

## **Tom Didovich**

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**From:** Dai Bindoff  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 23 December 1998 12:03  
**To:** John Rofe  
**Cc:** Tom Didovich; Wally Thomas  
**Subject:** Animal Welfare

### **Confidential to the named parties**

John,  
You will know this stuff but for Wally's benefit I am elaborating a bit.

#### **1 The Trust**

- New Animal Welfare legislation next year will place animal control and welfare in the hands of approved organisations
- Waitakere City Animal Welfare is setting the standard and to assist its future progress as an approved organisation it is proposing the Council should create a trust with which it will work in harness. An interim trust has been established by Council, with Neil Wells as acting CEO. The Council's final decision on the Trust will be in May.

#### **2 The Film**

- A film company has NZ on Air funding to make a doco about the Waitakere Animal Welfare operation for screening on TV3 next winter. The doco has to be with TV3 by April
- It is logical for the doco to follow the continuum from Dog dosing and Dog ranging to all round animal welfare that Waitakere has followed.
- TV3 will not indicate when the film will be shown and the film cannot pre-empt council's decision on the Trust. So the doco will have to go to TV3 for the subsequent addition of voice-over and/or subtitles saying that the Council is looking at forming a trust/ has formed a trust, depending on whether it screens before or after the May decision.

#### **3 Need to know**

- I believe the Mayor and Cr Chapman - probably also the CEO - need a brief on the doco
- The Mayor and Cr Chapman should be asked to participate. They would not be asked to do a talking heads type interview but more to do an "involved" piece - talking while walking the dog or visiting the Animal Welfare Centre etc. This would almost certainly be very brief.

**4 Friends of the Ark.** This trust has worked alongside the Animal Welfare operation for many years and could become distressed if they feel they are being displaced - in the same way that Friends of Waikumete or Guardians of Waikumete do if they feel they are being pushed aside. Their work is not continuous although from time to time they do things like donate a fence to the Animal Welfare set-up, or subsidise city wide de-sexing of pets, or assist poor people pay animal costs, etc. They could probably be more functional with support, it gives willing people a sense of purposes and involvement and they probably would be bitter if sidelined.

In discussion today with Tom and Neil Wells, it was agreed that from a public relations perspective, their position should be preserved in some way - either as is or by being absorbed in or connected with the new trust. However, a great deal of the current Animal Welfare development proposal is confidential for the meantime and some Friends of the Ark are connected with SPCA (who will not welcome our move into what they perceive as "their" territory). Accordingly we suggest that when the issue becomes public (at about Annual Plan time) the Friends are brought in and offered a role in the new set-up.

Dai