



Adopted: 27 September 2018, effective from 1 November 2018

Replaces: Dog Control Policy 2008

Review date: 1 November 2028

Reasons for policy The Hurunui District Council is responsible for dog control in the district and this policy serves to meet the Council's obligations under the Dog Control Act 1996 by balancing the recreational needs of dogs and their owners with the need to minimise the potential for any danger, distress or nuisance caused by dogs.

Dogs play an integral role in the Hurunui District both as reliable companions and as important support for agriculture. The Council recognises that the majority of dog owners in the Hurunui are responsible and most of the interactions between dogs and the public are positive.

Scope The Dog Control Act 1996 manages the control of dogs in two ways. Firstly, it sets out national expectations of dog owners, and secondly it requires councils to create policies and bylaws to manage dogs in their district.

Requirements under the Act are largely not repeated in this policy and all dog owners are required to understand the requirements and obligations set out in the Act, together with their requirements and obligations set out in this Policy and the Hurunui District Council Dog Control Bylaw 2018.

Minimum standards for animal welfare and the care of dogs are set out in the Animal Welfare Act 1999 and the Animal Welfare (Dogs) Code of Welfare 2010.

This policy will specify what the Council's approach will be regarding dog control in the Hurunui district. The policy will be enforced by the Dog Control Bylaw 2018. The Bylaw will address:

- Dog control in public places, including the removal of dog faeces
- Leashed and prohibited dog control areas
- Designating specific dog exercise areas and dog friendly camping areas
- Restrictions on where you can take diseased dogs or female dogs in season
- Offences and penalties.

Objectives The objectives of this Policy are to –

- Ensure the owners of dogs comply with their obligations under the Act and that dogs in the district are well cared for;

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- Prevent any potential danger caused by dogs to the public, wildlife and natural habitats;
 - Minimise the risk of distress and nuisance caused by dogs to the public, wildlife and natural habitats;
 - Actively promote the responsible ownership of dogs;
 - Provide for the reasonable exercise and recreational needs of dogs and their owners; and
 - Provide flexibility to Council Officers to deviate from the policy where unforeseen circumstances justify doing so.
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Registration

Policy 1: To provide a structure for setting registration fees relative to the standard dog registration fee.

All dogs in New Zealand are required to be registered and must be registered for the first time before they are three months old. The registration period runs from 1 July through to 30 June.

A standard dog registration fee will be set through the Annual Plan process each year. The following fees will apply based as a proportion of the standard fee:

Owners who hold Responsible Dog Ownership status	The fee shall be 30% less than the standard dog registration fee
Multiple dog owners*	The owner shall pay for the first five dogs, all further dogs are to be registered but the fee shall be waived*
Working dogs	The fee shall be 30% less than the standard dog registration fee for each working dog
Disability assist dogs	Are required to be registered but there will be no registration fee
Dangerous dogs	The fee shall be 150% of the standard dog registration fee

* The first five dogs are to include dogs classified as dangerous and non-working dogs. For example, if the owner owns one dangerous dog, two domestic dogs and five working dogs, the registration fee for three of the working dogs would be waived under this policy.

Policy 2: To ensure all dogs are registered and pay fees relative to the length of registration.

Partial registration

Where a dog is required to be registered for the first time after 2 August a partial registration will apply. This will be calculated by dividing the dog registration fee payable for a full year by 12 and multiplying that amount by the number of complete months remaining in the registration year.

Refund of registration fee

The Council will refund the applicable portion of the dog registration fee in the event of the death of a dog. Council may require a veterinary certificate to support any request.

Failure to register a dog

Registration will be monitored by Council and action will be taken against owners who fail to register their dog. This may involve:

- providing a reminder
- issuing a warning
- charging a penalty fee of up to 50% of the standard dog registration fee
- issuing an infringement notice; and
- impounding the unregistered dog.

If dogs have not been registered in the past, the owner may be liable for the years when payment was missed, this will be decided case by case.

Responsible dog owner status

Policy 3: To incentivise responsible dog ownership through the introduction of a responsible dog ownership programme.

