

# POLICY ON DOGS 2004

Prepared in Accordance with the Dog Control Act 1996

## INTRODUCTION – Why Have a Policy on Dogs?

Dogs benefit the lives of their owners and the general public if they are properly cared for and controlled. This Policy on Dogs aims to encourage responsible dog ownership and community awareness to promote places to live, work and play where dogs and people can happily co-exist.

This Policy on Dogs identifies how “we” as dog owners, the general public, and Council want to live with dogs (Our Objectives), what needs to be done to achieve our objectives (Our Policies), and what the Council can do to help dog owners and the general public achieve those policies (Methods).

**Need to know more? Read ‘Dog Management in Manukau City’ by visiting our Citizen and Customer Centre, Ground Floor, Kotuku House, Manukau Square or visit our website on [www.manukau.govt.nz](http://www.manukau.govt.nz).**

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## OUR OBJECTIVES - How We as a Community Want to Live With Dogs

1. We want dog owners to be able to provide for the exercise and recreational needs of their dogs and themselves.
  2. We want to minimise any danger, distress, and nuisance from dogs to the community generally.
  3. We want to avoid the inherent danger to children from uncontrolled dogs in public places.
  4. We want to be able to use streets and public places without fear of attack or intimidation by dogs.
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## OUR POLICIES - What We as a Community Need to Do to Achieve Our Objectives

### Policy 1 - Identify the Owner of Every Dog

All dog owners must register, and where required from 1 July 2006 microchip their dogs, to formally identify the person responsible for the care and control of every dog.

#### To help achieve this Council will:

- 1.1 Keep a register of dogs, provide information to the National Dog Control Information Database, set registration fees, and provide dog owners with relevant information.
  - 1.2 Inform and educate dog owners to encourage registration and microchipping.
  - 1.3 Send annual registration notices to all known dog owners.
  - 1.4 Offer incentives to owners to register and microchip their dog. For example, lower registration fees for responsible dog owners.
  - 1.5 Take enforcement action against owners of unregistered dogs.
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### Policy 2 - Provide for Dog Access to Public Places

Dog owners must be provided with a reasonable level of access to public places without compromising public safety and comfort.

#### To help achieve this Council will:

- 2.1 When preparing plans or making bylaws controlling the access of dogs to public places:
  - a. Recognise dog owners as a user of public places.
  - b. Aim for integration not separation of dogs and their owners with other users of public places.
  - c. Consider dog access to public places on a city wide basis.
  - d. Aim to provide a range of opportunities for owners to exercise their dogs depending on their needs (eg. provision of off-leash areas or where appropriate bins for dog faeces).
  - e. Ensure controls on dog access are clear to everyone.
- 2.2 Make bylaws that:
  - a. Identify public places where owners can use their good judgement to take their dog under control either on a leash or off a leash; public places where owners are required to keep their

- dog under control on a leash; and public places where dogs are prohibited. Refer to section named "Dog Access Areas" for details.
- b. Define the term "control" to mean that the dog is not causing a nuisance to any person, distress, danger, injury to any person, domestic animal, stock or poultry, or protected wildlife, or causing any property damage and the person in charge of a dog is able to obtain an immediate and desired response from the dog by use of a leash, voice commands, hand signals, whistles or other effective means.
  - c. Require dogs classified by Council as a dangerous dog to be controlled by their owners on a leash at all times in any private way (including shared driveway) or public place.
  - d. Require dog owners to carry receptacles to remove dog faeces, and to immediately remove any faeces left by their dog, in any place other than their own property.
  - e. Recognise that working dogs while working and dogs contained in a vehicle or cage, should not be prohibited from public places or required to be controlled on a leash.
  - f. Allow an event organiser to determine the appropriate level of dog access for that event at their discretion or in accordance with any conditions of the Council or the Auckland Regional Council.
- 2.3 Identify areas where dogs are prohibited by the Department of Conservation. Refer to section named "Dog Access Areas" for details.
- 2.4 Take enforcement action against owners who breach the Act or bylaws by failing to contain or control their dogs.
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### **Policy 3 - Encourage Responsible Dog Ownership**

Dog owners must be encouraged to meet their obligations under the Dog Control Act and Council's Bylaws to ensure the health, well-being and safety of dogs and the general public.

