
Western Bay of Plenty District Council: Dog Control Policy and Practices Report 2022-2023

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 2022 to 30 June 2023.

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 dog 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 2023-2025 period. The Te Puke dog park is due to open on 14 October 2023, 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 2022 to 30 June 2023.

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% 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 2023 is as follows:

Number of registered dogs in Western Bay of Plenty District

Category	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Number of known dogs in District	9751	10186	9995
Number of registered dogs in District	9578	9807	9604

Number of Probationary and Disqualified owners

Category	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Number of probationary owners in District	3	2	6
Number of disqualified owners in District	18	14	13

Number of Dogs classified as Dangerous (section 31)

Category	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Dangerous by owner conviction 31 (1)(a)	1	1	1
Dangerous by sworn evidence 31(1)(b)	14	11	12
Dangerous by owner admittance in writing 31(1)(c)	1	0	0
Total	16	12	13

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

Category	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Menacing by behaviour s.33A(1)(b)(i)	46	55	57
Menacing by breed or type characteristics s.33A(1)(b)(ii)	13	11	13
Menacing by schedule breed or type s.33C(1)	77	74	67
Total	136	140	137

Number of Infringement notices issued

Category	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Failure to register dog	100*	188*	247*
Other offences	74	41	64
Total	174	229	311

*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 69 have been waived or cancelled in the 2022-2023 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	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Barking	224	245	209
Roaming	320	296	345
Attacked Person	30	32	37
Attacked Animal	93	97	103
Rush at Person	61	46	47
Rush at Animal	54	49	33
Welfare Concern	40	33	18
Other	172	93	90
Total	994	891	882

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	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Adoption queries	75	59	57
Education requests	19	11	11
Lost and found	440	401	387
Microchipping request	81	27	34
Total	615	498	489

The adoption enquiries are slowly declining; 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	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
	0	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.

Wander Dogs Summer Series 2022-2023

DOGGY DAY OUT

⚡ SUPERDOGS THEME

Sat 25 Feb 2023, 10am
Ōmokoroa Sportsground
Western Avenue, Ōmokoroa

It's the doggy event of the year!
Dress your pooch up in their best superhero costume for a pawtastic day of fun - there's something for every dog and their humans!



WANDER WALKS

Get outdoors and come explore the Western Bay's super places.
9am-9.30am Education talks
10am Walks start

Sat 19 Nov 2022
Te Puna Quarry Park, 110 Te Puna Quarry Rd
🐾 Happy leash walking

Sat 3 Dec 2022
Puketokī Reserve, Leyland Rd, Whakamarama
🐾 How to defuse dog-on-dog reactivity

Sat 17 Dec 2022
Huharua Park, 401 Plummers Pt Rd
Walk to Tamihana Park
🐾 The recall: how to get your dog to return to you

NEW 🐾 Power-up talks
Learn a thing or two from our experienced Animal Services Officers!

Sat 11 Feb 2023
Anzac Bay, Seaforth Rd, Waihi Beach
🐾 Teaching your dog to stay

Sat 4 Mar 2023
Te Ara Kahikatea Walkway Jubilee Park, Commerce Ln, Te Puke
🐾 The hyperactive dog



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



Doggy Day Out – Omokoroa

This event was held at Omokoroa Sportsground on Saturday 25 February 2023. It was by far the most popular dog-related event we have hosted to date. In attendance was an animal behaviourist and trainer; and we showcased the work of the animal services team, from training and education to adoptions and fostering. In addition to the exceptional opportunity for council staff and the community to engage, there were also food trucks and a plethora of dog-related market stalls to meet the needs of the vast array of dog owners who attended.

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, and five planned Wander Walks. Unfortunately, the weather did intervene and prevent the Huharua Park Walk from going ahead, but the rest of the Wander walks were hugely successful, to the point that demand has spurred on a Winter Series of walks for 2023.



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.

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.