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**ORDINARY MEETING**

**OF**

**ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

**MINUTE ITEM ATTACHMENTS**

Time: 09:15 am  
Date: Monday, 16 May 2016  
Venue: Committee Room 1  
Ground Floor, Council Offices  
101 Wakefield Street  
Wellington

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**Business**

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Mary Gordon.

I am in favour of microchipping both dogs and cats; however there is a major problem with the microchipping system. Microchips are electronics, and electronics sometimes fail, yet there is nothing in place in the current system that requires anyone (WCC, MPI, the vet who inserts the microchip, the Companion Animal Association...) to notify owners when microchips have been recalled.

I discovered this the very hard way when bringing my dog back into New Zealand after being in the US for several years. She was microchipped in Wellington before we left and all of the (expensive and time-consuming) testing that was required to bring her back into New Zealand was tied to her microchip number, which was also used on the MPI import permit. Then the microchip failed at the very last scan before she was sealed in her crate to fly back to New Zealand.

I was forced with a choice between repeating the months long, thousands of US dollars testing in the US or signing a form that said I was sending her to New Zealand at my own risk and possible consequences included her deportation or destruction. I decided to sign the form, and several sleepless nights later discovered that her microchip was part of a recall that took place several years before. All of my contact information supplied on the microchipping form still worked at the time of the recall, yet no one had contacted me. Nor had MPI notified me at the time I submitted her import application form including that microchip number. I only found out by late night Internet searching (see links at the bottom of this post).

It's not rocket science to have a number entered into a form checked against a list of known faulty chips, yet this does not happen. While the number of people affected by this bringing animals back into the country may be very small, this same flaw could also affect people whose animals are lost or stolen. An animal whose chip fails at the wrong moment could be euthanised or rehomed. So for the relatively small number of people and animals who are affected, the potential consequences are extremely bad. My own experience was very stressful and completely unnecessary. I would hate for anyone else to go through something similar.

Someone needs to take official responsibility for notifying owners of microchip recalls and the database used for microchip information needs to be updated so that every time anyone touches a record related to a faulty microchip a warning is raised so that microchip can be replaced with a non-faulty chip.

Here is the information on the recall that affected me and my dog:

- <https://www.facebook.com/FairGoNZ/posts/10151661043408829>
- <http://www.backhome.co.za/sites/all/themes/virbac/docs/BackHome%20announcement%20letter%20to%20pet%20owners%20mailing.pdf>
- <http://www.watoday.com.au/wa-news/thousands-of-pet-microchips-faulty-20130905-2t6qg.html>
- <http://www.abbey-vets.co.uk/microchip-recall.html>
- <https://www.kusa.co.za/index.php/kusa-notices/general-notices/481-recall-notice-back-home-microchips-2>

mary munroe .

WCC Dog Policy hearing May 16 2016

This statement will be read by Submitter 204 Mary Munro (who has Responsible Dog Owner status) and owns Argos Munro:

Dog ID: 263161

Micro-chipped

Desexed

*I am a Labrador/Pointer cross.*

*I am very fast – and I love running. My nose is extremely sensitive – and my hearing is pretty good too. I can usually see, smell, hear or sense, you before you are even aware of me.*

*I love my twice-daily walks particularly in Trelissick Park. I've got lots of mates there. I am "under control" but I'd rather be 100% free.*

*I get frightened by runners who appear suddenly and then run past me quickly. Many of them seem very frightened of me and they shout at me. I'd like to chase them off but I'm not allowed to.*

*In the afternoons I get walked to Cummings Park. I've got mates there too and we usually chase each other and steal each other's tennis balls. Sometimes I just put my nose to the ground and sniff the place over.*

*Recently my humans have taken me to a new place in the afternoon. It's called Ian Galloway Park. My humans like it a lot as they can stand around and talk – and throw me a ball occasionally. I don't play with many dogs there yet because I don't know them very well. I'm still sniffing them out. There is a great big fence which means I can't disappear but the place is not really my idea of heaven – it seems humans love it though, probably because I'm totally under control.*

*This Dog Policy that everyone seems to be getting excited by seems to be all about this "control" idea. I'm a reasonable chap and I realise I can't have my way all the time but I'm a dog – I want to smell things, explore, run around and be free. You have taught me to come back when you call and, by and large, I do - but I also want some free time to explore. So let's have some balance:*

- *Please keep Trelissick Park leash-free*
- *Please keep Cummings Park as a dog exercise area (unless you find another more suitable central place for me and my mates here in Ngaio)*
- *Please allow me to run and walk off leash in Council Reserves and if you want me to be on a lead because there are nesting birds or for some other good reason, then I'm a reasonable dog and that's okay with me. Just put a notice up.*



George Holley

Complaint Against Animal Control Management

**Regional Manager:** Les Dalton

**Address:** 21 Meacham Street  
Seaview

**Phone:** 570 6666

**Animal Ranger:** Wynn Batty

**Address:** Animal Services  
Wellington Dog Pound  
73 Moa Point Road  
Rongatai

**Date:** 24 July 2014

**Time:** Circa 1100 hours

**Location:** Western Side of Island Bay Beach Parking Area

**Incident:** Parked car, exited car as did dog such that I could open rear of car to gain access to dogs lead and my cold weather gear. From exiting my car to walking to its rear door my attention was drawn to a vehicles crossing the side walk and drawing to my close quarter, the vehicle was from the Animal Management Services (**AMS**) from exited Wynn Batty (**WB**)of AS. WB bid me a "Good Morning", my response was, "well it was until you arrived" WB on exiting his vehicle(3.00 Metre) swaggered towards me while at the same time fiddling with an object (silver, circa 75x15 mm on a lanyard) located on his upper right coat/jacket collar apparel while at the same time his body movements were such that he was swinging his right shoulder up and towards my person all the time looking at and fiddling with the object and he continued to do so while talking to myself. We exchanged information as to what I proposed doing, to which I replied," take the dog for a walk on the beach" to which he informed me that the dog was to be on a lead for the beach, my response was that I was unaware the need for a lead. **WB** informed me that dogs off leads were permissible at Houghton Bay, we disengaged and I went to Houghton Bay.

That same evening reflecting the day's events and the strange body actions of **WB** I was drawn to a conclusion that **WB** had been using a Lapel Spy camera against me without my knowledge or consent, thereby recording my responses.

- The same evening I checked the Internet for Spy Cameras and their forms and determined that what I had observed on **WB** upper right coat/jacket collar apparel corresponded to readily available Lapel Spy Camera!

I have checked the Police Web Site with reference to such cameras being operated under the above circumstances that **WB** did and found it his activities to be illegal. I was

(1) Unaware of being filmed or photographed.

(2) Did not give consent to be filmed or photograph

The **ACM** as under the terms of their contractual obligation to the WCC were /not allowed the use of Spy Camera while under contract to the WCC.

I resolved to pursue the matter.

**Date:** 26 July 2014

**Time:** circa 1100 Hours

**Location:** Southern Landfill Recycle Centre

**Incident:** Unloading recyclable materials I noted **WB** was himself unloading cardboard from an **AMS** Vehicle in the recycling bins. I approached and spoke with **WB**. I first asked him if he recognised me from the two days prior, that being Thursday and the Western edge of Island Bay, he replied that was well aware of the incident.

Before there were any further words between us I noted he was wearing a Lapel Spy Camera,(fitting earlier description) this time its location was on the lower left of his apparel attached via a safety pin and residual lanyard material.

I asked **WB** if he had operated a Spy Camera against me on the day in question, he refused to respond! I again posed the question, "were you in possession and operating a Spy Camera against me while talking with me",again he did not respond! Again I poses the same question to which **WB** response was, I am allowed to use such a camera as a safe guard for myself and to collect evident, as are the police also at that he admitted he had recorded the incident and later deleted the recording, So I posed the question, so you did record the incident, to which he admitted he had done

so, at that point I disengaged from him with the words "I have of intent to pursue this matter"

**Date:** 29 July 2014

**Privacy Commission:** Contacted to which I explained the above situation, their response was to contact the WCC Privacy Department.

**WCC Issues Resolution Office:** Contacted the office of Debra Howse and explained my concern at being subject to what I considered inappropriate and wrongful intrusion of my privacy by **WB** as represented by the **AMS** Debra Howse listen with patience and determined that I would be contacted by her Dept the following day, this has never eventuate.

**Date:** 15 August 2014

**Time:** Circa 1500 Hours

**Caller:** Les Dalton (**AMS**) phoned me to first enquire the details of the events relating to the Label Spy Camera. In short Les Dalton informed me that they (**AMS**) had initially been operating 4 such camera of which only one was operatable, namely that they found the camera of limited reliability and which such an event of which had occurred the remaining camera was to be withdrawn. Les Dalton apologised for the situation and gave an under taking that a formal letter of apologise would be following, this has never eventuated.

**Conclusion:** The Police Web Site is very clear about the operation of such cameras and the operators responsibilities

I am informed that WCC contractors are in no way allowed to use cameras, be they spy or otherwise.

Question also to be asked, how long have cameras been used?

How many dog owning people have without their permission/knowledge been recorded?

Would a reasonable dog owing person be willing to accept such an intrusion?

**Circa September 2014:** Contacted Julie Sleep Dept to determine both dates and time of my laying the above complaint, my enquiry was dealt with by her assistant, information was provided along with a copy of an e mail sent to **AMS** (Copy attached) also according to the assistant Julie Sleep had spoken with Les



Dalton of AMC telling him that she would deal with the situation !!

**From:** George A Holley  
"Fern Bank"  
44 McKinley Cres  
Brooklyn  
Wellington

**Phone:** 04 385 6773

**E mail:** George@skullsdnunder.co.nz

**Julie Sleep**

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**From:** Julie Sleep  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 29 July 2014 3:52 p.m.  
**To:** 'Les Dalton'; 'Geoff.stuart@hcc.govt.nz'  
**Subject:** Privacy complaint

Hi Les & Geoff

Our Issues Resolution Office has just received a privacy complaint about one of your officers and ACO processes.

The complainant was approached by an Animal Services Officer last Thursday at Island Bay. He had just got out of his car and his dog ran off while was putting on an extra layer of clothing. The male ACO approached him and said the dog should be on lead and they had a discussion about which part of the beach he and his dog were able to use. So far all good.

The complainant noticed that the ACO seemed to be fiddling with something on his lapel but nothing was said about it at the time. He did however wonder if he was being recorded.

On Saturday the complainant was at the southern landfill and noticed the same ACO there emptying stuff into the recycling bins. He approached the officer and asked whether he recorded the conversation on Thursday and the Officer said yes that he had videoed it but that it had been deleted and there was no stored record.

The complainant has approached the Privacy Commissioner as he considers there has been a breach of privacy. At no time was he told, during the Thursday conversation, that the interaction was being recorded.

The Privacy Commissioner agrees that this would be a breach and asked him to contact WCC to find out how long officers have been recording interactions and whether this is standard practice.


Can you please advise

- Are your staff using recording devices?
- If so, how long have they been in use?
- What expectations/guidelines have been given about advising owners that they are being recorded?

All info and comments would be gratefully received. I presume the ACO is Wayne B as Damian was already on leave by then.

Julie

**Julie Sleep**

Approvals&processinnovation T1 | Public Health Leadership | Wellington City Council  
P 04 803 8555 | M 021 227 8555 | F 04 801 3012  
E Julie.Sleep@wcc.govt.nz | W Wellington.govt.nz | 

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- ✳ • is unaware of being filmed or photographed
- ✳ • has not given consent to be filmed or photographed.

You should not take photos of people if:

- they are in a place where they would expect reasonable privacy and publication would be highly offensive to an objective and reasonable person
- it has potential to stop other people's use and enjoyment of the same place
- ✳ • you have no legitimate reason for taking the film or photos.

However, you can take and/or publish photos or film of people where there is no expectation of privacy, such as a beach, shopping mall, park or other public place.

#### Related FAQs

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#### Quick links

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#### Do it online

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Graeme MacFarlane.

380a Evans Bay Parade  
Hataitai

16 May 2016

Submission to Council on Dog policy.

Below is previous correspondence with the council on problems with Dogs since Cog Park was halved in 2012 (without prior consultation) and fenced to provide a dog play area.

The action ruined a wonderful and historical area being used by the public as a picnic and play area which catered for adults and children. It is now a too small for a play area for children and too small for an exercise area for dogs. The dog area is completely barren in the dry months and scattered with bare patches in the wetter periods. Barking is an almost constant problem particularly in the weekends and parking is difficult for the adjacent householders at busy times. The suggestion that a dog control officer is available to monitor dog barking is pointless unless there is a vigil from 7am to 7pm over a reasonable period to ensure all culprits are approached. Unfortunately not all dog owners clear up their animals droppings which means mess is carried onto public thoroughfares with the subsequent smell.

Barking, Parking and Space are key matters to be considered.

I suggest that the dog policy should consider the following when allocating a dog park.

1. The area set aside for dogs should be at least a hectare to provide sufficient space and if grassed help minimise damage to the grass surface.
2. The area should be remote enough to be out of barking noise range from built up areas, say a minimum of 500 metres.
3. A dog area should not be allocated at the expense of public park areas especially where the park is suitable for family use.
4. We need to look at areas already designated and close down those that do not meet the criteria.

Above all it is important that we should remember that not all ratepayers are dog owners or dog lovers and can have good reason to object to their rates being spent to subsidise dog license fees to cater to dog owners.

Graeme MacFarlane  
Hataitai

380a Evans Bay Parade  
Hataitai

21 February 2015

Dear Julie,

As you can see from below it is now over 2 years since I received your letter. I have underlined 2 sentences in your letter which are relevant to this letter.

We never received any advice of the consultation process and it is impossible to believe that an Animal Control Officer has monitored the area. The barking is almost constant during the weekend and is regular during week days. The bark of a dog is obviously in the high decibel rating and I suggest could constitute a noise hazard. It is one for our family.

What used to be a wonderful park area is now a disgrace of bare landscape and in hot still weather is far from odourless. This is not the place for a dog park.

I have suggested before that the obvious and better place for a dog exercise area is adjacent to the Wellington RSPCA in Alexandra road. It is away from housing, has more space and is part of the zone for animals. An excellent new exercise area would be the long grass strip on the Miramar peninsular from the end of Prison Road to Akaroa Road. Both areas are well away from housing and would allow dogs to roam freely.

This would allow the Council to clean up the area and create a beautiful children's play area. It is already fenced and would provide an excellent extra space near a popular weekend spot. It would complement the small area on Treasure Grove with a bit of expansion and more modern equipment.

Please let me know if it is necessary for me to submit a formal complaint?

Regards  
Graeme MacFarlane

380a Evans Bay Parade  
Hataitai

23 December 2013

Animal Control  
Wellington City Council

Attention Julie Sleep

Dear Julie,

Last week I rang animal control to discuss a problem resulting from the alteration of a section of Cog Park at Greta Point from human use to a dog exercise area. Your Wayne Batty rang me back a few

days later and after a conversation suggested that any action to be taken would need to be directed to you.

Firstly let me say that the dog exercise area was built about a year ago without any consultation and thus input from any of the surrounding property owners or occupiers. When I lodged a question with Amber Hill I was told that the area was being shut off from human use as a result of action from the Hataitai Residents association and a vet at Miramar. No one asked us if we were happy about having our space usurped by outsiders. Let me add that the 12 houses immediately above the park and the surrounding high rise apartments do not have any dogs.

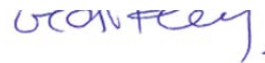
After a year of use by dog lovers from far and wide the park is now ruined. The entry points are devoid of grass and half the park has withered grass. When it rains the bare patches become a mud heap. The council has had to spend more of the ratepayer's money to prevent people parking on the grass verge which in turn had turned into a mud heap. The restriction now means we have dog owners parking illegally up our street.

