

Capital Canines

A guide for dog owners



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WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL

Wellington

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Responsibilities of a dog owner

Responsibilities at a glance:

- Register your dog
- Provide shelter, water, food
- Exercise your dog
- Keep on a lead in a public place (unless at a dog exercise area)
- Pick up your dog's poo
- Undertake training
- Get your dog desexed



Dog welfare

There are about 9500 known dogs in Wellington City and dog owners have a responsibility to provide for their welfare. To support dog owners and the welfare of dogs in Wellington City, the Council:

- provides exercise areas where dogs can exercise off-lead
- promotes Responsible Dog Ownership (RDO) status
- provides information for owners about the welfare of dogs and how to care for them.

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
- impound an unregistered dog.

Obligations of a dog owner

Section 54, Dog Control Act 1996

The owner of any dog must:

- ensure that the dog receives proper care and attention and is supplied with proper and sufficient food, water and shelter
- ensure that the dog receives adequate exercise.

If you fail to comply you may commit an offence and be liable on conviction to imprisonment for up to three months or a fine not exceeding \$5000.

Training

Dog obedience training is a positive way of spending time with your dog and we urge you to put your pooch through dog obedience training. It benefits you, your dog and the community. There are a number of dog training and obedience schools in the Wellington area.

See the Council website Wellington.govt.nz (search – ‘dogs’ and ‘training’) for a list of approved trainers who can help you qualify for Responsible Dog Owner status and qualify for a discount on registration fees.



Exercising your dog

All dogs must receive adequate exercise. How much exercise is required depends on the size and breed of the dog.

Exercising your dog gives you an excellent opportunity to:

- observe and monitor the general health of your dog
- develop more basic training and obedience skills
- play and socialise with your dog and other dogs.

Exercise areas

In Wellington there are 51 areas (plus eight beach areas) in the city where you can run your dog off-lead. These areas are listed in the Dog Policy 2009. You can find the list on our website at Wellington.govt.nz (search – 'policies', then 'dogs').

Daylight saving

Daylight saving marks the start of summer beach restrictions for dogs.

This means dogs are not allowed on Baleana Bay beach, Hataitai Bay beach, Island Bay beach (west of the pier), Seatoun beach (including Churchill Park), and Worsler Bay beach between 9am and 7pm every day. You can walk them on a lead at these four beaches and off-lead at Worsler Bay beach before and after these times.

As well as these restrictions, there are other beaches, such as Oriental Bay beach and parts of Lyall Bay beach that have year-round restrictions. Dogs on leads can be walked near the sea at a variety of places including Makara beach and parts of the South Coast.



Keep them on a lead

If you are not in a designated dog exercise area, then keep your dog on a lead.

It's important that you know where you can and cannot take your dog. For more information, phone DSS Animal Management on 388 8212 or 801 3222 or view dog exercise areas on our website at Wellington.govt.nz. Please remember that dog owners must

always carry a lead in a public place. This means that, even if you travel by car to one of our off-lead areas, you must still carry a lead.

Neutering or spaying your dog

Neutering or spaying your dog (desexing) is a responsible thing to do. It benefits the community in many ways. A desexed dog is less likely to roam, is often less aggressive and generally leads a healthier life. Desexed dogs help reduce the number of unwanted puppies. The Council encourages the responsible desexing of dogs by offering reduced registration fees for owners.

Contact your vet, or ask about the low-cost operation offered by the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) by phoning 389 8044.

The only reason not to desex your dog is if you are planning for it to have puppies. If this is the case, be aware that caring for puppies can be expensive. You are also responsible for finding good homes for them, and/or for registering them before they are three months old.

Education

The Council offers a free education programme to promote public safety and responsible dog ownership. The programme includes presentations to schools on dog behaviour and safety around dogs. It provides educational material for dog owners on dog welfare, dog control programmes, dog safety, the handling of dogs and the rights of the general public.

Adopt a dog

Did you know we run a dog adoption programme through our contractor, DSS Animal Management? To find out more please contact the Moa Point shelter on 388 8212.



