Invercargill
CITY COUNCIL

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ATTENTION: CHIEF REPORTERS
CIVIC REPORTERS

Dog attacks prompt appeal

Animal Services staff are appealing to dog owners in the Kew Hospital/South City area to make sure their dogs are confined at night following a series of dog attacks on sheep in the Elizabeth Street-Kew Road area in recent weeks.

Manager of Environmental Health and Compliance, John Youngson said that Council received a report on 16 May that a stock owner had lost 37 ewes that had been mauled by wandering dogs.

“Animal Services staff have patrolled the area extensively, including after hours and weekends but there have been no sightings of any dogs wandering. We have also provided the stockowner with Council’s large dog cage, which allows a dog to be humanely caught.

“This week the owner has again contacted Council to say that there have been some more stock killed by wandering dogs.”

Mr Youngson said Animal Services staff had seen dog tracks and the remains of the sheep but had not been able to identify the dog or dogs responsible.

“It appears that these attacks are happening overnight and people need to be aware that if their dogs are running amongst stock, or attacking stock they can be destroyed by the stock owner.

“We are asking members of the public to keep their dogs confined at night, to avoid the possibility of more suffering and deaths among the sheep, financial loss to the stock owner and potentially the loss or death of someone’s pet dog.

“We believe that the attacks are being carried out by a dog, or dogs owned by one person – and that the majority of dog owners are responsible, animal lovers.”

Manager Communications and Secretarial Services, Eirwen Harris, 211 1678, (027) 293 8680
Fax: 211 1434 Email:eirwen.harris@icc.govt.nz
Or
Communications Advisor, Andrei Robertson, 211 1601, (027) 231 3939
Fax: 211 1433 Email:andrei.robertson@icc.govt.nz

Anyone with information about these dog attacks is invited to contact Animal Services at the Invercargill City Council on 2111777, Mr Youngson said.

ENDS.

Inquiries, please contact John Youngson, 021 830 053.

Manager Communications and Secretarial Services, Eirwen Harris, 211 1678, (027) 293 8680
Fax: 211 1434 Email:eirwen.harris@icc.govt.nz
Or
Communications Advisor, Andrei Robertson, 211 1601, (027) 231 3939
Fax: 211 1433 Email:andrei.robertson@icc.govt.nz