Dogs have fun in the park and as you would expect some express their joy by barking. This would be acceptable if it was not for the fact that when one barking dog has been exercised and taken away we shortly after have another one arrive and take over the barking role. The end result is that on a busy day we can get an almost continuous day of barking dogs. Also in spite of a free bag supply for clearing dog droppings we still get some owners who don't see or don't bother to clean up. Imagine the smell on a hot day caused by droppings and urine from dozens of dogs.

I do not believe a dog exercise area should exist so close to a built up area and particularly where the space is far too small.

With the opening of the SPCA property in Alexandra road could we please have the Cog park exercise area returned to its original state without fences and dogs and a new exercise area opened up alongside more appropriate space beside the new SPCA?

Kind Regards  
Graeme MacFarlane

**Talking points WCC Dog Policy and Animal Bylaw**

- Forest and Bird
- Voice for nature
- Return of wildlife to Wellington
- Long history of supporting responsible pet ownership to protect native wildlife

**Cats**

- Cat identification – the council's proposal to require all domestic cats to be micro-chipped. This allows domestic cats to be easily distinguished from feral cats that need to be controlled.
- Encouraging all owners to be responsible for their cats at all times and should endeavour to keep their cats within their own properties.
- Cats should wear collars with a bell, or a bright collar. Both have been shown to reduce the number of native animals (particularly birds) killed.
- Owners should be encouraged to de-sex their cats.

**In Australia:**

- all States except the Northern Territory have laws requiring cats to be micro-chipped.
- Within the NT Darwin City has a bylaw requiring micro-chipping.
- Most territorial authorities in Australia require owners to keep their cats within their property boundaries and cats that stray are caught and put in the pound (just like stray dogs), with the owner required to pay a fee to release the cat.
- These measures have proved an effective method to protect Australia's small ground based marsupials – particularly in urban areas.

**Dogs:**

- Our particular concern is to have proper dog management around wildlife sensitive areas – such as our coastline where we have little blue penguins or other nesting seabirds.
- This would also extend to areas of forest habitat where there may be ground-based or ground-utilising species such as North Island robin.
- The council therefore needs to be very careful about its choice of areas (or tracks) where dogs can be allowed to run free.



Jan Voss

**Oral Dog Policy Review** – submission presented by Jan Voss, Director, A.C.E Dog Training Ltd, certified canine behavioural trainer with over 20 years professional experience.

Monday 16 May 2016

1. Re: • a specific list of the Council's and dog owners' responsibilities, including that when in a public place dog owners are required to immediately pick up and dispose of their dog's faeces

This is to be supported. The cultural attitude to the removal and disposal of faeces has shifted significantly over the past decade. We appreciate the changes to Council policy and processes that have progressed significantly since first coming to live in Wellington in 1996 so that disposal of faeces can now happen. Provided there are places to dispose of waste then people will do so and the addition of bins at strategic locations assists this.

Will that mean the new proposed DEA's will have bins provided as part of the process to add them to the list.

2. Re • clarifying some of the rules around Responsible Dog Owner status, including what happens when a Responsible Dog Owner moves house and when Responsible Dog Owner status is reinstated after being Suspended

To comment directly on this questions as a Responsible Owner who takes the status very seriously it is not clear in the wording how the 1 year stand down would be applied. When RDO status is lost does the owner have to pay an additional registration fee to make up the difference? Or is it that the next registration is paid in full before re-application can be made?

If is it just a carry over and the status is removed on paper, but able to be reinstated the next registration period then I feel a period of one year is not sufficient. It is note that there is a 24 month period for a Probationary owner cannot change that status for 24 months so why not have the same applied to RDO re-application? I feel it is important the value of the RDO status is not undermined but still acknowledge an error in judgement that can over time be repaired

3. Further I would like to bring to Councillor's attention what may be an error in the layout of the current criteria – and could easily be addressed to encourage the 50% takeup being desired.

#### **7.1.1. Criteria for Responsible Dog Owner status**

To be classified as a Responsible Dog Owner the following criteria must be met:

- b) The owner's dog must have been registered in Wellington for at least one 1 year; or the owner must provide adequate proof of having held this status from their previous

authority. If an owner has not been registered in Wellington for at least one year the owner should provide the Council with a pass certificate for an approved Responsible Dog Owner Education and Obedience course;

Clause b is incorrectly listed and not divided. It has an anomaly whereby all a person has to do is wait for a year to apply and have a fenced property rather than undertaking training. Also including the Canine Good Citizen certificate as an option allows for the dog owner who does not feel it necessary, or feels it is expensive to attend a complete course as this can be sat independently without prior "formal" training.

Recommended re wording would be :

**7.1.1. Criteria for Responsible Dog Owner status**

To be classified as a Responsible Dog Owner the following criteria must be met:

b) The owner's dog the owner should provide the Council with a pass certificate for an approved Responsible Dog Owner Education and Obedience course or Canine Good Citizen Foundation level;

c) If an owner has not been registered in Wellington for at least one year or the owner must provide adequate proof of having held this status from their previous authority.

4. Re • encouraging 50 percent of dog owners to achieve Responsible Dog Owner status over the next three years

This is an excellent goal and will require effort to achieve so that it is hoped funding is also being allocated to support it.

5. Re • removing the central city area restriction known as the "no stopping" ban and instead clarifying that dogs are not to be tied up and left unattended in public places

There is some confusion in place as to what the status is at other retail areas such as suburban shopping centres. Will that be addressed in the current policy review?

The act of tying a dog in a secure spot, out of foot traffic is not a dangerous practice in itself as long as the dog is trained and comfortable – one of the defined tasks in CGC (Canine Good Citizen).

There are four levels of CGC and at the highest level, Gold, a specific identify tag is worn by the dog. The criteria to achieve is of a similar vein to those certified by assistance dog organisations and I would like the Council consider a CGC certified dog, identified with its tag might be exempt?

6. Re • relaxing restrictions on dogs using the sidelines of sportsfields when they are not being used for sporting events (though dogs will not be permitted on artificial sports surfaces at any time)

This is an excellent proposal and fully supported.

Further I would love to see a return to the practice of offlead exercise when parks are not required for sporting activity – eg winter hours vs summer – perhaps by adding sports fields to the same definition as beach areas.

7. Re • classifying existing seal colony areas as prohibited places all year round to reduce the potential for conflict between dogs and wildlife, and to protect wildlife

While this seems a good idea from the outside it is not the seals that are at risk but the dogs – warning signs and requirement to keep dogs onlead are sufficient without going to the extreme of prohibiting all year.

8. Re • adjusting the timings and dates around daylight saving specific rules

An excellent proposal and fully supported now – having re read the wording to understand it better!

9. Re • clarifying that some exercise areas may be considered over time for other uses, and if this is the case there would be further consultation at the time

We are concerned that this sounds like a way of wangling dog owners out of spaces they are currently accessing and using – always at the dog owner expense and not others – such as cyclists

10. • clarifying that owners only need to get permission and pay the associated fee once to keep more than three dogs (in non-rural areas).

We fully support this change and clarification.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak. I am happy to discuss any points raised further and can be contacted on 021 818 222 or by email [janvoss@acedogtraining.co.nz](mailto:janvoss@acedogtraining.co.nz)

Viv Chapple.

Dog Policy Oral Submission from Submitter Number 250 Monday 16 May 11.05am

Good Morning All,

I'm Viv Chapple, Ngaio resident, non-dog owner and here to defend Khandallah Park again. But before I do, I'd just like to say how bludgeoned by democracy I'm feeling. Ideas for the Annual Plan, the Northern Cycleway, the Annual plan, the Animal policy in two parts and ideas on the proposed Johnsonville library all called for over a six week period. Genuine engagement takes time!

The other point I'd like to make is that we are here to discuss the management of 11,000 dogs, and possibly twice that going into the future. So please remember that this is not about individual pooches and their lovely owners but about protection of people and places from vast numbers of dogs. This policy has to be about managing quantity.

So here we go:

Know Wellington referred to an "isolated part" of Khandallah Park being turned into an off leash dog area. Maybe, but nowhere in your document is it made clear that isolated Sirsi is adjacent to the extremely popular well known and well used Mt Kaukau Khandallah loop walking track, and the intention to open up part of this loop to unleashed dogs. This is a serious omission.

This part of the loop forms the Te Awaroa walkway where dogs are actively discouraged. Why wasn't this conflict mentioned in the draft policy document? This is another serious omission. Either you knew that it was your intention to put dogs onto Te Awaroa and this was omitted, or you didn't know. And if you didn't know, it begs the question what else has been left out? Has the Te Awaroa Trust been asked for their input? Do they know? Do you really want to be the first council in the country to put unleashed dogs onto Te Awaroa?

The real threat though is to Khandallah Park. No self-respecting dog owner is going to drive to a little known steep entrance at the back of Broadmeadows when they can use the main entrance with good car parking. The temptation to take the dog off the lead on the way to the doggy bit will be huge, so the whole park will become a de facto doggie park. My fear, aside from the threat to the flora and fauna (snails anyone?) is that Khandallah Park will be lost to walking non-dog owners in the way that Cummings Park has been lost to picnickers and ball players.

Which leads to my second point.

Have you been provided with the ACC figures around dog injury related claims in Wellington? Such figures would go some way to put some facts around the debate. I have made an OIA request but it is still being processed. I'm happy to share when I get it!

Once again, why wasn't this information included in the background to the draft policy? It seems a ludicrous waste of resources that potentially every submitter has to run off to ACC to find out how much dog injury goes on in our community. When you are formulating a policy shouldn't you know this stuff?

Which brings me to my third point – dogs in the city. Changing the rules is not about benefitting the dog. Has a dog psychologist been consulted about changing from "passing through" to 'unattended' (read "stopping"). The city is not a good environment for a dog, let alone thousands of them. It's all

about the self-interest of the owner and his desire for a latte. Never mind the rest of us who have to pick our way through the 9 dogs tied up outside a café.

My concern here is that like the judge who couldn't tell parking space white lines from parking space coloured brick lines, this proposal is open to legal challenge, thus setting ratepayers up for more expense. If a 12-year old is given \$20 to mind 6 dogs outside Starbucks does that make for an "unattended" dog?

I don't want to think about tied up dogs down Lambton Quay. The most pedestrianized strip in the county just isn't the place for dogs.

So to summarize –

1. Get some robust information from Te Awaroa and ACC about dogs
2. Protect Khandallah Park and Te Awaroa by maintaining the status quo – dogs on leads only
3. Keep the city, an inappropriate environment for dogs from being overrun-don't let the genie out of the bottle

I could go on for hours about what I have witnessed and experienced in relation to dogs, their inconsiderate owners and our city environment but I'm sure you get the general idea.

*W Chapple*  
16/5/2016

**Animal Bylaw**

We are keen to get your thoughts on how animal management is working in Wellington.

You can have your say:

- By making a submission on this form or in writing and send it to us by
- Post – Animals Bylaw, Freepost, Wellington City Council, P.O. Box 2199, Wellington.
  - By making a submission online at Wellington.govt.nz
- By sending an email to: policy.submission@wcc.govt.nz

Please contact the Wellington City Council on 499 4444 for more information.

Enter your name and contact details	
<input type="checkbox"/> Mr <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs <input type="checkbox"/> Ms <input type="checkbox"/> Miss <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr	
*First name	CHRIS
*Last name	PUGSLEY
Street address	11 KOROMIKO ROAD
Suburb	ARO VALLEY
City	WELLINGTON
Phone	021 147 8095
Email	cwp@paradise.net.nz
I would like to be updated on upgrades at popular dog exercise areas <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	

\*Mandatory fields

I am making a submission	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> As an individual <input type="checkbox"/> On behalf of an organisation	
Name of organisation	
I would like to make an oral submission to the City Councillors. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
If yes, provide a phone number above so that a submission time can be arranged.    021 147 8095	

Submissions close 5pm on Monday 2 May 2016	
<b>Privacy statement</b> All submissions (including name and contact details) are published and made available to elected members of the Council and the public. Personal information supplied will be used for the administration and reporting back to elected members of the Council and the public as part of the consultation process. All information collected will be held by Wellington City Council, 101 Wakefield Street, Wellington. Submitters have the right to access and correct personal information.	

**Animals Bylaw - Have your say**

1. Do you own any of the following? (tick all that apply)

- Cat
- Poultry/rooster
- Dog
- Other animal
- Do not own an animal
- N/A

2) Do you agree that people who want to keep more than three cats over six months old should have to seek Council's permission?  
*More information on this proposal can be found on clause 4 of the bylaw.*

Yes       No

Comments/suggestions

3) What do you think the maximum number of cats should be, before people should have to seek permission from the Council?  
*More information on this proposal can be found on clause 4 of the bylaw.*

*Any more than 2 cats per household*

4) Do you think people living near wild life sensitive areas, for example Zealandia, should keep fewer than three cats?

No, completely opposed     No, opposed     Neutral     Yes, support     Yes, strongly support

Comments/suggestions

5) Do you agree that cats should be able to be identified as owned?  
*More information on this proposal can be found on clause 4 of the bylaw.*

No, completely opposed     No, opposed     Neutral     Yes, support     Yes, strongly support

Comments/suggestions

6) Do you agree that owned cats should be microchipped?

*More information on this proposal can be found on clause 4 of the bylaw.*

No, completely opposed     No, opposed     Neutral     Yes, support     Yes, strongly support

Comments/suggestions

7) Do you agree that roosters should only be allowed in rural areas?

*More information on this proposal can be found on clause 6 of the bylaw.*

No, completely opposed     No, opposed     Neutral     Yes, support     Yes, strongly support

Comments/suggestions

8) Do you agree that people who want to keep more than 12 poultry (including chickens) in an urban area should have to seek Council's permission?

*More information on this proposal can be found on clause 6 of the bylaw.*

No, completely opposed     No, opposed     Neutral     Yes, support     Yes, strongly support

Comments/suggestions

9) What do you think the maximum number of poultry (including chickens) should be, before people should have to seek permission from the Council?

*More information on this proposal can be found on clause 6 of the bylaw.*

12 is OK before seeking permission from Council

10) Do you agree that Council should prevent people from feeding animals in public places? (except in designated areas such as the Botanic Gardens)

*More information on this proposal can be found on clause 5.3 of the bylaw.*

No, completely opposed     No, opposed     Neutral     Yes, support     Yes, strongly support

Comments/suggestions



Who we are reaching			
You don't have to complete this section but this information helps us to know who we are reaching. (Note: the information you provide is open to public view.)			
I am	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> male	<input type="checkbox"/> female	
My age is	<input type="checkbox"/> under 18 years	<input type="checkbox"/> 18-29 years	<input type="checkbox"/> 30-39 years
	<input type="checkbox"/> 40-49 years	<input type="checkbox"/> 50-59 years	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 60 years or older
Which of the following best describes you?			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Residential ratepayer	<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial ratepayer	<input type="checkbox"/> Residential and commercial ratepayer	<input type="checkbox"/> I rent
<input type="checkbox"/> Other			
Which ethnic group do you belong to? (You can tick more than one box)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Zealand European	<input type="checkbox"/> Cook Island	<input type="checkbox"/> Chinese	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (such as Dutch, Japanese, Tokelauan, Somali)
<input type="checkbox"/> Māori	<input type="checkbox"/> Tongan	<input type="checkbox"/> Indian	Please state:
<input type="checkbox"/> Samoan	<input type="checkbox"/> Niuean		

1st fold here - fasten here once folded

Other issues/matters or general comments

2nd fold here

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**Absolutely Positively**  
**Wellington City Council**  
 Me Heke Ki Pōneke

4 10-07 15 APR 16 CARRIED BY NEW ZEALAND POST <<<  
 >>> GOT A QUESTION? VISIT [WWW.NZPOST.CO.NZ/HELP](http://WWW.NZPOST.CO.NZ/HELP) <<<



FREEPOST 2199  
 Animals Bylaw  
 Wellington City Council  
 PO Box 2199  
 Wellington 6140

*(handout @ beginning)*

**A potential effect of over-representation of dog owners in submissions to the dog policy review**  
 John White, May 2016

**Introduction**

This paper provides information from submissions to the WCC’s 2016 dog policy review for use in the oral submission from John White to be heard on 16 May 2016.

