

# **Te Kaupapahere ā-Kuri o Pōneke**

Wellington Dog Policy

Adopted April 2024





Cover: Dohko gets some stick at the beach - photo by Sambath  
This page: Leica sets tongues wagging at Waitangi Park - photo by Cathy

# Ngā ihirangi

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Some of the pictures in this document are here thanks to the wonderful Wellingtonians who shared over 700 paw-some photos of their pups with us!

# 1 He kupu whakataki

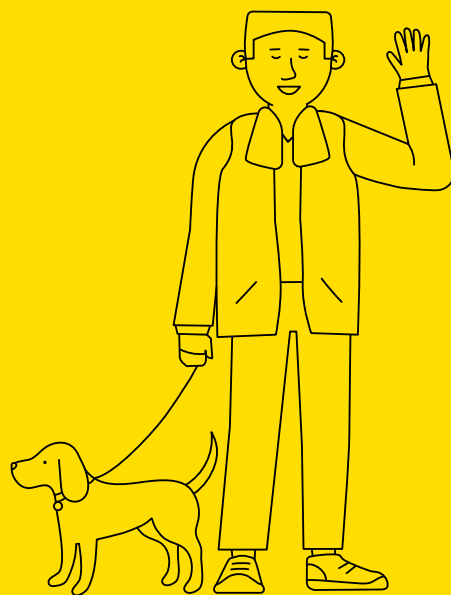
## Introduction

The Council recognises that the majority of dog owners in Wellington City are responsible and that most interaction between dogs and the public is positive. This Policy aims to achieve a balance between the control of dogs and recognition of the community health benefits associated with responsible dog ownership.

In accordance with section 10 of the Dog Control Act 1996 ('the Act'), the Council adopts the Wellington Dog Policy ('the Policy'). This Policy applies to the district of Wellington City. The Policy:

- specifies the nature and application of the Wellington Animal Bylaw 2024 made to give legal powers to implement the Policy
- outlines how owners can uphold their obligations under the Act, including the proper care of dogs
- identifies public places where dogs are prohibited, allowed on-leash or allowed to exercise off-leash, either generally or at specified times
- provides guidelines for the providing dog exercise areas
- works to minimise the risk of distress and nuisance caused by dogs to the public, wildlife and natural habitats
- provides opportunities for dogs and their owners to fulfil their exercise and recreational needs
- states whether dogs classified as menacing must be neutered and the criteria used to decide whether to neuter
- provides transparency of fees and expenditure
- outlines the importance of education and training programmes for both dogs and owners
- defines when owners may be classified as probationary owners or disqualified from owning dogs
- outlines infringements set by the Dog Control Act 1996.

We encourage all dog owners to familiarise themselves with the guidelines and provisions outlined in this Policy, as it serves as a valuable resource for promoting responsible dog ownership, ensuring public safety, and safeguarding the wellbeing of our community.





Orion shoots the breeze with *Solace in the Wind* - photo by Jalyn

## 2 Ngā whakamahukitanga Definitions

**Accredited Dog Owner** are owners who have demonstrated responsible dog ownership to the Council based on criteria outlined on the Council's website. This was formerly known as the Responsible Dog Owner scheme.

**Central area** means the City Centre Zone in the Council's Proposed District Plan.

**Control** means that the dog is not causing a nuisance or danger and that the person in charge of the dog has the dog under continuous surveillance and is able to obtain an immediate and desired response from the dog by use of a leash, voice commands, hand signals, whistles, or other effective means.

**Dangerous dog** means any dog classified as dangerous by the Council under section 31 or 33ED of the Act.

**Disability assist dog** means a dog certified by one of the organisations listed in Schedule 5 of the Act as being a dog that has been trained (or is being trained) to assist a person with a disability.

**Domestic animal** means any animal (including a bird or reptile) kept as a domestic pet; any working dog; any other animal kept by any person for recreational purposes or for the purposes of that person's occupation or employment.

**Exercise area** means any designated public area where dogs are allowed off-leash under the control of their owner.

**Infringement offence** has the meaning given to it in section 65(1) of the Act.

**Leash** means a physical strap or chain attached to a collar or harness on the dog, sturdy enough to ensure that the dog is restrained and controlled by the person using the leash.

**Menacing dog** means any dog classified as menacing under sections 33A or 33C or 33ED of the Act.

**Neutered dog** means a dog that has been spayed or castrated; and does not include a dog that has been vasectomised.

**Nuisance** refers to the dictionary definition (a person, thing, or circumstance causing trouble or annoyance; anything harmful or offensive to the community or a member of it) or to a statutory nuisance as defined in Section 29 of the Health Act 1956.

**Owner** has the meaning as defined under the Act including every person who owns a dog; or has a dog in his or her possession, or the parent or guardian of a person under the age of 16 years who owns a dog.

**Probationary owner** means any owner classified as probationary under section 21 of the Act.

**Protected wildlife** means any animal for the time being absolutely or partially protected under the Wildlife Act 1953 and has the same meaning as defined under the Act.

**Public place** has the meaning given to it under Section 2 of the Dog Control Act 1996. It means a place that, at any material time, is open to or is being used by the public, whether free or on payment of a charge, and whether any owner or occupier of the place is lawfully entitled to exclude or eject any person from that place. It includes any road, park, recreation ground, sports field, reserve, beach, Wellington Town Belt, Waterfront, pool, pedestrian mall, public open space, community facility.

**Roaming dog** means any dog that is found in any public place or on any land or premises other than that occupied by the owner and is unaccompanied by their owner.

**Stock** refers to livestock, which may include alpacas, cattle, deer, donkeys, horses, sheep, goats and pigs.

**Working dog** has the meaning given to it under Section 2 of the Act. This may include any dog that works for the Government, the Police, is a disability assist dog, or is part of commercial activity.

# 3 Ngā haepapa Responsibilities

## 3.1 Responsibilities of the Council

Dog owners have a responsibility to provide for their dog's welfare. To support dog owners and the welfare of dogs in Wellington, the Council will:

- provide dogs and their owners with a reasonable level of access to public places; this will be balanced with the need to protect public safety and to minimise distress and nuisance to the general public
- provide designated exercise areas where dogs can exercise and socialise off-leash whilst under the control of their owner
- consider restricting or prohibiting dog access to public places where the likelihood of conflict exists between dogs and the public, while considering existing and previous use of the area
- restrict or prohibit dog access to public places where the likelihood of conflict exists between dogs and wildlife
- actively encourage responsible dog ownership through the promotion of the Accredited Dog Owner scheme, which provides a discounted registration fee for approved dog owners
- promote public safety, responsible dog ownership and provisions of the Act and the Council's Dog Policy through education programmes
- administer the dog registration programme - this includes forms, maintaining the national dog database and related promotional material
- encourage the use of approved education and obedience courses for dogs
- collaborate with local animal welfare organisations to provide support services, such as low-cost spaying/neutering programmes, vaccination clinics and educational events
- provide an annual report on the effectiveness of the Wellington Dog Policy and dog control practices
- investigate and respond to complaints or concerns, as appropriate.

When dogs have not received proper care and attention, the Council will ensure that the appropriate action is taken and may:

- issue a warning or infringement notice
- prosecute where it considers the offence or the effects of the offence are significant.

## 3.2 Responsibilities of dog owners

Dog owners are required to comply with the Act, and any regulations and bylaws established under it. The requirements include:

- promptly pick up their dog's faeces in public areas and properly dispose of it
- carry effective means to remove of any dog faeces when in a public place with a dog
- ensuring that their dog does not cause any disturbance or public nuisance
- registering the dog with the Council and notifying the Council of any changes of any changes in address or ownership
- keeping the dog under control at all times or confined in such a manner that it cannot freely leave the property
- maintaining the dog's physical and mental wellbeing through proper nutrition, a suitable environmental and providing adequate health and behavioural stimulation
- taking reasonable measures to prevent the dog from causing annoyance to others, such as excessive barking, howling, or other disruptive behaviour
- taking reasonable precautions to prevent the dog from causing harm, danger, intimidation, or distress to any person
- taking reasonable precautions to prevent the dog from causing harm, danger or distress to any stock, poultry, domestic animal, or protected wildlife
- taking reasonable steps to prevent the dog from damaging or endangering the property of others
- to have your dog off-leash in a public place, the owner or person in charge must ensure effective control.

