

# Dog Control Policy

South Taranaki District Council



**South Taranaki**  
Alive with opportunity

## **Executive Summary**

The South Taranaki District Council Dog Control Policy is prepared in accordance with the provisions of section 10 of the Dog Control Act 1996 (the Act). This document sets out Council's adopted policy with regard to dog ownership, management and the Council's regulation of that activity in South Taranaki.

## **Council's Role and Responsibility**

The Council must have regard to:

- The positive aspects of dog ownership and the contribution made to the community and economy of South Taranaki; while mitigating the potentially negative aspects of negligent dog ownership and management.
- The need to minimise danger, distress, and nuisance to the community generally.
- The need to avoid 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.
- 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.
- The exercise and recreational needs of dogs and their owners.

## **Purpose of the Policy**

To record the Council's adopted policy with regard to dog ownership, management and the Council's regulation of that activity in South Taranaki. The implementation of this Policy is intended to provide for the improved care, management and control of dogs throughout the District, whilst meeting the needs and safety of the wider community.

## **Objectives**

This Policy is intended to provide for the positive aspects of dog ownership and management, recognising the contribution made to the community and economy of South Taranaki; while at the same time mitigating the potentially negative aspects of negligent dog ownership. It also recognises that actions such as regulation of dog ownership, behaviour and owner education, with improved awareness of dog owners will improve dog management and mitigate the potentially adverse aspects of dog ownership in South Taranaki.

## **Requirements of the Act**

The Council is required under the Act to:

- a) Identify any public places in which dogs are prohibited;
- b) Identify any particular public place and area's or parts of the district where dogs, in public places, are to be controlled on a leash;
- c) Identify dog exercise areas; and
- d) Develop a dog control policy which may include:
  - i) Fees or proposed fees
  - ii) Owner education programmes
  - iii) The classification of owners
  - iv) The disqualification of owners
  - v) The issuing of infringement notices.

## **Policy**

### **1.0 Nature of Bylaws**

- 1.1 This policy is to be read in conjunction with the South Taranaki District Council Dog Control Bylaw 2014.
- 1.2 This Policy supplements the clauses contained within the Bylaw and provides the general public with specific information on the clauses contained below.

### **2.0 Prohibited public places**

- 2.1 The following is a list of all areas within South Taranaki where dogs are not allowed (prohibited):
- a) The playing surfaces of all sports grounds;
  - b) Children's playgrounds;
  - c) Council owned swimming pools;
  - d) Hawera Central Business District (see bylaw for map);
  - e) Goodson Dell;
  - f) James Campbell Park (Park Bowling Club);
  - g) Opunake Beach Front Reserve and Camping Ground;
  - h) Opunake Central Business District (Tasman Street, from Layard Street to Allison Street);
  - i) Sandy Bay Beach, Tai Road, Opunake (see bylaw for map);
  - j) Manaia Band Rotunda;
  - k) Kaupokonui Domain and Camping Grounds;
  - l) Rotokare Reserve;
  - m) Connell Reserve;
  - n) Eltham Central Business District (see bylaw for map);
  - o) Patea Queen Mary Park play area;
  - p) Cave Beach;
  - q) Wairoa Domain; and
  - r) Waverley Beach Camping Ground.
- 2.2 Allowing a dog to be in a prohibited public place will result in the owner being issued with an infringement for breach of bylaw and the dog may be seized and impounded.

### **3.0 Controlled "on leash" zones**

- 3.1 All Urban Areas within the South Taranaki district are controlled on leash zones (excluding areas within the urban zone which are designated as prohibited (no dogs allowed) or exercise areas – where specified rules apply).

### **4.0 Exercise areas (unleashed areas)**

- 4.1 Generally, all Rural Areas within the South Taranaki district are unleashed areas, and the owner must have continuous control over the dog and carry a leash.



4.1.1 The only exception to clause 4.1 is for areas which are specifically designated within the South Taranaki District Council Dog Control Bylaw as being a dog prohibited or dog controlled on-leash area.

4.2 Exercise areas within the Urban zone are specifically designated to provide dog owners with the opportunity to exercise their dog(s) without being restrained on a leash unless the need for that level of control arises.

