

Christchurch City Council

Dog Control Policy 2025

Section 1: Introduction	1
Section 2: Dog Control Bylaw	3
Section 3: Obligations of dog owners	4
Section 4: Registration of dogs	6
Section 5: Micro-chipping of dogs	10
Section 6: Prohibited and leashed areas	10
Section 6.2: General leashed areas	13
Section 7: Other special areas - Dog Parks and Dog Exercise Areas	15
Section 8: Licence to own more than two dogs	16
Section 9: Other dog matters	17
Section 10: Education and training	20
Section 11: Probationary and disqualified dog owners, dangerous and menacing dogs	20
Section 12: Seizing dogs, impounding dogs and adopting dogs from the Council dog shelter facility	23
Section 13: The issuing of infringement notices	24
Section 14: Controlled or open dog areas under the Conservation Act	24
Schedule 1: Prohibited and leashed dog control areas	25

Section 1: Introduction

1.1 Preamble

Christchurch has one of the highest dog ownership rates in New Zealand, with almost 45,000 registered dogs. Many people consider their dog(s) to be part of the family, and so it is important to have a range of public places that are accessible to dogs and their owners for fun and recreation.

However, we also need to acknowledge the reality that dogs can cause problems (such as barking), can cause injuries (such as bites, which can be particularly harmful and traumatic to children) and can even cause death (such as to protected wildlife or other animals).

Many of these scenarios can be prevented with good dog ownership, but others can happen unprovoked and with little or no warning, so we need to minimise the potential for such incidents and accidents by putting reasonable regulatory controls in place.

This policy seeks to balance the recreational needs of dogs and their owners with the need to minimise the potential for any danger, distress or nuisance that may be caused by dogs.

1.2 Reason for the policy

The Dog Control Act 1996 requires every territorial authority to adopt a policy on dog control matters and to develop a bylaw to give effect to its policy. The Christchurch City Council Dog Control Bylaw 2025 has been developed with this policy.

1.3 Purpose of the policy

The purpose of this policy is to outline how the Christchurch City Council will address the requirements set out in the Act.

This policy balances regulatory controls to allow for the recreational needs of dogs and their owners with appropriate controls to minimise the danger, distress or nuisance that may be caused by dogs.

This policy is also designed as an educational tool to help encourage and facilitate good dog behaviour and good dog ownership.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Dog Control Bylaw 2025 and the Dog Control Act. Some parts of the Act are reiterated in this policy for the purposes of clarity.

1.4 Commencement and lifespan of the policy

This policy comes into force on 3 November 2025. This policy must be reviewed at least every ten years, together with the dog control bylaw.¹

1.5 Ownership of the policy

The Dog Control Policy and Dog Control Bylaw are owned by the Christchurch City Council's Animal Management Team, which is part of the Regulatory Compliance Unit.

The primary focus of the Animal Management Team is to provide a cost effective and professional animal management service through education, monitoring, compliance and enforcement activities.

The Council's principal involvement in dog control is in response to the legislative obligations set out in the Act. The legislation sets out Council's and dog owners' responsibilities.

The Council's approach to dog control is one of assisting owners to understand their responsibilities, rewarding those owners who exercise good control of their dogs and taking any necessary action against those who do not meet their obligations.

1.6 Community outcomes related to the policy

The Christchurch City Council has a number of Community Outcomes that guide decision-making. The main Community Outcomes related to this policy are:

¹ The Local Government Act 2002 requires bylaws to be reviewed at least every ten years (s.159). The Dog Control Act 1996 requires a dog control policy to be reviewed when a dog control bylaw is reviewed (s.10AA). A review may be prompted at any time within this ten year timeframe due to operational needs, legislative change or for other reasons.

Collaborative and confident: <i>actively participate and feel safe</i> Green and liveable: <i>protect and regenerate the environment, especially our biodiversity and water bodies</i>	This policy enables active participation, improves community safety and protects biodiversity by: • allowing access for dogs and their owners to a wide range of public places • placing obligations on dog owners to protect the public from danger of attack, intimidation or nuisance from dogs • requiring dogs to be leashed or prohibited in some areas to protect people, other dogs, wildlife, grazing stock, heritage plantings, habitat restoration, conservation values and culturally sensitive sites • allowing children areas to play, free of dogs (such as playgrounds, swimming beaches and skate parks).
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Section 2: Dog Control Bylaw

Under the Dog Control Act councils are required to develop a dog control policy, and must develop a bylaw to enforce the matters covered by the policy.² Section 10(3)(a) of the Act requires a dog control policy to set out the nature and application of its associated bylaw.

2.1 Nature and application of the bylaw

The Council's Dog Control Bylaw:

- promotes the responsible management of dogs in public places;
- provides for the recreational needs of dogs and their owners; and
- minimises the potential for danger, distress or nuisance from dogs to the community, animals and wildlife.

The Council's Dog Control Bylaw covers the following matters:

- control of dogs in public places
- prohibiting dogs from specified public places or categories of public places
- requiring dogs to be on a leash in specified public places or categories of public places
- exempting certain types of dogs in certain situations
- designating specified areas as dog parks and dog exercise areas
- placing limitations on the number of dogs that may be kept on properties
- an exemption process for exceeding the limit on the maximum number of dogs
- placing limitations on the housing, movement and transportation of female dogs in season
- placing requirements on dogs on vehicle trays
- offences and penalties.

² Section 10 of the Dog Control Act 1996

Section 3: Obligations of dog owners

The Dog Control Act sets out the national expectations of dog owners that are consistent across New Zealand. The Council's Dog Control Policy and Bylaw set out those matters that are specific to Christchurch district, such as the public places where you can or cannot take your dog, or must have it on a leash.

All dog owners are required to understand the dog owner requirements and obligations set out in the Act, together with the dog owner requirements and obligations set out in this policy and in the Council's Dog Control Bylaw.

Dog owners should also be aware that animal welfare matters are covered by the Animal Welfare Act 1999, and, in particular, by the Animal Welfare (Dogs) Code of Welfare, which sets out the minimum standards and recommendations relating to all aspects of the care of dogs. Animal welfare matters relating to companion animals are largely enforced by the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA).

3.1 Obligations of dog owners set out in the Dog Control Bylaw

The following subsections set out the obligations of dog owners that are required by the Council's Dog Control Bylaw.

3.1.1 Keeping your dog under effective control

Dog owners are required to keep their dog(s) 'under effective control' at all times when in public places. If an area is not a leashed area or prohibited area in this policy, dogs may be exercised off-leash, provided they are under effective control.

Under effective control means the owner or person in charge of a dog in a public place must:

- actively pay attention to the dog and what it is doing;
- ensure the dog is responsive to commands, with prompt recall;
- be close enough to the dog to quickly prevent any issues; and
- ensure the dog is not creating a nuisance to any other person, or to any stock, poultry, domestic animal, or protected wildlife.

If a dog is unable to consistently and quickly respond to commands, it must be leashed in public places, whether a leash is required or not.

Explanation: In order for a dog to be able to be off-leash in public places, the owner or person in charge of it must be confident that the dog will respond to commands. If a dog is inconsistent at responding, it should be leashed. The owner or person in charge of the dog must actively pay attention to the dog – this means knowing where it is and what it is doing, being able to see and hear the dog, being close enough to respond to any issues, and ensuring it is not creating a nuisance. Nuisance in this sense means things such as rushing at, barking at, intimidating, or otherwise bothering people or animals, including other dogs. Having a dog under effective control is as much about the safety of the dog as it is about the safety of others.

The Dog Control Act requires all dog owners to carry a leash when taking their dog into a public place, whether or not the public place is a leashed area (section 54A). This is because unexpected situations may arise that require a dog to be leashed to keep the dog under control or to keep it safe.

Another requirement that is set out in the Dog Control Act is that the legal owner of a dog must be over the age of 16 (section 2). The owner or person in charge of a dog in a public place should also be physically capable of controlling the dog.

3.1.2 Limit on the number of dogs a person can be in charge of

A person can have a maximum of four dogs under their control in public places when leashed, and a maximum of two dogs when off-leash (provided they are otherwise complying with this policy).

A person with relevant skills and experience may apply to the Council for an increase in the number of dogs they can be in charge of in a public place, provided certain criteria are met.

Exercising a group of dogs in a public place requires special skills, and if undertaken as a commercial venture, comes with extra obligations. This includes things like the need for public liability insurance, should something go wrong.

3.1.3 Dog limit exemption

A person wanting to control more than the maximum number of dogs in a public place can apply to the Council for a dog limit exemption. The requirements are set out in the Dog Control Bylaw.

Information required

The application process will include a combination of supplying written material and a meeting to discuss the application. The applicant will be expected to demonstrate a good understanding of the obligations set out in the Dog Control Act 1996, in this policy and in the Dog Control Bylaw (including knowledge of where dogs can and cannot go, or where they must be leashed).

An application should include the following (as set out in the bylaw):

- (a) information relating to dog control knowledge and experience, including any relevant qualifications or accreditations;
- (b) business planning documents that demonstrate good dog management and a public safety focus, including things such as, but not limited to: dog vetting processes, pro forma client agreements, risk management documents, health and safety planning, and public liability insurance; and
- (c) the maximum number of dogs the applicant intends to control in public places and an indication of likely places they may take the dogs.

If the person is the registered owner of the dogs, subclause (b) will not apply.

3.1.4 Carrying the means of removing dog faeces in public places

The person in charge of a dog must carry the means of picking up and removing any fouling (dog faeces) when in a public place (for example, plastic, recycled or compostable bags).

Explanation: Plastic, recycled or compostable bags are an ideal way of picking up and removing dog faeces and must be carried at all times when in public places with a dog. If left on the ground, dog faeces will contaminate waterways. Despite using a compostable or biodegradable bag, dog faeces should always be disposed of in a rubbish bin or Council red wheelie bin (it cannot be composted through the green waste wheelie bin system).

3.1.5 Removing dog faeces from public places

The person in charge of a dog must remove any fouling (dog faeces) that their dog produces and dispose of it in a hygienic manner (e.g. in a red wheelie bin or Council rubbish bin). The requirement to remove dog faeces applies not only to public places, but also to land that is not the dog owner's land.

Explanation: Dog faeces can harbour diseases and parasitic infection that can make other dogs or people unwell. It is also generally unpleasant and smelly. Christchurch has a high proportion of dogs per capita, and it is important that dog owners take responsibility for their own dogs so that dogs can continue to enjoy access to a wide range of public places.

Section 4: Registration of dogs

All dogs in New Zealand must be registered in accordance with section 36 of the Act. This means that all dogs must be registered by 1 July each year, and must be registered for the first time before they are three months old.

Dog registration fees increase incrementally if not paid by 1 July. Registered dogs must wear a registration tag at all times.³ The Council will replace a lost dog registration tag at no cost.

It is an offence not to register a dog that is over three months of age.⁴ It is an offence to knowingly provide false information on a dog registration application form.⁵

Explanation: Dogs are required to be registered for three reasons. Firstly, to keep an up to date record of all dogs and their owners, secondly, to allow for the return of lost dogs, and thirdly, to generate revenue for providing dog control services across the district. See the section below on the setting of dog registration fees.

