



northern
beaches
council

10 July 2020

William Thomson
Email: billthomson232@optusnet.com.au

Our Ref: 2020/389454

Dear Mr Thomson

Dog Attack Statistics

Thank you for your correspondence dated 29 June 2020 concerning the above. The Mayor, Michael Regan has asked that I respond to you on his behalf.

Dog attack incidents in the Northern Beaches Council local government area remain challenging.

Council continues to take proactive initiatives to promote responsible pet ownership principles and which assists in reducing the number of dog attack incidents. The initiatives include; annual community dog events, pop up stalls and educational talks conducted in combination with other industry stakeholders.

Council's enforcement approaches have and remain robust where investigations are undertaken. Recently, Council have instigated two Local Court proceedings against responsible persons where results have included; destruction orders, significant fines, legal costs awarded and owner disqualification orders. In addition to this, Rangers have issued a variety of on the spot fines and utilised other related provisions under the applicable legislation to declare dogs either a nuisance, menacing and/or dangerous.

Rangers have recently undertaken a three week intense proactive enforcement tasking program that targeted dog offences at known hotspots, including the Newport Beach vicinity. The tasking focused on a high visibility presence at peak early and late timeframes primarily addressing dogs that were off leash and in prohibited areas. The tasking in short, demonstrated some 19 infringements issued in 54.5 hours of proactive patrolling time across the known hotspot locations.

Due to the intense and sensitive nature of dog attack investigations, Council has also increased the staff numbers in the respective unit responsible for animal control in an effort to meet the enforcement demands.

Council is confident that the above approaches and results will make a difference moving forward and encourages the community to report all dog related matters promptly so an appropriate and reasonable response can be arranged by the Ranger team.

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Should you require any further information or assistance in this matter, please contact my office on 8495 6313 or at council@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au

Yours faithfully

Paul Crossan
Manager, Rangers

cc: Mayor Regan

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