

# DOG OWNER HANDBOOK





Rangitikei District Council has an experienced Animal Control team responsible for all dog and stock issues within our district.

The officers provide a 24 hour – 7 day a week service. All non-urgent calls are dealt with the following day. The number of known registered dogs in our district stand at approximately 4630.

The purpose of this information booklet is to provide dog owners with basic information and advice. This booklet also contains information from the Rangitikei District Council Dog Control Bylaws, the Dog Control Act 1996, dog owner obligations, and legal dog owner responsibilities.

# Being a Responsible Dog Owner

**Your legal obligations as a dog owner are as follows:**



You must register your dog each year, when you first get your dog or before your dog turns three months old.



Ensure your dog does not cause a nuisance to any other person by loud and persistent barking, howling or by any other means.



To notify Council of any changes to your address or dog ownership.



Take all reasonable steps to ensure your dog does not injure, endanger, intimidate or otherwise cause distress or harm to any stock, poultry, domestic animal or protected wildlife.



To supply your dog with proper care and attention which includes clean drinking water, food, and warm dry shelter.



Take all reasonable steps to ensure your dog does not damage or endanger any property belonging to any person.



That your dog receives adequate and regular exercise in accordance to the size or breed of your dog.



To comply with the requirements of the Dog Control Act 1996 and all regulations and bylaws of the Rangitikei District Council.

## **You must advise Rangitikei District Council:**

- If your dog dies
- If your dog leaves the district
- If you have a change of address
- If ownership of the dog changes

## **An owner, in relation to any dog, means any person who:**

- Owns the dog, or
- Has had the dog in their possession for 72 hours or more
- Who is the parent or guardian of a person under the age of 16 years who has a dog. In this case the parent or guardian is legally responsible for the dogs registration and actions.

## Registration



Animal Control/Dog Control funding is made up of rates, registration fees and charges. These help fund a range of services that are designed to help dog and stock owners as well as the wider community.

You must register your dog each year, when you first get your dog or when your dog turns 3 months old. The registration year is for a period of 12 months from 1 July – 30 June the following year.

Registration fees are set by Council, pursuant to section 37 and 68 of the Dog Control Act 1996. You can pay your dog registration at the Marton office on High Street, via internet banking (you will need your 'owner' number) or by calling into any of our centres in Bulls, Hunterville, Taihape.

Any enquiries can be put forward to our Customer Experience staff or our Animal Control Officers who will be happy to assist.

Council's registration fee structure also recognises good dog ownership, neutered dogs, early payment and working dogs. However your good dog ownership may be revoked for a period of 24 months for any justified complaints received regarding your dog.

### **Reasons that may affect your good dog status:**

- ⊗ Your dog is impounded
- ⊗ Your dog is constantly roaming
- ⊗ You fail to re-register your dog on time
- ⊗ You have a justified barking complaint
- ⊗ You receive an infringement notice for a dog related issue
- ⊗ Your dog attacks a person/domestic animal/stock/wildlife
- ⊗ You fail to notify Council of any changes i.e. address, ownership of the dog
- ⊗ A justified rushing complaint.

## What your Registration Covers

### All dog/stock related issues including but not limited to:

- ✓ Barking dogs
- ✓ Wandering/roaming dogs
- ✓ Dog attacks person/domestic pets/stock/wildlife
- ✓ Dog rushing at people/animals
- ✓ Impounding of problem dogs/stock
- ✓ Secured dogs on private property/caught in dog traps
- ✓ Patrolling of problem areas
- ✓ Enforcement of the Dog Control Act 1996 and the Rangitikei District Council Bylaws
- ✓ Euthanasiation of unwanted dogs
- ✓ Acceptance of unwanted dogs/puppies
- ✓ Management of dogs with unknown owners
- ✓ Welfare issues (limited)
- ✓ Advice to dog owners
- ✓ Stock worrying
- ✓ Stock on public roads/highways
- ✓ 24 hour service

### Animal Control also deal with:

- Mediation issues involving the public and their animals
- Legal matters/hearings/prosecutions
- Failing to register
- Failing to control dogs
- All dogs classified as menacing and dangerous
- School education visits (contracted)
- Media enquiries
- Accidents involving stock/horses on highways
- SPCA, Police, animal shelters, vets.