4.3 All beaches (excluding any beach prohibited under the South Taranaki District Council Dog Control Bylaw 2014) are unleashed areas; however the owner must carry a leash.

## 5.0 Conservation areas

5.1 Dogs are prohibited within the Lake Rotokare Scenic Reserve.

**Note:** Dogs are prohibited within the Egmont National Park as required by the Department of Conservation.

**Note:** No dogs are permitted to enter onto any conservation land within the District, unless the owner has obtained the appropriate permit from the Department of Conservation.

## 6.0 Fees and the distribution of dog control costs

6.1 Council may from time to time, by resolution publicly notified, set fees relating to the Dog Control Policy. Fees can be found in the current *Fees and Charges Schedule*.

6.2 It is a requirement under the Act that all dogs be registered. Infringement fines may be issued to owners who fail to register their dog(s) in the required timeframe, and the dog(s) may be seized and impounded if it remains unregistered after the penalty date for registration has passed each year if that dog is listed on council's registration records. All other dogs may be seized and impounded immediately without warning to the dog owner.

6.3 Late payment of dog registration fees incurs a *late payment penalty* of 50% of the outstanding total of the registration fee, which is imposed on 1<sup>st</sup> August, unless otherwise notified by the Council.

**Note:** Council recognises that not all dog owners require the same level of dog control service. Council recognises responsible ownership through lower fees.

6.4 Factors which may affect the registration fee are:

- a) Spaying/neutering status; and
- b) Location of the dog - Rural or urban location (reflecting the level of Animal Management services required); and
- c) Compliance with Selected Owner Policy (SOP) requirements.

6.5 Factors affecting the impounding fees are:

- a) The costs involved in the feeding of dogs, and pound maintenance and cleaning.



- b) Costs involved in tracing and notifying owners.
- c) The number of times the dog has been impounded (graduated deterrent penalty).

## 7.0 Information and Education

- 7.1 Information is available from the Council, from all administration centres and LibraryPlus centres or via the Council website for the following:
- a) Basic understanding of a dog's needs;
  - b) Obligations of a dog owner;
  - c) Desexing, vaccinations, worming, and microchipping;
  - d) Behavioural issues;
  - e) Information on exercise areas, leashed, unleashed and prohibited areas; and
  - f) Where to obtain further assistance if required.
- 7.2 Information can be provided to dog owners where this is considered necessary.
- a) Educational programmes on dog behaviour to interest groups
  - b) Problem dog behaviour prevention advice.

## 8.0 Number of Dogs permitted

- 8.1 The South Taranaki Dog Control Bylaw restricts the number of dogs allowed at each premises (other than that zoned rural) to two dogs over the age of three months. If a person wishes to keep more than two dogs they must apply for a *Three Plus Permit* to do so. All applications must be on the form provided to ensure that all information is provided at the time of application.

### 8.2 Three Plus Permit

- 8.2.1 Council will take into consideration the criteria stated below for any *Three Plus Permit* (TPP) application:
- a) No justified complaints received against the owner or dog;
  - b) Suitable kennelling and fencing;
  - c) No substantiated objections from neighbours most likely to be affected;
  - d) Condition of the dogs;
  - e) Good knowledge of the dog's health and welfare;
  - f) Property which is a suitable size for the type of dogs; and

**Exceptions:** The Council reserves the right to grant or decline a *Three Plus Permit* despite the matters listed above if there is good reason to do so. This could include, but not be limited to, unreasonable neighbour objections due to an existing dispute, proven record of previous good dog ownership outside of South Taranaki, reasons relating to the age of the dog(s), or breed, or other mitigation measures which will reduce the potential for adverse effects to be experienced by neighbours.

- 8.2.2 The Council will survey any affected and adjoining neighbours to obtain their approval in writing, before any permit to keep more than two dogs is issued and the response from these neighbours will be

taken into account when making a decision. Neighbours will be considered to be potentially affected if their properties that they occupy fall within a 20 metre distance of the perimeter fence of the yard that will ordinarily contain the dog.