The Council is introducing a responsible dog ownership programme to recognise responsible dog owners and entitle them to a reduced registration fee. Granting and retention of responsible dog ownership status will be at the discretion of the Team Leader Compliance or Regulatory Manager.

Policy 4: To recognise dogs owners as responsible dog owners when the all of the following applies:

- The owner has been a registered dog owner in the Hurunui district for at least two years;
 - All registration fees must have been paid on time for the past two years;
 - All dogs are micro-chipped in accordance with s36A of the Dog Control Act;
 - All dogs under their ownership reside at a property that:
 - is suitably fenced and gated to contain the dog, and
 - allows dog-free access to the dwelling; and
 - None of the following circumstances apply:
 - they own a dangerous dog; or
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- their dog has been found roaming and returned or impounded by a warranted officer in the last two years; or
 - they have been issued with a warning notice or infringement notice for a dog related offence in the last two years; or
 - they have been prosecuted for any dog-related offence in the previous seven years.

Responsible dog ownership status will roll over each year provided:

- fees are paid prior to 1 August each year; and
- the owner continues to meet the eligibility criteria in Policy 4; and
- any change of residential address or dog registration details are notified to the Council within one month.

Control of dogs in public places

Policy 5: To ensure dogs are kept under effective control at all times and in all public places.

Dog owners are required to keep their dogs under effective control at all times. Effective control means the person in charge of the dog has the dog under continuous surveillance and 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. Regardless of method of control used, every dog owner should carry a leash with them when in public with their dog.

Policy 6: To ensure public spaces are free from dog faeces

The dog owner or person in charge of the dog will be responsible for picking up and disposing of any fouling when in a public place.

The owner is responsible for carrying the faeces until such a time the faeces can be appropriately and responsibly disposed of.

Dog access to public places

Policy 7: To prohibit dogs from areas that are frequently used by the public and/or areas where there is the presence of significant wildlife and / or wildlife habitat.

Dogs will be prohibited from:

- Within ten metres of any children's playground or playground equipment; and
- Within ten metres of any public toilets; and
- Within ten metres of any public swimming pool; and
- Within ten metres of any public barbeque area; and
- At all Hurunui District Council camping grounds other than those specified as Camping in Schedule 1; and
- At all sites specified in Schedule 1 as Prohibited.

Policy 8: To require dogs to be controlled on a leash where there are likely to be large numbers of people.

Dogs are required to be on a leash:

- On all roads (including footpaths) in urban settlement areas; and
- In all cemeteries and memorial areas
- At all sites specified in Schedule 1 as Leashed.

Policy 9: To provide access for disability assist dogs and working dogs

For the avoidance of doubt disability assist dogs and working dogs being actively managed by their handler are permitted to be off leash in all public places including prohibited and leashed areas.

Dog exercise areas

Policy 10: To provide areas where dogs can be exercised off-leash within settlement areas.

Council recognises the importance of the recreation and exercise needs of dogs and their owners. The Council has established specific areas within settlement areas where dogs may be exercised off-leash; these are referred to as Dog Exercise Areas in Schedule 1. Within a Dog Exercise Area dogs must be kept under effective control at all times.

Outside of settlement areas dogs may be exercised off-leash provided:

- The area is not listed in Schedule 1 as Prohibited or Leashed area; and
- The area is not covered by the general prohibitions or restrictions specified in policies 7 and 8 above; and
- Dog owners carry a leash and keep their dog under effective control at all times.

Policy 11: To consider the feasibility of establishing dog parks in the District.

Council is investigating the feasibility of establishing dog parks in the district. Dog parks provide a fenced area where dogs and owners can exercise and socialise together.

Dog parks are primarily a space for dogs to socialise and exercise with other dogs. Children are allowed in dog parks but particular care is to be taken by parents or guardians to ensure the child is protected from any potential dog related accident or injury.

All dogs using dog parks are required to be kept under effective control at all times.

Dog friendly camping areas

Policy 12: To provide areas where dogs may be permitted at Council owned campgrounds in the district.

Dogs are permitted at the following Council-owned campgrounds subject to provisions in the bylaw.

