

## Dog ownership and registration

Changes to the dog registration fees were implemented in the 2009/2010 year with new owner categories being introduced by Council. People considered to have demonstrated competent dog ownership will be classified as responsible dog owners and will pay a reduced registration fee. The criteria for this classification are as follows:

- All registration fees paid on time from previous year
- No infringement notices issued in past two years and any previous infringement notice fees paid in full
- No more than one confirmed complaint within last twelve months
- No more than one impounding within last twelve months
- Do not own a dog classified within past three years as 'Dangerous' or Menacing by deed' with no complaints or impoundings within last twelve months

The registration information about your dog goes onto a national register and this helps in the location and identification of owners in the case of wandering, lost or stolen dogs. It also helps keep track of dogs who have changed owners or districts, or who have a history of complaints.

### Registering your dog

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The legislation relating to registration of dogs is covered by the Dog Control Act 1996. If you keep a dog then it must be registered. A dog owner may be fined up to \$300 for failing to register a dog. Puppies are required to be registered at 3 months of age and thereafter before 31st July each year. Dogs can be registered at Council offices at Westport and Reefton during business hours of 8.30am – 4.30pm Monday to Friday. Once your dog is registered you will receive an annual account with payment due by 31 July of each year.

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

Ensure that your dog is registered and wears a current registration tag at all times. A dog without a current registration tag will be deemed unregistered.

### Permission to own more than three dogs

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Please contact an Animal Control Officer for information on how to apply for permission to own more than three dogs.

### Dog Registration Fees and Tags

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See Council's Annual Fees and Charges for registration fees.

Replacement dog tags for those lost or stolen are also available for a minimal charge at Council offices in Westport or Reefton.

### Change of ownership

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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 changes within 14 days. Council needs to be advised in writing of the change of ownership, included in this needs to be the residential address of the new owner and the address at which the dog will ordinarily be kept.