

## Police Dog Welfare Scheme Annual Report 2007-08

### Recommendation(s):

- (i) That the Authority notes the content of the report.

### Introduction / Summary

1. This report summarises the output from the Devon and Cornwall Police Authority Police Dog Welfare Scheme for the period 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008.

### Background Information

2. The purpose of the Police Dog Welfare Scheme is to enable an independent observation, comment and report on the conditions under which police dogs are housed, trained and transported with a view to securing greater public understanding and confidence in these matters. This arrangement also provides an independent check on the way police dog handlers carry out their responsibilities with regard to the welfare of animals in their care.
3. Devon and Cornwall Police Authority has administered a Police Dog Welfare Scheme since 1 March 2003.

### Number of Police Dogs seen during the period

4. Animal Welfare Independent Visitors may request any police dog handler who is on duty in the area that they are visiting to attend the police station. If the dog handler is unable to attend, for example if he/she is engaged on a specific incident, a full explanation is given to the Animal Welfare Independent Visitor and the explanation is recorded by the visitor in their report.
5. In addition, two Animal Welfare Independent Visitors regularly attend Police Headquarters Middlemoor during planned police dog training sessions to check on the welfare of the police dogs that are in training and make a report.
6. The following table shows the number of police dogs seen by Animal Welfare Independent Visitor(s) during the period 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008.

Police Station	Number of dogs seen
Barnstaple	1
Camborne	0
Exeter (Heavitree Road)	2
Exeter (Middlemoor)	46
Newquay	0

Plymouth	4
Torquay	7
Launceston	0

### **Main issues arising from police dog inspections**

7. At the conclusion of each visit and before leaving the police premises, Animal Welfare Independent Visitor(s) are required to complete a report form to provide details of the visit. A completed report form includes the name of the dog seen, the name of its handler and any matters raised.

There has only been 2 issues raised throughout the period that this report covers:

- Torquay on 22 February 2008, Finn has a slight rash on lower body and this has been checked by the vet.
- Barnstaple on 22 November 2007, Ozzy has a slight skin allergy.

General comments noted on the report forms include:

- Dogs healthy, happy and alert.
- Dogs being trained were alert, healthy and well groomed.
- Dog was healthy and alert his coat in good condition, cage clean and bowl of water out for him.
- Dog was very lively, coat in good condition.

Contact: for further information:

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