

## Contact Details

**Animal Control Office** (24hrs)

If you have further enquires contact one of our  
animal control officers on;

Phone: 03 788 9111

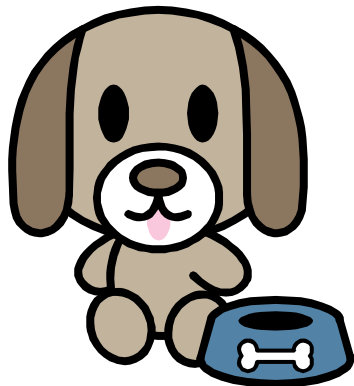
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## All animal welfare issues



34 Gresson Street, Greymouth  
Phone 03 768 5223  
Email [greyspca@xtra.co.nz](mailto:greyspca@xtra.co.nz)

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# Dog Owners Handbook



All the information you need regarding dog  
ownership

**Phone 03 788 9111**

# The Buller District Councils dog owners handbook

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## What your registration pays for

1. RESPONSE TO COMPLAINTS:  
*-Response to all complaints within one business day.*
2. IMPOUNDING SERVICE  
*-Maintenance of pound facilities in Westport and Reefton*  
*-Portable traps and cages*  
*-Re-homing of dogs*  
*-Destruction of unwanted dogs*  
*-Catching equipment/safety equipment*
3. ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY  
*-Property inspections*  
*-House to house dog registration checks*  
*-Issuing permits*  
*-Court costs*  
*-Dangerous dog classification and follow ups*  
*-Issue and processing of infringement fines*
4. ANNUAL COSTS  
*-Two full-time officers that cover the areas of Westport, Karamea, Reefton, Punakaiki and Springs Junction*  
*-Registration tags/forms/postage*  
*-Pamphlets – forms/advertising*  
*-Vehicle maintenance, replacement, mileage.*  
*-Maintenance of the National Dog Data Base and collection and accounting of National Dog Data Base levies*
5. ASSOCIATED COSTS  
*-Maintenance of dog register*  
*-Office space, computer system*  
*-Phones and on-call numbers*  
*-Maintenance of signs*  
*-Secretarial work*  
*-Ranger education*  
*-Public education, information and educational school programs*

Dogs need to be registered BEFORE reaching  
**3 months of age**

# Protecting our Coastal Wildlife Continued...

## What can happen if your dog kills protected wildlife on West Coast beaches...

Under the Conservation Act 1987 if your dog attacks and kills any protected wildlife you as the dog owner could, on conviction, face up to 12 months imprisonment and/or a \$10,000 maximum fine, and the Court could also order that your dog be destroyed.

Under the Dog Control Act 1996 if your dog attacks any protected wildlife you as the dog owner could, on conviction, face a maximum fine of \$3,000. And if your dog kills any wildlife or causes injury that is necessary to destroy the wildlife to terminate its suffering then you could, on conviction, face up to 3 years imprisonment, and/or a maximum fine of \$20,000. The Court could also order that your dog be destroyed.

**ALL DOGS POSE A THREAT TO COASTAL WILDLIFE!**  
Even small, mild mannered dogs can harass and kill or maim penguins and coastal wildlife.



Protecting our coastal wildlife..... 17-18

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**The more “do’s” you consistently enforce, the greater level of respect your dog will have for you, and the more successful you will be for your training efforts.**

**Do’s ✓**

- Eat before you feed your dog
- Restrict access to your bedrooms and furniture
- Take the shortest route to your destination and make your dog move out of your way
- Proceed first through narrow passages
- If your dog wanders away, praise your dog for returning
- Take your dog’s “kills” (stolen articles or food) away
- Call your dog to you to give affection
- Ignore or discourage pawing, nudging, whining
- Ignore your dog when you first see it– acknowledge family first
- Use your dog’s name when praising
- Initiate games, making sure you win the game i.e. possession of toy
- Reward your dog for completing an exercise well

