

# **REPORT ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF GORE DISTRICT COUNCIL'S POLICY AND PRACTICES IN RELATION TO THE CONTROL OF DOGS FOR THE YEAR 1 JULY 2007 TO 30 JUNE 2008**

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

The total number of registered dogs in the Gore District as at 30 June 2008 was 3192. This is 99 dogs less than what was recorded at the same time the previous year. As our District is made up of several itinerant workers the number of registered rural dogs varies from year to year. The majority (ie 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.

## **DOG CONTROL ENFORCEMENT PRACTICES**

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

One of these complaints involved two German Shepherds barking in Green St which resulted in an abatement notice being issued. The owner of the dogs requested a hearing to be held to defend the notice. This hearing was held on 5 March 2008, pursuant to Section 55(4) of the Dog Control Act 1996. As a result of this hearing a monitoring programme was put in place for a month to determine the level of barking. Following this monitoring programme, a decision was made to revoke the abatement notice.

There was also an incident in Mataura where two dogs killed four sheep. The dogs were subsequently caught and taken to the vets to be euthanased.

In December 2007 the Department of Internal Affairs circulated a discussion document to all Territorial Authorities to seek ideas on improving Public Safety under the Dog Control Act 1996. A working party of Councillors and the Councils Dog Control Contractor was formed to discuss and debate the policy options and develop responses on the issues profiled.

The Councils contractor is impounding an increased number of dogs that are not being claimed by their owners due to the cost of

registering the dogs and pound fees. These dogs are rehoused if they are suitable otherwise they are taken to the vet for euthanasia.

During the year a total of 44 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:

	<b>06/07</b>	<b>07/08</b>
<b>Registration Fee – Urban Dog</b>	\$110.00	\$110.00
a. Less - fenced on a controlled property	-\$20.00	-\$20.00
b. Less – no dog complaints, impoundments or infringements within a two year period	-\$30.00	-\$30.00
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		
Additional Fee for impounding or releasing dogs at weekends, public holidays or outside Council office hours	\$10.00	\$10.00
	\$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. The classification followed a complaint being received from a resident who had been bitten by the dog while visiting a property. The bite required hospital treatment.

There are nine dogs in the District classified as menacing under Section 33C (by breed) of the Dog Control Act 1996 and four under Section 33A (by behaviour).

### **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 2008.

Stephen Parry  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>AS AT 30 JUNE 2008</b>	<b>FOR PERIOD 1 JULY 2007 to 30 JUNE 2008</b>
1) Total # Registered Dogs	3192	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)	2	2
➤ 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	4	4
➤ Menacing under s333A(1)(b)(ii) – i.e. by Breed Characteristics	0	0
➤ Menacing under s333C(1) – i.e. Schedule Breed 4	9	9
6) Total # Infringement Notices	Not required	44
7) Total # Complaints Received	Not required	2
➤ TA Complaint Category 1	Not required	
➤ TA Complaint Category 2		
8) Total # Prosecutions Taken	Not required	0

Complaints received –

- Residents in Green Street complaining about dogs at 17 Green Street constantly barking.
- A resident complaining about a dog bite on a property in High Street.