

DOG CONTROL POLICY 2024



Approved by:	Council		
Sponsor:	General Manager Customer and Regulatory		
Department responsible:	Compliance Solutions (Animal Services)		
Date approved:	26 November 2024	Date of effect:	5 May 2025
Next review date:	2034	Reviewed:	2024

Section 1: Introduction

1.1 Context

There are around 19,000 registered dogs in Dunedin, with many dogs considered part of the family. It is important that Dunedin has a range of public places that are accessible for dogs and their owners for fun and recreation. We also acknowledge the reality that dogs can cause problems (such as barking), can cause injuries such as bites, and can even cause death (such as to protected wildlife or other animals).

Good dog ownership can prevent many problems, but we are also aware that dogs can be unpredictable, so we need to minimise risk with reasonable regulatory controls. This policy aims to balance the recreational needs of dogs and their owners with the importance of minimising the potential for any danger, distress or nuisance that may be caused by dogs.

In carrying out its legislative obligations under in the Dog Control Act 1996 (the Act), the Dunedin City Council's (the Council's) approach to dog control is to provide a cost effective, professional service through education, monitoring, compliance and enforcement.

NOTE that the Department of Conservation (DOC) has its own rules about dog access on public conservation land managed by their Department. For more information on these rules please contact DOC directly. On beaches where it may be confusing whether DOC or the Council has control, DOC agrees that the bylaw will apply. These beaches are specified in the Dunedin Dog Control Policy, Schedule A.

1.2 Reason for the policy

The Act requires every territorial authority to adopt a policy on dog control matters and to develop a bylaw to give effect to its policy. The Dunedin Dog Control Bylaw 2024 has been developed alongside this policy.

1.3 Purpose of the policy

The purpose of this policy is to:

- outline how the Council addresses requirements set out in the Act
- balance 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 to people, other animals or protected wildlife
- encourage and facilitate good dog behaviour and good dog ownership through education.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Dog Control Bylaw 2024 and the Act. This policy summarises some provisions in the Act, but may not describe or set out a provision of the Act in full. If any summary does not cover every matter discussed in a section, or leads to an inconsistency between the policy and the requirement of the Act, the Act will prevail.

1.4 Review of policy

This policy must be reviewed at least every ten years, together with the Dog Control Bylaw.

Section 2: Dog Control Bylaw

Under the Act councils are required to develop a dog control policy and must develop a bylaw to give effect to the matters covered by the policy. The Act requires a dog control policy to set out the nature and application of its associated bylaw. A dog control bylaw must not be inconsistent with the policy.

2.1 Nature and application of the bylaw

The Dunedin Dog Control Bylaw 2024 applies to all dog owners in Dunedin, and:

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

The Dog Control Bylaw covers the following:

- 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 exercise areas
- placing limitations on the number of dogs that may be kept on properties
- placing limitations on the number of dogs that may be on leash and off leash
- placing limitations on the housing, movement and transportation of female dogs in season while requiring them to be adequately exercised
- placing limitations on travel of infectious or diseased dogs
- requiring dog owners to remove and dispose of any fouling (dog faeces) that their dog produces
- addressing nuisance from dogs.

Section 3: Obligations of dog owners

3.1 Overview

The Act sets out expectations placed on dog owners that are consistent across New Zealand. The Dunedin Dog Control Policy and Bylaw set out matters that are specific to the Dunedin district, such as 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
- in the Dog Control Bylaw and
- in this Policy.

Dog owners should also be aware of animal welfare matters that 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).

3.2 Dog Control Bylaw obligations of dog owners

Dunedin's Dog Control Bylaw requires dog owners to:

a) Keep dogs under control

Dog owners are required to keep their dog(s) under control at all times when in public places. This means the owner or person in charge must:

- be aware of where the dog is and what it is doing
- ensure their dog is responsive to commands
- ensure their dog is not creating a nuisance.