- 8.2.3 Council may use its discretion and approve the permit if approval is unreasonably withheld from affected neighbours.
- 8.2.4 Any permit issued by the Council may be subject to such terms, conditions or restrictions as the Council may consider necessary.
- 8.2.5 Council reserves the right to impose a *non-refundable application fee* for any *Three Plus Permit* applications.
- 8.2.6 Any permit issued will expire if the applicant changes address. A new permit application will be required.
- 8.2.7 Other than clause 8.2.6, a permit shall remain in force from the time it is granted unless revoked, if revoked there will be no refund of fees paid or owed for the permit.
- 8.2.8 The Council may at any time whilst a permit is in force revoke or refuse to renew that permit if it is satisfied that:
- a) The dog or dogs on the land specified in the permit have caused injury or a nuisance to any person; or
  - b) The keeping of such dog or dogs has caused a detrimental effect upon the surrounding neighbourhood; or
  - c) There has been a failure to comply with all or any of the terms, conditions and restrictions of the permit, or any subsequent notice issued by the Council.
- 8.2.9 Any application by the occupier of any land in respect of which an application was declined or licence revoked by Council under Clause 8.2.8 will not be reconsidered by the Council before the expiration of two years after the date of that refusal or revocation.

## 9.0 Selected Owner Policy (SOP)

- 9.1 The Council recognises that the majority of the District's dog owners are responsible; however, owners of dogs causing ongoing problems frequently have a poor understanding of their obligations, and poor understanding of dog behaviour. To provide an incentive for responsible dog ownership, the Council will recognise good dog ownership through a reduced fee under the Selected Owner Policy (SOP). The requirements to qualify for SOP are outlined in *Appendix One* of this Policy.
- 9.2 The Council reserves the right to impose a *non-refundable application fee* for SOP applications.
- 9.3 The Council reserves the right to impose a *non-refundable re-inspection fee* for SOP owners who have moved addresses.



- 9.4 The Council reserves the right to decline an application or revoke the SOP status of a dog owner due to failure to:
- a) provide information; or
  - b) pay application fee; or
  - c) comply with SOP conditions; or
  - d) other demonstrated dog management failures.

## **10.0 Dog obedience courses**

- 10.1 The Council encourages dog owners to attend dog obedience courses (of a standard approved by Council or an Authorised Officer) to assist in the training and socialising of their dog.
- 10.2 Dog obedience course attendance can be taken into consideration for any SOP applications.

## **11.0 Dog Pound, Impounding and Release of Dogs**

- 11.1 All dogs impounded by the Council will be held in a secure dog pound and will be cared for with shelter, exercise and sustenance appropriate for that dog and its health, temperament and needs. That care could involve foster care outside of a dog pound and residing at the premises of a Veterinarian for the purposes of treatment.
- 11.2 All dogs released from the Dog Pound must be currently registered before release and have a microchip implanted. Other conditions may be imposed, such as neutering of menacing dog breeds and dogs classified as menacing, or other dogs that are likely to breed and contribute to the number of unwanted dogs.
- 11.3 The Council will maintain a relationship with local Veterinarians and the SPCA to assist in the effective operation of the Dog Pound.
- 11.4 The Council will issue written notice to known owners of impounded dogs, issued to the postal address last provided by that owner.
- 11.5 If after seven days of impound or notice being issued to an owner, a dog remains unclaimed in the Pound, or an owner has not made effective arrangements for the payment of fees and release of that dog, then the dog will become the property of the council and may be disposed of as the council considers appropriate.

## **12.0 Microchipping**

- 12.1 This section applies to a dog that is:
- a) Registered for the first time on or after 1 July 2006;
  - b) Classified as dangerous; or
  - c) Classified as menacing.
- 12.2 This section does not apply to a working dog (defined under the Act), registered under section 46(1) of the Act and wearing a collar, label or disc issued under section 34(4)(b) of the Act.

- 12.3 The owner of the dog must, for the purposes of providing permanent identification of the dog, arrange for the dog to be implanted with a functioning microchip transponder (in the prescribed type and in the prescribed manner).
- 12.4 The owner must provide to the Council a certificate issued by a veterinarian certifying:
- a) That the dog is or has been implanted with a functioning microchip transponder of the prescribed type and in the prescribed manner.
  - b) That, for the reasons specified on the certificate, the dog will not be in a fit condition to be implanted with a functioning microchip transponder before a date specified on the certificate.

