

19 April 2024

Kia ora Ms Anderson

E: fyi-request-26183-0d5d5843@requests.fyi.org.nz

OFFICIAL INFORMATION REQUEST – INFORMATION ON DOG CONTROL MATTERS

I am writing in response to your information request, received on 20 March 2024 seeking information on:

- dog and animal control fees;
- number of registered dogs;
- number of infringement notices issued;
- prosecutions taken;
- costs of advertising campaign;
- income and expenditure for dog control activities.

Our response has been provided (in blue) to each of the information requests (repeated below):

1. Please provide the parts of that additional information about Regulatory fees and charges (and benchmarking against other Councils) that relate to dog and animal control fees and charges, including a comparison between the services currently and previously provided to identify the additional services referred to in the statement in the agenda that “... costs have increased ... due to increased Animal Control after-hours services ...”

Animal Control Services (After Hours)

We advise that prior to 12 August 2023 an Animal Control Officer was on-call afterhours (5:00pm to 8:30am) seven days/week to respond to dog and stock related incidents.

Since 12 August 2023 the on-call afterhours service (5:00pm to 8:30am) was contracted out to an external provider (who is a warranted officer). Dunedin City Council Animal Services Officers are on duty from 8:30am – 5:00pm, seven days a week, inclusive of patrolling on weekends.

The Council contractor (external provider) responds to dog and stock related incidents for the period of 5:00pm to 8:30am weekdays, between 5:00pm Friday through Saturday and Sunday, until 8:30am on Monday, seven days a week.

Set out below are the benchmarking of Animal Services fees against other Councils:

Benchmarking of Animal Services Fees - November 2023								
	DCC	Christchurch	Queenstown	Invercargill	Tauranga	Auckland	Wellington	Hamilton
Pet dog (UN =un-neutered)	\$109	\$94	\$215	\$104	\$100	\$163	\$187	\$170
Pet dog (N = neutered)	\$99	\$93	\$165	\$89	\$100	\$117	\$135	\$100
Responsible Dog Owner Status	\$61 (UN) \$51 (N)	\$60 (1 st dog) \$42 (2 nd & subsequent dogs)	Nothing on the website	\$71 (UN) \$51 (N) \$40 property inspection fee	Nothing on the website	\$82 (UN) \$70 (N)	\$67	Nothing on the website

Neutered discount	\$10		\$50	\$20	Nothing on the website	\$46	\$52	\$70
Disability assist dogs	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nothing on the website	Nothing on the website	Nil	Nil	Nothing on the website
Working dog: 1 st 2 nd & subsequent	\$53 \$28	\$30 \$25	\$105 \$80 (fenced)	\$35	Nothing on the website	\$37	\$57	Nothing on the website
Impounding (dogs) 1 st 2 nd & subsequent 3 rd & subsequent Afterhours	\$125 \$168 \$168	\$50 \$80 \$120	\$125 \$200 \$300	\$100 \$150 \$188	\$98 (unreg) & \$66 (reg) \$141 (unreg & reg) \$202 (unreg & reg) 3 rd \$281 (unreg & reg) 4 th	\$66 \$159 \$249 (3 rd & sub) \$145	\$110 \$176 \$31 call out fee	\$84 \$153 \$245
Daily sustenance (dogs)	\$25	\$10	\$35	\$20.84	\$12	\$22	\$20	\$19
Impounding (other animals) Horses, Asses, Mules, Cattle and Deer Sheep, Goats, Pigs & Roosters	\$65 \$12	\$50 \$50	Nothing on the website	\$100 \$30	\$150 \$61.77	Nothing on the website	\$106 (1 st) \$170 (2 nd within 1yr) \$29 afterhours callout fee	\$48 \$14-\$33 Stock driving fee \$80
Daily sustenance (other animals) Asses, Mules, Pigs Horses, Cattle, Deer Sheep, roosters and Goats	\$4 \$8 \$3	\$5 \$5 \$5	Nothing on the website	\$3.10 \$10.40 \$3.10	Actual costs	Nothing on the website	\$18.50	\$15
Adoption fee	\$198	\$80	Nothing on the website	Nothing on the website	\$350 (male dog) \$400 (female dog)	Nothing on the website	\$37 (includes 1 st year of rego)	\$225
Permit for 2 or more dogs	\$86	\$72	Application \$70 Inspection \$80	\$310 5 dogs or more (includes working dogs) \$40 application fee	Nothing on the website	\$86	\$39	1 st fee \$85 Annual fee \$40

2. In relation to dog/owner numbers, please provide the following:

a) The total number of registered dogs and the total number of owners with registered dogs.

As of 5 April 2024, the total number of registered dogs was 18,465 and the total number of registered dog owners was 15,211.

b) The number of dogs and owners by suburb. (Please provide this as a table or spreadsheet to avoid repeating the problems created in 2019 by using a list format.)

We advise that information on the number of registered dog owners per suburb is not held.

