

SOUTH WAIRARAPA DISTRICT COUNCIL

12 DECEMBER 2012

AGENDA ITEM C3

REPORT ON EUTHANIZING DOGS

Purpose of Report

To seek approval to change Councils procedures for euthanizing dogs.

Recommendations

Officers recommend that the Council:

1. *Adopts the proposed procedure for euthanizing dogs.*

1. Executive Summary

Councils have received a degree of adverse publicity and concern from some people in the community about the methods used for euthanizing dogs. A review of Councils procedures has been undertaken which identifies that all dogs wherever practicable should be euthanized by a veterinarian following industry standard best practice.

2. Background

Council has for many years predominantly euthanized dogs by way of firearm. Contributing factors for choosing this method over the use of a veterinarian have been costs, convenience, and for some dogs it is the safest method to use.

In using a firearm, all due care and responsibility was exercised at all times by the officers. The animals were treated with the utmost respect and were never unnecessarily panicked or caused undue stress.

The numbers of dogs required to be euthanized is small typically about 10 per year. While shooting the dogs is a legal practice it is not recognised as best practice in the industry. Using a veterinarian is the safest and most humane method as it has little negative impact for the dog. Importantly this method also reduces the trauma for council staff which can be significant.

In some isolated instances there will continue to be a need to use a firearm for euthanasia where there is a potential safety issue for staff.

3. Discussion

3.1 Options

Officers have held discussions with a local veterinary business and successfully negotiated a favourable pricing option for the euthanasia and disposal of dogs.

Based on the number of animals euthanized last financial year, the annual cost for changing to the proposed method would be less than \$1000 per annum.

3.2 Legal Implications

Whilst Council is acting legally in its current practise, the change to the use of a vet where appropriate will be inline with the recognised industry best practice.

3.3 Financial Considerations

An additional cost per annum of approximately \$1000 will be required. There is no specific current allocation in the 2012/13 budget for this amount, however the budget allocation for 'General Contractor' expenses is available should Council decide to implement the recommendation immediately. The additional expenditure would be able to be recovered in future years through annual registration charges.

4. Supporting Information

4.1 Long Term Plan - Community Outcomes

This policy addresses Council Healthy & Economically Secure People in that it is aimed to minimise the trauma to staff and the public.

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