8.6 ANNUAL REPORT

REPORT TO: Grey District Council	
DATE: 7 December 2016	
SUBJECT: Annual Report on Dog Control Policy and Practices 2015-2016	FILE REF: H/6
AUTHOR: M Malloch – Animal Control Officer P Kerr – Animal Control Officer	ATTACHMENTS: Nil
RELATED COMMUNITY OUTCOME(S): • Providing affordable, quality essential services • The District has access to quality health facilities and regulation. • Personal and property safety.	RELATED COUNCIL ACTIVITY: • Animal Control.

PURPOSE:

To report on the administration of Council's Dog Control Policy and Practices for the period 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016.

BACKGROUND:

Section 10A of the Dog Control Act requires territorial authorities to publicly report each financial year on:

- The administration of their dog control policy and their dog control practices (Section 10A(1)); and
- A variety of dog control related statistics (Section 10A(2)).

While not explicitly stated in the Dog Control Act, one of the primary purposes for preparing this report is to allow communities to see how Council is managing its dog control responsibilities.

STAFFING:

One full-time Dog Control Officer with the aid of a part-time Officer are responsible for a medium residential area and large rural area covering 350,900 hectares with 620 kilometres of roadway (this does not include the two state highways running through the district.)

During the reporting period, the Grey District had 2791 registered dogs.

POLICY ON DOGS:

The provisions of the Dog Policy has been applied in a consistent, fair and objective manner. Staff at all times endeavoured to assist dog owners wherever possible and to focus on dogs not posing a risk or nuisance to others. The excellent cooperation received from so many dog owners and members of the public is herewith acknowledged.

SERVICES INCLUDED:

Education

During this reporting period pamphlets and brochures concerning being safe around dogs and control of dogs where distributed to pre-schools and primary schools in the district.

The Council website has been upgraded and is now easy to follow with an Animal Control page that **outlines responsibilities for dog owners, contains a Dog Owner's Manual, guide to micro**-chipping, registration information and the current fees and charges. This website will be used to make available educational material for dog owners and members of the public.

For the 2016/2017-**year Council's Dog Control Officers plan on visiting and speaking with Primary school** children in the Grey District.

Dogs Prohibited and Dog Exercise Areas

The Cobden dog exercise area has proven again this year to be extremely popular with dog owners.

The dog exercise area on the outskirts of the Central Business District is now useable and nearly completely finished after being closed earlier in the year due to works on the new sewerage scheme, which required part of the dog exercise area in exchange for an updated and slightly relocated dog park. This exercise area now has new facilities including climbing frames and obstacles, and an all-weather shelter has been installed.

DOG CONTROL PRACTICES:

All aspects regarding the regulation of dogs has been dealt with in a cooperative, helpful manner with the focus on being pro-active where possible. The following represents a summary of Councils Dog Control **function's regulatory performance for the year.**

STATISTICAL INFORMATION:

Category	For Period 1 July 2015 – 30 June 2016
1) Total # Registered Dogs	2791
2) Total # Probationary Owners	0
3) Total # Disqualified Owners	0
4) Total # Dangerous Dogs	3
➢ *Dangerous by Owner Conviction Under s31(1)(a)*	0
➢ *Dangerous by Sworn Evidence s31(1)(b)*	3
➢ *Dangerous by Owner Admittance in Writing s31(1)(c)*	0
5) Total # Menacing Dogs	38
➢ *Menacing under s33A(1)(b)(i) – i.e. by Behaviour*	13
➢ *Menacing under s33A(1)(b)(ii) by Breed Characteristics*	17
➢ *Menacing under s33C(1) by Schedule 4 Breed*	8
6) Total # Infringement Notices	60
7) Total # Complaints Received	350
➢ *Barking*	116
➢ *Dog Attack*	43
➢ *Bylaws*	44
➢ *Wandering*	147
8) Total # Prosecutions Taken	0