

To:	Strategic Planning and Policy Committee
From:	Tania Madden, Manager Strategic Planning
Endorsed by:	Pim Borren, Chief Executive
Date:	3 May 2017
Subject:	Dog Registration Fees 2017/18
RECOMMENDATION	
Recommendation: That the Strategic Planning and Policy endorse and recommend Council approve the proposed Dog Registration Fees for 2017/18.	

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek the Strategic Planning and Policy Committee's endorsement for proposed Dog Registration Fees for 2017/18.

Background

There are 5,769 known dogs within the Masterton District (both registered and unregistered). Approximately 94.8% (5,428) of these dogs are registered. There are 341 unregistered dogs that are known to Council. A number of these dogs are expected to have left the Masterton district without notification from owners.

Dog Registration Fees

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

For 2017/18, we propose the following changes:

Urban Entire Dog Fee

A fee increase of \$5 is proposed for an entire urban dog, further increasing the fee differential between entire and neutered dogs (\$130 vs \$80). The intent is to encourage dog owners to neuter their dogs. The benefits of neutering include:

- neutered dogs live significantly longer than those that are not neutered;
- neutering can reduce and/or eliminate some diseases;
- neutering eliminates hormonal influences that can contribute to inter-dog aggression and roaming;
- neutering will enable better control of the dog population and reduce the number of unwanted dogs.

The cost of neutering a dog ranges from \$130 to \$350 depending on the weight and sex of the dog. MDC refunds the fee difference if registration has been paid, or adjusts the registration fee if a dog owner provides evidence that they have neutered their dog. This can help off-set the cost of neutering.

Withdrawal of Menacing Dog Fees

Menacing dog classifications are applied to dogs that do not meet the criteria for classification as dangerous under the Dog Control Act 1996 but may pose a threat because of their breed characteristics and/or behaviour.

We propose withdrawing fees for Urban Menacing Neutered, Urban Menacing Entire and Rural Menacing dogs, consistent with the Act. Whilst the Act specifically prescribes an increased fee for dogs classed as dangerous, there is no reference to increased fees for dogs classed as menacing. Neither Carterton nor South Wairarapa Councils charge additional fees for dogs classified as menacing. Dogs in these categories would be charged the standard registration fee.

Withdrawal of Entire Dangerous Dog Fees

If a dog is classified as dangerous, under the Dog Control Act 1996, the owner must neuter the dog within one month of that classification or produce a veterinary certificate stating that the dog is not in a fit state to be neutered until a specified date. The dog must then be neutered by that date or another certificate supplied. Given the provisions of the Act, this fee is not necessary.

Other Dog Control Charges

The current fee for surrendering a dog for euthanasia is \$31. This does not cover the cost of this service. For 2017/18, we propose charging the actual cost (currently \$55) plus 10%. This will enable recovery of the cost of the veterinarian, as well as a contribution toward staff time and the disposal fee.

We propose withdrawing the category for microchipping of impounded dogs. A separate charge for microchipping an impounded dog is not necessary. It is mandatory for all dogs that are impounded to be microchipped and registered before they can be released from the pound.

Future Fees

The 2018-28 Long Term Plan (LTP) provides an opportunity to further review dog registration fees including the level of public versus private good and responsible owner discounts.

Proposed Fees for 2017/18

See Attachment 1 of the proposed fees for 2017/18 for the committee's endorsement.

Attachment 1: Proposed Dog Fees for 2017/18

Dog Control Fees

	2016/17 Fees	Proposed Fees 2017/18
Urban Neutered	\$80.00	\$80.00
Urban Entire	\$125.00	\$130.00
Urban Menacing Neutered	\$90.00	Withdraw category
Urban Menacing Entire	\$140.00	Withdraw category
Permit Breeder	\$80.00	\$80.00
Rural 1 st Dog	\$80.00	\$80.00
Rural 2nd and Subsequent	\$20.00	\$20.00
Rural Menacing	\$90.00	Withdraw category
Dangerous Neutered	\$125.00	\$125.00
Dangerous Entire	\$195.00	Withdraw category

Other Dog Control Charges

	2016/17 Fees	Proposed Fees for 2017/18 (incl GST)
Sustenance fee (per day)	\$12.00	\$12.00
Poundage Fee:		
First impounding	\$66.00	\$66.00
Second impounding	\$122.00	\$122.00
Third and subsequent impounding	\$153.00	\$153.00
Surrender a dog for euthanasia	\$31.00	Actual cost plus 10%
Microchipping of impounded dog	\$43.00	Withdraw category
Microchipping of Masterton registered dog	\$20.00	\$20.00
Permit application to keep more than two dogs in urban area including breeder	\$51.00	\$51.00
Breeder permit holder urban registration per dog	\$80.00	\$80.00
Re-homing fee for impounded dog	No charge	No charge
Replacement registration tag	\$5.00	\$5.00
Collars	Actual cost plus 10%	Actual cost plus 10%
Costs and expenses relating to impounding and securing impounded dog	Actual cost plus 10%	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).