

# ANIMAL WELFARE



## Overview

Under the Animal Welfare Act 1999 Council is obliged to provide for the physical, health and behavioural needs of all animals in its care. Council is also obliged to ensure that services are provided in Waitakere City to enforce the dog control and stock impoundment legislation.

In 1995 Council decided to broaden its animal services by encompassing animal welfare enforcement and compliance. A pilot programme was established with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry whereby dog control officers were appointed animal welfare inspectors. This programme became permanent when the Animal Welfare Act 1999 came into force and all animal welfare officers in Waitakere are now qualified through a Unitec certificate programme and are appointed animal welfare inspectors.

The premises at The Concourse from which the Animal Welfare services operate act as an animal welfare facility, as well as meeting dog control requirements.

## Governing regulations

- Animal Welfare Act 1999
- Dog Control Act 1996
- Impounding Act 1955 (Stock)
- Council Dog Control Bylaw No. 29 (2004) and Policies



## Funding of Animal Welfare activities

- Revenue (collected in the form of dog registration fees, impounding fees and infringement fees) funds dog control activities. All revenue received through dog control activities must be expended only for the purposes authorised by the Dog Control Act.
- Rates funding subsidises the general activities of animal welfare enforcement.
- Additional revenue is obtained from commercial sponsorship, promotional activities and donations from members of the public.

### **Sustainability objectives**

*Supporting a healthy living environment through education on the responsibilities of proper interaction with dogs, and for the care and welfare of animals*

### **Environmental objectives**

*Ensuring that animals, in particular cats, do not impact negatively on the environment with special emphasis on the Waitakere Ranges.*

### **Cultural objectives**

*Through community liaison ensuring that all cultures respect the needs of animals*

### **Economic objectives**

*Provision of a service that maximises "user pays"*

### **Social objectives**

*Working towards harmony between those that own animals and those that don't, particularly in dealing with barking dog issues*

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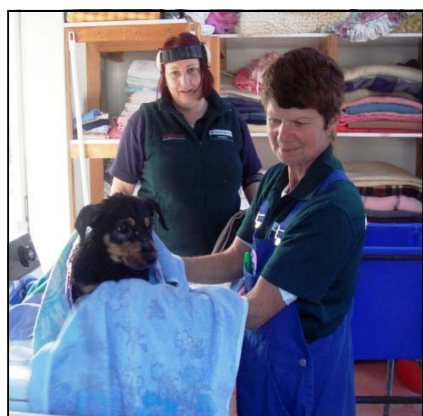
## How we contribute to community outcomes

Community outcomes	Our contribution
Sustainable environment—Kauneke Tauwhiro Taiao	Education of animal owners and the general public in relation to animal welfare
Environmental protection—Waiora	Animal control including cat control
Green network—he tuituianga kakariki	Animal control including cat control
Strong communities—He iwi kaka	Animal control and education

## Key services

### Dog registration

All dog owners must register their dogs prior to 2nd August each year as required by the Dog Control Act 1996. Infringements are issued for failure to register the dog. The dog may also be impounded for non-registration. The owner is then liable to pay the impounding fee, the registration fee, the microchipping fee and may also be issued with an infringement offence notice for non-registration.



*Staff members Helen Cross & Sandra Carr bathing an abandoned & abused pup*

### Animal control and animal welfare enforcement

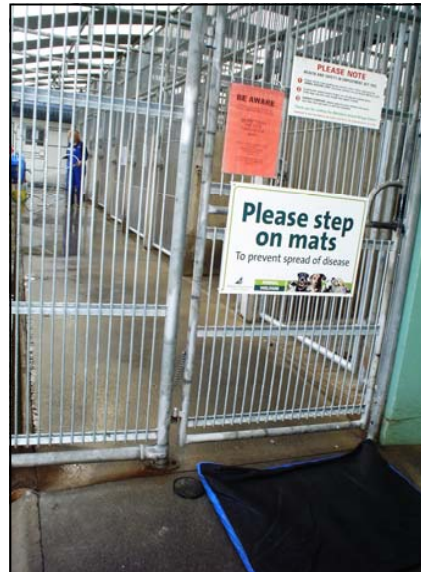
Requests for service relating to animals, mainly dogs, includes roaming, aggression, excessive barking, welfare, and fouling. Animal Welfare's response is through education, infringements and prosecutions. Regular patrols are made on beaches, reserves and the cemetery. The Dog Control Act 1996 is the primary legislation used. Welfare enforcement is primarily through the Animal Welfare Act 1999, which relates to ill treatment and failure to provide the basic needs of animals. The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry carries out an annual audit of compliance.

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## Accommodation of animals

Animal Welfare provides accommodation for animals that have been seized or impounded. Animals are fed, cleaned, exercised and health checked on a regular basis pending their release to original owners, adopting owners or euthanased where re-homing is not a suitable option. Regular veterinary checks and vaccinations are carried out by a visiting veterinarian.



*Successful adoptions*



## Impounded animals

Under the Dog Control Act 1996 dogs may be seized or impounded where breaches of the legislation occur.

Instances include wandering dogs into rubbish, dogs challenging members of the public and dogs attacking people or other animals.

Likewise stock such as sheep, goats, cattle and horses may be impounded under the Impounding Act 1955 or animals may be seized under the Animal Welfare Act 1999 where negligence and/or cruelty is occurring.

Generally animals must be held for a minimum of seven days. However, in the case of animal welfare uplifts or dog aggression cases, the animals may need to be held for extended periods pending court determinations.



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## School and community group education

Education talks are given to school groups and community groups in which the approach is to promote welfare as the key to control of animals.

Community and inter agency partnerships are also fostered.

*Support from St Leonards Primary School*



## Community advocacy

Community and individual involvement is constantly sought in working towards win-win solutions for animal owners and the general public alike when dealing with animal related problems. Community involvement is encouraged through the Animal Welfare volunteer programme.



*Volunteers play a big role*



Customer concerns are often heightened due to the highly emotive nature of dog aggression and animal welfare related issues. Further, it is not uncommon for complaints about dogs to be used to exacerbate entrenched neighbour disputes.