### **13.0 Rehoming of Dogs**

- 13.1 Any person wishing to adopt a dog from the South Taranaki District Council pound must:
- a) Must pay adoption costs including dog registration;
  - b) Have an adequately fenced area; and
  - c) Be a good dog owner with no history of substantiated recent complaints (if the person has previously owned a dog).
- 13.2 The Council will make investigations into an owner's history if they are residing outside of the District.
- 13.3 The Council does not take any responsibility for sickness or defect of any dogs rehomed.
- 13.4 The Council does not rehome dogs which have a menacing or dangerous classification or that will require a level of dog control, management or confinement that a potential owner is unlikely to be able to provide.

### **14.0 Disability Assist Dogs**

- 14.1 Dogs who meet the definition of a Disability Assist Dog are provided free registration in the South Taranaki District.

### **15.0 Working Dogs**

- 15.1 Any person who wishes to declare their dog a working dog (as defined under the Act), must complete the declaration form and provide evidence that the dog is kept solely or principally for use as a working dog.
- 15.2 Any person declaring their dog a working dog in terms of *herding or driving stock*, may be required to allow an Authorised Officer to observe the dog in the process of herding or driving stock.
- 15.3 Council reserves the right to decline in writing, any declarations of classification of a dog as a working dog, if the dog does not meet the criteria under the Act and this Policy.





- 15.4 Any dog classified as a working dog will be issued with a *microchip exemption tag for working dogs*.

## **16.0 Behavioural Issues**

### **16.1 Barking Dogs**

16.1.1 Where a dog is considered to be causing a nuisance through persistent and loud barking or howling, an Authorised Officer may issue the owner of the dog with a notice requiring the owner to take reasonable steps so as to abate the nuisance.

16.1.1.1 An Authorised Officer may remove and impound the dog from the land or premises immediately if considered necessary. Every effort will be made to first issue a written abatement notice to the dog owner before that action is taken.

16.1.2 The owner of the dog has seven (7) days to object in writing against the requirements of the abatement notice.

16.1.3 If after seven days the notice has not been complied with, no written objection has been lodged and further complaints have been received, an Authorised Officer may remove the dog from the land or premises.

16.1.4 If an appeal to a barking abatement notice is received, the Council shall consider the objection through a hearing. The Council may confirm, modify or cancel the notice.

16.1.5 The Council shall provide notification in writing within ten (10) working days of a decision. The notification may include reasons for the decision and if the decision is to modify the notice, it shall include the modified requirements.

### **16.2 Roaming Dogs**

16.2.1 If a dog is found roaming or without direct control of an owner or when not confined by its owner an Authorised Officer may remove and impound the dog from any land or premises.

## **17.0 Restriction of dogs**

17.1 Any person who owns a dog/dogs that belong wholly or predominantly to one or more breeds or types listed in Schedule 4 of the *Dog Control Act 1996*, will not be considered for a *Three Plus Permit* or be granted and SOP registration discount.

17.2 The Council shall not rehome impounded dogs (to new owners) if that dog belongs wholly or predominantly to one or more of the breeds or types listed in Schedule 4 of the *Dog Control Act 1996* or has been deemed menacing by behaviour.



## **18.0 Control of Menacing Dogs classified by the Council – (Menacing dogs require neutering sect 33A or 33C under section 33E (1) (b))**

- 18.1 Dogs which have been classified as menacing by the Council are required to be neutered.
- 18.2 If the dog has not been neutered, the Council requires the owner to produce a certificate issued by a veterinarian, certifying reasons as to why the dog is in an unfit condition to be neutered before the date specified in the certificate.

## **19.0 Control of Menacing Dogs classified by another Territorial Authority – (Menacing dogs require neutering section 33A or 33C under section 33EB (2))**

- 19.1 Dogs which have been classified as menacing by another territorial authority and are living or residing in South Taranaki are required to be neutered.
- 19.2 If the dog is already neutered, the Council requires the owner to produce the neutering certificate, as issued by a veterinarian certifying that the dog has been neutered.
- 19.3 If the dog has not been neutered, the Council requires the owner to produce a certificate issued by a veterinarian, certifying reasons as to why the dog is in an unfit condition to be neutered before the date specified in the certificate.