Explanation

When a dog is under control it means the dog is not creating any sort of nuisance to people, domestic animals or any other wildlife. Nuisance in this sense means things such as barking, rushing at, intimidating, attacking or otherwise causing injury, damage or harm. Going for a walk with your dog unrestrained (not on a leash) is fine in areas where there are no dog restrictions. However, the dog must still be under control. This means you can see the dog or are aware of what it is doing and you are close enough to prevent issues or quickly bring it to heel. Having your dog under control is as much about the safety of your dog as it is about the safety of others.

The 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 in the 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 should also be physically capable of controlling the dog.

b) Carry the means of removing dog faeces in public places and remove dog faeces from public places

The dog owner or person in charge must carry a bag or other receptacle for picking up and removing any fouling (dog faeces) when in a public place (for example recycled or compostable bags, pooper scooper).

The person in charge must immediately remove any fouling that their dog produces and dispose of it in a hygienic manner (e.g. in a red wheelie bin or Council rubbish bin).

Explanation

A bag or other receptacle for picking up and removing dog faeces must be carried at all times when in public places with a dog. Dog toileting habits can be unpredictable and this requirement will prevent owners from being caught short. It is not an excuse to say you do not have a bag or other receptacle with you. Dog faeces can harbour diseases and parasitic infection that can make other dogs or people unwell. It is also generally unpleasant and smelly. It is important that dog owners take responsibility for their dogs so that dogs can continue to enjoy access to a wide range of public places.

c) Other obligations

The dog owner or person in charge must also:

- ensure their dog does not enter into a prohibited area
- ensure their dog is not unattended in a designated dog exercise area
- ensure their dog, if infectious or diseased, does not enter into any public place (other than when being taken directly to a veterinarian clinic)
- ensure their female dog, if in season, is confined to private property to minimise potential contact with other dogs
- ensure they have a permit to keep more than one dog over the age of three months, unless the premises are zoned rural or rural/residential
- ensure they have in their charge no more than six (6) dogs at any time in a public place unless they have written permission from the Council.

Section 4: Registration of dogs

All dogs must be registered in accordance with the Act. It is an offence not to register a dog that is over three months of age. It is an offence to knowingly provide false information on a dog registration application form. Registered dogs must always wear a registration tag. Please contact the Council if you need a replacement registration tag.

Explanation

Dogs are required to be registered for three reasons:

- *to keep an up to date record of all dogs and their owners*
- *to allow for the return of lost dogs, and*
- *to generate revenue for providing dog control services across the city.*

4.1 Dog registration classifications

The registration classifications are as follows:

- Standard dog registration
 - This is the default dog registration classification.
- Responsible dog owner registration
 - This applies to dogs owned by people who have Responsible Dog Owner status (this is explained in the section below).
- Spayed/neutered dog registration
 - This can be applied for with a veterinary certificate which is held on file for subsequent registration years.
- Working dog registration
 - The definition for working dog is set out in the Act and generally means any dog carrying out functions and duties:
 - relating to farming, such as the herding of stock
 - under the direction of a government department or state employee undertaking responsibilities such as those relating to policing, defence, corrections, customs, security, biosecurity, pest management, emergency management or conservation, or
 - under the direction of a private security guard in the execution of their duties.
- Dogs classified as menacing
 - This applies to dogs classified as ‘menacing’ under the Act.
- Dogs classified as dangerous
 - This applies to dogs classified as ‘dangerous’ under the Act. The Act requires a higher registration fee to be paid for these dogs.
- Disability Assist Dogs
 - These dogs need to be registered but do not incur a dog registration fee
 - Disability Assist Dogs are generally dogs that are certified to assist someone with a visual, hearing, mobility or other disability.

4.2 Setting dog registration fees

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

In considering dog registration fees, the Council will, in accordance with the Act:

- set a standard dog registration fee
- set a fee for Responsible Dog Owners that is less than the standard dog registration fee
- provide a discount for spayed/neutered dogs that is less than the standard dog registration fee
- set a fee for dangerous dogs that is 50% higher than the standard dog registration fee

- not set a fee for Disability Assist Dogs, and
- charge a penalty for the late registration of dogs i.e. an additional 50% of the registration fee.

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 Act requires that all money collected under the Act can only be spent on dog control matters.

