

Date: Wednesday 4 September 2024
Time: 11:30am
Meeting Room: Tasman Council Chamber
Venue: 189 Queen Street, Richmond

Animal Control Subcommittee

MINUTES ATTACHMENTS

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PUBLIC FORUM: Council provides the opportunity for public forum input at its ordinary meetings. The views and opinions expressed in public forum do not necessarily reflect the position of the Tasman District Council, Council officers or elected members

I am writing this letter in regards to our dog, Onyx, and an unfortunate incident involving my niece.

We have had Onyx in our lives for the past year and a half, and during this time, he has never shown any signs of aggression towards myself or my daughter. Onyx is a kind-natured, playful dog who is well-loved by all the children who interact with him. What happened with my niece was a deeply distressing experience for her, and I fully acknowledge the gravity of the situation.

Onyx has been an indoor dog since we first brought him into our home, even sleeping in my bed every night. My daughter and I have always felt very safe in his presence. We take him for daily runs and frequently visit the skate park, where other children also enjoy his company.

Onyx is a very family-oriented dog and has never exhibited any dysfunctional behaviour in our day-to-day life with him. At the time of the incident, our other dog, who belongs to my daughter, was on heat. I believe this may have contributed to Onyx's behaviour, as it can affect a dog's temperament and actions. This situation has placed me in a difficult position, as I deeply care for both my beloved dog and my niece.

My sister and I have grown quite close over the past year, and she has visited our home multiple times while Onyx was present, without any prior signs of aggression from him towards her or my niece.

Following the incident, we have taken necessary precautions to prevent any recurrence. We are committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of all family members and are willing to enroll Onyx in any necessary training programs to demonstrate that he is a kind, non-aggressive dog. Our primary goal is to restore trust and ensure that everyone feels secure in Onyx's presence. Thank you for your understanding and consideration.

Sincerely,
Millie Russell

To whom this may concern,

I Lexie Donnithorne am writing this Letter regarding Onyx (dog owned by Quaid Brennan-Selfe)

My daughter Zaidee and I began visiting the home in January 2024, my daughter at the time been very wary of dogs (she's 3 and had a incident been bitten a year ago). Over a very short period of time She become comfortable with both Onyx and the other dog on the property. Onyx is by far her favorite because he's gentle, will cuddle up with her and doesn't steal her snacks, she's happy to share with him mostly anyway. There has not been any moment where I have felt untrusted of Onyx around myself or my child.

I have taken Onyx on car rides to collect Zaidee from kindergarten where he's always happy to be greeted by the children walking past the car at school hours he doesn't bark or come across intimidating towards anyone.

Onyx is a kind natured, well looked after big baby. His dad (Quaid) is an excellent dog owner and has done very well training both his dogs to be safe with all people expecially children. Both dogs are able to be hand fed, do tricks for treats and a very well mannered doing so towards kids and children.

I don't believe Onyx should be deemed as a dangerous dog, I am very aware of the incident at hand however I believe this was a very one off incident and he was caught off guard in his own home, completely out of character for Onyx. There has been absolutely no public incidents and public are often happy to give him pats when hes out and about with Quaid. I think to muzzle him in public would not only cause him distress but also cause the public to believe he's an intimidating dog when he's not at all. He's more interested then a pat and cuddle then to bark or bite at them.

I have seen Onyx interact with multiple different Adults, Children, other dogs and animals with absolutely no issues. He does have not dominating nature at all. I completely trust Onyx with my child and myself and I think anyone that comes across Onyx would Highly agree he is a absolutely amazing dog, well trained and he just lives to give and be loved.

Thankyou,

Lexie Donnithorne. *Lexie*