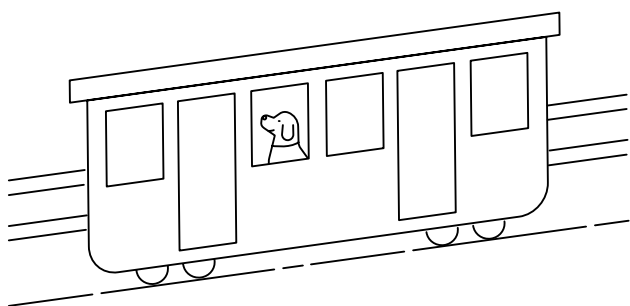
## 4 He Pōneke taukuri A dog-friendly Wellington

As the city continues to grow and the number of dogs in our community increases, we recognise the importance of providing support for dog-friendly services and facilities. We also understand that people have varying levels of comfort around dogs, and it is our goal to establish a safe and enjoyable environment for both dog owners and non-dog owners. With this in mind, we are committed to creating a welcoming atmosphere that accommodates dogs and their owners, while acknowledging the role that the Council can play within its jurisdiction.

### 4.1 Dogs allowed on the Cable Car

We recognise the value of offering accessible and enjoyable recreational experiences for dog owners. At the Wellington Cable Car, dogs are permitted to join their human companions on the journey, providing convenient access to the Wellington Waterfront, the Wellington Botanic Garden ki Paekākā and the vibrant green spaces nearby.

To ensure the safety and comfort of all passengers, it is required that dogs traveling on the cable car remain on a leash throughout the entire journey, and travel on the lower landings of the cars. Fees and other conditions may be subject to change, so we encourage visitors to refer to the Cable Car website for the most up-to-date information.



### 4.2 Dog-friendly establishments

We understand that dog owners appreciate the opportunity to bring their dogs along when visiting various establishments, including retail and business venues. It is important to note that each establishment operates independently and has the authority to decide whether they allow dogs on their premises.

A requirement of running a food business is to ensure that food is safe and suitable. This generally means that ensuring that animals are kept away from any food preparation areas.

If a business is interested in establishing a more dog-friendly space, they can inquire with their Council verifier for further guidance and information.

### 4.3 Dogs on public transport

We acknowledge that some dog owners desire increased access to bring their dogs onto public transport in an effort to reduce private vehicle usage and integrate dogs into everyday life. However, it is important to clarify that the authority to regulate and manage public transport services does not fall within the jurisdiction of Wellington City Council.

The responsibility for overseeing the public transport network in the wider Wellington regions, including considerations for allowing dogs on board, lies with the Greater Wellington Regional Council.

For information regarding the Conditions of Carriage, policies, and potential changes related to dogs traveling on public transport, we encourage dog owners to consult the Greater Wellington Regional Council, the Public Transport Authority in the Wellington Region.



#### **4.4 Dogs in rental properties**

While the Dog Policy provides guidelines and regulations for dog owners in public areas, it does not extend to private property or rental agreements. The decision to allow pets in rental accommodations lies with the respective landlords or property owners. Dog owners are advised to comply with any rules and restrictions set by their landlords or property management when it comes to keeping dogs in rental properties.

#### **4.5 Facilities for dogs around the city**

As part of the Council's efforts to enhance the experience of dog owners and their pets in our city, we have made updates to our urban design internal guide. One significant change is the inclusion of specifications for dog bowls and taps when considering the installation of Council drinking fountains. Over time, this will improve access to water sources for dogs in parks in public spaces.

The Council provides dedicated dog exercise areas for dogs to socialise and exercise off-leash. More detailed provision regarding the service level to expect at each site can be found in Section 6.

The Council is committed to promoting responsible dog ownership within Wellington and provides an annual registration fee discount to dog owners who attain an Accredited Dog Owner (ADO) status.

#### **4.6 Safety and education**

The Council is committed to promoting a cohesive and harmonious community by promoting responsible dog ownership and education. To achieve this, the Council will offer various education initiatives, including:

- school presentations to educate students about dog behaviour and safety
- educational programs for community groups and businesses
- provision of educational materials for dog owners, covering topics such as dog welfare, prevention of dog-related issues and proper handling of dogs in public
- use of positive media publicity to raise awareness about responsible dog ownership
- ensuring dog owners are informed about their responsibilities under the Act. The Council's Dog Policy and related bylaws will be readily accessible on the Council website for all dog owners.

#### **4.7 Dog obedience**

The Council encourages dog owners, particularly new owners, to participate in approved education and obedience courses. Attending puppy or dog training courses can significantly contribute to a dog's understanding of simple commands and help establish a harmonious relationship between dogs and humans. They are particularly beneficial for individuals who may have reservations or fears of dogs.

As an incentive for participation, the Council provides a discount on the annual registration fee for owners who have successfully completed these courses. For detailed information, please refer to Section 9.

A list of Wellington dog trainers is provided on the Council website.

# 5 Te tomo ki ngā wāhi tūmatanui

## Access to public places

### 5.1 Permission to designate public places

Under the Act, councils can designate public places where dogs are either prohibited or allowed on or off-leash (either generally or at specific times). The enforcement of these designations is carried out through the relevant bylaws.

### 5.2 Controlled public places

**Dogs must be kept under the control of their owners at all times while in public places. The general rule in Wellington City is that dogs should be on a leash at all times unless otherwise specified.**

### 5.3 Dog exercise areas

In Wellington City, the designated public places for off-leash dog exercise are classified as follows:

- **Exercise area** - dogs are permitted to exercise and socialise off-leash under the control of their owner in these areas at all times.
- **Beach exercise area** - these are specific beach locations where dogs can exercise and socialise off-leash under the control of their owner at all times.
- **Exercise area (specified time)** - dogs are permitted to exercise and socialise off-leash at specified times of day and dependent on the season.
- **Prohibited area** - dogs are not allowed in these areas at any time. This rule applies whether the dog is under control or not.
- **Prohibited area (specified time)** - where dogs are prohibited during the times specified.

A list of all exercise areas and prohibited places are provided in Appendix A. Maps of all exercise areas can be found on the Council website.

### 5.4 Prohibited places

In order to ensure public safety and minimise dog-related incidents, areas frequently utilised by the public may restrict or prohibit dogs.

Dogs may also be restricted in areas where significant wildlife and/or wildlife habitats are present, for example, the presence of little blue penguin/kororā, seal colonies, kiwi, kākā, tīeke and robin.

Wellington is committed to preserving our native biodiversity and recognises the special relationship Māori have with New Zealand's natural taonga.

We acknowledge that dogs are not the only species that pose a threat to native wildlife, however, off-leash dogs in particular can pose a threat by disturbing nesting sites, breeding patterns, and predation.

The Council will utilise data on breeding patterns, wildlife sightings, and information from environmental groups to assess the level of risk associated with allowing dogs on or off-leash in a particular site. If an area is designated as prohibited or a dog exercise area is disestablished, the Council will consider the impact on dog owners' ability to walk their dogs and the availability of alternative areas for dog exercise.

### 5.5 Right of access to a prohibited place

Dog owners are allowed:

- to move through a play area specifically to move from one side to the other if there is no alternative route but they cannot stop with their dog in the play area
- access to Wellington International Airport if they intend to transport their dog
- Tarakena Bay Beach - dogs are allowed on-leash on the coastal track only between Palmer Head and Moa Point.

### 5.6 Exemptions

Disability assist dogs are exempt from all public place restrictions specified in this Policy. They do not need to be on-leash in controlled or prohibited public places. Exemptions require written authorisation from the appropriate organisation.

