



INFORMATION FOR DOG OWNERS

2026 – 2027



DUNEDIN | kaunihera
CITY COUNCIL | a-rohe o
ōtepoti

The Dunedin City Council provides a range of services for dog owners. This booklet has important information about owner responsibilities and the services we provide.

You can get more information at dunedin.govt.nz/dogs and at DCC service centres.

Why register your dog?

As a dog owner you're legally required to register your dog when it reaches three months of age and then re-register by 1 July every year. You can register online or at any DCC Service Centre.

Your registration fee goes towards providing dog-related facilities and services including:



lost and found services



dog safety education



maintaining dog exercise areas



a neutering programme



investigation of complaints

Not registering or re-registering your dog during July or when they reach three months of age will mean an additional 50% of the annual fee. You may also be issued with a \$300 infringement.

Microchipping your dog

Pet dogs born after 1 July 2006 must be microchipped and the microchip number needs to be provided to the DCC. You can do this online, or at any DCC Service Centre. Microchips can move within the body or fail over time, so it is a good idea to regularly check that your dog's microchip is still working. Your vet can scan the microchip during routine check ups, or you can ask an Animal Control Officer to scan it as well.

Working dogs

Working dogs are dogs used for things like herding or driving stock, security or pest control. Working dogs have a lower registration fee and do not need to be microchipped.

More than one dog

If you have more than one dog on your property, you need to apply for a kennel permit. To be eligible your property must have adequate fencing or a suitable containment area large enough to accommodate two or more dogs.

If your property is zoned rural/rural residential, you don't require a permit.

Responsible owner status

Dunedin dog owners can get almost 45% discount on registration fees by proving they're responsible owners and applying for Responsible Dog Owner status.

Dog owners can apply for Responsible Dog Owner status at any time, but to qualify for the following registration year you must apply before 15 April.

To apply you must be a registered dog owner with the DCC for at least two years, or have held Responsible Dog Owner status in another district. During this time your dog/s must not have been impounded, their registration must have been paid on time and you must have had no dog-related complaints, infringements or convictions.

Responsible Dog Owner status is not available for working dogs.

Find out more:

dunedin.govt.nz/services/dogs/licences-and-selected-owners



DCC Dog Control Bylaw and Policy 2024

These documents set out the ways that the DCC works to protect the wellbeing and safety of both animals and people including:

- where dogs may be taken and how the dog is to be controlled.
- the number of dogs that an owner may keep
- removal of poo from public places
- some dogs have to be neutered
- ways that the bylaw is enforced.

Some key rules include:

- Dogs must be on leash on roads, footpaths, tracks, and cemeteries unless specified otherwise.
- Dogs are prohibited at all times from all marked playing surfaces on DCC owned sportsgrounds. Dogs are permitted off leash outside of the marked areas however, must be on a leash when games are being played.
- Dogs are permitted on a leash in several inner city locations, but they must not be tied up and left unattended.

The locations include:

- » The Octagon
- » Library Plaza
- » parts of Princes Street and George Street (from the Exchange to Knox Church)
- » parts of King Edward Street in South Dunedin (between Hillside and Macandrew Roads).
- Individuals may have up to six dogs in their care in a public space. Written permission is required for exceptions. Details about permits and conditions can be found on the DCC website.
- Dogs are not permitted at the Caledonian Ground, or within one metre of playground equipment provided or maintained by the DCC (including skateparks and outdoor basketball courts).

Copies of the Dog Control Bylaw and Policy 2024 are available on our website, at our offices and the Dunedin City Public library. You can also use the interactive map on our website to view all areas where on or off-leash rules apply, as well as prohibited areas.

For more information go to dunedin.govt.nz/dogs



Neutering scheme

We actively encourage the de-sexing of dogs by providing reduced registration fees for de-sexed dogs.

Registered dog owners who hold a Community Services card may be eligible for our free neutering programme.

There's more information on the DCC website.

[*dunedin.govt.nz/desexing*](https://dunedin.govt.nz/desexing)

Dog exercise areas

There are exercise areas, where your dog can be off its leash:

- Rotary Park, Highcliff Road, Waverley
- Forrester Park, Norwood Street, Normanby (separate fenced small dog area)
- Cemetery Road, East Taieri (separate fenced small dog area)
- Shand Park, Green Island (separate fenced small dog area)
- Wakari Road, Wakari
- Kew Park, Forbury Corner.

There are also lots of beaches and tracks where you can walk your dog both on and off leash.

[*dunedin.govt.nz/dog-exercise-areas*](https://dunedin.govt.nz/dog-exercise-areas)

Dogs around wildlife on beaches

Wildlife can be present on any beach at any time and is easily disturbed. To protect wildlife, dogs must be leashed in all coastal dune areas across the city, including access paths. You must also put your dog on a leash within 20m of protected wildlife.

Lead your dog away and warn any other dog owners at the location. Notify the Department of Conservation if you see wildlife being harassed by people or dogs.

Refunds

If your dog dies, you may request a refund of a portion of the fees you paid. You can find more information on the DCC website.

Be a responsible owner

Please remove and appropriately dispose of any poo left by your dog in a public place. No one wants to step in it and it can carry diseases that affect both dogs and humans.

Dog Safety education

Among requirements under the Dog Control Act 1996, the DCC also provides dog safety education classes to schools, workplaces and community groups. Bookings can be made through the DCC website.

Your responsibilities

As a dog owner you need to care for your pet. You must keep your dog under control at all times and ensure it doesn't cause problems for anyone else.

Having a dog under control means that the owner or person in charge of the dog in a public place must:

- be aware of where the dog is and what it's doing
- ensure that the dog is on a leash, or when not on a leash that it can be controlled by voice commands, hand signals, whistles or other effective means
- ensure that the dog is not causing a nuisance or danger.

For more information about your obligations as a dog owner check out the back of the dog registration form or view the Dog Control Act 1996, or our website.

There are penalties for not complying with the Dog Control Act 1996.

In some cases, the DCC may take enforcement action (infringement fees or prosecution) against the dog owner.

There are fees to pay if your dog is seized and impounded:

- First impounding – \$130
- Subsequent impounding – \$200
- After hours impounding – \$180

If your dog is unregistered, it must be registered before it can be released. Additional charges may apply, including daily sustenance fees and microchipping costs where required.

When others are responsible

Generally, it's registered owners who are legally responsible for the behaviour of their dogs, however if a dog is being walked or is in the care of someone else, an individual or a business, it is their responsibility if the dog commits an offence.

Good dog tips

Here are some tips to help you with some common dog problems.



If your dog is barking, it's probably trying to tell you something. There are lots of reasons dogs bark, including boredom, separation anxiety and passers-by.



Don't yell at your dog as it teaches it that loud is okay. When your dog is barking at the wrong time make a 'bad' or 'bah' sound at it. Praise your dog when it stops barking.



If your dog is showing aggressive behaviour, it may be reacting to the behaviour of a person or situation. Dogs may also show territorial aggression, and some will be aggressive if they think they are dominant over their owner. There is more information and advice on our website.



Keep children safe by teaching them how to interact with dogs. Always supervise dogs around children and children around dogs. If your dog seems grumpy don't let children play with it.

Our Animal Services team is here to help you and your dog before things escalate.

Visit dunedin.govt.nz/dogs for more information and advice or get in contact to request help with containment and fencing, barking or aggression.

Keeping your information up to date

It's important to keep the DCC up to date with information about you and your dog. You can update us online, over the phone or in person.

Contact us

Dunedin City Council
50 The Octagon
PO Box 5045
Dunedin 9054

03 477 4000

dcc@dcc.govt.nz

dunedin.govt.nz



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