

# SOUTH WAIRARAPA DISTRICT COUNCIL

3 JUNE 2020

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## AGENDA ITEM C1

### DOG CONTROL FEES FOR 2020/21

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#### **Purpose of Report**

To set the Dog Control Fees for 2020/21.

#### **Recommendations**

Officers recommend that the Council:

1. *Receive the proposed Dog Control Fees.*
2. *Adopt the Dog Control fees for 2020/21 (contained in Appendix 1).*
3. *Give notice of fees for registration of dogs by public notification no less than one month prior to the fees taking effect.*

#### **1. Executive Summary**

The Dog Control Act 1996 (the Act) gives Council the power to set fees for the registration and control of dogs. Section 37 of the Act states that fees shall be made by resolution of Council and that the fees must be publicly advertised once they are set. The Dog Control Act does not prescribe that the resolution to set fees must be part of the Annual Plan process.

The proposed fees for 2020/21 are included in Appendix 1. There are no proposed fee increases from the previous year.

#### **2. Background**

Council resolved in April 2011 to set dog control fees separately from the Annual Plan process. The fees are in line with the Council's Dog Control Policy section 3.8 which has the following aims:

- Promotes neutering of dogs by imposing a lower registration fee for spayed or castrated dogs
- Aims to have dog control activities self-funded.
- Penalises late registration by applying a late registration penalty fee for all dogs not registered by the end of the first week of August. The penalty fee shall not exceed 50% of the fee that would have been payable if the dog had been registered on the first day of the registration year.

- Recognises that rural dogs cause fewer dog control problems and therefore a differential between rural and urban fees should apply.
- States that Disability Assist dogs (as defined in the Act) will not be charged a fee upon registration under the Dog Control Act 1996.
- Recognises that Council may still decide to fund a portion of the dog control activity through rates.

### **3. Discussion**

The Dog Control Act 1996 requires that Council to approve fees levied for dog registration. Section 37 provides what fees may be charged for and matters that shall be considered prior to approving fees.

Specifically, section 37(4) outlines that Council shall have regard to the relative costs of the registration and control of dogs.

#### **3.1 Legal Implications**

Section 37 of the Dog Control Act 1996 states that:

*“The dog control fees payable to a territorial authority shall be those reasonable fees prescribed by resolution of that authority for the registration and control of dogs under this Act”.*

The recommendations made to adopt the fees set out in Appendix 1 satisfy this requirement.

#### **3.2 Financial Considerations**

The Councils Revenue and Financing Policy provides that dog fees will be partially funded by dog owners and partially funded by rate payers due to the distribution of benefits between public and private good. These fees are set based on the 60-70% private good and the 30-40% public good split as per the Revenue and Financing Policy (refer page 8 appendix 2).

### **4. Conclusion**

In summary, the officers recommend that the proposed fees for dog registration and control be approved for the 2020/21 financial year. The status quo on the fee charges is our recognition and response to the economic impact the COVID 19 pandemic has had on our communities for this year.

Officers will prepare public notification of the new fees no later than one month prior to the start of the new registration year.

### **5. Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Proposed Dog Control Fees

Appendix 2 – Revenue and Financing Policy

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# Appendix 1 – Proposed Dog Control Fees 2020/21

## DOG REGISTRATION FEES.

Fees due 31 July 2019	Fee before 31 July 2019	Late fee after 1 August 2019
Urban Desexed	\$77.00	\$115.00
Rural Desexed	\$43.00	\$64.50
Urban Entire	\$108.00	\$160.00
Rural Entire	\$66.00	\$98.00
Flat fee for up to 10 Rural Dogs	\$215.00 plus \$21.50 per additional dog	\$308.00 plus \$32.00 per additional dog
Surrender a dog for euthanasia	\$35.00	
Permit application to keep more than two dogs in an urban area including breeder	\$144.00	
Re-homing fee for impounded dogs	\$35.00	
Costs and expenses relating to impounding and securing impounded dogs	Actual costs plus 10%	
Replacement registration tag (if tag lost or damaged)	\$8.00	
Collars	Actual cost plus 10%	

