

Report pursuant to Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008

Part 1 – Dog Control Practices

1. Dog Control in Central Otago District

Dog Control functions within Central Otago District, are carried out under contract. The contract is currently held by Allpest Limited who commenced operations on a one year contract on 8 November 2006. The contract has been renewed for a further two years and will expire on 31 October 2009.

Dog registrations are carried out by Central Vets under contract. The number of dog owners registered in the district for 2007/2008 was 4487, comprising 2551 working dogs and 1936 pet dogs.

2. Dog Enforcement

The majority of complaints received in 2007/2008 related to wandering dogs. There were also complaints about barking dogs, aggressive behaviour from dogs, and dogs fouling in public areas. Council's contractor responds to complaints through the service request system. Council staff also assisted with some complaints relating to barking, wandering and aggressive dogs.

1 infringement notice was issued to an owner of a dog for failing to keep dogs under control.

A number of patrols were carried out on request particularly in the Cromwell and Alexandra areas. Dog patrols enable the contractors to assess the level of problem in relation to wandering dogs, and also show a presence of the contractors in the community, however, there are generally few wandering dogs apprehended during such patrols.

A signs campaign was undertaken during 2007/08 in an attempt to remind dog owners of their responsibilities and improve behaviours relating to dog control, and dogs fouling public areas. Signs were erected in urban areas throughout the district containing the following messages: *"If Your Dog Fouls - Clean It Up \$300 Fine"*; *"Dog Exercise Area - Dogs Must Be Kept Under Control"*, and *"Dogs Must Be Kept Under Control"*.

3. Resident Opinion Survey

In addition to assessing complaints from the public, and undertaking dog patrols, the other major source of information about how Council is performing its dog control functions is the Resident Opinion Survey.

In 2007/08 the survey indicated a 6% improvement in satisfaction from residents in relation to Dog Enforcement.

4. Dog Registration Fees

The registration fees for 2007/08 were as follows:

Working dogs	-	\$11.00
Pet dogs	-	\$50.00

The working dog registration fee remained unchanged whilst the pet dog registration fee increased by \$5.00 from the previous year.

The reason for the increase in fees is ensure that the level of the dog control fund is not diminished, and to cover the increasing costs of dog control brought about by a higher expectation from the community in relation to dog enforcement.

All dog control and enforcement activity is funded through registration and impoundment fees.

Non payment of registration fees are enforced by infringement notice. Unpaid infringement fines are collected by the Court by way of prosecution.

5. Disqualified and Probationary Owners

There are no disqualified or probationary owners in the district.

6. Menacing and Dangerous Dogs

4 dogs were classified as dangerous in 2007/08.

1 dog was classified as menacing in 2007/08.

Part 2 – Statistical Information

	Total number of...	1/7/07 to 30/6/08	1/7/06 – 30/6/07
1	registered dogs	4487	5189
2	probationary owners	0	0
3	disqualified owners	0	0
4	dangerous dogs	4	1
5	menacing dogs	1	1
6	Infringement notices	126	44
7	Complaints received		
	Wandering dogs	183	175
	Barking dogs	54	35
	Aggressive dogs	20	18
8	Prosecutions taken		
	non registration	42	20
	dangerous dogs	0	1