

Dog Control Policy

Policy Owner	General Manager – Customer Support
Policy Sponsor	
Approved By:	Policy & Regulatory Committee
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Introduction

This document contains Waikato District Council's policy on dogs pursuant to the Dog Control Act 1996 ("the Act"). The Waikato District Council Dog Control Bylaw gives effect to this policy.

Objective(s)

- (a) to minimise danger, distress, and nuisance to the community
- (b) to avoid the inherent danger in allowing dogs to have uncontrolled access to public places that are frequented by children, whether or not the children are accompanied by adults
- (c) to enable, to the extent that is practicable, the public (including families) to use streets and public amenities without fear of attack or intimidation by dogs
- (d) to promote the exercise and recreational needs of dogs and their owners

Significance

This policy affects all dog owners within the Waikato District, or people bringing dogs into the district, as well as members of the public.

Relevant Documents/Legislation

- Dog Control Act 1996
- Waikato District Council Dog Control Bylaw 2015

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed as deemed appropriate by the Chief Executive, and must be reviewed in conjunction with Council's Dog Control Bylaw, within its statutory timeframe.

Policy Statements

Responsible dog ownership

Council will encourage responsible dog ownership within the Waikato District through public education and enforcement of Council's Bylaw, and other relevant legislation.

Responsible ownership requires owners to have an understanding of how to appropriately care for their dogs and how to control their dogs in public places as to not cause a nuisance or risk to the safety of other animals, or members of the public.

Council requires dog owners to control dogs on a leash when in public places, except within designated exercise areas, and to remove faeces from public places. Council provides dog exercise areas within the district to promote opportunities for dog owners to exercise and socialise their dogs in an appropriate environment.

Provision of dog control services / Regulation and enforcement

Council will provide a comprehensive and robust dog control service to protect members of the public from nuisance, minimize the danger of dogs in public places, and to ensure that dogs within the district are appropriately cared for by their owners.

Council's Dog Control Bylaw will provide public spaces for exercising dogs, but also set restrictions prohibiting dogs from certain public places, or requiring dogs to be leashed and controlled to promote the safety of members of the public, these areas are specified in Appendix one. Council will provide signage, where practicable, to ensure dog owners are made aware of their obligations under Council's Dog Control Bylaw.

Council will also regulate the number of dogs that can be kept on properties in more densely populated areas to minimise nuisance issues and enhance public safety.

A permit to exceed these provisions may be applied for, and will be considered on a case by case basis.

Council requires all dogs classified as menacing, by behaviour or breed, under section 33A of the Dog Control Act to be neutered.

Funding

Council will set fees and charges for dog registration and other dog control services in order to fund dog management services primarily on a user pays basis.

Through the schedule of fees and charges, Council will annually set:

- a reasonable annual registration fee, with discounts being available to incentivise responsible dog ownership and the prompt payment of registration fees.
- a fee for the release of an impounded dog in order to recover costs associated with the provision of pound facilities.

Council will use income from fines to contribute to the costs associated with providing its dog control service and provide for otherwise irrecoverable costs through general rate funding.

Appendix one: Control of Dogs in public places

Unless provided for in the Animal Control Act 1996 or Waikato District Council Dog Control Bylaw, a dog that enters or remains in a public place must be secured on a leash and kept under continuous control. Exceptions apply where otherwise specified in this Appendix.

Prohibited Areas (District Wide)

No person shall permit any dog to enter or remain in a prohibited area whether it is under control or not, except a working dog while it is working, a dog confined in or on a vehicle, a dog being taken to or from veterinary premises.

Guidance note: exceptions to these restrictions are listed in section 5.6 of the Bylaw.

Locality	Description of area and times	Map #
Huntly	Any street or public place within the central business area of Huntly, including Main Street and rear accesses, at all times including public holidays.	19
Ngaruawahia	Any street within the central business area of Ngaruawahia township including Jesmond Street, from the pedestrian crossing between the Waipa Hotel and Pharo's Postshop, Stationary and Lotto to the area between the Plunket Rooms and the Anglican Church, at all times including public holidays. Business side of SH1 Ngaruawahia between Martin and Market Streets	20
Raglan	Within the Raglan Kopua Camping Grounds, the domain, the playground and picnic area of the foreshore of Oporu inlet from the footbridge to the boat ramp, at all times including public holidays	9
Port Waikato	Within 250 metres north or south of any lifesaving patrolled areas on Port Waikato Beach and Sunset Beach from 10am to 6pm on weekends, public holidays and school holidays from the beginning of Labour Weekend to the end of March the following year.	22
Hakarimata Scenic Reserve	Area from Brownlee Avenue to the dam site on the walkway.	23
Waireinga Scenic Reserve	Carpark area leading up to Department of Conservation walkway.	24

On-lead areas

Dogs are allowed in the following areas if **under control** and on a leash, but should not be left unattended and/or tethered.

Locality	Description of area and times	Map #
Te Kauwhata	In or on any part of any street or public place within the central business area of Te Kauwhata township more particularly defined as Main Road from the Te Kauwhata Trust Tavern and business premises opposite to Saleyard and Te Kauwhata Road intersection, at all times including public holidays.	12
Raglan	In or on any part of any street or public place within the central business area of Raglan township more particularly defined as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="443 640 1182 669">• Bow Street from the Cliff Street intersection to 43 Bow Street,<li data-bbox="443 674 1203 703">• Wainui Road from Bow Street to the Bankart Street intersection,<li data-bbox="443 707 1224 736">• Wallis Street from Bow Street to the end of the business premises,<li data-bbox="443 741 1064 770">• Volcom Lane between Wainui Road and Bow Street. at all times including public holidays	8
Tuakau	Any street within the central business area of Tuakau township more particularly defined as George Street, between Madil street and the corner of Dominion Road and Ryders Road at all times including public holidays. This includes Central Park and extends to the Dominion Road shopping area.	21

Dog Exercise Areas

A dog may be exercised in the areas below free of restraint if kept under continuous control by its owner. Where there is a presence of stock, all dogs must remain leashed.

Note: Council may from time to time by resolution under the Dog Control Bylaw designate additional dog exercise areas.

Locality	Description of area	Map #
Huntly	A fenced area on the shore of Lake Hakanoa situated at the end of Onslow Street in the Huntly Domain	1
	The grassed area along the Waikato River on Riverview Road known as the Riverview Reserve.	2
	Fenced dog park on the corner of Fairfield Avenue and Graham Place	3
Taupiri	Bob Byrne Park on Great South Road.	4
Ngaruawahia	Regent Street Reserve. The grassed area from Great South Road to the end of area bordering Turangawaewae Marae.	5
	From the Great South Road bridge pilings on Lower Waikato Esplanade along the grassed area known as the Waikato Esplanade Reserve to Belt Street.	5
	The fenced area on the corner of Great South Road and Ellery Street (old dump site).	6
	Waipa Esplanade Reserve from the Pony Club along the grassed area to the area below Princess Street.	7
Raglan	The fenced area on the corner of Wallis Street and John Street known as Aro Aro Reserve.	8
	The grassed area and foreshore from the boat ramp in the Opoturu inlet to the Aerodrome Bridge.	9
	From the Wainui Reserve carpark at the western end of Te Riria Kereopa Memorial Drive to 300 metres south of the northern walkway at Ngarunui Beach below the Wainui Reserve.	10
	Beach areas from the wharf, the Cliffs, Cox's Bay, Lorenzen Bay, The Doughboys and Moonlight Bay.	11
Te Kauwhata	Fenced areas on the Te Kauwhata Recreation Reserve.	12
Horotiu	Fenced AFFCO Park on Horotiu Road and State Highway 1.	13
	Riverside Reserve on Horotiu Bridge Road.	14
Whatawhata	Whatawhata Recreation Reserve, except when the reserve is being used for sporting activities.	15
Te Kowhai	Te Kowhai Recreation Reserve, except when the reserve is being used for sporting activities.	16
Karioitahi Beach	The beach area known as Kariotahi beach	N/A
Port Waikato	Sunset beach, beyond 250 metres north or south of any lifesaving patrolled areas. This extends along the shoreline to Maretai Bay, but does not include the reserve area. Note: The area within the lifesaving patrolled areas is prohibited from 10am to 6pm on weekends, public holidays and school holidays from the beginning of Labour Weekend to the end of March from the following year. This is specified in the Prohibited areas schedule.	N/A

Tuakau	Les Batkin Reserve, in the marked areas specified from Tuakau Bridge to (but excluding) the toilet block and from the carpark entrance to the northern boundary	17
Tuakau	Alexandra Redoubt Reserve in the marked areas specified	18