



Invercargill City Council
ANNUAL DOG CONTROL REPORT



2018/2019

INTRODUCTION

As a Territorial Authority, the Invercargill City Council is required to manage and enforce the Dog Control Act 1996 (the Act). Under Section 10a of the Act, Council must provide an Annual Report that sets out activities that have been undertaken in relation to our dog control policy and practices.

This report fulfils this statutory requirement for the dog registration year 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019.

Policy and Practices

The Dog Control Bylaw review came into force on the 28 August 2018. The main changes to the Bylaw were:

- Provision for a dog exercise area in Bluff,
- Allowing dogs to be walked on lead in the inner city,
- Update of dog exercise areas in Invercargill,
- Clarification on menacing and dangerous dogs.

The Dog Control Policy became effective on the 28 August 2018. Changes to the policy reflect those made to the Bylaw.

Animal Services

The Animal Services Team is based within the Environmental and Planning Services Directorate and reports to the Regulatory Services Committee.

The team consists of a Team Leader, a full time Animal Care Facility Operator and four Animal Control Officers. Permanent staffing of the Animal Services Team amounts to five full-time employees.

Animal Care Facility

The Animal Care Facility is open to the public between the hours of 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday to Friday to allow collection of impounded dogs. If collections are required outside of these hours this can be done by pre-arrangement.

Hours Of Operation For The Service

Daylight saving hours

Monday – Friday 7am- 5pm
Saturday 8am-5pm

Outside Daylight Saving Hours

Monday - Saturday: 8.00 am - 5.00 pm
After-hours coverage is provided by Armourguard.

Registration Fees

Registration fees are set by Council to provide the service. We currently have four dog owner classifications. These are:

- Working Dog
- Standard Dog
- Responsible Dog
- Responsible Menacing Dog

Those dog owners that meet the requirements of a responsible dog owner receive a discounted registration rate. This also applies to dog owners who have had their dog de-sexed.

Animal Services continues to follow up on the unregistered dogs in Invercargill City, with 50 dogs on record remaining unregistered at the end of the period. These dogs are likely to have moved from their listed address without notification.

Dog Statistics

The dog registration population as at 30 June 2019 was 9104.

Dangerous and Menacing Dogs

• Dogs classified as dangerous under section 31(1)(6)	2
• Dogs classified as menacing by deed under section 33A	95
• Dogs classified as menacing by breed under section 33C	31
Total Number of Dangerous/Menacing Dogs	128

Probationary and Disqualified Dog Owners

One dog owner is classified as a probationary dog owner and one person is disqualified from owning dogs.

Prosecutions

During this period we had three matters that went to Court. All three matters were concluded in the 2018-9 year:

- One of Serious Injury attack (two counts), failure to control (two counts) and one of failing to comply with Section 62 of the Dog Control Act 1996.
- Two of Dog Attack and failure to comply with menacing classification.

We also concluded three other prosecutions that were started in 2017-2018. Two attacks on people and one on stock.

Impoundments

The total number of impoundments for 2018/19 was 320. The number of impoundments has reduced since Animal Services introduced a return home procedure in October 2018. Under this regime 237 dogs were returned to their owners rather than impounded.

Infringements

• Infringement notices issued	188
• Infringement notices waived	35

Number of Dog Related Complaints

• Menacing/Dog Attacks	242
• Wandering Dogs	918
• Barking Dogs	564
• Neglect complaint	11
• Miscellaneous	555
Total Number of Dog Related Complaints	2,290

Number of Dog related requests

- Responsible dog owner application 389
- Multiple dog licence application 51

During this period, Officers completed 1,055 random patrols around the City, mainly in our parks and reserves. During these patrols Officers are providing education to dog owners as well as checking compliance with registration.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

The Independent Community Panel's key recommendations continue to be implemented.

Rehoming of Unclaimed Dogs

Animal Services continues to rehome unclaimed dogs to organisations both within and outside the City. Memoranda of Understanding with the agencies have been drafted.

Animal Care Facility

Animal Services continues to work with Council's Asset Management Team to develop plans for a new exercise area at the Animal Care Facility. Noise installation barriers are also planned to help reduce the emanating noise at the Facility.

Veterinary Services

Animal Services has now completed the tender process for veterinary services for the treatment and euthanasia of dogs our care. A contract with the preferred tenderer has been finalised.

Return Home Procedure

Animal Services introduced a new return home procedure in 2018. This has significantly changed the numbers of dogs impounded.