**Don’ts ✗**

- Feed your dog first
- Let your dog sleep in or on your bed
- Let your dog restrict your access to anything in the house or take up residence in a doorway
- Let your dog bound out ahead of you
- Chase your dog yelling “Come!” or show your anger when the dog returns
- Allow your dog to keep or play with the “kill”
- Go over to your dog to give affection
- Give attention when your dog demands it
- Make a large fuss over your dog whenever they demand
- Use your dog’s name when telling it off– call it dog i.e. “bad dog”
- Play games, especially tug of war if you can’t win or give the toy after the game is over
- Give more than one command, or any command if you are not prepared to reinforce it

**Obligations of a Dog Owner  
From the Dog Control Act 1996  
continued...**

6. Where a dog is, under subsection 4 of this section, delivered into the custody of a dog control officer or dog ranger, the dog control officer or dog ranger may cause the dog to be returned to its owner or impounded.
7. (Except as provided in subsection 3A) nothing in this section shall authorise a dog control officer or dog ranger to enter upon any land or premises other than a public place or private way for the purposes of this section without the consent (express or implied) of the occupier or person for the time being in apparent charge of that land or those premises.

**Protecting our Coastal Wildlife**

**If you walk your dog along the beach...**

People walking their dogs on the beach do not usually pose too much of a problem, so long as:

- Dogs are under direct control at all times (i.e. on a leash, or under voice control).
- Dogs are not allowed to roam in the dunes, scrub and coastal forests above the high tide mark.
- Dogs are kept extra close if walking along the beach after dusk, which is when penguins travel between the sea and their burrows.

**If you take your dog whitebaiting or fishing...**

You cannot expect a dog to sit quietly as you whitebait or fish for hours! It will wander off into the dunes or up the river, where it may encounter penguin colonies or other coastal wildlife and do damage that could land you in trouble.

- Solving this is difficult. You could take a long length of rope to make a dog run while you fish. But frankly dogs and whitebaiting (or fishing) do not mix and the best thing you can do is leave your dog at home.

**If you own a dog and live within 200m of the beach...**

Penguins and other coastal wildlife often nest 200m or more inland and close to or even under houses. So if you live close to the sea and have a dog this can be a real problem.

- It is important that you comply with Dog Control laws which state that a dog must be contained and unable to roam away from your section.
- Also make visitors with dogs aware that, because penguins and other coastal wildlife may be nesting in the area, their dog must be under control at all times.

## Obligations of a Dog Owner From the Dog Control Act 1996

### Control of dogs, generally

1. The owner of any dog shall keep that dog under control at all times
2. Without limiting the generality of subsection 1 of this section, a dog shall, for the purpose of this Act, be deemed to be not under control -
  - (a) If it is found at large on any land or premises other than a public place or private way without the consent (expressed or implied) of the occupier or person in charge of that land or those premises; or
  - (b) If it is found at large in any public place or in any private way in contravention of any regulation or bylaw
3. Where a dog is not under control in terms of subsection 2 of this section, the dog control officer or dog ranger may seize the dog and cause it to be returned to its owner or impounded.
- 3A. A dog control officer or dog ranger in fresh pursuit of a dog that has been not under control in terms of subsection 2 may, at any reasonable time, enter on any land or premises (except a dwelling house) to seize and impound a dog if -
  - (a) the dog is identified by the dog control officer or dog ranger; and
  - (b) the dog is not under the control of any person or otherwise constrained; and
  - (c) no person, other than a person under the age of 16 years, is present
4. Where, in the opinion of—
  - (a) The occupier of any land or premises, or of any other person acting with authority of such occupier (whether express or implied); or
  - (b) Any person in a public place or in any private way,—  
a dog is likely to cause annoyance or distress to any person or animal or damage to any property on the land or premises or in any public place or in any private way, the occupier or person may seize the dog and cause the dog to be returned to its owner, or to be delivered into the custody of a dog control officer or dog ranger.
5. Nothing in subsection 4 of this section authorises any person to seize any dog that is under the direct control of any other person.

## Your dogs wellbeing

### Vaccinations and worming

#### Pregnant bitches

Should be wormed to reduce the amount of worms pups are born with.