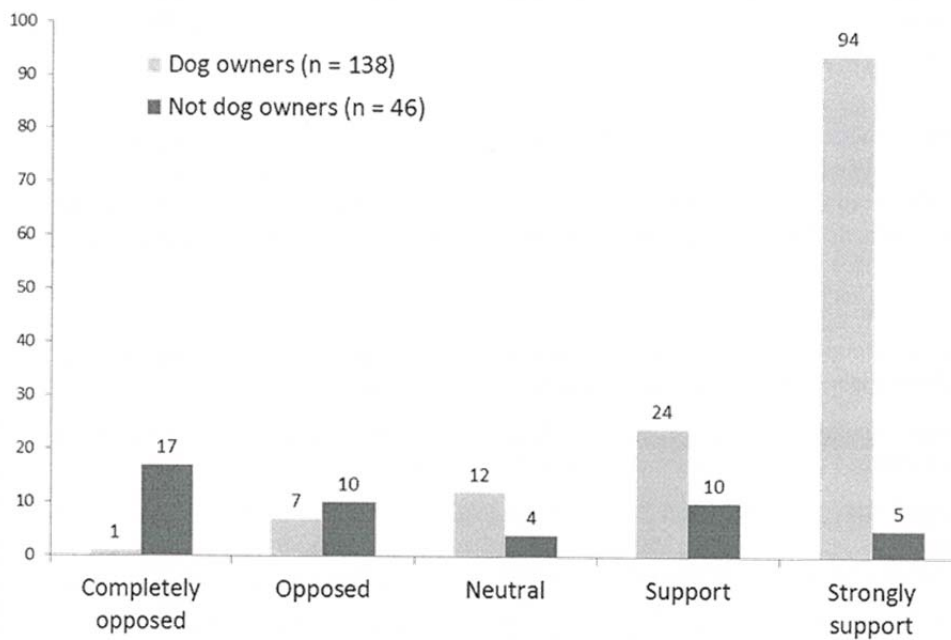
**Method**

A pdf file containing 271 submissions was downloaded from the WCC website on 11 May. Relevant data were copied into an Excel spreadsheet. Of the 271 submissions, 182 were digitally searchable. The remaining 89 were read for relevant information. Only the 184 submissions which used the submission form and included responses to both Q1 other than N/A (dog owner or otherwise) and Q6 (designated dog off-leash dog tracks) were used for this analysis.

**Results**

As seen from Figure 1, 99 submitters (overwhelming dog owners) strongly supported designated tracks for off-leash dogs, compared with 38 (overwhelming those not owning dogs) were completely opposed.

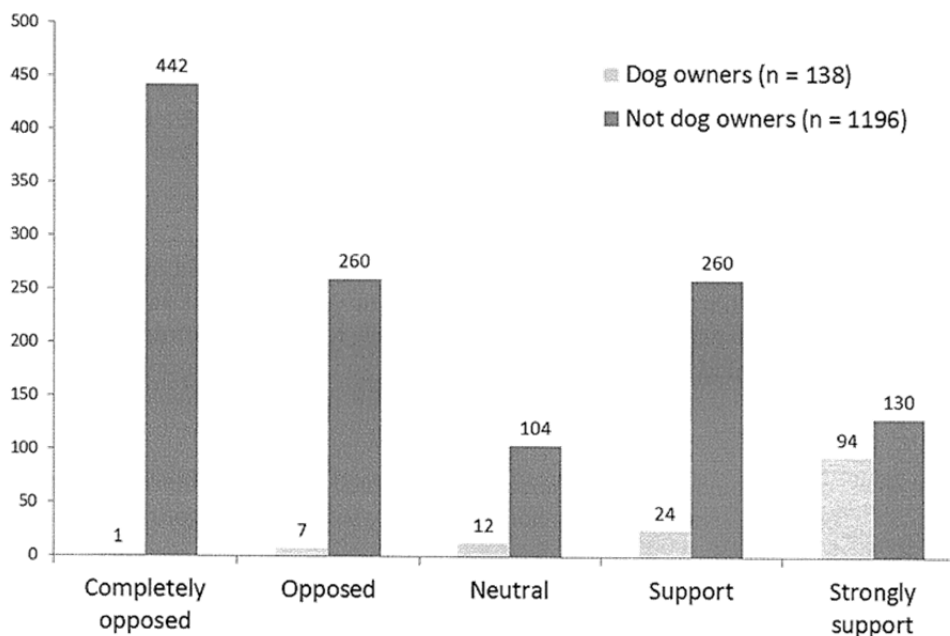
**Figure 1: Views of dog owners and others on whether there should be designated tracks**



The appendix shows that submitters from Wellington City households with dogs were about 26 times more likely to have submitted to the dog policy review than those from households without dogs. Figure 2 shows what might have happened if those without dogs had responded at the same rate as those with dogs. Instead of 46 submissions from those not owning dogs that met the qualifying criteria for inclusion in this study there would have been 1196 submissions (46 x 26).

Oral sbn handout JW final.docx

**Figure 2: Views on designated tracks weighted to correct for under-representation of those not owning dogs**



**Conclusion**

Even if the assumptions behind the weighting applied in Figure 2 were wildly astray, the completely different view of the results obtained by any reasonable weighting would still show that unweighted results give a badly distorted view about what all sections of the community might think about designated dog off-leash tracks. Those not owning dogs need to be consulted further before decisions are made.

**Appendix**

This sets out the calculation that households with at least one dog were about 26 times more likely to make a submission to the dog policy review than households without a dog.

- There are 5 registered dogs per 100 people in Wellington City (Statement of Proposal, p4). The city now has about 200,000 people, which means about 10,000 dogs.
- The mean household size in Wellington is about 2.6, giving about 77,000 households. There are thus about 13 registered dogs (5 x 2.6) per 100 households. But some households will have more than one dog. For the purpose of this calculation we will say that 10% of Wellington households have dogs.
- Of 184 submitters identified as either dog owners or not dog owners from Q1 of the submission form, 138 (75%) were from dog owners (see Figure 1). Assuming that each submitter represents one household, about 1.8% (138/7700) of dog-owning households made a submission using the submission form.
- On the same assumption, about 0.07% (46/69,300) of submissions came from households without a dog.
- Thus, households with a dog were about 26 (1.8/0.07) times more likely to make a submission than households without a dog.

**Comments in response to Q6 from those completely opposed (1) or opposed (2) to designated dog off-leash tracks**

Handout for oral submission from John White (Submission 258)

All comments made are included, with no editing.

Submitter Number	Q6	Q6 comment
192	1	This is crazy. Having dogs roaming walking tracks off leash is just asking for trouble.
114	1	no - this is an open problem, the likelihood of a dog getting excited and biting someone is a disaster waiting to happen
180	1	Tracks tend to have by there very nature limited sight-lines and dogs can quickly get out of sight and hence control of their master. Most bush reserve tracks are also relatively narrow and well used by the public, so there is already a conflict between walkers and dog users. Some tracks may also have other users like cycles and horses. We need to concentrate on educating the public to have their dogs on-leash in public areas (including tracks) and making exceptions to this policy here and there only serves to undermine the universal clarity of the policy. Also most bush areas around Wellington have active possum bait control being undertaken and off-leash dogs can easily disturb the protected wildlife, especially during the bird breeding season.
201	1	In the Redwood Bush areas dogs are often off their leash. How is this policed?
228	1	I have been attacked by dogs on numerous occasions. Recently around Red Rocks, south coast, I was attacked and landed on my newly operated knees on the rocks. I had to make my way back around the coast hobbling and unable to properly weight-bare, thanks to someone's dog not being on a lead, and not being under any sort of control. The damage done to my knees is extremely distressing.
230	1	As a person with the medical condition lymphoedemia I am at risk of getting cellulitis (a serious bacterial skin infection) if scratched. This means that I can no longer use the tracks in Trelissick Park because of the numbers of big uncontrolled dogs that come bounding up ahead of their owners and occasionally jump on me, risking me being scratched. Dog owners allow their dogs to run off-leash along all the tracks I use in Ngaio - even though dogs are supposed to be on lead. So I am at risk of being scratched in all of our Ngaio reserves and tracks. Dogs do not stay on tracks. As a person who has helped monitor a kaka nest I am aware that some dogs, already off-leash, readily go off track and run through the bush. Off-leash dogs have killed endangered birds recently in two of our reserves (Huntleigh Park and Trelissick Park.)
31	1	On tracks it is too easy for a dog to get away from an owner and bite someone. I hate going for a run then coming across a dog without its owner in line of site.
128	1	I strongly disagree with the proposed changes around Mt Kaukau. In my opinion, Mt Kaukau is already an unsafe area with a very high frequency of dog owners walking their dogs off-the-leash. I have encountered countless numbers of dogs off-the-leash - this is intimidating for myself (walking and particularly when running) and for my children - we have stopped taking our 3 and 5 year olds on walks in the Kau Kau area (and to the summit) specifically due to this problem. When I personally (and politely) ask dog owners to put their dogs on a leash on the Kaukau tracks, I often get flippant / mildly abusive responses (including comments about the rules being ridiculous, and my dog wouldn't hurt anyone). Dogs are also occasionally walked through (both on and off-leash) the children's playground at Khandallah Park - which can also cause children to be anxious / intimidated. In addition to anxiety and intimidation, if unchecked, it is only a matter of time before there is a serious incident. Additional large / clear signage is required along with continued enforcement activities. Please give this priority. All I am asking is that dogs are properly controlled and this includes being on a leash (which also provides visible reassurance to the non-owner that the dog is under control).

see over

135	1	
153	1	Areas where other members of the public wish to access them for recreational purposes should not be subject to roaming dogs that are not on leads which may subject them to potential risk or that may 'foul' areas where they maybe walking. More consideration should be given to members of the general public especially those who don't like animals or have a fear of animals, along with the potential risk situations that the public maybe placed in, especially in the confined areas of walkways.
157	1	We frequently encounter dogs off leash on tracks where they should not be - even be on leash. This can be very confronting especially for children as the dogs are often way ahead of their owners.
178	1	Absolutely not. My wife will not use the Otari track, the Northern Walkway specifically due to offleash dogs. I have asked owners of known dangerous breeds to leash their dogs in the presence of my wife and child and have been met with comments like 'my dog is not dangerous', 'this is an offleash area' (it wasn't), and when bitten, 'its the first time my dog has ever bitten anyone'. If your dog is off leash it can freely run ahead or lag behind. This is most likely when the dog defecates and the owner says to themselves 'it wasn't my dog' because they didn't see it. If a dog turns while not onleash and attacks someone how to you gain control of the animal when the owner is no where to be seen? I've watched un-leashed bull terriers walk passed my baby's stroller and sniff it. What am I to do if the dog attacks? My wife doesn't like the unease of it and neither do I. No one should have to put up with it walking a public track.
206	1	Council tracks are used by dog owners and non-dog owners alike. I frequently walk or run through Wilton bush and am 'rushed' or barked at by dogs off lead. Having off lead tracks will generally restrict those tracks to dog owners only.
55	1	It should be possible to walk or jog along a track with your dog on a leash. As a regular jogger on tracks it is scary when you meet an unleashed dog.
6	1	Many dog owners do not control their dogs adequately. Dogs should be on a lease on all tracks. I have had dogs come bounding down a track and jumping on me. It's not good.
155	2	I have concerns about the effect of unleashed dogs interacting with native wildlife.
24	2	Do not agree with further limiting areas small - medium dogs may walk leashed and unleashed
25	2	There is an issue here where large dogs can and do impact adversely on smaller dogs. This proposal would only benefit large dogs, on the whole. If a smaller dog or human were attacked by a larger dog while on such a track they would be a long way from veterinary or medical help. By comparison, the current dog exercise areas are able to have dogs off-lead but in areas where really bad behaviour by some dog owners and their dogs is mostly under surveillance.
26	2	Off leash only in fenced areas or beaches as per proposals such as Island Bay West Beach. Not all dogs are well behaved when not in tethered control of their owner.
9	2	I believe that off leash tracks would propose a danger to myself and my dog.
154	2	Many track walkers, like me, are fearful of dogs. I also believe that some dog owners do little to monitor their dogs crapping in bushes & undergrowth, which would become even more probelmatic should this 'off-leash' proposal go ahead. As noted above the most mild-mannered of household pets can become a killer when they discover a chicken on their off-leash activities.
196	2	Unsure. Depends on where these are. I am opposed to dogs being allowed off-leash in any of the reserves in our suburbs where native birds live.
129	2	Currently people do have dogs off the lead at Makara and Aro Valley tracks. I've had a scary encounter on the Pollhill tracks when I met an unaccompanied dog. The owner turned up soon after but it did put me off using the trails.
174	2	It's too dangerous, having to share a track between walkers, runners and cyclists is already hard enough without adding dogs into the mix.
49	2	Risk to native life from dogs off leash- also they pose a risk to other track users if they have not been properly trained and are aggressive

# 252  
(handout & end)

**Some analysis of submissions to the WCC's 2016 dog policy review**

John White  
May 2016

**Introduction**

This paper provides information from submissions to the dog policy review for use in the oral submission from the Ngaio Crofton Downs Residents Association to be heard on 16 May 2016.

**Method**

A pdf file containing 271 submissions was downloaded from the WCC website on 11 May. Relevant data were copied into an Excel spreadsheet. Of the 271 submissions, 182 were digitally searchable. The remaining 89 were read for relevant information.

All 271 submissions were used for producing Tables 1 and 2. Only the 184 submissions which used the submission form and included responses to both Q1 other than N/A (dog owner or otherwise) and Q6 (designated dog off-leash dog tracks) were used to estimate the extent to which dog owners were over-represented in submissions (see Appendix).

**Results**

Fifteen submitters supported retention of the Cummings Park DEA, while 14 wanted it delisted (Table 1). In general dog owners favour retention and others favoured delisting.

**Table 1: Views of dog owners and others on whether the Cummings Park DEA be retained**

	Retain	Delist	No position	Total
Dog owner	12	3	129	144
Not a dog owner	2	10	48	60
Not known	1	1	65	67
Total	15	14	242	271

The breakdown by suburb of those supporting and opposing retention of the DEA is reported in Table 2.

**Table 2: Views on the retention of the DEA in Cummings Park by submitter suburb**

	Ngaio	Crofton Downs	Khandallah	Newlands	Suburb not known	Total
<b>Dog owner</b>						
Retain	7	1	2	1	1	12
Delist	2	1				3
<b>Not dog owner</b>						
Retain	2					2
Delist	10					10
<b>Dog owner status not known</b>						
Retain	1					1
Delist	1					1
Retain total	10	1	2	1	1	15
Delist total	13	1				14
Suburb total	23	2	2	1	1	29

#### Appendix

This sets out the calculation that households with at least one dog were about 26 times more likely to make a submission to the dog policy review than households without a dog.

- There are 5 registered dogs per 100 people in Wellington City (Statement of Proposal, p4). The city now has about 200,000 people, which means about 10,000 dogs.
- The mean household size in Wellington is about 2.6, giving about 77,000 households. There are thus about 13 registered dogs (5 x 2.6) per 100 households. But some households will have more than one dog. For the purpose of this calculation we will say that 10% of Wellington households have dogs.
- Of 184 submitters identified as either dog owners or not dog owners from Q1 of the submission form, 138 (75%) were from dog owners. Assuming that each submitter represents one household, about 1.8% (138/7700) of dog-owning households made a submission using the submission form.
- On the same assumption, about 0.07% (46/69,300) of submissions came from households without a dog.
- Thus, households with a dog were about 26 (1.8/0.07) times more likely to make a submission than households without a dog.

**Conclusion:** The dog policy review attracted the attention of dog owners much more than it did for those not owning dogs. This means that the review used alone is insufficient for making policy on issues affecting dogs and their interactions with people. Wider consultation is required on such issues.

Catherine Dunn.

DOG CONTROL

I am a keen mountainbiker and runner on the many tracks around Wellington. I also compete off-road internationally. The trails are essential to me for my physical and mental wellbeing.

Unfortunately I am restricted as to where and when I can run or ride due to being regularly intimidated by unleashed dogs.

Hardly a day goes by where I do not encounter unleashed and often aggressive and intimidating uncontrolled dogs = jumping on me, running at me at full speed, snarling and making it difficult to control my bike.

A few weeks back I reported being set upon by an unleashed dog around the red rocks tracks. This unprovoked attack meant I landed on my knees onto the rocks while the owner endeavoured to put the dog back on a lead and her friend put herself between me and the dog in order to prevent it attacking me.

The bleeding of my knees would not normally have worried me, however, it is less than a year since I had both knees operated on, a cost of around approximately \$8,000 each. It was the internal damage to the knees that caused me most distress and also the fact that I had to hobble painfully back to the car unassisted and in a great deal of pain. *for several kilometres*

I would like to be able to run or ride freely on the tracks around Wellington.

Despite signs reading "dogs must be on a lead" many dog owners choose to ignore these signs and their lack of consideration for other track users is destroying the wonderful experience we are all entitled to.

*the mtb downhill tracks*

I have encountered threatening and hostile unleashed dogs in Mt Vic, Polhill Reserve, the tip track, the rollercoaster/fenceline, Wrights Hill. Attatch memorial (despite the fact there is a dog exercise area in the adjoining tracks). These tracks are just a few of the examples. People are often unapologetic about their dog's behaviour often making the excuse that their dogs don't like runners or riders.



(written reply).

I have some suggested solutions:

- All dog exercise areas need to be fenced off from the public
- A law without consequence is not an effective law. Dogs should be kept on leads in all public places and those who flout the law should be penalised accordingly. Obviously the current law is not being enforced.
- Dangerous breeds need to be neutered and licences to breed dangerous dogs revoked. Dangerous dogs should be muzzled in addition to being on leads in public places.

This is a health and safety issue which needs addressing. As a fitness consultant and personal trainer for Wellington Regional Aquatic Centre gym I was recently made aware of my responsibilities under the new Health and Safety amendments. If I stuff up I can be liable for up to a \$300,000 fine. I'm taking a group of people out onto the tracks tomorrow morning and have listed the possible hazards that the group may encounter and the things I have put in place to reduce those risks.

One of those risks is "unleashed dog attacks". What have I done to reduce this possibility. I have made Wellington City Council aware there is a problem. Here's a question for you all - who is liable under the new health and safety act for ensuring the by-law for dog control is effective and enforced?

Animal Bylaw from Robert, Wellington Vet Group Animal Care and Health Unit

34

#### Introduction

For many residents their pets are part of their families while other residents prefer public spaces to be animal free. It is sometimes difficult to find a balance between these two groups and we want to check and see if we've got it right.

The purpose of the Animals Bylaw is to protect the public from nuisance; maintain and promote public health and safety; and to enforce the Dog Policy. The Council may make bylaws regarding dog ownership as per section 20 of the Dog Control Act 1996.

#### Privacy Statement

(Note: all submissions (including name and contact details) are published and made publicly available as part of our Committee processes. Personal information will be used for the administration of the consultation process and decision-making on the Annual Plan. All information will be held by the Wellington City Council, 101 Wakefield Street, and submitters have the right to access and correct personal information)

#### Submitter Details

First Name: Allan  
Last Name: Probert  
Organisation: Wellington Vet Group  
On behalf of: my vets and Kitten Inn  
Street: 10 Churchill Drive  
Suburb: Wilton  
City: Wellington  
Country: New Zealand  
PostCode: 6035  
Daytime Phone: 0272414393  
Mobile: 0272414393  
eMail: proberts@gasp.co.nz

#### Wishes to be heard:

- Yes  
 I do NOT wish to speak in support of my submission and ask that the following submission be fully considered.

#### Correspondence to:

- Submitter  
 Agent  
 Both

Submission

1) Do you own any of the following? (tick all that apply)

- Cat
- Poultry/Rooster
- Dog
- Other animal
- Do not own an animal
- N/A

2) Do you agree that people who want to keep more than three cats over six months old should have to seek Council's permission?

*More information on this proposal can be found on clause 4 of the bylaw.*

- Yes
- No

Comments/suggestions

unenforceable. priorities need to be around dealing with the significant number of stray and unwanted cats in the wellington region-this should be seen as a local government responsibility and part of animal control. First step is to legally define what a stray cat is.

3) What do you think the maximum number of cats should be, before people should have to seek permission from the Council?

*More information on this proposal can be found on clause 4 of the bylaw.*

Comments

I dont think that is councils role. Hard to enforce and bureaucratically complex and expensive.

4) Do you think people living near wild life sensitive areas, for example Zealandia, should keep fewer than three cats?

- No, completely opposed
- No, opposed
- Neutral
- Yes, support
- Yes, strongly support

Comments/suggestions

I agree with the Morgan Foundation in their submission to Horizons that it is vital to enforce compliance re. cat identification in such areas.

5) Do you agree that cats should be able to be identified as owned?

*More information on this proposal can be found on clause 4 of the bylaw.*

- No, completely opposed

Initial Bylaw from Robert, Animal Organisation, Wellington Vet Group behalf of my vets and others in

31

- No, opposed
- Neutral
- Yes, support
- Yes, strongly support

Comments/suggestions

Microchipping should be promoted on the basis that it is essential if you want your cat returned to you if picked up. Compulsory is too hard in my view. Also vet costs are underestimated in this proposal-most are 2 -3 x the estimated cost. We need that legal definition of what a stray cat actually is.

6) Do you agree that owned cats should be microchipped?

*More information on this proposal can be found on clause 4 of the bylaw.*

- No, completely opposed
- No, opposed
- Neutral
- Yes, support
- Yes, strongly support

Comments/suggestions  
as above

7) Do you agree that roosters should only be allowed in rural areas?

*More information on this proposal can be found on clause 6 of the bylaw.*

- No, completely opposed
- No, opposed
- Neutral
- Yes, support
- Yes, strongly support

Comments/suggestions

8) Do you agree that people who want to keep more than 12 poultry (including chickens) in an urban area should have to seek Council's permission?

*More information on this proposal can be found on clause 6 of the bylaw.*

- No, completely opposed
- No, opposed
- Neutral
- Yes, support
- Yes, strongly support

Comments/suggestions

9) What do you think the maximum number of poultry (including chickens) should be, before people should have to seek permission from the Council?

Animal Bylaw from Robert, Animal Organisation, Wellington vet Group behalf of my vets and KiwiKi

3:

More information on this proposal can be found on clause 6 of the bylaw.

Comments

no view-there needs to be some welfare basis for this decision rather than a numbers game which will be an issue depending on how built up an area is.

10) Do you agree that Council should prevent people from feeding animals in public places? (except in designated areas such as the Botanic Gardens)

More information on this proposal can be found on clause 5.3 of the bylaw.

- No, completely opposed
- No, opposed
- Neutral
- Yes, support
- Yes, strongly support

Comments/suggestions

I would like to be updated on upgrades at popular dog exercise areas

- Yes
- No

Who we are reaching

You don't have to complete this section but this information helps us to know who we are reaching. (Note: the information you provide is open to public view.)

I am

- Male
- Female

My age is

- under 18 years
- 18-29 years
- 30-39 years
- 40-49 years
- 50-59 years
- 60 years or older

Which of the following best describes you?

- Residential ratepayer
- Commercial ratepayer
- Residential and commercial ratepayer
- I rent
- Other

Which ethnic group do you belong to? (You can tick more than one box)

Initial System from records, main organisation: Wellington Vet Group Search on my pets and return me

31

- New Zealand European
- Māori
- Samoan
- Cook Island
- Tongan
- Niuean
- Chinese
- Indian
- Other (such as Dutch, Japanese, Tokelauan, Somali)

Please state:

Other issues/matters or general comments

Comments

Attached Documents

File
No records to display.

Need Help?

Privacy Statement

#### Introduction

Under the Dog Control Act 1996, the Council needs to balance potential and perceived risks to public safety, risks to wildlife and natural habitats, and potential nuisance issues with the recreational and exercise needs of dogs and their owners. As it is often difficult to find a good balance, we want to check and see if we've got it right.

#### Privacy Statement

(Note: all submissions (including name and contact details) are published and made publicly available as part of our Committee processes. Personal information will be used for the administration of the consultation process and decision-making on the Annual Plan. All information will be held by the Wellington City Council, 101 Wakefield Street, and submitters have the right to access and correct personal information)

#### Submitter Details

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City: Wellington  
Country:  
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eMail: darienmahony@gmail.com

#### Wishes to be heard:

- Yes  
 I do NOT wish to speak in support of my submission and ask that the following submission be fully considered.

#### Correspondence to:

- Submitter  
 Agent  
 Both

Submission

1) Which of the following best describes you?

- Dog owner
- Own another type of animal
- Do not own an animal
- N/A

2) Do you agree with the proposed changes to dog exercise areas?

*See the Summary of Information for a list of the proposed changes, including "beach exercise areas", "exercise areas (specified time)" and "beach exercise areas restricted during summer".*

Comments

I fully support the submission made by Trevor Lloyd as set out below: SUBMISSION FOR THE DOG POLICY REVIEW. This submission requests the termination of the Dog Exercise Area (DEA) status of Cummings Park, Ngaio. Cummings Park is the most centrally located park in Ngaio. It has a number of outstanding attributes: It is one of the most attractive suburban parks in the city, with a stream, bush, seats and a flat area suitable for children's playing and a nearby playground. It has flat access from the adjacent carpark. The DEA is a thoroughfare linking the Ngaio Village, the playground, the Library and Awarua Street and is used often by parents with young children. The area has heritage value as the site of a 19th century mill dam. A historic totara is located in the DEA. A sculpture donated by the Wellington Sculpture Trust is centrally located in the Park. It is ideally suited for quiet recreation by elderly and disabled folk. In summary, the Park has very high amenity value and should be the hub of community recreation in the suburb, a role it cannot perform at present. The prime area of the Park was designated a DEA around 1995. It is the most attractive DEA in the city and has become very popular. It attracts dog owners from outside the suburb, but it is estimated that less than 5 percent of Ngaio households (less than 100 regular users) exercise their dogs in the Park. I submit that the DEA status of Cummings Park should be terminated because: The Park is demonstrably unsuited for use as a DEA given its present and potential recreational value to all sections of the community. The DEA is too small (about 300 sq metres) and too poorly drained to support its current use. The DEA has caused severe damage to the main recreational section of the Park. Uncontrolled large dogs often intimidate people walking through the DEA including parents with young children. The DEA contravenes the Council's requirements for DEA's and the provisions of S 10 (4) of the Dog Control Act 1996. The suburb is fortunate in being extremely well provided for in terms of other places for off-leash exercising, in particular the currently under-utilised nearby Chelmsford Park that could be made one of the best DEAs in the city. The most compelling reason is that the use of Cummings Park as a DEA is inconsistent with a fundamental principle of the management of public parks: the preservation of prime areas that have high amenity value for the whole community. This principle has been flouted in the case of Cummings Park. The effect of the proposed change on dog owners would be quite small in that socialising of dogs could continue as long as they were on a leash. The main effect would be to end the practice of tossing balls for dogs to chase across the often muddy turf. This practice has caused the most damage to the grass. The benefit would be regrowth of the turf and the elimination of uncontrolled dogs intimidating people walking through the Park. I need to explain why I am not supporting this submission of the Ngaio Crofton Downs Residents' Association of which I am a long-standing member. In its submission the Association does not seek the removal of DEA status as part of the Policy Review although it recognises the clear anomaly that exists. It proposes to complete its' Vision for Cummings Park which involves community consultation on all aspects of the Park's use before making a decision on the DEA. The consultation may enable it to gauge the proportions of Ngaio households that support and oppose using the Park as a DEA. Association members met recently with Park Officers and obtained a commitment that they would consider the matter in the light of the results of the consultation. However that stated that a even a 50:50 split in community views would probably not be sufficient to result in a change to the status



quo. Given the situation I have outlined, I submit that this is an extraordinary position that reflects disregard of the wider community interest in the Park. For the reasons I have given I urge the Council to make a decision as part of the Review instead of putting the Association in the unfair position of having to make a case that Council Officers may disregard. A prior decision on the DEA would enable the Vision to focus on its' central task, identifying ways in which the Park can be restored to a facility that attracts diverse forms of community use. Trevor Lloyd, Ngaio Resident and member of Ngaio Crofton Downs Residents' Association

3) Should Island Bay Beach be an off-leash area? If so, where?

*See the Summary of Information for more information.*

Comments

4) Do you agree with the proposed changes to dog exercise areas?

*See the Summary of Information for a list of the proposed changes. You can see maps of the proposed changes in Dog Policy: exercise areas – review 2016 or online at [wellington.govt.nz/haveyoursay](http://wellington.govt.nz/haveyoursay).*

- No, completely opposed
- No, opposed
- Neutral
- Yes, support
- Yes, strongly support

Comments/suggestions

5) Do you agree with the proposed changes to beach exercise areas?

*See the Summary of Information for a list of the proposed changes. You can see maps of the proposed changes in Dog Policy: exercise areas – review 2016 or online at [wellington.govt.nz/haveyoursay](http://wellington.govt.nz/haveyoursay).*

- No, completely opposed
- No, opposed
- Neutral
- Yes, support
- Yes, strongly support

Conditions/exclusions/comments

6) Should there be designated dog off-leash tracks?

- No, completely opposed
- No, opposed
- Neutral
- Yes, support
- Yes, strongly support

Comments/suggestions

7) Would you support having dog agility equipment at some dog exercise areas? If so, who should pay, for example dog owners?

- No, completely opposed
- No, opposed
- Neutral
- Yes, support
- Yes, strongly support

Comments/suggestions

8) Do you think dogs on a lead should be allowed to stop in the central city area?

*More information on this proposal can be found in section 5.3.3 of the Policy.*

- No, completely opposed
- No, opposed
- Neutral
- Yes, support
- Yes, strongly support

Comments/suggestions

9) Do you think that dogs should be able to be left unattended in a public place?

*More information on this proposal can be found in section 5.3.3 of the Policy.*

- No, completely opposed
- No, opposed
- Neutral
- Yes, support
- Yes, strongly support

Comments/suggestions

10) Currently some dog exercises areas cannot be used by dogs from 9am to 7pm during daylight savings in summer. It's proposed that this is changed so that dogs cannot use these areas between 10am to 7pm from 1 December till 1 March. Do you agree with this?

*More information on this proposal can be found in section 5 of the Policy.*

- No, completely opposed
- No, opposed
- Neutral
- Yes, support
- Yes, strongly support

Comments/suggestions

11) Are there any other comments, including any other additions or deletions, that you would like to make about the dog exercise areas?

Comments

12) Are there any other comments that you would like to make about the proposed Policy?

Comments

I would like to be updated on upgrades at popular dog exercise areas

- Yes
- No

Who we are reaching

You don't have to complete this section but this information helps us to know who we are reaching.  
(Note: the information you provide is open to public view.)