Registration

All puppies must be registered by the time they're three months old and all dogs must be reregistered by 1 July every year.

Dog registration fees due 1 July

The first step to responsible dog ownership is dog registration. Every year all owners must re-register their dogs. Wellington dog owners will receive their re-registration form in May/June. The form must be checked and signed, then returned to the Council with the registration fee by 1 July.

Owners can either pay at their local Post Shop or at the Wellington City Council Service Centre on Wakefield Street. The new dog tag will only be issued once the complete form is returned. All late fees will incur a 50 percent surcharge for dogs over three months old, so it pays to complete annual dog registration on time.

There's a real benefit to registering a dog. Registered dog owners are given important information and if your dog is registered and wearing its registration tag it is easily identifiable if lost or found roaming. It also means that dogs that are creating a nuisance can be identified and any complaint dealt with.

Microchipping

There is a legal requirement for you to register a puppy by the time it's three months old and arrange for it to be implanted with an approved microchip within the following two months. This is a plus for dog owners as the microchip properly identifies a dog and that's a big help if your pet goes missing.

You must also arrange for the microchip if you have:

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

In these situations you must supply your vet's copy of the implantation certificate.

If you fail to have your dog microchipped you may receive a warning or infringement fine of \$300, your dog may be seized or you may be prosecuted.

For more information on microchipping, visit the Department of Internal Affairs' website dia.govt.nz (search for 'dogs').

Make sure your information is correct

You can update your details on the annual re-registration form or throughout the year if:

- your dog has died
- you have had it desexed
- you have moved (either within or out of the Wellington City area)
- the ownership of your dog has changed.

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

The cost of failing to register a dog

All late fees incur a 50 percent surcharge and action is taken against owners who fail to register their dog:

- Owners are issued with a warning or infringement notice with a fine of \$300.
- Unregistered dogs are impounded.
- Dog owners must still pay the outstanding registration fee as well as dog pound fees and an infringement fine.

What are your registration fees used for?

The maintenance of a dog registration system is a statutory requirement for all local authorities and is essential to running an efficient dog control service. Your fees are used for:

- education programmes and campaigns for schools, community groups and businesses
- dog control, including law enforcement, and attending to complaints and incidents
- signs and advertising about dog-related matters
- administering the dog shelter at Moa Point and the dog control programme
- maintaining the dog register, paying for and distributing registration tags
- promotional material.

The Council does not make any profit from dog registration fees.

Dog fees

Our fees are subject to change so please visit our website Wellington.govt.nz or phone 801 3222 to find out the correct fee.

A graduated fee scale applies when registering a puppy for the first time, so please make sure you pay the correct fee. This also applies to imported dogs.

Dog registration fees are designed to reward good behaviour. The Council rewards responsible dog ownership by offering reduced fees to owners who have had their dogs desexed or hold the Council's Responsible Dog Owner (RDO) status.

The Council recovers 75 percent of the total cost associated with dog control through registration and control fees, and enforcement. Residential rates are used to meet the remaining 25 percent of dog-related costs.

Did you know that if you adopt a dog through our contractor, DSS Animal Management, that you'll pay a discounted registration fee? This discount is also available for dogs adopted from the SPCA.

Refunds

If the fee for dog registration is paid and the dog dies, a refund is available for the remaining portion of the registration year after notification. You can request a refund by writing to us, explaining the situation, and returning the dog's registration tag, or providing a vet certificate verifying that your dog has died. Your refund can also be easily donated directly to the SPCA on request.



Responsible Dog Owner (RDO) status

This scheme awards responsible dog owners with cheaper fees. To qualify for RDO status, you must meet a number of requirements, including paying your annual registration fees by 1 July every year.

You are eligible to apply if you have:

- been a registered owner in Wellington for at least one year, or
- attended and passed an approved Responsible Dog Owner education and obedience course, or
- provided adequate proof of having held this status with another council.