4.1 Dog registration classifications

The registration classifications are as follows:

- **Standard dog registration**
 - This is the default dog registration classification.
 - Spayed or neutered dogs have a reduced registration fee (requires a veterinary certificate).
 - Unspayed or unneutered dogs have a higher registration fee.
- **Responsible Dog Owner registration**
 - This applies to dogs owned by people who have Responsible Dog Owner status. This is explained in the section below.
 - Second and subsequent dogs have a reduced registration fee.
- **Working dog registration⁶**
 - The definition for working dog is set out in the Dog Control Act and generally means dogs that are:
 - kept solely or predominantly for the purpose of herding stock (e.g. a sheep dog);
 - kept by a government agency for carrying out the functions of that organisation (e.g. relating to policing, defence, corrections, customs, security, biosecurity, pest management, emergency management or conservation); or
 - kept by a security guard for the purpose of carrying out security-related duties.
 - Second and subsequent dogs have a reduced registration fee.
- **Rural working dog registration**
 - This classification applies to 'rural working dogs' as declared by a resolution of Council on 23 June 2016. These are dogs housed on a working farm, and that are kept solely or principally to contribute to the working of a farm or otherwise assist in farming activities.
 - Second and subsequent dogs have a reduced registration fee.
- **Dogs classified as dangerous**

³ Under section 44 of the Dog Control Act 1996

⁴ Under section 42(1) of the Dog Control Act 1996

⁵ Under section 41 of the Dog Control Act 1996

⁶ The definition of "working dog" in the Dog Control Act includes "any disability assist dog", but for the purposes of dog registration fees, working dogs must be registered and pay a registration fee, while disability assist dogs must be registered, but do not pay a registration fee.

- This applies to dogs classified as 'dangerous' under the Dog Control Act. The Act requires a higher registration fee to be paid for these dogs.
- Spayed or neutered dogs have a reduced registration fee (requires a veterinary certificate).
- Unspayed or unneutered dogs have a higher registration fee.
- **Disability Assist Dogs**
 - These dogs need to be registered, but do not incur a dog registration fee.
 - The definition for Disability Assist Dogs is set out in the Dog Control Act and generally means dogs that are certified (or being trained) to assist someone with a visual, hearing, mobility or other disability.

4.2 The setting of dog registration fees

Registration fees are set through the Council's Annual Plan / Long Term Plan process and are notified to all registered dog owners at registration time and are listed on the Council's website.

In considering the dog registration fees, the Council will:

- set a standard dog registration fee
 - with a lesser price for spayed / neutered dogs⁷
- set a fee for Responsible Dog Owners that is less than the standard dog registration fee⁸
 - with a price for one dog and a lesser price for second and subsequent dogs
- set a fee for working dogs that is less than the standard dog registration fee⁹
 - with a price for one dog and a lesser price for second and subsequent dogs
- set a fee for rural working dogs that is the same as the fee for working dogs
- set a fee for Dangerous Dogs that is 50% higher than the standard dog registration fee¹⁰
 - with a lesser price for spayed / neutered dogs¹¹
- not set a fee for Disability Assist Dogs, and
- charge a penalty for the late registration of dogs.¹²

Explanation: Registration fees are set by councils to take into account the cost of providing dog control services and aim to strike a balance between dog owners bearing the costs of dog control and the benefits to ratepayers of having safe and well controlled dogs in their community. The Dog Control Act 1996 (section 9) requires that all money collected under the Dog Control Act can only be spent on dog control matters.

4.2.1 Responsible Dog Owner status

Explanation: Responsible Dog Owner status is a special dog ownership status that recognises good, responsible dog owners and entitles them to a reduced annual dog registration fee. Dog owners eligible to be classified as a Responsible Dog Owner must have:

- *a record of good and responsible dog ownership*
- *consistent and timely payment of dog registration fees*

⁷ In accordance with section 37(2)(a) of the Dog Control Act 1996

⁸ In accordance with section 37(2)(e) of the Dog Control Act 1996

⁹ In accordance with section 37(2)(b) of the Dog Control Act 1996

¹⁰ For dogs classed as dangerous in accordance with section 31 of the Dog Control Act 1996, in accordance with section 32(1)(e)

¹¹ In accordance with section 32(1)(e) of the Dog Control Act 1996

¹² In accordance with section 37(2)(f) and section 37(3) of the Dog Control Act 1996

- *a history of compliance with relevant legal requirements.*

4.2.2 Responsible Dog Owner application criteria

In order to hold Responsible Dog Owner status, a dog owner must apply for responsible Dog Owner status online or at a Council service centre, and meet the following criteria.

The dog owner must:

- have been the registered owner of a dog and have resided in the Christchurch City Council district for at least 12 months;
- have paid dog registration fees on or before 1 July for the last two years;
- have all dogs micro-chipped in accordance with the Dog Control Act, including providing the microchip number to the Council; and
- have a licence to keep multiple dogs on their property (if applicable).

The dog owner must have a property at which the dog resides that:

- is suitably fenced and gated to contain the dog; and
- allows dog-free access to a door of the dwelling for authorised callers.

The owner must have complied with the requirements of the Dog Control Act 1996 and the current Christchurch City Council Dog Control Bylaw, and must not, in the last two years, have:

- had a dog that has been found at large, been uncontrolled, or been chased, returned or impounded by Council Animal Management staff;
- been issued with a warning notice or infringement notice for any dog-related offence; or
- been prosecuted for any dog-related offence.

Owners of dogs classified as 'menacing' under the Dog Control Act may be considered for Responsible Dog Owner status, provided all criteria are strictly met. Owners of dogs classified as 'dangerous' under the Dog Control Act are not eligible to apply for Responsible Dog Owner Status.

The granting and retention of Responsible Dog Owner status is up to the discretion of the attending Dog Control Officer.

4.2.3 Responsible Dog Owner conditions

Applications must be received and approved prior to 30 April in any year to enable the successful applicant to gain Responsible Dog Owner status for the dog registration year commencing 1 July.

All dog(s) owned or kept by the applicant must be controlled in accordance with the Dog Control Act 1996 and with the current Council Dog Control Bylaw.

The Council reserves the right to carry out random property inspections (in accordance with the Dog Control Act) to ensure compliance.

Any breach of the criteria and conditions of this policy will lead to the immediate withdrawal of Responsible Dog Owner status.

Should Responsible Dog Owner status be withdrawn because the criteria and conditions of this policy have been breached, the owner may not apply for, or be considered for, the status again until two years after the date of withdrawal.

A dog owner seeking Responsible Dog Owner status must inform the Council of any dog registration or residential address changes, including information on the death, sale, or transfer of any dogs, and including the birth of any pups.

The Responsible Dog Owner status may be transferred to a different owner in some circumstances, provided all other things remain the same, at the discretion of the Manager Animal Management.

Any change of residential address or dog registration details must be notified in writing, or by email, online or phone to the Council within 14 days.

4.2.4 Responsible Dog Owner fees must be paid by 1 July

The reduced fee for dog owners that have obtained Responsible Dog Owner status is required to be paid by 1 July each year.

Failure to pay by 1 July will cause the Responsible Dog Owner status to be revoked, and the owner will then be ineligible to obtain the status again for two years, and will have to pay the standard dog registration fee.

4.2.5 Registration and de-sexing of dogs

The Council encourages de-sexing by offering a discount on registration fees for neutered or spayed dogs.¹³ To apply for the reduced fee you must provide written proof of de-sexing along with your dog registration application form.

Explanation: De-sexing is important to reduce unwanted pregnancies and to reduce aggression. Unwanted puppies need to be cared for, re-homed or destroyed, and can become an unintended cost or cause animal welfare concerns if they are not cared for appropriately. Unless your dog is intended for breeding, it should be de-sexed.

4.2.6 Change of dog ownership

Where the ownership of a dog changes, the registration continues, but both the old owner and the new owner must advise the Council's Animal Management Team. A new registration tag will be issued to the new owner at no cost.¹⁴

4.2.7 Transfer of dog registration between districts

Where a registered dog is moving to a different council district, the registration goes with it. Owners of dogs transferring between areas must advise both councils of the dog's move in writing, and within six weeks of the move. The owner should take the dog registration tag to their new local council office and it will be swapped for a registration tag for the new area, at no charge. No refund of the registration fee is made as a result of the transfer, and the dog is not required to be re-registered in the new area until 1 July next.¹⁵

4.2.8 Refund of registration fee in the event of the death of a dog

The Council will refund the applicable portion of a dog registration fee in the event of the death of a dog.¹⁶ The refund must be applied for on the appropriate form, and evidence of the death of the dog must be provided by a veterinary certificate. This must be done within 14 days of the death of the dog.

¹³ This is enabled by section 37(2)(a) of the Dog Control Act 1996

¹⁴ This is set out in section 48 of the Dog Control Act 1996

¹⁵ This is set out in section 47, 48 and 49 of the Dog Control Act 1996

¹⁶ Required by section 39 of the Dog Control Act 1996

Section 5: Micro-chipping of dogs

Explanation: Dog registration and micro-chipping are two separate processes. You must register your dog every year, but you only need to microchip your dog once. A micro-chip is about the size of a grain of rice and is implanted on a dog's back, towards the neck, between the shoulder blades, normally by a qualified person such as a veterinarian or Dog Control Officer.

Micro-chipping is a more permanent method of identifying a dog than collars and tags, which can be lost or removed. It enables a dog to be linked to its owner, so if it is stolen or lost, dog and owner can be reunited. Secondly, it can identify a dog which has been aggressive and classified as dangerous or menacing. This is especially important if a dog owner attempts to disguise the dog's identity.

5.1 Requirement to have your dog micro-chipped

Except for working dogs, all dogs in New Zealand first registered after 1 July 2006 must be implanted with a micro-chip.¹⁷

Dogs classified as dangerous or menacing, dogs impounded but not registered, and dogs registered but impounded twice, are also required to be micro-chipped.¹⁸

The Council will continue to provide incentives for micro-chipping, which may include subsidised or free micro-chipping, depending on available funding.

5.2 Requirement to supply micro-chip information

Dog owners are required to supply their dog's micro-chip information to the Council so that it can be recorded in the National Dog Database.¹⁹ This can be done by providing the Council with a certificate from a vet (which must include the microchip number), or by taking your dog to the Council's Animal Management Team to have it scanned, so that the Council can verify that it has been implanted with a microchip.

Explanation: The National Dog Database is administered by the Department of Internal Affairs and holds details of all micro-chipped dogs in New Zealand, their owners and any infringements that may have been issued against an owner or person in charge of a dog.

Section 6: Prohibited and leashed areas

Dogs may be prohibited from public places or required to be on a leash in public places. If a public place is not listed in this policy, it means that dogs are allowed off-leash, but must be under effective control. 'Under effective control' is the default classification.

When a dog is under effective control, it means the owner or person in charge of the dog must actively pay attention to the dog and what it is doing; be close enough to the dog to quickly respond to any issues; ensure the dog remains responsive to commands, with prompt recall; and ensure the dog does not create a nuisance to any other person, or to any stock, poultry, domestic animal, or protected wildlife.

The public places may be a category of public place (eg all children's playgrounds) or a specific public place (eg a named reserve or specified section of coastline). These controls may be in place at all times, or at specific times of the day or year (eg between 9am and 7pm during swimming season at beaches).

¹⁷ Required by section 36A of the Dog Control Act 1996

¹⁸ Required by section 36A and 69A of the Dog Control Act 1996

¹⁹ Required by sections 34(2)(g) and 36A of the Dog Control Act 1996

Where specific restrictions or prohibitions are in place, they will be listed in the schedule attached to this policy, and signs should also indicate any controls where they apply. It may take the Council some time to ensure all signs are in place and up to date. Dog owners should not rely on signage to be in all places, but should be familiar with this policy.²⁰ The Council provides an interactive online map where people can check the dog control status in any given area when they are out and about.

The following section sets out the categories of public places where controls are in place. The specific public places are listed in tables in the schedule attached to this policy.

Section 6.1: General prohibited areas

There are some categories of public places in the district where dogs are prohibited (not allowed). These areas are:

- all Council children's playgrounds (within one metre of playground surfaces, equipment or fencing)
- all Council skateparks and pump tracks (within one metre of skateparks)
- all Council swimming pools and paddling pools and associated fenced areas
- at specific swimming beaches during summer

See the sections below for more detail.

6.1.1 Children's playgrounds

Dogs are prohibited from being:

- within any fenced Council playground area; and
- on any specially surfaced Council playground area; and
- within one metre of any fenced or surfaced Council playground area; and
- within one metre of any Council playground equipment where there is no fence or special surface.

