

First adopted:	May 2015
Revision dates/version:	
Next review date:	
Engagement required:	
Document number:	D-1350397
Associated documents:	
Sponsor/Group:	City Growth

Dog Control Policy

Purpose and scope

1. The purpose of this Policy is to state how Council will fulfil its legislative responsibilities pursuant to the Dog Control Act 1996 and the Dog Control Bylaw 2015.
2. This Policy has been adopted pursuant to the functions, duties and powers conferred on Hamilton City Council ('Council') by the Dog Control Act 1996 (www.legislation.govt.nz) and takes into account:
 - 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.
3. To enable people to enjoy the benefits of dog ownership and provide for the exercise and recreational needs of dogs and their owners.
4. This Policy applies to the whole of the district administered by Hamilton City Council, and other locations that are controlled by Hamilton City Council, now and in the future.

Policy

Education

5. Council considers that involvement in education, and liaison with dog clubs and other service providers, is an appropriate and valuable role. Dogs need to be trained and socialised so that they learn how to behave in a public environment. Council staff will undertake education initiatives with dog owners to enhance the knowledge and skill of dog owners on the care and control of dogs, with a particular focus on the owners of dogs with behavioural issues.
6. Council will also seek to enhance the knowledge of the public generally, particularly children, on safety around dogs and other dog-related issues. Liaison with dog obedience clubs and other dog-related service providers in the city is considered an important role for Council. Council will seek to develop a partnership with the clubs and service providers to achieve the objective of this Policy.

Regulation and enforcement

7. Council has developed a Dog Control Bylaw that is the primary enforcement mechanism of this Policy. The prohibited areas and exercise areas, including maps, are set out in the Dog Control Off Lead Exercise and Prohibited Areas Register referred to in the Dog Control Bylaw 2015.
8. Whilst Council will pursue education of dog owners and the public generally to avoid and minimise dog related issues in the city, enforcement of the provisions of the Dog Control Bylaw is critical to maintain public safety and to minimise danger, distress, and nuisance to the community from dogs.

Exercise areas, restricted areas and prohibited areas

9. Council aims to provide appropriately for the exercise and recreational needs of dogs. Council has designated a number of areas within the city where dogs may exercise without being on a lead or similar device (see clause 10), and areas where dogs are prohibited (see clause 11).

10. Off lead dog exercise areas

- a. Below is a list of parks within Hamilton City designated as off lead dog exercise areas:

- Aberfoyle Park
- Beetham Park
- Braithwaite Park*
- Bristol Park
- Chelmsford
- Claudelands Park*
- Crawshaw Park
- Days' Park
- Hamilton Gardens*
- Innes Common*
- Lake Domain Reserve *
- Melville Park
- Minogue Park*
- Porritt Stadium*
- Pukete Farm Park
- Resthills Park*
- Tauhara Park*
- Te Kooti*
- Te Manatu*
- Temple View Reserve*
- Till's Lookout
- Waiwherowhero Park*

- b. Maps of the of the off lead dog exercise areas for each park can be found in the Dog Control Off Lead Exercise and Prohibited Areas Register.

* The specific commencement dates and any details on rules for each of these off lead dog exercise areas can be found in the Dog Control Off Lead Exercise and Prohibited Areas Register.

11. Below are a list of areas in Hamilton where dogs are prohibited:

- Within 10 metres of all areas of children's playgrounds,
- Hamilton West Cemetery
- Hamilton Gardens Cemetery
- Hamilton Gardens, Themed Gardens,
- Waiwhakareke Natural Heritage Park
- Identified areas in:
 - Hamiton Lake Domain and
 - Porritt Stadium.

12. Council's intention is to progressively upgrade the designated dog exercise areas within the city, to enhance provision for the exercise and recreational needs of dogs and their owners.

Neutering

13. Council will encourage neutering of dogs to support the overall aims of responsible dog ownership by reducing the number of roaming dogs, unwanted litters of puppies and the number of impounded dogs.

14. Council will require mandatory neutering of dogs classified as menacing in accordance with the provisions of the Dog Control Act 1996. Mandatory neutering also includes dogs classified as menacing by other territorial authorities where that dog is in the jurisdiction of Hamilton City Council.

15. Council may require the owner of a dog to cause that dog to be neutered if the dog has, on more than one occasion in a 12-month period, not been kept under control.

Probationary owners

16. Council may require a person that is classified as a probationary owner in accordance with the provisions of the Dog Control Act 1996 to undertake, at his or her own expense, a dog owner education programme and/or a dog obedience course approved by Council.

Fees and charges

17. The Dog Control Act 1996 empowers Council to impose reasonable fees and charges for the registration and control of dogs. The fees and charges aim to incentivise through the use of fee categories and discounts, responsible dog ownership, and the prompt payment of registration fees. The fees and charges will be prescribed each year on the Schedule of Fees and Charges through the Annual Plan.

Implementation processes

18. The Policy will be implemented using a combination of public education, liaison with other service providers, and where necessary, enforcement action.

19. The Policy is enforced through the Hamilton City Dog Control Bylaw 2015.