You also need to:

- comply with the Wellington Consolidated Bylaw as it relates to dogs
- make sure the area of the property where your dog has free access is fully fenced and gated
- ensure that, if kept outside, the dog is housed in an approved weatherproof and hygienic kennel
- the dog has been checked by a vet (in the previous 12 months).

You will not comply if you have:

- received a conviction under the Dog Control Act 1996 or been classified as a probationary or disqualified owner
- received an infringement notice in the previous year
- had a dog impounded in the previous year
- been the subject of a substantiated public complaint in the previous year.

Application forms are available from the Council Service Centre, from our website Wellington.govt.nz, or by phoning 499 4444. The RDO application period runs from 1 September to 30 April every year. Applications must be received and approved by 30 April each year. Applications received and approved after the beginning of the registration year will take effect only for the next full registration year.

Notes on registration

Anyone in possession of a dog is deemed to be the owner, except in a few cases, such as reuniting a lost dog with its owner.

Any dog not wearing a collar displaying the current registration tag is deemed to be an unregistered dog.

If any dog is transferred to the district of another territorial authority for one month or more the owner must, within six

weeks of the transfer, give written notice to both territorial authorities providing the address at which the dog will be kept. It is an offence not to comply with this requirement.

Frequently asked questions

How do I register my dog?

Contact Animal Control at Wellington City Council on 801 3222 and we will guide you through the process. By asking you a few simple questions we can ensure that we bill you for the correct amount and send you the correct information.

My dog has died, what do I do?

If your dog dies it is important to let us know as you may qualify for a refund on your dog registration. You will need to put this in writing and attach a vet's certificate verifying that your dog has died, together with the current registration tag.

By doing this you are authorising us to remove your dog's name from the register.

My dog has been desexed, what do I do?

Let us know by writing to us and including a copy of the desexing certificate from the vet. This will reduce your fee for the following year.

My dog has a new owner, what do I do?

Both you and the new owner must, within 14 days, give us written notice of the change of ownership and the residential address of the new owner at which the dog will be kept.

I have changed address, what do I do?

You must, within 14 days, give us written notice of the change. You may have had a Responsible Dog Owner status with the previous address and will need to reapply for this status at the new address. The form can be obtained at our Service Centre on Wakefield Street or from our website Wellington.govt.nz.

Enforcement



Control of dogs

Section 52, Dog Control Act 1996

The owner of any dog must keep that dog under control at all times.

A dog will be deemed to be not under control:

- if it is found at large on any land or premises other than a public place or a private way without the consent (express or implied) of the occupier or person in charge of the land or those premises
- if it is found at large in any public place or in any private way in contravention of any regulation or bylaw.

If you fail to comply you may commit an offence and be liable on conviction to a fine of up to \$3000 or an infringement fee of \$200.

Barking dogs

Where a dog is causing a nuisance through persistent and loud barking or howling a dog control officer may issue the owner with a notice requiring the owner to stop the nuisance. The owner has seven days to comply or object to the Council. If the owner does not comply or there have been further complaints the dog may be removed from the property.

Roaming dogs

A dog can be kept under control by physically limiting its movements or by using direct commands. Remember, dogs can be unpredictable. You are responsible for your dog's actions even if it has left your home.

Dogs that roam may:

- intimidate other animals and people
- cause traffic hazards
- foul in public places
- get into and scatter any rubbish
- form packs and kill farm and household animals
- spread disease
- produce an unwanted litter of puppies.

Physical restrictions may include:

- fencing your property so that the dog cannot escape
- tying your dog to a chain (it should be at least two metres long)
- kennel and run
- leaving your dog in the house.

Fencing a property is an effective means of ensuring that your dog doesn't roam. Make sure your dog can't jump over the fence, or dig under it. Generally fences should be at least 1.2 metres high. Make sure that there are no holes or weak points – your dog will find any potential escape routes.

Ensure that there is clear access from the street to your front door, without potential threat from your dog. If you are buying or renting property, consider fencing.

If you keep your dog outside, make sure it has adequate shelter. A dry draught-free kennel will achieve this. Position the kennel so that the door is not facing into the wind, and so that there is no likelihood of flooding in the rain. Place it on a hard surface.

