

STRATFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

POLICY: DOG CONTROL 2020

DEPARTMENT: Environmental Services		RESPONSIBILITY: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Director Environmental Services• Environmental Health Manager• Environmental Compliance Officer
SECTION:		
REVIEW DATE: 2019/2020		NEXT REVIEW: 2030
VERSION: 2		APPROVAL DATE: 11 August 2020

PURPOSE

1. In accordance with the Dog Control Amendment Act 2003 Section 10(4), the purpose of this policy is:
2. To provide a framework which recognises:
 - the need to minimise danger, distress, and nuisance to the community generally; and
 - the need 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; and
 - the importance of enabling, to the extent that is practicable, the public (including families) to use streets and public amenities without fear of attack or intimidation by dogs; and
 - the exercise and recreational needs of dogs and their owners.
3. It is further acknowledged that although the use of legally stipulated control measures is required, and conflicts will be resolved, as far as is practicable in the first instance, through discussions with dog owners.

DOG CONTROL BYLAW

1. The Act allows for the making of a bylaw to reinforce the provisions of this Policy. This Policy should be read in conjunction with the Stratford District Council Control of Dogs Bylaw 2020.
2. The Stratford District Council Control of Dogs Bylaw 2020 addresses the following issues:
 - Control of dogs in public places.
 - Minimum standards for accommodation of dogs.
 - Number of dogs per household.
 - Removal of dog faeces by owner.
 - Nuisances related to dogs.
 - Confinement of bitches in season.

- Impounding of dogs.
- Disposal of impounded dogs
- Neutering of dogs
- Fees
- Additional provisions

CONTROL OF DOGS IN PUBLIC PLACES

Prohibited Public Places

Dogs are **PROHIBITED** in the following areas:

- The public area surrounding the front entrance of the TSB Swimming Pool Complex is a prohibited area.
- Within 20 metres of any children's playground equipment which is on land controlled by Council except any public road or footpath adjacent such an area.
- Broadway, including the footpaths, between the northern roundabout, at the intersection of Broadway and Regan Street, and the southern roundabout, at the intersection of Broadway and Fenton Street.
- Prospero Place.
- Te Papakura o Taranaki except with a Department of Conservation permit.
- Whanganui National Park except with a Department of Conservation permit.
- Areas gazetted as **CONTROLLED DOG AREAS** under the Conservation Act 1987, except with a Department of Conservation permit.
- Pembroke Road, from the Te Papakura o Taranaki Gate to the Plateau Car Park being the entire length of the road which is bounded on both sides by the National Park.
- Manaia Road, from the Te Papakura o Taranaki Gate to the Dawson Falls Road End Car Park, being the entire length of the road which is bounded on both sides by the National Park.
- Any part of any street or public place that has for the time being been so declared by any resolution of Council.

Exempt Prohibited Public Places

No owner of any dog shall permit their dog to be in any prohibited public place, except where:

- (a) any disability assist dog, or any dog kept by the Police or any Constable, the Customs Department, the Ministry of Defence, or any Officer or Employee of any such Department of State solely for the purposes of carrying out the functions, powers, and duties in that capacity.
- (b) Any dog contained or securely confined within or tethered on any vehicle so as not to constitute a nuisance or endanger any person, with the exception of Areas gazetted as **CONTROLLED DOG AREAS** under the Conservation Act 1987, except with a Department of Conservation permit.

Leash Controlled Public Places

Dogs must be **CONTROLLED ON A LEASH** in the following areas:

- Any part of any footpath or berms adjacent to a footpath within the district.

- The entrance to King Edward Park from the Colonel Malones gates and includes the Scout Den, Netball Courts, tennis courts and surrounding area as indicated on the attached Dog Control Area map.
- Along the Carrington Walkway (Western Loop) of King Edward Park as indicated on the attached Dog Control Area map.

Dog Exercise Areas

Dogs may be exercised **UNLEASHED BUT UNDER CONTINUOUS CONTROL** in all areas of the Stratford District except those specified above. Every such area shall be a **DOG EXERCISE AREA** as indicated on the attached Dog Control Area map

Dogs may be exercised without a Department of Conservation permit and subject to certain conditions in the following **OPEN DOG AREAS**:

- Areas gazetted as open dog areas under the Conservation Act 1987. Every such area shall be a **DOG EXERCISE AREA**.

CLASSIFICATION OF PROBATIONARY OWNERS

A person shall, unless they are required to be classified as a disqualified owner, be classified as a probationary owner for a period up to 24 months in accordance with section 21 of the Dog Control Act 1996.

CLASSIFICATION OF DISQUALIFIED OWNERS

A person shall be classified as being disqualified from owning a dog for a period up to five years in accordance with section 25 of the Dog Control Act 1996.

CLASSIFICATION OF DOG OWNERS

"General Dog Owner" - Any persons who have during the previous two years have either:

- lives in a urban zoned dog area
- a dog impounded on more than one occasion; or
- received a written warning concerning complaints; or
- received an infringement notice; or
- been convicted for a dog offence; or

"Good Dog Owner" - Any persons who during the previous two years have:

- lives in a urban zoned dog area
- not had a dog impounded on more than one occasion; and
- not had a written warning concerning complaints; and
- not had an infringement notice; and
- not been convicted for a dog offence; and
- paid registration fees before penalties are applicable on at least one of those registration years.

"Select Dog Owner" - Any person who:

- lives in a urban zoned dog area

- meets the good owner policy, requirements; and
- has a fenced area of their property; and
- meets all the dog bylaw requirements; and
- has all their dogs neutered; or the unneutered dog/s is registered with New Zealand Dogs as a pedigree.
- has made an application to be a Select Owner by 30 April (before registration due).

"Rural Dog Owner" - Any person who:

- lives in a rural zone; and
- meets the good dog owner policy requirements.

INFRINGEMENT NOTICES

Stratford District Council Animal Control Officers shall issue infringement notices in respect of infringement offences as detailed in the First Schedule of the Dog Control Act 1996.

Waiver of Infringement Notices

Where the offence giving rise to the issue of an infringement notice has been mitigated within 56 days of the date of issue, then the fine may be waived on receipt of written documentation of the mitigating circumstances. Such circumstances include:

- Registration of the dog.
- Re-housing of the dog.
- Destruction of the dog.
- Other exceptional circumstances.

Dog Control Fees

Refer to the Stratford District Council's current fees and charges relating to dog registration fees. For registration fees appointed to urban dog owners, please refer to the attached Dog Control Area map which outlines the urban area.