The number of dogs per suburb is set out below:

Suburb	# of Dogs	Suburb	# of Dogs
Dunedin	8602	Mosgiel	2465
Green Island	570	Fairfield	503
Waikouaiti	489	Abbotsford	480
Brighton	465	Outram	358
North Taieri	281	Sawyers Bay	265
Port Chalmers	258	Ravensbourne	224

Waitati	217	Macandrew Bay	202
Middlemarch	202	Waldronville	200
Concord	198	St Kilda	160
Taieri	151	Portobello	148
St Leonards	120	Saddle Hill	115
Allanton	112	Warrington	101
East Taieri	99	Wingatui	88
Ocean View	83	Peninsula	83
Broad Bay	82	Karitane	81
Momona	76	Merton	74
Burnside	68	Company Bay	68
Harwood	61	Ocean Grove	61
Berwick	57	Sutton	57
Deep Stream	54	Maungatua	54
Hindon	50	Roseneath	48
Purakaunui	41	Aramoana	33
Careys Bay	33	Evansdale	29
Pukerangi	29	Long Beach	28
Otokia	25	Seacliff	24
Henley	22	Hyde	15
Upper Junction	14	Blueskin	11
Osborne	9	Woodside	5
Deborah Bay	3	North Dunedin	3
Pigeon Flat	3	Pukehiki	3
Blanket Bay	2	Tomahawk	2
Taieri Mouth			

c) The number of dogs classified as working dogs, and the number of owners with working dogs.

As of 5 April 2024, the total number of work dogs was 1,022. The total number of owners of working dogs was 431.

3. Please provide the number of infringement notices issued or prosecutions taken by the Bylaw clause or section of the Dog Control Act 1996 for registration years ending 2021, 2022, 2023, and the current year to date.

As of 5 April 2024, the number of infringement notices issues or prosecutions taken are as follows:

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023 to 5 April 2024
Infringements	462	554	308	187
Prosecutions	5	0	4	1

4. Please provide the full costs of the recent advertising campaign entitled “Best Friend, Best Behaviour: Tips for Dog Owners”, in adequate detail for the categories of costs to be separately identified (including things like the costs of authoring the video scripts, social media, web-site and FYI copy; purchasing videos and photographs used in the videos; the social and print media advertising, etc), and identify which costs were charged to the dog control or the general rates budget.

Please find below the costs for the “Best Friend, Best Behaviour: Tips for Dog Owners” advertising undertaken by Council.

Best Friend, Best Behaviour Campaign	
Social Media Advertising	\$314.42
Radio Advertising	\$2,159.39
Stock Video	\$241.50
Videographer	\$1207.50
*Otago Daily Times (ODT) Online banner ads	*
*FYI Article	*
*Designer	*
Total	\$3,922.81

*Please note that the Council's FYI article, ODT online advertising and any design work are costs absorbed under staff time and regular ongoing advertising costs for Council.

5. Please provide the income and expenditure for dog control activities authorised by the Dog Control Act (including amounts received under the Dog Control Act, and general rate-payer contributions), and general "Animal Control" activities (that are not dog-related) for the years 2022-2023 and 2023-to date. (The format used to provide this information in 2019 is suitable.)

A Statement of Financial Performance for the Animal Control business unit is set out below:

Dunedin City Council

Statement of Financial Performance

Animal Control

Business Unit 590112

	Actual 2022/23	Actual 2023/24 YTD 31 March Note	
Revenue			
Rates revenue	(198,540.00)	(195,534.00)	1
External revenue (Dogs)	(1,534,328.44)	(1,418,595.72)	2
External revenue (Stock)	(814.26)	(17.39)	3
Grants	-	-	
Total revenue	<u>(1,733,682.70)</u>	<u>(1,614,147.11)</u>	
Expenditure			
Personnel costs (Dogs)	760,441.13	531,235.18	
Personnel costs (Stock)	15,519.21	10,841.53	
Operational costs (Dogs)	1,015,937.64	895,429.01	4
Operational costs (Stock)	20,733.42	18,274.06	5
Total expenditure	<u>1,812,631.40</u>	<u>1,455,779.78</u>	
Net surplus/(deficit)	<u>(78,948.70)</u>	<u>158,367.33</u>	
Impounding fees	(18,301.69)	(9,049.42)	
Other Structures Maintenance (Stock)	(833.90)	-	
Maintenance Contracts (Dogs)	9,978.70	-	
Capital Expenditure (Dogs)	-	7,170.00	6
Capital Expenditure (Stock)	-	-	

Notes

- Under the Revenue and Financing Policy Animal Services is funded by rates (10%) and other revenue (90%).
- Includes dog registrations, infringements, impounding fees, court fines, late registration penalties, kennel and responsible owner fees.
- Impounding fees and NZTA payments for stock work on highways.
- Includes microchips, signage, dog pound, registration discs, vet services, vehicles, laboratory costs, legal fees and radio telephone systems.
- Maintenance of pound.
- Animal Services body worn cameras.

We trust that this responds to your information request.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lauren Riddle". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lauren Riddle
Governance Support Officer
Dunedin City Council