

# Dog owner news

May 2011

## Got a dog? Get it registered

### Registration fees due 1 July 2011

It's time to register your dog again. Please check, amend and sign the enclosed dog registration form and pay your fee by 1 July. Your registration form is bar-coded which means you can either pay at your local PostShop or pay direct to Wellington City Council. If you pay in person at our service centre on Wakefield Street we will issue the dog tag to you on the spot. We'll also give a free poo bag dispenser and 13 bags to the first 1000 dog owners who register their dog at our service centre.

**Please ensure that you sign the form.** We can only post your new dog tag once we receive the signed form and payment.

All dogs over three months old must be registered by 1 July, and if you miss the deadline, you'll incur a 50 percent fine on top of the registration fee. So it really pays to register on time.

Remember if there are any changes, like if your dog has died or been desexed, or if you've moved house or the ownership of the dog has changed, please indicate these on the form or phone 801 3222.

In each case, we need the owner's signed authority so we can make changes to the dog register.

If you have been invoiced for an unneutered or unspayed dog and your dog has now been desexed, we will need to change your invoice. This can only be done at our service centre on Wakefield Street. Please remember to bring a copy of your dog's desexing certificate so we can adjust and update the registration fee.

### Death of your dog

If your dog dies it is important to let us know in writing as you may qualify for a registration refund. Please complete the back of the registration form or just write to us and include their registration tag or a death certificate from your vet. If you want a refund of the unused registration, please remember to request this.

Alternatively, you now have the option of donating that year's remaining registration fee to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) when your dog has died. You can do this by writing to the Council or ticking the relevant box on the registration form.



## Unregistered dogs – infringement notices and seizures

Dog registration is a legal requirement and is essential to running the dog control service efficiently. Registration means we can ensure dog owners get important information, and makes it easier for us to reunite lost dogs with their owners.

Your dog should be registered by 1 July every year. All late fees will incur a 50 percent surcharge. Registration is monitored. If you fail to register your dog, you could either be issued a warning or infringement notice, or have your dog impounded.

### Dog tags

When your registration for 2011/12 is complete, you will be issued with a coloured strap dog tag as in previous years. This year yellow strap tags will be used. These tags can be hard to bend and secure in place. We suggest you place the tag in a cup of hot tap water to make it more flexible.



[Wellington.govt.nz](http://Wellington.govt.nz)

**Absolutely**  
**POSITIVELY**  
ME HEKE KI PŌNEKE  
WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL **Wellington**



## Microchipping

You must arrange for an approved microchip to be implanted in your dog for permanent identification if you:

- are registering a dog for the first time
- have a dog that is classified as dangerous and/or menacing
- have an unregistered dog impounded
- have a registered dog impounded for a second time since 1 July 2006.

Failure to comply may result in a warning, an infringement notice, seizure of the dog or prosecution. Microchipping has been a legal requirement for more than four years. All new puppies have to be registered by the time they're three months old and must be microchipped during the following two months. For more information on microchipping, visit the Department of Internal Affairs website [dia.govt.nz](http://dia.govt.nz)

## Dog exercise areas

Dog owners must always carry a leash when with their dog in public. Even if you travel by car to an off-leash area, you should still carry a leash. Please remember to take your dog poo bags with you and dispose of the used bags thoughtfully.

We'd like to encourage dog owners to use a number of different dog exercise areas over winter so grass, bush, tracks and creeks have time to regenerate. Intense use of dog exercise areas over winter can damage natural features, and we sometimes have to block off affected areas until they improve. Restricted access frustrates both dog owners and other park users, so please be responsible when exercising your dog this winter.

## Adopting dogs

Did you know that if you adopt a dog through our contractor, DSS Animal Management, you pay a discounted registration fee? This discount is also available for those unwanted waifs and strays up for adoption from the SPCA. To find out more, phone the Moa Point shelter on 388 8212 or the SPCA on 389 8044. When registering for this discount, please remember to supply a copy of your Certificate of Adoption from the SPCA.

## Last issue

**This is the last issue of Dog News. In future we'll communicate with you directly about specific matters of owning a dog in Wellington City. To find out more about owning a dog in the city, go to our website [Wellington.govt.nz](http://Wellington.govt.nz) or phone our dog control team on 801 3222.**

