



STAFF REPORT

TO: Environment & Planning Committee

FROM: Jean Hodson, Regulatory Manager

REFERENCE: D412

SUBJECT: **DOG POUND ISSUES - REPORT EP07/11/05** - Report prepared for 15 November Meeting

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of the report is to raise the issues associated with the current dog pound facility and suggest a working party be formed to explore the issues and options for providing an improved facility.

2. BACKGROUND

The Council currently only has one dog pound facility which is located in Beach Road, Richmond. (In addition there is a small temporary holding facility at Golden Bay and Murchison.) The Beach Road dog pound is considered to have reached the end of its useful life. There are a range of concerns which are summarised below and some photos are also included for information.

3. ISSUES OF CONCERN

The main kennel building is of concrete block construction and contains four kennels and runs. One kennel serves as an isolation kennel for sick or injured dogs. The construction is poor and has cracks, leaks, is cold, has poor drainage, is impossible to clean in a way to prevent the spread of disease, dogs can get at each other through the mesh and the facility is vulnerable to break-ins. There have been a number of occasions where dogs which have been impounded have been taken, six times last year. In addition there are several small individual kennels placed on a concrete slab, three on each side of the main building. These are rotten and the slab is cracking and subsiding, possibly due to the main sewer underneath.

A separate building is used for storage of food and other functions in association with the pound administration. Again this building is in poor condition and is inadequate in size and serviceability. Although it has been repainted, the cladding is rotten and generally is completely inadequate.

The whole facility really has no value as the basis of upgrading. See photos attached.

4. RELATED MATTERS

The land is owned by Council but is designated for engineering purposes. There is no immediate upgrade of the sewer system planned, but the benefits of any refurbishments on this site could be undermined if at some future stage the pound has to be relocated.

In June 2007 "The Nelson ARK" (Animal Rescue Community) made a submission to Council seeking funding from the Port Nelson Share buy-back fund for a new pound facility in Headingly Lane. The Nelson ARK is a community oriented group focussed on promoting the benefits of animal-human relationships by creating a community centre using the framework of an animal rescue centre. There are issues for Council in terms of potential liability if it became involved in combining dangerous and/or stressed animals with an animal rescue centre, not to mention the potential issues associated with the need to destroy dogs under specific circumstances. Some discussions have taken place regarding the possibility of a combined pound / animal rescue facility; however it is considered that due to the differing aims and objectives of the Council (in terms of administering Dog Control functions) and the Trust, that a shared facility would have its challenges. To be fair to ARK the Committee may wish to signal whether this option should be further pursued.

Nelson City Council has recently opened a new purpose built dog pound facility in Quarantine Road. It contains 15 cages. Preliminary discussions have been held regarding the possibility of TDC sharing this facility. A favourable response was received but no discussion regarding possible terms have been held.

The standards and general principles for the keeping of animals such as the minimum size of accommodation for dogs, drainage, temperature, noise, lighting, ventilation bedding, security, and hygiene are all listed in the "Code of Recommendation and Minimum Standards for the Welfare of Animals in Boarding Establishments". Reference should be made to the code for guidance when considering a facility for the impounding of dogs.

5. PROCESS

It is proposed that a working party be established involving staff and Councillors with the objective of investigating the options and costs for the provision of new dog pound facilities. At this point, the options have not been defined, but may include the construction of a purpose built dog pound or some other method of obtaining the necessary impounding facility. Once the investigation is completed, the working party would report back to the Environment & Planning Committee with a recommendation.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That this report be received.
2. That a working party consisting of two Councillors, two staff and a representative of Control Services (Nelson) Ltd be formed for the purpose of investigating and reporting back on the options and estimated costs for the provision of satisfactory dog pound facilities.

3. That the Committee indicate its preferences regarding considering a combined Council / Nelson ARK dog pound facility.

Jean Hodson
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