



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

Free desexing of 'high-risk' dogs

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's 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's Legal Advisor, 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 access 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.





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

My Invercargill online tool available on ICC website

A new online tool, called My Invercargill, has been launched 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 smart phone, 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 My Request 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 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.

For urgent requests, such as a dog attack, people are advised to phone the 24-hour number (03) 211 1777.

Time to get snapping for 'Epic Invercargill' Calendar 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 Invercargill City Council Calendar.

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.

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 entries. The winners will be announced before 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.

Choose how you pay your rates

Online Payments

You can make online payments using either of the following two methods:

- Credit Cards: Visa, MasterCard
- Account to Account: ANZ, ASB, BNZ, Kiwi Bank, TSB, Westpac

A surcharge of 1.7% applies to all credit card transactions (on the payment amount)

Rates can also be paid via the My Invercargill tool available on the Council website, www.icc.govt.nz.

Direct Debit

We recommend you use direct debit to pay your rates. It is easy to set up, hassle-free, convenient, reliable and cost-effective. This method will guarantee you will always pay rates on time and will avoid late payment penalties. You can choose to pay weekly or fortnightly (Wednesdays), monthly on the 15th of each month or quarterly. It is important to note that your rates account/s must be up-to-date before you commence direct debit payments.

You can get a direct debit application form by phoning Council, picking one up at the Council's Service Centres (Esk Street or Bluff), or downloading a form from Council's website.

Automatic Payment, Internet or Phone Banking

You can pay your rates by internet or telephone banking into the Invercargill City Council BNZ bank account. If you pay by automatic payment, you will need to make sure that you contact your bank and adjust your payments to allow for changes each year.

Please note that all properties

have a unique Rate Account Number (a 6-digit number beginning with LRAxxxxx/x on your rates invoice). You should include this Account Number under the "Reference" field in your payment. Ratepayers who own more than one property should make a separate payment for each property.

Rates and water billing

- **BNZ BANK ACCOUNT:**
02 0924 0019668 02
- **PARTICULARS FIELD:**
The name that appears on the invoice. (12 spaces only available)
- **CODE FIELD:** The text LRA plus the assessment number.

For example, the assessment number from the rates or water invoice LRA 99991/2 would be entered into the Code field as LRA99991/2.

Cash, EFTPOS, Cheque

Cash, EFTPOS and cheques are accepted at the Council's Esk Street Offices and Bluff Service Centre. Cheques can also be posted to Invercargill City Council, 101 Esk Street, Private Bag 90104, Invercargill 9840.

Rates Rebate

Previous successful applicants for the low income earner rebate will be sent an application form in September. New applicants can pick up a form from the customer services help desk from September onwards.

Contact

Contact Council's Customer Services team by: phoning (03) 211 1777 or email service@icc.govt.nz.

For further rates information and online payment details visit Council's website, www.icc.govt.nz.

Your rates payment is due...



Payments should be made by **May 26th, 2017** to avoid a penalty of 10%.