Explanation: Playgrounds are designed for the use and enjoyment of children. Children are disproportionately represented in dog bite and injury statistics. Ensuring dogs are not in playground areas makes them safer for children to use. Dogs should also be on a leash near playgrounds when they are in use. This is good practice to prevent dogs rushing at children or intimidating them, which could cause an accident.

6.1.2 Skateparks and pump tracks

Dogs are prohibited on Council skatepark and pump track surfaces and from being within one metre of the perimeter of any Council skatepark or pump track.

Explanation: Skateparks and pump tracks are designed for the use and enjoyment of children and teenagers. Children and teenagers are disproportionately represented in dog bite and injury statistics. The speed and noise of a skatepark may excite or provoke a dog. Ensuring dogs are not in these areas makes them safer for children and teenagers to use.

6.1.3 Swimming and paddling pools

Dogs are prohibited from being inside any fenced Council paddling pool area, and from being within one metre of any unfenced Council paddling pool. Dogs are prohibited from entering any Council swimming pool facilities.

Explanation: The Council has many paddling pools around the city. Dogs are not allowed in these areas as they are designed for the use and enjoyment of children. Ensuring dogs are not in paddling pool areas makes them safer for children and prevents dogs from soiling or marking the facility, surfaces or equipment.

²⁰ Section 5 of the Dog Control Act sets out the obligations of dog owners.

The prohibition does not apply to organised Council events designed for dogs at Council swimming or paddling pools.

6.1.4 Dogs are prohibited at specific beaches during summer

Dogs are prohibited at some beaches used for swimming and recreation activities during summer. The Summer Beach Prohibition Areas apply from 1 November to 31 March, and between 9am and 7pm, and are listed below, and in the schedule attached to this policy.

Explanation: Dogs can cause issues on beaches that are commonly used for swimming and recreation activities, ranging from hygiene (fouling or urinating on sand or belongings) to causing a nuisance to, or endangering, other people at the beach (especially children).

Outside of these dates and times, beaches with Summer Beach Prohibitions in place revert back to 'under effective control' areas. Other than beaches specified as Summer Beach Prohibition Areas, dogs are generally permitted in many beach and coastal areas, unless there are restrictions in place to protect wildlife or for other reasons. Check individual entries in the schedule attached to this policy, the Council's interactive dog map and signage at each location to be sure.

6.1.4.1 Exemption for the purpose of passing through

Dogs are allowed to pass through Summer Beach Prohibition Areas during the prohibited times, as long as the person in charge of the dog has it on a short leash and under good control, and it is for the purpose of passing through.

Explanation: If you are walking your dog along a beach and enter a Summer Beach Prohibition Area, you do not have to exit the beach, travel along the road or inland, and then return to the beach after the prohibited area. You can walk through the prohibited area, as long as you have your dog on a short leash and under good control, and you are passing directly through the area.

6.1.4.2 Christchurch Swimming Beaches

- **Spencer Park Beach, Waimairi Beach, North Beach and South New Brighton Beach** - dogs are prohibited during summer hours (1 November to 31 March between 9am-7pm) for a distance of 100 metres in a northerly and southerly direction from the Surf Life Saving Club's pavilions.
- **New Brighton Beach** - dogs are prohibited during summer hours (1 November to 31 March between 9am-7pm) for a distance of 100 metres in a northerly direction of the Surf Life Saving Club's pavilion to a point 100 metres southward of the Christchurch Pier.
- **Sumner Beach** - dogs are prohibited during summer hours (1 November to 31 March between 9am-7pm) for a distance of 100 metres in a northerly direction of the Sumner Surf Life Saving Club's pavilion to Cave Rock in the south.
- **Taylor's Mistake Beach** - dogs are prohibited during summer hours (1 November to 31 March between 9am-7pm) for a distance of 50 metres in a general northerly and southerly direction from the Taylor's Mistake Surf Life Saving Club's pavilion.

6.1.4.3 Banks Peninsula Swimming Beaches

Lyttelton Harbour Beaches

- **Cass Bay beach, Corsair Bay beach, Sandy Bay beach, Paradise Bay beach, Hays Bay beach, Diamond Harbour beach and Purau beach** - dogs are prohibited during summer (from 1 November to 31 March between 9am-7pm). Check each individual beach entry in the schedule attached to this policy for specific information, eg restrictions that apply in foreshore areas, or related pathways and jetties.

Peninsula beaches

- **Akaroa beach, French Farm beach, Le Bon's Bay beach, Little Akaloa beach, Okain's Bay beach, Port Levy beach and Tikao Bay beach** - dogs are prohibited during summer (from 1 November to 31 March between 9am-7pm). Check each individual beach entry in the schedule attached to this policy for specific information, eg restrictions that apply in foreshore areas. (Note: Duvauchelle beach area is prohibited year-round to dogs to protect wildlife values)

6.1.5 Dogs are prohibited in other specific areas

Dogs are prohibited in a number of other specified public places throughout the district, for a variety of reasons. These prohibited areas are listed in tables in the schedule attached to this policy

Section 6.2: General leashed areas

There are some categories of public places in the district where dogs must be on a leash. Dogs must be on a leash in the following areas:

- on all roads, and on all shared paths, footpaths and pedestrian areas on or near roads, and in car parking areas
- paths in all greenspace areas
- in all cemeteries and memorial areas
- in all boat ramp and slipway areas
- on all wharves, jetties and boardwalks
- on all sports fields during games and practice sessions
- in all community garden areas.

6.2.1 On all roads, and footpaths, shared paths and pedestrian areas on or near roads, and in car parking areas

Dogs must be on a short leash on all roads, and on all footpaths, shared paths and pedestrian areas on or near roads, and in car parking areas. This includes the margins alongside roads (such as verges and berms, whether sealed or not), private ways, state highways, and car parks, but excludes beaches and driveways on private land.

Explanation: Vehicles could harm a dog that is not under control, and, equally, a dog could cause a vehicle to have an accident. Having your dog under control on and near roads and areas where vehicles manoeuvre is as much about the safety of your dog as it is about the safety of others. Roads, footpaths, pedestrian areas and shared paths are used by people walking, running, cycling and scootering, as well as by people using mobility devices, pushchairs, balance bikes, skateboards, etc, and we want to make sure these areas are safer for everyone. A short leash is defined in the dog control bylaw as no longer than 1.5 meters, and if extendable, is locked at a length of no longer than 1.5 metres.

6.2.2 On all paths in greenspace areas

Dogs must be on a leash on paths in greenspace areas where dogs are allowed. Paths and greenspace are both defined in the bylaw.

This requirement does not apply to Bottle Lake Forest Park (which is a dog exercise area) or to paths within fenced dog parks or exercise areas, where dogs can be under effective control.

Explanation: Paths can be busy with people walking, running, cycling, mountain biking and scootering, as well as by people using mobility devices, pushchairs, balance bikes, etc, and we want to make sure these areas are safer for everyone by requiring dogs to be leashed.

Footpaths and shared paths are usually sealed, but some shared paths and all formed tracks are likely to be shingle or have a hard-packed surface. Dogs are required to be leashed on these paths.

If a path, shared path or formed track runs through an area where dogs can be off-leash, dogs can continue to be exercised under effective control near the path, but must be leashed if travelling along the path.

This rule does not affect requirements in areas specified as leashed areas, or areas where dogs are prohibited. Leashed and prohibited areas are set out in the schedule to this policy.

6.2.3 Cemeteries and memorials

Dogs must be on a leash in the grounds of Council-managed cemeteries and memorial areas.

Explanation: Cemeteries and memorial areas are places of contemplation, of serenity and prayer, of respect for our history and for the stories of our people. They are places to come to grieve, to remember and to give thanks. It is appropriate for dogs to accompany their owners in these spaces, but it is also important that their presence is respectful of the space and of others, so dogs must be leashed.

6.2.4 Boat ramps and slipways

Dogs must be on a leash on and in the vicinity of all Council boat ramps and slipways, including associated car manoeuvring and car parking areas.

Explanation: Dogs are required to be on a leash in boat ramp areas and around slipways in order to prevent dogs from being injured by manoeuvring vehicles and to prevent dogs from causing accidents or injury to boat ramp users.

6.2.5 Wharves, jetties and boardwalks

Dogs must be on a leash on all wharves, jetties and boardwalks.

Explanation: Dogs are required to be on a leash on wharves, jetties and boardwalks to protect health and safety. They are narrow spaces and dogs should be under good control. Boardwalks are often part of paths or tracks, so dogs should be leashed for consistency. Any hooks or fishing line left behind on wharves or jetties may present a danger to dogs, so dogs should be leashed for their own safety. Note that dogs are prohibited on New Brighton Pier.

6.2.6 Sports fields during games and practice sessions

Dogs must be leashed on all sports fields during games and practice sessions. This applies to the playing area (marked by line-marking, cones, flags, or other means), and within five metres of the playing area. Dogs may be exercised under effective control outside of this area, and at other times in the area, unless other rules apply.

Explanation: Dogs are required to be leashed on all sports fields during games and practice sessions to protect health and safety and to prevent interference with games. Leashing relates to the active playing and immediately adjacent area only (space for supporters / spectators, coaches, substitute players, and any equipment or gear) during games and practice sessions.

6.2.7 Community gardens

Dogs must be leashed in and around all community garden areas.

Explanation: Dogs must be leashed in and around all community gardens to protect health and safety and prevent damage to gardens and food crops.

6.2.8 Dogs must be on a leash in other specific areas

Dogs must be on a leash in a number of other specified public places throughout the district, for a variety of reasons. These leashed areas are listed in tables in the schedule attached to this policy.

6.2.9 Exemptions to prohibited and leashed dog areas - disability assist dogs, working dogs, hunting dogs and summer beach prohibition exemptions

Dog controls do not apply to disability assist dogs or to working dogs (where a working dog is carrying out its duties and being actively managed by its handler). They also do not apply to hunting dogs, where a hunter is carrying out a legal hunting activity and the hunting dog is under control and present solely for hunting-related purposes.

As mentioned above, dogs are allowed in Summer Beach Prohibition Areas solely for the purpose of passing through, and must be on a short leash.

Section 7: Other special areas - Dog Parks and Dog Exercise Areas

The Council recognises the importance of the recreational and exercise needs of dogs and their owners, and endeavours to provide the opportunity for dogs and their owners to access many different public places across the city.

Many parks, reserves, sections of coastline and beaches allow the opportunity for dog owners to exercise their dogs off-leash. However, some specific areas have prohibitions or leash requirements in place in order to protect people, animals and endangered or protected wildlife, or for other reasons, and these are listed in the schedule attached to this policy. If an area is not listed in this policy as either a general or specific leashed or prohibited area, it is an under effective control area by default, meaning dogs can be exercised off-leash (provided they are under good control).

As well as parks, reserves, coastline and beaches that do not have dog restrictions, the Council has created dedicated areas for exercising dogs off-leash. These dedicated areas include Dog Parks and Dog Exercise Areas.

Section 7.1 How the Council makes dog parks and dog exercise areas

Current Dog Parks and Dog Exercise Areas are listed below. The Council may decide to develop new Dog Parks or Dog Exercise Areas during the lifespan of this policy, through Parks planning processes.

The Council can create a Dog Park or Dog Exercise Area in any area where a leashed or prohibited rule does not apply (i.e. in an area where dogs are allowed to be under effective control).

If a leashed or prohibited rule applies, developing a new Dog Park or Dog Exercise area would require a change to this policy and a change to the dog control status of the area (from leashed or prohibited to under effective control). Any change to this policy would need to follow the process set out in the Dog Control Act for amending a dog control policy.

Section 7.2: Dog Parks

Dog Parks are designed to allow dogs a space to exercise with other dogs and their owners, in a dog-friendly environment.

The Council recognises the importance of exercise for dogs and their owners, and endeavours to provide the opportunity for dogs and their owners to exercise and socialise together through many different Dog Parks across the city.

As with all public places, dog owners must have their dog under effective control when in a Dog Park, and owners must carry a leash and the means to dispose of any fouling, and must remove any fouling.