Lost or impounded dogs

Around 750 dogs are impounded annually. Most of these are reunited with their owners, or adopted by new owners. If your dog wanders, escapes or gets lost:

- Phone the Council or DSS Animal Management on 388 8212. Give them a description of the dog, the tag number, and date and where it was last seen.
- Contact neighbours and put up photos and descriptions on local notice boards.

Impounded dogs

- All dogs found roaming will be impounded.
- No dog will be released until all charges have been paid.
- Credit card payments are not accepted.
- If the dog can be identified the owner will be notified either by phone or by written notice.
- Failure to claim an impounded dog does not relieve the owner from liability for costs incurred.
- Dogs that are unclaimed after seven days become the property of Wellington City Council and may be adopted or disposed of.

Owners of dogs that have been impounded, can contact the animal control officers at:

DSS Animal Management,
73 Moa Point Road, phone 388 8212

Shelter hours

Monday to Friday 8am–5pm

Saturday and Sunday 10am–11am

Dog poo – fouling in public places

If your dog poos in a public place or on someone else's land or premises, you must immediately remove and dispose of the poo.

Poo contains bacteria and can be a risk to children who come into contact with it where they play. And nothing has a greater capacity to ruin your day than getting dog poo on your shoes.

If you are using a park, please place dog poo in the rubbish bins at the park entrance/exit. If there isn't a rubbish bin please dispose of it in the closest rubbish bin or at home. You can wrap dog poo and dispose of it with domestic rubbish or bury it in the garden.

You are also responsible for ensuring that your property, where the dog lives, is kept clean.

Every time you take your dog off your property take a plastic bag with you. Specially designed poo bags (Ezebags) can be purchased from the Council's Service centre, supermarkets, pet shops and other retail outlets. These bags fit into a pouch that can be attached to your lead.



No-go zones

Dogs are prohibited from certain areas, including those with children's play equipment, the playing surfaces in all sportsfields and some beaches. The grass area of Waitangi Park is also a prohibited area – dog owners, however, can walk around the park with their dog on a lead.

Children's play areas

Children's play areas are prohibited public places for dogs. Children do not always understand the need for safety around dogs and this can put them at risk. For this reason, dogs are banned from play areas. The only time dog owners can move through a play area with their dog is if there is no alternative route.

Sportsfields

Dogs on-lead under the control of their owners/handlers are allowed on the outside of the boundary of a sportsfield. However, the dog must not go on to the playing surface.

Central city restriction

The central city is a restricted area for dogs. Dog owners are allowed to move through the central city with their dog on a lead to travel to or from the waterfront. However, they cannot stop in the central city.

Prohibited public places – at a glance

- Wellington Zoo
- Karori Wildlife Sanctuary – Zealandia
- Wellington Airport
- Children's play areas
- Sportsfields (playing surface)
- Freyberg beach
- Oriental Bay beach
- Scorching Bay beach
- Princess Bay beach

- Palmer Head
- Tarakena Bay beach
- Lyall Bay beach (western end from the children's playground)
- Island Bay beach (pier to eastern end of beach)
- Waitangi Park (grassed area)

For more information about access areas for dogs, visit Wellington.govt.nz or phone 801 3222.

Attacks

A number of dog attacks are reported every year in Wellington City. No matter how friendly or passive a dog seems, any dog is capable of attacking.

Where dogs act in a dangerous or menacing way the Council can:

- issue a warning or infringement notice
- prosecute where the offence or effects are significant
- classify the owner as probationary or disqualified
- classify the dog as dangerous or menacing
- seize the attacking dog and keep it in custody
- impound dogs in the shelter pending a court decision.

Dogs may attack because they feel threatened or to protect themselves or their family (pack).

To prevent an attack

- Stand still and let the dog approach you.
- Don't run up to or away from a strange dog.
- Move slowly and carefully.
- Don't look directly into the dog's eyes or lean over them (these are dominant behaviours to a dog).
- Don't yell or scream or wave your arms about.
- If a dog appears threatening, back slowly away and, if possible, keep something between you. This is for defence; do not use it as a weapon.

