

ANNUAL DOG CONTROL REPORT 2016-2017

Pursuant to Section 10 (a) of the Dog Control Act 1996 for the period 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017



Free microchipping day from the caravan





Executive Summary

During the 2016/2017 period Animal Services (AS) continued to implement a shift in the service delivery model from enforcement to education in settings such as schools, early childhood centres, dog owners and work places.

The focus on enforcement reflected a need at the time to:

- Reduce the high number of unregistered dogs in the city.
- Reduce the rising number of complaints received.
- Address the community's concern around safety and dogs.

1.0 Administration

Dog Control Policy and Practices

1.1 The Policy: No change was undertaken in this period as the Council is awaiting the outcome of the National Action Plan to reduce the risk of harm from dog attacks. Once a clearer picture on the changes is known the Council will initiate a revision of our Bylaws and Policies.

Within this period Council received funding from the Department of Internal Affairs to support the introduction of the National Action Plan. This funding allowed owners of dogs considered to be high risk with free desexing from a local veterinarian. See section 5.3 for further details.

1.2 The Bylaw: The Dog Control Bylaw is now fully implemented since the 2015 review.

1.3 Accommodation: Animal Services Staff continue to be based at the Animal Care Facility situated in Lake Street, Invercargill.

This allows the public greater access to the facility to claim their dog and improve our rehoming service for unclaimed dogs. The facility is open to the public six (6) days a week.

1.4 Personnel: The Animal Control Team is based within the Environmental and Planning Services Directorate and reports to the Regulatory Services Committee. The team comprises of a Team Leader, Animal Care Facility Operator and four (4) Animal Control Officers. Permanent staffing of the Animal Control Team amounts to four full-time and one part-time employee.

1.5 Hours of Operation

Summer hours

Monday-Friday: 7.00 am – 6.00 pm with after-hours coverage outside of these hours.

Saturday: 8.00 am – 5.00 pm with after-hours coverage outside these hours.

Winter hours

Monday-Saturday: 8.00 am - 5.00 pm with after-hours coverage outside of these hours.



1.6 Animal Care Facility

The Animal Care Facility is open to the public to allow pick-ups of impounded dogs between 8.30 am–4.30 pm Monday to Friday. Pick-ups outside of these hours can be done by pre-arrangement.

2.0 Registration: The service continues to find unregistered dogs and supports the feedback from the public that the city has a large dog population. For this period the service is up by over 250 registered dogs from last year's total. We estimate that the city has 11,000 - 12,000 dogs so we still have some way to go to address this issue.

During this year's dog registration period the dog population rose to 9,195.
Of these:

- Two dogs are classified as Dangerous.
- 160 dogs classified as Menacing.
- 242 Classified as Working Dogs.

2.1 Registration Classifications: The Invercargill City Council has three Dog Owner classifications. The three categories are:

Standard Dog Ownership: All owners not classified as Responsible are classified as "Standard". Those owners who have classified dogs (Menacing or Dangerous) are included in this category in terms of the fee charged. We also offer a reduction for dogs being desexed.

Responsible Ownership: Owners are granted this category when an Animal Control Officer is satisfied that the owner has a suitable level of knowledge in terms of dog responsibility and the owner has a satisfactory compliance history. We also offer a reduction for dogs being desexed. A lower registration fee is charged for this Category.

Working Dog Ownership: A dog is be deemed to be a working dog if it meets the definition under the Dog Control Act 1996.

A working dog classification shall not apply to dogs used solely for hunting or sporting activities.





3.0 Enforcement

3.1 Complaints: A total of 2,078 complaints were registered as a Request for Service (RFS) from the public for this period. Refer to table 1 for a breakdown of the main areas of complaints - Wandering, aggressive and barking dogs.

3.2 Impounding: The total number of impounded dogs is 808. This is down from the previous year by 251 and reflects the decrease in wandering complaints.

	1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016	1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017
Dog population	8,898	9,195
Impounded	1,059	808
Request for Service- Complaints received		
Barking dogs	745	756
Aggressive dogs	282	236
Wandering dogs	1,346	1,086
Number of Classified Dangerous/ Menacing dogs	287	232

Table 1: Summary of Dog Population and Complaints

4.0 Legal Action

4.1 Court Proceedings: Four matters were referred to the District Court during this period. All involved attacks against stock /animal and person.

Of these:

- Two resulted in a plea of guilty; one of these owners will be disqualified.
- Two are still pending.

4.2 Infringements

- 287 Infringements were issued during the year.
- Of those 42 exemptions were given after compliance was achieved.

4.3 Classification of Dog Owners: As above one to be disqualified.



5.0 Key Achievements

5.1 Community Partnerships: Working with other agencies has been a key focus for this period. A summary is outlined below:

SPCA: We continue to work alongside the Southland SPCA using their knowledge and support to address dog welfare issues, rehoming of unclaimed dogs and to provide the Council's after hours animal services response.

Southland District Council: AS has strengthened its relationship with the Southland District Council. Invercargill City Council Animal Control Officers are now warranted to enforce the Dog Control Act in their District. This has allowed Southland District Council to call on our service when required, especially during periods of staff leave.

Internal Affairs: The Council was successful in gaining a grant of \$43,064.60 from the Department of Internal Affairs as part of a national dog neutering campaign to support the Government's National Action Plan. The programme was targeted at high-risk dogs. The grant covered the cost of carrying out neutering procedures for these dogs.

At the time of our application for the funding the Council had 109 dogs on our records that we considered were eligible for funding, with the majority of these dogs being classified as menacing/dangerous. We have had a further 29 dogs classified as menacing since the funding was granted. The update has been slower than expected but AS will continue to promote the programme.

5.2 Review of Service: AS are planning a review of our service to gain a better understanding of the Council's responsibilities for the rehoming and euthanasia of dogs from the Council's Animal Care Facility. The Review findings will drive the future direction of our service.

