DUNEDIN CITY COUNCIL | kaunihera a-rohe o Ōtepoti

Notice of Meeting:

I hereby give notice that an ordinary meeting of the Hearings Committee will be held on:

Date:	**Tuesday 7 July 2026**
Time:	**10.00 am**
Venue:	**Council Chambers, Dunedin Public Art Gallery, The Octagon, Dunedin**

Sandy Graham
Chief Executive Officer

Hearings Committee

Objection to Dog Classification

MEMBERSHIP

Chairperson	Cr Mandy Mayhem
Members	Cr Doug Hall Cr Lee Vandervis
Senior Officer	Paul Henderson, General Manager Corporate and Regulatory Services
Governance Support Officer	Lynne Adamson

Lynne Adamson
Governance Support Officer

Telephone: 03 477 4000
governance.support@dcc.govt.nz
www.dunedin.govt.nz

Note: *Reports and recommendations contained in this agenda are not to be considered as Council policy until adopted.*

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PART A REPORTS (Committee has power to decide these matters)

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DECLARATION OF INTEREST

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Members are reminded of the need to stand aside from decision-making when a conflict arises between their role as an elected representative and any private or other external interest they might have.

2. Elected members are reminded to update their register of interests as soon as practicable, including amending the register at this meeting if necessary.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee:

a) **Notes/Amends** if necessary the Elected Members' Interest Register attached as Attachment A; and

b) **Confirms/Amends** the proposed management plan for Elected Members' Interests.

Attachments

	Title	Page
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Hearings Committee Members Interest Register 3 July 2026				
Name	**Responsibility (i.e. Chairperson etc)**	**Declaration of Interests**	**Nature of Potential Interest**	**Member's Proposed Management Plan**
Cr Mandy Mayhem	Chairperson	Waitati Hall Society Inc	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Chairperson	Keep Ōtepoti Dunedin Beautiful	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Co-ordinator	Emergency Response Group, Blueskin area	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Blueskin Bay Amenities Society	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Blueskin A & P Society	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Zone Representative and Board Member	Keep New Zealand Beautiful	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Coastal Community Cycleway Network	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Waitati Music Festival Committee	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Property Owner	Residential Property	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Disability Issues Advisory Group (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Dunedin Gasworks Museum Trust (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Keep Dunedin Beautiful (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Performing Arts Advisory Group (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Social Wellbeing Advisory Group (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
Cr Doug Hall	Trustee	Cronus Trust	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Owner	Clickfix Ltd	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	District Licensing Committee (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Shareholder	**Various NZ,US shares and Crypto**	**No conflict identified**	**Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.**
	Member	Dunedin Public Art Gallery Society (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Toitū Otago Settlers Museum Board (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	West Harbour Community Board (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
Cr Lee Vandervis	Director	Lee Vandervis, Antonie Alm-Lequeux and Cook Allan Gibson Trustee Company Ltd - Residential Property Ownership - Dunedin	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Director	Bunchy Properties Ltd - Residential and Lifestyle Farm Property Ownership - Dunedin	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.

Name	Responsibility (i.e. Chairperson etc)	Declaration of Interests	Nature of Potential Interest	Member's Proposed Management Plan
Cr Lee Vandervis (cont)	Owner	Various publicly Audio and Lighting - Hire, Sales and Service Business	May contract and provide service to DCC	Withdraw from discussion and leave the table. If the meeting is in public excluded leave the room. Seek advice prior to the meeting.
	Member	District Licensing Committee (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Dunedin Heritage Fund (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Okia Reserve Management Committee (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.

PART A REPORTS

MENACING CLASSIFICATION APPEAL

Department: Corporate and Regulatory

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1 This report details the Dunedin City Council's (DCC) decision to classify the appellant's dog as menacing pursuant to section 33A(2) of the Dog Control Act 1996 (The Act).

2 This report is prepared in response to the appellant's objection to the menacing classification and details the process by which the menacing classification was made and contains the evidence gathered by the DCC Animal Services team in respect of that decision.

3 The Hearings Committee in accordance with the Council's Committee Structure and Delegations Manual has the delegation to hear and determine objections for classification of dogs as menacing under the Dog Control Act 1996. The objection will be heard under the provisions of Section 33B(1) of the Act and the owner of the dog has the right to be heard in support of the objection.

4 The role of the Committee is to consider whether to uphold or to rescind the menacing dog classification.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee:

a) **Upholds** the decision to classify the appellant's dog: Misty as menacing pursuant to section 33B(2) of the Dog Control Act 1996.

b) **Provides** the appellant, as soon as practicable, with a written decision which contains the reasons for its determination.

BACKGROUND

5 Section 33A(1) of the Act provides that Council may classify a dog as menacing that has not been classified as a dangerous dog under section 31; but Council considers it may pose a threat to any person, stock, poultry, domestic animal, or protected wildlife because of any observed or reported behaviour of the dog.If a dog is classified as a menacing dog under Section 33A, the dog is required to be muzzled in public places unless they are in a cage, confined in a vehicle, inside a dwelling house, inside the dog owner's property, or inside another person's fenced property with the consent of that person.The appellant in this matter is Miss Safire Stenerson.

Miss Stenerson is the registered owner of one dog: Misty, a white and tan female American Staffordshire Terrier Cross aged seven years old.

6 On 20 May 2026 the DCC afterhours service received a Dog Attack- Person Request For Service (RFS 882459) from the complainant in this matter. The report advised that a "white and brindle staffy cross pitbull type" dog had come into her backyard from a neighbouring property at approximately 7:50am and attacked her. The report advised that the complainant had been bitten on the arm and she was going to the hospital for medical treatment. The report also advised that the dog had then attempted to attack the complainant's partner, biting him on his boot through the fence when he came home to stop the dog entering their property.

7 Animal Control Officer (ACO) Whyte called the complainant and confirmed the address of the property where the dog had come through the hedge.

8 ACO's Whyte and Wedlock attended the appellant's property and spoke with the appellant. She provided them with the details of her dog Misty, who was inside the dwelling when they arrived. It was established that the appellant's dog Misty was currently registered to a different address. There was no second dog on record.

9 The ACO advised the appellant that the Request for Service described a white and brindle dog leaving her property and attacking someone on a neighbouring property. The dog Misty which was sighted at the property was white with tan ticking and did not initially appear to match the description provided in the RFS.

10 The appellant advised that she had heard her dog Misty barking earlier and had brought the dog back inside the property. However she stated she was not home at the time of the incident itself. She advised that she did not believe her dog would attack someone if not provoked. She also noted that the description of a white and brindle dog did not match her dog Misty, who is white with tan ticking.

11 ACO Whyte obtained statements from the complainant and her partner. When they initially called though to the DCC afterhours contact centre, the complainant had described the dog as having brindle spots, but when she spoke to ACO Whyte, the complainant volunteered that it was white and tan.

12 A second dog, described as a Rottweiler puppy had also been sighted through the fence at the appellant's property, and then on the appellant's driveway behind the gate when the complainant's partner had gone around the street to determine the exact address of the appellant's property.

13 The complainant provided a video still from their security camera, showing the second dog from the appellant's address wandering on their property the day prior to the attack by Misty.

14 A general statement from the complainant who was bitten by the dog is attached to this report. It includes photos of her injuries (Attachment 1).

15 A general statement from the partner of the complainant, who also witnessed further aggressive behaviour from the dog is attached to this report (Attachment 2).

16 Following their clarification of the dog's appearance, the complainants were confident that the dog involved in the incident had come from the appellant's property.

17 Based on her investigation, despite the initial discrepancy in the attacking dog's description ACO Whyte was satisfied that the dog involved in the incident was the dog Misty, residing at the appellant's property.

18 On 25 May 2026, after reviewing the investigation details with ACO Whyte, the Animal Services Team Leader Cazna Savell determined that the dog posed a risk to the public and issued the dog Misty with a Menacing Classification under section 33A of the Act.

19 ACO Whyte completed a DCC Dog Attack Pack file. This file contains the complainant details, appellant details, dog details, photos, text communication with the appellant, assessment matrix, recommendations and outcome (Attachment 3).

20 A statement outlining the facts leading to the issuing of the Menacing Dog Classification has been prepared by ACO Whyte and is attached to this report (Attachment 4).

21 The Notice of Menacing Dog Classification was prepared and is dated 25 May 2026 (Attachment 5).

22 On 25 May 2026 ACO Whyte also issued a fencing order under the DCC Dog Control Bylaw 2024 to the appellant requiring her to complete repairs of the fence to ensure the appellant's dog could be adequately contained. An infringement was also issued under Section 52A for failure to keep controlled/confined (Attachment 6).