## **20.0 Classification of dogs**

### **20.1 Menacing Dogs**

- 20.1.1 The Council will consider the classification of a dog as menacing if the dog poses a threat to any person, stock, poultry, domestic animal or protected wildlife because of:
- any observed or reported behaviour of the dog; or
  - any characteristics typically associated with the dog's breed or type.
- 20.1.2 Dogs classified as menacing:
- Are required to be muzzled and on a lead when in a public place;
  - Must be spayed/neutered; and
  - Are required to be microchipped within one month of being classified.
- 20.1.3 In the event that an owner fails to meet these requirements when requested to do so in writing by the Council, the Council may seize that dog and impound it until b & c above are met.
- 20.1.4 If the dog is impounded, Council may hold the dog until the owner pays for desexing at a certified veterinary clinic. The Council will then deliver the dog to the vet.
- 20.1.5 All registered dogs listed in Schedule Four of the Dog Control will be classified as menacing. This includes the following breed or type of breed:

- a) Brazilian Fila
- b) Perro de Presa Canario
- c) Dogo Argentino
- d) Japanese Tosa
- e) American Pit Bull Terrier

20.1.6 Every owner has the right to object to the classification, as per section 33B and 33D of the Act.

20.1.7 The Council shall consider the objection through a hearing. The Council may uphold or rescind the classification.

20.1.8 The Council shall provide notification in writing within ten (10) days of a decision. The notification may include reasons for the decision.

## **20.2 Dangerous Dogs**

20.2.1 The Council will consider the classification of a dog as dangerous if:

- a) Any dog in respect of which the owner has been convicted of an offence under section 57A(2) of the Act.
- b) Any dog which the Council has, on the basis of sworn evidence attesting to aggressive behaviour by the dog on one or more occasions, reasonable grounds to believe constitutes a threat to the safety or any person, stock, poultry, domestic animal, or protected wildlife.
- c) Any dog that the owner admits in writing constitutes a threat to the safety of any person, stock, poultry, domestic animal or protected wildlife.

20.2.2 Dogs classified as dangerous:

- a) Are required to be muzzled and on a lead when in a public place;
- b) Must be spayed/neutered; and
- c) Are required to be microchipped within one month of being classified.

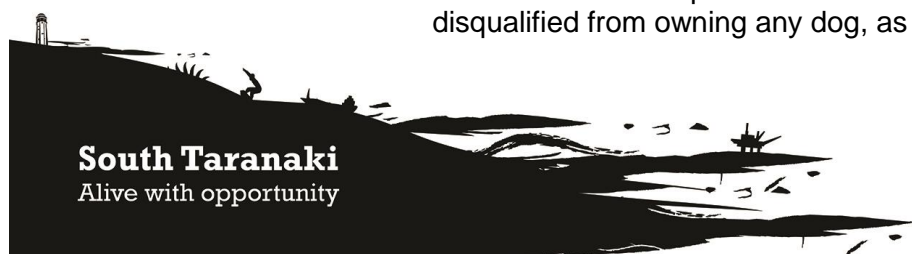
20.2.3 If the dog is impounded, Council may hold the dog until the owner pays for desexing at a certified veterinary clinic. The Council will then deliver the dog to the vet.

## **21.0 Classification of owners**

21.1 Under the Act, Council may classify owners as probationary owners or disqualify owners due to the level of offending. This is undertaken at the discretion of Council.

### **21.2 Disqualification of owners**

21.2.1 Any owner convicted of an offence under the Act, or who has received three infringement notices (unrelated to a single incident) within a continuous period of 24 months, may be immediately disqualified from owning any dog, as required under the Act.