## Microchipping Dogs



From 1 July 2006 all dogs registered for the first time are required, by law, to be microchipped (working dogs excluded).

Microchipping is another form of identification. **The microchip is not a GPS tracker.** When a dog is found, an Animal Control Officer will scan the dog and if the dog is microchipped, the Officer will run the chip number through the National Dog Database. The database holds all of the dog owners' details therefore allowing Animal Control to make contact. When you register your dog for the first time, Council will load your dog's microchip onto the Council's database and the National Dog Database. There is no cost for this.

*Please note: If your dog is microchipped at the vet, the chip number may be loaded onto the NZ Companion Animal Register. This is not to be confused with the National Dog Database. Animal Control do not have access to the NZ Companion Animal Register (NZ pet register).*

### **The following are required to be microchipped:**

- All dogs registered for the first time after 1 July 2006 (excluding working dogs that are exempt)
- Any dog classified as menacing or dangerous (includes classified working dogs)
- All unregistered dogs that have been impounded under the Dog Control Act 1996
- Any dog registered prior to 1 July 2006 that has been impounded more than once, must be chipped.

## Dog Pound



The Rangitikei District does not have its own pound. Any dogs that are picked up in the Rangitikei District are either impounded at the Whanganui Pound on Airport Road or the Feilding Pound on Awa Street.

On average about 140 dogs are impounded from the Rangitikei District each year. Most of these dogs have no means of identification. If a dog is impounded and it has a registration tag, microchip or both, then the dog owner will be notified by phone or mail about their dog's impounding. For this reason, it is important to notify Council of any changes to your address or phone number.

- Dogs are held in the pound for 7 days, unless arrangements have been made
- If a dog is unclaimed after this time, Council may either re-home or euthanise the dog
- All impounded dogs will incur an impound fee
- A sustenance fee may be charged
- All dogs must be, by law, chipped and registered before being released from the pound



## Infringements and Offences



The Dog Control Act 1996 makes provisions for various offences.

An infringement notice is an instant fine. If the infringement is paid on time, court procedures and further costs can be avoided. For further information on infringements and offences, please refer to the Dog Control Act 1996 which is available for the public to view online and as a hard copy at Council and most libraries.

**The most common offences in our area are:**

- Failure to provide sufficient food, shelter and water
- Failure or refusal to provide information or providing false information
- Wilful obstruction of a dog control officer or dog ranger
- Failure to comply with effects of dog owner disqualification
- Failure to comply with effects of dangerous dog classification
- Failure to comply with effects of menacing dog classification
- Failure to register dog
- Failure to control or confine dog
- Failure to advise change of address or ownership of dog
- Failure to comply with a Bylaw (not picking up your dog's poo).







## Exercising Your Dog



The Rangitikei District Council recognises the recreational and exercise needs of a dog and its owner.

For this Council has designated on and off lead areas for dogs to be exercised but still remain under continuous control by its owner.

When out walking your dog it must be under your full control at all times, whether it be by voice or on a lead.

### **The exercise areas in the Rangitikei are:**

- Bulls Domain
- Turakina Domain
- Sir James Wilson Park, Marton
- Taihape Memorial Park
- Robin Street, Taihape

# Bulls Domain



# Turakina Domain



Dogs excluded



Dogs on Leash  
at all times



Dog exercise area  
(Enclosed)



Dog exercise area




# Sir James Wilson Park



 Dogs excluded

 Dogs on Leash  
at all times

 Dog exercise area  
(Enclosed)

 Dog exercise area

# Taihape Memorial Park






# Robin Street - Taihape



 Dogs excluded

 Dogs on Leash at all times

 Dog exercise area (Enclosed)

 Dog exercise area



**For further information, ask a question or make a complaint contact the following Council offices:**

Marton Council Office, High Street, Marton  
Marton Community Hub, High Street, Marton  
Taihape Community Hub Hautapu Street, Taihape  
Te Matapihi - Bulls Community Hub, Criterion Street, Bulls



**[www.rangitikei.govt.nz](http://www.rangitikei.govt.nz)**

0800 422 522 (24 hrs) | [info@rangitikei.govt.nz](mailto:info@rangitikei.govt.nz)  
46 High Street, Private Bag 1102, Marton 4741

*Making this place home.*