Having your dog under control is as much about the safety of your dog as it is about the safety of other dogs and other people at Dog Parks. Care should be taken if your dog is not used to socialising with other dogs, or is known to be aggressive.

Children are allowed in Dog Parks, but particular care should be taken by parents or guardians to ensure they are protected from the potential for dog-related accidents or injuries. Dog Parks are primarily a space for dogs to socialise and exercise with other dogs.

Each Dog Park has different features and facilities. The Council currently has Dog Parks in the following locations:

- Horseshoe Lake Dog Park (Broomfield Terrace, Shirley)
- The Groynes Yvonne Palmer Dog Park (Johns Road, Belfast)
- Elizabeth (Victoria) Park Dog Park (Victoria Park Road, Cashmere)
- Styx Mill Conservation Reserve Dog Park (Hussey Road, Harewood)
- Rawhiti Domain Dog Park (Shaw Ave, New Brighton)
- Bexley Reserve Dog Park (Pages Road, New Brighton).

Section 7.3: Dog Exercise Areas

The difference between a Dog Park and a Dog Exercise Area is about infrastructure and equipment. Although all dog parks vary, most are fenced, have agility equipment and many have a water source. Dog Exercise Areas, on the other hand, are areas that are recommended and known to be good and safe places to exercise dogs. Some may have agility equipment, but many do not.

7.3.1 Dog exercise areas

The following areas are designated Dog Exercise Areas:

- part of Halswell Quarry, Halswell
- part of Radley Park, Woolston
- the whole of Bottle Lake Forest Park, Burwood (note the leashing on paths rule does not apply to Bottle Lake Forest Park, where dogs can be exercised off leash)
- Little River Dog Exercise Area, behind the old railway station

Any area that is not listed in the schedule to this policy, or is not covered by the general prohibited and leashed categories, is an 'under effective control' area, which means that dogs can be exercised freely, off-leash, provided they are 'under effective control'.

Section 8: Licence to own more than two dogs

Owners of more than two dogs over the age of three months must obtain a licence to keep the dogs on any property that is under one hectare (10,000m²) in size.

The purpose of the licence is to minimise the potential for issues associated with having too many dogs on small properties, and where neighbours are in close proximity.

Multiple dog ownership does not present the same issues in a rural environment where there is a greater distance between properties and dwellings, so the requirement only applies to smaller properties (that are under one hectare / 10,000m²).

A licence to own more than two dogs may be granted, have conditions imposed or be refused at the discretion of the attending Dog Control Officer. The licencing process is set out in the Christchurch City Council Dog Control Bylaw.

A licence to own more than two dogs may be transferred to a different dog owner in some circumstances, provided all other things remain the same, at the discretion of the Manager Animal Management.

The licence fee is set through the Annual Plan process, together with dog registration fees.

Explanation: When a licence to own more than two dogs is applied for, a Dog Control Officer will visit the property to check that it is appropriate for the number and type of dogs that the applicant wishes to keep. They will check a number things, including:

- *that there is enough room for the number and type of dogs*
- *that the fencing is appropriate for the number and type of dogs*
- *that the dogs are housed appropriately*
- *that there is dog-free access to the house.*

They may also offer advice on how to minimise the potential for the dogs to bark, howl or otherwise cause a nuisance.

These considerations relate largely to obligations for dog owners under the Dog Control Act, as well as animal welfare obligations under the Animal Welfare Act.

Section 9: Other dog matters

9.1 Barking dogs

When the Council receives a complaint about a barking dog, it will investigate, and, if found to be a genuine problem, Dog Control Officers will work with the dog owner to understand the extent of the barking, the reasons for the barking and will encourage solutions and behaviour change, so that the dog is no longer causing a nuisance to neighbours or passers-by.²¹

If an owner is uncooperative, or the barking continues to be persistent and loud, a Barking Dog Abatement Notice may be issued under section 55 of the Dog Control Act. If the abatement notice is not complied with, an infringement notice (fine) may be issued to the dog owner.

Complaints about barking dogs may also impact on the dog owner's ability to have Responsible Dog Owner status or to hold a licence to own more than two dogs.

Dogs can also be seized by Dog Control Officers due to loud and persistent barking.

Explanation: There are many reasons why a dog may bark. Often it is when their owner is absent, so an owner may not be aware that their dog is causing a nuisance. Four of the most common reasons a dog may bark are:

- **protective aggression**, where dogs bark at people or animals they think are invading their territory
- **stimulus-oriented barking**, where dogs bark at a sound or movement - eg a cat running along the fence, a car horn or pedestrians walking past. This can be especially problematic for hunting breeds
- **separation distress**, this barking is different to other types of barking because it is caused by anxiety, rather than aggression or playfulness
- **social**, where dogs are barking to communicate with each other, and with us.

²¹ Under the Dog Control Act 1996 (section 5(e)), dog owners must 'take all reasonable steps to ensure that the dog does not cause a nuisance to any other person, whether by persistent and loud barking or howling or by any other means'.

The Animal Management Team's approach is that it is better to work with an owner and their dog to encourage behaviour change and reduce barking, rather than to penalise a dog owner. Dog Control Officers are happy to offer advice and to suggest solutions. In some situations, however, it may be appropriate to look at other options, including penalties, if a barking nuisance is serious and ongoing, or if an owner is uncooperative.

Dog owners should take particular care of their dogs during times when there are likely to be fireworks.

9.2 Female dogs in season

The Council requires owners of female dogs in season to keep their dog confined and to limit its movement while it is in season, in order to minimise the potential impacts on other dogs. This is covered in the Council's Dog Control Bylaw.

Explanation: The hormones released by a female dog in season can be detected by other dogs over long distances. This is why female dogs in season have to be securely confined on private property (ideally away from boundary fences) and the potential impacts on other dogs need to be minimised by limiting the likely hormone trail that would be left if the dog were to be exercised as normal in public places or if it were transported unnecessarily. Transport should be limited to veterinary or breeding-related travel.

This only applies to female dogs that have not been de-sexed. Unless your dog is intended for breeding, it should be de-sexed.

9.3 De-sexing of dogs

The Council supports owners having their dogs de-sexed, unless the dog is intended for breeding.

The Council supports the de-sexing of dogs before they are offered for sale or re-homing.

The Council will seek agreement with potential dog owners looking to adopt or rehome a dog from the Council's dog shelter facility to de-sex the dog. The Council may, in some circumstances, require the de-sexing of a dog before it can be adopted or rehomed.

The Council will, from time to time, and where possible, promote de-sexing, offer de-sexing discount vouchers, or otherwise encourage de-sexing, particularly where there is an identified need.

Explanation: De-sexing is important to reduce unwanted pregnancies and to reduce aggression. Unwanted puppies need to be cared for, re-homed or destroyed, and can become an unintended cost or cause animal welfare concerns if they are not cared for appropriately. Unless your dog is intended for breeding, it should be de-sexed.

9.4 Dogs in outdoor dining establishments

The Council is supportive of food businesses allowing dogs in their outdoor dining areas, provided the business complies with all regulatory requirements.

As with all public places, dogs must be under effective control at all times. It is up to each individual business to decide if they want to welcome dogs, and if so, to manage any issues that may arise.

Disability assist dogs are allowed in all customer areas of all food businesses in accordance with section 75(1) of the Dog Control Act 1996.

Explanation: The Food Act 2014 allows food businesses to identify, mitigate and manage the risks that are specific to their business. This means that each food business can decide whether or not to allow dogs into their outdoor dining (or other) areas, and what conditions to impose on dogs and their owners.

9.5 Exercising dogs at night

The Council encourages dog owners to use reflective, fluoro or other lighting attached to dog collars or harnesses to help track or identify dogs when exercising them at times of low light or reduced visibility.

Explanation: It is safer for everyone if people can see their own and other dogs when out and about, particularly on unlit shared pathways. Lighting your dog is a great way to keep track of them at night, especially if they are off-leash exercising at dusk or in the early evening. It also allows other public place users to see your dog, preventing any unwelcome surprises or accidents.

9.6 Dogs in vehicles over the summer months

The Council is concerned about the health and welfare of dogs that are left in vehicles during the summer months.

The Council takes a strong stance on dogs suffering in hot cars and will act swiftly to release dogs that are clearly in distress. The Council's Dog Control Officers may work to release a dog that is in distress, either singly or with the assistance of the Police or officers of SPCA Canterbury.

Explanation: Cars can quickly heat up during summer, and heat up surprisingly quickly on cloudy days. Dogs keep cool by panting and by releasing heat through their paws, but without fresh air, the air and upholstery in your vehicle can heat up to high temperatures that make it impossible for dogs to regulate their temperatures and cool themselves. Dogs (and particularly small dogs), can suffer heat exhaustion quickly if left in a hot environment. Slightly winding windows down is not adequate on a hot day when a car is in full sun. Your dog will be more comfortable if left at home.

The SPCA has the power to protect all animals from abuse, neglect and abandonment, including prosecuting people under the Animal Welfare Act 1999. Dog owners who leave their dog(s) in a hot car can face a charge of animal cruelty.

9.7 Protecting dog paws in the heat

Paths, roads and dry sand can heat up quickly in summer and be much hotter than the surrounding air temperature. Hot surfaces can cause discomfort or burns to dog paws. To avoid this, go walking in the morning or later in the day, walk in grassed or shady areas, or consider investing in special shoes for your dog.

9.8 Dogs at Council events and festivals

Dogs may not be welcome or may need to be on a leash at Council events and festivals, at the discretion of event organisers and promoters. This is not the same as dogs being prohibited or required to be on a leash through the Council's bylaw, but may be as a condition of entry to an event, or it may be good advice offered by event organisers and promoters.

Events may be held in places where dogs are prohibited (such as in the Botanic Gardens) or where dogs must be on a leash. Check the requirements before you leave home.

Explanation: It may not be appropriate for dogs to be at a Council event due to the expected visitor numbers, the nature of the event or for other reasons (such as planned fireworks). Where dogs are welcome at an event or festival, you should consider whether or not it is appropriate to take your dog into a crowded situation, based on your understanding of your dog's temperament and history.

The Animal Services Manager may waive location-based requirements in the bylaw for an event designed for dogs, provided they are satisfied that any dog-related issues concerning the event or its location are adequately addressed or managed by the event organisers.

Section 10: Education and training

10.1 Teaching children about dogs

Increased public awareness of safety around dogs, particularly for children, is one of the best ways to reduce dog attacks in the long term.

Toddlers and young children should be supervised around dogs at all times. Most dog attacks happen to children in their own home or the home of a relative or friend.

The Council offers a free school bite prevention education programme. This programme delivers information to children about how to be safe around dogs. A further programme involves having children read to dogs in libraries, while learning about dog safety. Contact the Council for more information or to ask about booking a session.

Explanation: One of the main messages for children is “if a dog's on its own, leave it alone”. Children are also taught to ask a dog's owner if their dog is friendly or not before approaching it.

10.2 Learning how to be a good dog owner

Responsible dog ownership and good behaviour from both dog owners and their dogs is another important part of reducing dog attacks, as well as reducing any danger, distress or nuisance that may be caused by dogs.

The Council is supportive of people undertaking dog training courses of all types. There are many offered by private organisations. As well as behaviour and discipline courses, dog agility courses can be a great way to understand and bond with your dog.

The Council encourages new dog owners to attend puppy or dog training courses to learn how to train the dog to understand simple commands. The first year of a puppy's life is a very important time to establish good behaviours.

All dogs need to be able to understand and appropriately respond to simple commands, and training can help with this.

10.3 Teaching dog safety for workers

Some employment roles require people to enter private property, and this can be dangerous if the property has an aggressive dog or a dog defending its territory. For example, common roles may include couriers, meter readers and census deliverers.

The Council offers an occupational dog safety course that helps employees in these types of roles to recognise and understand threatening dog behaviour to avoid injury or accidents. Contact the Council for more information or to ask about booking a session.