4.3 Responsible Dog Owner status

To obtain Responsible Dog Owner status, a dog owner must apply for that status and meet the following criteria (as applicable):

- have been the registered owner of a dog and have resided in the Dunedin City District for at least 24 months, or previously held Responsible Dog Owner status in another district
- have paid dog registration fees on time for the last two years
- have all dogs owned by them microchipped in accordance with the Act, including providing the microchip number to the Council
- have a permit to keep multiple dogs on their property (if applicable)
- 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
- have a property at which their dog(s) resides that is suitably fenced and gated to contain the dog(s) and that allows dog-free access to a door of the dwelling for authorised callers
- have complied with requirements of the Dog Control Act and the current 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 the Council
 - been issued with a warning notice or infringement notice for any dog-related offence
 - been prosecuted for any dog-related offence.

Owners of dogs classified as ‘menacing’ or ‘dangerous’ under the Act may be considered for Responsible Dog Owner status, provided all criteria are strictly met (where applicable). The granting and retention of the status is at the discretion of the Council.

Applications must be received and approved before 15 April in any year to enable the applicant to gain this status for the dog registration year commencing 1 July.

Any breach of the criteria of this policy will lead to the immediate withdrawal of Responsible Dog Owner status. Should status be withdrawn due to a breach, the owner may not apply for, or be considered for, the status again until two years after the date of withdrawal.

4.4 Registration and de-sexing (neutering) dogs

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

Explanation

Your dog should be de-sexed unless it is intended for breeding. De-sexing is important to reduce unwanted pregnancies and to reduce aggression. Unwanted puppies need to be cared for, rehomed or destroyed and can become an unintended cost or cause animal welfare concerns. The Council may offer a subsidised dog de-sexing service where possible and where there is an identified need.

4.5 Changing dog ownership

Where the ownership of a dog changes, the registration continues, and both the old owner and the new owner must advise the Council.

4.6 Transferring dog registration between districts

When a registered dog moves to a different council district, the registration will go with it. Owners of dogs transferring must advise both councils of the dog's move in writing and within six months of the move. The owner should take the dog registration tag to their new local council office so it can be swapped for a registration tag for the new area at no charge. The dog does not have to be re-registered in the new area until the next registration year.

4.7 Refunding registration fee if dog dies

The Council will refund the applicable portion of a dog registration fee in the event of the death of a dog. The owner must apply for the refund and provide evidence of the dog's death with a veterinary certificate. Refunds apply from the date the application is received (not from the date your dog died).

Section 5: Microchipping your dog

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

Owners must supply the dog's microchip information to the Council so it can be recorded in the National Dog Database. You can do this by providing a vet's certificate which includes the number.

Explanation

Dog registration and microchipping are two separate processes. You must register your dog every year but only need to microchip your dog once. A microchip is about the size of a grain of rice and is implanted in a dog's back towards the neck, generally by a qualified person such as a veterinarian. Microchipping is a more permanent way of identifying a dog than collars and tags which can be lost or removed. It enables a dog to be linked to its owner. It can also identify a dog which has been aggressive and classified as dangerous or menacing.

The National Dog Database is administered by the Department of Internal Affairs and holds details of all microchipped dogs in New Zealand, their owners and any infringements that may have been issued against the owner.

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, then dogs are allowed there on leash. Dogs on leash and under control is the default classification in Dunedin.

Explanation

Dogs are prohibited in certain areas to minimise the potential for any danger, distress or nuisance that may be caused by dogs. For example, playgrounds are designed for the use and enjoyment of children and ensuring dogs are not in playground areas makes them safer for children to use.

6.1 Prohibited areas

Public places where dogs are prohibited are listed in Schedule A to this Policy. Some are general areas such as those listed below and some are more specific locations.

Dogs are prohibited in the following **general** areas:

- all Council children's playgrounds - this means within any fenced playground area, on any specially surfaced playground area, within one metre of any fenced or surfaced playground area and within one metre of any playground equipment where there is no fence or special surface
- all Council skateparks – this means all skatepark surfaces and within one metre of the perimeter of any skatepark
- all marked playing surfaces at Council owned sports grounds (excluding Council owned golf courses)
- designated safe swimming beach areas marked by lifeguards with the placement of flags (unless otherwise specified)

Dogs are also prohibited in other **specific** locations that are also listed in Schedule A to this Policy.

