
Western Bay of Plenty District Council: Dog Control Policy and Practices Report 2021-2022

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 2021 to 30 June 2022.

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 the children are accompanied by adults or not..
- 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.

Council has approved the introduction of dedicated dog parks which will be created in the 4 town centres, Waihi Beach, Katikati, Ōmokoroa and Te Puke over the 2021-2025 period. The Te Puke dog park concept has commenced and the Omokoroa dog park is currently in its planning stages.

3. Restricted Areas

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 sandspit	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	Year round

Street. This includes all areas open to the public within this area.	
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4. 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

5. 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.

6. 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 2021 to 30 June 2022.

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 96.3% registered known dogs.

7. 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	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Number of known dogs in District	9652	9751	10186
Number of registered dogs in District	9551	9578	9807

Number of Probationary and Disqualified owners

Category	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Number of probationary owners in District	2	3	2
Number of disqualified owners in District	17	18	14

Number of Dogs classified as Dangerous (section 31)

Category	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Dangerous by owner conviction 31 (1)(a)	2	1	1
Dangerous by sworn evidence 31(1)(b)	14	14	11
Dangerous by owner admittance in writing 31(1)(c)	1	1	0
Total	17	16	12

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

Category	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Menacing by behaviour s.33A(1)(b)(i)	37	46	55
Menacing by breed or type characteristics s.33A(1)(b)(ii)	27	13	11
Menacing by schedule breed or type s.33C(1)	77	77	74
Total	141	136	140

Number of Infringement notices issued

Category	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Failure to register dog	53	100*	188*
Other offences	104	74	41
Total	157	174	229

*The dog infringement numbers for failure to register were higher in the issue numbers due to change in process. Officers have issued infringements with the opportunity for the fine to be waived where dog owners made full payment of the registration (including the registration penalty of 50%) by the end of the next working day. This has resulted in increased compliance with the registration requirement. Of the infringements issued for non-registration 100 have been waived or cancelled in the 2021-2022 period. Infringements notices for other offences has declined as consequence of the graduated model approach of utilising education first, and a drop in overall complaints.

Number of dog related complaints

Category	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Barking	257	224	245
Roaming	374	320	296
Attacked Person	37	30	32
Attacked Animal	102	93	97
Rush at Person	73	61	46
Rush at Animal	33	54	49
Welfare Concern	25	40	33
Other	148	172	93
Total	1049	994	891

Complaint numbers are gradually declining; this is due to a combination of factors, but predominately that more people have realised they can now comfortably work from home in company with their pets.

Other dog service requests:

Category	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Adoption queries	125	75	59
Education requests	19	19	11
Lost and found	409	440	401
Microchipping request	53	81	27
Total	606	615	498

The adoption enquiries have declined over a three-year time span; however, our social media has been increasingly used by our customers and the officers are now dealing directly with those customers who wish to adopt through Facebook.