#### Puppies– worming

Puppies need to be wormed regularly, for example at 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12 and 16 weeks old, then every three to four months.



#### Paratak Plus

If you need a broad spectrum wormer for your dog, Paratak Plus is available from the Buller District Council, \$2.80 per tablet.

#### Puppies– vaccinations

Generally recommended at eight weeks, 12 weeks and 16 weeks, then a yearly booster to protect against parvovirus, distemper, hepatitis and respiratory virus. An additional vaccination is available for kennel cough, if your dog is going into a boarding kennel.

### Neutering and Spaying

De-sexing your dog benefits dog owners and the wider community. Neutering and spaying dogs;

- Reduces roaming
- Reduces aggressions
- Lessens diseases
- Reduces unwanted puppies

If you are not planning to breed your dog, then de-sexing deserves consideration from around 6 months of age.

The council encourage de-sexing by offering discounts on registration for neutered and spayed pets.

For more information on the benefits of spaying and neutering contact your vet or talk to one of our Animal Control Officers.

## **Puppy plunket and dog obedience classes**

Puppy plunket and dog obedience classes are a great way for your dog to learn their manners. Contact Buller Vet Services on 03 789 7934 for more information.

## **Rules and Regulations**

### **Registration**

If you keep a dog then it must be registered.

Dogs must be registered before they reach 3 months of age. Registration needs to be renewed annually and must be paid by 1 July each year.

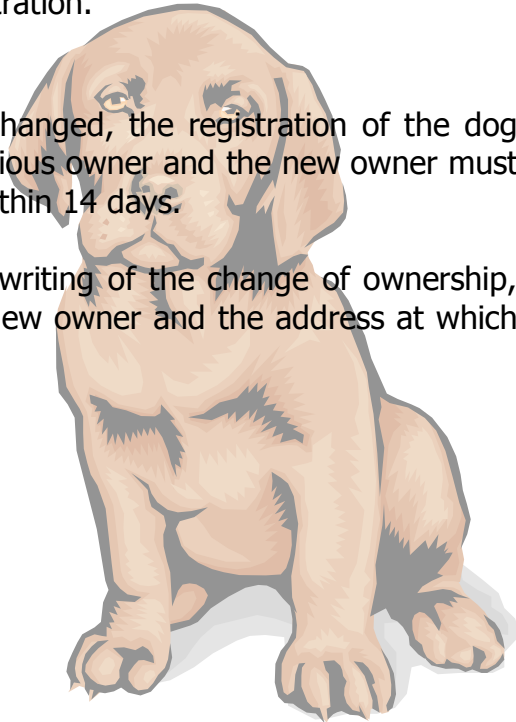
Dogs can be registered at Council Offices in Westport and Reefton during normal office hours, 8.30 am - 4.30 pm Monday to Friday.

Registered dogs moving into the district receive free registration for the remainder of the registration year, provided the owner produces proof of current registration.

### **Change of ownership**

If the ownership of a dog is changed, the registration of the dog continues in force, but the previous owner and the new owner must advise Council of the change within 14 days.

You need to advise Council in writing of the change of ownership, the residential address of the new owner and the address at which the dog will ordinarily be kept.



### **1211 Infringement Offences**

Every person who commits a breach of any of the provisions of these By-laws shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding \$1,500.

Where an officer of the Council has reasonable grounds to believe that any person has committed a breach against any of the provisions of these By-laws any officer authorised by the Council may issue an infringement offence notice.

### **1212 Transport of Dogs Within Vehicles**

Any person in charge of a vehicle must ensure that any dog carried in the vehicle has access to water at intervals of not less than every two hours and has sufficient ventilation.

You must not allow a dog to remain in a stationary vehicle in full sun or any conditions where the internal temperature of the vehicle may cause the dog to suffer heat induced distress.

An animal control officer/dog ranger may enter the vehicle to supply the dogs with water or ventilation, or seize the dog. The animal control officer/dog ranger will leave a written notice in some conspicuous place on the vehicle informing the owner of the vehicle of the conditions for the return of the dog.

