

## REPORT

**TO:** Chief Executive  
**FOR:** Council Meeting – 13 November 2024  
**FROM:** Animal Control Team Leader – Matt Van Keulen  
**DATE:** 21 October 2024  
**SUBJECT: DOG CONTROL POLICY AND PRACTICES REPORT 1 JULY 2023 to 30 JUNE 2024**

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### RECOMMENDATION (BOLD AND CAPITALS)

*That the Council:*

- i) Receives and adopts this report covering 'The Dog Control Policy and Practices Report' for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024;*
- ii) 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 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 2023 to 30 June 2024.

#### 4. **PROPOSAL**

##### **Annual Report on Dog Control Policy and Practices for the year ending - 30 June 2024**

Dog Control activities in the Selwyn District are undertaken by the Animal Control Team. During the reporting period of 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024, the Animal Control Team consisted of four Animal Control Officers and two Animal Control Administrators.

The Animal Control Team operates a 7-day, 24-hour service and reports to the Head of Regulatory.

The Animal Control Team also works closely with Dog Watch and other animal welfare agencies to rehome dogs.

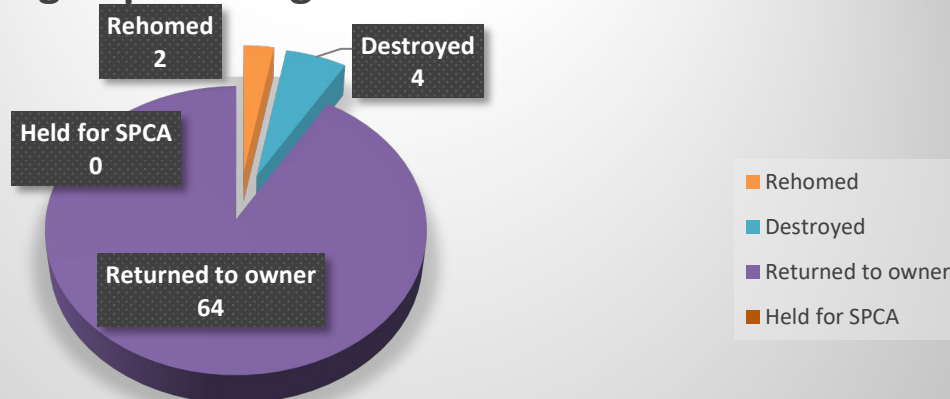
Dog awareness presentations have been delivered to Council staff and three schools throughout the district to improve safety and awareness of dogs.

##### **Dog Pound**

The Animal Control Team operates a Council owned dog pound 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 14,285 by the end of the reporting period.

##### **Dog impounding outcomes 2023-2024**



## Dog Control Enforcement Practices

During the reporting period the Council has dealt with 1,782 complaints and issued 1,119 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 2023-2024*

Serial	Offence	Section of The Act	Number	Fine
1	Failure to register a dog	Section 42	1090	\$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)	24	\$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)	0	\$750
7	Failure to comply with menacing classification	Section 33EC(1)	0	\$300
8	Failure to comply with dangerous classification	Section 32(2)	2	\$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)	3	\$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

## Dog exercise facilities

McHugh's Forest Park, Darfield, Rolleston, Prebbleton and Leeston Dog Park are extremely popular with dog owners. The Council Reserves and Domains are also a popular option for those not wishing to use the Dog Parks. Environmental Canterbury (ECan) also has 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 2023-2024 were \$60 for the first dog and \$45 for each subsequent dog with a discounted fee during July of \$45 for the first 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

There have been no disqualified or probationary dog owners during this reporting period.

## Menacing and dangerous dogs

Selwyn District Council has 80 dogs classified as menacing and 12 dogs classified as dangerous at the end of the reporting period.

## Other information

17,043 dog were registered within the district, we had 169 that were not compliant, this equates to 99% registration achieved.

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

A total of 14,976 dogs are recorded as being microchipped. The remaining dogs are either working dogs or new records awaiting microchipping.

*Table 2 – Statistical Information*

Category	For Period 01 July 2023 – 30 June 2024
Total no. Registered Dogs	17,043
Total no. Dog Owners	11,743
Total no. Probationary Owners	0
Total no. Disqualified Owners	1
Dangerous dogs <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• By owner convictions under s31(1)(a)</li><li>• By sworn evidence s31(1)(b)</li><li>• By owner admittance in writing s31(1)(c)</li><li>• Total number</li></ul>	12
Menacing dogs <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Under s33A(1)(b)(i) i.e. by deed</li><li>• Under s33A(1)(b)(ii) by breed characteristics</li><li>• Under s33C(1) by Schedule 4 breed</li><li>• Total number</li></ul>	80
Total no. Infringement Notices	1,119
Total no. Complaints Received	1,782
* Wandering/Pick up	327
* Barking	237
* Attack	91
* Rushing/aggressive	74
* Found	233
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.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'M. Van Keulen'.

Matt Van Keulen  
**ANIMAL CONTROL TEAM LEADER**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'R. Love'.

Robert Love  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH**