

## *Dog ownership & registration*

### Changes to dog registration fees

There is a change to the dog registration fees for the 2009/2010 year with new owner categories being introduced by Council.

People considered to have demonstrated competent dog ownership will be classified as responsible dog owners and will pay a reduced registration fee. The criteria for this classification are as follows:

- ✘ All registration fees paid on time from previous year
- ✘ No infringement notices issued in past two years and any previous infringement notice fees paid in full
- ✘ No more than one confirmed complaint within last twelve months
- ✘ No more than one impounding within last twelve months
- ✘ Do not own a dog classified within past three years as 'Dangerous' or 'Menacing by deed' with no complaints or impoundings within last twelve months

### Registering your dog

The legislation relating to registration of dogs is covered by the Dog Control Act 1996. If you keep a dog then it must be registered. Puppies are required to be registered at 3months of age and thereafter before 31<sup>st</sup> July each year.

Dogs can be registered at Council offices at Westport and Reefton during business hours of 8.30am – 4.30pm Monday to Friday.

Registered dogs moving into the district receive free registration for the remainder of the registration year provided the owner produces proof of current registration.

### Dog Registration Fees 2009/2010

|                |          |
|----------------|----------|
| Entire Dogs    | \$90.00  |
| De-sexed Dogs  | \$78.00  |
| Dangerous Dogs | \$117.00 |

Reduced rate for responsible owners:

|             |         |
|-------------|---------|
| Entire Dogs | \$65.00 |
|-------------|---------|

De-sexed Dogs \$53.00

Dogs not registered before 1 August 2009 will be required to pay an additional 50% per dog. Duplicate registration tags are \$2.50

## Change of ownership

If the ownership of a dog is changed, the registration of the dog continues in force, but the previous owner and the new owner must advise Council of the changes within 14 days.

Council needs to be advised in writing of the change of ownership, included in this needs to be the residential address of the new owner and the address at which the dog will ordinarily be kept.

## Controlling your dog

The Dog Control Act 1996 requires owners to keep their dogs under control at all times. This includes on your property and when out in public.

As a dog owner, under the Dog Control Act 1996 you must:

- ✘ Register your dog
- ✘ Keep your dog under control at all times
- ✘ Comply with bylaws
- ✘ Ensure that your dog receives proper care and attention, is supplied with sufficient food, water, shelter and receives adequate exercise
- ✘ Take all reasonable steps to ensure your dog does not injure, intimidate or otherwise cause distress to any person
- ✘ Owners must muzzle their dogs in public if they are known to be dangerous
- ✘ Owners must accept liability for damage done by their dog
- ✘ Anyone taking a dog out in public is required to use or carry a leash at all times
- ✘ Owners must ensure that dogs on their land or property are under the direct control of a person, or confined within the property so that they cannot leave of their own free will

The above list is a summary of the major areas of owner responsibility under the Dog Control Act 1996. For full details of your responsibilities as a dog owner, please check the requirements of the Dog Control Act 1996 or speak to one of our Animal Control Officers.

## Dog impounding fees

|                                    |       |
|------------------------------------|-------|
| First impounding within 12 months  | \$50  |
| Second impounding within 12 months | \$100 |
| Third impounding within 12 months  | \$140 |

Plus in each instance above, a sustenance  
fee per day or part there of

\$10

## Fines and offences

The Dog Control Act 1996 has a range of fines and penalties for breaches of the legislation. For the latest on dog ownership and legislation please contact Animal Control on 03 788 9111.