I am

- Male
- Female

My age is

- under 18 years
- 18-29 years
- 30-39 years
- 40-49 years
- 50-59 years
- 60 years and older

Which of the following best describes you?

- Residential ratepayer
- Commercial ratepayer
- Residential and commercial ratepayer
- I rent
- Other

Which ethnic group do you belong to? (You can tick more than one box)

- New Zealand European
- Māori
- Samoan
- Cook Island
- Tongan
- Niuean
- Chinese
- Indian
- Other (such as Dutch, Japanese, Tokelauan, Somali)

Please state:

The answers above do not allow me to tick more than one box even though it indicates this is

possible.

233

Others issues/matters or general comment

Comments

Attached Documents

File
No records to display.

Need Help?

Privacy Statement

Animal Bylaw from Anderson, Iona Organisation: Cats Protection League, Wellington Street: 29 Vancouver Street Suburb: Kingston City: Wellington Country: PostCode: 6021 Daytime Phone: 04 389 9668 Mobile: 027 2297 528 eMail: iona.anderson@xtra.co.nz

#### Introduction

For many residents their pets are part of their families while other residents prefer public spaces to be animal free. It is sometimes difficult to find a balance between these two groups and we want to check and see if we've got it right.

The purpose of the Animals Bylaw is to protect the public from nuisance; maintain and promote public health and safety; and to enforce the Dog Policy. The Council may make bylaws regarding dog ownership as per section 20 of the Dog Control Act 1996.

#### Privacy Statement

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#### Submitter Details

First Name: Iona  
Last Name: Anderson  
Organisation: Cats Protection League , Wellington  
On behalf of: Cats Protection League , Wellington Inc)  
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Suburb: Kingston  
City: Wellington  
Country:  
PostCode: 6021  
Daytime Phone: 04 389 9668  
Mobile: 027 2297 528  
eMail: iona.anderson@xtra.co.nz

#### Wishes to be heard:

- Yes
- I do NOT wish to speak in support of my submission and ask that the following submission be fully considered.

#### Correspondence to:

- Submitter
- Agent
- Both

Animal Bylaw from Wellington, New Zealand, Cats Protection League, Wellington Branch of Cats Protection League, WCC 394

Submission

1) Do you own any of the following? (tick all that apply)

- Cat
- Poultry/Rooster
- Dog
- Other animal
- Do not own an animal
- N/A

2) Do you agree that people who want to keep more than three cats over six months old should have to seek Council's permission?

*More information on this proposal can be found on clause 4 of the bylaw.*

- Yes
- No

Comments/suggestions

~ CPL promotes responsible cat ownership and consistent, good care of cats. This assumes desexing, vaccination, microchipping and regular vet checks. No cat is rehomed from CPL unless it is desexed, microchipped and up to date with vaccinations, flea and worm treatments. ~ From a CPL viewpoint the number of cats kept is less important than the care and condition of the cat/s : ie a single undesexed and /or uncared for cat may cause more problems than a household of more cats who are desexed, well fed and cared for. ~ At our initial discussions with a WCC representative in Dec of 2015, we were given to understand that a proposed limit on the number of cats kept on a property was largely to enable the SPCA inspectorate to more easily take ownership of them if they were not being well cared for and this made good sense. However, while we understand and accept that there are hoarding situations where a person may be keeping many , many cats and is unable to provide good care for them, the number of 3 is a great deal fewer than the 8 that was initially mooted. ~ There is too little information available to the public on how this requirement is intended to be managed (ie who makes the decision, and on what basis is it made) . If the intention is that the vast majority of applications will not be checked for accuracy, then we wonder what is truly being achieved ? ~ We presume that any person could then make a formal complaint about the number of cats kept by an owner - should such a complaint be made and a situation more formally assessed who would visit ( Council rep., SPCA inspector ? ) and do the assessment ? . What happens if permission is either not granted in the first place or revoked ? ie who decides which cats may be removed , who removes them, where are they removed to , what happens to them once removed?) ~ Given the already high and constant workload of the SPCA inspectorate , we would wonder if there would be sufficient resources to manage this additional requirement.

3) What do you think the maximum number of cats should be, before people should have to seek permission from the Council?

*More information on this proposal can be found on clause 4 of the bylaw.*

Comments

If a number must be chosen then CPL, aware of the Wellington area being largely urban, would advocate a slightly higher number and suggest 5. ( our second comment above remains relevant to this response)

4) Do you think people living near wild life sensitive areas, for example Zealandia, should keep fewer than three cats?

- No, completely opposed
- No, opposed
- Neutral
- Yes, support
- Yes, strongly support

Comments/suggestions

~ the purpose of limiting cats kept is not made explicit here. ~ CPL's experience is that the number of cats is less important than the nature of the individual cat, ie a single cat may wander; ie a single but undesexed and/or uncared for cat will predate more actively on the bird wildlife who naturally will also wander and leave their 'sanctuary'. ~ It is worth noting that while cats may and do predate on bird wildlife, they do not destroy bird eggs, they also predate on rats and other vermin who do predate on birds eggs. ~ We have several queries: what would constitute 'near'? / would this apply to residents who have cats but who have been in residence prior to the establishment of wildlife reserves such as Zealandia? / would there be an expectation that residents who now live 'near' wildlife sensitive areas, and who have more than 3 cats, have a 'grandparenting' clause that allows them to keep their cats until natural death but not replace once they have reached the number of 3?

5) Do you agree that cats should be able to be identified as owned?

*More information on this proposal can be found on clause 4 of the bylaw.*

- No, completely opposed
- No, opposed
- Neutral
- Yes, support
- Yes, strongly support

Comments/suggestions

~ CPL supports microchipping. ~ Other visual forms of identification such as cat collars may cause issues - ie collars can come off, and what may appear as 'ear tipping' ( a past form of identifying desexed strays) may also in some cases be the result of ear surgery.

6) Do you agree that owned cats should be microchipped?

*More information on this proposal can be found on clause 4 of the bylaw.*

- No, completely opposed
- No, opposed
- Neutral
- Yes, support
- Yes, strongly support

Comments/suggestions

~ Microchipping and registration is an integral part of management of our shelter cats. ~ Given that the cost of microchipping at vet practices will include vet consultation fee as well as the microchip itself, and the initial registration fee ( and may therefore be up to \$60 or more) we would recommend some financial support in this matter to enable microchipping to be done more cheaply ( either by supporting the vets /Spca etc or by enabling owners to pay with gold coin donation as an example) AND supporting community based microchipping - eg caravans that can be based in areas where owners are perhaps less likely or able to take their cats to a vet practice or to come

Animal Bylaw from Anderson, Lisa Organisation: Cats Protection League, Wellington Branch of Cats Protection League, Wellington  
into Newtown when the SPCA are promoting heavily discounted microchipping. 394

7) Do you agree that roosters should only be allowed in rural areas?

*More information on this proposal can be found on clause 6 of the bylaw.*

- No, completely opposed
- No, opposed
- Neutral
- Yes, support
- Yes, strongly support

Comments/suggestions

8) Do you agree that people who want to keep more than 12 poultry (including chickens) in an urban area should have to seek Council's permission?

*More information on this proposal can be found on clause 6 of the bylaw.*

- No, completely opposed
- No, opposed
- Neutral
- Yes, support
- Yes, strongly support

Comments/suggestions

9) What do you think the maximum number of poultry (including chickens) should be, before people should have to seek permission from the Council?

*More information on this proposal can be found on clause 6 of the bylaw.*

Comments

10) Do you agree that Council should prevent people from feeding animals in public places? (except in designated areas such as the Botanic Gardens)

*More information on this proposal can be found on clause 5.3 of the bylaw.*

- No, completely opposed
- No, opposed
- Neutral
- Yes, support
- Yes, strongly support

Comments/suggestions

~ It is worth noting that there have been occasions where the feeding of a well managed, regularly fed and desexed colony has taken place on public land ( eg scrub area next to supermarket). Removal of the colony has often resulted in an upsurge in vermin.



Initial Bylaw from Anderson, Iona Organisation: Cats Protection League, Wellington Branch of Cats Protection League, 17/05/16 394

I would like to be updated on upgrades at popular dog exercise areas

- Yes
- No

Who we are reaching

You don't have to complete this section but this information helps us to know who we are reaching.  
(Note: the information you provide is open to public view.)

I am

- Male
- Female

My age is

- under 18 years
- 18-29 years
- 30-39 years
- 40-49 years
- 50-59 years
- 60 years or older

Which of the following best describes you?

- Residential ratepayer
- Commercial ratepayer
- Residential and commercial ratepayer
- I rent
- Other

Which ethnic group do you belong to? (You can tick more than one box)

- New Zealand European
- Māori
- Samoan
- Cook Island
- Tongan
- Niuean
- Chinese
- Indian
- Other (such as Dutch, Japanese, Tokelauan, Somali)

Please state:

Other issues/matters or general comments

Comments

CPL believes very strongly that desexing is one of the most effective ways to reduce the number of unwanted kittens who may then become unwanted and stray cats who then are forced to roam and predate on wildlife to survive. There is no mention of the value of or need for desexing in the proposed bylaw. CPL appreciates the need to improve the management, and decrease the number, of stray cat populations. It appears that mandatory microchipping ( which we support) to enable

Animal Bylaw from Anderson, John Organisation: Cats Protection League , Wellington Detail Of: Cats Protection League , Wellington 394

owned cats to be identified is the only activity proposed in the bylaw. Again, we suggest that desexing programmes would alleviate this by preventing the number of stray cats. Insofar as public health issues are concerned, we would like to see the public made aware of the current NZ statistics on toxoplasmosis infections. In addition, our understanding is that when related to cats as causative agents, primary spread relates largely to contact with infected kittens. Again, the value of affordable desexing programmes may assist in limiting this. CPL appreciate the opportunity to have been involved in consultation with WCC already and look forward to the opportunity to make an oral submission also.

Attached Documents

File
No records to display.

Need Help?

Privacy Statement

**Oral Submission to WCC re proposed Animal Bylaws , 16 May 2016, 2.30pm**

**Present at Submission:** Iona Anderson, president;

**Also attending :** Michele Addison-Wood, Vice president; Stephanie Rountree, Communications Co-ordinator and Delwyn Monk, CPL Desexing Programme Co-ordinator.

**Basic Facts about who/what CPL is :**

Cats Protection League, Wellington Inc is a registered charity.

Has been in existence since 1982.

It operates within the 04 calling range, though with current limited functioning of the Wairarapa SPCA, we also accept cats from that area.

CPL manages the care and rehoming of up to 45 - 50 domestic and/or handlable stray cats in our Kingston shelter

CPL operates on a 2 - 6 weekly waitlist for cats needing to be surrendered at any given time.

CPL is managed by a committee of 10 and is 100% volunteer - run.

In last 5, financial, years we have rehomed from our Kingston shelter (either as simple adoptions or as permanent fosters) 657 cats.

Every cat who has been rehomed has been flea/worm treated, desexed, vaccinated and since the beginning of 2014, microchipped.

We provide a discounted desexing programme in partnership with 3 vet groups (Tasman St, Petvet and Carevets) that covers Wellington city as well as Upper Hutt, Porirua and the Kapiti basin.

Since August 2014 **over 300** cats and kittens have been approved for desexing through this programme. Two thirds of this number have been female cats.

**Re our oral submission :**

CPL is making additional comments in support of 3 areas in our written submission - **Desexing**, the proposed **no of cats per household** and proposed mandatory **microchipping**.

**DESEXING :**

On page 3 of the "Statement of Proposal" the first bullet-pointed issue that the proposed changes are intended to address is "the need to encourage responsible cat ownership (and manage stray cats)". We believe that desexing is the most responsible thing an owner can do and we are disappointed that regulations to desex cats are not being considered at this stage. (we note that in the "Wgtn Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2015 objective 3.3.1 mentions running education and awareness programme to encourage desexing but would require new funding, so we assume there is none made available at this stage.)

Why do we perceive this is necessary ? - one undesexed female cat averages 3 litters a year.

Over 7 years, that one female and her offspring can produce 420,000 kittens. (there will of course be environmental factors that may lessen this number slightly, but as a potential , it is nevertheless a staggering number. )

In addition to reducing cat numbers, desexing can also reduce the likelihood a cat will roam, and how far it goes, as well as reducing fighting, both of which are listed as 'nuisance' behaviours the Council is aiming to mitigate.

However, the cost of desexing can be prohibitive for some owners.

**Neutering a male cat can cost between : \$75.00, \$100.00 and \$120.00**

**Speying a female cat can cost between : \$125.00, \$170.00 and \$190.00**

( these costs are current as of 16/5/2016 based on information obtained from 6 different Wellington based vet clinics)

CPL would therefore heartily recommend supported desexing programmes/discounted desexing programmes for low income earners.

There are a number of references in the document ( pg 4, problem 1: nuisance -'voluntary measures'; pg 5, problem 2 : public health ) to the Council working alongside agencies such as the SPCA to improve rates of desexing, but nothing specific or concrete as to how this will happen. If the Council *was* to commit money to subsidize the cost of desexing for low income owners then it can guarantee that every dollar spent is helping to limit the Wellington cat population.

CPL believes there is a proven need for this type of programme - the CPL programme alone has approved over 300 applications since August 2014 for Community Service Card holders or those with student ID.

An important addition would be to require pet shops to desex, microchip and register all kittens (and puppies) prior to sale.

#### **LIMIT OF NUMBER OF CATS PER HOUSEHOLD**

With regard to the proposed 3 cat maximum : CPL believes in responsible cat ownership, and we absolutely do not support cat ( or any animal) hoarders, but there are many excellent owners with more than 3 cats.

We have been told (in consultation with councillor Iona Pannett) that applications to keep more than 3 cats over the age of 6 months will be made online, however there is limited information ( see pg 14, 4.2.3 ) in the proposed bylaw as to the actual process . Therefore we have the following questions:

In terms of the criteria used to assess an application :

- 1) Who will be managing the applications and making the decisions ?

- 2) What is actually *meant* by 4.2.3, c (on pg 14) “ provision for the cats hygiene, **control and confinement**” and d “ provision for the protection of other persons or property from being **affected in any way by the cats**”? We feel these statements are too broad and vague; do not give any examples of actual behaviours and therefore leave it wide open to interpretation over which a cat owner has no input .
- 3) What is actually intended by the comment,( ie what conditions could be imposed ), pg 14, 4.2 “The Council may impose **whatever conditions it sees fit on any permission it issues**” ? (we note that, though the same phrase applies to poultry , it does not apply to dogs)
- 4) Will there be facility in the online application process for an organization such as CPL , SPCA or a vet clinic to support an application?
- 5) What would happens if an application is declined? Who would make that decision, how would it be made ? We assume that a home visit would be required but there is no detail as to who might make such visits?

With no information on what could happen if they apply to the Council for permission and don't get that permission, we believe that there is a risk that people will not apply at all, for fear of bringing their current cats to the attention of the Council.

**If the intention of limiting cats in each household is to limit the impact of cats on wildlife, then the number is less important than how the cats are cared for.** We would stress that 5 desexed, well cared for cats have far less nuisance potential than one undesexed cat.

Three appears to be a very arbitrary, and low, number and may be more acceptable if research based evidence could be provided to support this.

#### **MICROCHIPPING**

CPL supports compulsory microchipping and we applaud the Councils' stance on this.

Given the costs which can range from \$65.00 to \$85.00 - this includes the routine vet consultation, insertion and registration ( figures sourced form 6 different vet clinics as of 16/5/2016) we would recommend supported microchipping programmes for existing cat owners where income is a barrier. ( we note that in the [Wellington biodiversity strategy and action plan 2015, pg 52](#), there is mention of “investigate subsidising microchipping for cats near sensitive wildlife areas with existing funding” ).