23 The Menacing Classification Notice together with information regarding the effects of classification and advising of the right to object to classification was hand delivered to Miss Stenerson's letterbox on 25 May 2026.

24 Section 33B of the Act provides that an owner may within 14 days of receiving notice of classification object to that classification (Attachment 7).

25 On 29 May 2026 Miss Stenerson wrote to the DCC via email objecting to that classification under Section 33(B) of the Dog Control Act (Attachment 8).

OTHER RELEVANT MATTERS

26 On 29 May 2026 DCC received a further Request for Service (RFS 884037) from the complainant in this matter who advised that the dog at the appellant's address had acted aggressively towards her partner again while he was adjusting the boards on their property.

27 The complainant confirmed the dog had not left the appellant's property this time, but it was the dog that had attacked her and her partner on 20 May 2026. A copy of this RFS record is attached to this report (Attachment 9).

28 On 24 June 2026, ACOs Whyte and Tatham attended the appellant's property for a pre-arranged follow up visit to check on fencing progress. ACO Tatham reported that when the appellant's dog Misty was brought out by the appellant to get scanned for a microchip, the appellant's dog acted aggressively towards him, attempting to bite him twice on the leg. Contact was made, however it did not break the skin due to his protective clothing and he was not injured. A copy of this report is attached to the document (Attachment 10).

DISCUSSION

29 ACO Whyte will provide evidence to the Committee of her investigation and explain the process used with the implementation of the Attack Pack as a means of determining the outcome of an investigation.

30 The complainant will speak to her statement detailing the behaviour of the dog Misty toward her on her property on 20 May 2026.

31 ACO Tatham will provide evidence to the committee of his interaction with the dog on Misty on 24 June 2026 where he observed further aggressive behaviour.

32 The purpose of this Committee hearing is to decide whether the DCC's classification of menacing in respect of the appellant's dog is just and reasonable under the circumstances and whether that decision should be upheld.

33 The object of the Dog Control Act 1996 is:

(a) To make better provision for the care and control of dogs-

(iv) By imposing on owners of dogs obligations designed to ensure that dogs do not injure, endanger, or cause distress to any stock, poultry, domestic animal or protected wildlife.

OPTIONS

Option One –

34 Recommended Option Uphold the decision to classify the appellant's dog Misty as menacing pursuant to section 33B (2) of the Dog Control Act 1996.

Advantages

- The risk to the public is reduced.
- Misty will be required to be neutered.

Disadvantages

- There are no known disadvantages.

Option Two –

35 Rescind the decision to classify the appellant's dog Misty as menacing pursuant to section 33B (2) of the Dog Control Act 1996.

Advantages

- There are no known advantages.

Disadvantages

- Misty will continue to be a risk to the public.

NEXT STEPS

36 Give written notice to the appellant of:

a) its determination of the objection; and

b) the reasons for the determination

Signatories

Author:	Cazna Savell - Team Leader Animal Services
Authoriser:	Bonnie Wright - Manager Compliance Solutions Paul Henderson - General Manager Corporate and Regulatory Services

Attachments

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SUMMARY OF CONSIDERATIONS

Fit with purpose of Local Government

This decision enables democratic local decision making and action by, and on behalf of communities.

Fit with strategic framework

	Contributes	Detracts	Not applicable
Social Wellbeing Strategy	☐	☐	✓
Economic Development Strategy	☐	☐	✓
Environment Strategy	☐	☐	✓
Arts and Culture Strategy	☐	☐	✓
3 Waters Strategy	☐	☐	✓
Future Development Strategy	☐	☐	✓
Integrated Transport Strategy	☐	☐	✓
Parks and Recreation Strategy	☐	☐	✓
Other strategic projects/policies/plans	☐	☐	✓

Māori Impact Statement

There are no known impacts for Māori

Sustainability

There are no implications for sustainability

LTP/Annual Plan / Financial Strategy /Infrastructure Strategy

There are no implications for the LPT/Annual Plan/Financial Strategy/Infrastructure Strategy

Financial considerations

There are no financial considerations

Significance

While the public will have a general interest in the objects of the Dog Control Act 1996, specific community interest in this case is low. This decision is considered low in terms of the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy

Engagement – external

There has been no external engagement

Engagement - internal

There has been no internal engagement

Risks: Legal / Health and Safety etc.

There are no identified risks

Conflict of Interest

There is no conflict of interest

Community Boards

There are no implications for Community Boards

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General statement

RFS Number	882459
Job description	Dog v person
Complainant surname	[redacted]
Statement date and time	20/05/2026 12:07pm
Date of birth	[redacted]
Full Name	[redacted]
Address	[redacted]
Contact number	[redacted]
Name of officer receiving statement	Karan Whyte
Location	Civic center
Statement	On Wednesday 20 May 2026 at approximately 7.50am, I was in my backyard near the shed when a dog came through the hedge it showed its teeth at me and i tried to back away the dog went straight at me . The dog lokked like a staffy pitty cross that was white with tan spots. The dog bit me on the left forearm one deep puncture,right hand and forarm , and right knee full bite mark photos taken attached at time of statement. Will send photos taken shortly after incident. The dog backed off and went back through the hedge ,I saw a rotti pup at the hedge also. I turned and ran and rung my partner [redacted] He came home to help, and then took me into hospital for my wounds to be checked.

Statement photo

Statement photo

Statement photo

Statement photo

Statement photo

Agreement

- I have read this statement and agree that it is true and correct.
- I have nothing further to add.

Customer finished time 12:22pm

Full name and signature

[redacted]

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General statement

RFS Number	882459
Job description	Dog v person
Complainant surname	[redacted]
Statement date and time	20/05/2026 12:24pm
Date of birth	[redacted]
Full Name	[redacted]
Address	[redacted]
Contact number	[redacted]
Name of officer receiving statement	Karan Whyte
Location	Civic center
Statement	On Wednesday 20 May 2026 at approximately 7.51am i was in mosgiel on my way to work when [redacted] called me in hysterics saying she had been bitten. I went straight home and checked on [redacted] then went into the back yard with my workmate, I approached the back corner to find the green barrier ripped open the the cinder blocks scattered, 3 blocks had been pushed down . I waited st the hole as my workmate went around to the front of [redacted] As i stood there the dog put its head back through the hole snarling and baring its teeth, it started creeping through the fence. I put my footup on the bottom cinderblock to stop it coming through the hedge and it latched on to my steelcap and shookmy boot, I punched the dog and it let go.And went back into its yard. The dog was staffy pitbulltype , mainly white tanspots on face. I went around to [redacted],and knocked on the door there was a young rotti at the drivewaygate and the lights were on. No one came to the door.
Agreement	• I have read this statement and agree that it is true and correct. • I have nothing further to add.
Customer finished time	12:36pm

Full name and signature

[redacted]

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Animal RFS

RFS Details

RFS number	882459
Request	DAP - Dog Attack - Person
Date and time RFS attended by officer	20/05/2026 8:52a.m.
ACO:	Karan Whyte

Customer detail

Customer name Customer Services Agency

Default Address PO Box 5045 Dunedin 9054

References

Questionnaire

Inform of Outcome?	
Time to contact	
Preferred contact method?	
Time of attack?	
Date of attack?	
Where did the attack happen?	
Are you the victim?	
If not the victim - victim's name and address details?	
Where is the dog now?	
Address of the dog that attacked?	
Suburb (Mandatory)	
Were there any witnesses?	
Dog Breed?	
Dog Colour?	
Dog Name?	
Tag Colour/Number?	
Additional Notes?	Received from PNCC: Customer Details: Customer:[redacted] Customer Address:[redacted] Home Phone: Cell Phone: [redacted] Work Phone: Email: We have recorded the following information: Case Started: 20-05-2026 08:22:26 AM NZST Call In: 08:22:26 Issue Location: [redacted] Type of Animal: Dog Problem Type - Dog: Dog Attack on Person Details: Caller is reporting that a dog from a neighbouring property came onto her property and attacked her this morning 20 minutes ago. She is unsure of the exact address of the dog owner but advised that the property is located behind her address. The dog bit her on the arm, and she is now going to the hospital. She also stated that the dog attempted to attack her husband. The dog is described as a white and brindle Staffy cross Pitbull. Dog Colour: Brindle and white Dog Gender: Unknown Tag

Number/Colour: NA Duty Officer Contacted?: Spoke to Officer Name/Number Called: Jaco/[redacted] Time Called Out : 8:22 Assignment Group: Dunedin - Urgent Animals

RFS notes

Health and safety assessment

I have identified the potential risks for this job?	Yes
Do NZTA or Kiwi Rail need to be notified?	No
The level of risk has been assessed and deemed safe?	Yes
I have the required PPE/ equipment to undertake this job safely ?	Yes

Incident property

Property address	[redacted]

Incident dogs

Dog

Lookup dog	Property
Animal reference	375819
Animal type	Dog
Microchip	
DCC Tags	Year: 2025-2026 Tag: 9604
Animal class	Pet (Not Neutered)
Animal colour	White/Tan
Animal gender	Female
Animal breed	Terrier, American Staffordshire - Cross
Animal name	MISTY
Animal Status	Active
Animal birthdate	28/9/2018
Animal property address	[redacted]
Owner first name/s	Safire
Owner last name	Stenersen
Owner birthdate	[redacted]
Owner mail address	[redacted]
Owner mobile phone	[redacted]
Owner home phone	
Owner business phone	
Owner email	[redacted]

Action notes

Date and time of incident (required for any letters)	20/05/2026 07:50a.m.
Pathway notes	20\5\26 Staffy type dog from [redacted] has come through the boundary hedge and attacked the complainant in her back yard at [redacted] bites to leg, both forarms and hand.

