



Invercargill City Council
ANNUAL DOG CONTROL REPORT



2020/2021

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 2020 to 30 June 2021.

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 and the Dog Control Bylaw will be reviewed together in May - June 2022.

Animal Services

The Animal Services Team is based within the Customer and Environment Group and reports to the Performance, Policy and Partnerships committee.

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

Animal Care Facility

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

Hours of Operation

Monday – Friday 8.00am to 5.00pm.

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
- 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 119 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 2021 was 9,947.

Dangerous and Menacing Dogs

• Dogs classified as dangerous under section 31(1)(6)	3
• Dogs classified as menacing by deed under section 33A	103
• Dogs classified as menacing by breed under section 33C	37
Total Number of Dangerous/Menacing Dogs	143

Probationary and Disqualified Dog Owners

One dog owner is classified as a probationary dog owner and no people are disqualified from owning dogs.

Prosecutions

During this period we had six matters that went to Court:

15 Charges in total

- 10 x dog attacks – Section 57 Dogs attacking persons or animals, (two were on other dogs and one was on a person)
- 4 x owner fails to control - Section 52A
- 1 x fail to provide details - Section 19

Three Orders for Destruction were made.

Impoundments

The total number of possible impoundments for 2020/2021 was 518. As a result of the new return home procedure 238 dogs were returned to their owners rather than being impounded. The total number of impoundments was 280. This continues to reduce since Animal Services introduced the return home procedure.

Infringements

• Infringement notices issued	232
• Infringement notices waived	32

Number of Dog Related Complaints

• Menacing/Dog Attacks (inc rushing/intimidating 17)	166
• Wandering Dogs (inc lost, found)	1150
• Barking Dogs	436
• Neglect Complaint	10
• Miscellaneous (animal offences, general complaints & search warrants)	606

Total Number of Dog Related Complaints	2,368
Number of Dog related requests	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsible dog owner application • Multiple dog licence application 	<p>118</p> <p>37</p>

During this period, Officers completed 70 proactive patrols in and around the city, with a focus on parks and reserves. During these patrols Officers are providing education to dog owners as well as checking compliance with registration. This number has reduced significantly from last year due to staff resourcing and Covid restrictions.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Animal Care Facility

Animal Services continues to work with Council's Asset Management Team. The new exercise area at the Animal Care Facility is near completion. There is a proposal for further upgrade of the facility which includes temperature control of the kennels and office spaces. The stock pound is now situated at Donovan Park.

Veterinary Services

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

Return Home Procedure

Animal Services continues the return home procedure that was introduced in 2018. This has significantly changed the numbers of dogs impounded.

