

Free desexing of 'high-risk' dogs offered ahead of proposed law change



FREE DESEXING FOR HIGH-RISK DOGS: Council Animal Services Team Leader Kerry Kawe and Council Compliance Manager John Youngson share the message.

COUNCIL is offering free desexing of 'high-risk' dogs as part of a \$40,000 funding package provided by the Government ahead of its proposed law change.

The proposed law change, which is likely to take effect in the next few months, affects the way menacing and dangerous dogs are kept. One of the requirements under the new law is the neutering of all high risk dogs. There are currently 129 dogs in Invercargill that are considered high risk, and owners will be visited by Animal Services staff who will

discuss the proposed law change and free neutering.

Council Compliance Manager John Youngson said people had from now until June 30, 2017, to get in touch with Council and take advantage of the offer.

"It is also a first-in, first-served programme. People will be issued a purchase order that they can take to any vet clinic in Invercargill to have their dog neutered. Dogs that are not already microchipped can have this done for free also," he said.

Council Legal Adviser Michael Morris said the changes were expected to become law soon.

"While the Council has had a bylaw about this for a number of years, the proposed changes will strengthen this by making it a requirement under the Dog Control Act," he said.

Further requirements of the proposed law include:

- Keeping high-risk dogs in a fenced area at home which allows visitors dog-free ac-

cess to at least one house entrance.

- Displaying signs at the front of the property alerting people of a high risk dog.
- Ensuring dangerous or menacing dogs wear collars identifying them as high risk. These dogs must also wear muzzles and be on a leash in public places.
- Obtaining a high-risk dog owner licence.
- Seeking consent from the local authority to transfer the dog to a new owner.
- Informing any new owner that the dog is classified.

Get snapping for 'Epic Invercargill' photo competition



LOCAL photographers are being offered the chance to showcase their work in a photo competition with an "Epic Invercargill" theme. The winning shots will be published in the 2018 ICC Calendar.

The competition will be split into three categories; Youth (under 18), Amateur and Professional. Four photos from each category will receive spots in the calendar, which is delivered to 30,000 Invercargill households annually.

Council Communications Manager Eirwen Harris Mitchell said the competition was a great way to showcase

talent from a diverse range of local photographers, and celebrate their unique views of Invercargill.

"We wanted to provide the opportunity for many talented local photographers to utilise a platform that reaches so many Invercargill households," Mrs Harris Mitchell said.

A public art exhibition, organised by Council City Centre Co-ordinator Kari Graber will be held to showcase the photo entries. The winners will be announced prior to the calendar deliveries to homes in December.

Photos must have been taken from

January 2017 and the following information needs to be provided: Where it was taken, the names of those pictured, subject matter, and metadata (e.g. exposure, shutter speed, etc.).

The files must be supplied as a jpeg, at least 300dpi, 192mm by 303mm and between 1MB and 30MB in size. You can enter as many photos as you like. To submit, email your photos to epicinvercargill@icc.govt.nz. Emails are to be no larger than 30MB.

Entries close on July 31. Visit www.icc.govt.nz for more information.

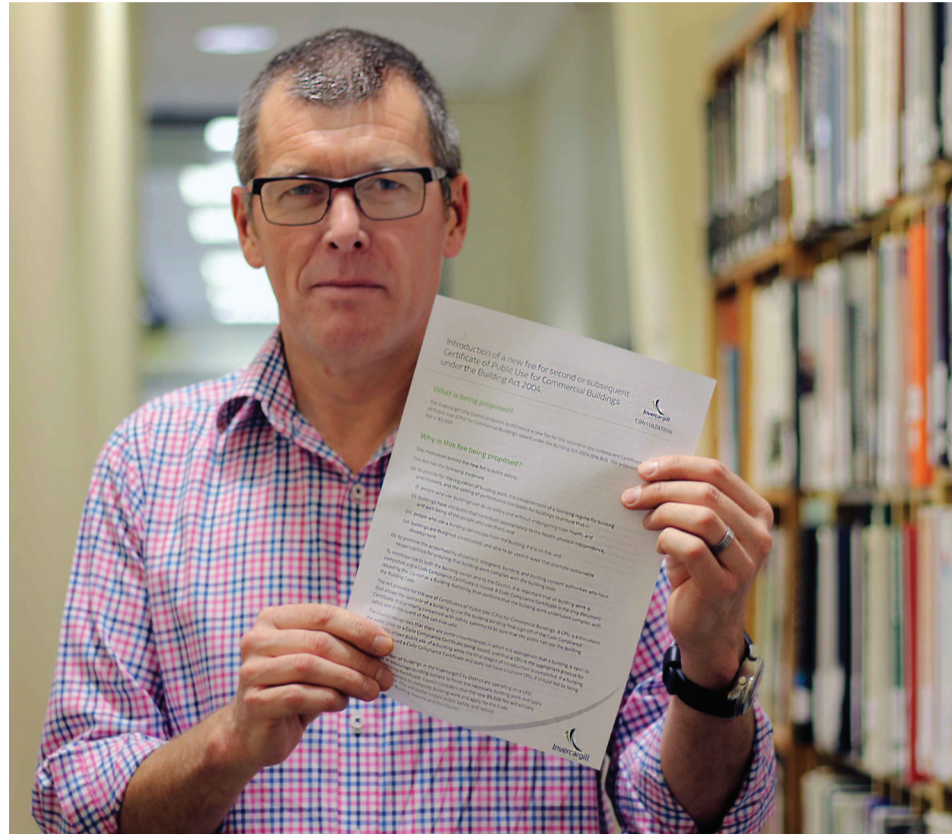
Council consults on proposed fee increase for Certificate of Public Use

