

# WDC Dog Control Policy and Bylaw Review 2024



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# Why are we Reviewing?

## Dog Control Policy 2014

Sec 10 of Dog Control Act 1996 – Local authority must adopt a policy on dogs.

Sec 10AA of Dog Control Act 1996 - Local authority must review policy if bylaw implementing policy requires review.

## Dog Control Bylaw 2014

Sec 20 of Dog Control Act 1996 – Local authority may make bylaws to give effect to Dog Control Policy.

Sec 159 Local Government Act 2002 – Local authority must review bylaw every 10 years.



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# Some Waitaki Dog Stats

Waitaki has 5664 registered dogs

We have 3396 dog owners

Dog owners make up 15% of the population

Largest category of dogs are working dogs, followed by selected owners



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# What is In-Scope

## In Scope

Registration, micro-chipping, payment of fees

Designation of On-Lead, Off-lead, Prohibited areas

Classification of menacing and dangerous dogs

Criteria for registration categories

Issuing of infringement notices

Disqualification of dog owners

Signage

## Out of Scope

Establishment of additional dog parks

Providing extra rubbish bins

Increasing or decreasing the infringement fines



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# Aim – Responsible Dog Owners

## Responsible dog ownership **IS**

Informed knowledge of Dog Control Bylaw

Compliance with the bylaw

Engaging with Animal Management staff

Proactive in dealing with dog related issues

## Responsible dog ownership **Is Not**

Failure to inform themselves of Dog Control Bylaw

Noncompliance with the bylaw

Ignoring advice or being abusive towards Animal Management staff

Allows dog to wander/bark/cause a nuisance/cause harm

‘Hello dog owner, are you aware that this is a dog onlead area?’

‘Where are the signs?’

‘As a responsible dog owner, why are you not aware that this is an onlead area?’



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# Common Compliance Issues

Dog owner attitude to compliance

Dogs off-lead in public areas

Dogs in prohibited areas

Wandering dogs

Barking dogs

Dog attacks on people and animals



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# Policy and Bylaw Review – Community Pre - Engagement

Comms staff used the 'Lets Talk' platform to engage with the community

184 individual respondents provided feedback.

81.5% of respondents were dog owners.

At least 90% have at least read part of or all of the Policy and Bylaw



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# Early Engagement Survey - Feedback

Strong response to allowing dogs onlead in Thames St, Itchen St and Harbour St.

Request for more and better signage.

More dog exercise areas (Off-Lead), less prohibited areas.

Oamaru is not dog friendly.



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# Community & Stakeholder Consultation Potential Topics

Change prohibited to on-lead (Thames St and Harbour St)?

Change on-lead to off-lead (Harbour Tce, Kakanui – Ocean side) ?

The beach and beach reserve next to Beach Road, between Awamoa Rd and Thousand Acre Rd, change from on-lead to off-lead?

Limit the number of dogs allowed to be owned and reside on residential zoned property?

Would you support a policy to use \$1 from every dog registration fee to subsidise de-sexing?



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# Clarification – Wording in Bylaw and Policy

Selected Owner responsibilities.

Requirement to neuter a dog classified as menacing by deed.

Enforcement action taken (infringement issued) when:

- Verbal abuse or intimidation by the person in possession of the dog.
- A refusal to provide the details of the dog or the personal details of the person having possession of the dog.

Circumstances when a 'notice to register' a dog is issued.

Clarification that annual registration is due on or before 1 July each year – remove defacto date.

Infringement notices right of appeal as per WDC appeals process.



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# Indicative Review Timeline

Workshop - Review Intent	9 April 2024
Council Meeting - Approval of consultation Process	25 June 2024
Community Consultation - Submission	July/August 2024 (1 Month)
Hearings of Submissions	August 2024
Workshop discussion	September 2024
Council Meeting - Approval of Reviewed Policy and Bylaw	22 October 2024



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# Discussion

Animal Management staff feel the Bylaw and Policy work well.

Majority of dog owners are responsible and comply with the bylaw.

Out of scope topics can be referred to appropriate WDC work groups for consideration.

Community & Stakeholder engagement to include public meetings.

What are elected members hearing out there.

What are elected members thoughts on the bylaw/policy?



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