Thankyou for your time.

CPLs' position statement on TNR ( Trap, Neuter and Return) - June 20 2015

CPL believes in responsible ownership and/or care of cats.

To that end, the policy of TNR (Trap, Neuter and Return) insofar as an unowned, stray cat is concerned is one that CPL supports, providing that the cat is trapped (if necessary), checked that it is in good health, desexed and returned to the area that it came from as long as the area of return is not in close proximity to a native bird reserve, *and* that there is a person who has agreed to take responsibility for the ongoing feeding of that cat and agrees to seek assistance if the future cats' health is in doubt. This policy is documented also as part of CPL's own desexing programme.

Though CPL do not have any colonies of cats under their supervision, it is our belief that well managed colonies (in non-reserve areas) can provide an effective way to manage stray cats, and can also be effective in assisting the control of rodents and other vermin.

By 'well managed' we mean that ( as with an individual stray cat) the cats are initially trapped, health checked, desexed, provided with regular food, and are checked that they are not overtly unwell. In addition, should new cats appear to join the colony, they too are trapped, health checked and desexed before being returned.




CPL do not believe that it is humane to leave wild or feral cats to scavenge to survive, to be allowed to reproduce or to suffer illness. We believe that humane euthanasia in these situations is an appropriate option.

However, it is our belief also that wherever possible, domesticated stray cats ie as opposed to wild or feral cats, should be trapped (if necessary) and if their original owners cannot be located, health checked, desexed if not already and rehomed. CPL works alongside the Wellington SPCA in order to meet this goal.

Gemy Mardis

**Cat Alliance of Australia Inc.**  
A 1014108L

constructive dialogue and collaboration towards better cat welfare

**WHY SHOULD I MICROCHIP MY CAT?**

**1. What are the benefits of microchipping?**

Frequently cats become lost or sometimes stolen and have no method of identification enabling them to be returned to their owners. External tags can either be not worn, become unreadable or simply removed.

Microchipping provides a permanent, safe internal identification and so avoids these issues. It provides a lifetime identification & proof of ownership when recorded on a licensed National microchip registry must provide service for 24 hours each day. 365 days a year.

Importantly the microchip number is made only once and is GLOBALLY unique, thus enabling potential return to the owner from anywhere in the world.

**2. Is there any down side?**

The only downside is if the animal's information has not been sent to the registry and so not recorded on the registry or if the owner's contact details are NOT KEPT UP TO DATE. Implantation of microchips in

- home
- want to adopt a kitten or a cat
- about us
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- events & news

New Cat laws symposium	can we help?	cheap desexing programs	Making your cat an indoor cat	How can you help	volunteers needed	spay/neuter clinic/shuttle	PAW Project - Paws across Australia	Business and Communities how they can help	cat trap eradication program	Trap Neuter and Return	why trap Neuter and Return	Your council your cat and you	What other councils are doing re cat laws
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many millions of animals globally has demonstrated their effectiveness and safety. Recovery statistics prove that there are only positive benefits from microchip identification of animals. (see [www.car.com.au](http://www.car.com.au))

Microchips are used widely on rare and endangered animals as well and this is further evidence of their effectiveness and safety.

**3. What sort of information is stored on an animal's microchip?**  
Information stored on a microchip is only the actual microchip number which is encoded at the time of manufacture. The microchip number is simply a link to data on the licensed registry in a similar way to a car licence plate. Owner and animal details are recorded with the chip number as well as alternative contact details at the time of the animal being implanted by the Authorised Implanter and those details must be forwarded to the registry within 2 days of implantation.

**4. Is this information readily accessible to other members of the public?**  
No. Licensed National animal registries that hold animal and owner information related to any chipped pet operate under strict privacy guidelines and this information is only released to authorised scanning centres such as Councils, Animal Welfare Shelters and Veterinarians. The purpose of microchipping is to reunite a stray or otherwise unidentified cat with its owner. The details on the database are also accessible to the owner but not to any other unauthorised person.

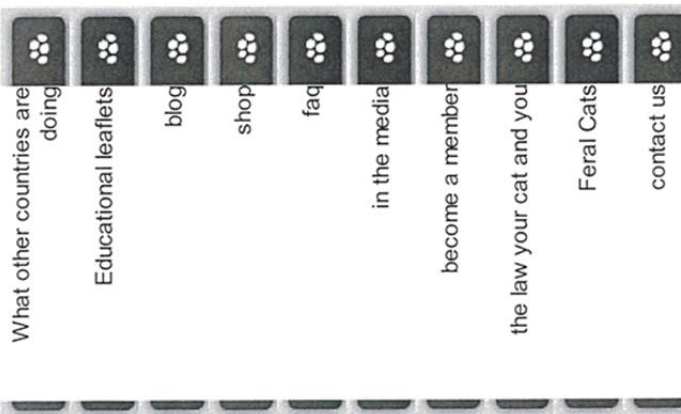
**5. Is it compulsory for cat owners to have their cats microchipped?**  
Each State and Territory in Australia is responsible for their own animal management legislation. Currently, it is compulsory to have dogs and cats microchipped in NSW, Victoria and South-East Queensland. Additionally all dogs and cats sold from a companion animal business, such as a pet store or registered breeders, must be chipped prior to sale.

**6. What are the consequences of not microchipping my pet cat?**  
Apart from contravening the legislation in Victoria, NSW and SE Queensland, if not chipped, it becomes extremely difficult, if not impossible, to determine identity and ownership of a cat when impounded, particularly if it's also not wearing a collar and I.D. tags. If the animal is injured AND microchipped the owner can generally be contacted quickly to facilitate quick veterinary intervention in treating the injuries. Cats can be very stressed or nervous when captured and, if not identified externally or by microchip, they can easily be suspected as being feral and consequently euthanased.

Some animals can end up in another municipality or even in another state making the reunification process even more difficult! Each year many thousands of animals are put to sleep because they are not properly identified.

**7. What exactly does the process of microchipping entail?**  
The chip is pre-loaded into a sterile needle at the time of manufacture. Using an implanting device specific for the microchip being used, the microchip is then implanted under the skin between the shoulder blades (in dogs and cats). In Victoria, NSW and Queensland the act of microchipping can only be done by an Authorised Implanter, such as a veterinarian or qualified veterinary nurse, animal





technician or Council officer, but they must have completed the accredited Authorised Implanter Course. In Western Australia, microchipping is deemed to be an act of veterinary science and should be performed only by a vet.

**8. Is it painful for cats to be microchipped?**

Because it is an injection, there may be some minor discomfort, but experience of now hundreds of thousands of implants performed in Australia over 20 years indicates that many animals do not react in any way to the implantation. The implantation needles are specifically designed to minimize this discomfort.

If you wish, this procedure can be performed at the same time as a veterinary consultation or vaccination and generally does not require the use of either sedation or local anesthesia. Many cats are microchipped at the same time as a surgical procedure such as desexing.

**9. How much does it cost to microchip a cat?**

Microchipping is generally inexpensive, especially if it is combined with other procedures. You would need to contact your veterinarian or Authorised Implanter to ascertain the exact cost but generally the costs are in the range of \$40 to \$80 including lifetime registration on a licensed National animal registry. Sometimes discounted microchipping is offered at organised events such as Council or Animal Shelter Chipping Days.

**10. Does my cat also have to be registered with the local Council?**

Yes. In most states you must also register your cat with the local Council.

**What is TRAP NEUTER AND RETURN?**

Trap Neuter and Return is a world wide practice and has been used for over 20 years in most countries. TNR is used extensively in countries including the USA, UK, Italy and Singapore to name a few. This method of control has been debated and fought for over the last 20 years and has prevailed as the best and most humane method of dealing with the semi-domestic and feral cat population.

This means no more kittens are born and the condition of these cats improves and their lives are made more bearable whilst cat colonies are stabilised.

Desexing does away with all the problems that come with mating, urinating, not to mention the sound of fighting cats as they compete over females.

Trap Neuter and Return saves councils thousands of dollars every year in cutting the nuisance calls and ranger call outs. The animal welfare organisations save thousands every year in unnecessary use of resources and money it takes to trap and kill cats that cannot be rehomed.

Trap Neuter and Return not only saves money, manpower and millions of dollars for all those dealing with the semi-domestic and feral cats it is the responsible and humane way to care for cats that do not and cannot live indoors.

**Why Trap and Kill does not work.**

Trap and Kill has been widely practised here in Australia with Councils and Wild Life advocates hiring shooters to shoot thousands of cats each year along with hiring of cat traps. This costing governments and rate payers hundreds of thousands of dollars, year after year with no real outcome. Animal shelters spend thousands of dollars towards euthanasia and this has had no effect on the numbers for the last 40 years. Cats choose to live in locations because 1) there is a food source available and 2) because of shelter. When a cat is removed from this location other cats will breed to capacity to fill this gap or other cats will move in from outside the area. This is known world wide as "the vacuum effect".

**What is the effect of a cat on wild life?**

**Although cats have been blamed for eating the wild life the prime proven cause is "Humans are the cause of wildlife depletion".**

It is not feral or semi domestic cats that cause wildlife depletion it has been shown overwhelmingly that the cause of wildlife depletion is the destruction of their natural habitat due to clearing and urban sprawl, chemical and pesticide use and like we have seen just recently in the news, drought.

You can encourage birdlife back into your back yard by replanting native plants to attract the bird life that has been lost due to urban clearing, place feeders and nesting boxes in strategic places. By not using pesticides and baits on insects and mice around your house as birds like willywag tails etc eat the insects and owls and hawks will eat sick rodent from your yard and die. There are plenty of websites on how to create a bird friendly environment.

**What can we do to help turn around the bad name cats have been given?**

Education is the answer. Education yourself by reading "ALL" relevant studies and be informed. As you can see the cat has been demonised and blamed for all our social ills but together we can learn the facts and make a difference. We can educate people about the semi-domestic and feral cats and emphasise the fact that they don't belong in animal shelters and elevate them to a better status in the animal kingdom.

Helen Hibma

Submission to changes of the Animal bylaws - Consolidated Bylaws 2008

Bylaws relating to bee keeping

Over recent years, we have twice been affected by bee hives. Annoying deposits appeared on windows and vehicles that were unsightly and difficult to remove. Several properties along the street were affected. The deposits were a mystery until they were discovered to be bee waste. Further investigation revealed that hives had been established near by, in the first instance at an adjoining street and on the second occasion in the same street. Being located on the bees' flight path coincided with continued bombardment with the nuisance of bee waste.

This current review of the Consolidated Bylaw provides the opportunity to control the effects of bee hives within the community. We propose Council consider the following two changes to the Bylaw:

- 1) That bee hives not to be allowed in Inner residential zoned areas

Inner residential zoned areas have higher densities of housing and people with more vehicles on streets. It is inevitable that properties near bee hives established in these areas and along bee flight paths will be affected by bee waste. Bee keepers can therefore not comply with clause 3.1.1, where bees are not likely to become a nuisance. It is not appropriate to allow bee keeping in inner residential zones.

- 2) That permission be required to establish bee hives in residential areas

As bees have an extended flight path, it can be difficult to track their origin when they become a nuisance. Council should require permission be sought by those wanting to establish bee hives in residential areas. Council will then have a record of hive locations, making nuisance hives easier to identify and deal with.

Helen Hibma  
22 McFarlane St.  
Mt. Victoria.

Item 2.1 Attachment 21

Councillor. to design.

I will speak to my submission  
and also Gates ANATHIMOS

Basically we support

- 3 cats per household
- Microchips but can there be a lead in time to costs subsidised by WCC - look @ Dogs - Breeze.

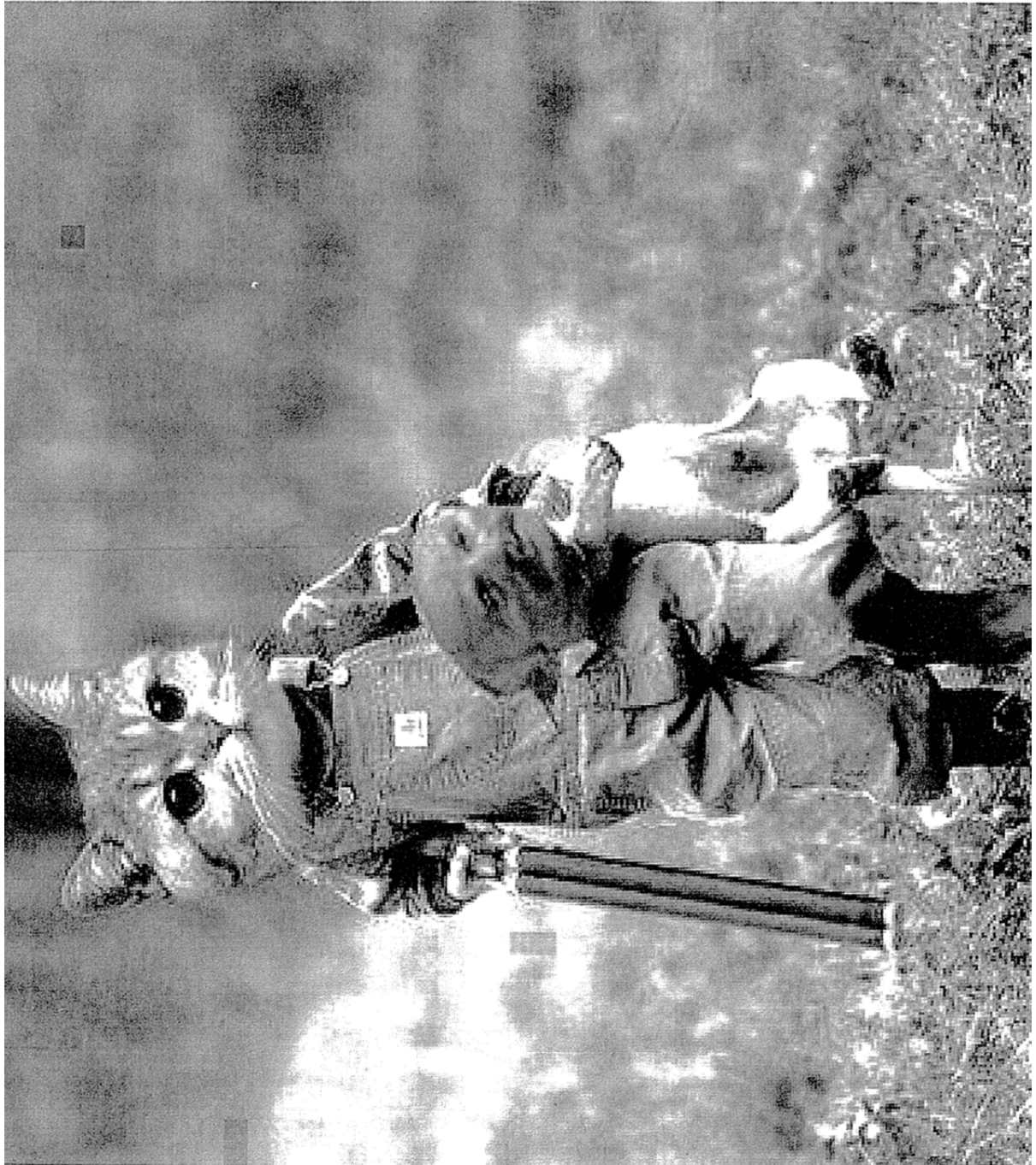
- Cat killing native birds is a Kauri problem. Remember Possums in Murrumbidgee, Rabbits in Cobham Drive
- Lots of old people have 4 need care.
- Lets stop the Pigeons Baggies & smokers.

4 get lots of homeless poor  
JAFFAs into an extended  
Social housing programme.  
Buy Kauri Tenures campuses  
(for the Prison).

