



Invercargill City Council
ANNUAL DOG CONTROL REPORT



2019/2020

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 2019 to 30 June 2020.

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.

No further changes have come into effect since the 2018 review.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

COVID -19

During the COVID 19 Lockdown period animal services continued to operate, observing a reduction in the number of complaints received. During this period officers focussed on responded to complaints and refrained from proactive patrols to reduce person to person contact.

Type	April and May 2019	April and May 2020
Barking dogs	74	62
Aggressive dogs	48	44
Wandering dogs	148	101
Impound	28	24

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 entered into with these agencies.

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

We continue to use the veterinary service that we entered into a contract with, for the treatment and euthanasia of dogs our care.

Return Home Procedure

As reported the return home procedure which is now into its second year of implementation is having a significantly impact on the number of dogs impounded with 354 returned to their owners rather than being impounded.

Dog registration

Every year Animal Services, follows up with known unregistered dogs within the city, there was less than 20 on record unregistered dogs, which is the lowest it has ever been.

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

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 six dog owner classifications:

- Working Dog
- Standard Dog
- Responsible Dog
- Responsible Menacing Dog
- Menacing Dog
- Dangerous 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 20 less than 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 2020 was 9153.

Dangerous and Menacing Dogs

• Dogs classified as dangerous under section 31(1)(6)	1
• Dogs classified as menacing by deed under section 33A	89
• Dogs classified as menacing by breed under section 33C	29
Total Number of Dangerous/Menacing Dogs	119

Animal Services continues to classify dogs were required, dangerous and menacing classifications are mainly a result of an incident that has been reported and investigated. Classifications by breed are a result of a dog being a specified breed under the Dog Control Act 1996.

Probationary and Disqualified Dog Owners

One dog owner is classified as a probationary dog owner and eleven people are disqualified from owning dogs. There has been an increase in dog owners being disqualified this year, these people have been infringed on multiple occasions for failing to comply with the Dog Control Act 1996 which has meant they must be disqualified.

Prosecutions

During this period three matters were referred to the Court after being investigated:

Three dog attacks – Section 57 Dogs attacking persons or animals, two were on other dogs and one was on a person

- Three fails to Comply with Menacing Class – Section 33EC*
- Three fails to control owners property- Section 52A*
- Two fails to Register- Section 42*
- Two fails to Advise of inter-district transfer- Section 49*
- One fail to advise of change of ownership – Section 48

*One case involved two dogs so two of each of these relate to the same case.

We withdrew two cases (Charges of Section 57 x 2, Section 33EC, Section 48) because of Covid-19 Court restrictions and in one case the dog had died and in the other Infringements were a better way to resolve the issues.

One Order for Destruction was made.

Impoundments

The total number of impoundments for 2019/20 was 289. The number of impoundments continues to reduce since the introduction of the return home procedure. As a result of the new procedure 354 dogs were returned to their owners rather than being impounded.

Infringements

• Infringement notices issued	134
• Infringement notices waived	20

Number of Dog Related Complaints

• Menacing/Dog Attacks	228
• Wandering Dogs	836
• Barking Dogs	435

• Neglect complaint	10
• Miscellaneous	688
Total Number of Dog Related Complaints	2,489

Number of Dog related requests

• Responsible dog owner application	352
• Multiple dog licence application	30

During this period, Officers completed 489 proactive patrols in and around the city, with a focus our parks and reserves. During these patrols Officers are providing education to dog owners as well as checking compliance with registration.

