

16 February 2022

[REDACTED]

Sent via email to [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

### REQUEST FOR OFFICIAL INFORMATION – RELEASE OF INFORMATION

We refer to your official information request dated 15 February 2022. You requested the following information from the Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC):

- *I am a vet for Remarkable vets and we are interested in finding out whether there has been much of an increase in the number of Dogs registered with you due to COVID. A recent article showed Auckland has had a massive increase in registered dogs. Auckland Council reported the number of registered dogs in Aug 2021 was 7358 compared to 957 Aug 2019.*
- *Is there a way you would be able to provide us with similar statistics?*

### QLDC response

QLDC experienced a 7% increase in dog registrations during the first lockdown year (2020), with a 5% increase being the norm over previous years. Last year (2021) saw a 6% increase, which is still slightly higher than the norm, but what we would expect given growth in the district.

The dog registration numbers are:

20/21	5728
19/20	5388
18/19	5033
17/18	4836
16/17	4485
15/16	4302

We have 5800 dogs registered as of today.

Should it be of assistance to you in the future QLDC publishes the dog registration numbers each year, usually around September. These Section 10A reports contain all sorts of facts you may find interesting. I have included a link to the reports below:

<https://www.qldc.govt.nz/your-council/council-documents/section-10a-reports>

Our regulatory Support group were interested in the figures you provided from Auckland City and undertook some additional research on these. They reviewed the Auckland City Council Section 10A reports through this link:

<https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/plans-projects-policies-reports-bylaws/our-policies/Pages/policy-on-dogs.aspx>

These reports cite the dog registration numbers as follows:

#### 2020/2021 YEAR 5.35% increase

- Animal Management continued to focus on dog registration compliance during the 2020-2021 year, which saw an increase in the number of known dogs in the Auckland region from **112,530** in the previous year to **118,552** in this registration year.
- There are currently **112,329** registered dogs in Auckland, which is **94.75%** of all known dogs. This is an increase of **5.8%** from the previous year.
- A total of **1,903** infringement notices were issued to dog owners who failed to register their dogs as required by the Act.

#### 2019/2020 YEAR 1.4% increase

- Animal Management continued to focus on dog registration compliance during the 2019-2020 year, which saw an increase in the number of known dogs in the Auckland region from **110,969** in the previous year, to **112,530** in this registration year.
- A total of **1,138** infringement notices were issued where dog owners failed to register their dogs as required by the Act.
- Dog registration and animal management fees increased by **0.9%** on average for the 2020-2021 financial year.

#### 2018/2019 YEAR 3.4% increase

## Part 4: Dog Control Statistics – 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019

### 4.1 Registrations

Category	Total	Previous year
Known dogs	↑ 110,969	110,012
Dogs registered	↑ 106,608	102,954

These numbers don't seem to tally with the figures in the article to which you referred. I do note however that the article refers to the month of August whereas their annual reports are based on the corporate year end of 30 June – perhaps this explains the difference.

I trust that this answers your request.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Phil Jones', enclosed within a large, loopy circular flourish.

Phil Jones

Senior Official Information Advisor