I wanted \$300k for  
Drop in centre with  
Now \$5m for Kaitiaki  
Project

and \$1 b for sea walls  
\$35m pa. for 30 years.

(10.22. CEO To resign).





**microchipping and registration should be one step**

Make sure **you** register with the **NZCAR** when microchipping your pet!

The NZCAR is the leading New Zealand based animal repatriation system.

## Who can add my pet to the NZCAR?

Your pet can be added to the NZCAR at over 670 outlets throughout New Zealand. These include:

- 🐾 Your local NZVA Vet Clinic
  - 🐾 Your local SPCA
  - 🐾 Approved Pet Shops
  - 🐾 Approved Breeders
  - 🐾 Approved Welfare Charities and Local Authorities
  - 🐾 Other qualified and certified implanters.
- Please consult your approved implanter for the total cost of implant and registration charges.

As well as dogs and cats, the NZCAR accepts ALL kinds of microchipped companion animals, including rabbits, donkeys, horses, ferrets, birds, fish, lizards, goats, turtles, tortoises and sheep.

Getting your pet home relies on the NZCAR team being able to contact you. Don't forget to keep your contact details up to date.



**FIND YOUR NEAREST IMPLANTER:**  
To find the Vet, SPCA or approved implanter nearest to you, visit [www.animalregister.co.nz](http://www.animalregister.co.nz).

Or call us during office hours on **0800 LOSTPET** and we can advise you over the phone.

**0800 LOSTPET**

(0800 567873)

ph: 06 3487498 fax: 06 3484182  
PO Box 597, Wanganui 4540

[info@animalregister.co.nz](mailto:info@animalregister.co.nz)



# don't lose your best friend!!!



Register **YOUR** pet on New Zealand's leading microchipped companion

# How does the NZCAR work?

## BEFORE YOUR PET GOES MISSING



### 1. REGISTRATION:

Register your pets on the NZCAR database at the same time as they are microchipped.



### 2. KEEP YOUR DETAILS UP TO DATE:

This can be done online, or call 0800 lostpet during office hours to update over the phone.

## AFTER YOUR PET GOES MISSING



### 3. YOUR PET IS FOUND:

Found pets are taken to one of the 670 organisations who can access the NZCAR database.



### 4. YOU ARE CONTACTED:

We can call, email or text you with the great news that your loved pet is safe.



### 5. YOU ARE REUNITED:

Owner and pet are reunited and everyone is just happy to be back together again.

NZCAR is available 24/7 at [www.animalregister.co.nz](http://www.animalregister.co.nz). We can also be contacted on our 0800 LOSTPET phone line. It is important to ensure your contact details are kept up to date.

Remember your pet you are responsible for updating or advising the NZCAR. Additional details such as medical records, alternate contacts, breeder details and pet descriptions can also be stored.

## microchipping works!

By registering

**your pet**

with the NZCAR

you can help **other**

companion animals

# How?

Profits from the

**NZCAR**

go to support

**New Zealand based**

**Animal Charities**

### DID YOU KNOW!

During the 2011 earthquake the NZCAR assisted Canterbury SPCA by providing an 0800 lost pet service for all pets, chipped and non-chipped.

Of the hundreds of animals dealt with we helped to get 25% of non-chipped pets home within 2 to 3 days. However we managed to get **85%** of microchipped pets home in an average of **1 to 2 hours!**

In New Zealand a found pet is most often taken to the nearest Vet Clinic, SPCA or other animal welfare agency. Over 95% of vet clinics and over 75% of SPCAs in New Zealand use the NZCAR. We are also used by local councils, pet shops, implanters and many others. In fact there are currently over 670 organisations who can help get your missing microchipped pet home.

The NZ Companion Animal Trust is managed by the NZCAR stakeholders. For info on making funding applications, visit [www.nzcac.org.nz](http://www.nzcac.org.nz)





Oral Presentation to Wellington City Council on Animal Bylaw  
Review 2016

Presented by Jan Voss

A.C.E. Dog Training Ltd, Wellington. [www.acedogtraining.co.nz](http://www.acedogtraining.co.nz)

Email : [janvoss@acedogtraining.co.nz](mailto:janvoss@acedogtraining.co.nz) Phone 021 818 222

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The focus of my comments are drawn from the Statement of Proposal - WELLINGTON CONSOLIDATED BYLAW 2008, PART 2:ANIMALS – REVIEW 2016 which was available online during the submission process

**Regarding: 5.4 Dog areas**

5.4.2 Dogs not on private land must be on-leash and under the control of their owners at all times, unless in a designated off-leash area (where they can be off-leash, but still need to be under the control of their owner).

This bylaw states that the dog be under the control of their owner but it is often not the owner who is actually responsible for a dog when it is being exercised. It is not uncommon for family members, friends and neighbours to take a particular dog out – whether casually or on a regular basis. There is also a growing trend for dogs to be walked professionally – that is as a service the owner pays for in absentia. I have several such clients myself and so regularly am directly responsible for a group of dogs under my care, walking legally off-lead, but which I do not own.

I feel the term “owner” in 5.4.2 is too restrictive a term to use unless it is expanded to “or handler” or “person responsible.” Or alternately the word “owner” clarified by an additional clause in the list of definitions – if this is possible given that the term owner is already defined under the Dog Control Act.

It is my concern that in the event of an incident occurring where the person responsible is not the owner, then it will be difficult for the Council to uphold a formal complaint made against a dog (or the person responsible for its behaviour) in a designated off-leash area.

I am also concerned that the term “under control” is not a clearly defined one and open to a great deal of interpretation. At other places in the Bylaw document the term “direct verbal control” or used when referring to off-lead dogs and this is a better term. For a dog to be under direct verbal control it must be close to the person it is with, not the other side of a large open space, or a minute ahead of them on a walkway or track.

Also inferred in the wording of 5.4.2 is a near one-to-one ratio of dogs to people who are responsible for them while in public. Some professional walkers regularly take large groups of dogs out on a walk – both on and off lead over Council designated areas. I note the Council requires that an owner make a special application to have more than 3 dogs living with them, because of the impact it might have on others, but does not place any restrictions around how many dogs might be off lead and deemed to be under the control of only one person at a time – even though this can also impact others enjoyment or use of an area.

While there has not been any formal incident to date I believe it is only a matter of time. Anecdotally I am hearing reports from clients who have encountered such a group and found their dog being



**Regarding: 5.1 Interpretation (dogs)**

**Disability assist dog** means a dog trained (or in training) to assist a person with a disability as defined under the Act, including any guide dog, hearing ear dog, or companion dog.

**5.4.7** The owner of any disability assist dog may keep their dog off-leash in a controlled public place, prohibited public place, beach areas restricted during summer, or a prohibited place (specified times) declared under clause 5.4.1.

As a trainer involved in the training of such animals I would recommend the addition of a caveat that a disability assist dog is a dog trained or in training under the approval of an organisation registered with Department of Internal Affairs as able to certify such dogs.

Mark Keeman

**The case for indoor-only cats:**

Websearch : 'indoor or outdoor cat' (these are all cat friendly sites)

[www.humanesociety.org](http://www.humanesociety.org) : '*...cats do not require outdoor access to live full and happy lives.*'

[www.peta.org](http://www.peta.org) : '*... all cats should be indoor cats*'

[www.americanhumane.org](http://www.americanhumane.org) : '*...keeping your cat indoors is best for your pet's well-being.*'

[www.cat-world.com.au](http://www.cat-world.com.au) : '*... the pros and cons provide substantial evidence toward indoor cats.*'

[www.spca.bc.ca](http://www.spca.bc.ca) : '*The BC SPCA strongly recommends that you keep cats indoors*'

<http://www.petplace.com> : '*....concludes, best to keep our cat inside.*'

<http://www.drsfostersmith.com> : '*Why keeping your cat indoors is preferred...*'

Basically all these sites agree that responsible cat owners should keep their cats indoors.

Mark Keeman. Animal Bylaw Submission 2016

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Mark Keeman. Animal Bylaw Submission 2016

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Animal Bylaw Consultation

Presentation of Submission by Trevor Hughes, 26 May 2016

The philosopher and humanitarian Albert Schweitzer said there were two means of refuge from the miseries of life, music and cats. I tend to agree with him. My submission deals with the proposed restriction on cat ownership. I believe the Council is proposing to act in an unwarranted and arbitrary manner and to exceed its lawful authority.

Cats are regarded in Common Law as *mansuetae naturae*, that is domesticated animals which are inherently non-offensive and not a risk to human beings. Everyone has the right to keep and to give shelter to such animals. The proposed restriction on the number of cats that can be kept is an encroachment on a valued Common Law right.

The Council has put forward several arguments and I will address each one in turn.

The Council says it needs the restriction so it can act if it is concerned about animal welfare due to the number of cats being kept at one property. But surely animal welfare is an area where the SPCA already has the primary responsibility and specialist skills? It would be interesting to know how many occasions there have been on which the Council has been concerned about the welfare of domestic cats due to their number on a particular property where neither it nor the SPCA have been able to intervene.

The Council says households currently have to get permission to keep more than 3 dogs so therefore 'it would seem fair to have the same limit for cats'. But dogs are recognised as having the ability to kill and maim humans and are regulated by central government under the Dog Control Act accordingly. Cats do not raise the same concern.

The Council suggests 'three is a simple and reasonable number of cats to own'. Little more can be said about this argument other than this is an entirely arbitrary opinion. I could say for example that five is a simple and reasonable number of Councillors for a city like Wellington to have, with equal validity, or not as the case may be.

And because it is arbitrary such a figure could be easily manipulated in the future.

The Council observes that a limit is in place in a number of other territorial authorities. But those authorities represent only a few rural and provincial districts, eg Buller or Palmerston North. They have adopted a restriction but that does not make it appropriate for Wellington City Council to do so.

The Council suggests it can regulate but not prohibit the keeping of cats. Yet under its proposal the Council's written permission would be required for the keeping of more than 3 cats. Were the Council to refuse such permission this would in effect amount to a 'prohibition'.

The Council acknowledges it does not have the power to make bylaws for wildlife protection. Responsibility for wildlife protection lies with the Department of Conservation under the Wildlife Act. On the other hand there is much discussion in the background paper about wildlife. Furthermore the consultation framework asks whether, 'people living near wildlife sensitive areas, for example Zealandia, should keep fewer than 3 cats'? These references strongly indicate the

Council is in fact proposing to impose a restriction on the number of cats per household because of a perceived threat to wildlife, something which the Council itself acknowledges is beyond its lawful authority to do.

A word about microchip identification. Responsible cat owners are concerned about the welfare of their pets and have them micro-chipped, de-sexed and regularly vaccinated. Microchips move about however and can sometimes be difficult to scan. It must be remembered that cats are the property of their owners. If the Council or anyone else destroys a domestic cat because they could not find a chip or for any other reason they could be taken to court.

The Council does not address the additional resources which will be required to implement the proposed restriction. Nor does it consider the resources that may be required to deal with unintended side effects such as a rapid increase in the rodent population, which would be a serious threat to both human health and to birdlife.

It is salutary to remember that ill-conceived municipal activism regarding cats has backfired before. The writer Daniel Defoe records how the Lord Mayor of London in 1665 ordered all the cats to be killed when the plague broke out. After 200,000 cats had been killed the plague spread ever more rapidly because the number of rats, which carried the disease, exploded out of control. The moral here is: 'be careful what you wish for'.

I urge the Council to reconsider its proposed restriction on cat ownership which is unwarranted and arbitrary and which it has neither the lawful authority to adopt nor the resources to implement.

Thank you

Daniela Biaggio.

Submission on the Wellington City Council's proposed changes to the Animal Bylaw

From WCC's Environmental Reference Group

April 2016

The Environmental Reference Group (ERG), established in 2001, is an advisory group set up under a Terms of Reference (TOR)<sup>1</sup> to inform the work and activities of Wellington City Council (WCC) on issues relating to the natural environment, including water, energy and waste management. The purpose of the ERG is to: • provide feedback and advise the Council on its natural environment policy, planning and asset management matters (including the development of the Council's Long Term Plan) in the developmental stages of all relevant projects; • be an information conduit to and from the Council; and • identify and comment on the broad spectrum of community expectations and concerns associated with the management of the natural environment.

The Environmental Reference Group of the Wellington City Council is keen to offer our expert advice to the Animal Bylaw review. We also believe the ERG could have significant and helpful contribution to the next phase of work, on implementation of the bylaws and enforcement. We are willing to meet with councillors or officers conducting the review to discuss and support this process.

We wish to make an oral submission. Please liaise through our Council liaison officer, James Mather.

**Support for the proposal:**

- **Mandatory Microchipping** – All domestic cats be microchipped and registered with a recognised microchip registry. We hope this will incentivise increased sense of responsibility and accountability by cat owners leading to improved welfare for their cats. Furthermore it will allow for more effective management of the feral cat population which we hope will benefit wildlife.
- **Limit number of cats per household to 3** – The councils permission will be needed to keep more than three cats over 6 months of age (should it be made 3 months as for dogs?) with conditions to mitigate public health and nuisance concerns – We believe this measure will allow for regulation of the quality of welfare in households with more than three cats.
- **Feeding animals in public places to be prohibited** – this will reduce contamination of waterways, reduce pests, and improve welfare of the animals that may be fed a diet not conducive to their health.

**Concerns and recommendation on the proposal**

- **Nuisance Definition** – We are concerned that the definition of nuisance has been changed to only include private nuisance and remove public nuisance limiting the applicability of many items in the bylaw by removing the community and only including effects on an individual person.
- **Desexing** – As per the *Animal Welfare (Companion Cats) Code of Welfare 2007*, unplanned breeding of cats is not recommended because of the potential to add to the unwanted cat population. To prevent unplanned breeding, cats should be desexed. The reproductive potential of a single female cat is estimated at 300 kittens in her reproductive lifetime. The potential for a male cat is far beyond that. Responsible cat ownership includes having cats desexed at or before puberty. There is no health or welfare advantage for female cats to have a litter before being desexed. The Recommended Best Practice is:

- Cats, other than those kept by a registered breeder for breeding purposes, should be desexed at or before puberty.
- Cats sold from a pet shop or rehomed from an animal welfare shelter should be desexed before sale/adoption.
- Veterinarians, pet shops, cat breeders, local councils and animal welfare organisations should continually encourage the desexing of cats in the community.

Furthermore, feral Cats are considered pest under the animal welfare act. The Wellington Council invests resources in the management of the feral cat population. Without desexing domestic cats contribute to the growth of the feral cat population imposing a greater operational cost on the council and rate payers, increasing the pest problem in Wellington and causing public nuisance. Desexing has added benefits. Especially when performed at an earlier age, it will reduce the likelihood of some cat behaviours such as spraying, straying and vocalising, which often are considered a nuisance to the community, and may also reduce risks to other cats from aggressive behaviour and food theft.