- 21.2.2 The disqualified owner must dispose of all dogs they own and cannot own any more dogs for up to five years. A disqualified owner has the right to object to the classification.
- 21.2.3 A probationary owner who is convicted of a further offence, or receives three further infringement notices (unrelated to a single incident) within a continuous period of 24 months, may be disqualified from owning a dog. It is not necessary for an owner to be classified as a probationary owner before being disqualified.
- 21.2.4 The disqualification classification has the following effects:
- a) The owner must within 14 days of the date on which the notice of the decision is given, dispose of every dog owned by the disqualified person; and
  - b) The owner may not subsequently be in possession of a dog at any time, except for the purposes of:
    - i) Preventing a dog from causing injury, damage or distress; or
    - ii) Returning a lost dog to the Council for the purposes of restoring the dog to its owner.
- 21.2.5 A disqualified owner has the right to object to the classification. Under the Act, Council is required to consider the following matters in relation to the objection to determine if the classification should be upheld, to bring forward the termination date or immediately terminate the disqualification:
- a) The circumstances and nature of the offence(s);
  - b) The competence of the person in terms of responsible dog ownership;
  - c) Any steps taken by the person to prevent further offences;
  - d) The matters advanced in support of the objection; and
  - e) Any other relevant matters.

### **21.3 Probationary Owners**

- 21.3.1 If an owner is convicted of an offence under the Act or has received three infringement notices (unrelated to a single incident) within a continuous period of 24 months, the Council may, depending on the severity of the incidents, decide to classify that owner as a probationary owner for the period of 24 months, rather than disqualifying the owner.
- 21.3.2 The probationary classification has the following effects:
- a) The owner is not allowed to own any other dogs than were owned at the time of the offence or the 3<sup>rd</sup> infringement in respect of which the classification was made; and
  - b) The owner must dispose of any unregistered dogs.
- 21.3.3 A probationary owner has the right to object to the classification and the objection must be made within 14 days. Under the Act Council is required to consider the following matters in relation to the objection to determine if the classification should be upheld or terminated:

- a) The circumstances and nature of the offence(s);
- b) The competence of the person in terms of responsible dog ownership;
- c) Any steps taken by the person to prevent further offences;
- d) The matters advanced in support of the objection; and
- e) Any other relevant matters.

21.3.4 The Council may require all owners classed as probationary to undertake approved education courses and to require their dog to undertake obedience courses (to an approved standard as directed by Council or an Authorised Officer).

## 22.0 Penalties

22.1 The Council reserves the right to issue infringement offence notices under the *Dog Control Act 1996* or file a charging document under the *Criminal Procedure Act 2011* for breaches of the Act and Bylaw. All infringement offence notices will include a fine set by the Act. For a list of offences which infringement notices may be issued see Schedule 1 of the *Dog Control Act 1996* (and all amendments).

## 23.0 Definitions

**Act** means the *Dog Control Act 1996*.

**Authorised Officer** means any person appointed by the Chief Executive of the Council for purposes of acting as an Authorised Officer under this Bylaw.

**Continuous Control** means the owner has sufficient control over the dog to prevent the dog causing a nuisance or harm to other animals and members of the public or damage to property. In most instances this will mean on a leash.

**Council** means the South Taranaki District Council.

**Disability assist dog** means a dog certified by one of the following organisations as being a dog trained to assist (or as being a dog in training to assist) a person with a disability:

- a) Hearing Dogs for Deaf People New Zealand
- b) Mobility Assistance Dogs Trust
- c) New Zealand Epilepsy Assist Dogs Trust
- d) Blind Foundation – Guide Dogs
- e) Top Dog Companion Trust
- f) An organisation specified in an Order as per section 78D of the *Dog Control Act 1996*.

**Dog Exercise Area** means a public place which, by resolution of Council under section 20(1)(d) of the *Dog Control Act 1996*, has been designated as a dog exercise area.

**Infringement Offence** means an offence specified in the first schedule of the *Dog Control Act 1996* and the *Dog Control Amendment Act 2003*.



**Leash** means a lead which is capable of restraining the dog and is held by a responsible and capable person.

**Neutered Dog** means a dog that has been spayed or castrated.

**Owner** means in relation to any dog, every person who:

- a) Owns the dog; or
- b) Has the dog in his or her possession, whether the dog is at large or in confinement, otherwise than for a period not exceeding 72 hours for the purpose of preventing the dog causing injury, damage, or distress, or for the sole purpose of restoring a lost dog to its owner; or
- c) Is the parent or guardian of a person under the age of 16 years who:
  - i) Is the owner of the dog pursuant to paragraph (a) or paragraph (b) of this definition; and
  - ii) Is a member of the parent or guardian's household living with and dependent on the parent or guardian, but does not include any person who has seized or taken custody of the dog under the Dog Control Act 1996 or its amendments or the Animal Welfare Act 1999 or the National Parks Act 1980 or the Conservation Act 1987 or any order made under this Act or the Animals Protection Act 1960.

