

# Dog registration: What you need to know

## Information and forms

Information regarding legislation, Dog Control Bylaws, fees, payment options and owner obligations is available along with dog associated forms at; the Council Offices in Richmond, Motueka, Golden Bay and Murchison; the Council's website: [tasman.govt.nz](http://tasman.govt.nz) or by emailing [dog.control@tasman.govt.nz](mailto:dog.control@tasman.govt.nz)

## Registration fees

Registration forms are mailed to registered dog owners in June of each year. Annual Registration Fees are due for payment on 1 July each year and are increased by 50% if not paid on or before 31 July. This penalty fee is set in accordance with the Dog Control Act 1996.

Tasman's dog registration fees are calculated based on the size of the property where the dog is kept and are reviewed annually.

The "Urban" fee is applied to properties that are under one hectare.

The "Rural" fee is applied to properties that are one hectare and over in size.

The "Working Dog" fee is applied to dogs used solely or principally for the purposes of herding or driving stock. Working dog declaration form to be provided.

**Dogs classified as Dangerous are charged 50% extra, on top of the standard registration fee.**

## Database information

Registration forms sent to dog owners show the information currently held regarding owners and their dogs. **Please check these details and alter or update them if necessary.**

Please note if you own farm working dogs, you will need to verify this by checking that "W" is displayed in the "Class" column.

**It is a legal requirement for the registration form to be signed by the dog owner. Unsigned registration forms will be returned to the dog owner.**

## Refund of fees

If your dog dies during the registration year; by submitting a Refund Application Form you will receive a refund based on the number of complete months remaining in the registration year at the time of application.

Refunds are not available for the transfer of ownership of dogs.

Registration tags are not transferable between dogs, and it is an offence to do so.

## Dogs fouling in public places

Owners whose dogs foul in a public place or on property other than their own are required to clean up after their dog(s). Owners who fail to do so are liable for a fine of \$300.00.

Doggie Doo Bags are freely available at all Council offices and in dispensers around the district. They should be suitably sealed (tied) after use and then discarded in a public bin or Doggy Doo receptacle.

## Dog shelter

The Council operates shelter facilities where dogs that have been found are housed until claimed by their owners or re-homed. If you lose your dog, or if you find a dog, please call the Council immediately, on 03 543 8400 (24 hours). Please provide a good description including registration and microchip numbers if available. A dog that has been microchipped and is wearing a current registration tag has the greatest chance of being reunited with its owner.

## Impounding fees

When a dog is impounded a fee must be paid to the Council in order for that dog to be returned to its owner.

Fees are based on the number of times the dog has been impounded in that registration year.

A charge is also made for sustenance for any dog kept overnight in the shelter.

Unregistered dogs must be registered (and microchipped if required) before they can be released from impoundment by the Council.

## Restriction on number of dogs on a property

### Residential Zone – Resource Consent Required

The Council has provided protection for people living in residential areas within close proximity to dog owners with three or more dogs. Dog owners who wish to keep three or more dogs on a Residential Zoned property are required to apply to the Council for a Resource Consent. Appropriate Resource Consent fees apply.

### Outside Residential Zone – Kennel Licence Required

The Council's Dog Control Bylaw determines the maximum number of non-working dogs allowed to be kept on a property outside a residential zone

For properties up to and including one hectare, the maximum number is two. For properties over one hectare, the maximum number is five.

Owners wishing to keep more than the allowed maximum number of non-working dogs for their property size must apply for a Kennel Licence. A one off application fee applies.

## Toxic algae

Toxic algae is a health risk to humans and animals. Dogs are particularly susceptible to poisoning from toxic algae as they love to scavenge and play near water. While there has not been a toxic algae related dog death reported in the Tasman District since 2010, some dogs have been severely affected.

Toxic algae is natural, growth occurs following warm dry weather and low river flows. If you discover any substance you suspect maybe toxic algae email a few good quality photos to Council for identification and if required a site inspection.

For further information check Council website [www.tasman.govt.nz/toxic-algae](http://www.tasman.govt.nz/toxic-algae)

## Microchipping

The Dog Control Act 1996 requires all dogs classified as dangerous or menacing, and, from 1 July 2006, all new puppies and dogs being registered for the first time in New Zealand, to be microchipped. For puppies the requirement is for microchipping to be carried out within two months of registration.