Called at [redacted] spoke to Safire Stenerson , dog not on record here on file at [redacted] Said not her dog as hers is not brindle. Safire did hear Misty barking and brought her inside. I explained that a dog from her property has dog escaped through hedge at back of the property and attacked two people on another property. That person is on route to hospital for treatment.

She stated that they must have done something to her. I asked her to ensure Misty contained in the interm.Will get back to her after speaking to conplainant to check dog description details.

Dog we sighted at [redacted] is staffy type white with lots of tan spots (tan ticking). Safire let her come to door, growling fearfull body stance.

I note that dog was described as staffy pitty type white with brindle as per original complaint details, on checking dog details with conplainants they descibed the dog colour as white with tan spots.

Statements provided by complainant and partner. 4 bites to-leg ,both forearms and a hand. Has been to hospital for wound treatment. I note the conplainants partner has reinforced area dog got through with a board, and replaced the cinderblocks that had been knocked down and pulled up the plastic netting prior to taking partner to hospital and us visiting the site.

Complainant was in back yard near her shed when the white and tan staffy type dog has come through from the corner of the boundary, she has backed off and the dog has attacked. The dog went back through the hedge and she saw a second dog a young rotti on the otherside of the hedge.

She called her partner after the attack ,he has come home with his work mate. On investigating where the dog came through the white and tan dog has tried to push through the hedge again he has put his foot up to stop the dog and it has bitten and held onto his boot. His work mate has gone around to [redacted] to see where dog went , he has seen a young rotti at the driveway gate of [redacted]

20\5\26 at approximately 3pm called past [redacted] not home, rang and left phone and text message. Safire rang back on private number I asked to meet she said no. I explained that Misty has been identified as the dog -white with tan spots, Safire said they are lying as you told me brindle this morning, I went to explain I had checked re colour of the dog with the complainant.Safire spoke over the top of me saying she had checked the fences not her dog, I said I would be happy to come out and show her where dog has gotten out, she hung up on me.

I note that the young rotti we believe to be from [redacted] Street was videoed on the property at [redacted] the day prior to the attack. Indicating that the dogs from [redacted] Street could access the property at [redacted]

Recieved text from Safire dening allegation, I have text her

	offering to meet and show her where the dog has gotten through boundary and offered her the opertunity to supply a statement. No reply. 25\5\26 spoke to conplainant has said that people at [redacted] Street have put up some sort of temporary barrier across the back corner where dog came through, she is worried that the gaps around this will mean it is not secure. Spoke to tl, to send out classification,fine,also letter refencing and microchipping misty,s19 and 19a request for dog and owner details of the young rotti cross at the property.
Is a follow up visit required	No
Is the property linked	Yes
Are the offending dogs linked	Yes
Further action	• Infringement

Infringement

RFS number	882459
Request	DAP - Dog Attack - Person
Property ID	[redacted]
Property address	[redacted]
Is the offender the dog owner?	Yes
Are the offending dogs linked	Yes

Linked dogs

Animal reference	375819
Animal breed	Terrier, American Staffordshire - Cross
Animal name	MISTY
Animal property address	[redacted]
Owner first name/s	Safire
Owner last name	Stenersen
Owner birthdate	31/03/1999
Date and time RFS attended by officer	20/05/2026 08:52:a.m.
ACO	Karan Whyte
Offence	Failing to contain
Location	[redacted]
Date and time of incident (required for any letters)	20/05/2026 07:50:a.m.

Contacted?

Complainant contacted if requested	Yes
Comment	Provided statement

Letters

Letter types	• Fencing order
Letter date	25/05/2026
When is the fencing required to be completed by	27/07/2026
letter notes	Must fix the fencing on the property , particularly were there is hedging to provide a secure area of confinement for Misty.

Attack Pack

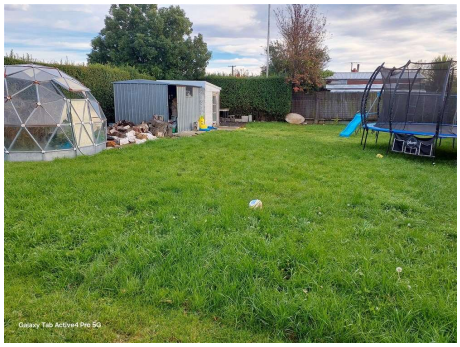
Investigation Check Sheet / Report

Alleged offence	Dog/s attack on : Person
Would a DNA sample be useful in this attack?	No
Is the dog contained	No
Should the Dog be seized	No
Summary of incident (to appear on letter/classification)	Misty has escaped the property through the rear property boundary and attacked a person. Resulting in 4 bites to the person.

Officer Notes

Date and time	20/05/2026 09:53am
Notes	Spoke to [redacted] attack happened in her back yard. Dog has come through the hedge in the back corner behind the shed. She was walking out to the shed, dog bit her knee ,forearm and hand. Her partner has come home and tried to see where dog went through the hedge ,where cinderblocks have been push down on their side of the boundary .The dog has stuck its head back through the hedge and grabed his boot. He has then gone around to [redacted] and knocked on the door and waited approximately 15 mins. Thinks someone was home vechicle in driveway and dog barking stopped. Described dog as bull breed type smaller dog white with brindle. [redacted] was concerned what the dog would have done if her son had been the one going out to the shed to get his bike. At the property they also have a Rotti pup. They are on route to the hospital and will call when they are free.
Date and time	20/05/2026 09:45am
Notes	Rang property of [redacted] wner no answer left message to contact
Date and time	20/05/2026 09:59am
Notes	Called at [redacted] took photos of fence area where dog has gone through. This area opens into the back corner of [redacted]

Photo



Photo

Photo

Date and time 20/05/2026 10:10am

Notes Called at [redacted] with ACO 205 spoke with dog owner Safire Stenerson at property, explained incident ,dog came back through the hedge onto her property , white with brindle.

She said Misty not brindle, I asked to see Misty , she is white with alot of tan ticking looks motley. Safire said she herd Misty barking this morning and she called her in. She also stated that the people must have done something to the dog she wouldnt do that.

Misty came to the door low growl head down fearfull body language.

I explained that the dog had come back onto her property through the hedge in the back corner, and the attack had taken place on the complainats property , two people bitten and heading in to the hospital to have wounds sorted.

Q)I asked if she heard anyone knocking on her door. A)She said no,
Q)I asked if she had a rotti pup A)yes one staying,
Q)I asked if she had been out this morning A)she said she had dropped kids at kindy.

Dog is registered, she said she had rung to change the details as was her brothers dog. Looked up old address [redacted] Street found dog regied here to Safire.

I said I would get back to her, she stated she was going out ,I left Safire with a card and asked her to ensure Misty was inside . She said Misty is a inside dog.

Date and time 20/05/2026 12:20pm

Notes [redacted] and [redacted] came into the Civic Center to provide statements.

I quiered them regarding what the dog looked like , both described dog as a staffy pit type white with tan spots. I explained this was not known as a brindle.

[redacted] had been in her back yard near shed when the dog came throught the hedge in the corner. She tried to back away and it has attacked her, bites to both forearms, knee and hand. She has seen the Rotti pup at the fenceline also on the otherside of the hedge.

