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## **DOG CONTROL POLICY 2014**

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## **Dog Control Policy for Tasman District Council**

Prepared pursuant to Section 10 of the Dog Control Act 1996

### **Introduction**

The Dog Control Act 1996 contains obligations that require all owners to register their dogs, ensure they are kept under control and ensure that they do not cause a nuisance to any person, cause damage to property, or injure, endanger or cause distress to any person, stock, poultry or domestic animal, or protected wildlife.

Council has powers under the Act to assist dog owners to meet these obligations and to address situations where those obligations are not met.

The Dog Control Act 1996 requires Council to adopt a policy on dogs within its district, and review this policy regularly, so that these powers are used effectively and form part of Council's approach to the management of dogs.

Tasman District Council's Dog Control Policy reflects existing practices and states how the community wishes to live with dogs (Objectives), what needs to be done to achieve the objectives (Policies) and what Council can do to ensure the community achieves those policies (Methods).

**Interpretation** - As for Bylaw

### **Objectives (Community Expectations)**

1. To educate and assist owners to act responsibly with their dogs and ensure their dogs are given proper care, shelter and sustenance as determined by the Act.
2. To minimise any danger, distress and nuisance to the community generally.
3. To avoid the inherent danger in allowing dogs to have uncontrolled access to public places frequented by children.
4. To enable the public to use streets and public amenities without fear of attack or intimidation by dogs.
5. To have regard to the exercise and recreational needs of dogs and their owners.
6. To identify any land which is a National Park as constituted under the National Park Act 1980, or is a controlled or open dog area under Section 26 ZS of the Conservation Act 1987.
7. To identify required means of dog control in all public places.

## **Policies and Methods (Action to achieve Objectives)**

### **1. Identify the Owner of Every Dog**

Dog owners must register all dogs in their possession over the age of 3 (three) months. All dogs, with the exception of dogs used solely or principally for the herding and driving of stock, registered for the first time in New Zealand after 1 July 2006 must be microchipped. All dogs classified as “menacing” or “dangerous” under the Act, are also required to be microchipped.

#### **Methods:**

- 1.1 Keep a register of dogs as required by the Act, set registration fees, ensure information is uploaded to the National Dog Database on a daily basis and provide relevant information on this process for dog owners.
- 1.2 Carry out education and information campaigns to encourage registration and microchipping in accordance with the Act.
- 1.3 Send an annual invoice/reminder to all known dog owners to register their dogs in accordance with the Act.
- 1.4 Take enforcement action against owners of unregistered dogs.

### **2. Make Provision for Dog Access to Public Places**

Dog owners must be provided with a reasonable level of access to public places without compromising the safety and comfort of members of the community generally.

#### **Methods:**

- 2.1 The planning or making of a bylaw controlling the access of dogs to public places by Council will include:
  - 2.1.1 Recognising the dog owner as a user of public places.
  - 2.1.2 Ensuring controls on access of dogs to particular areas are clearly defined and obvious on the ground to both dog owners and the general public by way of signage and maps.
  - 2.1.3 Aiming to provide a range of opportunities for the control of dogs both on and off the leash.
- 2.2 Council will make a bylaw that:
  - 2.2.2 Requires dogs to be under leash control at all times in specific areas as defined in Schedule 1 and on those times or occasions specified in the bylaw.

- 2.2.3 Allows dog owners to freely exercise their dogs without a leash, whilst still under effective control and with the owner carrying a leash at all times, in specific areas as defined in Schedule 2.
  - 2.2.4 Prohibits dogs from specific areas as defined in Schedule 3.
  - 2.2.5 In all public places, not specified in Schedules 1, 2 and 3, requires dogs to be under effective control at all times, so that the person in charge of the dog is able to obtain an immediate and desired response from the dog by means of a leash, voice commands, hand signals, whistles or other effective means.
  - 2.2.6 Recognises that working dogs while working, are not prohibited from public places or required to be on a leash.
  - 2.2.7 Requires the owner of any dog that defecates in a public place, or on land or premises other than that occupied by the dog owner, to immediately remove the faeces.
- 2.3 Inform dog owners which land, if any, within the district is included in a controlled or open dog exercise area under the Conservation Act 1987 (currently there are none) and land which is a National Park 1980 by way of schedule 4 attached to this Policy. No Council bylaw is required in respect of these areas and they are set out for information purposes only.
- 2.4 Council may take enforcement action against owners who breach the Act or bylaw.

### **3. Educate Dog Owners and the Community about Dog Management**

Promote responsible dog ownership to dog owners and awareness in the community of how to live with dogs, minimising danger, distress and nuisance.