Working dogs will also be exempt from the restrictions specified, if they are working at the time.

## 5.7 Sports fields

- **Artificial sports fields:** Dogs are prohibited in all areas, both on and off-leash, at all times.
- **Natural turf:** Dogs are permitted on sports fields on-leash, provided the field is not in use for sporting activities. During games, dog owners must remain on the sidelines.

## 5.8 Unattended dogs

Dogs must not be left unattended in any public place, including the Central Area of the city. They must always be accompanied by their owners.

Dogs under the control of their owner may stop in public places, including the Central Area of the city.

## 5.9 Classification of areas under other legislation

Access for dogs can be controlled by other legislation, for example the:

- Conservation Act 1987 - “controlled dog areas” and “open dog areas”
- National Parks Act 1980 - “national park”

At present there are no areas in Wellington City that are classified according to these provisions.

## 5.10 Considerations to modify existing dog exercise areas

Dog exercise areas may undergo modifications or be considered for other uses over time. This intends to allow for continued improvement in the quality of the areas available for dogs and other park users, and to allow for the protection of wildlife.

When considering modifications to existing exercise areas, the historical and current utilisation of the area will be evaluated. The conservation of wildlife are also crucial considerations when modifying exercise areas.

Consultation will take place before any decisions are made. Whenever feasible, compensatory areas will be provided to mitigate the loss of existing exercise spaces. The goal is to ensure that dog owners have adequate alternative spaces to exercise their pets, maintaining the overall availability of off-leash areas within Wellington.

## 5.11 Considerations to determine new dog exercise areas

There are various factors that the Council will consider when considering to establish a new dog exercise area. These include:

- potential disturbance to local wildlife and negative impact on conservation efforts
- use of the space for other purposes (the area should not be extensively used for sporting or other recreational activities)
- sufficient size and access (the area should be of significant size to allow for appropriate access points to ensure easy entry and exit for dog owners)
- adequate sight lines that allow owners to maintain visual contact with their dogs
- well-defined boundaries to clearly separate the dog exercise areas from adjacent areas to ensure the safety of dogs and other groups, where required. Fencing, signage, and other suitable barriers (trees and natural fencing) may be used to establish these boundaries
- additional considerations may include factors such as community demand for a dog exercise area, dog registration level and current provision.

It is important to note that these considerations are not exhaustive, and the specific requirements for establishing new dog exercise areas may vary.

### 5.12 Engaging the community: exploring shared spaces for off-leash dog exercise areas

In situations where there is a lack of alternative options for a dedicated off-leash area, or in areas with restricted land availability, the Council may utilise shared spaces that are currently used for other purposes. This may include allowing dogs off-leash at specific times only. Targeted engagement will be conducted prior to any decisions.

### 5.13 Considerations to determine if a dog exercise area is suitable for full fencing

When evaluating the suitability of an exercise area for full fencing, the following considerations may be taken into account:

- **Size:** Whether the area is of an appropriate size to accommodate the free movement of dogs without overcrowding.
- **Location:** The location of the area and proximity relation to other fenced dog exercise areas.
- **Parking:** The availability of parking facilities and ease of accessibility that contributes to the overall usability and success of the fenced area. These considerations are not exhaustive, and additional factors such as community demand and environmental factors may also influence the decision-making process regarding full fencing in a designated exercise area.

We understand that some dog owners prefer fully fenced spaces for exercising their dogs...

### 5.14 Considerations against fully fencing a dog exercise area

We understand that some dog owners prefer fully fenced spaces for exercising their dogs, as it provides a sense of security. While fencing can be advantageous in certain situations, it may not always be the most optimal approach due to the following reasons:

- **Cost:** Installing and maintaining full fencing throughout a dog exercise area can be expensive.
- **Accessibility:** Fully fenced areas can pose barriers for individuals with mobility issues, older adults, or people with disabilities.
- **Drainage:** Fencing small areas can restrict the natural flow of water, leading to water pooling or inadequate drainage. The Council typically advises against fencing dog exercise areas smaller than 4,000 square meters in order to mitigate the risk of drainage issues.
- **Community integration:** Fully fenced areas may create a sense of separation from the surrounding community.
- **Aesthetics:** Full fencing can impact the visual appeal of the surrounding area. Some people prefer open spaces and natural landscapes.





# 6 Ngā taumata ā-ratonga: Ngā wāhi whakapakari ā-wāhi, ā-hapori, ā-rohe anō hoki

## Level of service: destination, community and local off-leash exercise areas

The purpose of this section is to provide clarity regarding the expected level of service offered in off-leash area within Wellington. The Council has classified the following three areas for off-leash service provision:

- Destination off-leash area
- Community off-leash area
- Local off-leash area

### 6.1 Destination off-leash area

Destination off-leash areas are designed to provide an elevated experience for dog owners and their dogs. These spaces may attract visitors from a larger area and offer a range of amenities and services. They may be situated in locations that possess natural beauty or offer unique experiences.

The following characteristics shall be considered when determining if a space qualifies as a destination off-leash area:

- ample space to accommodate a larger number of dogs and allow for various activities such as running, playing, and socialising
- secure fencing or other boundaries in place
- convenient parking facilities available
- access to water sources or dog-friendly drinking fountains
- dog-friendly obstacles or agility equipment to enhance recreational opportunities and mental stimulation for dogs (excluding beachfront areas)
- more regular maintenance, including mowing
- ideally situated near residential areas with a significant population of dog owners.

### 6.2 Community off-leash area

Community off-leash areas aim to provide a balance between the services offered at a destination and local off-leash area. While they may not offer the same level of amenities as destination off-leash areas, community off-leash areas still provide opportunities for dogs to exercise off-leash.

The following characteristics shall be considered when determining if a space qualifies as a community off-leash area:

- sufficient space to accommodate a moderate number of dogs and allow for activities such as playing and socialising
- secure fencing or other natural boundaries in place
- waste disposal stations
- regular maintenance, including grass cutting (excluding beachfront areas)
- ensuring that they are conveniently located for dog owners residing nearby.

### 6.3 Local off-leash area

Local off-leash areas are the most common type of dog exercise area, providing a convenient space for dogs to exercise without having to travel long distances.

Local off-leash areas are typically smaller in size compared to destination or community off-leash areas. They are designed to accommodate a smaller number of dogs from the local area rather than attracting visitors from outside.

Parking facilities, fencing and other amenities will not be a prioritising factor when establishing local off-leash areas. These areas are intended to be accessible by residents within walking distance from their homes, reducing the need for extensive parking infrastructure.

#### **6.4 Review and modification**

The Council will periodically review the off-leash network, considering factors such as population density, changing demographics, and community feedback. Based on these evaluations, modifications may be made to upgrade certain local off-leash areas to community or destination areas, or vice versa. Such modifications shall adhere to the criteria and principles outlined in this Policy.

This approach allows our off-leash network to remain responsive to the evolving needs and preferences of our community.

The Council website provides a comprehensive list of dog exercise areas, including their categorisation, which may be subject to change over time.

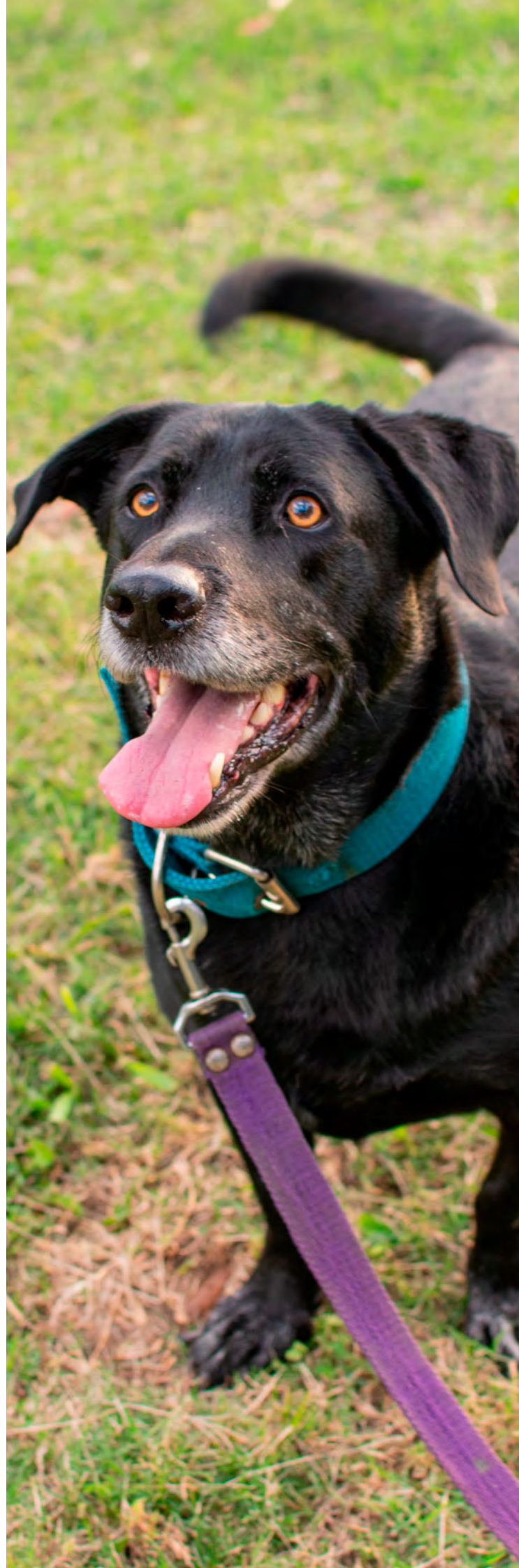
#### **6.5 Funding to improve levels of service**

Any upgrades to dog exercise areas are contingent upon securing funding through the Council's established processes, such as the Long Term or Annual Plan. The allocation of resources for these enhancements will be subject to the Council's financial considerations and prioritisation.

The Council may accept external funding for the purpose of upgrades to the dog exercise areas.

#### **6.6 Community engagement**

In accordance with the Significance and Engagement Policy, the Council will seek input from the community, including registered dog owners, local residents, and relevant stakeholders, to ensure transparency and inclusivity in decision-making processes related to the classification and development of destination, community, and local off-leash areas.



# 7 Rēhitatanga, ngā utu me ngā whakapaunga

## Registration, fees and expenditure

### 7.1 Registration

The maintenance of a dog registration system is both a statutory requirement and an essential component of the efficient running of a dog control service.

Information will be provided to dog owners and potential owners about their obligation to register their dog.

**Registration will be monitored, and the following action taken against owners who fail to register their dog:**

- issuing of a warning or infringement notice
- impounding of unregistered dogs (note: all dogs will be required to be registered and the pound fees paid before they are released from the shelter).

### 7.2 Dog registration fees

Registration fees are due on 1 July each year. There are penalties for late dog registration.

Dog registration fees are set by Council resolution in accordance with Council's Revenue and Financing Policy. Consultation on fees is undertaken via Council's Annual Plan and Long-term Plan process.

When appropriate, this consultation may also cover levels of service.

A full registration fee must be paid for dogs that have not been neutered. A discounted dog registration fee is available for owners who:

- hold Accredited Dog Owner (ADO) status
- have a neutered dog(s)
- have a working dog(s)
- have adopted a dog from SPCA and HUHA (first year of registration only)

There is no registration fee for approved disability assist dogs.

### 7.3 Other fees

Fees are also charged by the Council for:

- dogs who have been impounded (impounding and daily sustenance fees)
- permission to keep more than three dogs (with the exception of those living in general rural zone)
- collection or delivery of a dog on behalf of an owner
- euthanasia of a dog at the owner's written request
- replacement registration tags
- application fee for Accredited Dog Owner status (this includes site inspection fees and associated costs to run the Council's education course).

Fees are set and advertised before the beginning of each registration year. The registration year runs from 1 July to 30 June the following year.

### 7.4 Commercial dog walking licence

There is also a fee specific for commercial/professional dog walkers. This is only applicable to businesses where dog walkers or handlers walk and/or train groups of dogs in public places in exchange for payment. This is covered in more detail in the Council's Trading and Events in Public Places Policy.



## 7.5 Dog revenue and expenditure

The Council recovers approximately 75 percent of the total cost associated with dog control through registration and control fees, and enforcement.

Residential rates are used to meet the approximate remaining 25 percent of dog-related costs. The exact split is set in the Revenue and Finance Policy as part of the Annual Plan process.

Funds generated from dog registration fees, fines and impound fees are used to provide:

- education programmes and campaigns for schools
- community groups and businesses
- subsidised Accredited Dog Owner (ADO) courses
- shelter facilities and the adoption programme at Moa Point
- running the dog registration programme
  - this includes forms, tags, maintaining the national dog database and related promotional material.
- administering the dog control programme.

## 7.6 External sponsorship

The Council can potentially accept various forms of external support to assist in supporting dogs and their related programs and exercise areas. This may include appropriate financial support to help cover its capital (initial investment) or operating costs (ongoing investments). This could include:

- Corporate sponsorship
- Grants and funding
- Partnership with non-profit organisations
- Community donations
- Fundraising events

## 7.7 Transparency of spend

Each year, the Council provides an annual report on its revenue, expenditure, and the activities it has undertaken in relation to dog control. This report provides transparency and information on how funds have been allocated and utilised in managing dog-related services.



## 8 Mōtete whakauruuru ā-kuri Microchipping dogs

There is a legal requirement for puppies to be registered by the time they are three months old and microchipped within two months of being registered.

Owners must provide permanent identification of their dog (other than a working dog) by arranging for the dog to be implanted with an approved microchip when the dog is:

- registered for the first time on or after 1 July 2006
- classified as dangerous or menacing on or after 1 December 2003
- impounded and not registered
- registered and impounded twice.

It is important to note that microchipping is not a substitute for other forms of identification, such as collars with tags.

The Council requires a copy of the implantation certificate at the time of registration.

A microchip does not have GPS capabilities and cannot actively track the location of a pet. They are passive devices that contain a unique identification number.

The Council requires a copy of the implantation certificate at the time of registration. Where microchipping has not occurred, the Council may:

- issue a warning or an infringement notice
- prosecute the owner
- if the dog has been impounded, microchip the dog and recover the costs from the owner or person taking possession of the dog.

Microchipping provides an additional layer of security as it means that, in the event your dog is lost, animal control agencies, shelters, and veterinarians can scan the microchip with a wider database, making it easier to reunite the dog with its family.

It is also important to ensure the dogs current address is registered (when the dog has moved house).

### **Penalties for not microchipping**

If you don't have your dog microchipped, you may:

- receive a warning or infringement fine of \$300
- have your dog seized
- be prosecuted.



## 9 Ngā mātauranga me te whakatairanga i te tautika o te tiaki kuri

### Promoting responsible dog ownership

#### Accredited Dog Owner status

The Council is committed to promoting responsible dog ownership within Wellington and provides an annual registration fee discount to dog owners who attain an Accredited Dog Owner (ADO) Licence (formerly “Responsible Dog Owner” status).

Accredited Dog Owner status is awarded to dog owners that have demonstrated responsible dog ownership to the Council. The full criteria and information on how to achieve an Accredited Dog Owner licence can be found on the Council’s website.

Note: Accredited dog owners still require permission from the Council to keep more than three dogs.

The Council is committed to promoting responsible dog ownership within Wellington.



Hiro takes a breather- photo by Ming



# 10 Te whakaheke i te pōrearea

## Minimising nuisance

### 10.1 Nuisance

Nuisance caused by dogs can include:

- barking dogs
- dog faeces that have not been picked up
- roaming dogs.

In managing nuisance caused by dogs the Council will:

- educate owners about major nuisances associated with the ownership of dogs and how to avoid them
- require owners to take steps considered necessary to abate dog nuisance such as removing faeces left by their dog in public places and properly disposing of them
- provide appropriate deterrents against non-compliance with dog control laws by issuing warning or infringement notices, prosecuting where the offence or the effects of the offence are significant, impounding roaming or unregistered dogs
- control the number of dogs kept on a property
- provide incentives such as Accredited Dog Owner licence to encourage responsible dog ownership.

### 10.2 Abatement of nuisance

Where a complaint has been received and an Animal Control Officer considers that a nuisance exists the Officer may issue the owner with a notice requiring the owner to stop the nuisance. These notices will be issued pursuant to the Wellington Animal Bylaw.

### 10.3 Barking dogs

In accordance with the Act, if a dog is considered to be causing a nuisance through persistent and loud barking or howling, an Animal Control Officer may issue a notice requiring the owner to take reasonable provisions to address the nuisance.

Upon receiving the notice, the owner of the dog has a period of 7 days to either comply with the requirements stated in the notice or lodge an objection with the Council regarding the content of the notice. The process for handling objections is outlined in section 55 of the Act.

If the notice is not complied with, the Council may issue an infringement notice to the owner. If the nuisance notice is not complied with and further complaints have been received, an Animal Control Officer may remove the dog from the land or premises.

# 11 Ngā kuri mohoao, mōrearea

## Menacing and dangerous dogs

### 11.1 Classification as a menacing dog

The Council may classify a dog as menacing if the dog: poses a threat to any person, stock, poultry, domestic animal, or protected wildlife because of:

- any observed or reported behaviour of the dog; or
- any characteristics typically associated with a prohibited dog breed or type.

The process for objecting to a dog's classification as a menacing dog is set out in sections 33B and 33D of the Act.

The Council must classify dogs as menacing if they wholly or predominantly belong to the breeds of dogs listed in Schedule 4 to the Act.

As set out in sections 33E, 33EA and 36A of the Act, a dog that is classified as menacing:

- must be muzzled and on-leash in any public place
- must be microchipped within 2 months of classification
- maintains its status as a menacing dog no matter where it lives in New Zealand.

### 11.2 Neutering of menacing dogs

Under sections 33E and 33EB of the Act when a dog is classified as menacing the Council will order the owner to have the dog neutered, unless the owner provides a certificate from a vet that the dog is not in a fit condition to be neutered. The Council has discretion to waive the requirement for neutering on a case-by-case basis. It will consider the likelihood of the dog posing a threat in public and whether neutering is likely to curb the menacing behaviour when requiring a dog to be neutered.

### 11.3 Dangerous dogs

As set out in section 31 of the Act, the Council must classify a dog as dangerous where:

- an owner of the dog has been convicted of a specified offence;
- the territorial authority has reasonable grounds to believe the dog constitutes a threat to the safety of any person, stock, poultry, domestic animal or protected wildlife based on sworn evidence that the dog has shown aggressive behaviour on one or more occasions; or
- the owner admits in writing that the dog constitutes a threat to the safety of any person, stock, poultry, domestic or protected wildlife animal.

The process for objecting to a dog's classification as a dangerous dog is set out in section 31 of the Act.

As set out in sections 32, 32A and 36A of the Act, a dog that is classified as dangerous:

- must be kept within a securely fenced portion of the owner's property (note: dog-free access to at least one door of the property must be available)
- must be muzzled and on-leash in any public place
- must be neutered within 1 month after receipt of a notice of classification
- must be microchipped within 2 months of classification
- is subject to a higher registration fee
- must not be disposed of to any other person without the written consent of the Council
- maintains its status as a dangerous dog no matter where it lives in New Zealand.

# 12 Uruhitanga Enforcement

## 12.1 Impounding and seizing

The Act sets out certain provisions for the impounding of dogs. Where any dog is found at large in a public place in contravention of a bylaw or on any property other than the owners' (without the consent of the owner/occupier in question) it may be impounded.

Where any dog is impounded and the owner is known, the Council will make all attempts to contact the owner. The owner then has 7 days to recover the dog from the pound.

Where the owner of the dog is unknown the Council must keep the dog for 7 days. If the dog is not claimed, after this time the dog may be disposed of (eg a new owner found) or destroyed as the Council sees fit.

Where the owner of a dog does not comply with registration or microchipping requirements or the requirements of a menacing or dangerous dog classification the dog(s) may be seized and impounded. The dog may also be seized and impounded if not under proper control or it has attacked.

All registration requirements, fees and pound fees must be paid and the dog microchipped before a dog will be released from the pound.

## 12.2 Impounding fees

Under section 68 of the Act the Council can set fees for the impounding of dogs. Fees are set for seizure, sustenance, and the destruction of a dog. These fees can be varied for registered and unregistered dogs and may be graduated for repeated impounding of the same dog.

Impounding fees are listed on the Council's website.

## 12.3 Infringement notices

The Act empowers Animal Control Officers to issue infringement notices that impose fines on the recipient. Infringement notices can only be issued for offences (called infringement offences) as listed in Appendix D.

Fine amounts are set in the Act and range from \$100 to \$750. The Council has no discretion to alter these fees as they are set nationally.

Once a fine has been issued the recipient has 28 days to pay it. After this period of time a reminder notice is issued. 28 days after issue of a reminder notice the infringement can be filed with the court. The court can then serve proceedings to recover any outstanding fines and any additional costs incurred.

The use of infringement notices is considered an effective method of enforcement and allows the Council to fulfill its objectives under this Policy. The Council may consider issuing an infringement notice rather than referring an offence to the court.

## 12.4 Prosecution

Prosecution of offences is an enforcement option available to the Council. The Act contains a number of offences that are listed in Appendix C.

Breaches of the bylaws may also be an offence under the Local Government Act 2002.

A prosecution may be initiated where the evidence which can be adduced in Court is sufficient to provide a reasonable prospect of conviction and prosecution is required in the public interest.

## 12.5 Probationary owners

When an owner is convicted of an offence under the Act (or other Act specified in section 21 of the Act) or has committed three infringement offences not related to a single incident within a continuous 24-month period, the Council will classify that owner as a probationary owner for a period of 24 months. The 24-month period will start from either the date of the offence or the date of the third infringement offence.

The probationary classification has the following effects within 14 days of being classified as a probationary owner:

- the owner is not allowed to own any dogs other than those that were owned at the time the classification was made
- the owner must dispose of any unregistered dogs.

A probationary owner has the right to object to the classification. The Act sets out a number of matters whereby the 24-month probationary period can be reduced. In considering an objection the Council will have regard to:

- the circumstances and nature of the offence(s)
- the competence of the person in terms of responsible dog ownership
- any steps taken by the person to prevent further offences
- the matters advanced in support of the objection and any other relevant matters.

The Council will encourage all owners classed as probationary to undertake approved dog education and obedience courses.

## 12.6 Disqualification of ownership

Any owner convicted of an offence under the Act (or other Acts specified in section 25 of the Act), or who has committed three infringement offences not related to the same event within 24 months, can be immediately disqualified from owning or possessing any dog.

A probationary owner who is convicted of a further offence, or receives three further infringement notices, can be disqualified from owning a dog. It is not necessary for an owner to be classified as a probationary owner before being disqualified.

The disqualified owner must dispose of all dogs they own within 14 days of being notified of the decision. Disqualified owners cannot own any more dogs for up to 5 years. A disqualified owner has the right to object to the classification.

The Council is committed to promoting responsible dog ownership within Wellington and provides an annual registration fee discount to dog owners who attain an Accredited Dog Owner (ADO) status.



# 13 Ngā ture ā-rohe Bylaws

Under the Act the Council is required to create bylaws to give effect to the Dog Policy. The Act lists the particular matters for which bylaws can be made. Bylaws relating to this Policy are contained in the Wellington Animals Bylaw.

The purpose of the Wellington Animal Bylaw is to specify the requirements for the keeping of animals (including dogs) in order to protect the public from nuisance, maintain and promote public health and safety, and safeguard the welfare of animals.

Breaching the bylaw could result in a \$300 infringement under the Dog Control Act.

## 13.1 Notice to abate dog nuisance

Where an Animal Control Officer considers that any dog or the keeping of any dog has become a nuisance, injurious or hazardous to the health, property, or safety of any member of the public, an Officer may in writing require the owner to:

- reduce the number of dogs kept on a premises
- construct, alter, reconstruct, or improve the kennels or other buildings used to house or contain the dog(s)
- take such action as an Officer deems necessary to minimise or remove the likelihood of nuisance, or injury or hazard to health, property, or safety to any member of the public.

## 13.2 Restriction on dogs with infectious disease or in heat

A dog is not allowed to enter or be present in a public place when it is infected with an infectious disease, or is a female dog in season.

## 13.3 Fouling of public places

The owner or handler of the dog will immediately remove and properly dispose of their dog's faeces if the dog defecates in a public place or on land or premises other than that occupied by the owner.

Owners must carry effective means to remove of any dog faeces when in a public place with a dog.

Failure to do so may result in a \$300 infringement.

## 13.4 Dogs in public places

The bylaw identifies that the Council may, by publicly notified resolution, declare any additional public place to be one of the following classifications and may impose prohibitions and restrictions in respect of that area:

- exercise area
- exercise area (specified times)
- beach exercise area
- prohibited area
- prohibited area (specified times).

## 13.5 Council permission required for more than three dogs

The bylaw requires that any household (other than in the rural area) that keeps more than three dogs in total on the property must obtain prior Council permission to do so. Permission will be required for more than three dogs over the age of 3 months, whether or not the dogs are registered or the owner/occupier is the registered owner of the dogs.

The Council will have the right to impose terms and conditions on the granting of permission, including:

- specifying the number of dogs that may be kept at any one time
- specifying the duration of the permission
- restrictions as to the purpose for which such dogs may be kept
- provision for hygiene, control, confinement and regular inspection
- provision for the protection of other persons or property from being affected in any way by the dogs
- provision for emergencies, including food, muzzles, leads for all dogs, and carriers.

On application, dog owners will have to pay the associated fee for permission to keep more than three dogs on a property.

Any person who faces an infringement or prosecution under the Animal Welfare Act 1999 will have any permission to keep more than three dogs revoked.



Obi at one with the ocean, Makara Beach - photo by Hannah

# Appendix A:

## Dog exercise areas & restricted areas

Controlled public place means any area where dogs are allowed, provided they are being walked on a leash with the leash being held by their owner, ensuring direct control.

**Table 1: Beach exercise areas**

*Dogs are permitted to exercise and socialise off-leash in these beach areas at all times, under control of their owner.*

Beach exercise area	Suburb	Location
Houghton Bay Beach	Houghton Bay	The Esplanade
Island Bay Beach	Island Bay	From the pier (concrete stormwater outlet) to the western end of the beach. Note: Dogs are not allowed on all of Island Bay Beach. The dunes behind this area are prohibited for dogs.
Kio Bay Beach	Hataitai	Beach area opposite 208-230 Evans Bay Parade.
Little Karaka Bay Beach	Roseneath	24-76 Evans Bay Parade.
Lyll Bay Beach	Lyll Bay	From the steps in the seawall, opposite 30 Lyll Parade (200 metres from the eastern side of the children's playground) to the airport end of the beach. Note: Dogs are not allowed on all of Lyll Bay Beach.
Mākara Beach	Mākara Beach	Mākara Beach foreshore (all of the stoney beach area).
Weka Bay Beach	Roseneath	130-148 Evans Bay Parade.

### On-leash beach areas (restricted during summer)

On-leash beach areas	Suburb	Location	Specified times
Churchill Park section of Seatoun Beach	Seatoun	Marine Parade	<b>1 December to 1 March:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dogs are allowed on-leash before 10am and after 7pm.</li> <li>Dogs are prohibited between 10am and 7pm.</li> </ul> <b>2 March to 30 November:</b> Dogs are allowed on-leash at any time.
Hataitai Beach	Hataitai	Esplanade Reserve - 393 Evans Bay	<b>1 December-1 March:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dogs are allowed on-leash before 10am and after 7pm.</li> <li>Dogs are prohibited between 10am and 7pm.</li> </ul> <b>2 March-30 November:</b> Dogs are allowed on-leash at any time.

### Exercise areas (specified times)

*Dogs are permitted to exercise and socialise off-leash in these locations during the specified times, under control of owner.*

Exercise areas (specified times)	Suburb	Location	Specified times
Kaiwharawhara Park	Kaiwharawhara	Hutt Road	<b>1 November-31 January:</b> Dogs are allowed off-leash during this time. <b>1 February-31 October:</b> Dogs must remain on-leash at all times, in accordance with the sports field rules.
Oriental Bay Beach (longer section)	Oriental Beach	Oriental Parade (west side of the rotunda)	<b>1 May-31 October:</b> Dogs are allowed off-leash at all times. <b>1 November to 30 April:</b> Dogs are prohibited from the beach at all times.
Oriental Bay Beach (shorter section)	Oriental Beach	Oriental Parade (east side of the rotunda)	<b>1 May-31 October:</b> Dogs are allowed off-leash at all times. <b>1 November-30 April:</b> Dogs are allowed off-leash before 10am and after 7pm. Dogs are prohibited between 10am and 7pm.
Seatoun Beach	Seatoun	Marine Parade (does not include area north of pier, which is prohibited to dogs)	<b>1 December-1 March:</b> Dogs are allowed off-leash before 10am and after 7pm. Dogs are prohibited between 10am-7pm. <b>2 March-30 November:</b> Dogs are allowed off-leash at all times.
Worser Bay Beach	Seatoun	Marine Parade	<b>1 December-1 March:</b> Dogs are allowed off-leash before 10am and after 7pm. Dogs are prohibited between 10am-7pm. <b>March 30-November 2:</b> Dogs are allowed off-leash at all times.

## Table 2: Inland exercise areas

*Dogs must be under control of their owners at all times but can exercise and socialise off-leash in these areas.*

General exercise areas	Suburb	Location
Alexandra Road West - Newtown Town Belt	Newtown	Alexandra Road grass area below the road south of the SPCA.
Arthur Carman Park	Tawa	Access by No.43 Collins Avenue, Linden. Starts at the end of the drive; three grass levels. Access also from 38 Mexted Terrace, Linden.
Eastern Walkway / Rangitatau Reserve	Strathmore Park	Eastern Walkway/Moa Point Road Ataturk car park, grass berm on the left of the walkway heading up the hill to where the tracks meet (does not include the track to the Memorial).
Bann Street/Orchy Crescent Reserve	Southgate	Hilltop between Orchy Crescent and Bann Street.
Cashmere Park	Khandallah	Car park and access near No. 15 Onslow Road.
Charles Plimmer Park - Mount Victoria Town Belt	Mount Victoria	Palliser Road entrance, opposite Bayview Terrace; top of park's drive. Majoribanks Street entrance, follow walking tracks north to large open grass area.
Chelmsford Street Reserve	Ngaio	Access off Chelmsford Street, up the top of the long driveway.
Churton Park Reserve	Churton Park	Southern side of Halswater Drive, parallel to the car park (stops at the fence).
Cliff Gaskin Reserve	Mākara	Between No. 457-461 Mākara Road.
Treasure Island/Kainui Reserve (opposite Cog Park)	Hataitai	360 Evans Bay Parade (lower portion of Treasure Island/ Kainui Road).
Cummings Park	Ngaio	Access from the carpark behind the shops at Nos. 53-61 Ottawa Road, area between the car park and the bridge over the stream.
Dorrie Leslie Park	Lyal Bay	Open grass area between No. 281 Queens Drive and the boat ramp opposite Hungerford Road.
Duncan Park	Tawa	Access via paths beside No. 294 or No. 324 Main Road or via the car park off Linden Avenue (via path between the community centre and bridge club - dogs to remain on leash on the access path).
Edward Wilson Reserve	Churton Park	Access via Churton Drive near No. 32. Note the track goes down the hill around the slopes to Middleton Road.
Ellice Street Quarry	Mt Victoria	Bank and open grass area by No. 104 Ellice Street.
Elliot Park	Brooklyn	Access from Mitchell Street (next to No. 128 Mitchell Street) or the end of Hoover Street.
Macalister Park - Finnimore Terrace	Berhampore	Walking track from opposite No. 21 Finnimore Terrace along the track to the grassed areas above MacAlister Park. Note small tracks leading off the main track are on lead.
Flinders Place Reserve	Johnsonville	Open grass area at the end of Flinders Place.
Grasslees Reserve	Tawa	Western side of stream to the Main Road.
Caribbean Drive Reserve	Grenada	Track only - from the end of Caribbean Drive through to Horokiwi Road.
Hataitai Park	Hataitai	Open area along Ruahine Street between the badminton hall and Hataitai Park main entrance.
Hauora Reserve	Woodridge	The trails through the reserve, access from Redbeech Avenue or Cedarwood Street.