#### **To help achieve this Council will:**

- 3.1 Reward responsible dog owners.
  - 3.2 Inform and educate dog owners.
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### **Policy 4 - Enforce Dog Owner Obligations**

Powers of enforcement under the Dog Control Act 1996 should be used to the fullest extent necessary to ensure public safety and comfort and to penalise and deter irresponsible dog ownership.

#### **To help achieve this Council will:**

- 4.1 Establish a response service to receive, investigate and resolve dog complaints from members of the public.
  - 4.2 Remove dogs threatening public safety and comfort.
  - 4.3 Issue infringement notices, prosecute owners, and use menacing or dangerous dog classifications, and probationary and disqualified dog owner classifications.
  - 4.4 Make bylaws that:
    - a. Require a licence to be obtained where more than two dogs are kept on any land or premises (whether or not the dogs have the same owner) other than in the following zones of the Manukau City Operative District Plan 2002: Rural 1, 2, 3 and 4, Future Development Stage 1 and Stage 2, Flat Bush Countryside Transition, Mangere Puhinui Heritage and Mangere Puhinui Rural.
    - b. Require the containment of bitches in season and the containment of dogs infected with a contagious disease other than when being transported to a veterinary clinic, or another property in regard to bitches in season with the consent of the occupier.
    - c. Require the neutering of dogs where they have not been kept under control on more than one occasion.
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### **Policy 5 - Educate the Community About Dogs**

The community must be aware of how to live with dogs to minimise danger, distress and nuisance.

#### **To help achieve this Council will:**

- 5.1 Inform and educate dog owners and the general public about dogs.
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## Policy 6 – A Consistent Approach to the Management of Dogs in the Auckland Region

The City and District Councils of the Auckland Region, the Auckland Regional Council and the Department of Conservation must work proactively towards closer alignment of policy, bylaws, services and practices in respect of dogs to provide greater certainty for the citizens of the Auckland region.

### To help achieve this Council will:

6.1 Participate in regional groups to discuss dog related policies, bylaws, services and practices.

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## Policy 7 - Provide Adequate Funding for Dog Management Services

Adequate funding must be provided to maintain an acceptable level of dog management services. When considering dog related fees, the Council must take into account the user pays principle, penalty based fees, legislative requirements, Council's Funding Policy, recognition of responsible dog ownership, and community responsibilities.

### To help achieve this Council will:

7.1 Set reasonable fees for the registration and control of dogs.

7.2 Set lower registration fees for responsible dog owners.

7.3 Set a higher registration fee for the late registration of dogs.

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## Policy 8 - Gather Information to Assess the Effectiveness and Fairness of Our Policy on Dogs

Information must be gathered to assess the effectiveness and fairness of the Policy on Dogs.

### To help achieve this Council will:

8.1 Report annually on the Council's administration of the Policy on Dogs and its dog control practices.

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## DOG ACCESS AREAS

### General

1. Except as provided for in clauses 2 and 3 below, a dog owner must control their dog on a leash in any public place.

### Reserve, Beach and Foreshore Areas

2. A dog owner (excluding the owner of a dog classified by Council as a dangerous dog) may control their dog either on a leash or off a leash on any reserve (park), beach or foreshore subject to the restrictions in clause 3.

### Restrictions

3. The following restrictions apply to dogs in public places.

### Beaches and Adjoining Reserves

(a) Dogs are prohibited from the following beaches and adjoining reserves from 9.00am to 7.00pm during daylight saving:

Clevedon Ward	Howick Ward	Mangere Ward	Manurewa Ward	Pakuranga Ward
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Kawakawa Bay Beach</li><li>• Maraetai Beach</li><li>• Magazine Bay</li><li>• Omana Beach</li><li>• Orere Beach</li><li>• Sunkist Bay Beach</li><li>• Waiomanu Beach</li><li>• Waiti beach</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cockle Bay Beach</li><li>• Howick Beach from westernmost boat ramp to Rangitoto View Road</li><li>• Mellons Bay Beach southeast of water pipe</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Shelly Bay Beach and Kiwi Esplanade from Mangere Boat Club to Short Avenue unless for the purpose of moving through the reserve and boat club and their dog is controlled</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Shallow Water Beach from Roys Road to Gibbons Road, including Keith Park</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bucklands Beach south of boat ramp opposite Devon Road</li><li>• Eastern Beach south of northernmost water pipe including picnic area adjoining McLeans Reserve</li></ul>

		on a leash		• Little Bucklands Beach
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#### *Boating Activity Areas*

- (b) Dogs must be controlled on a leash on any jetty, boat ramp, or boat marshalling area.