[redacted] has rung [redacted] who has come home to help, as hes been standing in the back corner of their yard he has seen the green fencing he put up chewed through and the cinderblocks pushed down. The dog has put head through hedge growling trying to get through he has put his boot upon a cinder block to stop it and dog has bitten his boot and held on, he has hit the dog to make it let go.

[redacted] work mate had been with him and went around to [redacted], on footpath to try to identify where dog came from and saw a young Rotti pacing at the driveway gate.

[redacted] has gone around to [redacted] and knocked ondoor and waited a conciderable time for someone to open door, no response, vechicle in drive.

[redacted] has repositioned the cinderblocks and added wood to stop up the hole in the hedge.

He has driven [redacted] to hospital to have her wounds seen to.

[redacted] also has video footage of the young Rotti pup they believe is from [redacted] on their property multiple times yesterday.

Photo

Photo

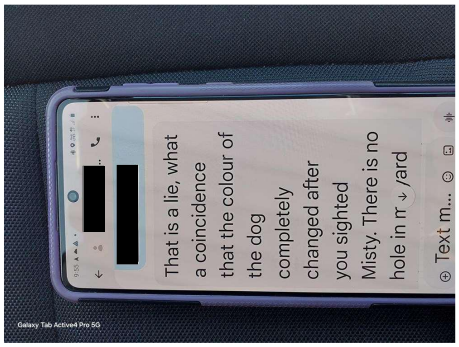
Photo

Photo

Date and time	20/05/2026 03:00pm
Notes	Gates open car gone at [redacted] Rang and left detailed message and text at 3.07pm. At 3.11pm I recieved a call from a private number said she was Safire .I asked if I could meet with her ? She said no. I explained that dog had been identified as Misty and described as a staffy type white with tan spots. She said thats lies you said brindle and white ,I went to explain why diffrent , she spoke over the top of me and said she had checked the property fencing no holes, I said I was happy to come around and show her where dog was getting through, she hung up. I then called her back and left a further message to call. Recieved strongly worded text from Safire denieing allegations. Photos of texts sent between dog owner and aco kwhyte 20th and 21st attached.

Photo

Photo



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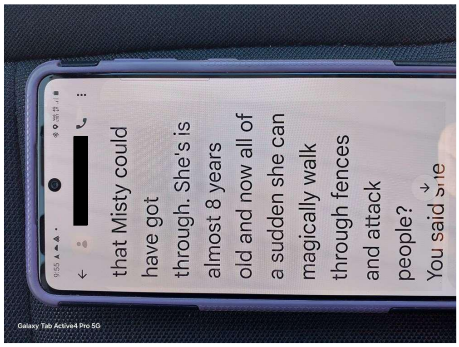

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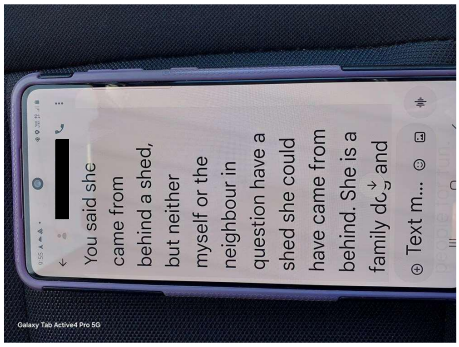

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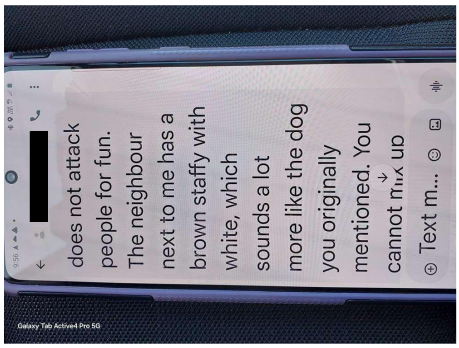

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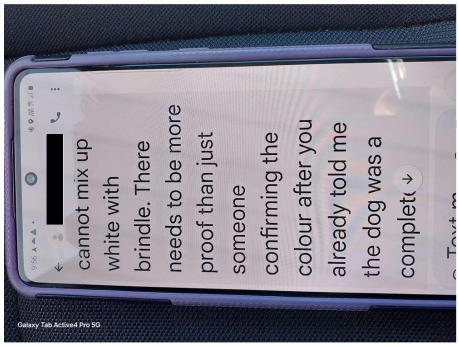

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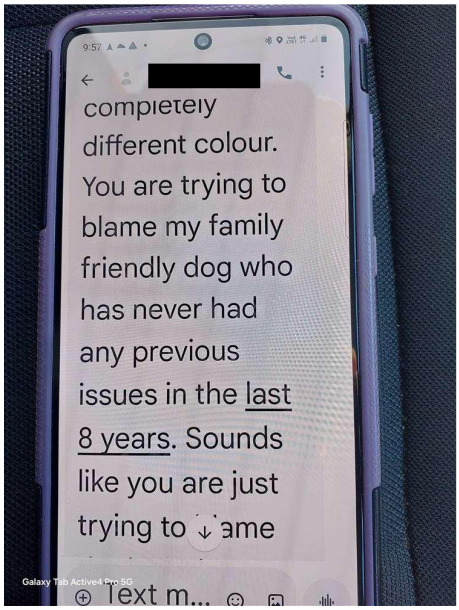
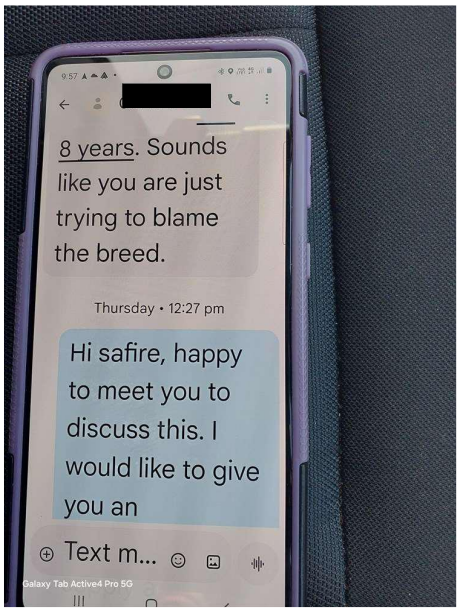
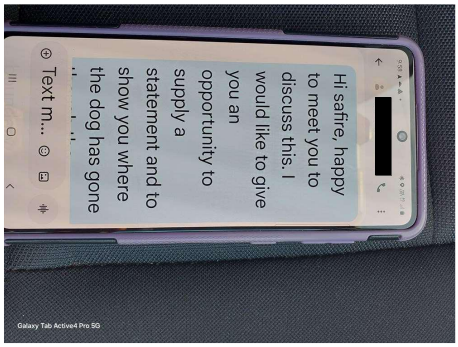

completely
different colour.
You are trying to
blame my family
friendly dog who
has never had
any previous
issues in the last
8 years. Sounds
like you are just
trying to blame
Text m...

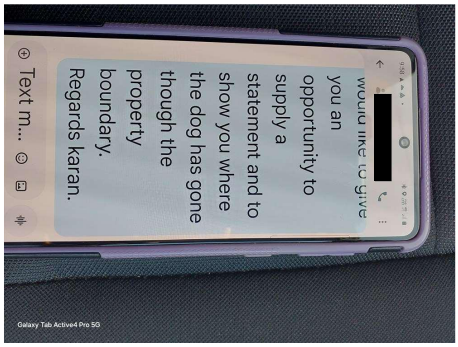
Photo


8 years. Sounds
like you are just
trying to blame
the breed.
Thursday • 12:27 pm
Hi safire, happy
to meet you to
discuss this. I
would like to give
you an
Text m...

Photo



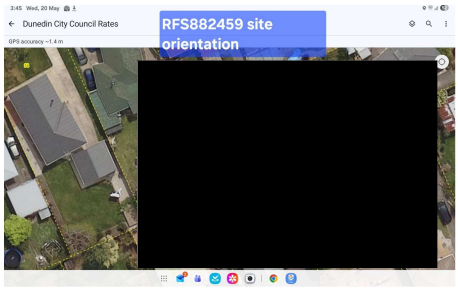
Photo



Date and time 20/05/2026 03:53pm

Notes Site orientation photo with notation showing site of attack and dog movement

Photo



Date and time 20/05/2026 01:10pm

Notes Conplainant sent through photos of one of the bites taken ,prior to medical treatment and video of the Rotti believed to be from [redacted] loose on [redacted] yesterday. Was wanting to provide proof dogs can get out. Video to be added to pataka.

Photo

Photo

Date and time 25/05/2026 09:45am

Notes Complainant has sent further photos of the bites taken on Friday 22 May showing bruising.