If an attack occurs

If skin has been broken, or if the wound seems reasonably serious, seek medical advice immediately. Then call the Council on 499 4444 or DSS Animal Management on 388 8212 to report the attack.

Tell us quickly about a dog attack

It is important to report an incident as soon as possible; it can be difficult to recall facts at a later time. We're available 24 hours a day, seven days a week on 499 4444 for serious incidents such as dog attacks or when a dog has been menacing or challenging.

We investigate and often seize dogs after such incidents. We need full and accurate information to properly investigate. We also use this information to monitor animal control in Wellington City.

After a dog attack we need statements from all parties, vet or medical reports and receipts and if possible, identification of the attacking dog or its owner (dog registration and description or vehicle registration). If there are any witnesses to the incident it is best to get their details at the time as it can be very difficult to find them later.



Wellington City Council bylaws and policy

Wellington City's rules governing dogs are covered in our Dog Policy and under the Wellington Consolidated Bylaw. Both are available on our website Wellington.govt.nz (under bylaws or policies).

Dog Policy 2009

The main objective of the policy is to ensure that all dog owners comply with their obligations under the Dog Control Act 1996.

This includes ensuring that their dog is registered, kept under control, is well cared for, receives adequate exercise and does not cause injury or endanger any person, stock or wildlife, and Wellingtonians are able to enjoy dog ownership.

The policy outlines major dog control issues in Wellington and how these will be managed by the Council. It also lists the areas where dogs can and cannot go in Wellington City.

All dog owners should have a copy of the Dog Policy. If you don't have a copy, you can call us on 499 4444 for one, or visit our website Wellington.govt.nz.

Wellington Consolidated Bylaw 2008: Part 2 – Animals

The Wellington Consolidated Bylaw gives legal authority to enforce the Dog Policy, to protect the public from nuisance and promote public health and safety and the welfare of animals.

It also provides rules around the conditions for keeping animals, dog nuisance, feeding and housing dogs, keeping more than three dogs, dog exercise areas and offences. Some activities require written permission from the Council, such as keeping more than three dogs.

The bylaw also identifies public places where dogs must be:

- controlled (allowed on a lead)
- allowed to be exercised (off a lead)
- prohibited (not allowed).



Exercise areas

Dogs must be under control of their owner at all times but can exercise and socialise off-lead in these areas:

1	Duncan Park, Linden Avenue, Tawa – area between stream and Nathan Street
2	Grasslees Reserve, Main Road, Tawa – western side of stream to Main Road
3	Taylor Park, Taylor Terrace, Tawa – southern area of park behind badminton hall
4	Willowbank Park, Main Road, Tawa – area north of scout hall and on eastern side of stream
5	Churton Park, Halswater Drive, Churton Park – southern side of Halswater Drive up to sportsfield area
6	Edward Wilson Park, Churton Drive, Churton Park – hill slopes to Middleton Road
7	Seton Nossiter Park, Mark Avenue, Paparangi/Newlands – valley floor, not including the Mark Avenue access path, up to the stream crossing adjacent to the Paparangi School boundary and Titoki Grove
8	Spenmore Park, Spenmore Street, Newlands
9	Waihinahina Park, Ladbroke Drive, Newlands – large flat area to the south on right-hand side of car park
10	Meekwood Reserve, Ohariu Road, Johnsonville – Ohariu Road side of reserve up to crest of hill
11	Flinders Park, Flinders Place, Johnsonville – area to south of car park
12	Cashmere Park, Onslow Road, Khandallah
13	Silverstream Road, Reserve Silverstream Road, Crofton Downs – part of Huntleigh Park, area south of play area
14	Cummings Park, Ottawa Road, Ngaio – area to east of stream in central part of reserve
15	Chelmsford Reserve, Ngaio
16	Trelissick Park, Ngaio Gorge Road, Ngaio – valley floor from Ngaio Gorge Road to first sewer trap
17	Odell Reserve, Punjab Street, Khandallah – area up to reservoir
18	Izard Park, Wilton Road, Wilton – area north and east of play equipment
19	Top of Te Ahumairangi Hill (Tinakori Hill), Weld Street, Wadestown – open areas along summit

