

REPORT

TO: Chief Executive

FOR: 14 October 2020

FROM: Animal Control Team Leader - Steve Clarke
Regulatory Manager - Billy Charlton

DATE: 8 September 2020

SUBJECT: **Dog Control Policy and Procedures Report 1 July 2019
to 30 June 2020**

RECOMMENDATION

'That the Council resolves that:

- i) The Dog Control Policy and Practices Report for the period 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020 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.
- Expect 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)).
- 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 2019 to 30 June 2020.

4. PROPOSAL

Annual Report on Dog Control Policy and Practices for the Year Ending - 30 June 2020

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 one Animal Control Administrator. 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 five schools throughout the District and continues to be a successful mechanism to educate children on dog safety.

Dog Control Enforcement Practices

During the reporting period the Council has dealt with 1,460 complaints and issued 363 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 50 dogs were impounded. The number of dogs impounded is low when compared to the number of dogs microchipped which was 11,876 by the end of the reporting period.

Figure 1: The Number and Type of Infringements Issued during 2019-2020 by the Selwyn District Council

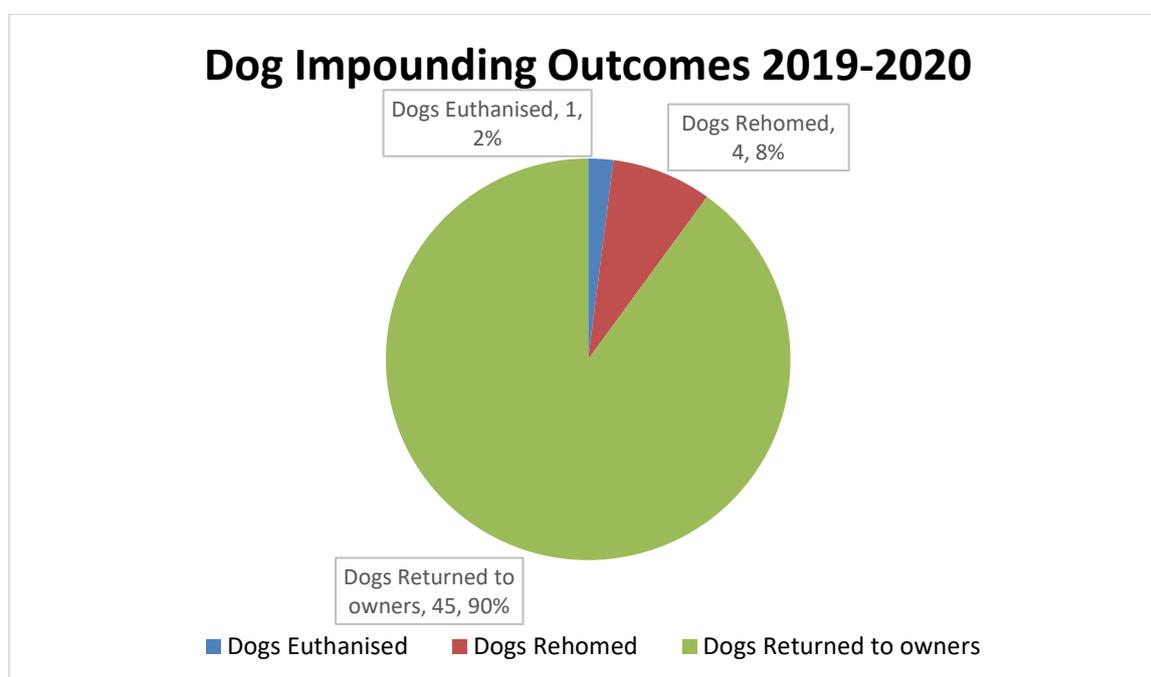


Table 1. List of Infringement offences

Serial	Offence	Section of The Act	Number	Fine
1	Failure to Register a Dog	Section 42	341	\$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)	16	\$200
4	Failure to Implant a Microchip transponder in a dog	Section 36(A)(6)	3	\$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)	2	\$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)	0	\$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
	TOTAL		363	

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 2019-2020 were \$40 for the first dog and \$30 for each subsequent dog.

Dog Education and Dog Obedience Courses

This 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

This Council has 80 dogs classified as menacing and 12 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 92.03% compliance rate of dogs legally required to be microchipped.

Table 2 – Statistical Information

Category	For Period 01 July 2019 – 30 June 2020
1) Total # Registered Dogs	14,499
2) Total # Probationary Owners	0
3) Total # Disqualified Owners	0
4) Total # Dangerous Dogs	12
* Dangerous by Owner Conviction Under s31(1)(a)	0
* Dangerous by Sworn Evidence s31(1)(b)	2
* Dangerous by Owner Admittance in Writing s31(1)(c)	10
5) Total # Menacing Dogs	76
* Menacing under s33A(1)(b)(i) i.e. by Deed	60
* Menacing under s33A(1)(b)(ii) - by Breed Characteristics	7
* Menacing under s33C(1) - by Schedule 4 Breed	9
6) Total # Infringement Notices	363
7) Total # Complaints Received	1,460
* Wandering/Pick up	494
* Barking	209
* Attack	83
* Rushing/aggressive	53
* Found	621
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

(a) Views of those affected

As this report is for information only, there are no affected parties.

(b) Consultation

As this report is for information only, consultation was not required.

(c) Māori implications

This report does not involve any significant decision in relation to land or a body of water or other element of intrinsic value and therefore does not specifically impact on Māori, Māori culture or traditions.

(d) Climate Change considerations

As this report is for information only, climate change was not considered. However, there is no significant impact on climate change when considering the functions and information discussed in this report.

7. FUNDING IMPLICATIONS

There are no funding implications. All costs associated with Animal Control are met through current budgets.

Steve Clarke
ANIMAL CONTROL TEAM LEADER



Billy Charlton
REGULATORY MANAGER

Endorsed For Agenda



Tim Harris
GROUP MANAGER ENVIRONMENTAL AND REGULATORY SERVICES