Also photos of the corner where the dog came through , in the photos you can see something has been put up to block hedge area from the [redacted] side of the boundary.The photos also show another cinderblock knocked down since Wednesday when they were put back inplace to reinforce the boundary.

[redacted] stated that people at [redacted] have put a barrier of some sort across between the building and the hedge. Can

see gaps around it and is concerned this will not be enogh to keep dog out, is concerned for her and sons safety.

[redacted] has had a couple days off work due to this incident,she is worried that dog will come back through, explained privacy rules and that things were being put in place and fencing will be checked. Also explained dog owners right of appeal against anything that is put in place.

Photos attached.

Photo

Photo

Photo

Photo

Photo

Photo

Photo

Photo

Photo

Assessment Matrix

Level of aggression displayed in the attack	7 - (multiple bites and retreat)
Factors involved that lead to the attack occurring	10 - Unprovoked
Previous history of dog/s (in the last 2 years, or bites or attacks in the last 5 years)	1 - Nil
Type of 'control' situation the dog/s was in	8 -
Victim impact as a result of the attack (psychological)	5 - Shaken
Effects/Injuries as a result of the attack (physical)	7 - Punctures
No death - Effects / Injuries as a result of attack	0
Death of stock, poultry, domestic animal, or protected wildlife. Note: poultry- not above 3: protected wildlife - not	0

above 4; domestic pets and stock not below 6	
Victim impact in relation to being the owner of stock; poultry or domestic animals as result of the attack (psychological)	0
Attitude to the incident	6 -
Previous history (in the last two years, or attack infringement or prosecution in the last five years)	1 - None
Level or responsibility towards control of dog	3 - Average
Likelihood of dog/s being a continuing threat to the safety of persons, stock, poultry, domestic animals or protected wildlife (at the same address)	3 - Possible
Why?	
Registration compliance	1 - Current
Assessment score	52

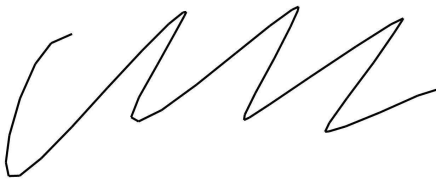
Attack Pack Letters

Classification letters	• Menacing Classification
Date of letter	25/05/2026
Notes to admin	Please also note, fencing order, s19 s19a re rotti pup on property and reminder re mc to also be sent.

Investigation File Check List

Officer Field Notes	Yes
Complainant Statement	Yes
Dog Owner Statement	No
Witness Statement	Yes
Medical/Veterinary Reports	No
Seizure notice	No
Consent Agreement	No
Impound Notice	No
Evidential Photos	Yes
Victim Impact report	No
Assessment Matrix	Yes
Other breaches of dog control act	Dog wandering
Other actions to date	Yes
Other actions to date	Tried to talk to owner once facts checked , would not meet to speak about incident and hung up on officer
Decision of council	No prosecution
Council decision reason	Does not meet threshold for prosecution, to be classified as menacing, infringement and kennel permit follow up.

Team leader signature



Signature date	25/05/2026

DUNEDIN CITY COUNCIL | kaunihera a-rohe o Ōtepoti

Animal Control Officer Statement

1. I am Karan Tanya Whyte.

2. I am employed as an Animal Control Officer by the Dunedin City Council (DCC). I have been employed as an Animal Control Officer since 1990

3. My job as an Animal Control Officer requires me to ensure that dog owners conform to the Dog Control Act 1996, ensuring that dogs are registered, microchipped and under control. I also attend to the investigation of complaints received by the DCC regarding dogs. I am a warranted dog control officer under the Dog Control Act 1996.

4. On 20 May 2026 I was allocated a Request for Service (RFS 882459); reporting that a dog had come through a fence and attacked the complainant in her backyard. The complainant identified the appellant's property as the address from which the dog had come through the boundary fence. A subsequent check of Council records identified that no dog was recorded as registered to that address.

5. I attended the location of the attack and observed boundary fence through which it was alleged the dog had gained access to the complainants' property. The location and condition of the fence were consistent with the complainants' account of how the dog had entered their property.

6. I attended the appellant's property with another Animal Control Officer and spoke with the appellant. During that conversation, I confirmed that the appellant owned a seven year old tan and white Staffordshire dog called Misty. Further enquiries established that the dog was currently registered to a different address.

7. I advised the appellant that the complaint described the dog involved as being white and brindle in colour. When I observed the appellant's dog Misty, I noted that it was predominantly white with ticking and tan markings and did not appear to exactly match the description recorded in the Request for Service.

8. The appellant advised that she had heard her dog Misty barking and had subsequently brought her inside the dwelling. She suggested that if her dog had attacked someone, they must have done something to provoke her.

9. During my investigation, I obtained statements from the complainants and sought further clarification regarding the appearance of the dog involved. The complainants advised that what they had initially described as brindle markings were, on reflection, tan spots on a predominantly white dog. I showed the appellant several example photos of different types of dogs with brindle or ticking to confirm the description of the spots.

10. Following clarification of the dog's appearance, the complainants remained confident that the dog involved in the incident was the dog residing at the appellant's property.

11. I discussed with the appellant her suggestion that another dog may have been involved in the incident. I considered this possibility as part of my investigation. However, based on the

information obtained from the complainants, the location of the incident, my observations, and the evidence available to me, I do not believe another dog was responsible.

12. I explained to the appellant that it is not uncommon for victims of dog attacks or aggressive incidents to provide incomplete or imperfect descriptions during their initial reports to Council. In my experience, descriptions are often refined as further information is obtained and formal statements are taken.

13. After a review of the investigation file with my Team leader, I determined that a Menacing classification was appropriate. This was issued by my Team leader on 25 May 2026 and included in my correspondence to the appellant.

14. Since the original incident and the issuing of the Menacing Dog Classification, I have received further confirmation from the victim that the appellant's dog is the same dog involved in the incident. As I was about to go on leave at the time of the call from the complainant about a second incident of aggression on 29 May 2026, I requested that she contact the DCC customer services to log a second Request for Service. This was dispatched to my colleague, and his notes are recorded on the RFS 884037

15. On 24 June 2026, during a scheduled visit I attended the appellant's property with Animal Control Officer Campbell Tatham to scan the dog for a microchip. The appellant was co-operative in allowing us to confirm the microchip of Misty. During that attendance, I personally observed aggressive behaviour from the dog. During the interaction, the dog bit ACO Tatham. This incident reinforced my concerns regarding the dog's risk of aggressive behaviour.

16. During the investigation, I also became aware of a second dog associated with the property and requested details to establish ownership and registration information. The appellant subsequently advised that the second dog was no longer residing at the property and has co-operated with providing the new owner detail.

17. In assessing the appropriate enforcement response, I considered Council's dog classification assessment matrix, which has been developed using guidance principles provided by the Department of Internal Affairs and applied consistently by Animal Services staff when assessing aggressive dog incidents.

18. In applying that assessment framework, I considered a number of factors, including:
    a. The level of aggression demonstrated by the dog during the reported incident.
    b. The allegation that the dog had also attempted to attack the complainant's husband when he fixed the fence
    c. My own observations of the dog's aggressive behaviour during subsequent attendances.
    d. The ability and willingness of the owner to adequately contain and control the dog.
    e. The circumstances surrounding the dog's registration and management.

19. I noted that the dog was approximately seven years old but had only been registered for the first time during the 2025/2026 registration year, after it had been found wandering from the appellant's prior address in December 2025. I also noted that Council had not been notified of the dog's change of address to the appellant's current property in 2026.

20. During my enquiries, the appellant suggested that the dogs could not leave the property. However, evidence obtained during the investigation included a photograph showing the second dog outside the property and on the street. This information raised concerns regarding the reliability of assurances provided about the dogs' containment.

21. Having considered all of the available information, including the victim's account, witness statements, my observations of the property, my observations of the dog's behaviour, the subsequent bite incident involving Officer Tatham, and the concerns regarding containment, I am of the view that the dog Misty poses a risk to members of the public. For these reasons, I determined that a Menacing Dog Classification was appropriate and justified in the circumstances. I also considered it necessary for Council to require improvements to the property's fencing and neutering to reduce the risk of future incidents.

22. I make this statement from my own observations, information obtained during my investigation, and records held by Dunedin City Council. The contents of this statement are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Karan Whyte
Animal Control Officer
Dunedin City Council

Signature: K. Whyte **Date:** 30 June 2026

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COPY

NOTICE OF CLASSIFICATION OF DOG AS MENACING DOG

Section 33A, Dog Control Act 1996

To: Safire Stenersen

Address: [redacted]

Dog: Misty - Terrier, American Staffordshire - Cross - Female

Animal Reference: 375819

This is to notify you* that this dog has been classified as a Menacing Dog under section 33A of the Dog Control Act 1996.