### **1213 Transport of Dog On the Tray of a Vehicle**

Any dog carried on the tray of a vehicle must have a means of seeking shelter in extremes of weather, be the vehicle in motion or stationary.

The dog must be secured by a leash or a chain that is sufficiently short in length as to prevent the dog leaving the useable surface of the tray.

Notwithstanding any approved safety devices, the minimum standard of lead or a chain must incorporate one swivel connection and be of sufficient condition to withstand the expected forces caused by movement of the vehicle and be of sufficient condition to ensure the behavioural restraint of the dog.



## **Dog Control Act 1996**

### **Unlawful Removal From Pound**

It is an offence for any person to remove any dog from any pound or return it to an owner without the approval of an authorised officer of the Council and then only after all the fees owing have been paid and if the dog is over three (3) months of age and is registered.

### **1210 Removal of Faeces**

Your dog is not allowed to foul any place or any land other than that occupied or owned by you. You must remove the faeces immediately and if you use a public litter bin or similar receptacle to dispose of the faeces, they must be suitably wrapped or contained to prevent the bin from being fouled.

### **1206 Female and Diseased Dogs**

Any dog which is in season or diseased must be kept confined so that it is unable to wander at large whether on private or public land or place. The dog still must be adequately exercised on private land occupied by the owner and be kept on a lead.

### **1207 Prevention of Nuisances**

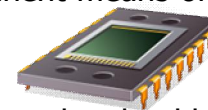
Should any dog become a nuisance or injurious to health, a Council officer may require the owner to reduce the number of dogs or to improve the kennel or other buildings used to house or contain the dog; or to erect or improve fences or gates used to contain any dog; or to install, alter or replace securing devices, ropes, chains, wires or collars to achieve a standard considered to be suitable for the comfortable securing of any dog or to require any dog to be tied up or otherwise confined during specified periods or to take such action as considered necessary to minimise or remove the likelihood of further nuisances.

### **1209 Limitation of the Number of Dogs On Any Premises**

No person within the district is allowed to keep more than three (3) dogs (unless pups), unless they have a permit issued by Council to authorise a higher number of dogs. This does not apply to any working (farm) dog/s or approved boarding or breeding kennels.

## **Microchipping**

Tags can easily be lost or swapped among dog owners. Microchipping is a permanent means of identification that links dogs to their owners.

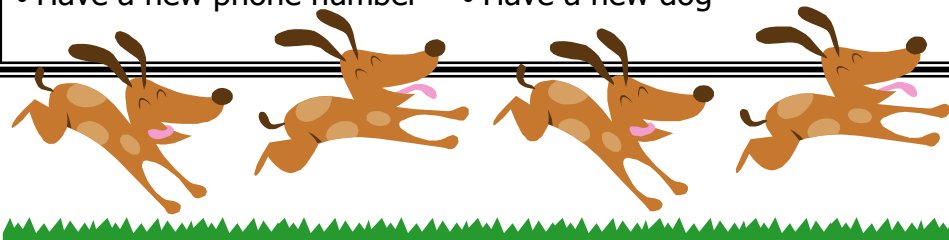


The chip is placed between the shoulder blades of the dog and is a painless procedure.

- Microchipping does not apply to all dogs. Dogs newly registered will be required to be microchipped two months after first registration
- Dogs classed as dangerous or menacing will need to be microchipped
- Dogs that are impounded for a second time will not be released from the pound until they have been microchipped
- All working dogs used solely for the purpose of herding or droving stock are exempt from microchipping
- Failure to adhere to the microchipping law will result in a \$300 infringement fine being issued

### **As a dog owner you must contact the Buller District Council if you:**

- Move house or district
- Give your dog to someone else
- Have a new phone number
- Have a new dog



# Dealing with nuisance dogs

## Barking Dogs

Nuisance barking can occur for a number of reasons, including when your dog is cold, hungry, bored, attention seeking, or excited.