Section 11: Probationary and disqualified dog owners, dangerous and menacing dogs

Under the Dog Control Act, the Council can classify an owner as probationary and must classify an owner as disqualified under certain circumstances. The Council can also classify a dog as dangerous or menacing under certain circumstances.

These tools are contained in the Dog Control Act to help councils to manage dangerous or troublesome dog-related situations in order to make our communities safer.

There are a range of other tools that can be used before these measures are undertaken. These may include education or training, or the issuing of infringement notices (fines). There are a range of offences under the Dog Control Act that can result in fines, and breaching the Council's Dog Control Bylaw can also result in an infringement fine.

The approach of the Animal Management Team is to focus on outcomes, rather than punishment. The focus is on having a safer community and responsible dog owners, not on penalising people. However, if education, training or other support do not improve things, or a breach is severe, the Animal Management Team will take more punitive steps using the tools available in the Dog Control Act and the Council's Dog Control Bylaw.

11.1 Dog owner status can be reduced due to infringements and offences

When a dog owner has committed a series of dog-related infringement offences (has been ordered to pay a fine) or has been convicted of dog-related offences²² (has been convicted through the District Court), the Council may classify that owner as a probationary owner, and in some cases must classify the owner as a disqualified owner.

These dog owner classifications restrict a person's right to own dogs, can last for several years, and may require the undertaking of education or training that relates to the responsible care and management of dogs before they can own another dog.

The dog owner status applies across the whole country (even if the offender moves away from the Christchurch City Council district, they will not be able to own dogs elsewhere in New Zealand).

For more information, see sections 21-29 of the Dog Control Act 1996.

11.2 Probationary dog owners

Sections 21-24 of the Dog Control Act set out matters relating to dog owners being classified as probationary owners, including the process for objecting to the classification.

A probationary owner cannot become the owner of any new dogs (but may keep any registered dogs they already have), and must dispose of any unregistered dogs.²³ Probationary owners may be required to undertake dog owner education or a dog obedience course, or both.²⁴

Probationary dog owner status generally applies for up to two years, but may end sooner.

11.3 Disqualified dog owners

Sections 25-28 of the Dog Control Act set out matters relating to dog owners being classified as disqualified owners, and the process for objecting to the classification, including appealing to the District Court.

A disqualified dog owner cannot be the registered owner of a dog (for a specified period), and must dispose of every dog that they may own. Disqualified dog owner status can apply for up to five years.

²² Offences may relate to other acts, including the Animal Welfare Act 1999, the Conservation Act 1987 or the National Parks Act 1980.

²³ Sections 23 and 24 of the Dog Control Act 1996

²⁴ Section 23A of the Dog Control Act 1996

11.4 Dog status can be reduced due to breed or behaviour

11.4.1 Dangerous dogs

The Council must classify a dog as dangerous based on the owner being convicted of certain offences, or based on sworn evidence that the dog is aggressive and constitutes a threat to the safety of people, stock, poultry, domestic animals or protected wildlife, as set out in section 31 of the Dog Control Act. The Act sets out the process for objecting to a dog's classification as a dangerous dog (in sections 31(3) and 31(4)).

Dangerous dogs:

- must be kept within a securely fenced section of the owner's property (and dog-free access to the house must be available at all times)
- must be muzzled and on a leash in all public places and private ways
- must be de-sexed
- incur a registration fee that is 50% higher than a standard dog registration fee
- must not be sold or given away without the written consent of the Council
- maintain their status as a dangerous dog no matter where they live in New Zealand.²⁵

11.4.2 Menacing dogs

The Council can classify a dog as menacing if it constitutes a threat to the safety of people, stock, poultry, domestic animals or protected wildlife, based on the dog's behaviour or characteristics typically associated with the dog's breed or type, as set out in section 33A of the Dog Control Act.

The Council must classify dogs as menacing if they belong wholly or in part to the breeds of dogs listed in the Dog Control Act (these are: Brazilian Fila, Dogo Argentino, Japanese Tosa, Perro de Presa Canario and American Pit Bull Terrier).

The Dog Control Act sets out the process for objecting to a dog's classification as a menacing dog (in sections 33B and 33D).

Menacing dogs must be muzzled and on a leash in all public places and private ways. The Council may require dogs classified as menacing to be de-sexed.

11.4.3 De-sexing of menacing dogs

Any dog classified as menacing by the Christchurch City Council or any other Council in accordance with section 33A or 33C of the Dog Control Act must be de-sexed²⁶, unless:

- there is a veterinary reason for not de-sexing it,²⁷ or
- there would be a demonstrated potential financial loss to the owner from de-sexing (such as a loss related to breeding or showing the dog).

The Council has discretion as whether or not to waive the requirement to de-sex, on a case-by-case basis, and will also consider the seriousness and type of attack leading up to the classification.

The owner of a dog classified as menacing must, if required by the Council, produce a veterinary certificate showing the dog has been de-sexed or that it is unfit to be de-sexed. Owners must comply within one month of the classification.

²⁵ Sections 32 and 32A of the Dog Control Act 1996

²⁶ This is enabled by sections 33E and 33EB of the Dog Control Act 1996

²⁷ The requirement to neuter applies to all dogs classified as menacing, except where, on written veterinary advice, conducting this procedure will present a significant health risk to the dog.

Section 12: Seizing dogs, impounding dogs and adopting dogs from the Council dog shelter facility

The Dog Control Act gives warranted Dog Control Officers the legal power to seize a dog in certain circumstances.

Dog Control Officers can seize dogs that are found to be in breach of the Dog Control Act or any bylaw made under the Act. This may include things such as:

- a dog not being supplied with sufficient food, water or shelter (s.15)
- a dog that is unregistered and more than three months old (s.42(2))
- failing to have a dog wear a collar with a registration label or disc attached (s.50) or having a dog wear an incorrect or counterfeit registration label or disc (s.51)
- dogs not securely confined on private property (s.52A)
- failing to comply with requirements when a dog is classed as a dangerous dog (s.32)
- failing to comply with requirements when a dog is classed as a menacing dog (s.33EC)
- a dog not being under anyone's control in a public place ie wandering at large (s.52)
- a barking dog where complaints have been laid, a notice has been issued to the owner and the dog continues to bark and cause a nuisance (s.56)
- a dog attacks a person or animal (s.57)
- a dog rushes at a person, animal or vehicle in a manner that causes death, injury or endangerment, or the damage of property (s.57A)
- a dog at large in the vicinity of protected wildlife (s.59)
- a dog at large among stock or poultry (s.60).

This is not an exhaustive list, but gives some examples of situations where dogs may be seized and impounded by Dog Control Officers.

12.1 Returning a seized dog to its owner

The release of a dog back to its owner will depend on the circumstances under which it was seized.

All fines and fees must be paid before a dog is released back to its owner.

A dog will not be released back to its owner unless it is registered and micro-chipped and all other Dog Control Act requirements are met.

Where a dog's owner cannot be established, it will be impounded and made available for adoption or destruction after seven days.²⁸

12.2 Fees and releasing dogs that have been impounded

Infringement fees (fines) are set in the Dog Control Act and are consistent across the country. Dog shelter fees are set locally and are included in the Council's Annual Plan processes.

²⁸ This is set out in section 69 of the Dog Control Act

The costs of housing a dog in the shelter will be recovered from the dog's owner before the dog is released (some examples of costs may include dog food and veterinary fees). If a dog is adopted, destroyed, or otherwise disposed of, fees will still be recovered from the owner.²⁹

12.3 Adoption and rehoming of unclaimed dogs from the dog shelter facility

Where a dog is released from the Council's dog shelter to a new owner, the new owner is not required to pay a standard release fee, but is required to pay the cost of registration and an adoption fee and any other associated fees.

Adoption fees are set through the Council's Annual Plan process and aim to ensure responsible dog ownership, while also being set at a level which will not deter purchase.

The Council will not provide dogs for rehoming from the Council's animal shelter facility unless they have been de-sexed, an agreement to de-sex has been entered into with the dog's new owner³⁰ or there are exceptional reasons for not requiring de-sexing.

No dog will be released from the shelter into the ownership of any person or organisation which may use the dog for the purposes of research in which the dog is subjected to physical operations or treatment causing changes, whether temporary or permanent.

Section 13: The issuing of infringement notices

The Council will issue warnings, at a Dog Control Officer's discretion, and / or infringement notices (fines), for infringement offences as set out in Schedule 1 of the Dog Control Act 1996.

Explanation: The Council aims to encourage people to comply with regulatory requirements through education and working with people, rather than by taking a hard enforcement approach. Dog Control Officers will consider each situation on an individual basis and have discretion as to what approach they choose to take. The powers of Dog Control Officers are set out in the Dog Control Act 1996.

Section 14: Controlled or open dog areas under the Conservation Act

The Dog Control Act requires, under section 10(5), that a dog control policy identifies any areas in the district where there are dog restrictions on Department of Conservation land, including any national parks.

The Department of Conservation has no listed controlled or open dog areas on public conservation land within the Christchurch City Council district. For further information about dog access on public conservation land managed by the Department of Conservation, please contact the Department of Conservation directly.

²⁹ In accordance with section 69(6) of the Dog Control Act

³⁰ An agreement to de-sex may include a nullification of the adoption if the dog is not de-sexed in accordance with the agreement.

Schedule 1: Prohibited and leashed dog control areas

Dog controls that apply in specific places

Banks Peninsula - Akaroa Harbour and surrounds

Akaroa and surrounds		
Description	Dog Control Status	Comment
Children's Bay mudflats and foreshore	Prohibited / leashed	Dogs are prohibited on the mudflats and tidal stony areas to protect wildlife, between Children's Bay and Daly's Wharf. This does not apply to the shoreline (where the beach meets the land), where dogs may be walked, provided they are leashed.
Akaroa beach (from opposite the fire station to Daly's Wharf)	Summer beach prohibition	Swimming and recreation area - dogs prohibited during summer (from 1 November to 31 March between 9am-7pm) , except for the purposes of passing through where dogs must be on a short leash. Outside these times dogs are permitted under effective control
Akaroa beach grassed picnic area and walkway	Leashed	The grassed picnic area by Akaroa beach (alongside Beach Road / Rue Lavaud), and the walkway that runs from the picnic area to Rue Jolie (alongside the beach). Dogs must be on a leash.
Britomart Reserve	Leashed	Dogs must be on a leash for health and safety reasons. The reserve is a very small, popular, historical reserve near the Main Wharf and roads, where dogs also must be on a leash
Misty Peaks Reserve (Aylmers Valley)	Prohibited/ leashed	Dogs must be on a leash on the walking track to Newton's Waterfall, and are prohibited elsewhere in the reserve to protect wildlife and grazing stock.
Rue Balguerie Reserve and walkway	Leashed	The grassed area by the playground alongside Rue Balguerie, and the walkway next to the beach that runs from Rue Jolie to Rue Balguerie. Dogs must be on a leash. Note that dogs are prohibited in the playground area.
Stanley Park	Leashed	Dogs must be on a leash to protect grazing stock.
Takamatua foreshore and mudflats (north from the corner of Takamatua Bay Road and Takamatua Beach Road)	Prohibited	Dogs are prohibited on the mudflats and foreshore area north of the corner of Takamatua Bay Road and Takamatua Beach Road and around the stream outlet to protect wildlife values (particularly endangered birds).
Takapūneke Reserve, Green Point Park and Beach Road Park	Prohibited (including working dogs)	Dogs are prohibited as the land is wāhi tapu and due to its national significance and historic reserve status. Dogs are prohibited at the request of Onuku Rūnanga.