This is because on 20 May 2026 at approximately 8am, Misty has escaped your property through the rear property boundary and attacked a person, resulting in injuries that required medical attention.

A summary of the effect of the classification and your right to object is provided on the reverse of this notice.

Signature of officer of Dunedin City Council – Team Leader Animal Services
25 May 2026

*For the purposes of the Dog Control Act 1996, you are the owner of a dog if

- You own the dog; or
- You have the dog in your possession (otherwise than for a period not exceeding 72 hours for the purpose of preventing the dog causing injury, or damage, or distress, or for the sole purpose of restoring a lost dog to its owner); or
- you are the parent or guardian of a person under 16 who is the owner of the dog and who is a member of your household living with and dependent on you.

50 The Octagon | PO Box 5054, New Zealand | **T** 03 477 4000 | **E** dcc@dcc.govt.nz | www.dunedin.govt.nz
DunedinCityCouncil @DnCityCouncil

Effect of classification as menacing dog
Sections 33E, 33F, and 36A, Dog Control Act 1996

You-

(a) must not allow the dog to be at large or in any public place or in any private way (other than when confined completely within a vehicle or cage) without the dog being muzzled in such a manner as to prevent the dog from biting but to allow it to breathe and drink without obstruction; and

(b) must, if required by the Dunedin City Council, produce to the Dunedin City Council, within 1 month after receipt of this notice, a certificate issued by a registered veterinary surgeon certifying-

(i) that the dog is or has been neutered; or

(ii) that for reasons that are specified in the certificate, the dog will not be in a fit condition to be neutered before a date specified in the certificate; and

(c) where a certificate under paragraph (b)(ii) is produced to the Dunedin City Council, produce to the Dunedin City Council, within 1 month after the date specified in that certificate, a further certificate under paragraph (b)(i).

You will commit an offence and be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding $3,000 if you fail to comply with all of the matters in paragraphs (a) to (c) above.

A dog control officer or dog ranger may seize and remove the dog from you if you fail to comply with all of the matters in paragraphs (a) to (c) above. The officer or ranger may keep the dog until you demonstrate that you are willing to comply with paragraphs (a) to (c).

As from 1 July 2006, you are also required, for the purpose of providing permanent identification of the dog, to arrange for the dog to be implanted with a functioning microchip transponder. This must be confirmed by making the dog available to the Dunedin City Council in accordance with the reasonable instructions of the Dunedin City Council for verification that the dog has been implanted with a functioning microchip transponder of the prescribed type and in the prescribed location.

You will commit an offence and be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding $3,000 if you fail to comply with the requirement-

- Within 2 months from 1 July 2006 if you dog is classified as menacing on or after 1 December 2003 but before 1 July 2006; or
- Within 2 months after the dog is classified as menacing if your dog is classified as menacing after 1 July 2006.

If the dog is in the possession of another person for a period not exceeding 72 hours, you must advise that person of the requirement to not allow the dog to be at large or in any public p lace or in any private way (other than when confined completely within a vehicle or cage) without the dog being muzzled in such a manner as to prevent the dog from biting but to allow it to breathe and drink without obstruction. You will commit an offence and be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding $500 if you fail to comply with this requirement.

Full details of the effect of the classification of a dog as menacing are provided in the Dog Control Act 1996.

RIGHT OF OBJECTION TO CLASSIFICATION
Section 33D, Dog Control Act 1996

You may object to the classification by lodging with the **Dunedin City Council, Team Leader, Animal Services, PO Box 5045, Dunedin, a written objection within 14 days of receipt of this notice** setting out the grounds on which you object. You are entitled to be heard in support of the objection and will be notified of the time and place at which your objection will be heard.

DUNEDIN CITY COUNCIL | kaunihera a-rohe o Ōtepoti

25 May 2026

Reference: RFS 882459

Ways to pay your infringement:

- Use debit or credit cards online at https://www.dunedin.govt.nz/do-it-online/pay-online/pay-dog-fine
- Eftpos, cash or credit card at a DCC customer service centre (Please note: a surcharge will be applied for all credit card payments at a service centre).

Safire Stenersen
[redacted]

Dear Safire,

Your dog has been classified as Menacing,

I write regarding an incident on 20 May 2026 at approximately 07:50a.m. where your dog Misty has escaped your property through the rear property boundary and attacked a person. Resulting in 4 bites to the person.

Due to this behaviour Council believes that Misty may pose a threat to people. As a result, Council has classified Misty as menacing under Section 33A of the Dog Control Act 1996. Please find enclosed the menacing classification notice.

This means that all of the following conditions apply:

1. Misty must be muzzled when off your property.
2. Misty must be neutered within one month of receiving this notice.

Due to this incident

1. Please find enclosed a $200 infringement under Section 52A of the 1996 Dog control Act, Failure to keep dog controlled or confined. *
2. We believe that this is a nuisance in terms of the Dog Control Bylaw 2024. To prevent further nuisance this notice requires you to erect secure fencing behind your garage/structure at the end of your driveway and ensure the back yard fencing is of a standard to contain Misty by Monday 27 July 2026. *

If you do not comply with this notice to erect a secure fenced area, that is an offence under the Dog Control Act 1996, and you can be issued with an infringement notice for $300 (or in some cases you can be prosecuted in the District Court). *

We will visit your property to inspect the fencing and to make sure it complies with this notice. It is your responsibility to check whether you need a building or resource consent for the fence.

I note that Council has no record of a microchip number for Misty, you are required to supply the microchip number under Section 36A of the Dog Control Act 1996. If Misty has no microchip you must arrange for the dog to be implanted with a microchip. This must be done by Monday 27 July 2026. *

If you do not comply with this notice to supply a microchip number, that is an offence under the Dog Control Act 1996, and you can be issued with an infringement notice for $300 (or in some cases you may be prosecuted in the District Court). *

*The relevant legislation is attached for your information.

I have asked you if we could meet to further discuss these issues, to date you have declined to do so. If you wish to discuss this further, or need assistance, please contact Dunedin City Council Animal Services on 03 477 4000.

We appreciate your co-operation in this matter.

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ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

This email or letter is confidential, solely for the intended recipient. If you are not the intended recipient or have received this correspondence in error, then: do not use this correspondence and any attached information or disclose the contents to anyone; notify the sender; delete along with all attachments. Legal privilege is not waived because you have read this correspondence. Thank you.
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DunedinCityCouncil @DnCityCouncil

DOG CONTROL ACT 1996

Section 52A Control of dog on owner's property
(1) This section applies when a dog is on land or premises occupied by its owner.
(2) The owner of a dog must, at all times, ensure that either—
(a) the dog is under the direct control of a person; or
(b) the dog is confined within the land or premises in such a manner that it cannot freely leave the land or premises.
(3) Every person commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding $3,000 who fails to comply with subsection (2).
(4) If a person fails to comply with subsection (2), a dog control officer or dog ranger may—
(a) seize and impound the dog; and
(b) for the purposes of paragraph (a), enter, at any reasonable time, the land or premises (except a dwellinghouse) owned or occupied by the owner of the dog.

53 Offence of failing to keep dog under control
(1) Every person commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding $3,000 who, being the owner of a dog, fails to keep that dog under control.
(2) Notwithstanding section 52(2)(b), an owner of a dog does not commit an offence against subsection (1) by reason only of the dog being found at large in a public place in contravention of any secondary legislation

Schedule 1

Infringement offences and fees

52A	Failure to keep dog controlled or confined	200
53(1)	Failure to keep dog under control	200

DOG CONTROL BYLAW 2024

1. NUISANCE

1.1	If, in the opinion of the Council, any dog on any premises has become or is likely to become a nuisance, the Council may, by notice in writing, require the owner or occupier of the premises within a time specified in such notice, to do all or any of the following:
1.1.1	reduce the number of dogs kept on any premises
1.1.2	order the permanent removal of a particular dog on a property
1.1.3	construct, alter, reconstruct or otherwise improve the kennels, places of confinement or other buildings used to house or contain the dog or dogs
1.1.4	require the dog or dogs to be tied up or

	otherwise confined during specific periods
1.1.5	take other action as the Council deems necessary to minimise or remove the likelihood of nuisance.
1.2	The owner or person in charge of any dog shall ensure that it does not create a nuisance by:
1.2.1	obstructing the lawful passage of persons in a public place
1.2.2	rushing and frightening persons or protected wildlife in a public place or persons lawfully on private property
1.2.3	destroying, tearing or otherwise interfering with any refuse container whether the container is on private property or in a public place.

