

09/07/2020

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED],

Request for Information – Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987

We refer to your official information request dated 9 July for information regarding dog rehoming.

As you will be aware, NZAVS contacted us in March this year to ask these questions. We now publish Information Requests to our website that are in the public interest including this one from NZAVS [here](#). I have also attached the documents for ease of use.

As we stated to NZAVS in our response HCC/WCC Animal Services would not allow or condone any of our adoption dogs to be passed on to any organisation for research purposes.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us or don't feel like we have answered your questions fully, please feel free to contact me at euan.kyle@huttcity.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

Euan Kyle

Encl OIR - Rehome dog policy

Euan Kyle

From: Sheena Perry
Sent: Monday, 9 March 2020 1:06 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Response to LGOIMA request - 4 March 2020 - Rehome dog policy
Attachments: RSA-WI-241 - Ci - Property checks for re-homing.pdf; [REDACTED] - rehome dog policy - OIR response 9 March 2020.pdf; RSA-FORM-025F - HCC Application to rehome dog.pdf; RSA-FORM-107F - Adoption agreement.pdf

Hi [REDACTED]

Please find attached the HCC response to your recent request for information in regard to a rehoming dog policy. Also attached are three documents referred to in our response.

Regards

Sheena Perry
Executive Assistant

Hutt City Council, 30 Laings Road, Private Bag 31912, Lower Hutt 5040, New Zealand
T 04 570 6924, W www.huttcity.govt.nz



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Euan Kyle

From: Euan Kyle
Sent: Thursday, 5 March 2020 9:53 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: LGOIMA request

Dear [REDACTED]

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION - LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL INFORMATION AND MEETINGS ACT 1987: ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF REQUEST

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your official information request dated 5th March 2020 for information regarding our dog rehoming policy.

We received your request on Thursday 5th March 2020. We will endeavour to respond to your request as soon as possible and in any event no later than 20 working days after the day your request was received. If we are unable to respond to your request by then, we will notify you of an extension of that timeframe.

Your request is being coordinated by Euan Kyle. If you have any queries, please feel free to contact him on 04 570 6702 or ewan.kyle@huttcity.govt.nz. If any additional factors come to light which are relevant to your request, please do not hesitate to contact us so that these can be taken into account.

Yours sincerely

Euan Kyle

Senior Advisor, Official Information and Privacy

Hutt City Council, 30 Laings Road, Private Bag 31912, Lower Hutt 5040, New Zealand
T 04 570 6702 W www.huttcity.govt.nz



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From: Contact <Contact@huttcity.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 4 March 2020 4:57 PM
To: Corporate Records <Corporate.Records@huttcity.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: LGOIMA request

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, March 4, 2020 4:56 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: LGOIMA request

Kia ora,

I work for the New Zealand Anti-Vivisection Society and I am currently in the process of contacting all city councils in NZ to find out what the different policies are on the rehoming of dogs. Specifically, on the rehoming of dogs to be used for research, testing or teaching (RTT) methods.

This issue was brought to my attention recently when we found out that dogs had been rehomed from a pound in Christchurch and used in a secondary poisoning experiment (more info [here](#)). There was quite a lot of [nationwide media](#) attention on this so you may have already heard about this!

The Christchurch City Council [couldn't confirm](#) what pound the dogs were rehomed from as they said that didn't have that information. However, the Christchurch City Council now has a policy in place that should prevent this from happening again in the future.

Under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA) I would like to request a copy of your dog rehoming policy or any other policies that cover the rehoming of dogs to be used for RTT methods.

If you do not have a current policy on this but you are looking at creating one, we suggest using the following wording:

"No animal will be released from an animal pound or shelter into the ownership of any person or organisation for use in a scientific procedure or manipulation for research, testing or teaching purposes as defined by the [Animal Welfare Act 1999](#)."

I look forward to hearing from you,

Ngā mihi mahana,

[REDACTED]

Executive Director

The New Zealand Anti-Vivisection Society

PO Box 9387, Tower Junction, Christchurch 8149

027 816 1926 • www.nzavs.org.nz



9 March 2020

[REDACTED]
Executive Director
The NZ Anti-Vivisection Society

By email: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Jane Schuitema
Regulatory Services

Tel: 04 5706666
jane.schuitema@huttcity.govt.nz
Our reference: DIV/20/3103

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION - LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL INFORMATION AND MEETINGS ACT 1987

We refer to your email dated 4 March 2020. In your letter you request information in regard to any dog rehoming policies held by the Hutt City Council

Your request has been processed according to the provisions of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

Pursuant to the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 we advise that your request for information has been granted, accordingly we enclose the following:

- We don't have a current adoption policy
- We do, however, run a very successful adoption programme and have dedicated staff that follow through on our strict processes to ensure our dogs go to responsible and loving homes
- We post our available dogs on our *facebook* page **Animal Services Wellington & Hutt Valley** and we are well known throughout the country for our successful programme and also work closely with SPCA and HUHA
- We currently use three documents as follows (attached):
 - RSA-FORM-025F – HCC Application to rehome dog
 - RSA-FORM-107F – Adoption agreement
 - RSA-WI-241 – Property checks for re-homing

HCC/WCC Animal Services would not allow or condone any of our adoption dogs to be passed on to any organisation for research purposes.