#### *Playgrounds*

- (c) Dogs are prohibited from any playground or children's play equipment.

#### *Popular Walkways*

- (d) Dogs must be controlled on a leash in the following areas:
- (i) Kiwi Esplanade Reserve.
  - (ii) Rotary Walkway to Galloway Crescent accessway.

#### *Premises*

- (e) Unless expressly allowed by the occupier or person having control of the premises and subject to compliance with any reasonable conditions imposed, dogs are prohibited from:
- (i) Any camping ground, cemetery, crematorium or public building, including any library, swimming pool, recreation centre, and visitor centre, under the control or management of the Council or the Auckland Regional Council.
  - (ii) Any other public place not under the control or management of the Council or Auckland Regional Council. Examples may include a café or school.

#### *Private Way, Roads, Car Parks*

- (f) Dogs must be controlled on a leash on any private way (including shared driveway), or any road or car park (including footpath and berm).

#### *Reserves Containing Extensive Bushwalks*

- (g) Dogs must be controlled on a leash on any bush walk in the following reserves:

<b>Clevedon Ward</b>	<b>Howick Ward</b>	<b>Manurewa Ward</b>
▪ Clevedon Stewardship Area	▪ Mangemangeroa Reserve	▪ David Nathan Park
▪ Dr Platt-Mills Reserve		▪ Hill Road Reserve
▪ Murphy's Bush		▪ Orford Park
▪ Point View Reserve		▪ Totara Park

#### *Sports Parks and Sports Grounds*

- (h) Dogs are prohibited from sports surfaces, including on marked fields, on marked courts, and on any artificial turf. Dogs may be controlled either on a leash or off a leash in all other areas.

#### *Other*

- (i) Mangemangeroa Reserve foreshore - dogs are prohibited.
- (j) Musick Point Esplanade Reserve - dogs must be controlled on-leash to be consistent with on-leash requirement by Land Information New Zealand.
- (k) Totara Park - dogs must be controlled on a leash in picnic and playground areas (note: other restrictions in clause 3 may apply).
- (l) Wattle Farm Reserve - Dogs are prohibited from wildlife protection area.

#### *Auckland Regional Council Managed Areas*

- (m) Ambury Farm and adjacent foreshore - dogs are prohibited except on loop road connecting Kiwi Esplanade to Ambury Road where dogs must be controlled on a leash.
- (n) Botanic Gardens - dogs may be controlled either on a leash or off a leash in the area north of rose garden, are prohibited in restaurant area and on cultivated garden areas, and must be controlled on a leash in all other areas (note: other restrictions in clause 3 may apply).
- (o) Duder Regional Park - dogs are prohibited.
- (p) Omana Regional Park - dogs may be controlled either on a leash or off a leash on perimeter track, are prohibited from farm track and paddocks, and must be controlled on a leash in all other areas (note: other restrictions in clause 3 may apply).
- (q) Tapapakanga Regional Park - dogs are prohibited between 1 July and 30 November, and must be controlled on-leash at all other times (note: other restrictions in clause 3 may apply).

*Department of Conservation (DOC) Managed Areas and Adjoining Esplanade Reserves*

- (r) Dogs are prohibited from the following DOC managed areas and must be controlled on a leash on identified esplanade reserves adjacent to prohibited foreshore areas:
  - (i) Papepape Marginal Strip, Foreshore and adjacent esplanade reserves.
  - (ii) Puhinui Wildlife Refuge and adjacent esplanade reserves on Puhinui Reserve and Weymouth Walkway from Palmers Rd to Kopara Pl.
  - (iii) Turanga Creek Stewardship Area, Clifton Bay Marginal Strip and Foreshore.
  - (iv) Waikopua Creek Stewardship Area and Foreshore and adjacent esplanade reserves.
  - (v) Wairoa River Estuary and Bay Foreshore and adjacent esplanade reserves.
  - (vi) Waka Aranga Creek Foreshore Area and adjacent esplanade reserves.