Akaroa back bays – including Flea Bay, Gough's Bay, Hickory Bay, Le Bons Bay, Little Akaloa, Long Bay (Otanerito), Okain's Bay, Pigeon Bay and Raupo Bay		
Description	Dog Control Status	Comment
Flea Bay	Prohibited	Marine Reserve. Dogs are prohibited to protect wildlife values.
Gough's Bay	Prohibited	Dogs are prohibited to protect wildlife values (particularly penguins and seals)
Hickory Bay	Prohibited	Dogs are prohibited to protect wildlife values (particularly penguins and seals)
Le Bon's Bay foreshore (north of the beach access road)	Summer beach prohibition	Swimming and recreation area - dogs are prohibited during summer (from 1 November to 31 March between 9am-7pm) , except for the purposes of passing through where dogs must be on a short leash. Outside of these times dogs are permitted under effective control.
Le Bon's Bay foreshore south of the beach access road, including the estuary, spit and river mouth	Prohibited	Dogs are prohibited to protect wildlife values (particularly endangered birds)
Little Akaloa Foreshore	Summer beach prohibition	Swimming and recreation area - dogs are prohibited during summer (from 1 November to 31 March between 9am-7pm) , except for the purposes of passing through where dogs must be on a short leash. Outside of these times dogs are permitted under effective control

Akaroa back bays – including Flea Bay, Gough's Bay, Hickory Bay, Le Bons Bay, Little Akaloa, Long Bay (Otanerito), Okain's Bay, Pigeon Bay and Raupo Bay		
Description	Dog Control Status	Comment
Long Bay (Otanerito)	Prohibited	Dogs are prohibited to protect wildlife values (particularly endangered birds (penguins))
Okain's Bay beach (south of 100m from Opara Stream outlet)	Summer beach prohibition	Swimming and recreation area - dogs are prohibited during summer (from 1 November to 31 March between 9am-7pm) , except for the purposes of passing through where dogs must be on a short leash. Outside of these times dogs are permitted under effective control
Okain's Bay estuary and mudflats, including Opara Stream and for 100m south of the stream outlet	Prohibited	Dogs are prohibited to protect wildlife values (particularly wading birds, gulls and terns)
Pigeon Bay camping ground	Prohibited	Dogs are prohibited for public safety and hygiene reasons
Raupo Bay, access from Chorlton Road	Prohibited	Dogs are prohibited to protect wildlife values (particularly endangered birds) and grazing stock. (Access is over private land, no dogs allowed, at all times)

Duvauchelle and Robinson's Bay		
Description	Dog Control Status	Comment
Ōnawe Pā Historic Reserve	Prohibited	Dogs are prohibited on Ōnawe at the request of Ōnuku and Wairewa Rūnanga as the land is wāhi tapu. Ōnawe is Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu land.
Duvauchelle foreshore and mudflats from the boat sheds on Onawe Flat Road to opposite Duvauchelle School Lane	Prohibited	Dogs are prohibited on the mudflats and foreshore to protect wildlife values (birds feeding and roosting).
Duvauchelle foreshore and mudflats from the start of Seafeld Road by SH75 to the boatsheds along Seafeld Road	Prohibited	Dogs are prohibited on the mudflats and foreshore to protect wildlife values (birds feeding and roosting).
Duvauchelle domain and camping ground	Prohibited	Dogs are prohibited in the camping ground for public safety and hygiene reasons, and on the sports fields to protect wildlife values (bird roosting and feeding area at high tide zone)
Robinson's Bay mudflats and foreshore	Prohibited	Dogs are prohibited on the mudflats and foreshore to protect wildlife from the northern side to the rest area on SH75.

Barry's Bay, French Farm, Tikao Bay and Wainui		
Description	Dog Control Status	Comment
Barry's Bay mudflats, saltmarsh and foreshore	Prohibited	Dogs are prohibited on the mudflat, saltmarsh and foreshore areas to protect wildlife
French Farm mudflats and foreshore	Prohibited	Dogs are prohibited on the southern mudflats area near the creeks to protect wildlife
French Farm beach	Summer beach prohibition	Swimming and recreation area - dogs are prohibited during summer (from 1 November to 31 March between 9am-7pm) , except for the purposes of passing through where dogs must be on a short leash. Outside of these times dogs are permitted under effective control
Tikao Bay beach	Summer beach prohibition	Swimming and recreation area - dogs are prohibited during summer (from 1 November to 31 March between 9am-7pm) , except for the purposes of passing through where dogs must be on a short leash. Outside of these times dogs are permitted under effective control
Wainui Domain	Leashed	Dogs must be on a leash to protect grazing stock

Banks Peninsula - Little River and surrounds

Birdling's Flat, Kaitorete Spit, Kaituna, Lake Forsyth, Little River, Te Oka Bay and Tumbledown Bay		
Description	Dog Control Status	Comment
Birdling's Flat Esplanade Reserve	Prohibited	To protect wildlife values (particularly endangered birds, including the highly endangered Crested Grebe)
Birdlings Flat near the Bossu Road canal bridge	Prohibited	Dogs are prohibited on the stony foreshore area at the southern end of Te Wairewa / Lake Forsyth to protect wildlife (including at risk dotterels, oystercatchers and terns). This includes the area within a 150-metre radius of the Bossu Road canal bridge, including the nearby fingers that protrude into the lake.
Birdling's Flat Regional Park	Prohibited	To protect wildlife values (particularly endangered birds - including native waterfowl, Banded Dotterel and highly endangered Crested Grebe)
Kaitorete Spit Reserve (400 hectare site near the base of Kaitorete Spit, adjoining Lake Ellesmere shore)	Prohibited	To protect wildlife values (particularly endangered birds. This is a very important ornithological area for feeding, nesting and roosting; very high wildlife values)
Kaituna River Esplanade Reserve	Prohibited	To protect wildlife values (particularly endangered birds)
Lake Forsyth - northern end mudflat areas	Prohibited	To protect wildlife values (particularly endangered birds)
Morice Recreation Reserve (Little River)	Leashed / under effective control	Dogs must be on a leash when the area is grazed or in use by the Little River Pony Club. When not grazed or in use by the Pony Club then dogs are permitted under effective control
Okuti Track	Prohibited	To protect grazing stock
Te Oka Regional Park	Prohibited	Dogs are prohibited to protect wildlife values (particularly endangered birds (penguins) and seals)
Tumbledown Bay	Prohibited	Dogs are prohibited to protect wildlife values (particularly endangered birds (penguins) and seals). This is also a Māori Urupā site.
Wairewa Esplanade Reserve (Birdling's Flat)	Prohibited	To protect wildlife values (particularly endangered birds including native waterfowl and highly endangered Crested Grebe)

Banks Peninsula - Lyttelton Harbour and surrounds

Lyttelton		
Description	Dog Control Status	Comment
Albion Square	Leashed	Busy and well used by the community. Contains the cenotaph memorial and a children's playground (where dogs are prohibited within one metre)
Baden Norris Reserve	Leashed	Public walkway - dogs must be on a leash

North side Lyttelton Harbour bays		
Description	Dog Control Status	Comment
Cass Bay beach and associated grassed areas	Summer beach prohibition	- Swimming and recreation area - dogs are prohibited during summer (from 1 November to 31 March between 9am-7pm), except for the purposes of passing through where dogs must be on a short leash. Outside of these times dogs are permitted under effective control - Note that dogs must be on a leash along the head to head walkway that passes through Cass Bay
Corsair Bay beach and associated grassed areas	Summer beach prohibition	- Swimming and recreation area - dogs are prohibited during summer (from 1 November to 31 March between 9am-7pm), except for the purposes of passing through where dogs must be on a short leash. Outside of these times dogs are permitted under effective control - Note that dogs must be on a leash along the head to head walkway that passes through Corsair Bay
Governor's Bay mudflats	Prohibited	Dogs are prohibited on Governors Bay foreshore area and mudflats to protect wildlife values

North side Lyttelton Harbour bays		
Description	Dog Control Status	Comment
Rapaki Bay foreshore	Prohibited	Dogs are prohibited on the foreshore area for cultural reasons and at the request of the Rāpaki Rūnanga
Pony Point	Leashed / under effective control	Dogs must be on a leash on the lower slopes and on the walking track winding up the lower slopes, but are allowed under effective control on the top of the hill in the open grassed area
HMNZS Steadfast (Lyttelton)	Leashed / under effective control	Dogs must be leashed when events are being held, but are allowed under effective control at other times
Sandy Bay beach, Governor's Bay	Summer beach prohibition	Swimming and recreation area - dogs are prohibited during summer (from 1 November to 31 March between 9am-7pm) , except for the purposes of passing through where dogs must be on a short leash. Outside these times dogs are permitted under effective control

South and west side Lyttelton Harbour bays		
Description	Dog Control Status	Comment
Charteris Bay foreshore (part of)	Prohibited	Dogs are prohibited to protect wildlife values on the stony areas, mudflat and foreshore, except for the area between the jetty and the boat ramp, where dogs may be exercise under effective control
Camp Bay	Prohibited	Dogs are prohibited to protect wildlife values
Coastal Cliff Reserve and foreshore (Diamond Harbour)	Prohibited / leashed	Dogs are prohibited on the foreshore areas to protect wildlife values (particularly penguin, reef heron and roosting shags). Dogs must be on a leash on the reserve and coastal pathway / head to head walkway to protect health and safety
Diamond Harbour beach and foreshore	Summer beach prohibition	Swimming and recreation area - dogs are prohibited during summer (from 1 November to 31 March between 9am-7pm) , except for the purposes of passing through where dogs must be on a short leash. Outside of these times (and within the area from the beach to past the jetty), dogs are permitted under effective control
Hays Bay beach	Summer beach prohibition	Swimming and recreation area - dogs are prohibited during summer (from 1 November to 31 March between 9am-7pm) , except for the purposes of passing through where dogs must be on a short leash. Outside these times dogs are permitted under effective control
Paradise Bay beach	Summer beach prohibition	Swimming and recreation area - dogs are prohibited during summer (from 1 November to 31 March between 9am-7pm) , except for the purposes of passing through where dogs must be on a short leash. Outside these times dogs are permitted under effective control
Purau beach (excluding the prohibited area)	Summer beach prohibition	Swimming and recreation area - dogs are prohibited during summer (from 1 November to 31 March between 9am-7pm) , except for the purposes of passing through where dogs must be on a short leash. Outside these times dogs are permitted under effective control, except in the prohibited area from and including the creek
Purau foreshore and mudflats	Prohibited	Dogs are prohibited on the mudflats and foreshore at the creek mouth and to the western side of the creek to protect wildlife
Teddington mudflats, salt meadow and saltmarsh	Prohibited	Dogs are prohibited to protect wildlife values on the mudflat, salt meadow and saltmarsh areas

Port Levy		
Description	Dog Control Status	Comment
Port Levy – beach area by settlement	Summer beach prohibition	Swimming and recreation area- dogs are prohibited on the beach in front of the settlement during summer (from 1 November to 31 March, between 9am-7pm) , except for the purposes of passing through where dogs must be on a short leash. Outside these times dogs are permitted on the beach area under effective control.
Port Levy – head of the bay	Prohibited	Dogs are prohibited from mudflats and stony areas at the head of the bay to protect wildlife values (particularly estuarine birds)

Port Hills reserves and walkways

Port Hills reserves		
Description	Dog Control Status	Comment
Bowenvale Park	Leashed	Dogs must be on a leash to protect grazing animals
Bridle Path Walkway and surrounds (from Heathcote Valley, over the Summit Road, and down to Lyttelton)	Leashed	Dogs must be on a leash because of high recreational use, to protect health and safety, and to protect grazing stock
Captain Thomas Track	Leashed	Walking track through farmland so dogs must be on a leash to protect grazing stock
Castle Rock Reserve	Leashed	Earthquake damage, not currently accessible. When reopened, revert to: Dogs must be on a leash to protect grazing animals and health, safety and hygiene
Douglas Scenic Reserve	Leashed	Scenic reserve and recreational area - dogs must be on a leash. Part of the Harry Ell Walkway
Elizabeth Park (excludes Victoria Park Dog Park)	Leashed	Outside of the Victoria Park Dog Park, dogs must be on a leash because of high recreational use
Greenwood Park	Leashed	Dogs must be on a leash to protect animals grazing
Hoon Hay Scenic Reserve (Governors Bay)	Leashed / under effective control	Dogs must be leashed in the eastern half of the reserve to protect grazing stock, and must be under effective control in the southern half.
Huntsbury Track and surrounds	Leashed	Dogs must be on a leash to protect health and safety, and to protect grazing stock
Huia Gilpin Reserve	Leashed	Dogs must be on a leash to protect grazing animals
John Britten Reserve	Leashed	Dogs must be on a leash to protect animals grazing
Jollies Bush	Leashed	Dogs must be on a leash to protect ecological values
Mary Duncan Park (walkway area)	Leashed	Area under lease agreement to the Ferrymead Pony Club and this allows public access to the driveway and perimeter of the area. Dogs must be on a leash when using this area. Dogs must also be on a leash to protect grazing stock.
Montgomery Spur Reserve	Leashed	Dogs must be on a leash to protect grazing animals
Mt Cavendish Reserve	Leashed	Dogs leashed for the purpose of passing through on the Crater Rim walkway and to protect grazing stock and wildlife values.
Mt Pleasant Reserve	Leashed	Dogs must be on a leash to protect animals grazing
Rapaki Track and surrounds	Leashed	Dogs must be on a leash because of high recreational use, to protect health and safety, and to protect and grazing stock
Rapanui Bush	Leashed	Dogs must be on a leash to protect conservation values
Sign of the Takahe Reserve	Leashed	Dogs must be on a leash for public health and safety reasons, and to protect heritage gardens. High visitor use.
Scott Scenic Reserve	Leashed	Dogs must be on a leash to protect conservation values. Part of the Crater Rim Walkway
Scotts Valley Reserve	Leashed	Earthquake damage, not currently accessible. When reopened, revert to: Dogs must be on a leash to protect animals grazing
Sugarloaf Reserve	Leashed	Dogs must be on a leash to protect conservation values
Thomson Scenic Reserve	Leashed	Dogs must be on a leash to protect conservation values and due to high recreation use
Tors Scenic Reserve	Leashed	Dogs must be on a leash for the purpose of passing through on the Crater Rim walkway to protect grazing stock
Victoria Park	Leashed	Dogs must be on a leash because of high recreational use
Witch Hill	Leashed	Dogs must be on a leash to protect conservation values and grazing stock.
Worsley Spur Track	Leashed	Dogs must be on a leash as Worsley Spur Track is a formed legal road

Northern Christchurch inland area

Groynes, Waimakariri Riverbed, Lake Roto Kohatu, and Styx Mill Reserve		
Description	Dog Control Status	Comment
Blakes Road Wetland	Prohibited	Dogs are prohibited to protect wildlife
Curletts Drainage Reserve	Prohibited / leashed / under effective control	Dogs must be leashed on paths / tracks, may be off-leash and under effective control on any mown grass areas, and are prohibited from all other areas
Dickeys Reserve	Prohibited	Dogs are prohibited to protect wildlife
The Groynes	Leashed / under effective control	Dogs must be leashed in the whole of the Groynes to protect wildlife and health and safety, except: - along the path area between the river and the dog park fence, where dogs must be under effective control (this includes dogs being able to access the river off-leash in the area alongside the dog park only); and - in the fenced dog park, where dogs must be under effective control.
McLeans Grasslands Park (Savannah Park)	Prohibited	Dogs are prohibited because of a conservation grazing agreement
Lake Tahi and Lake Rua (Roto Kohatu Regional Park)	Prohibited / leashed / under effective control	Dogs are prohibited in the lakes and must be leashed around the lakes to protect wildlife. This applies to the whole of Roto Kohatu Regional Park, except the hilly grassed area to the south-west of the access road around Lake Tahi, where dogs can be under effective control
Kaputahi Confluence Conservation Park	Prohibited	Dogs are prohibited to protect cultural values (rongoā Māori demonstration area)
Janet Stewart Reserve	Prohibited	Dogs are prohibited to protect wildlife and cultural values (pa harakeke traditional flax harvesting area)
Styx Mill Conservation Reserve (excluding the west end)	Prohibited / leashed	Dogs are prohibited to protect wildlife, except for the following paths, where dogs are allowed and must be leashed: - on the path that runs from the Styx Mill Road car park, along the back of the Styx Mill Transfer Station, to Styx Mill Road; and - on the path that runs around the outside of the predator-proof fence in the reserve. Note that some parts of the perimeter path are not in the reserve (such as the sections along the residential side of the Styx River and through Glenn Oaks Reserve). The general rules requiring dogs to be leashed on paths apply in these other sections. Note the west end of the conservation reserve (from the Hussey Road entrance road) is covered by a separate entry.
Styx Mill Conservation Reserve – west end	Leashed / under effective control	Dogs must be leashed to protect wildlife in the area to the west of the Hussey Road access road to the dog park, except: - in the open field area, where dogs are allowed under effective control; and - in the fenced dog park, where dogs can be exercised off-leash and under effective control. Note the rest of the conservation reserve (from the Hussey Road entrance road) is covered by a separate entry.
Waimakariri riverbed - north of Lorimas Road	Prohibited	Dogs are prohibited to protect wildlife values (the Waimakariri riverbed is an important nesting area for threatened species, including black-fronted tern, white-fronted tern, Caspian tern, black-billed gull, banded dotterel and wrybill). Prohibited at the request of Environment Canterbury

Northern Christchurch coastal area - Brooklands and Lower Styx

Brooklands and Styx		
Description	Dog Control Status	Comment
Brooklands red zone	Prohibited / under effective control	Dogs are prohibited in and around the Styx River and in any planted, ecological restoration or long grass areas to protect wildlife. Dogs must be under effective control in mowed grassed areas.
Brooklands Spit and Lagoon, and Seafield Park (including dunes, foreshore and beach)	Prohibited / leashed	Dogs are prohibited to protect wildlife, except on formed walking tracks, where dogs must be on a leash. This includes the beach area from the Waimakariri River mouth to a point 800 metres north of Heyders Road beach access area. Dogs are prohibited from marked horse tracks.
Te Rauakaaka Nature Reserve	Prohibited / leashed	Dogs are prohibited to protect wildlife, except on formed walking tracks on the stop banks, where dogs must be on a leash. This is a regional park, managed by Environment Canterbury, and the dog control status is at their request.
Styx Rivermouth Conservation Reserve and Lower Styx Conservation Reserve	Prohibited / leashed	Dogs are prohibited to protect wildlife, except on formed walking tracks, where dogs must be on a leash.

Coastal Christchurch - from Spencer Park Beach to Southshore Spit

Christchurch beaches and coastline areas, from north to south		
Description	Dog Control Status	Comment
Spencer Park	Leashed	Dogs must be on a leash. High visitor use area, including for families as a picnic and recreation area - health, safety and hygiene issues
Spencer Park Beach, 100 metres north and south of the Surf Life Saving Club pavilion	Summer beach prohibition	Swimming and recreation area - dogs are prohibited during summer (from 1 November to 31 March between 9am-7pm) , except for the purposes of passing through where dogs must be on a short leash. Outside of these times dogs are permitted under effective control
Waimairi Beach Park, 100 metres north and south of the Surf Life Saving Club pavilion	Summer beach prohibition	Swimming and recreation area - dogs are prohibited during summer (from 1 November to 31 March between 9am-7pm) , except for the purposes of passing through where dogs must be on a short leash. Outside of these times dogs are permitted under effective control
North Beach, 100 metres north and south of the Surf Life Saving Club pavilion	Summer beach prohibition	Swimming and recreation area - dogs are prohibited during summer (from 1 November to 31 March between 9am-7pm) , except for the purposes of passing through where dogs must be on a short leash. Outside of these times dogs are permitted under effective control
New Brighton Beach, 100 metres north of the Surf Life Saving Club pavilion and 100 metres south of the New Brighton Pier	Summer beach prohibition	Swimming and recreation area - dogs are prohibited during summer (from 1 November to 31 March between 9am-7pm) , except for the purposes of passing through where dogs must be on a short leash. Outside of these times dogs are permitted under effective control
New Brighton Beach developed area by the library	Leashed	Recreation area, high visitor numbers. Dogs must be on a leash for health and safety reasons
New Brighton Pier	Prohibited	High pedestrian area. Dogs are prohibited for health and safety reasons.
South New Brighton Beach, 100 metres north and south of the Surf Life Saving Club pavilion	Summer beach prohibition	Swimming and recreation area - dogs are prohibited during summer (from 1 November to 31 March between 9am-7pm) , except for the purposes of passing through where dogs must be on a short leash. Outside of these times dogs are permitted under effective control

Christchurch beaches and coastline areas, from north to south		
Description	Dog Control Status	Comment
Southshore Spit Reserve	Prohibited / Leashed	Dogs are prohibited in the reserve to protect wildlife values, except on formed walking tracks, where dogs must be on a leash (Note that dogs are prohibited on the beach and foreshore area around the Spit, see the entry for Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary)

East Christchurch rivers, wetlands and reserves

Avon River, Heathcote River, estuary and surrounds		
Description	Dog Control Status	Comment
Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary	Prohibited	Dogs are prohibited from the estuary to protect wildlife, especially shorebirds. This includes the shoreline, where birds roost, moult and nest, and tidal areas, where birds feed The prohibited area applies to the whole of the estuary from the landward boundary inwards. This includes all areas within the shoreline (whether rocky, stoney, gravel, sandy or vegetated, and all foreshore, mudflat, saltmarsh and tidal areas). The prohibited area crosses the outfalls from the Avon / Ōtākaro River at Bridge Street and the Heathcote / Ōpāwaho River at the Ferry Road bridge. At the estuary-mouth, the prohibited area reaches from the corner by Shag Rock out to the north-eastern side of Southshore Spit Reserve. The beach and foreshore area around Southshore Spit Reserve are included in the prohibited area
Angela Stream Walkway in Clarevale Reserve, near Travis Wetland	Leashed	Dogs are allowed on a leash on the section of the Angela Stream Walkway that runs from Travis Country Drive through Clarevale Park, but not the remainder of the track (which is in Travis Wetland, where dogs are prohibited to protect wildlife values)
Clare Park	Prohibited / leashed / under effective control	Dogs must be leashed on paths / tracks, may be off-leash and under effective control on any mown grass areas, and are prohibited from all other areas.
Anzac Drive Reserve	Prohibited / Leashed	Dogs are prohibited to protect wildlife values in the reserve area (except on walkways). Dogs must be on a leash on walkways
Charlesworth Reserve	Prohibited / Leashed	Dogs are prohibited to protect wildlife, except on formed walking tracks, where dogs must be on a leash. Dogs are prohibited from tracks to the east of the shared pathway to protect wildlife
Cockayne Reserve	Prohibited / Leashed	Dogs are prohibited to protect wildlife, except on formed walking tracks, where dogs must be on a leash
Horseshoe Lake Reserve (excluding the fenced Dog Park)	Prohibited / leashed / under effective control	Dogs are prohibited to protect wildlife values in the reserve area (except on walkways). Dogs must be on a leash on walkways. Dogs are allowed under effective control in the fenced Dog Park
Jubilee Walkway	Leashed	Dogs must be leashed on Jubilee Walkway, and are prohibited from surrounding areas. Jubilee Walkway runs along the Avon River, from Wainoni Road at Bower Bridge, to Evans Ave (now red zone) near the northern most part of Bligh's Garden.
Linwood Paddocks	Prohibited	Dogs are prohibited to protect wildlife values (particularly native and migrating birds, including threatened species)
Lower Avon and Bexley Saltmarshes	Prohibited	Dogs are prohibited to protect wildlife. The prohibited area is the saltmarsh, mudflat and river margin area, from the landward boundary inwards. The prohibited area crosses the Avon River at the top of Bligh's Garden, and includes all of the saltmarsh, mudflat and river margin areas down to the Bridge Street bridge in the south
Bridge Reserve	Prohibited / leashed	Dogs are prohibited to protect wildlife, except on formed walking tracks, where dogs must be on a leash
Lower Heathcote Saltmarshes (Ferryroad)	Prohibited / Leashed	Dogs are prohibited to protect wildlife, except on walking tracks, where dogs must be on a leash. This area includes: Devil's Elbow Saltmarsh; Ferry Esplanade Reserve; Ferryroad Esplanade Saltmarsh; Settlers Reserve and Saltmarsh; Tunnel Road Reserve; and Stilt Island Saltmarsh, including Avoca Valley Stream
Ferryroad Regional Park (excluding the sports fields)	Prohibited / Leashed	Dogs are prohibited to protect wildlife, except on formed walking tracks, where dogs must be on a leash