Number of Prosecutions taken

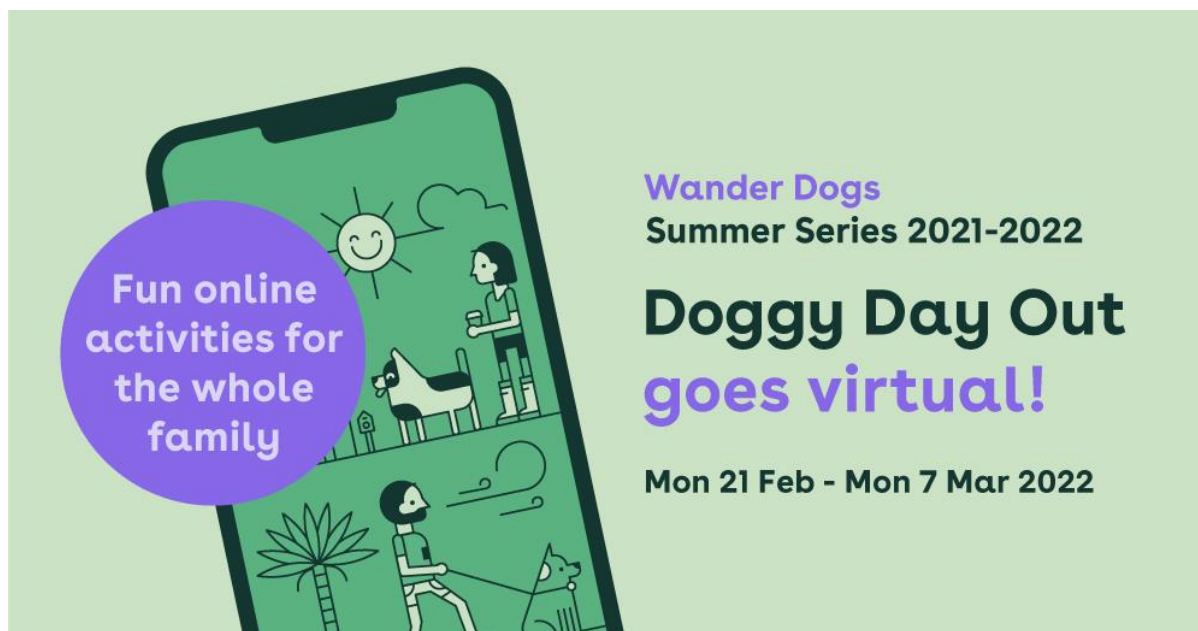
Category	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
	1	0	0

No prosecutions were undertaken during the year.

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.



Doggy Day Out – Goes Virtual

This event was held online and is in direct response to many dogs and owners who would have preferred to physically meet but couldn't, due to Covid. Council, instead hosted a variety of dog-related activities on social media channels and via the website.

Wander Dog Summer Series

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.

The Wander Dog Summer Series incorporates, the Doggy Day Out event, the Dogs in Togs event and five planned Wander Walks.

Unfortunately, Covid intervened and prevented the Dogs in Togs event, the Doggy Day out, and one of the Wander walks from going ahead as planned.



Wander Dogs Summer Series 2021-2022
A summer full of tail-wagging walks and events.

Western Bay of Plenty District Council

Doggy Day Out
A fun-filled day with something for every dog. For humans – there are demos, doggy retail stores, food and drink and lots to learn.
Sat 26 Feb 2022, 10am
Ōmokoroa Sportsground
Western Avenue
Ōmokoroa

Help create our first dog park NEW
Ramps, tunnels or wash down areas? Let us know what you think would be pawesome to have in the park.
Sat 26 Mar 2022, 10am
Lawrence Oliver Park
Te Puke

Dogs in Togs
It's a pool party! Come and take the plunge for the final hurrah of summer – all dogs welcome with or without their togs!
Sat 23 Apr 2022, 10am
Te Puke Memorial Pool
Tui St, Te Puke

Wander Walks
Get outdoors and come explore some of the Western Bay's special places.

Sat 6 Nov 2021, 10am
Te Puna Quarry Park, Quarry carpark, 108 Te Puna Quarry Rd

Sat 11 Dec 2021, 10am
Puketoki Reserve, Leyland Rd
Whakamarama

Sat 5 Feb 2022, 10am
Anzac Bay carpark, Seaforth Rd
Waihi Beach

Sat 12 Mar 2022, 10am
Shared walk with Tauranga City Council at Waipuna Park, Kaitemako Rd
Welcome Bay

Sat 26 Mar 2022, 9am
Te Ara Kahikatea Walkway
Jubilee Park, Commerce Ln
Te Puke

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Find all information online: westernbay.govt.nz/wanderdogs

#dogsofwesternbay
westernbay.govt.nz/wanderdogs

Wander Dogs of Western Bay Dog Owner annual 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 the Councils webpages.

TECT Park- Dogs Mud Run

This event is very popular with families and provides good opportunities for dog socialisation and promoting the dog exercise spaces at TECT Park. Unfortunately, Covid prevented the event from going ahead.

Social Media

Facebook is being successfully used to promote dogs that need adopting.

Puppy Classes

There has been an uptake in the number of enquiries and dog owners wanting to take up our puppy training classes.