

TO: COUNCIL MEETING
FROM: CR REBECCA AMUNDSEN
MEETING DATE: TUESDAY 26 SEPTEMBER 2017

ANIMAL CONTROL – REHOMING AND EUTHANASIA

Report Prepared by: Cr Rebecca Amundsen

SUMMARY

Following the release of the video of an Invercargill City Council Animal Control Officer euthanising a dog as per current Council policy, there has been considerable comment in the media, and in particular social media, much of which has been directed at Invercargill City Council staff and their families. In response to this the following plan is being put forward by the Chair of Regulatory Services as Council must act in the best interests of the community.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that For Invercargill City Council to undertake a 3-month engagement process on what the community thinks is best practice for the dog rehoming or euthanising process.

IMPLICATIONS

1.	<i>Has this been provided for in the Long Term Plan/Annual Plan?</i> No
2.	<i>Is a budget amendment required?</i> No
3.	<i>Is this matter significant in terms of Council's Policy on Significance?</i> No
4.	<i>Implications in terms of other Council Strategic Documents or Council Policy?</i> Activity Plan for Regulatory Services.
5.	<i>Have the views of affected or interested persons been obtained and is any further public consultation required?</i> Public will be consulted
6.	<i>Has the Child, Youth and Family Friendly Policy been considered?</i> This will be considered

HOW WILL THIS BE DONE

This will be led by the Chair of Regulatory Services and Environmental Health and Compliance Manager, John Youngson. A panel of up to six members of the community will be appointed to consider these matters. They will be provided with information as well as be able to canvas the community for feedback through meetings, surveys and workshops. The panel will be asked to look objectively at the information provided and gathered and to make a recommendation to council regarding a suitable process for rehoming those dogs that can be rehomed and the preferred method to euthanise dogs.

The details of this are still to be developed but will include considering costs, best practice, recommendations from agencies, and community feedback. The panel members will be invited to visit the animal care facility and will be able to ask for any information that they believe is required for them to make a good recommendation. There will be a number of meetings of the panel throughout this process.

Councillors pledge that they will listen to the panel's recommendation.

WHY?

Council acknowledges there has been a firm, and 'loud' public response to the video, and that it needs to act accordingly. However, Councillors need to consider all points of view from the community and need to be objective. By using the community panel we are ensuring the decision is not politicised, that all voices have the opportunity to be heard, and that all information is considered and assessed fairly. This is a thorough method of community engagement and it empowers the community to be part of the decision-making process.