### Some solutions to stop nuisance barking and help maintain your neighbours' sanity are:

- Give your dog regular exercise
- Use anti-barking devices, such as a spray collar
- Involve your neighbours
- Take your dog to obedience training
- Screen your dog from visual distractions
- Provide toys for your dog's amusement
- Change your dog from a chain to a run
- Take your dog with you when you leave the property
- Leave your dog inside (laundry/porch)
- Change feeding times, or food type
- Use electronic devices that are available to purchase
- Move the kennel/shelter (a change is as good as a rest)



## 1205 Dog May Be Impounded

If any dog is found outside your property or generally roaming, any animal control officer/dog ranger may seize and impound the dog. Where a dog is seized and the owner has a good record, the ranger may opt to return the dog immediately so long as the owner can be readily located, is able to receive the dog, is willing and able to pay a recovery fee if applicable, and the dog is over three (3) months of age, is registered, and the conditions under which the dog is kept are satisfactory.

**Impounding Fees** – First time - \$50; Second time - \$100. \$10 per day is added to the fee for sustenance and time.

As soon as practicable, after any dog wearing a tag or disk has been impounded, the owner will be notified that the dog has been impounded.

Unless the dog is claimed and any fees owing paid within seven (7) days of receiving the notice, the dog may be sold, destroyed, or otherwise disposed of in such a manner as the animal control officer/dog ranger thinks fit.

Where the owner of any dog is not known or cannot be identified, the Council may after the expiry of seven (7) days after the date of seizure, destroy or dispose of the dog in such a manner as thought fit.

Dogs that have been impounded due to lack of control shall not be released unless the animal control officer/dog ranger is satisfied that the conditions under which the dog is kept are of a standard to prevent the dog from being able to roam again.

Unclaimed dogs will only be re-homed if the new owner undertakes to have the dog vaccinated and neutered at their own cost, and has facilities suitable to house and contain the dog, and is considered by the animal control officer/dog ranger releasing the dog to be a suitable person to own the dog.



## Dog Control By-Law 2002

### 1202 Control of Dogs

The owner or any person in charge or having control of any dog, shall keep such dog securely tied up or otherwise effectively confined or under his/her direct control.

### 1204 Prohibited Areas

Dogs are not allowed in any of the following places:

- The central business and commercial shopping areas of Westport during the hours of 9.00 am to 5.00 pm, Monday to Friday; or 10.00 am to 12 noon on Saturdays; or
- Children's playing parks, public paddling or swimming pools, hospitals, cemeteries, playing surfaces or sports grounds; or
- In Westport – the public parks of Victoria Square; or
- In Reefton – King George VI Jubilee Park; or
- Any other area where local authority signs are erected, prohibiting dogs; or
- Any recreational or community buildings owned or controlled by the Council.

### 1204 Leash Control Area

Dogs must be on a leash under effective control in urban areas and in parks not identified as prohibited areas or exercise areas, or any area that the dog, if not on a leash, may injure, intimidate or cause distress to any person, domestic animal, stock, poultry or protected wildlife.

### 1204 Exercise Areas

You can let your dog off the lead at the river edge or the beach front, including dune areas, but only when there are no swimmers or picnickers or other dogs about. You can also let your dog off the lead in the Westport Domain, Brougham Street Domain (don't confuse this with Victoria Square), and the southern end of the Carters Beach Domain.

In Reefton, the leash-free area is The Strand, the area adjacent to the racecourse on the Crampton Road Reserve, and the old cemetery on Buller Road.

## Dangerous dogs

A dog's behaviour reflects how it is treated and what the owner wants it to be. Any breed or size of dog can be dangerous.

### Dog attacks—the law

A dog is not allowed to bite, scare or even intimidate you or your own pets.

Owners often ask victims not to complain, telling them that the dog has never done this before. If the dog attacked you, there is a strong likelihood it will attack someone else.