**Premises** includes any recreation ground, yard, building or enclosed space whether separately occupied or not and whether public or private.

**Prohibited Public Place** means a public place which, by resolution of Council under section 20(1)(a) of the *Dog Control Act 1996*, has been declared a "Prohibited Public Place". In all cases, areas within 20 metres of any children's playground equipment and the mown playing surfaces of sports grounds controlled by Council shall be deemed to be a "Prohibited Public Place".

**Public Place** means:

- a) a place that, at any material time, is open to or being used by the public, whether free or on payment of a charge, and whether any owner or occupier of the place is lawfully entitled to exclude or eject any person from that place; and
- b) includes any aircraft, hovercraft, ship or ferry or other vessel, train, or vehicle carrying or available to carry passengers for reward.

**Working dog** as defined under the *Dog Control Act 1996*.

**Urban Area** means every zone other than the Rural Zone and Rural Industrial Zone as described in the South Taranaki District Council current operative District Plan but may include properties within a Rural Zone that have an allotment size of 2,000 square metres or less.

## 24.0 Contacts

Regulatory Services Manager  
South Taranaki District Council 06 278 0555

## 25.0 Review of Policy

25.1 This Policy shall be reviewed every five (5) years to ensure the policy is effective and efficient at achieving the objectives.

- 21.2 The Council may from time to time by resolution publicly notified, alter any appendices attached.



## **Appendix I: Selected Owner Policy**

The Council will offer an incentive fee for the desexing of dogs on Selected Owner Policy (SOP). A lesser incentive fee will apply to dogs on SOP which are not desexed.

### **1.1 Requirements to qualify with the Selected Owner Policy:**

- 1) Owner must ensure that dog/s is well cared for. This includes feeding, housing, exercise and a secure section (fencing).
- 2) The owner must provide Veterinary Health Records as proof of current vaccination and provide details on worming treatments.
  - a) Current vaccinations, as defined for the purposes of this Policy, are the Canine Parvovirus, Distemper, and Infectious Hepatitis inoculations (all in one vaccination recommended by the Taranaki Veterinary Centre and the New Zealand SPCA).
- 3) The owner must be present during the inspection of the property for their SOP classification, as required by a Council Officer.
- 4) Any owner of a dog classified as menacing or dangerous (as defined under the Act) cannot apply for SOP status.
- 5) For new SOP applications an owner/s must have resided in the district and owned a dog for the previous 12 months and have no history of dog control issues for the previous 24 months; however:
  - a) If an owner has held SOP status in another district, they may apply for SOP immediately. Granting of the SOP status is subject to no reported dog control issues within the previous 24 months in the district from which they are moving from.

### **1.2 Requirements to comply with the Selected Owner Policy (once SOP has been granted):**

- 1) Continue to ensure their dog is well cared for, which includes feeding, housing, exercise and a secure section (fencing).
- 2) Comply with all requirements of the Dog Control Act 1996, the current South Taranaki District Council Dog Control Bylaw and the current South Taranaki District Council Dog Control Policy. Any breach will result in the SOP being cancelled.
- 3) Offences (such as infringements/impounding/prosecution) will result in the SOP status being revoked. Under Council's discretion this may be waived due to extenuating circumstances.
- 4) An owner must advise Council in writing within 14 days if they have moved addresses, as required under the Act. Failure to advise Council will result in forfeiture of SOP status.
- 5) Existing SOP can be transferred to a new address, but will require a property inspection to ensure the property conforms to policy standards. Inspections incur a non-refundable fee.
- 6) Any SOP dog owner who obtains a dog classified as menacing or dangerous (as defined under the Act) will have their SOP status cancelled.





**History of Policy**

Action	Description	Decision date	Decision number	Commencement
New	Adoption of new Dog Control Policy	10/11/2014	120/14	02/12/2014
Amendment	Amendment to the Dog Control Policy – two tier SOP status relating to desexing	18/05/2015	41/15	19/05/2015
Amendment	Review and renewal of Policy	12/08/2019	118/19	12/12/2019