- Part of South Crescent Camping Reserve – reserve area abutting Amberley Beach Road and South Crescent
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- Hurunui Mouth Campground – access off Hurunui Mouth Road
 - Motunau Beach Campground – access off Lyndsay Terrace
 - Waikari Campground – access off Princes Street.
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Roaming dogs

Policy 13: To reunite dogs found roaming with their owners.

Where any dog is found roaming the warranted officer will endeavour to identify the dog through the dog's registration tag or microchip. Where an owner can be identified the warranted officer will contact the owner and arrange to reunite the dog with its owner. If there are outstanding registration fees these will be required to be paid prior to the return of the dog.

Where an owner cannot be identified the dog will be impounded. All registration, microchipping fees and pound fees must be paid and the dog microchipped prior to the dog being released from the pound.

Managing nuisance

Policy 14: To manage barking and howling dog complaints in accordance with the Hurunui District Council's Complaints, Compliance and Enforcement Policy.

All dog-related complaints will be addressed in accordance with the Hurunui District Council's Complaints, Compliance and Enforcement Policy (or relevant superseding document). Council's preference is to use a staged approach favouring promoting awareness and providing assistance to dog owners prior to issuing warnings or taking further action.

When a complaint regarding a barking or howling dog is received Council will investigate and establish if the barking or howling is a genuine problem. If found to be a problem, Council will first work with the owner and neighbours to understand the extent of the barking or howling, the cause of the barking or howling and encourage solutions.

If an owner is uncooperative, or the barking or howling continues to be persistent and loud, a Barking Dog Abatement Notice may be issued under s55 of the Dog Control Act 1996. Dogs can be seized by a warranted officer or infringement notices issued for loud and persistent barking or howling.

Managing troublesome dog owners

Policy 15: To classify owners as "probationary owners" or "disqualified owners" in accordance with the Dog Control Act 1996.

Provisions in the Dog Control Act 1996 require Council to classify an owner as a disqualified owner under certain circumstances. Sections 25-28 of the Dog Control Act set out these circumstances and other matters relating to being a disqualified dog owner.

In some situations Council may be satisfied that disqualification is unwarranted and may instead decide to classify the person as a

probationary owner. Sections 21-24 of the Dog Control Act set out matters relating to probationary owners.

In making the decision to classify a dog owner as probationary or disqualified, Council will consider:

- the circumstances and nature of the offence(s) in respect of which the classification was made; and
- the competence of the person in terms of responsible dog ownership; and
- any steps taken by the person to prevent further offences;
- any other relevant matters including:
 - any previous breaches by the person of the Dog Control Act or Dog Control bylaws; and
 - public safety.

Dangerous and menacing dogs

Policy 16: To classify dogs as “dangerous” or “menacing” in accordance with the Dog Control Act 1996

Dogs that meet any of the listed criteria of section 31 of the Act must be classified as dangerous.

Dogs that meet any of the listed criteria of section 33A(1) of the Act may be classified as menacing.

Dogs belonging to a breed or type listed in Schedule 4 of the Act must be classified as menacing under section 33C of the Act.

Policy 17: To require any dog classified as menacing by the Hurunui District Council, or any other territorial authority, to be de-sexed

Council may require a dog classified as menacing to be de-sexed under s33E of the Act. Council will consider the requirement to neuter a dog on a case-by-case basis and in doing so will consider whether de-sexing is likely to reduce the dog's aggressive behaviour.

This will apply to all menacing dogs when registered in the Hurunui District regardless of which territorial authority classified the dog as menacing.

If the Council requires the dog to be de-sexed, the dog's owner must comply with the requirements of section 33(1)(b) and 33(1)(c).

Classification of areas under other legislation

Policy 18: To identify restrictions on the movement of dogs through other legislation.

The Dog Control Act 1996 requires local authorities to identify any land within the District that is listed as a controlled dog area or an open dog area under section 26ZS of the Conservation Act 1987 and any land constituted under the National Parks Act 1980.

There are currently no national parks in the Hurunui District. Dogs are prohibited from the Lake Sumner Forest Park, the St James Conservation

Area west of the Waiau River and the Lewis Pass Scenic Reserve. A comprehensive list of restrictions for conservation land can be found at Schedule 2.

