

Waimakariri Dog Owner's Handbook

2026/27



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Text Reminders



We can now send information and reminders by text message to the mobile number provided on your registration form.

2019 Dog Control Bylaw and Dog Control Policy

The 2019 Dog Control Bylaw and Policy were adopted by Council on 3 December and came into effect on 16 December 2019.

This bylaw replaces the Dog Control Bylaw 2009.

Key additions to the Bylaw

- Dogs must be on leads in all town centres (Business 1 zone) (Section 15 First Schedule)
- Your dog must be effectively controlled around horses (Clause 7.2)
- Dogs must not be exercised from a moving vehicle (Clause 7.12).

Visit waimakariri.govt.nz to view the bylaw or pick up a copy from any Council Service Centre.

Dog Tags



We now provide a durable aluminium dog tag that's designed to last for several years.



If you registered your dog with us last year, you will have one of our metal multi-year tags. Provided the tag has not been lost or damaged, you will not need to replace the tag this year.

You will need a new tag if:

- You have a new dog that has not been registered (you cannot transfer from one dog to another)
- Your dog has a tag issued by another Council
- The tag we issued last year has been lost or damaged, let us know if you need a new one.

Replacement tags

Your tag is expected to last for multiple years with normal wear and tear.

The amount of wear and tear will depend on your dog's level of activity.

The tag number and Council details are etched into the tag so should still be visible if the tag surface is scratched.

If your tag is lost or damaged and needs replacing, you can contact us for a replacement tag at a small cost.

This handbook provides dog owners in the Waimakariri District with information about their responsibilities as dog owners. It also provides information about the rules and regulations that are in place to keep people and dogs safe, registration fees, caring for pets during an emergency and more.



Quick Reference Numbers

Animal Management

Waimakariri District Council

- 📞 0800 965 468 (24 hour service)
- ✉️ office@wmk.govt.nz
- 🌐 waimakariri.govt.nz
- 📘 @Waimakariri District Council

SPCA

- 📞 03 349 7057
- ✉️ christchurch.info@spca.nz
- 🌐 spca.nz
- 📘 @SPCA Christchurch Centre

Lost and Found Pets Rangiora and Surrounding Towns

- 📘 @Lost And Found Pets Rangiora and Surrounding Towns

Being a Responsible Dog Owner

Owning a dog provides companionship, along with many benefits for both dog owners and our community. It also comes with responsibilities.

To ensure everyone enjoys a safe, dog-friendly District, there are rules and regulations that you are required to follow.

The Dog Control Act 1996 requires owners to keep their dog under control at all times. The rules around owning a dog, and where you can and can't take it, are outlined in the Dog Control Bylaw found on page 16 of this guide.

You can also find out more about the Council's Dog Control Policy and the Dog Control Act 1996 at waimakariri.govt.nz/dogs

These documents highlight owners' legal responsibilities and promote the control of dogs in public places to ensure everyone continues to enjoy the District safely.

Through responsible dog ownership, we not only improve public safety, we also keep the costs of providing dog control services at current levels.

The Council has an experienced team of Animal Management Officers. The Officers deal with a variety of animal related issues throughout our District.

For further information or for any questions about dog ownership contact the team on 0800 965 468.

Obligations of dog owners

- Ensure the dog is registered each year, and advise the Council of any contact detail changes
- Keep the dog under control at all times
- Provide the dog with proper care and attention
- Provide the dog adequate exercise
- Ensure the dog is not a nuisance to others at home or out in the community, this includes loud barking
- Ensure the dog doesn't injure, endanger, or cause distress to any other person, domestic animal, or protected wildlife
- Ensure the dog doesn't damage any property belonging to another person
- Comply with the Dog Control Act 1996 and all regulations and bylaws made under this Act.

Dog Registration

Every dog over three months of age must be microchipped and registered. Registration is due each year on 1 July.

The Council has a registration fee structure recognising spayed or neutered dogs and early payment. For any dog turning three months old during the year, a part fee will be charged based on the number of complete months remaining in the registration year.

Disability Assist Dogs

There is no registration fee charged for these dogs. Proof of certification must be provided to Council for consideration.

“A dog is the only thing on earth that loves you more than you love yourself”.

Josh Billings



The registration year is from 1 July to 30 June.

Registration fees

Working dogs	\$15.00
Pet dogs	\$60.00
Spayed/neutered pet dogs	\$32.00
Plus - owner fee	\$51.00

These prices increase from 1 August

Impounding

First offence	\$65.00
Second offence	\$195.00
Sustenance	\$20.00

Owner Information

What your registration pays for

Response to complaints involving

- Barking dogs
- Wandering dogs
- Dog attacks on people
- Dog attacks on stock or other animals
- 24 hour on call service
- Following up classification of owners/dogs.

Education programmes

- In schools (dog bite prevention)
- For relevant community groups
- By providing up-to-date information
- By initiating education around problem dogs.

De-sexing programme

- To encourage owners to de-sex their dogs
- To educate owners to the benefits of having de-sexed dogs.

Impounding and pound facilities

- Maintenance of a pound register
- Notifying registered owners if their dog is impounded
- Impounding wandering dogs
- Re-homing suitable dogs
- Humane euthanasia of unmanageable dogs.

Registrations

- Keeping an up-to-date record of dogs within the District
- Sighting unregistered dogs in preparation for possible prosecution
- Issuing infringement notices where applicable
- House-to-house checks when necessary.

The right dog for you

Many dog breeds are fashionable, but in the long run they might not suit your lifestyle.

A dog can be a 15 year commitment, so it pays to make the right choice before bringing that dog or puppy home.

Things to consider

- Your reason for having a dog. Will it be a pet, a working dog, or are you interested in competitions and shows?
- How active are you? A very small dog might not keep up with an active lifestyle, and a larger or athletic type of dog might become destructive if it doesn't get enough activity.
- The size of your section is also good to consider. Larger athletic dogs are best suited to larger sections. Unless you are committed to exercising the dog once or twice a day a large dog won't be happy in a small section.



Keeping three or more dogs

A Multiple Dog Licence is needed to keep three or more dogs on an urban property for more than 14 days.

The (not transferable) permit is for the property where your dogs are kept and places certain conditions on keeping them. Some of these include:

- How the dog is confined – is it appropriate for the size and number of dogs?
- Is an appropriate exercise area available?
- Is the property securely fenced and the dogs housed an appropriate distance from neighbouring properties?
- History of complaints against the dog(s).

The Multiple Dog Licence fee is the same regardless of the number of dogs you have on the property. To find out more, and to apply, visit waimakariri.govt.nz/dogs

Neutering your dog

Each year too many dogs are impounded in this District. One of the major causes of impoundment is wandering dogs. De-sexing your dog will help reduce its wandering tendencies and will prevent it from being impounded, or worse, injured.

Advantages of neutering your dog

- Male dogs are less aggressive and territorial
- Dogs are less likely to be injured by fighting
- Female dogs are cleaner as they do not come on heat
- Dogs are healthier with lower cancer risk
- Dogs are less likely to wander.

Reducing dog bites

Dog bites are usually triggered when the dog thinks it has to defend itself.

It's not possible to anticipate these triggers, as each dog is a product of its upbringing and current living situation. Genetics and character also have a bearing on a dog's reactions.

How to approach a strange dog

- Allow the dog to come to you, rather than entering its space yourself.
- Don't stand or lean over the dog, or touch the back of a dog's neck. This is seen by them as threatening.
- Without leaning over, present your fist for the dog to sniff. Bring your fist upward from below.
- Without leaning over, stroke the dog on the chin.
- Squat low with small dogs to avoid leaning over them.

Keeping your dog happy

- Dogs need care. They also need regular exercise. There are plenty of places in the District where you can take your dog for a walk. In some of these areas dogs are free to wander provided the owner is nearby and has effective control of the dog. In other areas they must be on a leash.

See pages 18-21 of this booklet for a list of these areas.

- Dogs should be well fed and have access to clean, fresh water at all times.
- If a dog is outside, a warm, weatherproof, suitably sized kennel must be provided. Sunlight, shade, draft, dampness and proximity to your neighbours should be considered when siting the kennel.

Keeping your neighbours happy

Wandering dogs

- A dog which wanders can cause harm or be harmed. It could be hurt or killed in a traffic accident, shot while attacking livestock, or get sick through eating something harmful.
- Unsupervised dogs can also cause a nuisance in the neighbourhood by fouling, digging up lawns and gardens, scavenging in rubbish bins and bags, becoming a traffic hazard or annoying other people and animals.
- The owner of a wandering dog is liable for any injury or damage caused to other people, animals or property.
- Dogs should not be allowed to wander onto private property unless the occupier of the property has given consent for it to be there.

Preventing the behaviour

- **Jumping dogs** — a lean-to section or outrigger on the fence will stop most dogs from jumping out.
- **Digging out** — a concrete strip under the fence with a wire 3-5cm above the ground will stop this.
- **Use a running lead** — a strong wire 2m above ground with the dog's chain attached to the wire through a swivel. A limiting device on the wire is needed to stop the dog from becoming entangled at the ends.
- **Pens and runs** — keeping the dog in a kennel and run when you're not home.

Barking dogs

- Dog owners must take all reasonable steps to ensure that their dogs do not cause a nuisance to other people by loud or persistent barking or howling.
- Dogs bark from excitement, lack of exercise, fear, anxiety, warning and boredom. Often barking occurs when the owner is not home.
- Excessive barking is one of the most common dog complaints reported to the Council, so please be considerate to your neighbours.

Preventing the behaviour

- **Understand the reason** — barking is usually caused by attention seeking, cold, hunger and/or loneliness.

- **Hunger or coldness** — the cure is simple. Make sure the dog has enough food and a warm place to rest.
- **Loneliness** — other than providing company for the dog, you could try 'the denning principle'. Select a small den such as a bathroom or laundry. Start feeding the dog there and keep it inside the room for 15 minutes or so at feeding time to create happy feelings. With time this area can be a safe space for your dog when you leave the home.



Holiday and Emergency Planning

Going on holiday

When you go on holiday, you need to think in advance about where your dog will go.

Who will look after your dog?

- **Kennels** — there are many quality kennels to choose from and bookings need to be made early. Your dog should be up-to-date with its vaccinations, and the boarding fees will need to be factored into your holiday plans.
- **Friends and neighbours** — dogs get lonely and are more likely to stray if left alone for too long. Ask a friend or family member to stay at your house, or see if your dog can stay at theirs.

Taking your dog on holiday

- Check that the place you will stay allows dogs. There are many dog friendly accommodation options available and a quick internet search will guide you through the options.

- People who leave their dogs in a hot car can be fined by Police. If you can't take your dog with you, it might be best to leave it at the accommodation.
- Be sure your dog is under control at all times.

Emergency planning for pets

Protect your animals in an emergency

The same as you do with your family's emergency survival kit, also think about the basics for your pets – food, water and warmth.

Think about having two emergency survival kits

Home kit — contains everything you may need to stay at home for up to three days.

Getaway kit — more portable and lightweight for when you need to leave quickly.

- Make sure your kits are easy to grab in a hurry, and that everyone in the house knows where they are, including a neighbour.
- Check your kits from time to time for expiry dates to ensure supplies stay fresh — particularly food, water and medicine items.
- Replace water every six months for freshness.



If where you are isn't safe for you, it isn't safe for your animals.

Dog Control Policy

December 2019

1 Introduction

The Policy on Dogs is a requirement of the Dog Control Act 1996 (section 10) and has to include consideration of:

- The public places where dogs may be prohibited, on a leash or under control
- How fees are structured
- Classification of owners
- Owner education
- The issuing of infringement notices.

In adopting a policy the Council has to be aware of the recreational needs of dogs and their owners and the need to minimise nuisance caused by dogs to the public.

2 Policy context

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

3 Policy objective

This policy recognises the benefits and problems of dogs to their owners and the community, and that everyone in the community (dog owners, the public and the Council) has a role to play in order to continue to appreciate the benefits and minimise the problems.

4 Policy statement

4.1 Encourage responsible dog ownership

Dog owners will be encouraged to meet their obligations under the Act to make neighbourhoods more safe and free from nuisance.

Method

- Accept that all dog owners are responsible until otherwise demonstrated.
- Include limitations, in the Dog Control Bylaw, on the number of dogs that can be kept on residential properties

- Provide, through a range of fees and controls, incentives to encourage responsible ownership of dogs.

4.2 Provide for dog access to public areas

Dog owners will be provided with a reasonable level of access to public places where doing so will not compromise public safety. In implementing this policy regard shall be given to:

- Dog owners as users of public places
- Any controls on dog access to parks and reserves are well defined to the public
- Sensitive areas such as children's playgrounds and wildlife reserves are protected from dogs.

Method

The Council shall make a Dog Control Bylaw to place controls where dogs:

- May be taken in public places
- Must be kept on a leash, under control or are prohibited.

4.3 Enforce dog owner obligations

The Dog Control Act 1996 powers of enforcement shall be used where necessary to ensure public safety and freedom from dog related nuisance, and to deter irresponsible ownership of dogs.

Method

The Council shall maintain an animal management service to receive, investigate and resolve complaints about dogs.

The Council shall use the powers in the Act, as required, to issue infringement notices, to classify dogs as dangerous or menacing and to classify owners as probationary or disqualified.

Menacing Dogs: In accordance with section 33E(1)(b) of the Act, dogs classified as menacing must be neutered.

The Council shall make a Dog Control Bylaw that:

- Sets minimum standards for the accommodation of dogs
- Requires a permit to be obtained where three or more dogs are kept in a Residential Zone
- Requires the containment of bitches in season, and the containment of dogs infected with a contagious disease.

4.4 Community awareness about dogs

The Council will raise awareness in the community about how responsibly owned dogs can co-exist with the public so that danger, distress and nuisance are minimised.

Method

Provide information, advice and education to the public and dog owners about dog behaviour, dog obedience courses available in the community and ways to manage dogs.

4.5 Funding for dog control

The Council will maintain an acceptable level of control services to implement this policy and any fees for the service shall reflect the different costs of control for different classes of dog.

Method

Fees will be set annually by resolution of the Council and will be:

- Lower for neutered dogs than unneutered pet dogs
- Lower for working dogs than unneutered pet dogs
- For late registration, 50% above the registration fee payable for that dog.

5 Links to other policies and community outcomes

Dog Control Bylaw 2019

There is a safe environment for all

- Harm to people from natural and man-made hazards is minimised.

Public spaces and facilities are plentiful, accessible and high quality, and reflect cultural identity

- There is a wide variety of public places and spaces to meet people's needs.
- There are wide ranging opportunities for people to enjoy the outdoors.
- The range of community and recreation facilities meets the changing needs of our community.

6 Adopted by and date

Adopted by Council on 3 December 2019 in conjunction with the Dog Control Bylaw 2019.



Key Extracts from the Dog Control Bylaw 2019

To view the full Bylaw in its entirety please refer to our website or pop in to a service centre for a copy. The Animal Management Officers administer the Waimakariri District Council Dog Control Bylaw 2019 which has as its prime objective:

“To promote the control of dogs in public places to protect public safety”.

