

## ***Animal handling top priority at Whitehorse***

**W**hitehorse City Council's Local Laws team is leading the way in responsible animal management techniques.

Cr Bernie Millane said Local Laws Officers, Judy Mclean and Heather Griffiths, have undertaken training in dog handling techniques at Command Dog Training School.

"Whitehorse is committed to promoting the proper handling and care of all animals," Cr Millane said.

"Our officers were trained to read the signals and behaviour of dogs, learning alot about dogs' different personalities and how to approach them in every situation.

"These skills will benefit our Local Laws team when they are out in the field to ensure responsible animal management and safety."

The dog handling program included an introduction to understanding dog aggression, learning about how dogs communicate and learning how to deal with different types of aggression.

Theory was then put into practice at Dogzone day care centre where they learnt to recognise and manage different behaviours.

"When dogs are lost they can often become frightened and confused causing them to become aggressive," said Cr Millane.

"This program ensures the correct procedures are taken for the safe return of much loved pets."

Basil Theofanides from Command Dog Training School commended Whitehorse on its proactive approach to responsible animal issues.

The City of Whitehorse has been involved with the program at Command Dog Training School for the past five years.