For more information on dog control on public conservation land please refer to the Department of Conservation website.

Education

Policy 19: To encourage dog owners to invest in suitable training for their dogs.

The Council is supportive of people undertaking dog training of all types. As well as behaviour and discipline courses, dog agility courses can be a great way to understand and bond with a dog. The Council encourages new dog owners to attend puppy or dog training courses to learn how to train the dog to understand simple commands.

All dogs need to be able to understand and appropriately respond to simple commands if they are to be off-leash in a public place.

Policy 20: To encourage greater public understanding of how to behave around unfamiliar dogs.

Dogs are often misunderstood. When approached a dog is unable to communicate their dislike; this can lead to barking or biting. Increased public awareness of safety around dogs is one of the best ways to reduce dog attacks long term. The Council will continue to investigate programmes with the intent to implement an education programme.

Enforcement

Policy 21: The Council will enforce dog owner obligations in accordance with the Hurunui District Council's Complaints, Compliance and Enforcement Policy (or relevant superseding policy).

The Council will maintain an animal management service to receive, investigate and resolve complaints about dogs.

The Council will use the powers provided in the Act as required to issue infringement notices, prosecute for more serious breaches of the Act, to classify dogs as dangerous or menacing, and to classify owners as probationary or disqualified.

Enforcement will be conducted in accordance with the Hurunui District Council's Complaints, Compliance and Enforcement Policy (or relevant superseding policy).

Schedule 1: Dog control areas

Dog controls which apply in specific areas. Refer to Policies 7, 8 and 10 for general controls.

Amberley		
Area	Designation of area	Comment
Amberley Domain	Prohibited / Exercise	Dogs are prohibited from the Domain with the exception of a ten metre strip around the perimeter of the Domain where dogs may be exercised off-leash under effective control.
Chamberlain Park	Prohibited / Leashed	Dogs are prohibited from within ten metres of the playground and public toilets. Dogs are permitted elsewhere in the reserve but must be on-leash at all times.
Eastern Reserve	Prohibited / Leashed	Dogs are currently prohibited within the reserve while it is being used for grazing. When the reserve has been developed dogs will be prohibited from the playing areas and facilities but may be permitted on-leash around the perimeter of the reserve. Please see signage at the Reserve for up-to-date information.
Seadown Crescent Reserve	Prohibited	Dogs are prohibited from the entirety of this reserve.

Amberley Beach and Waipara River Mouth		
Area	Designation of area	Comment
Amberley Beach Reserve	Prohibited	Dogs are prohibited from the entirety of this reserve
Beach and foreshore	Restricted	Dogs are permitted on the beach at all times while controlled on a leash. After Easter weekend and prior to Labour weekend each year dogs may be exercised off-leash but under effective control.
Holton Reserve	Prohibited	Dogs are prohibited from the entirety of this reserve.
South Crescent Camping Reserve	Camping	Dogs are permitted to camp at this reserve but are prohibited from within ten metres of the toilet block.
Waipara River Mouth	Prohibited	Dogs are not permitted in the wetlands or in the designated area in the Waipara Estuary and bar. Gamebird dogs are exempt from this through the gamebird hunting season provided a Fish and Game Hunting Licence is held by the person in control of the dog.

Cheviot and surrounds

Area	Designation of area	Comment
Cheviot Hills Reserve Cricket Ground	Prohibited	Dogs are prohibited within the cricket ground area and public toilets. Dogs are permitted to be exercised off-leash under effective control elsewhere in the reserve.
Lions Club Picnic Area	Prohibited	Dogs are prohibited from the entirety of this reserve.
St Annes Lagoon	Leashed	Dogs are required to be on-leash throughout the reserve.

Culverden

Area	Designation of area	Comment
Culverden Recreation Reserve	Exercise / Prohibited	Dogs are permitted to be exercise off-leash in the recreation reserve. Dogs are prohibited form the camping area.
Mockett Place Reserve	Prohibited	Dogs are prohibited from the entirety of this reserve.
Rutherford Railway Reserve	Prohibited / Leashed	Dogs are prohibited from within ten metres of the public toilets, playground and picnic area. Dogs are permitted to be exercise on-leash throughout the remainder of the reserve.