In order to protect public safety, the Bylaw contains rules and penalties to encourage responsible dog ownership and includes:

- Any dog found not under continuous and effective control in any reserve may be seized and detained by any authorised officer, or a person employed by the Council and be impounded.
- No person shall take into or have in his/her charge any dog in or on any public swimming pools or other bathing places, except on authorised occasions.
- No person shall take into or have in his/her charge any dog in or on any land or premises used as a public school, kindergarten or playcentre, except on authorised occasions.
- The occupier of any premises whereon any kennel or enclosures in which dogs are kept or housed shall maintain and keep them in a clean condition.
- No person shall take into or keep in any cemetery any dog.
- Requiring dogs in public places (unless prohibited or required to be leashed), to be kept under continuous and effective control at all times.
- No person shall in any public place or private road or street, set on, urge, encourage, aid or assist at the fighting or baiting of any dog or other animal or willingly permit any dog to fight or to rush at, attack or worry any person or animal, and no person being the owner or having charge thereof shall suffer or permit any dog which has been known to rush at or attack or annoy any person or animal to be at large.
- No person being the owner of, or having the control of any dog shall permit the dog to foul any public place

with droppings, provided that no offence shall be deemed to have been committed against this bylaw when the person having control of the dog removes the droppings immediately.

- The owner or person in charge of any dog in any public place shall carry a suitable receptacle for the removal of any faeces defecated by that dog.
- Any person allowing a dog to ride on the open tray of a vehicle shall ensure that it is at all times kept under control by a chain that is sufficiently short in length as to prevent the dog from leaving the tray or endangering passers-by.
- No occupier of any property in any urban area, shall keep for any period exceeding fourteen days, three or more dogs over the age of three months unless a license is granted by the Council.
- Every person who violates any of the provisions of the bylaw is liable to a fine.
- No person shall exercise their dog(s), in a public place, from a moving vehicle.
- Dogs that are not able to be kept under effective voice control around horses shall be placed on a lead when in the vicinity of a horse.

Barking dogs

If the Council has reasonable grounds for believing a nuisance is being created by persistent and loud barking or howling of any dog(s), it may require the owner to abate the nuisance or remove the dog. Further complaints may cause the dog to be removed and held in custody of the Council.

Dangerous dogs

Dogs attacking persons, stock, poultry, domestic animals or protected wildlife, may if the Council is satisfied on reasonable grounds that the dog(s) would otherwise threaten the safety of the above be seized and taken into custody the by Council. The owner of any dog that makes such an attack is liable upon conviction to a fine not exceeding \$3,000.

Public Recreation Areas

Reserves

The Bylaw also lists most of the reserves within the District into three categories being Prohibited Areas, Leash Control Areas and Under Control Areas.

Rangiora	
Leash Control Areas	Under Control Areas
Aspen Street Reserve	Acacia Avenue Reserve
Bells Siding	Allen Reserve
Bridget Lane Reserve	Arlington Reserve
Chelsea Court Reserve	Ascot Place Reserve
Elm Tree Reserve	Ashley Picnic Area
Grove Place Reserve	Ashgrove Park
Hazeldean Reserve	Ballarat Reserve
Janelle Place Reserve	Belmont Avenue Reserve
Kippenberger War Mem. Res.	Bush Street Reserve
Manchester Place Reserve	Dudley Park
Newnham Street Reserve	Epsom Drive Reserve
Oxford Line Reserve	Good Street Reserve
Rickton Place Reserve	Green Street Walkway
Sequoia Reserve	Kowhai Avenue Reserve
Town Hall Reserve	Lilybrook Reserve
Prohibited Areas	Maria Andrews Park
Elephant Park	Matawai Park
Northbrook Wetlands Reserve	Milton Avenue Dog Park
Southbrook Park	Neil Aitken Reserve
Torlesse Park (Castle Park)	Oak Tree Reserve
Victoria Park	Oakwood Park
All children's playgrounds	Parkhouse Reserve
All sportsfields	Rangiora Recreation Ground



Regent Park
River Road Reserve
Southbrook Dog Park, Coronation Street
Sycamore Drainage Reserve
Taunton Place Reserve
Townsend Road Reserve
Ward Park
Windsor Park

Kaiapoi

Leash Control Areas	Under Control Areas
Allison Reserve	Askeaton Park
Country Life Esplanade Reserve	Baker Park
Kiln Place Reserve	Corcoran Reserve
Kaiapoi Lakes	Currie Park
Memorial Reserve	Darnley Square
Moorcroft Park	Fuller St Reserve
Morgan Williams Reserve	Glenvale Walk
Silverstream Reserve	Gray Crescent Reserve
Trousselot Reserve	Hinemoa Park
Prohibited Areas	Isa-Lei Reserve
Scott Rose Garden (Charles Street)	Jim Bryden Reserve
All children's playgrounds	Kaiapoi Anglican Reserve
All sportsfields	Kaiapoi Community Hub Reserve
	Kaiapoi Dog Park, Charles Street
	Kaiapoi Domain
	Kendall Park
	Kirk Street Reserve
	Monarch Boulevard Reserve
	Murphy Park
	NCF Reserve
	Riseley Reserve
	Ryder Park
	The Oaks Reserve
	Tirikatene Park
	Wylie Park



Woodend

Leash Control Areas	Under Control Areas
Owen Stalker Park	Crossley Avenue Reserve
Pound Reserve	Gladstone Park
Skevington Park	Grangeview Reserve
Prohibited Areas	Norton Reserve
All children's playgrounds	Pankhurst Reserve
All sportsfields	Parsonage Road Reserve
	Rainey Reserve
	Shrimpton Avenue
	Woodend Beach Domain
	Woodend Recreation Reserve


Oxford

Leash Control Areas	Under Control Areas
Ashley Gorge Reserve Lower Flat (Campground and Upper Flats prohibited).	Church Street Reserve
	Oxford Dog Park
Matai Place Reserve	Pearson Park
Prohibited Areas	Rimu Place Reserve
All children's playgrounds	Warren Reserve
All sportsfields	West Oxford Reserve (ECan)


Cust

Leash Control Areas	Under Control Areas
Cust Community Centre	Cust Domain (Sportsfields and playground prohibited)
Cust Memorial/ Waterworks Reserve	Jack Graham Reserve (Playground prohibited)

Waikuku Beach

Leash Control Areas	Under Control Areas
Pegasus View park	Allin Drive Reserve
Waikuku Beach Domain	Kings Avenue Stopbank
	Kiwi Avenue Recreation Reserve
	North Oval (Playground prohibited)
	South Oval (Playground prohibited)
	Taranaki Reserve

The Pines/Kairaki Beach

Leash Control Areas	Under Control Areas
McGarry Place Reserve	Dunns Avenue Reserve
	Featherstone Reserve
	Kairaki Beach Domain
	Kairaki Reserve
	Pines Beach Oval (Playground area prohibited)

Sefton

Under Control Areas	Sefton Domain (Sportsfields prohibited)
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Ashley

Under Control Areas	Canterbury Street Reserve (Sportsfields and playgrounds prohibited)
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Ohoka

Under Control Areas	Whites Road Reserve
Mandeville Sports Club (Sportsfields and playgrounds prohibited)	Ohoka Domain (Playground prohibited)
	Mandeville Domain Reserve

Pegasus

Leash Control Areas	Pegasus Lakeside Walkway
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As Sign Posted for all other Parks and Reserves

Tuahiwi

Under Control Areas	Tuahiwi Sports and Recreation Ground (Playgrounds, hard courts and sports field prohibited)
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Cemeteries

Prohibited Areas: All cemeteries throughout the District, excluding Kaiapoi Anglican Cemetery Reserve.

Beach surf patrol areas

Prohibited Area: Within the area marked by Surf Patrol flags and extending around that area for a distance of 50m within the area marked only.

All other public places

(Not sign posted) Dogs shall be under control.



"My little dog — a heartbeat at my feet."

Edith Wharton

For more information please contact

Waimakariri District Council

215 High Street
Private Bag 1005
Rangiora 7440, New Zealand

☎ 0800 965 468

✉ office@wmk.govt.nz

Find out more at waimakariri.govt.nz/dogs