**Table 2: Inland exercise areas** *(continued)**Dogs must be under control of their owners at all times but can exercise and socialise off-leash in these areas.*

General exercise areas	Suburb	Location
Ian Galloway Park	Northland	Fully fenced dog park on the corner of Whitehead Road and Curtis Street, adjacent to the BMX track.
Izard Park	Wilton	Opposite No. 45 Wilton Road open grass area north/east of the play area.
Karori Park	Karori	Access via Karori Road, Sunshine Avenue or Khouri Avenue, area north of sportsfields (some of the tracks on the slope above the park).
Khandallah Park & Play Area / Johnsonville Park	Khandallah/ Broadmeadows	Accessed via Khandallah Park track network or entrance off Sirsi Terrace. Starts/ends at the vehicle access track junction to the reservoir, includes the grass areas west of the reservoir and approx. 500m of the vehicle access track that leads to/from Mt Kaukau.
Kowhai Park Lookout	Brooklyn	Access at the end of Arizona Grove.
Liardet and Farnham Street Corner	Berhampore	Open grass area on the corner of Liardet and Farnham Streets opposite upper level of Macalister Park.
Macalister Park	Berhampore	Access from the ends of Stanley Street, Palm Grove, Te Wharepouri Street or through Macalister Park via Liardet Street or Adelaide Road. Open grass areas at the south end of the lower sportsfields.
Mark Avenue Park	Grenada Village	Lower field – access from end of Buccaneer Place or walk though from entrance by No. 121 Mark Avenue.
Maupuia Walkway – Carter Park	Maupuia	Open walkway accessed from Prison Road or Akaroa Drive entrances.
Meekwood Reserve	Johnsonville	Access from Ohariu Road or Clifford Street.
Monaghan Avenue Reserve	Karori	Very small grass area next to No. 65 Monaghan Avenue.
Mount Albert Park (tracks)	Berhampore	Tracks throughout Mount Albert Park access via Melrose Park, Mt Albert Road, Russell Terrace or Hornsey Road.
Mount Albert Park	Melrose	Access off Mount Albert Road from the car park beside the Chinese Sports and Cultural Centre. Two areas one fully fenced and the other off Mount Albert Road is an open grass area.
Newtown Park	Berhampore	Opposite Nos. 76 to 108 Russell Terrace – pine plantation open grass area top of Newtown Park.
Odell Reserve	Khandallah	Entrance is between house Nos.14-18 Punjab Street – off lead starts at the gate and includes the driveway up to reservoir and the small fenced grass area.
Tanera Park/Ohiro Park	Brooklyn	Open grass area below Tanera Park car park, access also from No. 67 Epuni Street and Ohiro Road.
Owen Street Park	Newtown	Access beside No. 177 Owen Street, 50m South up the drive to the track that leads to the dog exercise area, can also be accessed off Manchester Street.
Reef Street	Island Bay	Corner of Reef Street/The Esplanade – small flat grass area opposite Island Bay beach.
Seton Nossiter Park	Grenada Village	Access from the carpark off Mark Avenue. Dogs on leash on the access path into the reserve, exercise area is the valley floor up to the stream crossing adjacent to the Paparangi School boundary and the grove of Titoki trees.
Huntleigh Park/Silverstream Road Play Area	Ngaio	Open grass area to the west of the play area.
Sinclair Park	Houghton Bay	Three upper levels of grass areas opposite Nos. 131-171 Houghton Bay Road.

**Table 2: Inland exercise areas** *(continued)*

*Dogs must be under control of their owners at all times but can exercise and socialise off-leash in these areas.*

General exercise areas	Suburb	Location
Spennmoor Street Reserve	Newlands	Access to the reserve is from opposite No. 27 Spennmoor Street or No. 62 Newlands Road.
Stebbing's Dam	Churton Park	Stebbing's Dam, open grass banks above and below the dam. Access by No. 98 Westchester Drive, Churton Park. Dogs must be on leash on the track from Rochdale Drive through to Westchester Drive.
Tawa Tawa Reserve	Ōwhiro Bay	Access opposite No. 19 Murchison Road, Happy Valley.
Taylor Park	Tawa	Access off Tawa Street, southern area of park behind badminton hall (access through the Park n Ride car park). Fully Fenced Exercise Area.
Te Ahumairangi slopes	Thorndon	Several accesses up to the slopes from Wadestown Road. Can also be accessed from Weld Street and Moorehouse Street.
Terrace Gardens	Te Aro	Pedestrian only access to this site. Very small grass seating area from Percival Street, Allenby Terrace or O'Reilly Avenue.
The Terrace	Wellington Central	Access from No. 214 The Terrace to the grassed dog exercise area above Motorway/Terrace Tunnel. Can also be accessed from Kelburn Park tracks by Club K Squash Centre.
Te Ahumairangi Hill (top)	Northland	Accesses from various locations on Wadestown Road, and Weld Street - tracks along the ridgeline from Weld Street top car park to Te Ahumairangi Lookout.
Trelissick Park	Ngaio	Dogs on leash from the Waikowhai Street entrance until the picnic area Wightwicks Field.
Tukanae Street Reserve	Strathmore Park	The open grass area off Tukanae Street. Access from between Nos. 31-35 Tukanae Street, or from between Nos. 12-16 Ahuriri Street.
Vice Regal Play Area North	Newtown	Access up track from by No. 1 Owen St. You can also enter by No. 4 Coromandel Street, note dogs must stay on lead while passing through the play area.
Waihinahina Reserve (Dennis Duggan)/ Gilbert Bush Reserve	Newlands	Te Ara Paparangi ki te Tonga Track section. Access opposite 7 Ladbrooke Drive and the large open area of the Reserve. Main access from the car park at the end of Ladbrooke Drive.
Willowbank Park	Tawa	Access from Boscobel Lane, two large grass areas west of the toilets. Either side of the stream.
Worser Bay/Awa Road and Karaka Bay Road corner	Seatoun	Corner of Awa Road and Marine Parade - large grass area
Wrights Hill	Karori	Wrights Hill Road - parade ground area

**Table 3: Prohibited public place**

Dogs are prohibited from these public places at the times specified

Prohibited	Suburb	Location of area	Exemptions
Churchill Park section of Seatoun Beach	Seatoun	Marine Parade	1 December-1 March dogs prohibited between 10am-7pm.
Oriental Bay Beach (longer section)	Oriental Beach	Oriental Parade (west side of the rotunda)	1 November-30 April dogs prohibited from the beach at all times.