- **Dusk to Dawn Curfew** –We propose the bylaw include a requirement that cats be kept indoors at night. *The Animal Welfare (Companion Cats) Code of Welfare 2007* suggest that cats are at risk of injury from traffic, dog attacks or cat fights and should be kept indoors between dusk and dawn. Cats are adapted for a nocturnal lifestyle, and many behaviours are predominantly expressed at night (including caterwauling, fighting and territorial disputes). Reductions in these behaviours reduce nuisance and also risks to the cats themselves from car accidents, fights, etc. For this and other reasons it is advised that where there is a dense population of cats, which is true for Wellington, cats are trained to become accustomed from an early age to being kept indoors at night. There is ample evidence that if we prioritize the welfare of our cats we should keep cats indoors at night.
  - Cat outdoors come into contact with other domestic as well as feral cats increasing the risk of disease transmission for serious and potentially fatal diseases such as feline leukemia (FeLV), feline AIDS (FIV), FIP (feline infectious peritonitis), feline distemper (panleukopenia), and upper respiratory infections (or URI). While usually not life-threatening for cats, several common parasites can be picked up by a cat when venturing outdoors, including: fleas, ticks, ear mites, intestinal worms, ringworm (a fungal infection). These parasites can cause a variety of moderate to severe symptoms, such as scratching, skin infections, vomiting and diarrhoea. In addition, these creepy crawlies can hitch a ride into the owner's home and infect the family. While these risks would be eliminated by having an indoor cat, keeping it indoor at night will make big strides in reducing transmission risks.
  - Furthermore, we acknowledge that cats cause a major harm to wildlife; this harm can be caused by them roaming both during the day and at night in areas where our native species live and breed.
  - A curfew will incentivize responsible cat ownership and add barriers to negative welfare behaviours such as leaving cats uncared for whilst going away for a weekend or holiday.
  - We also acknowledge the resources needed to put such a regulation in place. So propose that this should be set to become effective in three years' time when microchipping has been achieved across the domestic cat population and an enforcement body can be set up in place
  - We also propose that council look to build capacity to manage registration of cats. Fees attached to this registration could help support some of the costs of managing cats in the community and mitigate some of their impact.

- Whilst we support the ban on feeding animals in public places we recognize the limitations of such regulation, as it does not encompass feeding pigeons or stray cats at your own property. To truly manage these problems it would be best to include this if that is legally possible. Publicity should definitely emphasise the problems created by that behaviour.
- We recommend including a cat nuisance section equivalent to 5.3 in Dog section of policy. The bylaw should support the community to deal with nuisance cats (unwanted cats entering property, leaving faeces or engaging in other nuisance behaviours).
- With regards to comments on dogs please see our submission on the dog policy,

Adopting change is hard and requires a holistic approach. A successful approach should incorporate access to clear information, public awareness education, and training. Changing how we manage cats in the city will need such an approach.



#### Introduction

Under the Dog Control Act 1996, the Council needs to balance potential and perceived risks to public safety, risks to wildlife and natural habitats, and potential nuisance issues with the recreational and exercise needs of dogs and their owners. As it is often difficult to find a good balance, we want to check and see if we've got it right.

#### Privacy Statement

(Note: all submissions (including name and contact details) are published and made publicly available as part of our Committee processes. Personal information will be used for the administration of the consultation process and decision-making on the Annual Plan. All information will be held by the Wellington City Council, 101 Wakefield Street, and submitters have the right to access and correct personal information)

#### Submitter Details

First Name: **Lisa**  
Last Name: **Snow**  
Organisation: **Wellington Dog Owners Group**  
Street: **15 Whau Street**  
Suburb: **Vogeltown**  
City: **Wellington**  
Country:  
PostCode: **6021**  
Daytime Phone: **(04) 976 2408**  
Mobile: **022 057 1957**  
eMail: **lisasnownz@gmail.com**

#### Wishes to be heard:

- Yes  
 I do NOT wish to speak in support of my submission and ask that the following submission be fully considered.

#### Correspondence to:

- Submitter  
 Agent  
 Both



Submission

1) Which of the following best describes you?

- Dog owner
- Own another type of animal
- Do not own an animal
- N/A

2) Do you agree with the proposed changes to dog exercise areas?

*See the Summary of Information for a list of the proposed changes, including "beach exercise areas", "exercise areas (specified time)" and "beach exercise areas restricted during summer".*

Comments

Wellington Dog Owners Group are against the removal of dog exercise areas without any attempt to consult with users of the area. We would like to see more beach areas opened up for dogs to use off leash - there are plenty of small cove / rocky areas of beach that are rarely used by the public. These areas (so long as they are not penguin or seal areas) should also be opened up for use by dog owners. Lyall Bay is often crowded and not all dogs are social. We strongly agree with the changes to the western end of Island Bay beach becoming an off leash area. The Evans Bay area should be replaced with an alternative more dog friendly area of beach.

3) Should Island Bay Beach be an off-leash area? If so, where?

*See the Summary of Information for more information.*

Comments

The existing area which is clearly identifiable as being to the western side of the pier should be off leash all year round.

4) Do you agree with the proposed changes to dog exercise areas?

*See the Summary of Information for a list of the proposed changes. You can see maps of the proposed changes in Dog Policy: exercise areas – review 2016 or online at [wellington.govt.nz/haveyoursay](http://wellington.govt.nz/haveyoursay).*

- No, completely opposed
- No, opposed
- Neutral
- Yes, support
- Yes, strongly support

Comments/suggestions

We agree with the modifications where areas for dogs are improved. Mitchelltown School Site is actually the Central Allbreeds grounds. The area proposed to be removed, on the side of Aro Street, has been ruined for dogs by the addition of a mountain bike track. The council needs to consider the needs of dogs, some of which may be likely to chase bikes, when combining uses. If this area is disestablished, a new area should be created, rather than putting more pressure on Tanera Park or the dogs going to Central Park as proposed which is not an off leash area.

5) Do you agree with the proposed changes to beach exercise areas?

*See the Summary of Information for a list of the proposed changes. You can see maps of the proposed changes in Dog Policy: exercise areas – review 2016 or online at [wellington.govt.nz/haveyoursay](http://wellington.govt.nz/haveyoursay).*

- No, completely opposed
- No, opposed
- Neutral
- Yes, support
- Yes, strongly support

Conditions/exclusions/comments

Strongly support the opening up of Island Bay beach. See comments above

6) Should there be designated dog off-leash tracks?

- No, completely opposed
- No, opposed
- Neutral
- Yes, support
- Yes, strongly support

Comments/suggestions

Many dog owners would like to be able to walk their dogs off leash in the bush, rather than circle small parks. Designated places for people to run with their dogs would also be welcomed

7) Would you support having dog agility equipment at some dog exercise areas? If so, who should pay, for example dog owners?

- No, completely opposed
- No, opposed
- Neutral
- Yes, support
- Yes, strongly support

Comments/suggestions

Actual dog agility equipment is probably not needed, but more stimulating play areas would be welcomed. This should be paid by out of general rates, just like children's playgrounds are. Dog owners are already paying for the privilege of dog ownership through registration fees. No other groups are expected to pay for the facilities (eg Mountain Bikers don't pay to use or develop tracks, parents don't pay for children's play areas etc) so dog owners should not be expected to pay either. The council needs to consider dog recreation areas as a facility for dog owners (most who are also rate payers given how hard it is to find rental properties that take dogs) rather than dogs, the dogs don't decide to go to the park. Just like a soccer field is not a facility for soccer balls!

8) Do you think dogs on a lead should be allowed to stop in the central city area?

*More information on this proposal can be found in section 5.3.3 of the Policy.*

- No, completely opposed
- No, opposed
- Neutral

- Yes, support  
 Yes, strongly support

Comments/suggestions

It is impractical to ban stopping in the central city area. In cities all over the world dogs are allowed in the city.

9) Do you think that dogs should be able to be left unattended in a public place?

*More information on this proposal can be found in section 5.3.3 of the Policy.*

- No, completely opposed  
 No, opposed  
 Neutral  
 Yes, support  
 Yes, strongly support

Comments/suggestions

Issues with dogs left unattended in public places are usually caused by the general public who try to pat the dog. More education of the public is needed that if a dog's on its own, leave it alone! Responsible dog owners don't leave their dogs unattended for long periods of time, but should have the option to leave the dog while they use public toilets or pop into a shop.

10) Currently some dog exercises areas cannot be used by dogs from 9am to 7pm during daylight savings in summer. It's proposed that this is changed so that dogs cannot use these areas between 10am to 7pm from 1 December till 1 March. Do you agree with this?

*More information on this proposal can be found in section 5 of the Policy.*

- No, completely opposed  
 No, opposed  
 Neutral  
 Yes, support  
 Yes, strongly support

Comments/suggestions

Would like to see the hours dogs are allowed in these areas extended.

11) Are there any other comments, including any other additions or deletions, that you would like to make about the dog exercise areas?

Comments

1. The policy states the council may 'restrict or prohibit dog access to public places where the likelihood of conflict exists between dogs and the public' however this means the dog owners are always restricted, rather than looking at the area and it's historic use. EG where mountain bikers decide to include a dog park as part of their circuit, should conflict arise the WCC policy is that regardless of who is right or wrong, the dogs will be restricted. If this is a dog off leash area, the bikes should be restricted, not the dogs. 2. A number of parks are recommended as becoming 'destination' parks, however no explanation of what this means is included. 3. Fenced and 'destination' dog areas should have restrictions on the general public's use of the area. EG no bikes, unattended kids etc 4. Where there are to be changes to a dog park, more should be done to consult with the users of the area

12) Are there any other comments that you would like to make about the proposed Policy?

Comments

1. The newly worded policy talks about dogs being under the control of owners. However there are more and more professional dog walking services who should be held as responsible for the dogs as the owner. The wording should reflect that the dog may not be with its owner. 2. There is emphasis on owners picking up poo, however the council needs to provide rubbish bins at dog areas (like they provide bins at baby change facilities) 3. Section 4.2 states dogs need to have adequate exercise, how will this work in practice? 4. Section 5.2 states dog exercise areas may be considered for other uses, however WCC has a history of adding conflicting activities to dog parks (eg Mountain Bike skills track at Mt Vic). 5. Transparency of funding. This chart is woefully inadequate and claims to use 2016/17 spending which has not yet occurred. In 2012 an OIA request revealed WCC making \$230k+ profit from registration and enforcement fees. Lower Hutt and Wellington Animal Services have been combined and it would appear is now costing considerably more? A proper break down of income and expenditure should be available on an annual basis. A request for this information has yet to be responded to. 6. 5.3.1 states dogs are allowed on the perimeter of sports fields when the field isn't in use. This prevents people taking their dog with them when watching kids play sport etc. 7. 12.5 bans feeding of animals in public places. This prevents dog owners giving their dogs food rewards as part of training or behaviour management which is common place.

I would like to be updated on upgrades at popular dog exercise areas

- Yes  
 No

Who we are reaching

You don't have to complete this section but this information helps us to know who we are reaching.  
(Note: the information you provide is open to public view.)

I am

- Male  
 Female

My age is

- under 18 years  
 18-29 years  
 30-39 years  
 40-49 years  
 50-59 years  
 60 years and older

Which of the following best describes you?

- Residential ratepayer  
 Commercial ratepayer  
 Residential and commercial ratepayer  
 I rent  
 Other

Which ethnic group do you belong to? (You can tick more than one box)



- New Zealand European
- Māori
- Samoan
- Cook Island
- Tongan
- Niuean
- Chinese
- Indian
- Other (such as Dutch, Japanese, Tokelauan, Somali)

Please state:

Others issues/matters or general comment

Comments

Attached Documents

File
No records to display.

**Need Help?**

**Privacy Statement**

Dog-related costs and questions from Wellington Dog Owners Group

Cost categories and spending as provided by Council Staff	2014 Actual	2015 Budget	2015 dogs	2015 per dog	Est. Lifetime per dog	Questions from Wellington Dog Owners Group
<b>Staffing, Animal Control, and education costs</b> (Staff who administer the activity including billing and managing the animal control contract, animal control across the city plus education programmes and campaigns eg in schools, community groups and businesses)	\$1,009,000	\$1,008,000	10,576	\$95	\$1,096	1) How much of the cost of animal control is directly related to dogs versus other animals? 2) What is the breakdown of dog-related costs and revenue? 3) Is it appropriate for dog owners to be paying for education programmes in schools, community groups, and businesses, and are Animal Control the right people to be doing that?
<b>Administration</b> (Includes levy for the National dog database, signage, producing educational materials, dedicated dog phone line and a share of Councils service centre, costs of reviewing and updating the Councils policy and bylaws.)	\$260,000	\$239,000	10,576	\$23	\$260	4) If dog owners are paying for the National Dog Database and being compelled to microchip their dogs, then shouldn't it be more dog owner friendly? (Including being able to opt-in to having their contact details shared with anyone who finds their lost dog and notifying owners of microchip failure)? 5) Is there a dedicated dog phone line? 6) Will microchipped cats be put in the same database as dogs, and if so, who will pay for it?
<b>Management and overheads</b> (Costs of senior management support, and a share of Councils corporate costs including building space, IT systems and other corporate support functions (for example communications, finance and human resources).)	\$137,000	\$164,000	10,576	\$16	\$178	7) How much actually exists given most of these costs will be included in the Animal control contract?
<b>Off leash exercise areas</b> (Pest control, mowing, maintenance of any assets within the areas such as park benches and fences.)	\$334,000	\$358,000	10,576	\$34	\$389	8) How is this cost calculated given dog owners don't have exclusive use and exercise areas have few assets? 9) Pest control provides no benefit to dogs, so why are dog owners paying for it?
<b>Overall</b>	\$1,740,000	\$1,769,000	42,304	\$167	\$1,924	10) Can we can a more transparent accounting of dog-related income and expenditure on an ongoing basis in the future?

Destination dog area recommendations:

- Dog users are given priority over the area
- Signage about usage
- Restrictions on some users (e.g., no unattended kids, joggers, bikes, etc.)
- Poo bins, seating, drinking water for dogs

#### Introduction

Under the Dog Control Act 1996, the Council needs to balance potential and perceived risks to public safety, risks to wildlife and natural habitats, and potential nuisance issues with the recreational and exercise needs of dogs and their owners. As it is often difficult to find a good balance, we want to check and see if we've got it right.

#### Privacy Statement

(Note: all submissions (including name and contact details) are published and made publicly available as part of our Committee processes. Personal information will be used for the administration of the consultation process and decision-making on the Annual Plan. All information will be held by the Wellington City Council, 101 Wakefield Street, and submitters have the right to access and correct personal information)

#### Submitter Details

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Last Name: Snow  
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Country: New Zealand  
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#### Wishes to be heard:

- Yes
- I do NOT wish to speak in support of my submission and ask that the following submission be fully considered.

#### Correspondence to:

- Submitter
- Agent
- Both



Dog Policy from Snow, Lisa

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See the Summary of Information for a list of the proposed changes. You can see maps of the proposed changes in Dog Policy: exercise areas – review 2016 or online at [wellington.govt.nz/haveyoursay](http://wellington.govt.nz/haveyoursay).

- No, completely opposed
- No, opposed
- Neutral
- Yes, support
- Yes, strongly support

Conditions/exclusions/comments

In general I support this. However where the beach area at Evans Bay has been identified as inappropriate for dogs, and alternative area should be created. There are many more areas, not used by the general public, that could be open up for dogs (so long as no wildlife are affected)

6) Should there be designated dog off-leash tracks?

- No, completely opposed
- No, opposed
- Neutral
- Yes, support
- Yes, strongly support

Comments/suggestions

7) Would you support having dog agility equipment at some dog exercise areas? If so, who should pay, for example dog owners?

- No, completely opposed
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- Yes, support
- Yes, strongly support

Comments/suggestions

8) Do you think dogs on a lead should be allowed to stop in the central city area?

*More information on this proposal can be found in section 5.3.3 of the Policy.*

- No, completely opposed
- No, opposed
- Neutral
- Yes, support
- Yes, strongly support

Comments/suggestions

I'd like to be able to stop for a coffee or should I bump into someone I know while with my dogs

9) Do you think that dogs should be able to be left unattended in a public place?

*More information on this proposal can be found in section 5.3.3 of the Policy.*

My Policy from Show, Lisa

229

I am

- Male
- Female

My age is

- under 18 years
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- 30-39 years
- 40-49 years
- 50-59 years
- 60 years and older

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- I rent
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- Tongan
- Niuean
- Chinese
- Indian
- Other (such as Dutch, Japanese, Tokelauan, Somali)

Please state:

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Comments

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