There is no charge for the provision of this information.

Yours sincerely



Jane Schuitema
Team Leader HCC Animal Services

APPLICATION TO RE-HOME DOG



Date application received	
Month	Year

Adobe Acrobat V11 is required to fill this form online
Download for free  <http://get.adobe.com/reader/>

CLICK HERE TO EMAIL THIS APPLICATION TO: adoptions@huttcity.govt.nz

This application will assist both you and us in determining what you are looking for and to assist us in finding the right dog for you.

We like to ensure as close to a “perfect match” as possible so adoptions are not done in the order received.

Adoptions are based on the suitability of the family adopting and the dog available for rehoming.

Please ensure that you complete the form in full and include all relevant information. Failure to do so will result in a delayed or rejected application.

Full name of dog owner		
Address (include street number)		
Suburb	City	Postcode
Council who operate in your area		How many dogs does your council allow you to own?
Home telephone no	Business telephone no	Mobile no
Email address		
Property is <input type="checkbox"/> owned <input type="checkbox"/> rented (written consent from your landlord is required if rented)		
Access to property Is there free access to your front door? (eg can someone enter the property and knock on the front door without encountering the dog?) <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no		

1. Number of people living at the premises
2. Ages if under 16 years
3. Why do you want to adopt a dog? (eg companion for yourself/other pet/for children/watchdog?)
4. Some dogs require training I am a first time dog owner <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no I need a dog that is already trained <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> may need some assistance I have obedience trained before <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> may need some assistance I have lots of experience and could handle a difficult dog <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no

5. How do you plan to socialise and train the dog?

6. Do you currently have any pets? *(please give details as below)*

Name	Breed	Sex	Age	Spayed/ neutered		Current vaccinations		Registered	
				<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no
				<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no
				<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no

7. Where will your new dog sleep? Where do your current pets sleep? *(please be specific, eg kennel, verandah, laundry. If inside, which room?)*

8. Which areas of the house/yard will the dog have access to *(eg backyard only, backyard and laundry/kitchen/non-carpeted/other areas?)*

9. How do you plan to help the dog adjust to its new home?

10. Have you had any dogs in the past? *(please list breeds you have owned in the past)*

11. Is your yard securely fenced? *(describe type of fencing (wooden, wire etc) and height at the lowest point. If you have a swimming pool is it separately fenced?)*

12. If no one is at home, where will the dog stay? *(inside or outside? If the dog is outside, what type of shelter will the dog have?)*

13. How many hours will the dog be without human company for each day?

14. What activities would you like to do with your dog?

15. How often will you have time to walk the dog? How long for? On lead or off lead?

16. What do you feed your current dogs? What will you feed your new dog? *(please name brands)*

17. What do you plan to do with the dog if you move house?

18. Age, size, breed and sex of dog preferred?

- 3-6 months 6-12 months 1-2 years 2-5 years 5-7 years
 7+ years no age preference
 small medium large giant
 male female

Preferred breed/s – if any?

Name of dog/dogs you are interest in

19. Please tell us about you, your family, hobbies or your interest in adopting a dog? *(the more information you provide, the better we will be able to determine suitability)*

- I agree that my property shall be inspected by an Animal Control Officer to ensure that the property where the dog is to be kept complies with Council's Dog Control policy
- I am fully aware of my responsibilities regarding dog ownership
- By submitting this questionnaire, I agree that ALL the information I have provided is correct

Once a house check has been completed, we will agree on a trial period.

TRIAL PERIOD

If approved for a dog there is a two week trial period (longer by mutual agreement).

1. If, during the trial period, I feel the dog is unsuitable for any reason, I will contact Animal Services and arrange a mutually convenient time to return him/her and all relevant paperwork to Animal Services.
2. The dog will, at all times, wear a collar with an identification tag attached during the trial period. The dog will not be allowed off my property or allowed in any unsecured area without a collar and lead.

At the end of this term and if an adoption is to go ahead, the appropriate fees are to be paid and an adoption agreement will be completed and registration and microchip information will be changed into your name.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this form.

Signed <i>(applicant)</i>	Date
Signed <i>(Dog Control Officer)</i>	Date

Hutt City Council reserves the right to refuse any applicant and will not enter into any further correspondence on our decision.

'Saving one dog will not change the world, but surely for that one dog, the world will change forever.'

PROPERTY CHECKS FOR RE-HOMING

