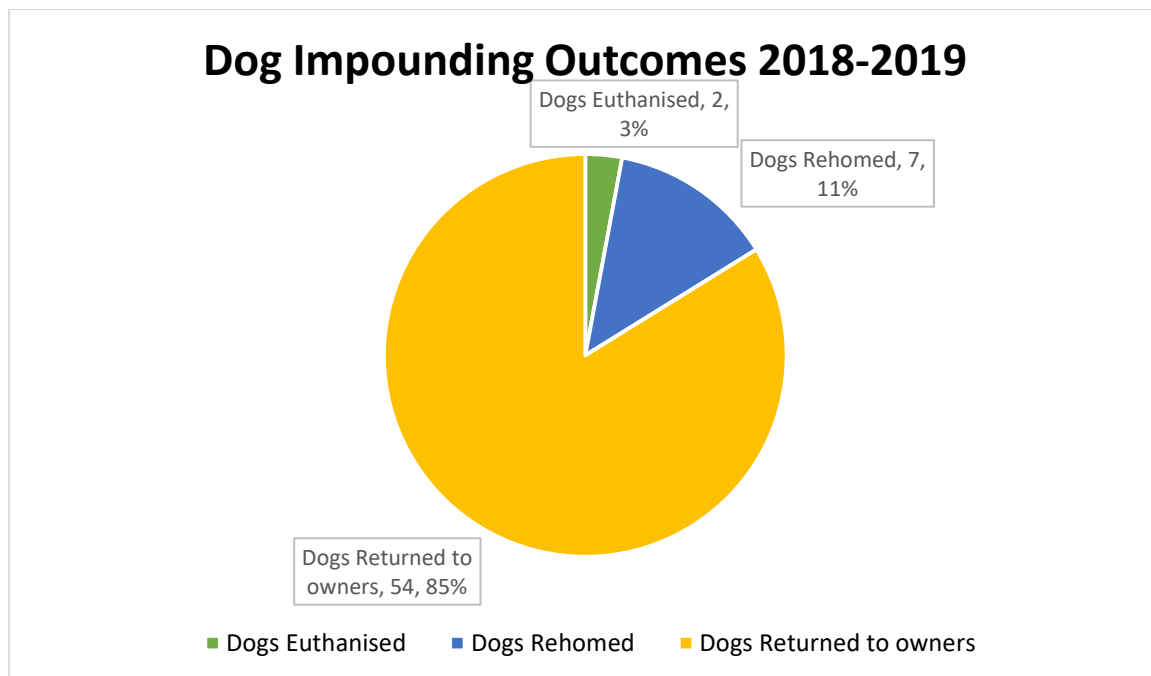


Table 1. List of Infringement offences

Serial	Offence	Section of The Act	Number	Fine
1	Failure to Register a Dog	Section 42	497	\$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)	12	\$200
4	Failure to Implant a Microchip transponder in a dog	Section 36(A)(6)	19	\$300

Serial	Offence	Section of The Act	Number	Fine
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)	0	\$750
7	Failure to Comply with menacing classification	Section 33EC(1)	4	\$300
8	Failure to Comply with dangerous classification	Section 32(2)	1	\$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 22(5)	2	\$750
13	Failure to comply with barking dog abatement notice	Section 55(7)	0	\$200
14	Releasing dog from custody	Section 72(2)	0	\$750
	<b>TOTAL</b>		535	

### *Dog Exercise Facilities*

The Rolleston and Leeston Dog Parks are extremely popular with dog owners. The Council Reserves and Domains are a popular option for those not wishing to use the Dog Parks.

### *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 2018-2019 were \$40 for the first dog and \$30 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*

No persons were disqualified or classified as probationary dog owners during the reporting period.

### *Menacing and Dangerous Dogs*

Selwyn District Council has 78 dogs classified as menacing and 14 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 achieves a 92.35% compliance rate of dogs legally required to be microchipped.

*Table 2 – Statistical Information*

<b>Category</b>	<b>For Period 01 July 2018 – 30 June 2019</b>
1) Total # Registered Dogs	14,047
2) Total # Probationary Owners	0
3) Total # Disqualified Owners	0
4) Total # Dangerous Dogs	14
* Dangerous by Owner Conviction Under s31(1)(a)	0
* Dangerous by Sworn Evidence s31(1)(b)	0
* Dangerous by Owner Admittance in Writing s31(1)(c)	14
5) Total # Menacing Dogs	78
* Menacing under s33A(1)(b)(i) i.e. by Deed	53
* Menacing under s33A(1)(b)(ii) - by Breed Characteristics	9
* Menacing under s33C(1) - by Schedule 4 Breed	16
6) Total # Infringement Notices	535
7) Total # Complaints Received	1,582
* Wandering/Pick up	572
* Barking	230
* Attack	100
* Rushing/aggressive	61
* Found	596
8) 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  
**SENIOR ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER**



Billy Charlton  
**REGULATORY MANAGER**

***Endorsed For Agenda***



Tim Harris  
**GROUP MANAGER ENVIRONMENTAL AND REGULATORY SERVICES**