

# **REPORT ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF GORE DISTRICT COUNCIL'S POLICY AND PRACTICES IN RELATION TO THE CONTROL OF DOGS FOR THE YEAR 1 JULY 2006 TO 30 JUNE 2007**

## **DOG CONTROL IN THE GORE DISTRICT**

The total number of registered dogs in the Gore District as at 30 June 2007 was 3291. This is 187 dogs more than what was recorded at the same time the previous year. The majority (i.e. approximately 60%) of these dogs are pets domiciled in the urban areas of the Gore District.

Dog control in the Gore district is performed by an independent contractor. This contractor, Mrs Rae Evans, employs one Animal Control Officer to assist her in delivering an effective dog control service to the Gore District.

The introduction of the new micro chipping law last year has been generally accepted by the public at large. There has been some isolated resistance from a few farmers owning pet dogs and claiming that they are "working dogs". This line of reasoning has invariably failed to make a compelling case to avoid microchipping.

The Council staff and the Dog Control Contractor do face a problem with micro chipping information being made available from local vets as not all dogs that are micro chipped are necessarily registered. The vets often refuse to pass on the information citing The Privacy Act as an impediment. The staff feel that the system needs to be improved with a possible solution being vets having access to the National Dog Database enabling them to enter all microchip numbers that they use thus giving Council better access to micro chipped dogs. All impounded dogs that require micro chipping are effected by the Council's contractor before they are released from the Council pound.

## **DOG CONTROL ENFORCEMENT PRACTICES**

During the year under review the Council received five formal complaints both in regard to the behaviour of dogs and/or their owners. The five complaints concerned wandering dogs, dog bites, rushing and dogs killing another dog. The complaints were the subject of an investigation and action to address the concerns of the complainants was implemented.

During the year a total of 39 infringement notices were issued. No prosecutions were initiated by the Council for breaches of the Dog Control Act.

## DOG REGISTRATION AND OTHER FEES

A comparison of the dog registration fees for the year ending 30 June 2007 with the previous year is as follows:

	05/06	06/07
<b>Registration Fee – Urban Dog</b>	\$77.00	\$77.00
a. Less - fenced on a controlled property	-\$20.00	-\$20.00
b. Less – no dog complaints, impoundments or infringements within a two year period	-\$15.00	-\$15.00
c. Less – neutered or spayed	-\$7.00	-\$7.00
Registration Fee inclusive of a, b and c	\$35.00	\$35.00
Licence Fee – three or more dogs	\$100.00	\$100.00
<b>Registration Fee – Rural Dog</b>	\$11.00	\$11.00
a. Add – dog complaints, impoundment or infringement within a 2 year period	\$15.00	\$15.00
<b>Late Registration Fee</b>		
Urban Dog	\$15.00	\$15.00
Rural Dog	\$5.00	\$5.00
<b>Poundage</b>		
First impoundment	\$80.00	
First impoundment: dogs with current GDC registration		\$50.00
Unregistered		\$80.00
Every subsequent impoundment	\$150.00	\$150.00
Destruction costs for known owners of dogs	\$50.00	\$50.00
Sustenance – per day	\$10.00	\$10.00
Additional Fee for impounding or releasing dogs at weekends, public holidays or outside Council office hours	\$30.00	\$30.00

The Council takes a vigilant approach in regard to non-registration of dogs. Dogs not registered are the subject of prosecution under the Dog Control Act should owners not heed the urgings given via letter, personal visit and the issue of an infringement notice prior to these proceedings being instituted

## DOG EDUCATION

The Council's contractor issues owners with information on how to prevent dogs barking incessantly and also offers advice on how to

keep dogs from wandering. The Council's staff and Contractor put a concerted effort into clamping down on unregistered dogs in the District especially in the Matura area where wandering and unregistered dogs seem to be an ongoing problem. More regular patrols were carried out in Matura which appear to have made a positive difference with wandering dogs in the area.

### **MENACING AND DANGEROUS DOGS**

In the year under review, one dog in the Gore District was deemed to be dangerous after a complaint was received from a jogger about the dog acting in a threatening manner. There was one dog which was classified as menacing under Section 33A(1)(b)(i) of the Act. There was also an incident of a serious attack where two German Shepherds killed a small dog. One of the German Shepherds was put down and after serious consideration by the Mayor and Chief Executive, it was agreed that the owners erect a large fence to keep the other dog enclosed.

### **STATISTICAL INFORMATION**

Pursuant to Section 10A(2)(a) of the Dog Control Act 1996, attached is a schedule detailing relevant statistics covering dog control issues in the Gore District for the year ending 30 June 2007.

Steve Parry

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>AS AT 30 JUNE 2007</b>	<b>FOR PERIOD 1 JULY 2006 to 30 JUNE 2007</b>
1) Total # Registered Dogs	3293	Not required
2) Total # Probationary Owners	0	0
3) Total # Disqualified Owners	0	0
4) Total # Dangerous Dogs		
➤ Dangerous by Owner Conviction under s33(1)(a)	0	0
➤ Dangerous by Sworn Evidence under s3(1)(b)	1	1
➤ Dangerous by Owner Admittance in writing Under s31(1)(c)	0	0
5) Total # Menacing Dogs		
➤ Menacing under s333A(1)(b)(i) – i.e. by Behaviour	5	5
➤ Menacing under s333A(1)(b)(ii) – i.e. by Breed Characteristics	0	0
➤ Menacing under s333C(1) – i.e. Schedule Breed 4	7	7
6) Total # Infringement Notices	Not required	39
7) Total # Complaints Received	Not required	5
➤ TA Complaint Category 1	Not required	
➤ TA Complaint Category 2		
8) Total # Prosecutions Taken	Not required	0

Complaints received – Lynette Hadley – wandering dog.  
Dog signed over to council and euthanased.  
Jamie Mackay – rushing dog.  
Dog classified as dangerous.  
JJ Tamou – dog attack.  
Dog euthanased.  
Chrissie Thomas – wandering dog.  
Infringement notice issued.  
L Van der kemp – dog bite.  
Dog signed over to Council and euthanased.