

Dog Control

We'd like to hear your thoughts on changes to the Porirua City Dog Control Bylaw and Policy.

Contents

- Summary of the proposal 3
- Have your say..... 4
 - Key dates 4
 - Making a submission 4
- The proposal 5
 - Background 5
 - Reason for this proposal 5
 - The proposal 5
- Submission form 7

Summary of the proposal

We are updating the Porirua City Council Dog Control Policy and Bylaw for the purpose of:

- changing the dog owner categories from responsible dog owner to selected owner category
- revising the dog registration fees,
- clarifying rules for dog control areas,
- introducing mandatory neutering for dogs classified as menacing.

Have your say

Key dates

When	What
18 Jan 2021	Submissions open
19 Feb 2021	Submissions close
4 Mar 2021	Submitters present to Te Puna Kōrero
24 Mar 2021	Te Puna Kōrero deliberates and changes are agreed
14 Apr 2021	Dog Control Policy and Bylaw adopted

Making a submission

You can find copies of this proposal at all Porirua City libraries, and at our Customer Services counter on the ground floor at 16 Cobham Court, Porirua.

You can have your say in a number of ways:

- You can make an online submission via the public consultation section of our website <https://poriruacity.govt.nz>. You can also download a submission form here.
- By email to: submissions@poriruacity.govt.nz with “Dog Control Submissions” in the subject line
- By hand at:
 - our front counter at 16 Cobham Court, Porirua City
 - at any of our city libraries
- By post to: Dog Control Submissions
Porirua City Council,
PO Box 50218,
Porirua City 5240

Your privacy

All submissions are public information. This supports our drive to be as transparent as possible, but, if there are any personal details you don't want made public, please let us know.

Want to know more

If you have any questions, or would like a little more information, please email hadyn.butler@poriruacity.govt.nz with “Dog Control Query” in the subject line.

The proposal

Background

The Dog control policy and bylaw outline the Council's regulations and management plan for dog ownership and recreational dog activity for Porirua City. They are intended to provide for the positive aspects of dog ownership and management while recognising the contribution made to the community and economy of Porirua City.

The Dog Control Act 1996 (the Act) also sets out the legal requirements and controls in place for dog controls and ownership. The Act also outlines what council must include in a dog control policy (s10), dog control bylaw (s20), and the public consultation requirements for both documents.

This proposal provides information to the public on the updates made to our proposed Dog Control Policy, Dog Control Bylaw, and the schedule of registration fees.

Reason for this proposal

In recent years the Porirua City Council have seen an increase in serious dog attacks causing injury to people. Therefore, these proposed amendments to the dog control policy and bylaw aim to improve dog safety in our city while also recognising that regulation and controls for dogs and dog ownership and including fairer fees for responsible dog owners, will improve dog management and mitigate potential adverse aspects of dog ownership in Porirua City.

The proposal

Fairer Fees

Currently about 56% of the costs associated for dog control are recovered through registration and enforcement fees. We want to change this to make the allocation of costs fairer for responsible dog owners and for residents who don't own dogs.

The fees and infringement change we are proposing will place more costs where monitoring, compliance, and enforcement efforts are needed, and reduce costs for selected owners, working dogs, and for ratepayers.

The proposed registration fees are listed below:

Animal control	20/21 Fee	Proposed Fees
Neutered dogs	\$133.50	\$130.00
Non-neutered dogs	\$188.00	\$180.00
Dangerous Dogs		\$195.00
Working dogs - neutered	\$99.50	\$80.00
Disability Assist Dog		
Approved dog obedience/agility course - neutered dog	\$113.00	\$100.00
Approved dog obedience/agility course - non-neutered dog	\$170.00	\$160.00
Selected Owner Category - neutered dog	\$99.50	\$80.00
Selected Owner Category - non-neutered dog	\$152.00	\$130.00
Late registration fee	\$50.00	50% of normal registration fee

Change of Responsible dog owners to Selected Owner Category

In the current policy, dog owners can apply to become Responsible Dog Owners and receive a discounted registration fee. In the updated policy and bylaw we have renamed the “Responsible Dog Owner” category to “Selected Owner Category” in recognition that the majority of dog owners are responsible, even if they are not awarded this status. We have also amended the criteria for Selected Owner Category to ensure that all owners awarded this category:

- Have a fully fenced property
- Do not own menacing or dangerous dogs
- Clarify rules for dog owners that have recently moved to Porirua

Mandatory Neutering of Menacing Dogs

To improve safety in our city we are introducing mandatory neutering of dogs the council deems as menacing. Council considers 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. As well as 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

Neutering of dogs has been shown to reduce roaming and aggressive behaviour. This change is also bringing our bylaw and policy into line with our neighbouring Territorial Authorities the Hutt City and Wellington City councils.

Clarifying Dog Control Areas

We have also taken this opportunity to clarify the rules around dogs in public areas, and have provided more details and information on areas deemed prohibited, where dogs must be controlled on a leash, and areas where dogs may be exercised off leash.

Submission form

We'd love your feedback on the Dog Control Policy and Bylaw to assist our Council in their decision-making.

Privacy

All submissions are public information. This supports our drive to be as transparent as possible, but, if there are any personal details you don't want made public, please let us know.

Your details

We'd like to know a little more about you

First name		Last name	
Organisation			
Physical address			
Suburb			
Email			
Do you own a dog/s?			

Presenting your submission in person

Would you like to come and talk to the Council about your submission?

- Yes No

If yes, please provide a phone number so we can get in touch:

Your feedback

You can leave your feedback on the proposal here, or complete the 'your details' section above and attach your feedback.

- Are you a registered dog owner?
 Yes No

- What do you think about the proposed Dog Control Policy and Bylaw?
 Support Oppose Neutral

Comments

3. What are your thoughts about the renaming of responsible dog owner to selected owner category, do you have any suggestions for another name?

Support Oppose Neutral

Comments

4. What do you think about the mandatory neutering of menacing dogs?

Support Oppose Neutral

Comments