

12. DOG REGISTRATION FEES 2007/08



General Manager responsible:	General Manager Regulation and Democracy Services, DDI 941-8549
Officer responsible:	Inspections and Enforcement Manager
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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to obtain Council approval to maintain dog registration and related fees at the same level as approved by the Council for the 2006/07 year. These fees will cover the cost of dog and stock control and enforcement.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. The Dog Control Act 1996 requires that:
 - 2.1. All dogs of greater age than three months be registered by 1 July each year with the authority in whose district the dog is ordinarily kept and, in the case of a young dog reaching registerable age after 1 July, before it attains the age of three months.
 - 2.2. The fees for dog registration set by an authority be publicly notified in a newspaper circulated within its district at least once in the month prior to the commencement of the registration year.
3. At the Council meeting on 11 May 2006 the Council resolved to adopt Option 1 as outlined in the 2006/07 Dog Registration Fees report.
4. Option 1 in the 2006/07 Dog Registration Fees report recommended that: "The Council adopt Option 1 with all dog owners having an increase in dog registration fees for the period 2006/07 of \$5.00 per dog from 1 July 2006." (refer Appendix 2 attached).
5. The increase in last year's fees was primarily to cover the cost of animal control enforcement, including the additional process of micro-chipping dogs. The 2006/07 report provides background information in relation to previous Council decisions that impact on dog registration fees along with general dog and stock control legislative and policy issues that effect fees. The background information provided in the 2006/07 report includes:
 - The Christchurch City Council Dog Registration Policy
 - Responsible Dog Owner Status
 - Neutering and spaying concession fee
 - Council continues to apply the 8% funding contribution
 - Legislation requirements for micro-chipping of dogs
 - Working dogs as defined by the Dog Control Act 1996
 - Dangerous Dog Registration fee
 - Stock Control funded through rates
6. It is recommended that the Council adopt the fee structure as attached (refer Appendix 1 attached), for the 2007/08 dog registration year, that represents no change from the 2006/07 registration fee schedule.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Do the Recommendations of this Report Align with 2006-16 LTCCP budgets?

7. Section 35b of the Dog Control Act 1996 imposes a levy on territorial authorities in each financial year to fund the costs of maintaining the National Dog Database. The amount of \$32,888 was budgeted for the 2006/07 expenditure budget period. This fee will be the same for the 2007/08 period.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

Have you considered the legal implications of the issue under consideration?

8. As the wording of the 2006/07 report sought approval to increase fees by \$5.00 for only one year, a further Council resolution is required approving the registration fee structure at the same level for the 2007/08 year and beyond.
9. Historically, dog registration fees remain relatively static. Prior to the 2006/07 increase, it was the period of 2002/03 when the Council last approved an increase in dog registration fees.
10. Section 37(1) of the Dog Control Act 1996 provides that dog control fees payable to a territorial authority shall be those reasonable fees prescribed by resolution of that authority for the registration and control of dogs under the Dog Control Act.
11. Section 37(6) of the Dog Control Act 1996 provides that the fees for dog registration set by an authority be publicly notified in a newspaper circulated within its district at least once in the month prior to the commencement of the registration year.

ALIGNMENT WITH LTCCP AND ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT PLANS

Do the recommendations of this report support a level of service or project in the 2006-16 LTCCP?

12. The recommendations align with the LTCCP level of service in that the fees collected allow the delivery of the animal control services within the timeframe stipulated in the LTCCP.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIES

Do the recommendations align with the Council's strategies?

13. Not applicable.

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14. Not applicable.

CONSULTATION FULFILMENT

15. Not applicable on the basis that the report recommends no change to the registration fee structure from last year

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Council:

- (a) Adopt the fee structure as attached (refer Appendix 1 attached), for the 2007/08 dog registration year, which represents no change from the 2006/07 registration fee schedule.
- (b) Resolve to maintain the same level of fees beyond 2007/08, subject to a report in future year/s seeking an increase in fees.