

1. ADOPTION OF REPORT ON DOG CONTROL POLICY AND PRACTICES 2008/09



General Manager responsible:	General Manager Regulatory and Democracy Group, DDI 941 8462
Officer responsible:	Inspections and Enforcement Unit Manager
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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. This report fulfils the requirement of the Dog Control Act 1996 which requires all territorial authorities to report annually. Once the Council has adopted the report, public notice must be given of the report and a copy sent to the Secretary for Local Government. This provision in the Act was introduced by the Dog Control Amendment Act 2003. The Dog Control Act 1996 lists the information required in the report.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. The Dog Control Act 1996 (the Act) was amended by the Dog Control Amendment Act 2003 with a focus on increasing public safety. As part of the amendments, Central Government has introduced the requirement for Territorial Authorities to report annually with certain information.
3. The Act requires territorial authorities to provide details in the annual report in relation to such matters as: dog exercise and leash control; dog prohibited areas; impounded animals; education programmes and initiatives and a range of specific annual statistics including aggressive/dangerous dogs, number of dogs classified as dangerous or menacing dog, the number of registered dogs, number of infringement notices issued, and the number of prosecutions etc.
4. In either October or November the Inspections and Enforcement Unit Annual Report will be brought to the Regulatory and Planning Committee which will detail the Inspections and Enforcement Unit's approach, outputs and trend data across the full range of enforcement activities. This additional report will expand on the information provided in the Report on the Administration of the Christchurch City Council's Policy and Practices in relation to the Control of Dogs (**Attachment 1**), and will provide additional information in regards to such matters as complaint trends, dog owner numbers, micro chipping etc.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5. There are no direct financial implications in relation to the preparation of the annual report nor any financial implications should the Council adopt the recommendation contained in the report.
6. Covered by existing unit budgets.

Do the Recommendations of this Report Align with 2009-19 LTCCP budgets?

7. Yes.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

8. Section 10A of the Dog Control Act requires that a territorial authority must report on Dog Control Policy and Practices:
 - (1) In respect of each financial year, report on the administration of:
 - (a) Its Dog Control Policy adopted under section 10.
 - (b) Its Dog Control Practices.
 - (2) The report must include, information relating to:
 - (a) The number of registered dogs.
 - (b) The number of probationary and disqualified owners.
 - (c) The number of dogs classified as dangerous and the relevant provision under which the classification was made.
 - (d) The number of dogs classified as menacing under section 33A.
 - (e) The number of dogs classified as menacing under section 33C.
 - (f) The number of infringement notices issued.
 - (g) The number of prosecutions taken.

- (3) The territorial authority must give public notice of the report:
 - (a) By publishing the report in:
 - (i) One or more daily newspapers circulating in the district.
 - (ii) One or more other newspapers that have at least an equivalent circulation in the district to the daily newspapers circulating in that district.
 - (b) By any means that the territorial authority thinks desirable in the circumstances.
- (4) The territorial authority must also, within one month after adopting the report, send a copy of it to the Secretary for Local Government.

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

9. As per above.

ALIGNMENT WITH LTCCP AND ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT PLANS

10. The annual report and recommendation contained in this report aligns with the LTCCP level of services for Animal Control as the levels of service detailed in the LTCCP require complaints in regards to aggressive behaviour by dogs to be responded to within stipulated timeframes (page 90 of the 2009-19 LTCCP, under "Regulatory Services").

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIES

Do the recommendations align with the Council's strategies?

11. Not applicable.

CONSULTATION FULFILMENT

12. There is no requirement for consultation in relation to the preparation of the annual report. There is a statutory requirement (section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996) for the report to be publicly notified once adopted by the Council.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Council adopt the attached Christchurch City Council Report on Dog Control Policy and Practice for 2008/09, pursuant to Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

That the staff recommendation be adopted.

The Committee asked staff to provide it with information by the end of 2009 on the following issues:

- Humane destruction of dogs.
- General practices within animal control, looking at facilities, including shelters and parks.
- Intention to develop or refurbish any facility and how this will be paid for.
- Signage around the bylaw and communication around dog messages.
- Any update in regard to levels of service in the LTCCP.