**Table 3: Prohibited public place** *(continued)*

Dogs are prohibited from these public places at the times specified

Prohibited	Suburb	Location of area	Exemptions
Oriental Bay Beach (shorter section)	Oriental Beach	Oriental Parade (eastern side of the rotunda, directly opposite the pedestrian crossing)	1 November-30 April dogs prohibited between 10am and 7pm.
Children's playgrounds	City wide	City wide	Exemption to move through a play area on leash specifically to move from one side to the other if there is no alternative route but they cannot stop with their dog in the play area.
Hataitai Beach	Hataitai	Both sections of the beach besides 159 Evans Bay Parade	1 December-1 March: Dogs allowed on-leash before 10am and after 7pm. Dogs prohibited 10am-7pm. 2 March-30 November: Dogs allowed on-leash any time.
Evans Bay Marina	Evans Bay	Evans Bay Parade	
Balaena Bay Beach	Roseneath	Evans Bay Parade	
Freyberg Beach	Oriental Beach	Oriental Parade	
Island Bay Beach	Island Bay	Prohibited from the east of the breakwater/pier	
Island Bay Beach Dunes	Island Bay	Dunes behind the dog exercise area.	
Zealandia Wildlife Sanctuary	Karori	Waiapu Road	
Lyall Bay Beach	Lyall Bay	From the steps in the seawall, opposite no. 30 Lyall Parade (200 metres from the eastern side of the children's playground) to the western side of the beach.	
Palmer Head and Tarakena Bay	Breaker Bay	Coastal area from Moa Pt to Wahine Memorial Park.	Dogs are allowed on-leash on Tarakena Bay track.
Princess Bay Beach	Houghton Bay Beach	Te Raekaihau Point and Princess Bay	
Scorching Bay Beach	Karaka Bays	Massey Road	
Seatoun Beach - Prohibited area	Seatoun	Area north of the pier.	
Sports fields: grass (pitch area when field is being used for sporting activities)	City wide	For example <i>Karori Park, Kilbirnie Park, Linden Park, Miramar Park.</i>	Dogs are permitted on sportsfields on-leash, provided the field is not in use for sporting activities. During games, dog owners must remain on the sidelines.
Sports fields: artificial	City wide	For example <i>Alex Moore Park artificial Broderick Road Johnsonville, Mt Albert Park National Hockey Stadium Berhampore, Nairnville Park artificial Cockayne Rd Khandallah, Te Whaea artificial Hutchison Road Newtown, Wakefield Park artificial Adelaide Rd Island Bay, Terawhiti Wilf Glover Turf (artificial) Mākara Road, Karori</i>	No exemptions, dogs are prohibited from all artificial sports fields.
Taputeranga Island	Island Bay	All of the island.	



## Appendix B: Maps

Maps of all public places classified as dog exercise areas, beaches restricted during summer and prohibited places can be seen at [wellington.govt.nz/dog-exercise](https://wellington.govt.nz/dog-exercise)

## Appendix C: Offences under the Dog Control Act 1996

Name of Section	Description of the offence	Section of the Act
Wilful obstruction of Dog Control Officer or Dog Ranger	Obstructing an Officer	18
Power of constable, Dog Control Officer, or Dog Ranger to request information about owner	Failure or refusal to supply information	19
Power of constable, Dog Control Officer, or Dog Ranger to request information about dog	Failure or refusal to supply information about dog	19(A)
Dog Control Bylaws	Failure to comply with a bylaw made under this section	20
Territorial authority may require probationary owner to undertake training	Failure to undertake training	23A
Obligation of probationary owners to dispose of unregistered dogs	Failure to dispose of unregistered dog	24
Effect of disqualification	Failure to comply with the requirements of a disqualified owner classification	28
Effect of classification as dangerous dog	Failure to comply with requirements of a dangerous dog classification. Selling a dog classified as a dangerous dog without disclosing the information to the other person that the dog is classed as dangerous	32
Offence to fail to comply with section 33E(1) or 33EB	Failure to comply with requirements of menacing classification	33EC
Owner must advise person with possession of dangerous or menacing dog of requirement to muzzle and leash dog in public	Failure to advise person of muzzle and leash requirements	33F
Microchip transponder must be implanted in certain dogs	Failure to implant microchip transponder in dog	36A
Penalty for false statement relating to application for registration	Supplying false information in application for registration	41
Dead dogs	Supplying false information that dog has died	41A
Offence of failing to register dog	Failure to register dog	42
Issue of label or disc and completion of registration	Procuring or attempting to procure a replacement registration tag for a dog that has not lost its current tag	46
Change of ownership of registered dog	Failure to notify territorial authority of change of ownership within 14 days	48
Transfer of dog from one address or district to another	Failure to notify territorial authority of change of address	49

Name of Section	Description of the offence	Section of the Act
Offences relating to collars labels, and discs	Removal of registration tag, use of another dogs tag or making counterfeit tags	<b>51</b>
Control of dog on owner's property	Failure to keep dog under control	<b>52A</b>
Offence of failing to keep dog under control	Failure to keep dog under control	<b>53</b>
Obligations of dog owner	Failure to comply with the obligations of an owner	<b>54</b>
Owner must use or carry leash in public	Failure of owner to carry a leash in a public place	<b>54A</b>
Barking dogs	Failure to comply with a barking notice issued under section 55	<b>55</b>
Dogs attacking persons or animals or rushing at vehicles	Dogs attacking persons or animals; dogs rushing persons, animals or vehicles causing an accident	<b>57 &amp; 57A</b>
Dogs causing serious injury	Dogs causing serious injury to any person or death of protected wildlife	<b>58</b>
Orders relating to dog seen worrying stock	Failure to comply with a notice issued under section 61	<b>61</b>
Allowing dogs known to be dangerous to be at large unmuzzled	Allowing dog known to be dangerous to be in a public place unmuzzled	<b>62</b>
Offence to release dog from custody	Releasing a dog that is under the custody of a territorial authority other than in accordance with the Act	<b>72</b>
Regulations	Failure to comply with regulations made under the Act	<b>78</b>



# Appendix D: Infringement offences under the Dog Control Act 1996 (Section 65 and Schedule 1)

Section	Brief description of Offence	Infringement fee
18	Wilful obstruction of dog control Officer or ranger	\$750
19(2)	Failure or refusal to supply information or wilfully stating false particulars	\$750
19A(2)	Failure to supply information or wilfully providing false particulars about dog	\$750
20(5)	Failure to comply with any bylaw authorised by section 20 of the Act (For a more detailed description of bylaws within Wellington City see section 4.6 of this Policy)	\$300
23A(2)	Failure to undertake dog owner education programme or dog obedience course (or both)	\$300
24	Failure to comply with obligations of probationary owner	\$750
28(5)	Failure to comply with effects of disqualification	\$750
32(2)	Failure to comply with effects of classification of dog as dangerous dog	\$300
32(4)	Fraudulent sale or transfer of dangerous dog	\$500
33EC(1)	Failure to comply with effects of classification of dog as menacing dog	\$300
33F(3)	Failure to advise person of muzzle and leashing requirements	\$100
36A(6)	Failure to implant microchip transponder in dog	\$300
41	False statement relating to registration	\$750
41A	Falsely notifying death of dog	\$750
42	Keeping unregistered dog	\$300
46(4)	Fraudulent attempt to procure replacement label or disk	\$500
48(3)	Failure to advise change of ownership	\$100
49(4)	Failure to advise change of address	\$100
51(1)	Removal or swapping of labels or discs	\$500
52A	Failure to keep dog controlled or confined	\$200
53(1)	Failure to keep dog under proper control	\$200
54(2)	Failure to provide proper care and attention, to supply proper and sufficient food, water, and shelter, and to provide adequate exercise	\$300
54A	Failure to carry leash in public	\$100
55(7)	Failure to comply with barking dog abatement notice	\$200
62(4)	Allowing dog known to be dangerous to be at large unmuzzled	\$300
62(5)	Failure to advise of muzzle and leashing requirements	\$100
72(2)	Releasing dog from custody	\$750

