

**From:** Lauren McDonald  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Official Information request - failure to provide a dog with proper care and attention.  
**Date:** Monday, 29 June 2020 11:51:00 a.m.

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Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email request on behalf of [REDACTED] for information held by Council for "each of the last five financial years about instances of failing to provide a dog with proper care and attention, proper and sufficient food and water, proper and sufficient shelter, or adequate exercise."

I have repeated your information requests below together with our response (in blue text).

1. The number of complaints received about each of a failure to provide a dog with proper care and attention, proper and sufficient food and water, proper and sufficient shelter, or adequate exercise. **The Dunedin City Council is not legally required to store that specific information within its software programme, and it would require a detailed and specific manual search of files to isolate the information being sought.**
2. The number of each type of instance that are discovered by dog control officers (so are in addition to those identified by a complaint). **The Dunedin City Council is not legally required to store this specific information in a format that makes it possible to provide the number of instances and it would therefore require a detailed and specific manual search of files to isolate the information being sought.**
3. The number of prosecutions taken, or infringement notices issued for each type of instance. **None in the last five years.**
4. If instances are dealt with by education, the nature of the educative process and the period and arrangements for monitoring to ensure compliance, and how many instances of each type were dealt with by education. **Incidents concerning matters of welfare are generally dealt with in the field by the officer with the correct information being passed on to the dog owner. Only in severe cases would any information be forwarded to the SPCA. An example of this occurred in December 2017 at an Dunedin address where 5 dogs were seized, where there was SPCA involvement and prosecution.**
5. If there is an arrangement to pass instances to the SPCA, Police or another agency for handling, how many instances of each type have been passed to each agency. **The DCC have an obligation to pass on any information concerning mistreatment of animals to the appropriate business agency (including the Ministry of Primary Industries). Information is quite often passed onto and between other agencies on an informal basis. The Dunedin City Council is not legally required to store this specific information in a format that makes it possible to provide the number of instances and it would therefore require a detailed and specific manual search of files to isolate the information being sought.**

6. How many instances of each type concerned owners already known as a consequence of previous similar failures. **No specific instances known other than the example highlighted in response to question 4.**
7. On how many occasions has a dog control officer entered a property to provide a dog with food, water or shelter, or to seize a dog that was not provided with those things. **Over the last five years, and to the best of our knowledge, only the circumstances stated as an example in question 4. The Dunedin City Council is not legally required to store this specific information in a format that makes it possible to provide the number of instances and it would therefore require a detailed and specific manual search of files to isolate the information being sought.**
8. If a dog that was not being provided with food, water or shelter was seized, in how many instances of each type was the dog returned to the owner, or destroyed, or sold or otherwise disposed of. **The DCC works under the Dog Control Act and not the Animal Welfare Act and if a dog is removed from an address for being unregistered and it is discovered that the dog is malnourished, then as long as the dog is registered Council is obligated to release the dog back to the owner. In a case such as the example give to question 4, the SPCA would be advised prior to the return taking place, to give them the opportunity to intervene.**

As we do not hold some of the information you have requested, your request is refused pursuant to section 17 (g) of the Local Government Official Information Act because the information is not held. You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone on 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

Lauren McDonald

**Governance Support Officer**

**CORPORATE SERVICES GROUP**

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