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# N. E. Wells & Associates

Incorporating NEW Quality Systems, NEW Health and Safety Systems,  
NEW Publishing, NEW Animal Welfare Information Services

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Wednesday, 27 December, 1995

The Regulatory Services Manager  
Clutha District Council  
P O Box 25  
BALCLUTHA

MB

## re: Animal Control and Animal Welfare

Dog control is more than just dog catching and revenue collecting – there is a synergistic relationship between dog ownership and animal welfare.

Animal control officers are often faced with situations, such as abandoned animals or barking dogs, where the root cause of the problem is neglect – in other words it is an animal welfare problem. In these cases territorial authority officers have no other alternative than to call in the SPCA whose officers are warranted under the Animals Protection Act 1960. This creates an unnecessary doubling up of services and a public perception that Council officers are unable to deal with the situation.

It has not been possible in the past for territorial authorities to obtain warrants for its officers as there has been an exclusive arrangement existing for 30 years that all honorary Inspector appointments are made on the recommendation of the Royal New Zealand SPCA.

A pilot programme has commenced between the Ministry of Agriculture and Waitakere City Council whereby their animal control officers have been issued warrants under the Animals Protection Act 1960.

Under this programme Animal Control Officers have the power to:

- ◇ enter premises, buildings or vehicles without warrant where there are reasonable grounds for believing that an offence of cruelty or neglect is occurring or has occurred (a warrant is required to enter a dwellinghouse) to inspect any animal and seize any animal where an offence has occurred;
- ◇ enter premises, buildings or vehicles without warrant to feed and water an animal that has not had food or water in the previous 24 hours (a warrant is required to enter a dwellinghouse);
- ◇ order an owner to take steps to alleviate suffering;
- ◇ destroy an animal that is in such a condition that it is cruel to keep it alive (subject to a veterinary opinion if the owner objects);

◇ recover expenses through fines or as a debt.

N. E. Wells & Associates has been approved by the Chief Veterinary Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture as the training and accrediting body for this programme which will be monitored for 6 months.

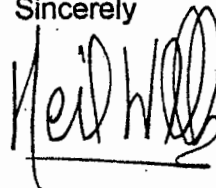
On the successful completion of the programme any territorial authority will be able to enhance their animal control services by having their officers warranted under the Animals Protection Act 1960.

We are looking at 1 July 1996 as the date when this new programme will be available on a national basis.

In the meantime those territorial authorities wishing to take advantage of the new programme may need to consider linking into the systems and budgeting for training and support services. Facilities will be available for selected officers to be accredited before that date.

Please contact me in the New Year if your territorial authority has an interest in participating in this programme and I can provide further information on the training programme, on-going costs and information on how this will enhance the role of territorial authorities in animal control and animal welfare.

Sincerely



Neil Wells

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT