



BULLER
DISTRICT COUNCIL
Te Kaunihera O Kawatiri



Dog Owners Handbook

All the information you need regarding dog ownership in the Buller District

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Rules and regulations

Registration

If you keep a dog, it is a legal requirement to register it. You, the owner, must be 16 years of age to register a dog.

Dogs must be registered before they reach 3 months of age. Registration needs to be renewed annually and must be paid by the 31st July each year.

Dogs can be registered at Council offices in Westport and Reefton during normal office hours of 8.30am – 4.30pm Monday to Friday. Payments can be made online using your owner number as a reference.

Puppies that turn 12 weeks during the registration year pay a prorated fee for the remainder of that year.

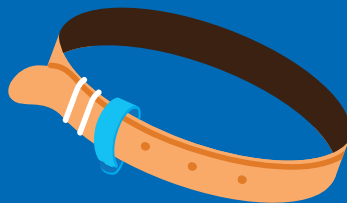
Registered dogs moving into the district receive free registration for the remainder of the registration year, provided the owner produces proof of a current registration and swaps their current tag for a Buller District Council one.

Remember

All dogs need to be registered at or before 12 weeks of age. This is a legal requirement.

Payment of registration is due in full by the 31st of July each year.

Use your owner number as the reference when making payments online



Registration fees

\$89.50 Entire dog or

\$69.50 De-sexed dog

\$67.50 Entire working dog or

\$52.50 De-sexed working dog

Late penalty fees of an extra 50% will be applied from 2 August.

Making payments

Payments can be made online to Buller District Council

Westpac 03-0897-0084770-00

Particulars: Surname and initials

Code: Dog

Reference: Owner number

Or, come into one of our offices

Westport Office

6-8 Brougham St, Westport 7825
0800 807 239 or 03 788 911

Reefton Service Centre

66 Broadway, Reefton 7830
0800 808 821 or 03 732 8821

All of our information on dog and animal control can be found through our website at:

<https://bullerdc.govt.nz/dogs-and-animal-control/>



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.

Please contact either of our offices and they will help facilitate the Notification of Change for you.

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

- Move house or district
- If any of your details have changed (such as postal address, phone number, email address)
- Give your dog to someone else
- Get a new dog
- Get your dog de-sexed and/or microchipped
- If your dog has passed away

It is the dog owner's responsibility to inform council of any of these changes.

Every owner has a unique number. This can be found on your registration form or you can enquire at our council offices.

Animal Management Officers can microchip your dog for only \$25

Contact us on 03 788 9111 to make an appointment.



Microchipping

Tags can easily be lost or swapped between dog owners. Microchipping is a permanent means of identification that links dogs to their owners. Whilst dogs have to be registered every year microchipping is a once only requirement.

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

- 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 are microchipped.
- Only working dogs solely used for the purpose of heading or droving stock are exempt from being microchipped.
- Failure to adhere to the microchipping law will result in a \$300 infringement fine being issued.

Dog socialisation

Socialisation is a vital part of ensuring your dog grows into a well-rounded adult.

It is important to socialise your dog with all kinds of animals and people, so your dog learns how to behave in different environments. Preferably this begins when they are puppies. Your puppy/dog should be socialised or exposed to experiences that, as an adult you will expect it to accept as normal, i.e. meeting other dogs, animals, and people in a friendly, non-aggressive manner.

Our children can also benefit a great deal by having dogs as pets. It teaches them responsibility, respect, and kindness. Parents also need to be good role models as your children will copy the way you treat your family pets. Your pets should then repay this respect and kindness with good manners, loyalty, and love. However, even the best trained and socialised dog could bite if hurt or pushed enough, so children need to know how to behave around dogs safely.



What your registration pays for

Enforcement activities

- Property inspections
- Issuing permits
- Court costs
- House to house registration checks
- Classifications of dangerous dogs and follow ups
- Issue and processing of infringement fines

Response to complaints

- Barking
- Wandering/Roaming
- Dog Attacks on people
- Dog attacks on stock

Impounding services

- Maintenance of pound facilities in Westport
- Catching equipment and safety equipment
- Extensive re-homing of dogs
- Destruction of unwanted dogs

Associated costs

- Maintenance of dog register
- Maintenance of signs
- Ranger education
- Public information and school education
- Administration work
- Office space and computer systems
- Phones and on call numbers

Annual costs

- Registration tags/forms/postage
- Pamphlets and forms of advertising
- Vehicle maintenance, replacement, mileage
- Maintenance of National Dog Database
- 3 full time officers covering Westport, Karamea, Reefton, Springs Junction and Punakaiki

Your dog's wellbeing

Worming and vaccinations

Pregnant bitches:

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

Puppies - worming:

Puppies need to be wormed every 2 weeks from birth to 12 weeks, then every month from 3 – 6 months old, then every 3 months from 6 months or older.

Puppies - vaccinations:

Did you know your puppy needs vaccinations to protect them against Distemper, Hepatitis, Parvo and Kennel Cough?

Puppies need to be vaccinated at 8, 12 & 16 weeks of age, then a booster after a year, and then ongoing regular vaccinations to help keep your dog happy and healthy

Neutering and spaying

De-sexing your dog benefits dogs, their owners, and the wider community.

Neutering and spaying dogs significantly reduces roaming, lessens diseases within the animal, and reduces aggression and unwanted puppies.

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

The Buller District Council encourages



de-sexing by offering a discount on the yearly registration for your neutered or spayed pets.

For more information on the benefits of neutering and spaying contact your local Vet clinic or talk to one of our Animal Management Team members.



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Dealing with barking dogs

Nuisance barking can occur for several reasons, including when your dog is cold, hungry, separation anxiety, boredom, attention seeking, guarding, or just excited.

Some solutions to stop nuisance barking and help maintain your neighbour's sanity are:

- Give your dog regular exercise
- Use anti-barking devices, such as a spray collar
- Involve your neighbours...have the conversation
- Take your dog to obedience training
- Provide toys for your dog's amusement
- Screen your dog from visual distractions
- Change your dog from a chain to a run
- Take your dog with you when you leave the property
- Leave your dog inside (laundry or 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")
- Leave a radio or television set on
- Leave them with a bone or chew toy.



Dangerous and wandering 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.

A dog is not allowed to bite, scare, or even intimidate you, another person, or any other animal.

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

To make a complaint about a dog, contact the Buller District Council Animal Management office:

03 788 9111 or

0800 807 23

Email info@bdc.govt.nz

Frequently asked questions

Q. What commonly happens to a dog that has attacked?

A. Any one of four things:

1. It may be classified as dangerous or menacing 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. The owner could be prosecuted.
4. The dog may be destroyed by an Animal Management Officer or Veterinarian.

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

A. No. Your name remains confidential, but to legitimise your complaint, you need to tell the Animal Management Officer who you are and provide a contact number.



Q. If a dog is aggressive, am I required to put up “Beware of Dog” signs?

- A.** A sign is a courtesy warning. It does not protect owner liability should the dog bite a legitimate visitor to the property.

Q. How do I approach a dog I am unsure of?

- A.** 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. Don't touch the dog on the back of the neck
 - Don't stand or lean over the dog – crouch down if you feel comfortable
 - Keep your expression neutral as smiling is baring teeth
 - Speak in light and friendly tones

Q. What can I do about dogs that wander onto my property?

- A.** Please contact either of our Council Offices. Animal Management will be dispatched to secure the dog and locate the owner.

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

- A.** Yes. Owners have 14 days to notify about a shift to a new address. You must also advise Animal Management if you are leaving the district. If you are transferring into the district, we provide a tag swap at no cost. The 14-day notification also applies when changing a dog's ownership.

Dog Control By-Law 2002

1202: Control of Dogs

The owner or any person in charge of 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 12.00 noon on Saturdays,
- Children's playing parks, public paddling pools, hospitals, cemeteries, playing surfaces or sports grounds,
- In Westport – the public park of Victoria Square,
- In Reefton – the King George VI Jubilee Park,
- Any other area where local authority signs are erected prohibiting dogs,
- Any recreational or community buildings owned or controlled by the Buller District Council.

