

Understanding our dog control rules



We've made changes

We've made changes to our dog control rules that took effect from 1 August 2016.

The changes may affect where you can take your dog and where and when you need to use a leash or can have your dog off leash (but still under control).

We've put together a few of the bigger changes as well as some of the areas that provide the most confusion. For the full Dog Control Bylaw 2016, head to our website www.tcdc.govt/dogs

Prohibited, Restricted and Exercise Areas

These three terms can be confusing, especially in areas when different rules are enforced at different times of the year.



PROHIBITED

Dogs are not allowed in prohibited areas, whether they are under control, on a leash or not.



ON LEASH

All public places are on leash areas at all dates and times. Some areas may have the on leash rule during certain dates and times.



RESTRICTED

These areas have a time and date restriction on dogs being allowed into an area. Temporary restrictions will be identified by signs. The two most common restrictions you will see in our district are:

- From Labour weekend to 31 March at all times (inclusive) – this is to protect wildlife, in particular NZ dotterel. Outside of these times different restriction will apply.
- From 20 December to 31 January and all holiday weekends, between 9am and 6pm (inclusive) – these are times when our beaches have larger numbers of people.



EXERCISE AREAS

These are areas designated to running your dog at all dates and times. Dogs may be off leash but under control at all times.

So what about all the other areas that aren't specifically mentioned in the bylaw? Glad you asked! District wide all beaches are off leash areas and all public places are on leash.

Sharing our beaches with Dotterels

As well as predators, people, their pets, and vehicles pose a major threat to NZ dotterel. Sharing the beaches with care will provide the best chance of recovery for these native birds. However, this threat can be greatly reduced by knowing what to do when near breeding areas.

Nests are well camouflaged and easily trampled underfoot. Human presence causes adults to leave the nests to defend their young, leaving eggs prone to overheating, cooling or predation. Just like human babies, dotterel chicks need to feed regularly to survive and grow. When confronted by humans in their territory young chicks can often starve as they are not able to get to their feeding ground at the water's edge.

Here are three small things that you can do to help NZ Dotterel:

- Stay well outside of fenced areas
- Watch out for 'Birds Nesting' signs
- Keep dogs on leads or at home, and vehicles off beaches and sand-spits that NZ dotterel are nesting on.



Understanding the terms we use

The terms we use to describe an area, like 'beach', can mean different things to different people. So let's start with a glossary of terms that can cause confusion.

Beach

– foreshore and any adjacent area.

Park and reserve

– any land administered and/ or managed by TCDC or DOC (including parks, domains and recreational areas)

Playground

– an outdoor area that has children's play equipment.

Public Place

– is open to or is being used by the public, includes places that charge for entry i.e. Bed & Breakfast

Sports Surface

– any area used as a sports field (including those used for soccer or rugby), artificial turf (including those used for hockey), court (including those used for netball or tennis), or archery range or skateboard park.



Understanding the rules

There are three types of rules we use:

- District Wide
- Temporary Restrictions
- Area Specific

District Wide

Some areas are easy to define and so easy to set rules like on leash, off leash or prohibited. These areas will have our district wide rules.

- All beaches and parts of beaches the rule is off-leash but under control at all dates and times.
- All public places, on-leash at all dates and times.
- Within children's playgrounds, dogs are prohibited at all dates and times.
- On sports surfaces, dogs are prohibited at all dates and times.

Temporary Restrictions

Then there are the areas where a 'one-stop shop' rule doesn't fit. Some of these areas will be identified from time to time with temporary area restrictions and/or signs. The rule will be prohibited or on leash for the duration the temporary restriction and /or signs are in place.

These rules are usually for certain dates and times, particularly high use areas during the summer period and for native species protection during nesting season. The dates and times are:

- From Labour Weekend to 1 March at all times (inclusive)
- From 20 December to 31 January and all holiday weekends, between 9am and 6pm (inclusive)

Area Specific

These are different from that district rules, and are in place for specific areas, and in some instances dates and times.

