

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council

TO: ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

2 JUNE 2015

FOR DECISION

WELFARE OF ANIMALS ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2011 ANIMAL WELFARE COMPLAINT W/2013/4994

Linkage to Corporate Plan	
Strategic Priority	
Objective	
Lead Officer	
Cost: (If applicable)	

Background

On 7th November 2013 a complaint was received by the Animal Welfare Service in relation to a Staffordshire bull terrier type dog being kept in a back yard of a house in Limavady. The complainant alleged that the dog was not being fed and the back yard was in a poor condition. A number of visits were carried out by Animal Welfare Officers and an Improvement Notice was issued on 10th January 2014. A revisit was carried out on 27th January 2014 when the Officer observed that the Staffordshire bull terrier dog had lost a considerable amount of weight from the previous visits and there had been no attempt to comply with requirements of the Improvement Notice.

The dog was therefore seized on 30th January 2014 under warrant and on advice of a vet who advised that the dog was likely to suffer if circumstances did not change. The owner was interviewed under caution on 30th April 2014. Subsequently, the owner was contacted on a number of occasions and had been advised to contact the Animal Welfare Service solicitor but this did not happen. The individual had moved address and after extensive investigation was located in an area outside the Causeway Coast and Glens Council area.

Recommendation

The Animal Welfare Officer has consulted with Belfast City Council Legal Services who are contracted to provide legal advice to the Animal Welfare Service.

It is recommended that the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council issue a simple caution if the offender voluntary surrenders the dog for rehoming/euthanasia or a Disposal order is granted by the Court.

OR

It is recommended that the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council initiate legal proceedings against the person responsible for failing to make adequate welfare provision for the dog under Section 9 of the said Act and for failing to comply with Improvement Notice under Section 10 of the Welfare of Animals Act (Northern Ireland) 2011. Member's approval is sought for this course of action.