

TO: The Chairperson and Members
POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE

FOR DECISION

PROPOSED DOG CONTROL FEES FOR 2014/15

Background Information

There are 5,631 known dogs within the Masterton District and of these 5,396 are registered. The percentage of registered dogs is 95.83%. Of the 235 unregistered a percentage of these will have left the district without the owners advising the Council.

Section 37 of the Dog Control Act 1996 allows for the Territorial Authority to set fees.

- 37 *Territorial authority to set fees*
- (1) *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.*
- (2) *Any resolution made under subsection (1) of this section may—*
- (a) *Fix fees for neutered dogs that are lower than the fee for dogs that have not been neutered;*
 - (b) *Fix fees for working dogs that are lower than the fee for any other dog, and may limit the number of working dogs owned by any person which qualify for lower fees under this section;*
 - (c) *Fix different fees for the various classes of working dogs;*
 - (d) *Fix fees for dogs under a specified age (not exceeding 12 months) that are lower than the fee that would otherwise be payable for those dogs;*
 - (e) *Fix, for any dog that is registered by any person who demonstrates to the satisfaction of any dog control officer that that person has a specified level of competency in terms of responsible dog ownership, a fee that is lower than the fee that would otherwise be payable for that dog;*
 - (f) *Fix by way of penalty, subject to subsection (3) of this section, an additional fee, for the registration on or after the 1st day of the second month of the registration year or such later date as the authority may fix, of any dog that was required to be registered on the first day of that registration year;*
 - (g) *Fix a fee for the issue of a replacement registration label or disc for any dog.*

Dog Registration Fees

It is being proposed that there is a 7.8% increase in fee income needed to fund the Dog Control activity.

All registration fees not paid by the 1st day of the second month of registration (1st August) will incur a 50% penalty imposed under section 37(2) (f) of the Dog Control Act 1996.

Last year all those with previously registered dogs, whose registration remains outstanding on 1 July, were sent a reminder notice advising of the imposition of the penalty and that if their dog is not registered they will also be infringed.

This was very successful and saved many dog owners from having to pay the penalty fees.

Infringement fees are \$300 and are sent to the Court in Upper Hutt for collection.

Dog Control Fees

Urban Neutered	\$79.00
Urban Entire	\$124.00
Urban Menacing Neutered	\$88.00
Urban Menacing Entire	\$135.00
Permit Breeder	\$79.00
Rural 1 st Dog	\$79.00
Rural 2nd and Subsequent	\$18.00
Rural Menacing	\$88.00
Dangerous Neutered	\$122.00
Dangerous Entire	\$190.00

Other Dog Control Charges

	Proposed Fees (incl GST)
Sustenance fee (per day)	\$12.00
Poundage Fee: First impounding	\$66.00
Second impounding	\$122.00
Third & subsequent impounding (within 12 months)	\$153.00
Surrender a dog for euthanasia	\$31.00
Microchipping of impounded dog	\$43.00
Microchipping of Masterton registered dog	\$20.00
Permit application to keep more than two dogs in urban area including breeder	\$51.00
Breeder permit holder urban registration per dog	\$79.00
Re-homing fee for impounded dog	No charge
Replacement registration tag	\$5.00
Collars	Actual cost plus 10%
Costs & expenses relating to impounding and securing impounded dogs	Actual cost plus 10%

Stock Impounding Fees

	Poundage Fee Per day	Sustenance Fee Per day
For every horse, mare, gelding, colt, filly, foal, mule, ass, ox, bull, cow, steer, heifer or calf	\$13.00	\$13.00
For every ram, ewe, wether, lamb or goat	\$6.50	\$7.00
For every boar, sow or pig	\$12.50	\$13.00

For the second and subsequent impounding in one year of the stock of any particular owner, the above poundage fees are increased by 50%.

Fees for Giving Notice of Impounding

For writing and delivering of any notice or sending any notice by post	\$25.00
For inserting any notice in one or more newspapers	\$40.00 or costs

Charge for leading, driving or conveying stock

Actual cost incurred, with a minimum charge of \$75.00 (GST inclusive).

RECOMMENDATION

That the proposed Dog Registration Fees be approved.

Susan Southey
MANAGER ENVIRONMENT & PLANNING

24th April 2014