

10. 11. 2011

25. ADOPTION OF REPORT ON DOG CONTROL POLICY AND PRACTICES 2010/11

General Manager responsible:	General Manager Regulatory & Democracy Group, DDI 941-8462
Officer responsible:	Inspections & Enforcement Unit Manager
Author:	Mark Vincent, Animal Control Team Leader

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The Dog Control Act 1996 ("the Act"), section 10A requires all territorial authorities to report on the administration of its dog control policy and practices annually (**Attachment 1**). Once Council has adopted the report, a 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 Act lists the information required in the report.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. The Dog Control Act 1996 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 annual report requires Territorial Authorities to provide details 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.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

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

6. Yes.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

7. 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; and
 - (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.

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- (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?

8. As per above.

ALIGNMENT WITH LTCCP AND ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT PLANS

9. 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?

10. Not applicable.

CONSULTATION FULFILMENT

11. 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 Council.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Council adopt the attached Christchurch City Council Report on Dog Control Policy and Practice for 2010/11, pursuant to Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996.