Avon River, Heathcote River, estuary and surrounds		
Description	Dog Control Status	Comment
Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor	Leashed / under effective control	Dogs must be leashed to protect wildlife and aid habitat restoration, except in mown areas and on former roads, where dogs may be off-leash and under effective control. Note that: - dogs may enter the river from mown riverbank areas, but not from planted or naturalised riverbank areas (where they must be leashed to protect wildlife and aid habitat restoration); - dogs must be leashed on paths; and - the general requirement to use a leash on roads does not apply to former roads that are closed to motor vehicles.
South New Brighton Park	Prohibited / under effective control	Dogs are prohibited in the southern wetland area (Jellicoe Wetland) to protect wildlife, but are otherwise allowed under effective control
Te Huingi Manu Wildlife Refuge (including the Bromley Oxidation Ponds and surrounding areas)	Prohibited	Dogs are prohibited to protect wildlife. This prohibited area includes the whole of Te Huingi Manu Wildlife Refuge, as well as the land between Bridge Street, the estuary, the refuge and Dyers Road. Te Huingi Manu Wildlife Refuge is in two parts, north and south of Dyers Road, including the whole of the oxidation ponds. The northern area is bounded by Cuthberts, Breezes, Dyers and Ruru Roads, and the southern area runs from Dyers Road to the estuary edge, largely in line with the shape of the pond fencing. The refuge includes the land between the fenced pond area and the estuary edge. The refuge was gazetted under the Wildlife Act 1956 on 9 November 1972 as the Bromley Wildlife Refuge. Its name change was gazetted on 17 February 1983, making it Te Huingi Manu. It is an offence under the Wildlife Act to take a dog into a wildlife refuge.
Travis Wetland Regional Park	Prohibited	Dogs are prohibited to protect wildlife values (particularly native birds and including threatened species)

Coastal Christchurch - from Heathcote, through Sumner, to Taylor's Mistake

Redcliffs, Sumner, Scarborough, Taylor's Mistake and surrounds		
Description	Dog Control Status	Comment
Barnett Park Conservation Area	Leashed / Under effective control	Dogs must be on a leash to protect conservation values and grazing stock up the hill at the back of the park. The grassed, flat area near the Bay View Road carpark, and near the sports ground, is an under effective control / off-leash area.
Cave Rock	Leashed	High public use area, with narrow, steep tracks. Dogs must be on a leash to protect public health and safety
Godley Head foreshore	Prohibited	Dogs are prohibited to protect wildlife values (particularly penguins) on the coastal edge, from the start of the walkway at Taylor's Mistake and along the whole of the accessible coastline to Godley Head
Godley Head Walkway	Leashed	Dogs must be on a leash on the walkway due to grazing stock and visitor use (agreed with Department of Conservation)
McCormacks Bay islands, mudflat and saltmarsh	Prohibited / Under effective control	Dogs are prohibited on roosting/nesting islands and on the wet areas. Dogs are permitted in other areas as long as they are under effective control at all times
Nicholson Park	Leashed	Dogs must be on a leash due to public health and safety
Scarborough Walkway	Leashed	Earthquake damage, not currently accessible. When reopened, revert to: Dogs need to be leashed as walkway is close to private property and close to the bird nesting area on the cliffs
Scarborough Park	Prohibited	Dogs are prohibited due to the high visitor numbers and public health and safety. The park also contains a paddling pool and children's playground area, where dogs are prohibited
Scarborough Hill Reserve	Leashed	Dogs must be on a leash to protect animals grazing
Sumner Beach Regional Park (near Shag Rock)	Prohibited / under effective control	Dogs are prohibited in the northern area near the estuary mouth to protect wildlife. The prohibited area runs from the northern corner near Shag Rock to 100m to the south-east, in line with the beach access ramp from the Coastal Pathway. In the rest of the area dogs can be under effective control

Redcliffs, Sumner, Scarborough, Taylor's Mistake and surrounds		
Description	Dog Control Status	Comment
Sumner Beach, 100 metres north of the Sumner Surf Life Saving Club's pavilion to Cave Rock in the south.	Summer beach prohibition	Swimming and recreation area - dogs are prohibited during summer (from 1 November to 31 March between 9am-7pm) , except for the purposes of passing through on a short leash. Outside of these times dogs are permitted under effective control.
Sumnervale Reserve	Prohibited / Leashed	Dogs are prohibited from the reserve, except on the track, where they must be on a leash. Note: also used by horses
Taylor's Mistake - Giants Nose Reserve	Leashed	Dogs must be on a leash to protect wildlife values (particularly nesting and roosting seabirds)
Taylor's Mistake Beach (Te Onopoto), 50 metres to the north and south of the Surf Life Saving Club's pavilion	Summer beach prohibition	Swimming and recreation area, dogs are prohibited during summer (from 1 November to 31 March between 9am-7pm) on the beach area, except for the purposes of passing through on a short leash. Outside of these times dogs are permitted under effective control.

Central city

Botanic Gardens, Central City and Little Hagley Park		
Description	Dog Control Status	Comment
Botanic Gardens	Prohibited	Dogs are prohibited to protect collections of rare plants and due to high visitor numbers
Central City	Leashed / under effective control	Dogs must be on a leash in public places within the Central City due to high visitor numbers, to protect health and safety, due to busy traffic, to protect garden areas, and to protect wildlife in and around the river. Note that the Avon Loop is excluded from the Central City leashing requirement, and that dogs are prohibited in Margaret Mahy Playground and on the Central City Pump Track The Central City is the area bounded by and including Bealey Avenue, Fitzgerald Avenue, Moorhouse Avenue, Hagley Avenue, Oxford Terrace to (and including) the Antigua pedestrian bridge, Cambridge Terrace to Rolleston Avenue, and along Park Terrace to Bealey Avenue – but excludes the Avon Loop, (which is located between Barbadoes Street and Fitzgerald Avenue, and between Kilmore Street and the Ōtākaro Avon River. See the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor entry for the Avon Loop)
Little Hagley Park	Leashed	Dogs must be on a leash due to the high pedestrian and traffic numbers

Christchurch City gardens, parks and reserves

Parks and gardens, arranged alphabetically		
Description	Dog Control Status	Comment
Abberley Park, St Albans	Leashed / under effective control	Dogs must be on a leash in the Park to protect heritage gardens, but are allowed off-leash / under effective control on the flat eastern lawn area only (note that dogs are prohibited from within one metre of playground equipment and paddling pool)
Ashgrove Reserve, Somerfield	Leashed	Recreation area - dogs must be on a leash
Avebury Park, Richmond	Leashed	Dogs must be on a leash to protect heritage garden areas. The park also contains a paddling pool and children's playground area, where dogs are prohibited
Avic Hill Reserve, Avonhead	Leashed	Dogs must be on a leash to protect heritage gardens
Botanic Gardens	Prohibited	Dogs are prohibited to protect collections of rare plants and due to high visitor numbers
Cracroft Reserve, Cashmere	Leashed	High public usage. Dogs must be on a leash for public safety and hygiene reasons

Parks and gardens, arranged alphabetically		
Description	Dog Control Status	Comment
Edmond's Factory Garden, Ferry Road	Leashed	Dogs must be on a leash to protect heritage garden areas
Ernie Clark Reserve, Cashmere	Leashed	Dogs must be on a leash to protect regenerating forest and due to high public usage and the protection of wildlife (particularly birds, including swans)
Holmcroft Reserve, Cracroft	Leashed	Dogs must be on a leash for public health and safety reasons
Merivale Reserve	Leashed	Dogs must be on a leash. Small neighbourhood park
Millbrook Reserve	Leashed	Dogs must be on a leash to protect garden areas
Mona Vale, Fendalton	Leashed	Dogs must be on a leash to protect heritage gardens. High visitor use
Mona Vale Ave Reserve	Leashed	Dogs must be on a leash for public health and safety reasons
Mountfort Park, Addington	Leashed	Dogs must be on a leash for public health and safety (busy thoroughfare for foot traffic)
Papanui Memorial Reserve	Leashed	Dogs must be on a leash for health, safety and hygiene reasons and to protect heritage gardens. The reserve is small and is close to busy roads, where dogs must also be leashed.
Riccarton Bush	Prohibited	Dogs are prohibited in the predator fenced native bush area to protect wildlife values. The area is also of national significance as Canterbury's sole remnant of kahikatea floodplain forest (Conservation Ecological Island within City limits)
Riccarton House gardens	Leashed	Dogs must be on a leash in the grounds due to high visitor numbers and to protect heritage gardens
Woodham Park, North Linwood	Leashed	Dogs must be on a leash to protect heritage garden areas. The park also contains a paddling pool and children's playground area, where dogs are prohibited

South west Christchurch

Port Hills reserves and south-west areas		
Description	Dog Control Status	Comment
Creamery Ponds	Prohibited	Dogs are prohibited to protect wildlife
Halswell Quarry	Prohibited / leashed / under effective control	High recreational use and Sister City Gardens. - Dogs are prohibited in the wetland area - Dogs must be on a leash in the rest of the park (except in the Dog Exercise Area). - Dogs may be exercised under effective control in the Dog Exercise Area
Kennedy's Track	Leashed	Dogs must be on a leash as Kennedy's Track is a formed legal road
Nga Puna Wai and Canterbury Agricultural Park (Wigram East Retention Basin), Hillmorton	Prohibited / leashed / under effective control	The prohibited area covers the pond (which is unsuitable for recreational contact) and ecologically sensitive marginal plantings of wetland vegetation. Dogs must be on a leash on the walkway / boardwalk through this area. Dogs may be under effective control in the remainder of the retention basin
Quaifes Road Springlands	Prohibited / leashed / under effective control	Dogs must be leashed on paths / tracks, may be off-leash and under effective control on any mown grass areas, and are prohibited from all other areas
Quaifes Drainage Reserve	Prohibited / leashed / under effective control	Dogs must be leashed on paths / tracks, may be off-leash and under effective control on any mown grass areas, and are prohibited from all other areas
Sparks Wetland	Prohibited / leashed / under effective control	Dogs must be leashed on paths / tracks, may be off-leash and under effective control on any mown grass areas, and are prohibited from all other areas
Te Kuru Wetlands (including Milns, Eastman, Sutherlands and Hoon Hay basins)	Prohibited / leashed / under effective control	Dogs must be leashed on paths / tracks, may be off-leash and under effective control on any mown grass areas, and are prohibited from all other areas
Worsley Valley 1	Prohibited /	Dogs must be leashed on paths / tracks, may be off-leash and under

Port Hills reserves and south-west areas		
Description	Dog Control Status	Comment
Drainage Reserve (including Cashmere dam / wetlands)	leashed / under effective control	effective control on any mown grass areas, and are prohibited from all other areas

Reserves outside of the Christchurch City Council district, but managed by the Council

This policy and its associated bylaw regulate land within the Council's district under the Dog Control Act 1996 - however, the Council has the power under the Reserves Act 1977 to make bylaws to regulate reserves located outside of its district where the Council is the administering body of the reserve (ie Kennedy's Bush, Cass Peak, Otahuna Reserve, Coopers Knob, Ahuriri Scenic Reserve, and Orongamai Reserve in Selwyn district). Section 94(1)(b) of the Reserves Act makes it an offence to allow an animal to trespass onto a reserve, and therefore a bylaw is not required to control dogs on these reserves (dogs are not allowed).