
Western Bay of Plenty District Council: Dog Control Policy and Practices Report 2019-2020

The Western Bay of Plenty District Council, as a territorial authority, is required to manage and enforce provisions pursuant to the Dog Control Act 1996 (the Act). Section 10A of the Act requires the Council to report annually on its Dog Control Policy and practices.

This report fulfils this statutory requirement for the dog registration year:
1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020.

1. Dog Control Policy and Dog Control Bylaw 2016

Council reviewed the existing 2011 Dog Control Policy and Dog Control Bylaw, in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2002 during the 2015-16 year, with introduction of the Bylaw taking effect on 14 October 2016.

The objectives of the policy are:

- To provide adequate opportunities to fulfil the exercise and recreational needs of dogs and their owners, including off leash exercise.
- To minimise the danger, distress and nuisance (of dogs) to the community generally.
- To minimise the likelihood for conflict between dogs and the public or environment, by restricting access for dogs to public places where appropriate.
- To avoid danger from uncontrolled dogs having access to public places which are frequented by children whether or not the children are accompanied by adults.
- To minimise, to the extent that is practicable, the public fear of attack or intimidation by dogs.
- To actively promote the responsible ownership of dogs.
- To actively promote public safety and education.

Council promotes the Policy and Bylaw through communications with residents and dogs owners through:

- Dogs of the Western Bay newsletter
- Council webpage and Facebook page
- One on one contact with dog owners
- Council dog events
- Puppy training classes

2. Dog exercise areas

The current policy provides for all public spaces including reserves to be used for dog exercise areas, with dogs under control. A number of reserves are restricted to dogs on leash only, to ensure that conflict between other users and wildlife is avoided.

Geographical Area	Timeframe
TECT All Terrain Park (excluding the designated dog exercise area)	Year round
Huharua Park	Mixed approach
Ōmokoroa to Bethlehem cycleway, including associated berms and verges	Year round
Scenic Reserves	
Kaiate Falls Scenic Reserve	Year round
Ongaonga Scenic Reserve	Year round
Puketoki Scenic Reserve	Year round
Ōmokoroa Point	
Ōmokoroa Golf Course: Walkway adjacent to sand pit	Year round
Ōmokoroa to Bethlehem cycleway, including the associated berms and verges, except the area at Cooney's Reserve where no restrictions apply (dog under control). For the avoidance of doubt, the area at the end of Beach Grove is a Dogs on Leash Area	Year round
Katikati	
Uretara Walkway between the point where the Riverside Place walkway links onto the Uretara walkway and Park Road Reserve.	Year round
In the town centre area on Main Street (between the Uretara Stream and Fairview road) and Talisman Drive	Year round
Waihi Beach	
Island View Reserve	Seasonal (October to March) The Island View Reserve is restricted to dogs on a leash area between the months of October to March as a result of birds nesting within the reserve during this period.
In the town centre area on Seaforth Road (between Dillon Street and Citrus Avenue)	Year round
Te Puke	
In the town centre area bounded by Queen Street, Boucher Avenue, Commerce Lane, Jocelyn Street, the railway line, King Street, Tom Blaikie Lane and Oxford Street. This includes all areas open to the public within this area.	Year round

3. Prohibited dog areas

The Council restricts or prohibits dogs in places that have a high potential for conflict between other users and dogs, and are used frequently by the public. Areas that are prohibited include children’s playgrounds, areas of intense public use and areas of ecological sensitivity.

Geographical Area	Timeframe
District Wide	
All children’s playgrounds (soft play area)	Year round
Plummers Point	
Huharua Park (Ongarahu Pa) The Park comprises some areas which are prohibited to dogs and some which are dogs on leash	Year round
Ōmokoroa Point	
Ōmokoroa Domain – the area between the playground and toilet block	Year round
Sandbars off Cooneys Reserve Ōmokoroa	Year round
Ōmokoroa Esplanade The Ōmokoroa Esplanade is prohibited in Summer Months. However, dogs may pass through the area on leash, using the footpath opposite the Esplanade, as part of the Ōmokoroa to Bethlehem cycleway	Summer months- third Wednesday of December to the 7th of February (both days inclusive) between the hours of 9am and 7pm
The foreshore area between Cooneys Reserve and Lynley Park, adjoining the Ōmokoroa to Bethlehem cycleway	Year round
Ōmokoroa Domain Foreshore	Spring to Autumn -the period between Labour weekend and Easter Monday (inclusive)
Waihi Beach	
Waihi Beach except for year round dog zone The area which is available to dogs year round is the area formed between a line 100m south of Albacore Avenue and a line 100m north of Pio Road	Summer months- third Wednesday of December to the 7th of February (both days inclusive) between the hours of 9am and 7pm
Maketu	
Area between (and including) Park Road Reserve to Maketu Surf Lifesaving Club	Summer months- third Wednesday of December to the 7th of February (both days inclusive) between the hours of 9am and 7pm
Maketu Historic and Local Purpose Reserve	Summer months- third Wednesday of December to the 7th of February (both days inclusive) between the hours of 9am and 7pm
Maketu Spit (stretching as far as the cut)	Year round
Pukehina	
Pukehina Spit (Dotterel Point Reserve)	Year round

4. Fees

The Council policy seeks to recover 80% of the total cost associated with dog control through registration and control fees and enforcement. General rates funding is used to meet the remaining 20% of dog related costs, reflecting the wider community benefits of effective dog control. Dog registration fees are set by Council resolution.