1204: Leash Control Area

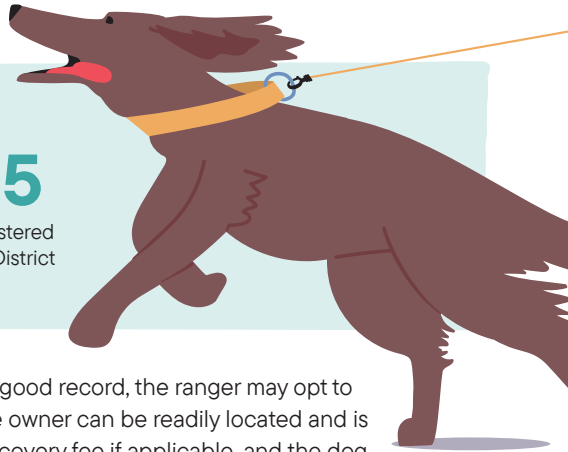
Dogs must be on a leash and under effective control in urban areas and in parks not identified as prohibited areas or exercise areas, or any area that the dog if not on a leash, may injure, intimidate, or cause distress to any person, domestic animal, stock, poultry, or protected wildlife.

1204: Exercise Areas

You can let your dog off the lead at the river edge or the beach front including dune areas. You can also let your dog off the lead in the Westport Domain and the Southern end of Carters Beach Domain. In Reefton the leash free area is The Strand, the area adjacent to the racecourse on Crampton Road reserve and the old cemetery on Buller Road.

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.



Did you know...?

90%

of all Buller Districts roaming and impounded dogs were entire (not de-sexed)

2,215

dogs are registered in the Buller District (2022/2023)

Where a dog is seized and the owner has good record, the ranger may opt to return the dog immediately as long as, the owner can be readily located and is able to receive the dog, is able to pay a recovery fee if applicable, and the dog is over three (3) months of age, is registered, microchipped, and the conditions under which the dog is kept are satisfactory.

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 fee owing **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 from the date of seizure, destroy or dispose of the dog in such a manner as thought fit.
- Dogs that have been impounded due to a lack of control, shall not be released unless the animal control officer/dog ranger is satisfied that the conditions under which the dog is being kept are of a standard to prevent the dog from being able to roam again.

Unlawful removal from pound

It is an offence to remove any dog from the pound and 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.

Impounding fees

\$75	First time within 12 months
\$180	Second time
\$200	Third time

There is also a daily \$15 sustenance fee added for feed and time.

Dog Control Act 1996

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 any other buildings used to house or contain the dog; or to erect, alter or improve fences or gates used to contain any dog; or install, alter or replace securing devices, ropes, chains, wires or collars to achieve a standard considered to be suitable for the comfortable securing of the dog, or to require any dog to be tied or otherwise confined during specified periods; or 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. See the Animal Management team for a free application. This does not apply to any working (farm) dog/s or approved boarding or breeding kennels. Permits are free and issued by the animal management team.

1210: Removal of Faeces

Your dog is not allowed to foul any place or any land other than what is occupied or owned by you. You must remove the faeces immediately. 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.

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 \$1,500.00



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 stress.

An animal control officer/dog ranger may enter the vehicle to supply the dog 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 the 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 usable surface of the tray.

Notwithstanding any approved safety devices, the minimum standard of lead or 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.



Full copies of the Dog Control Act 1996 - New Zealand legislation can be found online

<https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1996/0013/latest/DLM374410.html>



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 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.) It is found at large in any public place or in any private way in contravention of any regulation or By-Law.



3. Where a dog is not under control in terms of subsection 2 of this section, the dog control officer/dog ranger may seize the dog and cause it to be returned to its owner or impounded.

- (a) A dog control officer/dog ranger in fresh pursuit of a dog that is not under control in terms of subsection 2 may, at any reasonable time, enter on any land or premise (except a dwelling house) to seize and impound a dog if –
- (b) The dog is identified by the dog control officer/dog ranger; and
- (c) The dog is not under the control of any person or otherwise constrained; and
- (d) No person, other than the 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 expressed 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 any property on the land or premises or in any public place or 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/dog ranger.

5. Nothing in subsection 4 of this section authorises any person to seize any dog that is under direct control of any other person.

