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TAUPŌ DISTRICT COUNCIL DOG CONTROL POLICY 2021 (in accordance with the Dog Control Act 1996)

Objectives

1. To provide for exercise and recreational needs of dogs and their owners.
2. To minimise the fear of dogs attacking or intimidating people.
3. To avoid danger from uncontrolled dogs entering children's play areas.
4. To minimise danger, distress and nuisance caused by dogs.
5. To have all dogs registered and micro-chipped.

Principles

6. Taupō District Council places a high priority on ensuring that dogs are registered.
7. Taupō District Council recognises that the large majority of dog owners are very responsible and, as a result, the interaction between dogs and the public is generally positive.
8. Dogs need the ability to exercise unrestrained and within a social setting. There are designated dog exercise areas throughout the District. Dog owners are encouraged to act responsibly, evaluate the circumstances and then to take all reasonable steps to ensure that their dogs do not cause a nuisance, in these areas.
9. Taupō District Council believes that conflicts can be resolved and managed in a way that protects the public, manages the pet population, prevents cruelty to animals and balances the interests of many people in the community.

Legislation

10. The following section summarises the legislation that relates to the control of dogs and the obligations this imposes on Taupō District Council.

10.1 Dog Control Act 1996

The purpose of the Dog Control Act is to make better provision for the care and control of dogs—

- a) by requiring the registration of dogs; and
- b) by making special provision in relation to dangerous dogs and menacing dogs; and
- c) by imposing on the owners of dogs, obligations designed to ensure that dogs do not cause a nuisance to any person and do not injure, endanger, or cause distress to any person; and
- d) by imposing on owners of dogs obligations designed to ensure that dogs do not injure, endanger, or cause distress to any stock, poultry, domestic animal, or protected wildlife; and
- e) to make provision in relation to damage caused by dogs.

10.2 Dog Control Policy

All Territorial Authorities must adopt a Dog Policy under the Dog Control Act which must have regard to the following:

- a) the need to minimise danger, distress, and nuisance to the community generally; and
- b) 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

- c) 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
- d) the exercise and recreational needs of dogs and their owners.

10.3 Dog Control Bylaws

Any territorial authority may, in accordance with the Local Government Act 2002, make bylaws for all or any of the following purposes:

- a) prohibiting dogs, whether under control or not, from specified public places:
- b) requiring dogs, other than working dogs, to be controlled on a leash in specified public places, or in public places in specified areas or parts of the district:
- c) regulating and controlling dogs in any other public place:
- d) designating specified areas as dog exercise areas:
- e) prescribing minimum standards for the accommodation of dogs:
- f) limiting the number of dogs that may be kept on any land or premises:
- g) requiring dogs in its district to be tied up or otherwise confined during a specified period commencing not earlier than half an hour after sunset, and ending not later than half an hour before sunrise:
- h) requiring the owner of any dog that defecates in a public place or on land or premises other than that occupied by the owner to immediately remove the faeces:
- i) requiring any bitch to be confined but adequately exercised while in season:
- j) providing for the impounding of dogs, whether or not they are wearing a collar having the proper label or disc attached, that are found at large in breach of any bylaw made by the territorial authority under this or any other Act:
- k) requiring the owner of any dog (being a dog that, on a number of occasions, has not been kept under control) to cause that dog to be neutered (whether or not the owner of the dog has been convicted of an offence against section 53):
- l) any other purpose that from time to time is, in the opinion of the territorial authority, necessary or desirable to further the control of dogs.

Fees

- 11. Dog registration fees are set by Council resolution.
- 12. Dog registration fees, fines and impound fees are used to fund dog control.
- 13. Fees paid after 31 July incur a 20% penalty.

Education and Dog Obedience

- 14. Free education programmes run by Taupō District Council:
 - a) Dog bite prevention advice
 - b) Educational presentations to schools
 - c) Educational programmes on dog behaviour to interest groups
 - d) Council encourages dog owners to attend dog obedience courses to assist in the training and socializing of dogs.

Classification of Dogs

15. Responsible Owner Classification

The responsible owner classification entitles those who meet the following criteria to discounted Dog Registration fees.

- a) Adequate fencing (able to access at least one door without entering the area where the dog is kept), or adequate kennelling/run (in which the dog is housed during the day), or at all times the dog is located indoors.
- b) Good owner history i.e. no late registration payments, impoundings, infringements or other enforcement action within the last two years.

- c) No dangerous dog classifications have been issued to your dog(s).
- d) All dogs owned or kept by the individual are registered and comply with microchipping requirements.

16. Working Dogs

'Working dog' means:

- a) Any Disability Assist Dog:
- b) Any dog:
 - i. Kept by the Police or any Constable, the Customs Department, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Fisheries, or the Ministry of Defence, or any officer or employee of any such Department of State solely or principally for the purposes of carrying out the functions, powers, and duties of the Police or the Department of State or that Constable, officer, or employee; or
 - ii. Kept solely or principally for the purposes of herding or driving stock; or
 - iii. Kept by the Department of Conservation or any officer or employee of that Department solely or principally for the purposes of carrying out the functions, duties, and powers of that Department; or
 - iv. Kept solely or principally for the purposes of destroying pests or pest agents under any pest management strategy under the Biosecurity Act 1993; or
 - v. Owned by a security guard as defined in Section 4 of the Private Investigators and Security Guards Act 1974 and kept solely or principally for the purposes of carrying on the business of a security guard; or
 - vi. Declared by resolution of the Territorial Authority to be a working dog for the purposes of this Act, or any dog of a class so declared by the Authority, being a dog owned by any class of persons specified in the resolution and kept solely or principally for the purposes specified in the resolution.