Gore Bay

Area	Designation of area	Comment
Beach and foreshore north of Farmer Street	Exercise	Dogs are permitted to be exercised on the beach off-leash but under effective control in the area north of Farmer Street at all times.
Beach and foreshore south of Farmer Street	Restricted	Dogs are permitted on the beach at all times while controlled on a leash. After Easter weekend and prior to Labour weekend each year dogs may be exercised off-leash but under effective control.
Buxton East and Buxton West picnic areas	Prohibited	Dogs are prohibited from the entirety of these reserve areas.

Buxton Camp and Playground Reserve	Prohibited	Dogs are prohibited from the entirety of this reserve.
DOC Reserve	Prohibited	Dogs are prohibited from the entirety of this reserve.
Old School Reserve	Prohibited	Dogs are prohibited from the entirety of this reserve.
Tennis Courts	Prohibited	Dogs are prohibited from the tennis court area.

Greta Valley and surrounds

Area	Designation of area	Comment
Scargill Motunau Reserve	Prohibited / Leashed	Dogs are permitted to be exercised on-leash on the walkway loop track. Dogs are prohibited elsewhere in the reserve.

Hanmer Springs

Area	Designation of area	Comment
Chisholm Park	Prohibited	Dogs are prohibited from the entirety of this reserve.
Dog Stream Reserve, Brooke Dawson Park and Tardale Park	Exercise	Dogs are permitted to be exercised off-leash throughout the reserve.
Hanmer Sports Reserve	Leashed	Dogs are prohibited from the entirety of this reserve, except for the part currently operated as a camping ground.
Hanmer Sports Reserve (Pines Holiday Park)	Camping	Dogs are permitted to camp at this reserve but are prohibited from within ten metres of the toilet block. Access is subject to provisions in this policy and any additional controls of the camping ground.
Thermal Pools Reserve and public toilets	Prohibited	Dogs are prohibited from the entirety of this reserve.

Hawarden and surrounds

Area	Designation of area	Comment
Hawarden Reserve (northern part)	Exercise	Dogs are permitted to be exercised off-leash but under effective control at the northern part of the reserve.
Hawarden Reserve Playground and Tennis Court Area	Prohibited	Dogs are prohibited from within ten metres of the playground and tennis court area. Between this area and northern exercise area dogs are required to be on-leash.
Lions Reserve	Prohibited	Dogs are prohibited from the entirety of this reserve.

Hurunui Mouth

Area	Designation of area	Comment
Hurunui Mouth Camping Ground	Camping	Dogs are permitted to camp at this reserve.

Leithfield

Area	Designation of area	Comment
Coulbeck Reserve	Prohibited	Dogs are prohibited from the entirety of this reserve.

Leithfield Beach and Ashworths Ponds

Area	Designation of area	Comment
Ashworths Ponds	Prohibited / Leashed	Dogs are required to be on-leash within 100 metres of the access track and carpark. Dogs are prohibited from within the fenced areas.
Beach and foreshore	Restricted	Dogs are permitted on the beach at all times while controlled on a leash. After Easter weekend and prior to Labour weekend each year dogs may be exercised off-leash but under effective control.
Leithfield Beach Recreation Reserve	Prohibited	Dogs are prohibited from the entirety of this reserve.

Motunau Beach		
Area	Designation of area	Comment
Motunau Beach Parade Reserve	Prohibited	Dogs are prohibited from the Parade Reserve. This includes the whole area on the south-east side of The Parade between the public toilets and the end of The Parade.
Motunau Beach Camping Ground	Camping	Dogs are permitted to camp at this reserve.

Omihi		
Area	Designation of area	Comment
Omihi Reserve	Prohibited	Dogs are prohibited from the entirety of this reserve.

Rotherham		
Area	Designation of area	Comment
Flintoft Reserve	Prohibited	Dogs are prohibited from the entirety of this reserve.