The Council may from time to time put in place a temporary dog prohibition where, in the opinion of the Council, there is or is likely to be harm to people or animals. The Council will take reasonable steps to notify the public of any temporary prohibited area and these may include advertising on the Council website, social media or newspaper.

Explanation

The Council works with the Department of Conservation when making temporary restrictions, for example at times and places animals are nesting.

6.2 Leashed areas

There are some places where dogs must be on a leash and under control. If a public place is not listed in this policy, then the default is that dogs are allowed there on leash and under control. On leash areas are listed in Schedule B to this Policy.

Unless specified elsewhere, dogs must be on a leash:

- on all roads and footpaths
- at all cemeteries

- on all sports grounds that surround marked playing areas when games are being played (allowed off leash when games are not being played and always prohibited on all marked playing fields)
- on Te Aka Ōtākou – Dunedin’s shared harbour/peninsula pathway
- within 20 metres of protected wildlife
- on all beaches unless otherwise specified
- on all coastal dune areas including access pathways (except in a prohibited area, where no dogs are allowed)
- on commercial areas such as the central business district, and King Edward Street between Hillside and Macandrew Roads (in addition, dogs in these areas must not be left tied up and unattended)
- at all public places not listed elsewhere in this policy or schedules to the policy.

Explanation

These places are shared spaces where there may be vehicles, bicycles, children and wildlife. On leash protects both the dog and other users of these areas. Consider the appropriate length of leash for the circumstances, for example use a shorter leash for busy shared spaces.

6.3 Exemptions to prohibited and leashed areas

Dog controls for prohibited and leashed areas do not apply to:

- working dogs (where a working dog is under the control of its owner while that dog is being worked or while it is being taken to and from its work)
- any dog where an exemption has been granted by the Council (for example, an exemption may be given where a dog is similar to a working dog, but does not meet that definition, such as a dog in training to be a working dog or a dog owned by a volunteer and used for pest control purposes).

Section 7: Dog exercise areas

The Council recognises the importance of the recreational and exercise needs of dogs and their owners, and aims to provide opportunities for dogs and their owners to access many different public places across Dunedin. There are parks, reserves, sections of coastline and beaches that allow the opportunity to exercise dogs off leash. These are listed in Schedule C. The Council also has designated dog exercise areas that are safe places to exercise dogs. These are fenced with agility equipment. Dogs must be under control but can be off leash in these areas.

Designated dog exercise areas are also listed in Schedule C and are at:

- Cemetery Road – East Taieri
- Cemetery Road – East Taieri – small breed dog exercise area
- Forrester Park – Norwood Street
- Forrester Park – Norwood Street – small breed dog exercise area
- Kew Park – corner of Easter Crescent and Forbury Road

- Rotary Park – Highcliff Road
- Shand Park – Brighton Road, Green Island
- Shand Park – Brighton Road, Green Island – small breed dog exercise area*
- Wakari Reserve.

*A small breed dog exercise area is for dogs weighing no more than eight kilograms.

Section 8: Permit for more than one dog

Owners of more than one dog over the age of three months must obtain a permit to keep the dogs on any property unless the premises are zoned Rural or Rural/Residential in the operative Dunedin City District Plan.

A permit may be granted, have conditions imposed, or be refused at the full discretion of the Council. Considerations include, but are not limited to adequate fencing, the size, location and nature of the premises, dog-free access to the house, and compliance with the Dog Control Bylaw. The process is set out in the Dog Control Bylaw.

The fee for a permit shall be payable in addition to the registration fees payable under the Act. The permit fee is set through the Annual Plan process.

Explanation

The purpose of the permit is to minimise the potential for issues associated with having too many dogs on small properties and where neighbours are close by. Considerations relate largely to the Dog Control Act and Animal Welfare Act obligations. If a permit is not granted, then the dog/s must be removed.

Section 9: Limit on dog numbers in public places

An owner or person may have no more than six dogs under their control in a public place at any time, unless they have written permission from the Council. All dogs must be under the control of the owner at all times. Permission for more than six dogs is subject to terms and conditions that the Council thinks fit.

Explanation

Permission for more than six dogs allows for those who wish to exercise more than six dogs, and who comply with relevant conditions, to do so. This could include professional dog walkers.

Section 10: Other owner responsibilities

10.1 Barking dogs

When the Council receives a complaint about a barking dog it will investigate, and if necessary, work with the dog owner to understand the extent of the barking, and reasons for it, before encouraging solutions.

If the barking continues to be persistent and loud, a dog abatement notice may be issued under the Act. If this notice is not complied with, an infringement notice may be issued. Complaints about barking may also impact on the dog owner's ability to have Responsible Dog Ownership status or to

hold a permit for more than one dog. Dogs are also able to be seized due to loud and persistent barking.

Explanation

Different things can cause a dog to bark and it often happens when the owner is absent. Common reasons are:

- *Protective aggression where dogs bark at people or animals they think are invading their territory*
- *Stimulus barking where dogs bark at sound or movement*
- *Separation anxiety if dogs are feeling lonely*
- *Social situations where dogs bark to communicate.*

10.2 Female dogs in season

Owners must keep female dogs in season confined to private property. This is to minimise the potential impact on other dogs. Female dogs in season must be adequately exercised on private land occupied by the owner or other private land with the consent of the occupier. Transport of female dogs in season should be limited to veterinary or breeding-related travel.

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). 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.

10.3 Dogs in vehicles over summer months

Dogs left in vehicles over the summer months can suffer heat exhaustion quickly. Council officers may release a dog in distress, with the help of the SPCA, or Police.

Explanation

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 in a hot car can face a charge of animal cruelty.

10.4 Exercising dogs at night

Owners are encouraged to use reflective or other lighting attached to dog collars to help dogs be seen when exercising at dusk or in the dark.

10.5 Welfare of dogs during an emergency

Owners are expected to plan and prepare for the care and welfare of their dog in anticipation of an emergency. During a state of emergency, this includes always keeping dogs under control.

Section 11: Education and training

The Council encourages owners to attend dog training courses, especially puppy training classes to help train and socialise dogs. The first year of a dog's life is very important in establishing good behaviours. All dogs need to be able to understand and appropriately respond to simple commands if they are to be off leash in any designated public place.

Some employment roles (for example tradespeople, couriers and healthcare workers) require people to enter private property, and this can be dangerous if the property has an aggressive dog or a dog that can act unpredictably. It is also important to always supervise young children around dogs. The Council offers free dog safety education sessions for organisations and for schools to increase safety around dogs.

Explanation

A key message for children is 'if a dog is on its own, leave it alone'. Children are also taught to ask a dog's owner if the dog is friendly before approaching it.

Section 12: Managing troublesome dogs and dog owners

Under the Act, dog owners can be classified as probationary and can be disqualified in some circumstances. A dog can be classified as dangerous or menacing in certain circumstances. If education, training or other support is insufficient in terms of controlling a dog, then more punitive measures may be applied. For example, the Council may require the owner of any dog (that has not been kept under control on a number of occasions) to have the dog de-sexed.

Certain classifications can restrict a person's right to own dogs for several years and may require education or training before they are able to own another dog. These classifications apply across the country. The Act sets out processes for objecting to or appealing against classifications.

12.1 Probationary dog owners (see sections 21-24 Act)

When a dog owner has committed a series of dog-related infringement offences or has been convicted of dog-related offences, under the Act the Council may classify that owner as a probationary owner.

A probationary owner cannot become the owner of any new dog(s) (but may keep any registered dogs they already have) and must dispose of any unregistered dog(s). Probationary owners may have to undertake dog owner education and/or dog obedience courses. Probationary dog owner status generally applies for up to two years but may end sooner.

12.2 Disqualified dog owners (see sections 25-28 Act)

Under the Act, 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.

12.3 Dangerous dogs

Under the Act, 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 is a threat to the safety of people, stock, poultry, domestic animals or protected wildlife.

The Act provides that dangerous dogs:

- must be kept within a securely fenced section of the owner's property (and dog-free access to the house must always be available)

- 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.

The owner of a dangerous dog 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 within one month of the dangerous dog classification.

The Act sets out the process for objecting to or appealing a dog's classification as a dangerous dog.

12.4 Menacing dogs

Under the Act, 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.

The Council must classify a dog as menacing if it belongs wholly or in part to the breeds of dogs listed in the Act: Brazilian Fila, Dogo Argentino, Japanese Tosa, Perro de Presa Canario and American Pit Bull Terrier.

Menacing dogs must be muzzled and on a leash in all public places and private ways. The Council requires all dogs classified as menacing to be de-sexed (neutered), including those classified as menacing by another council. The owner 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 within one month of the menacing dog classification.

The Act sets out the process for objecting to or appealing a dog's classification as a menacing dog.

Section 13: Seizing and impounding dogs

The Act gives warranted dog control officers the power to seize and impound a dog in certain circumstances, including when the Act is breached for:

- a dog not being supplied with enough food, water or shelter
- a dog that is unregistered or not displaying evidence of registration that is more than three months old
- dogs not securely confined on private property
- failing to comply with requirements of a menacing dog classification
- failing to comply with requirement of a dangerous dog classification
- a dog not under control in a public place
- a barking dog where the dog continues to bark and cause a nuisance after a notice has been issued
- a dog attacks a person or animal

- a dog rushes at a person, animal or vehicle in a way that causes death, injury or endangerment, or damage to property
- a dog in the vicinity of protected wildlife
- a dog at large amongst stock or poultry.

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

- all fines and fees must be paid
- the dog is registered and microchipped
- Dog Control Act requirements are met.

Costs of housing a dog in the dog shelter and sustenance will be recovered from the dog's owner before the dog is released. Costs could include veterinary fees.

The Act states that when a dog's owner cannot be established, the dog will be impounded and after seven days made available for adoption or destruction.

Where a dog is released from the dog shelter to a new owner, the new owner is not required to pay a standard release fee but is required to pay an adoption fee which includes the cost of registration. This fee aims to ensure responsible ownership while not deterring purchase. Dogs will not be released for rehoming unless they have been de-sexed, there is an agreement to de-sex, or there are exceptional reasons for not requiring de-sexing.

Dog shelter fees, including adoption fees, are set locally and are included in the Council's Annual Plan process. Infringement fees are set in the Act and are consistent across New Zealand.

Section 14: Infringement notices

The Council will issue warnings at its discretion and/or infringement notices (instant fines) for infringement offences as set out in Schedule 1 of the Act.

The Council aims to encourage people to comply with regulatory requirements through education and working with people, rather than by taking a strictly enforcement approach, but will consider each situation case by case.

Section 15: Conservation Act controlled or open dog areas

The Act requires that a dog control policy identifies any areas in the district where there are dog restrictions on Department of Conservation land. Dunedin City Council does not have any 'controlled' or 'open dog areas' on public conservation land within its area.

However, the Department of Conservation has its own rules about dog access on public conservation land managed by their Department. For more information on these rules please contact the Department of Conservation directly. On beaches where it may be confusing whether DOC or the Council has control, DOC agrees that the bylaw will apply. These beaches are specified in the Dunedin Dog Control Policy, Schedule A.

Relevant Legislation:	Dog Control Act 1996 Animal Welfare Act 1999 Animal Welfare (Dogs) Code of Welfare
------------------------------	--

	Local Government Act 2002
Associated Documents:	Dog Control Bylaw 2024

Schedule A – Public places where dogs are PROHIBITED

Dogs are prohibited in the public places listed in this schedule.

Description	Comment
General areas	
Children’s playgrounds	Protection of children
Council skateparks and Council outdoor basketball areas	Protection of other users including children
Sports grounds on all marked playing surfaces	Protection of grounds and players
Beach areas where lifeguards mark the safe areas for swimming with flags	Protection of swimmers and beach users
Beach areas	
Brighton Beach – all of the area within the bay from the rocks at the end of Brighton Domain to 909 Brighton Road	Protection of wildlife
Broad Bay Beach Reserve <i>(Note that on the nearby shared harbour/peninsula pathway dogs are allowed on leash)</i>	Protection of other users including children
Macandrew Bay Beach Reserve <i>(Note that on the nearby shared harbour/peninsula pathway dogs are allowed on leash)</i>	Protection of other users including children
Pilots Beach Recreational Reserve	Protection of wildlife
Pipikaretu Beach	Protection of wildlife
St Clair Beach: - the beach from the Salt Water Pool to the northern end of the sea wall (except dogs on a leash may have access to the beach between 8.00pm and 8.00am the following day) - the park on Victoria Road adjoining the playground area and the playground area itself.	Protection of other users including children
Allans Beach – north-east of where the access track enters the beach (DOC)	Protection of wildlife
Aramoana Beach – from Keyhole Rock north to Heyward Point (DOC)	Protection of wildlife
Boulder Beach (DOC)	Protection of wildlife
Sandfly Bay (DOC)	Protection of wildlife
Shelley Beach, Aramoana (DOC)	Protection of wildlife
Tunnel Beach (DOC)	Protection of wildlife and other users
Victory Beach (Yellow Eyed Penguin Trust/DOC/DCC)	Protection of wildlife

Reserve areas	
Caledonian Grounds	Protection of grounds and other users
Dunedin Botanic Garden	Protection of reserve and other users
Hereweka/Harbour Cone	Protection of reserve and other users
Lighthouse Reserve – Taiaora Head	Protection of reserve, wildlife and other users
Mosgiel Memorial Garden – except on track where dogs are allowed on leash	Protection of reserve and other users
Mount Cargill – except on walking track where dogs are allowed off leash	Protection of scenic reserve
Organ Pipes	Protection of reserve
Okia Reserve	Protection of reserve and wildlife
Otekiho Reserve	Protection of reserve and wildlife
Taiaroa Head	Protection of reserve and wildlife
Warrington Spit and Rabbit Island – from the first break water point from the north	Protection of reserve and wildlife
Woodhaugh Gardens – except on defined walking tracks where dogs are allowed on leash	Protection of reserve and other users
Tracks	
41 Peg Track District Road	Part of this track is over private land
Buskin Road (Otago Peninsula)	Protection of wildlife
Nyhon Track	Protection of reserve and other users
Temporary areas From time to time, the Council may make temporary prohibited areas where reasonable and where, in the opinion of the Council, there is or is likely to be harm caused to people or animals. The Council will take reasonable steps to notify the public of any temporary prohibited area. A temporary prohibition will take effect from the time signage is placed at the points of entry to the affected area and will end when the signage is removed by the Council.	Protection of wildlife and stock

Schedule B – Public places where dogs are allowed ON LEASH

Dogs must be on leash in the public places listed in this schedule.

Description	Comment
All public places (unless specified elsewhere) including: • Roads • Footpaths • Tracks • Cemeteries • Sports grounds that surround marked playing areas (allowed off leash when games are not being played and always prohibited on all marked playing fields) • Te Aka Ōtākou – Dunedin’s shared harbour/peninsula pathway • Within 20 metres of protected wildlife • On all beaches – unless otherwise specified • On all coastal dune areas including access pathways - unless in a prohibited area • Commercial areas such as the central business district and King Edward Street between Hillside and Macandrew Roads – in addition, dogs in these areas must not be left tied up and unattended.	These places are shared spaces where there may be multiple users including vehicles, bicycles, children, and wildlife. On leash protects both the dog and other users of these areas.