5. Policy monitoring and compliance

Council has consistently applied the Dog Control Policy and Council's Compliance, Monitoring and Enforcement Strategy when dealing with all matters of dog control over the period 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020.

This has continued to ensure a fair, unbiased and consistent approach when dealing with either offending dog owners or other interested parties.

Animal Services Officers have continued strategies for the compliance with dog registration within the District which has resulted in achieving 98% registered known dogs.

6. Dog control statistics

Section 10A (2) information

The following information is required under section 10A (2) clauses a-g.

The statistical component of this report for the 12 months to 30 June 2019 is as follows:

Number of registered dogs in Western Bay of Plenty District

Category	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Number of known dogs in District	9220	9389	9652
Number of registered dogs in District	9124	9145	9551

Number of probationary and disqualified owners

Category	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Number of probationary owners in District	0	0	2
Number of disqualified owners in District	14	14	17

Number of dogs classified as dangerous (section 31)

Category	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Dangerous by owner conviction 31 (1)(a)	1	2	2
Dangerous by sworn evidence 31(1)(b)	15	15	14
Dangerous by owner admittance in writing 31(1)(c)	1	1	1
Total	17	18	17

Number of dogs classified as menacing (section 33A & 33C)

Category	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Menacing by behaviour s.33A(1)(b)(i)	43	45	37
Menacing by breed or type characteristics s.33A(1)(b)(ii)	38	32	27
Menacing by schedule breed or type s.33C(1)	89	86	77
Total	170	163	141

Number of Infringement notices issued

Category	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Failure to register dog	40	68	53
Other offences	93	126	104
Total	133	194	157

Dog infringement numbers for failure to register were lower due to the success of the increased dog registration text reminders which has increasing compliance.

Number of dog related complaints

Category	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Barking	255	280	257
Roaming	365	413	374
Attacked Person	40	36	37
Attacked Animal	95	103	102
Rush at Person	51	59	73
Rush at Animal	41	47	33
Welfare Concern	39	32	25
Other	157	153	148
Total	1043	1123	1049

Attack numbers against a person remain at existing levels. Dog attacks during COVID-19 lockdown were the second highest recorded month for the year.

Other dog service requests:

Category	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Adoption queries	47	119	125
Education requests	55	35	19
Lost and found	560	461	409
Microchipping request	64	50	53
Total	726	665	606

Dog requests for lost and found has decreased in the last 2 years due to the increased use of social media by members of the public to reunite dogs with their owners. There was a greater than 50% reduction in lost and found calls during COVID-19 level 4 lockdown period.

Number of Prosecutions taken

Category	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
	0	0	1

Council undertook a successful prosecution for an attack on a person. The dog had been classified as dangerous due to previous attacks and this prosecution was taken as a result of a further attack on a person. The prosecution was sought as the dog posed an ongoing risk to the public. The dog owner incurred fines from the Court and the Court issued a destruction order for the dog.

Other initiatives

Dog owner education and dog events

Council has undertaken the following events in the community to educate dog owners on dog behaviour and encourage responsible dog ownership.

Dogs' day out event

This event was held in Te Puke at Jubilee Park Reserve in February and following on from previous years has been an opportunity for dog owners to engage with staff, see dog behaviour displays and dog stalls. Council's dog microchipping, registration and dog fostering and adoption services are promoted.



Wander Dog walks

Council undertook a series of dog walks promoting responsible dog ownership and positive community socialisation of dogs. These were well attended and are a great opportunity for dog owners to engage with Council Animal Services staff and other dogs and their owners.

Wander Dogs of Western Bay Dog Owner Newsletter

One dog newsletter was sent to dog owners during the year. The newsletter highlights Council requirements in the Policy and Bylaw, promotes dog events, responsible dog ownership, key registration dates and has dog training tips. Dog communications have also included Facebook information and information on Council's webpages.



TECT Park- Dogs Mud Run

A combined event was held in conjunction with Tauranga City Council animal services team at TECT All Terrain Park. This event was very popular with families, provided good opportunities for dog socialisation and promoted the dog exercise spaces at TECT Park.

Dog Owner Education

Community dog education was also undertaken by staff with workplace groups, and to dog owners in conjunction with Te Puke Vets & Tauranga, Katikati and Te Puna Vets.