



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Ruapehu District Council**

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#### **COUNCIL CONCERNED AT LARGE NUMBER OF DOGS STILL UNREGISTERED**

Ruapehu District Council (RDC) is concerned that a large number of dog owners have not yet re-registered their dogs for the 2011-2012 year with the deadline being Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> July.

RDC Team Leader Compliance, Brenda Ralph, said that council records show that 1,436 dogs owned by 674 owners are still to be registered for the coming financial year that starts on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> August.

"Technically all dogs should have been registered by the end of June, however, council always gives dog owners until the end of July to register their dogs before any penalties are imposed," she said.

"All Ruapehu dog owners who already have a registered dog would have received their re-registration papers in the mail for the 2011-12 year some time ago."

"It is the dog owner's responsibility to ensure that they keep council advised of any changes to their dog ownership status such as if a dog has died, they get a new dog, the dog has a new home, or they have changed address, etc."

Mrs Ralph said that any dog owner who has an unregistered dog or has still not yet received their re-registration papers and invoice for 2011-12 should contact their local council office as soon as possible.

"Unfortunately it seems that every year there are a core group of owners that do not register their dogs by due date."

"It is disappointing to still have this level of non-compliance despite writing to each and every dog owner on the database and advertising the registration period widely.

Mrs Ralph noted that every council in New Zealand works to the same timetable for dog registrations which is the same year-after-year so any long term dog owner is well aware of the registration requirements.

"From mid August council officers will start following up each and every dog owner that is shown as having an unregistered dog including undertaking site visits to their residence if required," she said.

"Any dog owner with an unregistered dog is liable for the yearly registration fee plus a late penalty fee with an additional infringement of \$300 per dog if the dog remains unregistered."

DAVID HAMMOND  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

CJH : PRW