#### **Methods:**

- 3.1 Use a variety of means to provide information on dealing with wandering dogs, barking, aggression, fouling etc. (Making hard copy and online website brochures available, using radio and newspaper articles.)
- 3.2 Carrying out animal care and education programmes in schools and places of business. These include general dog control, animal welfare, bite prevention and hygiene.
- 3.3 Encouraging owners to utilise dog obedience clubs and classes available within the community, for example NZKC Canine Good Citizen programme, and programmes offered by Nelson Dog Training Club, and puppy and dog training offered by vets.

- 3.4 Carrying out targeted property visits annually, to check for compliance and to provide an opportunity for Dog Control Officers to discuss relevant educational or welfare issues with dog owners, and to interact with members of the public who may have concerns relating to dog registration and control.
- 3.5 Council may appoint Honorary Dog Rangers whose primary role would be an educational one. They may also assist in surveillance in dog exercise and prohibited areas.

#### **4. Set Fees and Charges in Order to Provide Adequate Funding for Managing Dog Control.**

Council must ensure adequate funding is available for the management and enforcement of the Dog Control Act 1996 and Bylaw, covering such issues as welfare, dog control, education and ensuring dogs do not cause a nuisance in the community. Dog registration fees and other user charges shall cover 100% of the funding requirements for the dog control activity.

##### **Methods**

- 4.1 Annually fix fees for registration and other dog control services provided by Council.
- 4.2 Fix registration fees based on the size of the property where the dog resides.
- 4.3 Fix a higher registration fee for the late registration of dogs.
- 4.4 Allow for a reduced or zero registration fee for Disability Assist, Police and Search & Rescue dogs.
- 4.5 Encourage de-sexing of dogs by setting a reduced impounding fee for neutered dogs.

#### **5. Enforce Dog Owner Obligations**

Utilise the powers of enforcement under the Dog Control Act 1996 so as to ensure the safety of the community generally and to penalise and deter irresponsible dog ownership.

##### **Methods**

- 5.1 Use Council's Service Request system to receive, investigate and resolve dog complaints from members of the public.
- 5.2 Use powers to issue infringement notices, prosecute owners, use menacing or dangerous dog classifications, and probationary and disqualified owner classifications as required.
- 5.3 Use powers to remove dogs threatening public safety and comfort.

5.4 The Council will make a bylaw that:

- 5.4.1 Requires a licence to be obtained where the numbers of dogs allowed to be kept on any land or premises exceed a specified maximum dependant upon the zoning and size of the land.
- 5.4.2 Prescribes minimum standards for the accommodation of dogs so that every dog owner is required to provide his or her dog with suitable housing or kennelling which is weatherproof, dry, clean and gives the dog adequate space, warmth and shade, and is situated in a position that does not cause a nuisance to any person, in accordance with the Animal Welfare Act 1999.
- 5.4.3 Requires all dogs riding on the open tray of a vehicle on any road or public place to be restrained at all times by a tether that is sufficiently short in length as to prevent the dog from reaching beyond the tray.
- 5.4.4 Requires that all owners of dogs which are infected with any contagious disease to suitably contain that dog on his or her property.
- 5.4.5 May require the neutering of any dog classified as “menacing” under Section 33A of the Dog Control Act 1996.
- 5.4.5 Will require an owner classified as “probationary” under Section 21 of the Act to undertake a dog owner education programme and/or dog obedience course approved by Council.

**6. Gather Information to Assess the Effectiveness and Fairness of Our Dog Control Policy**

Information must be gathered to determine if our methods are working towards achieving our objectives.

**Methods**

- 6.1 Meet the Act’s requirement to report on Council’s administration of the Dog Control Policy and its dog control activity by publishing an annual report.

## **SCHEDULE 1**

### **LEASH CONTROL AREAS**

**Every dog shall be kept under continuous control by means of a leash which is secured or held by a person capable of restraining the dog so that the dog cannot break loose:**

1. In an urban area or cemetery,
2. In Faulkner Bush Reserve picnic area (see attached map) and
3. On Jimmy Lee Creek walkway from Hill Street (northern) entrance to the gate adjacent to Cushendall Rise. (see attached map).
4. Awaroa Vehicle Access Point

## **SCHEDULE 2**

### **CONTROLLED DOG EXERCISE AREAS**

**Every dog shall be kept under the effective control of a responsible person, responding to voice commands, whistles, hand signals or other effective means. Dog owners must carry a leash at all times.**

**NOTE: ON ANY OCCASION A DOG IS LIKELY TO INJURE, ENDANGER, OR CAUSE DISTRESS TO ANY STOCK, POULTRY, DOMESTIC ANIMAL OR PROTECTED WILDLIFE IT SHALL BE KEPT UNDER CONTINUOUS LEASH CONTROL.**

