

5 August 2009

REPORT ON DOG CONTROL POLICY AND PRACTICES

This report is prepared pursuant to the provisions of Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996 for the year ended 30 June 2009. This is the fifth annual report prepared pursuant to the Act.

Statistics

| | 2004 - 05 | 2005 - 06 | 2006 - 07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------|---------|
| ▪ Dogs registered | 1472 | 1455 | 1449 | 1441 | 1489 |
| ▪ Probationary/Disqualified owners | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| ▪ Dangerous dogs | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| ▪ Menacing dogs | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| ▪ Infringement notices Issued | 56 | 26 | 10 | 18 | 25 |
| ▪ Number of dog related complaints received by the Council and (since August 2007) the Contractor | 34 | 47 | 51 | 130 | 109 |
| ▪ General nature of those complaints | Roaming | dogs | and | barking | dogs |
| ▪ Number of prosecutions taken | 10 | 6 | 3 | 11 | 18 |

Staff

The contractor's performance was reviewed in June 2009. Each of the contractual requirements were reviewed and two deficiencies in the levels of service were recorded for improvement by the contractor.

Policy on Dogs

Council's existing Policy on Dogs was adopted in December 2004. As a result of feedback from the public during the 2009-2010 LTCCP submission process, the Council has resolved to undertake a comprehensive review of the existing Policy on Dogs during the registration year.

The thrust of the several submissions to the LTCCP was directed at the cost of dog registration and the levels of service provided by Council and the proposed review will address these issues.

A "Responsible Dog Owner Policy" was introduced during the year. The policy presented difficulties in administration, particularly for the farm properties and Council resolved not to continue with the existing policy beyond the end of the 2008-2009 registration year. It is anticipated that such a policy will be the subject of the proposed review.

Dog Control

Dog Control has been concentrated on Hokitika and Kaniere. Periodic control functions are undertaken at Ross and Kumara with other areas of the District being covered on an as-required basis. The Council has accepted that there is an inequity relating to dog control in that the majority of dogs (980) are in the rural areas of the District and cause little in the way of control issues. The lesser number (490) in the urban areas bring about the most cost in terms of control.

The number of complaints received about dogs has dropped for the 2008-2009 year.

Dog Registration

Dog control fees for the year were \$63.00 for dogs registered within the Hokitika and Kaniere Townships and \$48.00 for dogs registered in other areas. Dog registration fees also included a 50% penalty additional to the registration fee for late payment. Council continues to recognise that there was a wider public good relating to effective dog control and a contribution of \$5,000 of funding of dog control activities was made through general rates.

Future Activities

The proposed review of the Policy on Dogs will potentially bring changes to the way in which dog control is undertaken. Those changes will become clearer.

It is worthy of note that the relationship between the Hokitika SPCA and the Council was enhanced during the year, particularly with regard to the rehoming of unclaimed impounded dogs. The Council would be appreciative of a more formal relationship with the Hokitika SPCA which is seen as a potential benefit to both parties.

Adopted 6th August 2009