

2025/26

Take *the* lead

Manaakitia tō kuri



As a dog friendly district, we love the contribution dogs, and their owners make to our communities. This brochure is designed to provide you with essential information on responsible dog ownership in the Whakatāne District.

Inside, you'll find rules for dog ownership, links to places where you can enjoy on- and off-leash exercise with your furry companion, and tips for ensuring that both you and your dog have enjoyable experiences both outdoors and at home.



Your dog registration fees

Dog registration fees are set and approved by Council. Dog registration fees, fines and impound fees are used to fund dog control activities.

Owners who register their dog(s) on or before 1 August 2025 will be charged a discounted fee. Registrations paid after 1 August 2025 will be charged at the full fee.

**Save time
Do it online**

[whakatane.govt.nz
/dog-registration](https://whakatane.govt.nz/dog-registration)

Your obligations and responsibilities



Dogs must be registered by three months old

New dogs must be registered immediately



Renew registration annually

Keeping an unregistered dog is an offence and carries a \$300 fine



Unregistered dogs can be seized



All dog's must wear a current registration tag



Using another dog's registration tag is illegal

Provide owners date of birth during registration to differentiate from others with the same name

Dog (per dog)	Fees if paid	
	before or on 1 August 2025	after 1 August 2025
Neutered dog (<i>de-sexed</i>)	\$67	\$97
Entire dogs	\$97	\$144
Working dog:		
a) Purpose of herding or driving stock	\$67	\$97
b) Other as defined in Section 2 of the Dog Control Act, including disability assist dogs	Free	Free
Dogs owned by an incorporated hunt club	\$67	\$97
Dangerous dog fee (<i>neutered</i>)	\$93	\$142
Dangerous dog fee (<i>entire</i>)	\$138	\$211
Dogs less than 12 months of age (<i>dogs less than three months of age do not need to be registered</i>).	Pro-rata the annual applicable rate (<i>July to June</i>)	
Replacement registration tag	\$3	\$3

Note for working dogs: For a dog to qualify as a 'working dog' the owner will need to visit whakatane.govt.nz/dog-registration and fill out the 'Application for working dog status' form. If approved the 'working dog' status of the dog(s) will be changed and will apply for the next financial year.

Other fees

Impounding	Fee (s)
First impounding	\$69
Second impounding	\$103
Third impounding and subsequent impoundments	\$138
Daily sustenance fee	\$9 per day
Re-homing fee	\$29

Additional fee of actual costs incurred for any dog impounded between 5pm and 8am and on weekends and public holidays.

Other	Fee (s)
Euthanasia of dog	\$94
Microchipping fee (at owner's request)	\$18

Exercising your dog



Your dog's needs for exercise is essential to their well-being, so throughout the district, there are designated areas provided where dogs can exercise freely and socialise with others. The dog owner or person in charge must be able to effectively control the dog while it is off-leash in these areas to prevent any disturbances to others. When walking your dog in a public place (outside designated exercise areas), it must be on a leash. The person handling the dog must also be able to control it while it is leashed.

We encourage dog owners to be responsible, assess their surroundings, and take steps to prevent their dogs from causing any disruptions, so everyone can enjoy what our district has to offer.



Microchipping

All dogs (excluding those kept solely or mainly for herding or driving stock) require microchipping. An owner who fails to implant a microchip into their dog (unless exempt) is liable for a fine.

Animal complaints

Council addresses concerns such as aggressive behaviour, roaming, wandering, trespassing of stock, and barking disturbances.

Our primary approach is to seek resolution through voluntary cooperation, rather than through enforcement measures. However, in situations where necessary, enforcement actions may be required.

For any inquiries or complaints regarding animal control, please reach out to Animal Control at 07 306 0500.

Dog restricted area by location

There are several areas where dogs are restricted or prohibited from entering across the district (except when within a vehicle).

Places like Kohi Point, Mokorua Gorge, and bird walk areas are all 'Kiwi Zoned' spots where dogs aren't allowed. Also, all children's playgrounds are off-limits for dogs. If owners take their dogs into prohibited areas, they will be issued with an instant \$300 fine.

For details and maps on suitable exercise locations, prohibited zones, and leash requirements visit whakatane.govt.nz/dogs.

Dog policies and regulations

The Dog Control Amendment Act 2003 requires Council to have a policy on dog control practices in the district. The Dog Control Bylaw provides the legal powers required to implement the Dog Control Policy and determine what is an offence.

To read the Dog Control Policy or Dog Control Bylaw visit whakatane.govt.nz/dog-policies or if you require a hard copy, contact Council on 07 306 0500.

Dog Control Act 1996 covers:

- Dog registration
- Probationary dog owners
- Disqualification of dog owners
- Prohibiting the importing of certain dog breeds
- Dangerous dogs
- Menacing dogs
- Microchipping
- Obligations of dog owners to provide food, water, shelter and adequate exercise for their dogs
- Control of dogs on private property
- Barking dogs
- Dogs causing serious injury
- Dogs worrying stock or domestic animals
- Dogs attacking protected wildlife

- Seizure of dogs and impounding of uncontrolled dogs
- Euthanasia of dogs, infringement offences and levels of fines
- Custody of impounded dogs

Obligations of dog owners

Section 54, Dog Control Act 1996

The owner of a dog must ensure that the dog receives proper care and attention and is supplied with proper and sufficient food, water and shelter; and ensure that the dog receives adequate exercise. Penalty – up to \$5,000 and imprisonment of up to three months.

Control of dog owner's property

Section 52A, Dog Control Act 1996

The owner of a dog must ensure that, when the dog is on a property occupied by the owner, the dog is under the direct control of a person; or the dog is confined within the property in such a way that it cannot freely leave the property. Penalty – up to \$3,000. In addition, an Animal Services Officer may seize and impound the dog.

Control of dogs

Sections 52, 53, 54A, Dog Control Act 1996

The owner of a dog must always keep the dog under control. When walking your dog in a public place (outside designated exercise areas), it must be on a leash or safely confined in a vehicle or crate. The person handling the dog must also be able to control it while it is leashed. A dog is treated as not being under control – if it is found at large on someone else's property without their consent; or if it is found at large in a public place or any private way. Penalty – up to \$3,000.

Dog Control Bylaw 2018 covers:

- Specific dog prohibited areas
- Dog leash control areas
- Specified dog exercise areas
- Standards for the accommodation of dogs
- The number of dogs which can be kept on private property
- Dog fouling offences
- Other aspects of dog control considered desirable, but not covered by the Dog Control Act
- Neutering of uncontrolled dogs
- The keeping and control of dogs in season

Dog Control Policy 2022 covers:

- Criteria for evaluating dog prohibited areas
- General dog leashing principles
- Dog exercise principles
- Dog education principles
- Fee structures
- Dog hygiene initiatives
- Enforcement principles



WHAKATĀNE
District Council
Kia Whakatāne au i ahau

07 306 0500
info@whakatane.govt.nz
whakatane.govt.nz/dogs

Animal
Control

Whakatāne Office
Civic Centre, Commerce Street

Murupara Office
Service Centre, Pine Drive,
Murupara