Working dogs used solely or principally for herding and driving stock are the only dogs exempt from microchipping.

Providing dog owner details are up to date and a microchip number has been provided to the relevant council; a microchip greatly enhances the probability of reuniting an owner with their lost or stolen dog.

Microchipping services are provided by Tasman District Council, Nelson SPCA and local veterinarians. Dog owners are responsible for ensuring the Council is advised of the microchip number.

## Owner's responsibilities

One of the key points contained in the Council's Dog Control Policy and Bylaw relates to owners' responsibility for controlling their dogs in public places.

The owner of any dog shall keep that dog under control at all times.

The owner of any dog shall use or carry a leash when in a public place.

When in a public place a dog shall be kept under continuous leash control; when required under any Bylaw; or on any occasion that the dog is likely to; cause a nuisance or distress to; or cause injury or endangerment to any: person, stock, poultry, domestic animal or protected wildlife.

When exercising a dog on any foreshore in the presence of nesting or roosting birds dog owners should confine their dogs to the tidal "Wet Sand" area.

Under the Dog Control Act 1996 owners must ensure that their dogs are confined on their property so that the dog cannot leave of its own free will, for example through an open gate or over a low wall.

Animal Control Officers may seize dogs which:

- are unregistered
- are wandering at large
- have attacked persons, stock or domestic animals
- cause a continual nuisance by barking or howling
- are not receiving adequate food, water or shelter
- are not able to be adequately contained on a property.

## Dog related fees 2025 / 2026

Dog Registration Urban Dog	\$90.00
Dog Registration Rural Dog	\$70.00
Dog Registration Working Dog	\$50.00

Replacement Registration Tag or Disc	\$5.00
Microchipping Dogs Aged Under 6 months	No charge
Microchipping Dogs Aged Over 6 Months	\$20.00
Microchipping Impounded Dogs	\$35.00
Kennel Licence (permit for more than the allowed number of dogs in an area which is not zoned as residential)	\$220.00

### Impounding:

First Impounding	\$80.00
Second Impounding	\$110.00
Third and Subsequent Impounding	\$165.00
Drop off fee (where dogs are not impounded)	\$54.00
Sustenance (per day)	\$22.00
Euthanizing impounded dogs	Actual cost

## Infringement offences and fines

### Offences and Fines under the Dog Control Act 1996

Wilful obstruction of officer	\$750.00
Failure/refusal to supply information	\$750.00
Failure/refusal to supply correct information	\$750.00
Failure to comply with bylaw	\$300.00
Failure to advise person of muzzle/leash requirements	\$100.00
Failure to implant microchip transponder in dog	\$300.00
False statement relating to dog registration	\$750.00
Falsely notifying death of dog	\$750.00
Failing to register dog	\$300.00
Failure to advise change of ownership	\$100.00
Failure to advise change of address	\$100.00
Removal/swapping/counterfeiting of labels/disks	\$500.00
Failure to keep dog controlled or confined	\$200.00
Failure to keep dog under control	\$200.00
Failure to carry a leash in public	\$100.00
Allowing a dog known to be dangerous to be at large unmuzzled or unleashed	\$300.00

## Other services

Dog Control Officers are happy to arrange educational presentations for any interested community groups and schools in Tasman District Council's area.

The following items are available for sale at all Council offices:

- Dog collars and leads
- Worming tablets:  
"Droncit" for dogs and cats. Treats; Hydatid tapeworm, Taenia ovis (sheep measles), Dipylidium caninum (flea tapeworm) and Taenia taeniaeformis (cat tapeworm).  
"Drontal", a broad spectrum wormer for dogs.

Feel free to contact us:



Tasman District Council  
Email [info@tasman.govt.nz](mailto:info@tasman.govt.nz)  
Website [www.tasman.govt.nz](http://www.tasman.govt.nz)  
24 hour assistance

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Private Bag 4  
Richmond 7050  
New Zealand  
Phone 03 543 8400

Murchison  
92 Fairfax Street  
Murchison 7007  
New Zealand  
Phone 03 523 1013

Motueka  
7 Hickmott Place  
PO Box 123  
Motueka 7143  
New Zealand  
Phone 03 528 2022

Tākaka  
78 Commercial Street  
PO Box 74  
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New Zealand  
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