



Dog Was Not Booked Owner Provided With Caution

Darwin City Council would like to advise that a report that a dog had been issued with a parking ticket is incorrect. Media reports today indicated that a dog had been booked for illegal parking.

Darwin City Council would like to set the record straight and clearly state that no such incident occurred.

Rather, a tethered dog was observed by Council Officers and a 'calling card' placed on the dog's lead.

Confusion may have come from the fact that the card was placed inside an infringement bag.

The message on the card was aimed at drawing attention to the dog's owner that they were in violation of Council's by-laws. No fine was issued.

Lord Mayor Graeme Sawyer said he was disappointed the good work of Council's Regulatory Services Officers had been misinterpreted.

"The officers involved did exactly the right thing. Rather than give an infringement notice, they used their discretionary powers with great common sense".

The following outlines the process that occurred.

- No infringement notice was issued.
- The officers used their discretion in not issuing an infringement notice & instead hand wrote an advisory note for the dog's owner.
- The dog was not wearing an ID tag & therefore the officers were not able to determine its registration status or owner (contrary to Council's by-laws).
- The officers were concerned for the dog's welfare and waited with it for approximately 25 minutes for the owner to return.
- When the dog's owner could not be located the officers placed the advisory note in a standard infringement bag and attached it to the dog's collar for the owner's information.

Darwin City Council regularly receives complaints about dogs being tethered in public places. Sometimes people are concerned about the welfare of the dog, and sometimes its about the behaviour of the dog or its perceived threat. In addition, there have also been instances where people have been bitten and injured by tethered dogs.

ENDS

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