We have made it easy for you by making a list of the exercise areas and prohibited areas in our district. If in doubt follow the signs and check the full area specific rules on our website www.tcdc.govt.nz/dogrules

COROMANDEL-COLVILLE:

Exercise Areas – off leash but under control at all dates and times:

- Patukirikiri Reserve (grassed area west of courts and skate bowl as indicated by signs)
- Port Jackson Beach (southern half of the beach)
- All beaches and parts of beaches (excluding areas defined in the Schedule 1 area rules which can be found on our website)*

**Prohibited or on leash may be in place from Labour weekend to 1 March at all times (inclusive) or from 20 December to 31 January and all holiday weekends, between 9am and 6pm (inclusive) as indicated by signs.*

On leash and under control at all dates and times:

- Carey Road Beach (entire Beach)
- All public places excluding beaches and excluding other public places described in the Schedule 1 area rules (found on our website)

Prohibited at all dates and times:

- Waikawau Bay (east coast) – entire beach – prohibited at all dates and times
- Within children's playgrounds
- On sports surfaces



MERCURY BAY:



Exercise Areas – off leash but under control at all dates and times:

- Cooks Beach – Purangi Reserve (as indicated by signs),
- Hot Water Beach (Old Campground – the western point of Pye Place Reserve bordering Taiwawe Stream as indicated by signs),
- Matarangi (Omara Boat Ramp Reserve as indicated by signs),
- Robinson Road Reserve (Whitianga part of the reserve west of the Robinson Road and Arthur Street intersection, as indicated by signs)
- Buffalo Beach – North of the Mercury Bay Boating Club to the south end of Brophys / Ohuka Beach
- Kuaotunu – 400m either side of Quarry Point boat ramp
- Otama – Eastern end east of Otama Stream
- All beaches and parts of beaches (excluding areas defined in the Schedule 1 area rules which can be found on our website)*

**Prohibited or on leash may be in place from Labour weekend to 1 March at all times (inclusive) or from 20 December to 31 January and all holiday weekends, between 9am and 6pm (inclusive) as indicated by signs.*

TAIRUA-PAUANUI:

On leash and under control at all dates and times:

- Whangapoua – Opera Point southern spit (area including carpark and beach area as indicated by signs)
- Matarangi Beach Walkway
- All public places excluding beaches and excluding other public places described in the Schedule 1 area rules (found on our website)

Prohibited at all dates and times:

- Matarangi Beach (northern spit adjacent to the golf course excluding walkway as indicated by signs)
- Wainuiototo/New Chums Beach (entire beach)
- Whangapoua Beach north (the north side of Mangakahia car park (near lagoon) to the northern end of Whangapoua beach as indicated by signs)
- Within children's playgrounds
- On sports surfaces



Exercise Areas – off leash but under control at all dates and times:

- Pleasant Point Reserve (area south of the bollards to Ajax Head as indicated by signs)
- South End Reserve (western side of South End Reserve as indicated by signs)
- All beaches and parts of beaches (excluding areas defined in the Schedule 1 area rules which can be found on our website)*

**Prohibited or on leash may be in place from Labour weekend to 1 March at all times (inclusive) or from 20 December to 31 January and all holiday weekends, between 9am and 6pm (inclusive) as indicated by signs.*

On leash and under control at all dates and times:

- Pauanui Boat Ramp
- All public places excluding beaches and excluding other public places described in the Schedule 1 area rules (found on our website)

Prohibited at all dates and times:

- Boat Harbour Beach (entire beach)
- Otara Bay (entire beach)
- Within children's playgrounds
- On sports surfaces



WHANGAMATA:



Exercise Areas – off leash but under control at all dates and times:

- Opoutere bush north – the area north from the point at which the car park bridge crosses the stream and the southernmost beach access as indicated by signs
- Heatherington Road Reserve
- Park Avenue Reserve as indicated by signs
- Patiki Bay Reserve area located at the end of Durrant Drive and the adjoining reserve as indicated by signs
- Whangamata Otahu estuary – west from beach access 20
- Whangamata Estuary – from the Whangamata Marina to 100 metres south of the Whangamata Wharf
- All beaches and parts of beaches (excluding areas defined in the Schedule 1 area rules which can be found on our website)*

**Prohibited or on leash may be in place from Labour weekend to 1 March at all times (inclusive) or from 20 December to 31 January and all holiday weekends, between 9am and 6pm (inclusive) as indicated by signs.*

On leash and under control at all dates and times:

- Opoutere Beach – entire beach excluding southern end as indicated by signs
- All public places excluding beaches and excluding other public places described in the Schedule 1 area rules (found on our website)

Prohibited at all dates and times:

- Opoutere Beach south – Sandspit and Wharekawa Estuary and south end bush, south from the point at which the car park bridge crosses the stream and the southernmost beach access but excluding the loop track (loop track on leash) as indicated by signs
- Within children’s playgrounds
- On sports surfaces

THAMES:

Exercise Areas – off leash but under control at all dates and times:

- Burke Street Reserve – (the reserve area inland of the beach and directly south of Burke Street as indicated by signs)
- All beaches and parts of beaches (excluding areas defined in the Schedule 1 area rules which can be found on our website)*

**Prohibited or on leash may be in place from Labour weekend to 1 March at all times (inclusive) or from 20 December to 31 January and all holiday weekends, between 9am and 6pm (inclusive) as indicated by signs.*

On leash and under control at all dates and times:

- Burke Street Beach – entire beach
- All public places excluding beaches and excluding other public places described in the Schedule 1 area rules (found on our website)

Prohibited at all dates and times:

- Within children’s playgrounds
- On sports surfaces

All of the area specific rules and maps of Whangamata, Whitianga and Pauanui can be found on our website

www.tcdc.govt.nz/dogrules

Being a responsible dog owner

- Make certain your dog is registered and wears the registration tag at all times
- Don't take your dog to areas where dogs are banned
- Dogs are not allowed in cemeteries, sports fields and within children's public play areas
- Dogs are prohibited from protected bird habitats
- Please check with DOC regarding dog access to conservation land
- Make sure your holiday accommodation has somewhere to keep your pet safe, secure and under control
- Don't let your dog wander or cause a nuisance by fouling or barking
- Unless in a designated dog exercise area, you must have your dog on a leash in a public place
- Remove your dog's droppings, take a plastic bag wherever you go
- Make sure your dog has access to shade and fresh drinking water during the day
- NEVER leave a dog in your car in the heat



FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I have to register my dog?

All dog owners are subject to the terms and conditions of the Dog Control Act of 1996 and must register their dogs with their local Council when they are 3 months old.

Once the registration fee is received, your dog will be issued with a tag which must be worn by the dog at all times. The registration tag belongs to the dog, not the owner.

What can happen if I don't pay?

If you do not register your dog by 31 July, then a penalty fee will apply. You will also be liable for a \$300 instant fine.

What does my registration pay for?

The cost of the following dog control functions is met through dog registration and infringement fees (50%) and the rest is met from the overall district rate (50%):

- Ensuring that all dogs are registered.
- Responding to reports of dog attacks and complaints about barking and stray animals.
- Providing shelter services—impoundment of stray dogs and reuniting dogs with their owners.
- Rehoming of dogs.
- Enforcing compliance, issuing infringements and patrolling beaches and parks.
- Prosecuting of serious dog related offences.

Microchipping

Dogs classified as dangerous or menacing, dogs impounded more than once or impounded unregistered and any dog registered for the first time after 1 July 2006 have to be microchipped.

Microchipping your dog means it can easily be identified.

Microchipping does not replace dog registration.

What happens at the dog pound?

We maintain a pound where lost, stray and abandoned dogs are kept. Dogs not claimed within 7 days will be rehomed or if not considered suitable for rehoming may be destroyed. Pound staff and the SPCA will consider all dogs for a second-chance home.

We advertise dogs available for rehoming on our website www.tcdc.govt.nz/pound-puppies

What do Dog Control Officers do?

Our Officers attend complaints about uncontrolled dogs, attacks on people or animals, getting into rubbish, barking etc and they also carry out regular patrols. There is a 24-hour emergency service available.

How does the Council check dogs are registered?

Twice a year Officers carry out random property inspections to ensure that dog owners have registered their dogs.

Menacing by Breed

Brazilian Fila, Dogo Argentino, Japanese Tosa, Perro de Presa Canario and American Pit Bull Terrier.

Dogs registered within the district and classified by breed, either wholly or predominantly, as menacing must be:

- Neutered
- On a muzzle when in public

Dogs and protecting the kiwi

The Department of Conservation runs an avoidance programme to protect kiwi that are vulnerable to attack or disturbance by dogs.

DOC recommends that all dogs that live near, walk or work in the bush attend yearly Kiwi Avoidance Training (KAT). Hunting dogs must be trained each year to hunt on Public Conservation Land.

Any dog can kill kiwi.

This training is free and offered throughout the Coromandel Peninsula.

Please call the DOC Kauaeranga Visitor Centre on:

07 867 9080 (open 7 days/week) for more information and/or to book training for your dog.



Be a responsible dog owner

Picks up their
dog's poo

Carries a
leash at
all times

Has their dog
under control
on and off
the leash

Please remember to register your dog by the time they are three months old.

Although the dog control rules have changed, there are still the same requirements about being a responsible dog owner. Find out more at www.dogsafety.govt.nz



www.tcdc.govt.nz/dogs