

## Michelle van Straalen

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**From:** Michelle van Straalen  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 2 June 2020 18:11  
**To:** canineresearch.nz@gmail.com  
**Cc:** official information  
**Subject:** LGOIMA 20112 - Failures to provide a dog with proper care and attention, proper and sufficient food and water, proper and sufficient shelter, or adequate exercise

Kia ora

Further to your information request of 24 May 2020 in respect of failures to provide a dog with proper care and attention, proper and sufficient food and water, proper and sufficient shelter, or adequate exercise, I am now able to provide Hamilton City Council's response.

### You requested:

*I would be grateful if you could provide the following information for each of the last five financial years about instances of failing to provide a dog with proper care and attention, proper and sufficient food and water, proper and sufficient shelter, or adequate exercise.*

- 1. The number of complaints received about each of a failure to provide a dog with proper care and attention, proper and sufficient food and water, proper and sufficient shelter, or adequate exercise.*
- 2. The number of each type of instance that are discovered by dog control officers (so are in addition to those identified by a complaint).*
- 3. The number of prosecutions taken, or infringement notices issued for each type of instance.*
- 4. If instances are dealt with by education, the nature of the educative process and the period and arrangements for monitoring to ensure compliance, and how many instances of each type were dealt with by education.*
- 5. If there is an arrangement to pass instances to the SPCA, Police or another agency for handling, how many instances of each type have been passed to each agency.*
- 6. How many instances of each type concerned owners already known as a consequence of previous similar failures.*
- 7. On how many occasions has a dog control officer entered a property to provide a dog with food, water or shelter, or to seize a dog that was not provided with those things.*
- 8. If a dog that was not being provided with food, water or shelter was seized, in how many instances of each type was the dog returned to the owner, or destroyed, or sold or otherwise disposed of.*

### Our response:

The answers to questions 1, 2, 3 and 8 can be found in the Animal Education and Control open data set via the link to the Waikato Data Portal on our facts and figures page (link to this page below). The open data set enables you to cross reference and undertake research and create your own analytics. To help with narrowing the data set down the following service request codes are used:

- Dog offences – insuffic – insufficient food/water/shelter (are service requests initiated by members of the public)
- Dog offences – ranging – welfare – insufficient food/water/ shelter (are cases discovered by HCC animal control officers)

<https://www.hamilton.govt.nz/our-services/animal-control/Pages/Facts-and-figures.aspx>

In regard to question 4 and 5. There are no formal arrangements with our local SPCA to pass on instances of animal neglect/welfare issues discovered by our staff. However we have a good relationship with the local inspectorate and generally pass on all severe cases we find. If the dog in question has a known owner our staff will inform them about their concerns about the condition of the dog and that we have passed their details on to the SPCA who will be in contact with them.

Service requests involving animal welfare, whether initiated by a member of the public or discovered by staff, involve an element of education. Part of our AECO's role is education so in all contacts advice would have been provided to the dog owner along with information about other agencies that could help.

We are unable to provide the information you requested in questions 6 and 7 as the information is unable to be obtained without substantial collation and research. We do not record this information individually and obtaining information would involve an individual search through each individual report.

Due to the substantial amount of work that would be required to research and collate the information you have requested, we are refusing this portion of your request under section 17(f) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987. The amount of time required to compile this information would impact significantly on the day to day Council functions.

If you are unsatisfied with Hamilton City Council's response, you have the right to seek a review by the Ombudsman. Details on how to make a complaint can be found at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz).

Please feel free to contact me if you have any queries regarding this response.

Kind regards,

**Michelle van Straalen**

Official Information Advisor | Legal Services

DDI: 07 974 0589 | [Michelle.vanStraalen@hcc.govt.nz](mailto:Michelle.vanStraalen@hcc.govt.nz)



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**From:** official information

**Sent:** Tuesday, 26 May 2020 10:09 AM

**To:** [canineresearch.nz@gmail.com](mailto:canineresearch.nz@gmail.com)

**Cc:** official information <[officialinformation@hcc.govt.nz](mailto:officialinformation@hcc.govt.nz)>

**Subject:** LGOIMA 20112 - Failures to provide a dog with proper care and attention, proper and sufficient food and water, proper and sufficient shelter, or adequate exercise

Kia ora

I write to acknowledge your information request of 24 May 2020 in respect of information relating to instances of a failure "to provide a dog with proper care and attention, proper and sufficient food and water, proper and sufficient shelter, or adequate exercise".

Please be advised that your request has been passed on to the relevant team within Council and you will be informed of the outcome.

The Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 requires that we advise you of our decision on whether the Council will provide the requested information or not “as soon as reasonably practicable”, no later than 20 working days after the day we received your request. We will respond to you no later than 22 June 2020.

Please feel free to contact me in the meantime if you have any queries regarding the progress of your request.

Kind regards,

**Michelle van Straalen**  
Official Information Advisor | Legal Services

DDI: 07 974 0589 | [Michelle.vanStraalen@hcc.govt.nz](mailto:Michelle.vanStraalen@hcc.govt.nz)



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**From:** Canine Research <[canineresearch.nz@gmail.com](mailto:canineresearch.nz@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, 24 May 2020 11:08 PM  
**To:** official information <[officialinformation@hcc.govt.nz](mailto:officialinformation@hcc.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** Request for Information

Dear Hamilton City Council,

My preference is to receive the requested information by email.

I would be grateful if you could provide the following information for **each of the last five financial years** about instances of **failing to provide a dog with proper care and attention, proper and sufficient food and water, proper and sufficient shelter, or adequate exercise.**

1. The number of complaints received about each of a failure to provide a dog with proper care and attention, proper and sufficient food and water, proper and sufficient shelter, or adequate exercise.
2. The number of each type of instance that are discovered by dog control officers (so are in addition to those identified by a complaint).
3. The number of prosecutions taken, or infringement notices issued for each type of instance.
4. If instances are dealt with by education, the nature of the educative process and the period and arrangements for monitoring to ensure compliance, and how many instances of each type were dealt with by education.

5. If there is an arrangement to pass instances to the SPCA, Police or another agency for handling, how many instances of each type have been passed to each agency.
6. How many instances of each type concerned owners already known as a consequence of previous similar failures.
7. On how many occasions has a dog control officer entered a property to provide a dog with food, water or shelter, or to seize a dog that was not provided with those things.
8. If a dog that was not being provided with food, water or shelter was seized, in how many instances of each type was the dog returned to the owner, or destroyed, or sold or otherwise disposed of.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

*If necessary I can be contacted by telephone:* [REDACTED]

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