For clarity please note rules for the following areas:

Description	Comment
Chisholm Park Golf Course – ONLY the area north of the Chisholm Park pathway (<i>note that the area south of the pathway permits dogs without a leash</i>)	
Otokia Creek track to the start of Brighton Beach	Allows access to Otokia River
Smaills Beach to the east of the middle track (<i>and may be off leash to the west of this track but subject to temporary bans when required for wildlife protection purposes</i>)	Protection of wildlife
St Clair Beach and Esplanade from the Salt Water Pool to the northern end of the sea wall - ONLY between 8.00pm and 8.00am (<i>otherwise prohibited</i>)	Protection of wildlife and other users

Schedule C – Designated dog exercise areas and other public places where dogs are allowed OFF LEASH

The Council recognises the importance of recreational and exercise needs of dogs and their owners, and this schedule lists public places where dogs are allowed off leash, both in:

- designated dog exercise areas that are safe areas to exercise dogs - these are fenced with agility equipment, and
- other public places where dogs are allowed off leash.

Dogs must always be under control.

Designated dog exercise areas

Description
Cemetery Road - East Taieri
Cemetery Road – East Taieri – small breed dog exercise area*
Forrester Park – Norwood Street
Forrester Park – Norwood Street – small breed dog exercise area*
Kew Park – corner of Easter Crescent and Forbury Road
Rotary Park – Highcliff Road
Shand Park – Brighton Road, Green Island
Shand Park – Brighton Road, Green Island – small breed dog exercise area*
Wakari Reserve

*A small dog exercise area is for dogs weighing no more than eight kilograms.

Other off leash public places

Description
Beach areas (NOTING that dogs must be on leash on all beaches and coastal dune areas including access pathways, unless in a prohibited area or otherwise specified)
Allans Beach – ONLY south of the DOC track (<i>note that dogs are prohibited north-east of where the access track enters the beach</i>) (DOC)
Aramoana Beach – ONLY to Keyhole Rock (DOC)
Beach adjacent to Westwood Recreation Reserve from Kaikorai Estuary to Ocean View carpark (carpark is adjacent to 719 Brighton Rd)
Beach south of Brighton Domain to Taieri Mouth
Chisholm Park Golf Course – ONLY the area south of the Chisholm Park pathway (<i>note that dogs must be on leash in the area closest to the Golf Club</i>)
Doctors Point – ONLY on the beach to the west of the caves
Karitane Beach
Long Beach
Tomahawk Beach
Ocean View Beach
Peninsula Beach Road, Port Chalmers – on the gravel road from the carpark to Victory Place

St Clair/St Kilda Beach from the northern end of the sea wall north <i>(note that dogs are prohibited from the northern end of the seawall south, unless between 8.00pm and 8.00am when they are allowed on leash)</i>
Smaills Beach – ONLY to the west of the middle access track <i>(note that dogs are prohibited on the beach east of the middle track)</i>
Waikouaiti Beach
Waldronville Beach from Blackhead to the Kaikorai Estuary
Warrington Beach and Warrington Recreation Reserve along to the Spit <i>(note that dogs are prohibited on Warrington Spit and Rabbit Island)</i>
Other reserve areas
Buckland's Crossing (Waikouaiti)
Frasers Gully Recreation Reserve including the track
Island Park Recreation Reserve
Jubilee Park tracks (NOTING the sportsground rules apply for nearby sportsgrounds)
Ross Creek Reserve – EXCEPT for the track around the Reservoir which is on leash
Scott Memorial Reserve (Port Chalmers)
Signal Hill Scenic Reserve
Truby King Reserve (Seacliff)
Woodside Glen, including unformed legal roads within the reserve
Sportsgrounds
Sportsgrounds – ONLY in areas that are not marked playing fields and ONLY when no games are being played. <i>(Note that dogs are prohibited on marked playing fields at all times and must be on a leash in surrounding areas when games are being played.)</i>
Tracks
Bethunes Gully track and picnic area <i>(Note this excludes the playground where dogs are prohibited.)</i>
Flagstaff track network that is managed by the Dunedin City Council - from Leith Valley (to the east) to Silverstream (to the west) and Green Ridge (to the north)
Jubilee Park tracks (NOTING the sportsground rules apply for nearby sportsgrounds)
McGoun's track
Silverstream – the stop bank track on the true left of the Silverstream between Gordon and Wingatui Roads