

22 April 2024

Andy Langford

fyi-request-26243-56e13b43@requests.fyi.org.nz

Official Information request – Dog Control Act

I am writing in response to your information request (fyi-request-26243-56e13b43), received on 26 March 2024, seeking information on the lifetime registration tag for dogs for the 2023-2024 dog registration year. For clarity, your questions have been restated below, together with our response (in blue):

1. **For the 2023-2024 dog registration year Council provided a lifetime registration tag for dogs, rather than a tag for the current registration year, stating this “... replaces the current system...”. Please provide:**
 - a) **All information relating to the decision to adopt this scheme and the justification for doing so*, and a copy of the documentation presented to Councillors when making the decision to implement this scheme, the records of the decision, and any discussion before the decision was made. * Whether called a business case, s17A report, or other name, and including but not limited to an analysis of options, cost/benefits, environmental impact, risks, decision-making criteria, justifications for selecting this scheme not other options, etc.**

The decision to move to a lifetime dog registration tag was an operational one, made to work towards the DCC 2030 Zero Carbon Plan, reduce the waste to landfill from the non-biodegradable plastic discs, and to reduce administrative costs.

A memorandum of 26 April 2022 on the ‘Proposal to move to lifelong metal dog registration tags (from Annual Plastic Tags)’ is attached (Attachment A) which details the proposal, advantages and disadvantages, costings and other matters considered.

Please note: Attachment A outlines the savings and expenditure (including the advantages and disadvantages of moving to lifelong metal dog registration tags).

- b) The amount expended on the scheme to date, including all advertising costs, in adequate detail for the categories of costs to be separately identified, and identify which costs were charged to the dog control or general rates budget.**

The 26 April 2022 memorandum on the Proposal to move to lifelong metal dog registration (Attachment A) includes a summary of the current and estimated costs for the dog tags by year from 2023.

The tables below show the initial costs incurred with the new scheme and the costs for the Long life dog tag campaign.

Initial costs:

March 2023	Product costs	\$38,490	3 year supply of tags & rings	Funded from the Animal Services budget which includes registration revenue and rates funding. These are not separated budgets.
March 2023	External Consultancy	\$10,040	Systems for new scheme	Funded from the Animal Services budget which includes registration revenue and rates funding. These are not separated budgets.
	Total Operational Costs	\$48,530	(excl GST)	

Campaign costs are advised as follows:

Longlife Dog Tag campaign		Total Cost \$ 19,095.01 GST exc
Newspaper advertising		\$2723.49
Radio advertising		\$2978.72
Printed material i.e. info flyers delivered to every registered dog owner		\$1993.00
Online advertising		\$755
Photography and videography – this is also used for the Dog Registration campaign		\$4600
Direct mail to stakeholders i.e. vets, groomers (envelopes, postage)		\$44.80

c) The Dog Control Act requires a TA to provide a “... tag for the registration year...” and the owner must ensure the current tag is attached to a collar worn by the dog (s46), or the dog is deemed unregistered (s44) and liable to be impounded (s50). Please provide the authority relied on to replace that statutory scheme.

The authority relied on was section 46 of the Dog Control Act 1996, Issue of label or disc and completion of registration.

d) As the Lifetime tags do not provide visual confirmation a dog is registered please provide the projected costs of obtaining warrants for searches to confirm registration for the next year registration year, including how many are expected to be obtained for dogs subsequently shown to be registered.

Council will be able to refer to dog registration records and can confirm whether a dog is unregistered and if a registration fee has been received.

If it is not intended to obtain warrants, please provide the statutory authority for searching property without a warrant or the projected income generated by impounding dogs so Council can check the registration number, or the projected costs of defending legal action taken by the owners of dogs when Council exceeds its statutory authority.

Council requires its staff to act within their warrants and empowering legislation, and not exceed their statutory authority.

2. During July 2023 the Bookbus service was extended to accept dog registration applications. Given Council has accepted s 36 of the Dog Control Act requires dog owners to apply to register their dogs is on or by 1 July, please provide:

a) All information relating to the decision to provide a service for owners who had breached their legal obligations, and the justification for doing so*, including a copy of the documentation presented to Councillors when making the decision to implement this scheme, the records of the decision, and any discussion before the decision was made.

DCC is aware that some residents may have difficulty accessing customer services and so provided alternative ways for dog owners to register their dogs, in addition to the DCC service centres, and online via the website.

This also provided an opportunity for Animal Control Officers to engage with the community and provide information about Animal Services.

b) The costs of providing the service, including all advertising, and identify which costs were charged to the dog control or general rates budget.

No additional costs were incurred in providing the Book Bus service, as payments were collected by Animal Control Officers and administration staff.

c) The number of dogs registered using the Booksus option and the number of infringement fees issued to owners who did so.

88 dogs were registered at the Book Bus. No infringements were issued to owners who registered during July at the Book Bus.

I trust this provides the information requested.

Yours sincerely



Lauren Riddle
Governance Support Officer
Dunedin City Council

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