#### **Golden Bay**

Beach from Milnthorpe Quay to Collingwood (east of township)

Patons Rock Beach, west of settlement to Pariwhakaoho River mouth

Pohara Beach from the end of Pohara Valley Road to eastern boundary of Pohara Camp

Rangihaeata Beach

Rototai Recreation Reserve and adjacent foreshore out to 300 metres northwest of the reserve

#### **Motueka/Kina**

Batchelor Ford Road

Riwaka River Mouth to Tapu Bay mudflats

York Park

Kina Beach- exposed seaward side of the beach

#### **Richmond/Mapua**

Dellside Reserve including track up into Richmond Hills

Jimmy Lee Creek Hill Street southern entrance

Headingly Lane – mudflat area below high tide mark  
Old Mill Walkway - Foreshore from Seaward boundary Mapua Leisure Park to Chaytor Reserve

Railway Reserve behind Jubilee Park

Rough Island – Hunter Brown and Greenslade Park

### **Wakefield**

Faulkner Bush Reserve except for the Leash Control Area, as defined on the map in Schedule 1

## **SCHEDULE 3**

### **DOG PROHIBITED AREAS-**

**Dogs are prohibited on all Council sports fields and complexes, and within 10 metres of playground equipment and picnic tables and in the following areas:**

#### **Golden Bay**

Collingwood Camping Ground – summer months

Takaka Central Business Area – between the hours of 9am to 5pm. The Takaka Central Business Area is defined as:

- Commercial Street from the southern point of the junction of Commercial and Reilly Streets to the northern point of the junction of Commercial and Junction Streets.and
- the library car park.

Takaka Township – the Village Green, Pioneer Park, the old library site and adjacent playground.

Ligar Bay Beach – summer months, except between the hours of 5.00am and 9.00am

Onekaka Estuary

Pakawau Beach (camp frontage) – summer months

Parapara Inlet

Patons Rock Beach in front of the settlement – summer months

Pohara Beach from the sign at the western end of the golf course to the mouth of the Motupipi Estuary

Pohara Beach from eastern camp boundary to Selwyn Street Reserve – summer months

Pohara Beach Top 10 Holiday Park

Rototai to Waitapu Estuary foreshore (excluding Controlled Dog Exercise area adjacent to Rototai Recreation Reserve

Ruataniwha Inlet



Tata Beach – During the period of New Zealand Daylight Saving Time, and for the remainder of the year from one hour prior to sunrise until one hour after sunrise  
Tukurua Beach (camp frontage) – summer months

Waikato Inlet – including beach area to Ruataniwha Inlet

### **Motueka/Kina**

Abel Tasman National Park Foreshore Reserves on Tonga Island, Adele Island and Fisherman Island.

Breaker Bay Beach

Fearons Bush Camping Ground

Kaiteriteri Beach

Little Kaiteriteri Beach – summer months, except between the hours of 5.00am and 9.00am

Lower Moutere Recreation Reserve – except for Dog Obedience and Tracking classes

Memorial Reserve Corner Riwaka

Motueka Sandspit – south of a line drawn through the point NZ Map Grid 2512857.1 (easting) 6009560.9 (northing)

Otuwhero Estuary and Sandspit

Saltwater Baths – Motueka

Stephens Bay Beach – summer months, except between the hours of 5.00am and 9.00am

### **Richmond/Mapua**

Hope Recreation Reserve & Hall – except for Dog Events approved by Hall Committee

McKee Memorial Domain

Rabbit Island (including the beach)

Sand Island and the shell bank by Bell Island (Situating adjacent to the Nelson Airport runway disturbed birds are a hazard to aircraft)

### **Murchison**

Riverview Motor Camp – Murchison

### **Definitions:**

Summer months = 1 December to 1 March

**Exception to Dog Prohibited Areas:** This prohibition of dogs from specified areas does not apply to game hunting dogs engaged in legitimate hunting activities during the recognised hunting season.

## **Schedule 4**

### **National Parks and other Department of Conservation Administered Lands**

There are three National Parks within the Tasman District. They are Kahurangi National Park, Abel Tasman National Park and Nelson Lakes National Park. Dogs are generally prohibited from National Parks under the National Parks Act 1980 (except in certain specified circumstances). National Parks are administered by the Department of Conservation.

Controlled Dog Areas and Open Dog Areas on public conservation lands are declared by the Minister of Conservation and regulated by the Department of Conservation under the Conservation Act 1987. Currently there are none in the Tasman District.

For more information on dog control in National Parks, or the Department of Conservation's policy on Controlled or Open Dog Areas on public conservation lands, please contact the Department of Conservation. The web address for the Department of Conservation is [www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz)