

Keeping a Dog

We encourage people to keep dogs as pets or workmates. But there are a few things we ask you to do to ensure others are also happy to have your dog around.

Register it

All puppies over three months old must be registered. You need to renew the registration by 1 July each year.

This is not only a legal requirement, it also helps us return your dog to you, should it wander.

You pay less to register if you de-sex your dog.

You also need to

Keep your dog under control at all times.

If your dog fouls in a public place, please pick up after it (carrying a plastic bag when walking your dog can make this a lot less messy).

Remember that no one is allowed to keep three or more dogs on an urban property at one time without a permit. To apply for a permit contact the Council's Customer Services.

If your dog is to be registered for the first time, ensure to have it microchipped by your vet.

Lost dogs/animals

If your dog does go wandering, call us on 0800 965 468 (24 hours), and our Animal Management officers will keep an eye out for it.

Dog shelter hours are from 9.30–10am and 4–4.30pm, Monday–Friday. The Council also has on its website and facebook lost dogs and also those available to be re-homed.

If you have registered your dog then we can use its registration tag to return it to you. Without a tag dogs end up in our dog shelter. You will need to pay to have your dog released.



Public places

There are also public places where dogs are not allowed. These include children's playgrounds, sports fields, and cemeteries (excluding Kaiapoi Anglican Cemetery Reserve).

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.

You can get a list of these areas from our Customer Services staff or our website.

Dogs should be well fed and have access to clean fresh water at all times.

Please turn over

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 the neighbourhood happy

Wandering dogs

A dog which wanders can cause harm or be harmed. It could be hurt or killed in a traffic accident, shot or baited 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 permitted to wander on to private property unless the occupier of the property has given consent for it to be there.

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.

Infringements/Fines and Fees

Dog owners may be infringed for (not limited to):

- No or late registration
- Failure to clean up after dog
- Failing to control a dog
- Breaching controlled area direction signs

If your dog is impounded there are fees to pay. These are:

First Offence – \$53.50

Second Offence - \$160.00

Sustenance fee (per day) - \$16.00

* If your dog is impounded after hours there is also a \$75.00 call out fee for the Afterhours Contractor services.

Find out more at waimakariri.govt.nz, or contact Customer Services on 0800 965 468.