

Media Release

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New animal management officers hit the streets

Kaipara District Council has three new animal management officers.

Steve, Kim and Chris collectively bring a wealth of experience to the team and can draw on previous roles with Whangārei District Council, Waitakere City Council and the SPCA.

The team agrees that public education will be a focus for their work.

“The safety of the community is our priority and educating people about responsible dog ownership is one way we can work towards that,” says Kim, who is keen to work closely with communities.

“For example, when we see a dog out wandering we’ll try to find the owner so we can educate them about their responsibilities. We’ll also go into problem areas and door-knock to get to know the local people and their dogs,” she says.

“Educating people is the best way to have a lasting effect on how they look after their dogs. We’ve been around a long time and we know what works.”

Kim says the team will tailor their approach to meet the differing needs of communities across Kaipara.

The team’s top advice for dog owners is to make sure their pets are registered and microchipped.

“If your dog wanders and it’s registered and microchipped, we can easily return it to you. If there’s no way for us to identify who owns a wandering dog, it’s likely to end up in the pound,” says Steve.

Registering and microchipping your dog are both legal requirements, and dog owners who fail to do so are liable for a \$300 fine for either infringement.

“We want to encourage registration, and we’re keen to run a registration amnesty this summer so people can register their dogs without fear of a fine,” says Kim.

For more information about owning a dog in Kaipara, visit the Dogs page on Council’s website, www.kaipara.govt.nz/services/animal-education-control/dogs

Call Kaipara District Council on 0800 727 059 for advice or assistance with animal control issues.

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For more information contact media@kaipara.govt.nz