DOG CONTROL ACT 1996

20 Dog control bylaws

Any territorial authority may, in accordance with the Local Government Act 2002, make bylaws for all or any of the following purposes:

(a) prohibiting dogs, whether under control or not, from specified public places:
(b) requiring dogs, other than working dogs, to be controlled on a leash in specified public places, or in public places in specified areas or parts of the district:
(c) regulating and controlling dogs in any other public place:
(d) designating specified areas as dog exercise areas:
(e) prescribing minimum standards for the accommodation of dogs:
(f) limiting the number of dogs that may be kept on any land or premises:
(g) requiring dogs in its district to be tied up or otherwise confined during a specified period commencing not earlier than half an hour after sunset, and ending not later than half an hour before sunrise:
(h) requiring the owner of any dog that defecates in a public place or on land or premises other than that occupied by the owner to immediately remove the faeces:
(i) requiring any bitch to be confined but adequately exercised while in season:

36AMicrochip transponder must be implanted in certain dogs
(1)This section applies to a dog that—
(a)is classified as dangerous under section 31 on or after 1 December 2003; or
(b)is classified as menacing under section 33A or section 33C on or after 1 December 2003; or
(c)is registered for the first time on or after 1 July 2006.
(2)The owner of the dog must, for the purpose of providing permanent identification of the dog, arrange for the dog to be implanted with a functioning microchip transponder of the prescribed type and in the prescribed manner.
(2A)Subsection (2) does not apply to a dog as defined in paragraph (b)(ii) of the definition of working dog in section 2 registered as a working dog under section 46(1) and wearing a collar, label, or disc as provided in section 34(4)(b).
(3)Subsection (2) is complied with by the owner,—

(a)for a dog that is classified as dangerous or menacing, by making the dog available, in accordance with the reasonable instructions of the territorial authority, for verification that it has been implanted with a functioning microchip transponder of the prescribed type and in the prescribed location:
(b)for a dog that is registered for the first time on or after 1 July 2006, by—
(i)making the dog available, in accordance with the reasonable instructions of the territorial authority, for verification that it has been implanted with a functioning microchip transponder of the prescribed type and in the prescribed location; or
(ii)providing to the territorial authority a certificate issued by a veterinarian certifying—
(A)that the dog is or has been implanted with a functioning microchip transponder of the prescribed type and in the prescribed location; or
(B)that, for the reasons that are specified in the certificate, the dog will not be in a fit condition to be implanted with a functioning microchip transponder of the prescribed type and in the prescribed location before a date specified in the certificate.
(3A)A certificate issued by a veterinarian under subsection (3) (b) (ii) must include the following information:
(a)the unique identifier of the microchip transponder (if subsection (3)(b)(ii)(A) applies); and
(b)the name and sex of the dog; and
(c)a physical description of the dog, which may include the breed, the colour, and any distinguishing marks; and
(d)if the dog is registered, the registration number of the label or disc issued for the dog; and
(e)the name, date of birth, and address of the owner of the dog.
(4)If a certificate under subsection (3)(b)(ii)(B) is produced to the territorial authority, the owner must produce to the territorial authority, within 1 month after the date specified in the certificate, a further certificate under subsection (3)(b)(ii).
(5)The owner must comply with subsection (2)—
(a)within 2 months from 1 July 2006, if the dog is classified as dangerous or menacing on or after 1 December 2003 but before 1 July 2006; or
(b)within 2 months after the date on which the dog is classified as dangerous or menacing or is registered (as the case may be), in any other case.
(5A)Subsection (2) does not apply if—
(a)as a requirement of this Act, the dog has been previously implanted with a functioning microchip transponder of the prescribed type and in the prescribed location; or
(b)in any other case, the territorial authority has verified that the dog has been implanted with a functioning microchip transponder of the prescribed type and in the prescribed location.
(6)Every person commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding $3,000 who fails to comply with subsection (2) or subsection (5).

Dog Control Act 1996

Menacing dogs

Heading: inserted, on 1 December 2003, by section 21 of the Dog Control Amendment Act 2003 (2003 No 119).

33A Territorial authority may classify dog as menacing

(1) This section applies to a dog that—

(a) has not been classified as a dangerous dog under section 31; but

(b) a territorial authority considers may pose a threat to any person, stock, poultry, domestic animal, or protected wildlife because of—

(i) any observed or reported behaviour of the dog; or

(ii) any characteristics typically associated with the dog's breed or type.

(2) A territorial authority may, for the purposes of section 33E(1)(a), classify a dog to which this section applies as a menacing dog.

(3) If a dog is classified as a menacing dog under subsection (2), the territorial authority must immediately give written notice in the prescribed form to the owner of—

(a) the classification; and

(b) the provisions of section 33E (which relates to the effect of classification as a menacing dog); and

(c) the right to object to the classification under section 33B; and

(d) if the territorial authority's policy is not to require the neutering of menacing dogs (or would not require the neutering of the dog concerned), the effect of sections 33EA and 33EB if the owner does not object to the classification and the dog is moved to the district of another territorial authority.

Section 33A: inserted, on 1 December 2003, by section 21 of the Dog Control Amendment Act 2003 (2003 No 119).

Section 33A(3): amended, on 1 November 2004, by section 10 of the Dog Control Amendment Act 2004 (2004 No 61).

Section 33A(3)(c): amended, on 28 June 2006, by section 13 of the Dog Control Amendment Act 2006 (2006 No 23).

Section 33A(3)(d): added, on 28 June 2006, by section 13 of the Dog Control Amendment Act 2006 (2006 No 23).

33B Objection to classification of dog under section 33A

(1) If a dog is classified under section 33A as a menacing dog, the owner—

(a) may, within 14 days of receiving notice of the classification, object in writing to the territorial authority in regard to the classification; and

(b) has the right to be heard in support of the objection.

(2) The territorial authority considering an objection under subsection (1) may uphold or rescind the classification, and in making its determination must have regard to—

(a) the evidence which formed the basis for the classification; and

(b) any steps taken by the owner to prevent any threat to the safety of persons or animals; and

(c) the matters relied on in support of the objection; and

(d) any other relevant matters.

(3) The territorial authority must, as soon as practicable, give written notice to the owner of—

(a) its determination of the objection; and

(b) the reasons for its determination.

Section 33B: inserted, on 1 December 2003, by section 21 of the Dog Control Amendment Act 2003 (2003 No 119).

Cazna Savell

From: Safire Stenersen <[redacted]
Sent: Friday, 29 May 2026 04:30 p.m.
To: Cazna Savell
Subject: Re: Dcc@dcc.govt.nz

Yes. Obviously I want to dispute both, because my dog did nothing wrong.

I don't sent that email for no reason.

On Fri, 29 May 2026 at 4:20 PM, Cazna Savell <Cazna.Savell@dcc.govt.nz> wrote:

Kia ora Safire,

Our Customer Services team has forwarded your email through. Under the Dog Control Act, you have the right to object to the menacing classification that we issued. You also have the option to dispute the infringement through the District Court at a defended hearing. As these are two separate processes, could you please confirm that you would like to proceed with an objection to both the infringement and the classification?

If you wish to proceed with a classification appeal, you will have your case heard at a council hearing. These hearings are organised by our Governance team and will be conducted by a panel of three councillors. Please note that hearings are public and can attract media attention. Prior to the hearing, we will provide you with the investigation file so you have time to review all relevant information. You will be able to present your case and bring any supporting documentation or support people with you. The victims also have the opportunity to attend.

If you would like to proceed with a defended hearing in court, we will refer your file to our in-house legal team, and they will get in touch with more information about a court date.

If you have any questions about the hearing process or next steps, please let me know.

Ngā mihi nui,

Cazna Savell
ANIMAL SERVICES TEAM LEADER
COMPLIANCE SOLUTIONS
P 03 477 4000 | **E** Cazna.Savell@dcc.govt.nz
Dunedin City Council, 50 The Octagon, Dunedin
PO Box 5045, Dunedin 9054
New Zealand
www.dunedin.govt.nz

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From: [redacted]

Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2026 5:12 PM

To: Dcc@dcc.govt.nz

Subject: Objection to my dog apparently attacking someone

Hi,

I herby 100% object to the fact that my 8 year old family dog has apparently magically walked through a fence and attacked an unknown person causing injury.

My dog is 8 years old and has NEVER had any problems EVER. I do not walk her on a lead as she does not need one, her recall is beyond perfect, she gets along with all animals and children of all ages. She is the friendliest dog out. I can provide a dozen references for her.

She did NOT randomly "attack" anyone on the 20th of May.

The dog that "attacked" this person was a small brindle staffy type dog. - THIS IS NOT MY DOG.
In no way at all does that in anyway resemble my dog!!
Because it was NOT my dog.

Both Karen and her team leader Kesner are both blatant liars and Karen has changed the story multiple times.

The dog in question sounds a lot more like my neighbours dog, but I don't see anyone looking into them or trying to find the correct dog responsible for the incident.

This is seeming more like a blame of breed than trying to do the right thing and find the correct dog who actually committed the offence.

You CANNOT mix brindle and white AT ALL. Whether emotions are heighten or not.
Completely 2 different colours.
The colour of the dog only changed to white after Karen sited my dog. Which seems like a bit of a coincidence.

They also lied and said I declined to discuss this further which is another lie, I just hadn't had a chance to respond as I've been very busy. Not once did anyone follow up asking if I wanted to discuss this further.

Misty is NOT a menace dog at all, and the only menace seems to be the liars at the DCC.
They do not know my dog and if Misty was so aggressive why did she not "attack" Karen and old guy when I let Misty out to meet them?
A bit of a contradicting factor.

It is however quite unfair they have instantly blamed my dog without any proof and without looking into this further and checking out the neighbours dog.

Cheers,
Safire

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DUNEDIN CITY COUNCIL | kaunihera a-rohe o Ōtepoti

Animal RFS

RFS Details

RFS number	884037
Request	DAG - Dog Aggressive
Date and time RFS attended by officer	29/05/2026 4:18p.m.
ACO:	Dale Wedlock

Customer detail

Customer name [redacted]
Default Address [redacted]
Home Phone [redacted]
Mobile Phone [redacted]
Email Address [redacted]

References

Customer Name [redacted]
Mobile Phone (*** *** ****) [redacted]

Questionnaire

Inform of Outcome?	Yes
Time to contact	any
Preferred contact method?	Cell Phone
Address of aggressive dog known?	
Dogs property address (if known)?	[redacted]
Suburb (Mandatory)	Mosgiel
Landmark/Intersection (if address not known)	
Time of incident?	2:45pm
Date of incident?	29/05/2026
Where is the dog now?	[redacted]
Was the dog with someone?	No
Have you had problems with this dog before?	yes
Dog Breed?	some kind of bull terrier cross
Dog Colour?	all white with tan spots
Dog Name?	
Tag Colour/Number?	does not know
Additional Notes?	[redacted] calling on advice from Karan - she advised that the neighbours have done nothing to secure their side of the fence to prevent their dog from getting through; her husband went to board the hole up from their side and in the process, the dog lunged and snarled and bared its teeth at him - no injury. she is really shaken and apprehensive about being in and allowing children into her own back yard

RFS notes

Health and safety assessment

I have identified the potential risks for this job?	Yes
Do NZTA or Kiwi Rail need to be notified?	No
The level of risk has been assessed and deemed safe?	Yes
I have the required PPE/ equipment to undertake this job safely ?	Yes

Incident property

Property address	[redacted]

Incident dogs

Dog

Lookup dog	Property
Animal reference	375819
Animal type	Dog
Microchip	
DCC Tags	Year: 2026-2027 Tag: 9604 Year: 2025-2026 Tag: 9604
Animal class	Menacing by Action (Not Neutered)
Animal colour	White/Tan
Animal gender	Female
Animal breed	Terrier, American Staffordshire - Cross
Animal name	MISTY
Animal Status	Active
Animal birthdate	28/9/2018
Animal property address	[redacted]
Owner first name/s	[redacted]
Owner last name	[redacted]
Owner birthdate	[redacted]
Owner mail address	[redacted]
Owner mobile phone	
Owner home phone	
Owner business phone	
Owner email	[redacted]

Action notes

Level of aggression	Growled
Date and time of incident (required for any letters)	
Pathway notes	On the 29th of May 2026 at approximately 1540 hrs. I rang the complainant to ascertain if the dog actually left the property and came onto their property. The answer was no, however they still feel the dog could and are concerned for their safety.

	I informed them that for us to mitigate further incidents, it would be great for them to be in the habit of taking a mobile phone outside so they could video the incident. That would be not only good evidence but would remove the ability of the dog owner to reject the claims due to mistaken identity of the offending dog. The complainant agreed. On June 2nd at approximately 0910 I spoke with my team leader about my conversation with the complainant about the importance of evidence with photos and or video so there was no dispute in relation to identification of the offending dog. Cazna made me aware that ACO 205 has already sent a fencing order and agrees there is no further action with this particular complaint.DJW
Is a follow up visit required	No
Is the property linked	Yes
Are the offending dogs linked	Yes

Further action

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Animal RFS

RFS Details

RFS number	888574
Request	DAG - Dog Aggressive
Date and time RFS attended by officer	24/06/2026 1:20p.m.
ACO:	Karan Whyte

Customer detail

Customer name	Dunedin City Council Animal Services
Default Address	PO Box 5045 Dunedin 9054
Water Email Address	finance.accountspayable@dcc.govt.nz
Debtors Email Address	finance.accountspayable@dcc.govt.nz

References

Customer Name KARAN

Questionnaire

Inform of Outcome?	
Time to contact	
Preferred contact method?	
Address of aggressive dog known?	
Dogs property address (if known)?	
Suburb (Mandatory)	
Landmark/Intersection (if address not known)	
Time of incident?	
Date of incident?	
Where is the dog now?	
Was the dog with someone?	
Have you had problems with this dog before?	
Dog Breed?	
Dog Colour?	
Dog Name?	
Tag Colour/Number?	
Additional Notes?	Information provided by ACO KW via email 24/6/26. See information in notes.

RFS notes

10:35:AM 26/6/2026 by Liz Brown	RFS882459 [redacted]. 205 and 209 called at property 24\6\26 at approximately 1.20pm for a prearranged visit with Safire Stenersen regarding the fencing on the property and the Microchip number of her dog called Misty. Safire opened the door with a toddler behind her, she left the door ajar as she went to get Misty. Both ACO 209 and 205 stepped back from the door and front porch area couple meters back from this area when the white and tan staffy known as Misty came out the door ahead of Saphire. Misty came onto the landing area turned towards 205 who put her large notebook down to block, Misty then turned towards 209 and charged twice making contact with trousers on both legs. Saphire witnessed this and 205 instructed her to get hold of Misty. Safire grabbed Misty and put her inside and said “She doesn’t usually do that”. 209 asked if she doesn’t like males said “maybe”. Officers then handed her the scanner and instructions for finding the chip on Misty. Saffire took the scanner inside and came back with Misty’s chip number 982 1260 5389 1794. We then went with Safire to the back yard to check the fenced area, she pointed to the area we

believe the dog came through on attack rfs882459 and said that they have boarded up their side pointing to what the neighbours had done. 205 spoke to her regarding putting in fencing between the garage and the structure to prevent Misty having access to this area. 205 then asked if she had anyone who could help, she indicated that she did. 205 explained that once this was up, we would come and check.

Health and safety assessment

I have identified the potential risks for this job?	Yes
Do NZTA or Kiwi Rail need to be notified?	No
The level of risk has been assessed and deemed safe?	Yes
I have the required PPE/ equipment to undertake this job safely ?	Yes

Incident property

Property address	[redacted]

Incident dogs

Dog

Lookup dog	No
Animal reference	375819
Animal type	Dog
Microchip	982126053891794
DCC Tags	Year: 2026-2027 Tag: 9604 Year: 2025-2026 Tag: 9604
Animal class	Menacing by Action (Not Neutered)
Animal colour	White/Tan
Animal gender	Female
Animal breed	Terrier, American Staffordshire - Cross
Animal name	MISTY
Animal Status	Active
Animal birthdate	28/9/2018
Animal property address	[redacted]
Owner first name/s	Safire
Owner last name	Stenersen
Owner birthdate	[redacted]
Owner mail address	[redacted]
Owner mobile phone	
Owner home phone	
Owner business phone	
Owner email	[redacted]

Action notes

Date and time of incident (required for any letters)	24/06/2026 01:20a.m.
Pathway notes	Called at the property on prearranged visit with officer 209. Dog lunged and bit twice see notes section of job. Supplied

	microchip number which is now on the system.
Is a follow up visit required	No
Is the property linked	Yes
Are the offending dogs linked	Yes

Further action