

Housing Forum June 2017

Facilitator: Di Harwood

- Welcome
- Notices
- **Monique and Richard SPCA (power point)**
 - o History: Five Freedoms
 - o What does the inspector do: VADE (Voluntary Assisted Directed Enforced) model of compliance
 - o 130 notice: Offence against Animal Welfare Act, if it doesn't comply with it then prosecute if needed
- Case study: Buddy. Abused dog, this went to court and Buddy was rehomed. Owner faced prison and disqualification
- Case Study: Kid. Abused dog, again owner faced imprisonment
- There is a high level of desertion and hoarding at the moment
- Empathy Education: Pets and animals are important in assisting children to create empathy. Surveys show how animals are important in their life; children go to animals with their problems more readily than adults.
- SPCA filling up with pets that are not allowed in rentals and people are now surrendering them at higher numbers. Research has shown however that children cause more damage than pets.
- In order to have landlords more readily accepting of pets it's important to have the animal microchipped, desexed and registered. There is a 98% drop in risk if an animal is desexed

Question: Di Harwood: If an owner is disqualified from having an animal who checks up on this

Answer: No one we have to rely on the community for this, we can remove the animals from this situation but need to find out first

Question: Nathan from Vision west: Who collects stray cats?

Answer: There are different approaches from the 46 units around the country. Some TNR – Trap, Neuter and release. There has been a stray cat issue for a while now

Simon: I like cats

Question: Cat flu? How can we tell and what do we do?

Answer: Cats have junky eyes and sneeze a lot – much like flu symptoms in humans. If you come into contact with a cat that is suspected of Cat flu you need to wash hands thoroughly after touching.

Question: Is it natural for dogs to dig holes?

Answer: Dogs will dig if they are bored – need to waste all their energy by walking, playing or training them.

- **Bill Kohi – CCC Animal Control/ Dog Control**
 - o Tip for landlord when you have prospective tenants that want to bring an animal onto the property is to look at registration number, vet books re desexing, references and vaccination records
 - o Main Roles are with regards to dog control issues and stock on the roads
 - o Officers are on hand 24/7

- They do not just enforce the rules but they hold education seminars too. 5 of the 10 officers do education around Christchurch.
 - Dog smart is the main education programme for all local councils. It has been running for 15 years and there are about 50 talks per year. Target years 7,8 and 9 in schools as around that age children begin to walk to school alone around that age.
 - Children are taught what to do if they come across stray dogs; councils are trying to capture them younger with these messages as they will be our future dog owners.
 - Dog safe is another programme for workers e.g. Nurse Maude and posties
 - Reading to dogs is a programme where dogs are taken to libraries and children can practice their reading with the dogs, often these are children with disabilities.
 - Sometimes Animal Control turns up to assist other agencies when they need to go onto premises but there is a dog safety issue there. This could be to retrieve dogs or puppies or check in on injured dogs etc.
 - Have a great relationship with the dog rescues in Chch such as Bull Breed rescue, Second Chance dog rescue and Dog Watch.
 - Working with communities is important. Also an important service is “in house” i.e. privatised services are about profit.
 - Dog owners pay for Animal controls services via registration – they are a self-sufficient unit within the CCC.
 - There were a number of bites within CHCH however a lot were not reported. ACC rates because of dog bites are very high.
 - Owners are often the issue they do not train their dogs or allow them to become bored etc. Often dog bites in the home occur because owners think the dog will be fine and leave it alone in the room with a child who could be eating, or does not know how to behave round an animal.
 - There is a difference between general dog barking and excessive barking, excessive barking usually occurs out of boredom. CCC Animal control is not like noise control where they just take the stereo away – this cannot be done with a dog. It takes hours to days to process
 - Microchipping and social media are a great way for reuniting dog owners with their lost dogs.
 - Civil defence is currently working with CCC Animal control on a project for a post disaster plan. Often owners and pets get separated and cannot get to an emergency centre. CCC is looking to work with support of MPI to set up an animal welfare hub for pets.
- Things tenants should do
 - Put the pets in the contract and state that dogs must be registered and chipped. CCC can't give that info to the Landlords

Question: Fraser Benson HNZ – What is the registration process

Answer: Owners receive a letter in May which is a registration invoice.

- About 2000 owners per year are not paying for registration
- We will conduct random street checks
- Bill thinks registration may have increased this year
- Dogs exhibit fight or flight behaviour – ANY dog may act out despite what the owners say
- Attacks are often a family dog at home who has never attacked before
- If a dog is on its own then leave it alone

Question: Should dogs be leashed

Answer: In the street yes, in the park no. Dogs must not be one meter from play equipment. In Hagley Park on the path they need to be leashed. If not leashed dogs still need to be under effective control

- There are things that both the CCC and SPCA cannot do
 - o They cannot just take dogs off someone there needs to be a case
 - o There is a process that needs to be followed through the district court to get consent to enter a house

Question: What funding do you receive- CCC?

Answer: By registration fees from owners and fines etc.

Question: What funding does the SPCA receive?

Answer: We are a charity, we do accept food and blankets at the centre.

- **Fraser from HNZ**
 - o This is a stringent case by case decision with regards to whether a tenant can have a dog
 - o Dogs will usually be approved for medical reasons
 - o If not for medical reasons they may not be approved
 - o Need approval for any animal full stop
 - o 3 years ago a letter was sent to all tenants to ask if they have a dog, is it registered and microchipped and if you have one do you have a support letter to keep the dog based on medical reasons
 - o If there has been a dog on the property for a while e.g. longer than the three years ago when the letter was sent out then usually there is no problem to keep the dog as this is implied consent
 - o Often now new properties are not appropriate to have dogs
 - o Hoping for a natural attrition: i.e. when you have a dog for a medical need if your existing dog dies then you are unlikely to get approval for another dog
 - o Best to advise MSD that you have a dog when you apply
 - o Even if there is approval at time for the dog there may not be a property available that would enable the person to take the dog
 - o Have ended some tenancies due to presence of dogs
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