
Western Bay of Plenty District Council: Dog Control Policy and Practices Report 2023-2024

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 2023 to 30 June 2024.

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 (ended in April 2024)

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. Several 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 3 town centres, Waihi Beach, Katikati, and Te Puke over the 2023-2025 period. The Te Puke dog park successfully opened on 14 October 2023, and the Katikati dog park will be developed by the end of 2024.

3. Restricted Areas (dogs on leashes)

Geographical Area	Timeframe
TECT All Terrain Park (excluding the designated dog exercise area)	Year round
Huharua Park – End of Plummers Point Road	Mixed approach
Ōmokoroa to Bethlehem cycleway, including associated berms and verges	Year round
Scenic Reserves	
Kaiate Falls Scenic Reserve – Waitao	Year round
Ongaonga Scenic Reserve – Lower Kaimai	Year round
Puketoki Scenic Reserve – Whakamārama	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 are 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 Street. This includes all areas open to the public within this area.	Year round
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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

Makeku 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 2023 to 30 June 2024.

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 98% 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 2024 is as follows:

Number of registered dogs in Western Bay of Plenty District

Category	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Number of known dogs in District	10186	9995	9821
Number of registered dogs in District	9807	9604	9685

Number of Probationary and Disqualified owners

Category	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Number of probationary owners in District	2	6	2
Number of disqualified owners in District	14	13	7

Number of Dogs classified as Dangerous (section 31)

Category	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Dangerous by owner conviction 31 (1)(a)	1	1	0
Dangerous by sworn evidence 31(1)(b)	11	12	14
Dangerous by owner admittance in writing 31(1)(c)	0	0	0
Total	12	13	14

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

Category	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Menacing by behaviour s.33A(1)(b)(i)	55	57	43
Menacing by breed or type characteristics s.33A(1)(b)(ii)	11	13	0
Menacing by schedule breed or type s.33C(1)	74	67	70
Total	140	137	113

Number of Infringement notices issued

Category	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Failure to register dog	188*	247*	270*
Other offences	41	64	85
Total	229	311	355

*The dog infringement numbers for failure to register were higher in the issue numbers due to trial change to the 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%) within 5 working days. This has resulted in increased compliance with the registration requirement. Of the 270 infringements issued for non-registration 102 have been waived in the 2023-2024 period. Infringements notices for other offences has increased as a consequence of following up on the requirements for dogs classified as Menacing or Dangerous.

Number of dog related complaints

Category	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Barking	245	209	232
Roaming	296	345	271
Attacked Person	32	37	32
Attacked Animal	97	103	118
Rush at Person	46	47	53
Rush at Animal	49	33	62
Welfare Concern	33	18	7
Other	93	90	213
Total	891	882	988

Roaming Dog complaint numbers have declined; this could be due to a combination of factors such as more people have realised, they can now comfortably work from home in company with their pets and weather discouraging dogs from wanting to roam. Other numbers are similar except for the increase of dogs rushing at other dogs. This would be predominately dog lunging at other whilst being walked by their owners. Complaints

for the “Other” category are for enquiries and general requests for assistance and advice.

Other dog service requests:

Category	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Adoption queries	59	57	102
Education requests	11	11	16
Lost and found	401	387	394
Microchipping request	27	34	15
Total	498	489	527

The adoption enquiries have increased dramatically despite a national downward trend for pounds and rescue agencies across the country. A new system allowing people to make easier contact direct with our shelter staff is the predominant reason why. Our social media platforms have been increasingly used by our customers and our shelter operators are able to process inquiries more efficiently.

Number of Prosecutions taken

Category	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
	0	1	0

One prosecution is still underway from the 2022-2023 year and still pending a court hearing.

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. This includes the Winter dog walk series followed by the Summer series. The growing Doggy Day Out is now becoming a major Council event with increasing interest each year.



Doggy Day Out – Omokoroa

This event was held at Omokoroa Sportsground on Saturday 16 March 2024. 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 first Winter Series of walks was trialled in August/September 2023 due to the success of the Wander Dog Summer Series. There was a medium size attendance for these walks and as we develop the walk we expect a growing interest. This is a very weather dependant event.

Te Puke Dog Park

Western Bay's first urban dog park officially opened at Lawrence Oliver Park in Te Puke, (14 October 2023) and has been a great success. It is regularly used by local and visiting dog owners. The next dog park to be developed is the Katikati Dog Park.

Wander Dogs Summer Series 2023-2024

DOGGY DAY OUT BEACH DAY THEME

Sat 16 Mar 2024, 10am-2pm
Omokoroa Sportsground
Western Avenue, Omokoroa

It's the doggy (and human) event of the year! Make sure your pooch is wearing their best summer beach attire and join us for a day of fun, learning and adorable dogs!

WANDER WALKS

Come and explore some of the Western Bay's special places.

9.30am Q&A starts
10am Walk starts

Sat 9 Dec 2023
Puketoki Reserve, Leyland Rd,
Whakamarama

Sat 3 Feb 2024
Te Puna Quarry Park,
110 Te Puna Quarry Rd

Sat 2 Mar 2024
Anzac Bay, Seaforth Rd,
Waihi Beach

Q&A with our experts
Learn a thing or two from our experienced Animal Services Officers from 9.30am!

Follow us on Facebook for weather updates
f @westernbaycouncil i #dogsofwesternbay

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

Western Bay of Plenty District Council

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 Council's webpages.

Social Media

Facebook is being successfully used to promote dogs that need adopting.