

## Clutha District Council Dog Control Annual Report 2019/20

### Dog Control Policy and Practices

The Clutha District Council covers a large geographical area that includes both urban and rural dog owners. As at 30 June 2020, there were 6799 registered dogs in the District.

To deliver an animal control service, the Council has an animal control unit consisting of two Animal Control Officers and one part-time Administrator.

The Animal Control Unit has a close working relationship with key stakeholders in the community including local veterinarians, NZ Police, SPCA and Dog Rescue Dunedin.

### Dog Control Enforcement Practices

The Council provides a 24 hour, seven days a week Dog Control Service. Animal Control Officers work between the hours 8.30am to 5pm, five days a week. After hours services are provided by Council's after-hours contactor, South Otago Security Services.

Over the last 12 months, the unit has responded to 283 complaints. Complaints included aggression, attacking, barking, wandering dogs and dogs that were "contained" by members of the public. Of the total number of complaints, 53% were in relation to wandering dogs and 25% were in relation to barking. All complaints were followed through to completion.

In addition, 80 dogs were impounded over the review period. 73 dogs were either claimed by their owners or rehomed. 8 dogs were euthanised generally because they went unclaimed and were not suitable for rehoming.

In the course of enforcing dog control legislation and polices, 54 infringement notices were issued to dog owners. No owners were prosecuted for breaches of the Dog Control Act over the last 12-month period.

### Dog Registration and Other Fees

Dog registration fees for the 2019/2020 financial year were as follows:

- Urban \$70
- Rural: Non-Working \$50
- Working \$40
- Responsible Dog Owner \$50

To ensure ongoing compliance with owners registering their dogs, the Animal Control Unit is continuing a zero-tolerance policy regarding any known unregistered dogs. Any dogs that were still unregistered after being issued with a reminder were subsequently issued with an infringement notice.

Dog impound fees for the 2019/2020 financial year were as follows:

- First Offence \$65
- Second Offence \$90
- Third Offence \$130
- Sustenance \$16 per day
- Euthanasia (Actual Cost)
- Microchipping \$30 per dog

All impounded dogs are legally required to be registered and microchipped prior to leaving the pound.

### **Responsible Dog Owner**

The Clutha District Council runs a responsible dog owner programme to recognise and encourage responsible dog ownership. Providing the dog owner has not had any valid complaints in the previous two years regarding the management of their dog, they may apply for responsible dog owner status. If successful, they receive a discount on future dog registration fees.

For dog owner to become responsible dog owners, their properties are inspected to ensure it meets the required standard in relation to adequate fencing.

Currently, 418 dog owners are classified as responsible dog owners. This represents approximately 13% of the total number of dog owners in the District. 19 dog owners were granted responsible dog owner status over the 2019/20 review period.

### **Pound Facility**

The Council maintains a pound facility that provides an excellent standard of kennels. Security at the facility has been enhanced with the inclusion of security cameras after two break ins by the same dog owner. That same dog owner was filmed during a third potential break in and was subsequently followed up by NZ Police.

## Dog Control Statistical Information

The following dog control statistics are provided pursuant to section 10(2) of the Dog Control Act 1996:

Number of Registered Dogs in the territorial Authority District (sec 10(2)(a))		6799	
Number of Probationary Owners and Disqualified Owners in the territorial authority district (sec 20(2)(b))		0	
		New Additions 2019/2020	Total amount of dogs 2019/2020
Number of <b>Dogs</b> in the territorial authority district classified <b>Dangerous</b> under section 31 and the relevant classification under which the classification is made (sec 10(2)(c))	Section 31(1)(a)	0	0
	Section 31(1)(b)	0	2
	Section 31(1)(c)	0	0
Number of <b>Dogs</b> in the territorial authority classified as <b>Menacing</b> under section 33A or section 33C and the relevant provision under which the classification was made (sec 10(2)(d))	Section 33A(1)(a)(i)	0	0
	Section 33A(1)(b)(i)	4	21
	Section 33C(1)	4	26
Number of <b>Infringement Notice</b> issues by the territorial authority (sec 10(2)(d))		54	
Number of <b>Dog Related Complaints</b> received by the territorial authority in the previous year and the nature of those complaints (Sec 10(2)(f))	Dogs/Aggression	23	
	Dogs/Barking	71	
	Dogs/Biting Domestic Animals	5	
	Dogs/Biting Livestock	10	
	Dogs/Biting Humans	10	
	Dogs/Fouling	6	
	Dogs/more than 2 Dogs	0	
	Dogs/Wandering	149	
	Dogs/Welfare	9	
	<b>TOTAL</b>	283	
Number of <b>Prosecutions</b> taken by the territorial authority under this Dog Control Act 1996 (sec 10(2)(g))		0	