COUNCIL is now consulting on a proposed change to the fees charged for the second or subsequent Certificates of Public Use (CPU) for commercial buildings issued under the Building Act 2004, which would see it rise from \$350 to \$5000.

Council's Building Services Manager Brendan Monaghan said the change was designed to minimise risk to people, as currently many commercial building owners in Invercargill continued to renew their CPUs without actively trying to obtain their Code Compliance Certificate (CCC).

"A CPU, which currently must be renewed every three months, allows a commercial building to be open to the public prior to a CCC being issued. However, a CPU should not be used as a permanent acceptance of compliance – the Building Act 2004 does state that building owners must get a CCC. The proposed \$5,000 fee will actively encourage building owners to complete building work and apply for the CCC.

"In the past, the CPU had been renewed without any understanding of when a CCC would be obtained. Following the first CPU, which still costs \$350, a building owner will now have an increased time of six months to apply for their CCC. However, there may be negotiated conditions that would allow owners to create realistic timeframes for completion of work," Mr Monaghan said.



FEEDBACK WANTED: Council Building Manager Brendan Monaghan with the proposed change to Certificate of Public Use fees for which Council is currently seeking feedback.

People have until 5pm, Tuesday 4 April, to submit on the proposed change. People can email their feedback to policy@icc.govt.nz, send it in to Private Bag 90104, or fill in

an online submission form at www.surveymonkey.com/r/ICC-CPU. For more information visit Council's website, www.icc.govt.nz.

'My Invercargill' online tool available on website



'DOWNLOAD MY INVERCARGILL': Council Customer Services Officer Michelle Thwaites and Deputy Mayor Darren Ludlow display the new My Invercargill online tool.

A NEW online tool, called My Invercargill, has been launched on council's website to provide another means for people to interact with the Invercargill City Council. It is the first local authority in New Zealand to make use of this application. My Invercargill can be used on any device connected to the internet, such as a smartphone, PC, or tablet. It allows people to lodge a request for service, view their previous requests, or make a Council-related

payment. More initiatives are being developed and will be brought on line in the future.

Council Customer Services Team Leader Phil Rhodes said My Invercargill provided people with a fast and efficient way to get in touch with Council.

"Councillors are keen to use technology to help improve customer service. Our Team looks forward to seeing the benefits it will bring for both staff and customers," he said.

Under the Request for Service section, people can ask questions or report issues from a number of areas, such as dog complaints, overgrown sections, parking/abandoned cars, Parks and Reserves, property files (\$10 fee applies), rates, roads/footpaths, streetlights, water/drainage, wheelie bins, booking building/plumbing inspections, or "other" issues. Up to three photos can be added if appropriate – and you can store your personal details for future use.

Payment types currently available include: rates, infringements, animals, re-registration of dogs and debtors. The My Requests for Service section is a user's personal record of requests submitted to Council through My Invercargill.

More details, including terms and conditions are available on the Council website, www.icc.govt.nz. The address for the new tool is www.myinvercargill.nz/ which can be saved to PC desktops or to the home screen of a smartphone or tablet.

While requests can be lodged 24/7, Council staff monitor My Invercargill from 8am to 5pm Monday to Friday.

NOTE: For urgent requests, such as dog attacks, people are advised to phone the 24-hour number on (03) 211 1777.



Council meetings

Notice is hereby given of the following meetings:

- Waste Advisory Group**
Thursday, 23 March, 9.30am
- Community Services**
Monday, 27 March, 4pm
- Audit Sub-Committee**
Tuesday, 28 March, 10am
(CE Meeting Room)
- Regulatory Services**
Tuesday, 28 March, 4pm
- Resource Consent**
Wednesday, 29 March, 9am
- Infrastructure and Services Committee**
Monday, 3 April, 4pm
- Finance and Policy**
Tuesday, 4 April, 4pm
- Annual Plan Hearing**
Monday, 10 April, 9am
- Council**
Tuesday, 11 April, 4pm
- District Licensing**
Wednesday, 12 April, 9am
- Events Committee**
Thursday, 13 April, 9am

Council meetings are held in the Council Chambers, First Floor, Civic Administration Building, 101 Esk Street, Invercargill and the Bluff Community Board meet at the Municipal Chambers in Bluff.
- www.icc.govt.nz

For more about the Council's Community News items, contact the Communications Department on 03 211 1777.

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