
REPORT 823827

DOG CONTROL ACTIVITY REPORT 2008-2009

1. Purpose of Report

To meet an obligation introduced by the Dog Control Amendment Act 2003 to report annually on the Council's dog control policies and practices. The report (Appendix 1) is for information purposes and is required to contain details on the number of dogs registered, the number declared dangerous and the number and type of dog control complaints received for the year.

2. Executive Summary

Not relevant to this report.

3. Recommendations

It is recommended that Council:

ADOPT Appendix 1 to Report No. 823827 as the Nelson City Council Dog Control Activity Report for the year 2008 to 2009.

PUBLICLY NOTIFY the Report by way of newspaper notices, and sent to the Secretary for Local Government, as required under the Dog Control Act 1996, s.10A(3) and (4).

4. Background

4.1. The 2003 amendment to the Dog Control Act 1996 required Councils to develop a Policy on Dogs and then to report, through a new section 10A, to the community, and the Secretary of Local Government, the number of registered dogs, how many owners have been classified under the various restrictions in the Act, and the type of enforcement proceedings undertaken by the Council. The Council adopted its policy in April 2005.

4.2. The report is to be made annually at the end of each registration year.

4.3. The requirements of section 10A of the amended Act are prescriptive and list the matters the Council is to report. An explanation of the requirements is:

4.3.1. Registered Dogs: The number of dogs registered by the Council in the previous 12 months.

4.3.2. Probationary Owners: The number of owners on whom the Council has placed restrictions, such as not being eligible to own a dog for a set period, and those required to undergo suitable training.

4.3.3. Dangerous Dogs: These are dogs deemed by the Council to be dangerous after witnesses have made sworn statements that they had seen them behave aggressively to people or animals. Dangerous dogs are required to be neutered, restrained or contained on private property, or muzzled in public.

4.3.4. Menacing Dogs: This classification has less restriction on the owner than the dangerous classification. Dogs can be classified as menacing if the Council considers them to pose a threat to people or stock, or if they are registered as a particular breed that the Government has deemed to be menacing. Menacing dogs are required to be restrained and muzzled in public.

The majority of the dogs classified as menacing are classified because they belong to a breed or type as specified in Schedule 4 of the Act. The others are classified menacing because of behaviour.

4.3.5. Infringement Notices: These are issued for a range of offences such as a dog not being under control, or for being unregistered.

Of the 227 infringements served, 86 were for having an unregistered dog, and 102 for failure to implant microchip. 28 were for failing to keep a dog under control.

4.3.6. Complaints: These are grouped into the complaint type.

4.3.7. Prosecutions: None

4.4. If the Committee adopts the report, the Act requires that the Council gives public notice of the report by means of a newspaper notice, and any other means that the Council thinks desirable (s.10A(3)). The report must be sent to the Secretary of Local Government within one month of the report being adopted (s.10A(4)).

5. Discussion

This report is a summary of statutorily required information.

6. Conclusion

The report is a statutory requirement. The Committee has the option of accepting the report, or seeking further information.

Contact officer:

Richard Johnson

Divisional Manager Planning and Consents

Keith Marshall

Chief Executive

Attachments

Attachment 1 688291 Dog Activity Control Report

Supporting information follows

Supporting Information
<p>1) Fit with Strategic and Community Outcomes</p> <p>This is a statutorily required report and not significant in terms of the Council's Strategic and Community outcomes</p>
<p>2) LTCCP/Annual Plan reference and financial impact</p> <p>Not applicable</p>
<p>3) Treaty of Waitangi considerations</p> <p>Not applicable</p>
<p>4) Sustainability</p> <p>Not applicable</p>
<p>5) Decision-making significance</p> <p>This is a statutorily required report and is not significant decision in terms of the Council's Significance Policy.</p>
<p>6) Consultation</p> <p>The report is a statutory requirement, summarising control operations and registration information. External consultation is not necessary.</p>
<p>7) Delegation register reference</p> <p><i>77 To develop policy and to monitor the effectiveness of such policy on matters relating to environmental, public health and safety, resource management, building and associated legislation administered by Nelson City Council. That legislation includes: Dog Control Act 1996.</i></p>
<p>8) Consistency with existing policy</p> <p>Bylaw No. 197, Control of Dogs, and Dog Policy.</p>