<b>Impounding Fees</b>	
First Impounding	\$80.00
Second Impounding	\$170.00
Third Impounding	\$270.00
Feeding (per day)	\$25.00

# **Appendix 2 – Revenue & Financing Policy**

Activity	Community Outcomes	User/Beneficiary pays principle	Intergenerational equity principle	Exacerbator pays *	Costs and benefits	Distribution of benefits		Rationale	Funding Sources	
						Private	Public		Operational	Capital
<b>Governance/Leadership/Advocacy</b>										
Representing the community	Vibrant and strong communities, Sustainable South Wairarapa	NIL	NIL	L	L	0%	100%	The democracy process is available to all residents and ratepayers, therefore all ratepayers benefit from this activity	General rate & Reserve Funding	
<b>Public Protection</b>										
Protection of public health	Healthy & economically secure people	M	NIL	M	M	70-80%	30-20%	Council has a statutory obligation to enforce public health legislation	Fees & Charges General Rate	
Noise control and enforcement		NIL	NIL	H	L	10%	90%	Ability to charge for monitoring and recover other costs	Fees & Charges General Rate	
Building consents and enforcement including swimming pool inspections		H	NIL	L	M	80-90%	20-10%	Council has a statutory obligation to enforce the Building Act	Fees & Charges General Rate	
Dog and animal control		L-M	NIL	H	L	60-70%	40-30%	For dog control the urban community receive a higher benefit than the rural community, while for animal control the rural community receives a higher benefit than urban	Fees & Charges General Rate	
Liquor licensing		H	NIL	L	L	100%	0%	Council has a legal obligation to enforce Liquor Act	Fees & Charges General Rate	
Emergency management and civil defence		NIL	NIL	L	H	0%	100%	Emergency Management is for the protection of life and restoration of essential services	General rate	
<b>Community Development</b>										
Cultural and community development	Vibrant and strong communities, Sustainable South Wairarapa	L	NIL	NIL	H	0%	100%	Supporting community activities for which council believes there is a high public benefit	General rate Targeted rate	
Economic Development		NIL	NIL	NIL	L	0%	100%	Economic Development is there for the benefit of the district, but there are occasions where parts of the district benefit to a different degree	General rate Targeted rate	
Economic Development - Tourism		M	NIL	NIL	M	60-70%	40-30%	Tourism is a very important part of economic activity within SW therefore has a high public good. However the benefit received from tourism also directly benefits the tourist related businesses	General rate Targeted rate	
<b>Resource Management</b>										
District Plan (reviews and development)	Vibrant and strong communities, Sustainable South Wairarapa	L	NIL	M	L	5%	95%	DP is a strategic and statutory planning document for the benefit of the district however members of the community can apply and fund a private plan change	General rate, fees and charges, reserves short term loans (1-3 yrs)	
Resource consent applications		H	NIL	H	H	95%	5%	Element of public good for enquiries, and consents that have a high public interest	General rates, Fees & Charges, surpluses	
Resource consent appeals		H	NIL	H	L	50%	50%	Appeals potentially cover a wide range of effects and have a wide range of benefits	General rates / surpluses	
<b>Amenities</b>										
Parks and Reserves including playgrounds	Healthy & economically secure people. Educated and knowledgeable people. Vibrant & strong communities.	L	H	M	M-L	20%	80%	Reserves are there for recreational purposes and are open to all without restriction except for specific areas and times	Targeted rate, fees & charges	Targeted rate, contributions, surplus funds & loans
Swimming Pools in Featherston, Greytown & Martinborough.		L	M-H	L	L	30-40%	70-60%	While pools provide rec value council can restrict access	Targeted rate, fees & charges	Targeted rate, contributions, surplus funds & loans