

Dog exercise and prohibited areas

Under the Dog Control Act, owners are responsible for ensuring that their dog receives adequate exercise. You must also ensure that your dog is under control at all times.

Exercising your dog

Dogs may be exercised free of restraining devices under the owner's constant observation and voice control in the following areas:

- River edges, beach frontage, including dune areas, (excluding conservation areas)
- The Westport Domain, Brougham Street Domain, the southern end of Carters Beach Domain
- In Reefton, the Strand, adjacent to the racecourse on the Crampton Road reserve and the old cemetery on Buller Road

Leash control areas

If you own a dog (or have a dog in your charge) you must not allow the dog to enter public areas unless it is on a leash. This includes all urban areas, parks (not identified as exercise areas or prohibited areas) or any area where the dog (if not on a leash) may injure, intimidate or cause distress to any other people, domestic animals, stock, poultry or protected wildlife.

Prohibited areas

All dogs (with the exception of those carrying out their function as a working dog as defined by the legislation) are prohibited in the following areas:

- The central business and commercial shopping areas of Westport during the hours of 9.00 am to 5.00pm Monday to Friday or 10.00 am to 12.00 midday on Saturdays
- Children's playing parks
- Public paddling pools, hospitals and cemeteries
- Playing surfaces and sports grounds
- Public parks of Victoria Square, Westport & King George VI Jubilee Park, Reefton
- Any recreational or community buildings owned or controlled by the Council
- Any other area where local authority signs are erected prohibiting dogs or talk to one of our Animal Control officers.

Fines and offences

The Dog Control Act 1996 has a range of fines and penalties for breaches of the legislation. For the latest on dog ownership and legislation, check out the Department of Internal Affairs website www.dia.govt.nz or talk to one of Council's Animal Control officers.