

NAPIER POUND TIMELINE

AUGUST 2016

- Animal Control team moves from City Strategy to City Services directorate under NCC restructure. With the change comes improvements in management, reporting and team culture.

SEPTEMBER 2016

- Watchdog group sends email to Mayor Bill Dalton threatening “a very public animal welfare campaign” but refuses to meet with Napier City Council CE Wayne Jack on the matter to resolve issues
- Watchdog group contacts media complaining about Napier Pound and calls for an investigation. NCC responds “we’re confident that the process and procedures now in place with our Animal Control team, together with the recent change in management, are already showing a positive change in the team culture and we don’t believe that subjecting this team to an investigation at this point in time would be beneficial.”

OCTOBER 2016

- NCC formally apologises to Melanie Derbidge in response to a complaint made about an Animal Control officer accessing her property in June 2016. NCC assures Ms Derbidge that changes to processes since June mean such mistakes won’t happen in future
- Memorandum of Understanding with SPCA signed – includes a weekly site visit by SPCA team
- Watchdog lodges complaint with MPI over alleged breaches of the Animal Welfare Act at Napier pound.
- MPI begins its investigation.

NOVEMBER 2016

- MPI inspectors visit Napier Pound
- Bark Island doggie day out at Park Island attracts 400 people and around 200 dogs - Watchdog supporters turn up to protest
- A NCC complaint to the Advertising Standards Authority about a Watchdog advertisement showing photos of a pound in Texas, USA under the heading NAPIER POUND WELFARE WORRIES is not upheld.

DECEMBER 2016

- An External Audit Report into Napier Pound determines that the facility is “well run” and “very clean and sanitary.” Animals have plenty of space and good clean bedding and

bowls. Storage of food, chemicals and so on also meets MPI standards. MPI finds non-compliances in the following areas: documentation and standard operating procedures (SOPs), temperature control, disease prevention measures. All changes taken for immediate action by Napier City Council.

MARCH 2017

- MPI undertakes follow up veterinary visit to the Napier Pound and finds an “excellent facility and design” with one outstanding item regarding temperature which is actioned on the day of the visit.

APRIL 2017

- Dog Control Report 2015/16 presented to Council, showing 15.75% of all impounded dogs were euthanised during that period – a very low statistic when compared with other Councils around New Zealand
- MPI finds “insufficient or no evidence” of any cruelty towards or mistreatment of animals at Napier Pound. MPI recommends that Napier Pound is revisited by the end of September 2017, and that a mandated qualification be developed for Animal Control Officers nationwide. “MPI is now able to close the door on this body of work and allow Napier City Council, and the public, to move forward with confidence” says Gary Orr, MPI Manager Compliance Investigations.