### What commonly happens to a dog that has attacked?

*Any one of four things:*

1. It may be classified as dangerous and remain with the owner who will have to meet new safety standards. The dog must be de-sexed to lessen its aggressive tendencies. The council keeps a special track of the dog for the rest of its life
2. It may be seized and held in custody until safety concerns are met by the owner
3. It may be destroyed by an animal control officer.
4. The owner could be prosecuted

### Do I need to go to court if I report a dog attack?

Not always. Your animal control officer will advise you of your options and what is appropriate, given your particular case. A common alternative is to provide a statement to the animal control officer.

### Am I entitled to compensation from a dog's owner?

The dog's owner must pay for any medical costs and any property damage done by their dog.

Should the owner be prosecuted, the complainant, on application to the Court, is entitled to 50% of the fine.

### Does the neighbour need to know if I complain about their dog?

No. Your name remains confidential, but to legitimize your complaint, you need to tell the animal control officer who you are, and provide a contact number.

## **Definitions of key terms (from the Buller District Dog Control By-Law 1997)**

Copies of the full by-law may be purchased from Council offices

The By-law was authorized by the Dog Control Act 1996 and came into force on the 27th June 2002.

**"Owner"** means– any person over 16 years of age who owns a dog, or has a dog in their possession for longer than 72 hours.

**"Public Place"** means– any place that is open to, or being used by the public and includes any aircraft, ship or ferry, or vehicle carrying or available to carry passengers

**"Domestic Animal"** means – any animal kept as a domestic pet or for the owners employment.

**"Working Dog"** means – any guide dog, hearing ear dog, or companion dog, police or customs dog, or a dog kept for the purposes of herding or driving stock, or dog kept for destroying pests under the Biosecurity Act 1993, or owned by a security guard as defined in Section 4 of the Private Investigators and Security Guards Act or declared by the Council to be a working dog.

**"Effective Control"** means – a dog that is securely held by a person on a leash or a chain that is attached to the collar or choker chain around the neck of the dog and is being held by a person that is over the age of seven years and physically capable of controlling the dog.

**"Dog Control Officer"** means – an Animal Control Officer or Dog Ranger that has been warranted to carry out the requirements of the Act and these By-laws.

**"Impound"** means – to place a dog in a public pound or any vehicle employed in the transporting of dogs to a public pound or to capture in a Council dog cage.

**"Seizure"** means – to take possession or custody of a dog by stated intent, capture or force by an officer of the Council.

**"Urban"** means – any areas within the District that are gazetted or regulated as limited speed control zones or as areas where a speed restriction of less than 100 kilometres an hour applies within the following areas: Westport, Carters Beach, Reefton, Inangahua Junction, Blacks Point, Springs Junction, Maruia, Ikamatua, Karamea, Little Wanganui settlement and subdivision, Seddonville, Mokihinui, Hector, Ngakawau, Granity, Waimangaroa, Charleston, Ross Subdivision and Punakaiki North and South

### **If a dog is aggressive, are you required to put up "Beware of Dog" signs?**

A sign is a courtesy warning. It is no protection against owner liability should the dog bite a legitimate visitor.

### **How do I approach a dog I'm not sure of?**

- Don't stand or lean over the dog– crouch down, if you feel comfortable
- Don't touch the dog on the back of the neck
- Present the back of your hand for the dog to sniff (with your fingers in a closed fist)
- Once the dog accepts, stroke the dog under the chin, then chest
- Keep your expression neutral, (smiling is baring teeth)
- Speak in light, friendly tones

### **What can I do about the dogs that wander onto my property?**

*Firstly-* If you know where the dog comes from, report it to animal control. An officer will speak to the owner and check the securing facilities. If the problem persists, the owner may be required to improve the conditions their dog is kept in.

*Secondly-* You can request a dog trap (large cage fitted with a trapdoor), that will trap the dog without harming it. The dog will be impounded and its kenneling and the owner's methods of securing it checked before the dog can be released.

### **Can dog owners be given an instant fine for not notifying a change of address?**

Yes, owners have 14 days to notify about a shift to a new address. This 14 day notification is also applicable when changing the dogs ownership.

**TO MAKE A COMPLAINT ABOUT A DOG CONTACT THE  
BULLER DISTRICT COUNCIL, ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICE ON  
03 788 9111**