

ATTACHMENT M

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REPORT OF THE EXPERT PANEL

3 July 2013

To: City of Sydney Council

From: Panel

RE: Lawrence Gibbons Application to Revoke Dangerous Dog Declaration

The Panel unanimously agrees that Council should not revoke the Dangerous Dog Declaration in place for Mr Gibbons' dog "Oscar".

In making this decision the Panel considered the following:

From the City:

- A chronological sequence of events that includes details of events leading up to the dangerous dog declaration
- A copy of the briefs of evidence relied upon by City staff when presenting their evidence to the Local Court, outlining the four attacks which this dog had been involved in.
- A copy of an email from Tara Dethridge (Council's Companion Animal Officer) dated 25 August 2008 detailing events relating to the dog's performance in dog training sessions provided by Hanrob.
- Memoranda dated 20 July 2006, 25 May 2011 and 3 June 2011, as well as guidelines from state government bodies regarding Council's obligations in relation to dangerous dogs.

From Mr Gibbons:

- A copy of an email from Mr Gibbons dated the 4 January 2013 which sets out his ground for requesting revocation.
- A copy of a report from Dr Kersti Seksel provided by Mr Gibbons in support of his application.
- A copy of an email dated 26 February 2013 from Mr Gibbons which accompanied the report from Dr Seksel.

Following their independent reviews as individuals, the panel considered the application. In reaching their recommendation, the panel formed the view that there is a continuing risk of Oscar being aggressive, owing to factors which include:

- Oscar is recognised as an anxious dog by his previous owner, his current owner and the Veterinary Specialist in Animal Behaviour engaged by Mr Gibbons to support his application
- Oscar is about nine years old and noted to be suffering from arthritis, a condition that can be painful for dogs and is likely to increase the chances of anxiety and aggression
- Oscar has a history of behaving aggressively when confronted with situations that make him uncomfortable, including feeling anxious


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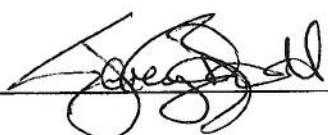
These factors, combined with the unpredictable stimuli experienced in everyday situations, increase the risk of Oscar being aggressive again. Consequently, the Panel cannot be confident that, in his current state, Oscar is no longer a danger to the public.

As such, it is our recommendation that Council should not revoke the Dangerous Dog Declaration.

Signed,

Elena King  Date: 3rd July 2013

Dr Robert Holmes  Date: 03 July 2013

Jeremy Bennett  Date: 3rd JULY 2013