6. Where a dog is, under sub section 4 of this section, delivered into the custody of a dog control officer/dog ranger, the dog control officer/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/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, as 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 white baiting 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 white baiting or fishing generally do not mix, and the best thing is to 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/or close to or even under houses. So, if you live close to the sea and have a dog this can be a problem.

- It is important that you comply with the local By-Laws which state that a dog must be contained and unable to roam away from your section.
- Also make your 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.**



What can happen if your dog kills protected wildlife on the 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 your dog to 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, on conviction could, face up to 3 (three) years imprisonment, and/or a maximum fine of \$20,000. The court can also order that your dog be destroyed.



**ALL DOGS
POSE A
THREAT TO
COASTAL
WILDLIFE!**

Even small and mild-mannered dogs can harass, maim, or kill penguins and other coastal wildlife.

Dogs are not allowed in national parks, nature reserves or wildlife sanctuaries except with express written approval.



[www.doc.govt.nz/
parks-and-recreation/
know-before-you-go/
dog-access/](http://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/know-before-you-go/dog-access/)



Definitions of key terms

(From the Buller District Dog Control By-Law 1997)

The By-Law was authorized by the Dog Control Act 1997 and came into effect on the 27th of 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 aircraft, ship, ferry, or vehicle carrying or available to carry passengers.

“Domestic animal” means – any animal kept as a domestic pet for the owners’ employment.

“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 who is over the age of seven years and is 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 place.

“Seizure” means – any areas within the district that are gazetted or regulated as limited speed control zones, or, as areas where 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).



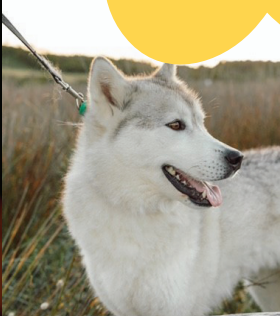
Copies of the full By-Law may be purchased from Council Offices, or located on our website bullerdc.govt.nz

Westport Office
6-8 Brougham St,
Westport 7825
0800 807 239
or 03 788 911

Reefton Service Centre
66 Broadway,
Reefton 7830
0800 808 821
or 03 732 8821



Some of our locals



Owner and dog details

Owner details

Name:

Address:

Contact:

Owner number:

Dog details

Dog name:

Breed:

Registration tag number 2024:

2025:

2026:

2027:

Dog name:

Breed:

Registration tag number 2024:

2025:

2026:

2027:

Dog name:

Breed:

Registration tag number 2024:

2025:

2026:

2027:

Contact details

If you have any further enquiries, please contact one of our Animal Management Officers.

Animal Management Office

Westport Office

6–8 Brougham St, Westport 7825
0800 807 239 or 03 788 911
info@bdc.govt.nz

Reefton Service Centre

66 Broadway, Reefton 7830
0800 808 821 or 03 732 8821
info@bdc.govt.nz

Our phone numbers are available 24/7.

Veterinary services

There are multiple Veterinary Services available throughout the Buller District.

Buller Vets Limited

71 Palmerston Street, Westport 7825
03 789 7934
info@bullervets.co.nz

Reefton Vet Services

40 Church Street, Reefton 7830
03 782 8560

Keelah Farm Veterinary Services

985 State Highway 69, Cronadun 7895
03 732 8566
julian@keelah.co.nz



For all animal welfare issues, please contact the **SPCA**
0800 326 6865
Please listen to the options carefully

Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua



For stock welfare issues, please contact the **Ministry for Primary Industries**
0800 008 333 or info@mpi.govt.nz





BULLER
DISTRICT COUNCIL
Te Kaunihera O Kawatiri

WEST NEW ZEALAND
COAST
UNTAMED NATURAL WILDERNESS

Animal Management Office

4-6 Brougham Street,
PO Box 21, Westport 7866
New Zealand

Freephone 0800 807 237

Phone 03 788 9111

Email info@bdc.govt.nz

Our phone numbers
are available 24/7

Reefton Service Centre

66 Broadway
Reefton 7851

Westport Office

6-8 Brougham Street
Westport 7825

OUR VALUES

Community driven | One team | Future focused | Integrity | We care

bullerdc.govt.nz