17. Menacing Dogs

- a) Dogs classed as menacing under section 33A Dog Control Act 1996 by Taupō District Council, or any dog classified as menacing which is transferring to Taupō District Council are required to be neutered
- b) If owners whose dogs are classed as menacing wish to object to the classification of their dogs as menacing by action or breed they have a right of objection under section 33D where they have 14 days to do so upon receipt of notification of their dog being classed as menacing.

Infringements

18. The following infringement offences are set by the Dog Control Act 1996. Council has no discretion to alter these fees.

Offence	Penalty
Wilful obstruction of a Dog Control officer	\$750
Failure or refusal to supply information or wilfully providing false particulars	\$750
Failure to supply information or wilfully providing false particulars about a dog	\$750
Failure to comply with any Dog Control Bylaw	\$300
Failure to undertake obedience training	\$300
Failure to comply with obligations of probationary owner	\$750
Failure to comply with effects of disqualification	\$750
Failure to comply with requirements of dangerous dog classification	\$300
Fraudulent sale or transfer of a dangerous dog	\$500
Failure to comply with requirements of menacing classification	\$300

Failure to advise person of muzzle and leashing requirements	\$100
Failure to implant a microchip transponder in dog	\$300
False statement relating to dog registration	\$750
Falsely notifying death of dog	\$750
Failure to register dog	\$300
Fraudulent procurement or attempt to procure replacement dog registration label or disc	\$500
Failure to advise change of dog ownership	\$100
Failure to advise change of address	\$100
Removal, swapping or counterfeiting of registration label/disc	\$500
Failure to keep dog controlled or confined on private land	\$200
Failure to keep dog under control	\$200
Failure to provide proper care and attention, to supply proper and sufficient food, water, shelter, or adequate exercise	\$300
Failure to carry leash in public	\$100
Failure to comply with barking dog abatement notice	\$200
Allowing dog known to be dangerous to be at large unmuzzled or unleashed	\$300
Failure to advise of muzzle and leashing requirements	\$100
Releasing dog from custody	\$750

Disqualification of Dog Owners

19. Dog owners will be disqualified according to the provisions set out in section 25 of the Dog Control Act 1996.

Areas in the District for dogs to exercise or where restrictions apply

20. Dog Exercise Areas - areas where Dogs may be exercised in public places of the district provided such dogs are kept under the continued control of person responsible for the dog(s) are set out in the Second Schedule of the Control of Dogs Bylaw 2021.
21. Dogs on Leash - every owner of a dog shall keep that dog under control and on a leash in public areas at all times except in Dog Exercise Areas as specified in the Second Schedule of the Control of Dogs Bylaw, the Rural Environment or within the Mapara Valley Structure Plan Area as identified in the Taupō District Plan.
22. Dog Restrictions - areas where dogs are restricted or prohibited (except when in a vehicle) are specified in the First Schedule of the Dog Control Bylaw 2021.

Department of Conservation Land

23. This is a guide to areas of restriction to Department of Conservation (DoC) Land. Access conditions change as conservation work, track closures and natural events mean temporary closures.
24. Always check with the nearest DoC visitor centre for notices about dog access and track closures before you set out. For the most up to date list check: <https://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/things-to-do/walking-and-tramping/>

Track/Reserve	Permission	Notes
42 nd Traverse	Permit	Dogs allowed by permit only. Contact Tongariro Visitor Centre 07 892 3729
Arartiatia Rapids Recreation Reserve	On-leash	
Awaroa Recreation Reserve	On-leash	
Kaimanawa Forest Park	Permit	Some tracks cross private land and permission is required. Contact Turangi Office Ph 07 384 7106
Hatepe Recreation Reserve	On-leash	

Oruatua Conservation Area	On-leash	
Otaketake Stream Scenic Reserve	Permit	
Omori Recreation Reserve	On-leash	
Opepe Bush Scenic Reserve	On-leash	
Parikarangaranga Scenic Reserve	On-leash	
Pukawa Scenic Reserve	On-leash	
Rangataiki Conservation Area	Permit	
Tongariro River Scenic Reserve	On-leash	
Huka Falls Scenic Reserve	On-leash	
Taupahi Scenic Reserve	On-leash	
Te Hapua Bay Scenic Reserve	On-leash	
Waihaha Scenic Reserve	On-leash	
Waikato River Walk	On-leash	
Waituhi-Kuratau Scenic Reserve	On-leash	
Whakaipo Bay Recreation Reserve	On-leash	
Rangitukua Scenic Reserve	On-leash	
Tongariro Forest Conservation Area	Permit	Dogs allowed by permit only. Contact Tongariro Visitor Centre 07 892 3729
Rangataua Forest Conservation Area	Permit	Dogs allowed by permit only. Contact Tongariro Visitor Centre 07 892 3729
Erua Conservation Area permit	Permit	Dogs allowed by permit only. Contact Tongariro Visitor Centre 07 892 3729
Rotary Ride	Off-leash	Mountain Bike Track. Walkers give way to cyclists.