Waikari		
Area	Designation of area	Comment
Stocks Reserve	Prohibited	Dogs are prohibited from the entirety of this reserve.
Waikari Bowling Club	Prohibited	Dogs are prohibited from the entirety of this reserve.
Waikari Camping Ground	Camping	Dogs are permitted to camp at this reserve but are prohibited from within ten metres of the toilet block.
Waikari Recreation Reserve	Exercise / Leashed	Dogs are permitted to be exercised off-leash under effective control in the northern part of the Recreation Reserve. Dogs are permitted within the balance of the reserve while on-leash.

Waipara

Area	Designation of area	Comment
Glenmark Reserve playground, public toilets and tennis courts	Prohibited / Exercise	Dogs are prohibited from within ten metres of the playground, public toilets and tennis courts. Dogs are permitted to be exercised off-leash elsewhere in the reserve.

Waitohi

Area	Designation of area	Comment
Waitohi Reserve	Leashed	Dogs are required to be on-leash throughout the reserve.

**Schedule 2: Dog control on conservation land in the Hurunui District
(managed by Department of Conservation)**

CMS Ref	Area	Status	Conditions
M31008	Conservation Area Tip Jug Hut	Controlled	Entry by permit for management and / or recreational hunting with conditions
M31009	Conservation Area Lewis Pass	Controlled	Entry by permit for management and / or recreational hunting with conditions
M32001	Waiau River Marginal Strip	Controlled	Entry by permit for management and / or recreational hunting with conditions
M32002	Conservation Area Nina / Doubtful River	Controlled	Entry by permit for management and / or recreational hunting with conditions
M32007	Hanmer Conservation Park	Open	Dogs to be kept under control at all times.
M32018	Glencoe River Marginal Strip	Controlled	Entry by permit for management and / or recreational hunting with conditions
M32011	Lochiel Conservation Area	Open	Dogs to be kept under control at all times.
M32012	Woodbank Conservation Area	Open	Dogs to be kept under control at all times.
M32014	Lower Doubtful / Boyle Rivers Conservation Area	Controlled	Entry by permit for management and / or recreational hunting with conditions
L32501	Lake Sumner Conservation Park	Controlled	Entry by permit for management and / or recreational hunting with conditions
L32502	Upper Hope Ecological Area	Controlled	Entry by permit for management and / or recreational hunting with conditions
L32503	Lake Sumner Recreation Hunting Area	Controlled	Entry by permit for management and / or recreational hunting with conditions
L32506	Camp site (No. 2 Hut Hurunui River)	Controlled	Entry by permit for management and / or recreational hunting with conditions
L32507	Conservation Area Head of Lake Sumner	Controlled	Entry by permit for management and / or recreational hunting with conditions

L32508	Loch Katrine Recreation Reserve	Open	Must be on a lead not more than three metres, all faeces to be removed, must be under control at all times.
L32509	Hurunui River Marginal Strip	Controlled	Entry by permit for management and / or recreational hunting with conditions
L32510	Hurunui River Marginal Strip	Controlled	Entry by permit for management and / or recreational hunting with conditions
L32511	Lake Sumner Marginal Strip	Controlled	Entry by permit for management and / or recreational hunting with conditions
L32512	Loch Katrine Marginal Strip	Controlled	Entry by permit for management and / or recreational hunting with conditions
L32513	Lake Sumner Marginal Strip	Controlled	Entry by permit for management and / or recreational hunting with conditions
N31001	The Hossack Conservation Area	Open	Dogs to be kept under control at all times.
N31002	The Hossack Conservation Area	Open	Dogs to be kept under control at all times.
N31005	Clarence / Winterburn Marginal Strip	Controlled	Entry by permit for management and / or recreational hunting with conditions
N32002	Woodlands Forest Conservation Covernant	Open	Must be on a lead not more than three metres, all faeces to be removed, must be under control at all times.
N32030	Conservation Area Hanmer Field Base and Picnic Area	Open	Must be on a lead not more than three metres, all faeces to be removed, must be under control at all times.
N32031	Hanmer Trust Camp	Controlled	Entry by permit for management and / or recreational hunting with conditions
N32094	Lottery River Marginal Strip	Controlled	Entry by permit for management and / or recreational hunting with conditions
N32117	Tinline Downs Conservation Area	Controlled	Entry by permit for management and / or recreational hunting with conditions

Schedule 3: Dog control area maps