
MINUTES
of the
ANIMAL CONTROL SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

held
9.30 am, Wednesday, 30 April 2025
at
Tasman Council Chamber, 189 Queen Street, Richmond

The [video recording](#) of this meeting is available on the Council's YouTube channel

Present: Councillors C Hill (Chair), M Kininmonth and K Maling

In Attendance: Team Leader Regulatory (S Green), Regulatory Support Officer (S Vale), Regulatory Services Manager (S Bruyns) and Senior Governance Advisor (K McLean)

1 KARAKIA, OPENING, WELCOME

The Chair opened the meeting with karakia and welcomed everyone in attendance. Meeting attendees were introduced and the meeting process was outlined.

2 REPORTS

4.1 Menacing Classification Appeal

The Chair invited Karen and Aaron Baigent to provide a statement on the matter before the Subcommittee.

The following matters were stated:

- Mr Baigent was not involved at the time of the altercation, Ms Baigent had been walking the same track she walked Trixie on for five years,
- Trixie was harnessed and on the lead at the time of the altercation,
- Trixie was one two dogs involved, she was attacked first but was bigger and caused fatal injuries to the other dog,
- Mr Baigent noted the other dog was unregistered, off lead and out of control in a public place, and that they felt they were paying the price for another dog owner's poor choices and the outcome was unfortunate
- Mr Baigent grew up on a farm with many dogs and understood what it meant to be a

good dog owner,

- Trixie was a well socialised and well behaved dog and no previous altercation had occurred.

In response to questions from the Subcommittee, the Baigent's provided the following answers regarding Trixie:

- She had a body harness on and a retractable lead
- Trixie was at the heel at the time of the altercation
- Trixie was not on heat the time and was not desexed
- She was not a purebred Mastiff.

Regulatory Support Officer, Sandy Vale presented the report, which was taken as read. She noted that in making the classification, that:

- Officers took the time required to ensure they had considered all factors
- Trixie had to be physically restrained down by human body weight
- Consideration was taken around the 'dangerous classification'
- The severity of the self-defense (picking up and shaking of the other dog) was noted and a strong factor/key component of the decision to classify Trixie as menacing

In response to questions from the Subcommittee, Ms Vale and Team Leader – Regulatory, Shannon Green provided the following answers:

- There had been no other complaints
- This position has been taken by staff due to the severity/nature of the self-defense and officers felt that a muzzle will stop potential altercations
- Staff considered all options and did not feel that anything higher than a menacing classification was required
- Staff acknowledged that Trixie was the attacked dog
- This classification meant that Trixie had to be muzzled whilst in public, but there were no further restrictions, such as neutering, or a dangerous dog classification, staff did not see those as required for this case.

The Baigent's were offered a right of reply, no additional information was obtained during the right of reply.

The meeting was adjourned at 10.13am and reconvened at 10.31am.

In its deliberations, the Subcommittee considered the officers report, the mitigating factors presented during the hearing, and the Council's responsibilities under Section 31(4) of the Dog Control Act 1996, being:

- a) the evidence which formed the basis for the original classification; and
- b) any steps taken by the owner to prevent any threat to the safety of persons and animals; and
- c) the matters advanced in support of the objection; and
- d) any other relevant matters.

The Subcommittee determined that the Menacing Dog Classification was to be upheld and resolved the following:

Moved Councillor Kininmonth/Councillor Maling
ACS25-04-1

That the Animal Control Subcommittee

1. receives the Menacing Classification Appeal report RACS25-03-1; and
2. pursuant to Section 33A of the Dog Control Act, upholds the Menacing Classification for Trixie, owned by Aaron Wayne Baigent

CARRIED

3 CONFIDENTIAL SESSION

Nil

The meeting concluded at 10.36am.

Confirmed as a correct record of proceedings by resolution on Enter date .