20	Tinakori Slopes, Wadestown Road, Thorndon – hill slopes from summit to Wadestown Road
21	Ian Galloway Park, Curtis Street, Northland – bottom area adjacent to BMX track and skateboard ramp
22	Karori Park, Karori Road, Karori – area north of sportsfields
23	Monaghan Avenue Reserve, Monaghan Avenue, Karori
24	Wrights Hill, Wrights Hill Road, Karori – parade ground area
25	The Terrace, The Terrace behind numbers 230–242, grassed area above motorway entrance to Terrace Tunnel
26	Mitchelltown School site, Holloway Road, Aro Valley – area above Holloway Road/Aro Street
27	Ohiro/Tanera Park, Ohiro Road, Brooklyn – open area on ridge
28	Kowhai Park, Mitchell Street, Brooklyn
29	Charles Plimmer Park, Palliser Road/Majoribanks Street, Mt Victoria – area above Petanque to Palliser Road entrance
30	Ellice Street Quarry, Ellice Street, Mt Victoria
31	Land opposite Cog Park, Evans Bay Parade, Hataitai
32	Hataitai Park, Ruahine Street/Alexandra Road, Hataitai – open area along Ruahine Street from badminton hall to park entrance. Open area from Alexandra Road to behind badminton hall
33	Vice Regal north, Coromandel Street, Newtown
34	Alexandra Road west, Alexandra Road, Hataitai
35	Liardet and Balfour Street corner, Liardet Street, Vogeltown – open area on west side of Liardet Street
36	Macalister Park, Adelaide Road, Berhampore – area south of sportsfield area
37	Owen Street, lower terrace on southern end of Owen Street
38	Newtown Park, Russell Terrace – pine plantation at top end of Newtown Park
39	Mt Albert Park, Mt Albert Road, Melrose – hill areas behind hockey stadium and Chinese Sports and Cultural Centre
40	Sinclair Park, Houghton Valley Road, Melrose – terraced areas in park down from Houghton Valley School excluding bottom field
41	Prestons Gully Murchison Road, Happy Valley
42	Dorrie Leslie Park, Queens Drive, Lyall Bay – open space along coast north from Arthurs Nose to residential area
43	Bann Street, Orchy Crescent/Bann Street, Island Bay – hill top between Orchy Crescent and Bann Street

44	Reef Street/The Esplanade, Island Bay – corner opposite Shorland Park
45	Maupuia Walkway (Old Prison Road), Maupuia Road/Akaroa Drive, Maupuia – open walkway accessed from Maupuia Road and Akaroa Drive
46	Ataturk Memorial, Eastern Walkway, grass valley on left arm of walkway heading north from the Memorial
47	Worser Bay/Awa Road intersection, Awa Road, Seatoun – corner of Awa Road and Marine Parade opposite Worser Bay beach
48	Tukanae Street Reserve, Tukanae Street, Strathmore – reserve accessed from Tukanae Street
49	Cliff Gaskin Reserve, Makara Road, Makara Village

BEACH EXERCISE AREAS

B1	Weka Bay beach
B2	Kio Bay beach
B3	Evans Bay beach
B4	Lyll Bay beach, from the steps in the seawall, opposite 30 Lyall Parade (200m from the eastern side of the children's playground) to the airport end of beach
B5	Little Karaka Bay beach
B6	Makara beach
B7	Houghton Bay beach

EXERCISE AREAS (SPECIFIED TIMES)

B8	Worser Bay beach. Dogs are allowed off-lead before 9am and after 7pm in summer during national daylight saving hours and off-lead at all times in winter
ST2	Arthur Carman Park 1 November to 31 January only. Collins Avenue
ST3	Kaiwharawhara Park 1 November to 31 January only. Hutt Road

Map – dog exercise areas



