

MEMO TO:

TOM DIDOVICH
cc: SIMON HUNTER
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
ANTHONY HIGGINS

DATE: 1 SEPTEMBER 1994

SUBJECT: ANIMAL CONTROL AND ANIMAL WELFARE

1994 has been year where dog issues have achieved some predominance politically and with the community in the City. There was the Pooch Power Conference, the establishment of the Canine Working Party, active lobbying through the Mayor of all Local Authorities in the country, the LGA, Department of Internal Affairs etc, to encourage the Minister to establish amendments to existing dog legislation to provide for improved control, and finally the establishment of the Animal Welfare Centre as a business unit in City Enterprises.

We are now at a stage where I understand a review of the Animal Welfare Centre is proceeding, the Canine Working Party has done its thing and come up with a large number of recommendations to Council, and Neil Wells has taken some initiatives with respect to enhancing our animal welfare services by proposing the establishment of a pilot programme whereby our staff fulfil the role of animal welfare inspectors by providing an SPCA type operation. [see attached correspondence from Neil Wells] There is now a need to pull all this together. The following needs to be done:

1. Tom Didovich to draft up a report to the October Environmental Management Committee meeting which would cover:
 - (1) Consideration and discussion of the recommendations of the Canine Working Party and recommendations to Council with respect to these.
 - (2) Anything you would wish to pass on to Council in connection with the review of your Unit.
 - (3) Fee structures for 1995/96. At the time that we put through the 94/95 fees, you will recollect I raised issues that deserved reconsideration. At the time there was no choice but to let it proceed because printing had to be implemented and dog licence registration accounts sent out. I would be keen to have a review of our policy and charges to take into account some of the thoughts we had last year. The Canine Working Party recommended that Council rates fund a higher proportion than previously of the costs of running the animal welfare operation. It would not be in this Committee's role to determine what percentage of rates funding would be appropriate, but comment on the principle of rates funding for community benefit, would be appropriate.

Neil Wells also encloses a statement with respect to issues relating to linking dog control and the Hydatids Act to the Animal Protection Act. Do you agree with him? Have you seen what the LGA have advised MAF? Should we be taking up this issue? If so, we should put it through with a report such as Neil has written through the September Environmental Management Committee which meets on 21 September. That means we need your draft report on that issue by 7 September please Tom.


Clive Preston-Thomas
MANAGER : REGULATORY SERVICES