

Closed

Don't let this opportunity go to the dogs!
Dog Control Bylaw Review

199
Contributors

229
Contributions

Contribution Summary


1. Tell us your pet peeves and pet paws-itives here

Long Text | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 229 (100%)

Sentiment

No sentiment data

Tags



A word cloud of tags related to dog control. The most prominent tag is 'Value off leash exercise areas', followed by 'Value on-leash areas', 'Conservation Concerns', 'Value dog free spaces', 'Dog Park Request', 'Praise for responsible dog owners', 'Owners not cleaning up dog waste', 'Education', 'Owners lacking control', 'More enforcement', 'Owners ignoring rules', and 'Social connection'.

Tag	Percent	Count
Value off leash exercise areas	38%	88
Value on-leash areas	25%	57
Conservation Concerns	20%	46
Value dog free spaces	16%	36
Dog Park Request	16%	36
Praise for responsible dog owners	14%	32
Owners not cleaning up dog waste	12%	28
Education	12%	27
Owners lacking control	11%	26
More enforcement	10%	24
Owners ignoring rules	10%	23
Social connection	9%	20

Community Division	9%	20
Importance of socializing dogs	9%	20
Safety Concerns	7%	15
More doggy doo facilities	7%	15
Value time restricted areas	4%	9
Noise Concerns	3%	6
Value dog friendly businesses	2%	5
Forever dog tags	0%	1
Opposed to all regulation	0%	1

Featured Contributions

I feel VERY strongly that dogs should not be exercised off-lead in the coastal zone because of the impact they have on our shorebirds. There are long-documented issues with dogs impacting roosting, feeding and nesting birds across Tasman and Golden Bay, including recent publicised penguin deaths at Kaiteriteri. I would like all the off-lead areas on beaches and estuaries where shorebirds roost, feed, or nest, re-designated on-lead areas, and for the council to identify suitable sites away from the coast for people to exercise their dogs off-leash. While some of this evidence is anecdotal there is good, scientific research from overseas about the impact of dogs on bird populations. There is a study from the University of New South Wales from 2007 that looked at dog-walking through woodland. The experiment showed that there was a 35% reduction in bird diversity and 41% reduction in abundance, both in areas where dog walking is common and where dogs are prohibited. Humans walking alone also induced disturbance but typically less than half that induced by dogs. Another study from 2021 looked at the behaviour of incubating Kentish Plovers. It showed that walkers accompanied by dogs flushed these birds 93.8% of the time, whereas pedestrians alone flushed them 47.6% of the time, when walking through dunes. Lone dogs triggered a flashing response 100% of the time when they roamed the dunes. Closer to home, a 2001 study of endangered New Zealand dotterels showed far greater disturbance of egg incubation with dogs accompanying humans than humans on their own. I think there is enough evidence for the destructive impact of dogs on bird populations that we need to set a priority in favour of birds, most of which are endangered. There have to be other areas where dogs are able to roam free but not on our beaches.

Contribution 39 of 39 | 14 December 2023

The division in our community at kaitertieri is shocking . It should never have gone this way because one person decided she was the only one who cares for these penguins. This review is for dog owners not for penguin conservation. Of course dog owners care for wildlife , we have done so for many years before this activist arrived. TDC has an obligation to its rate payers , many new residents have moved into the village at Bethany Camp that own dogs. They along with the rest of the dog owning community shouldn't be denied access to the beaches. Enough with the restrictions & enough with all the signs , visual pollution of this beautiful region.

Contribution 38 of 39 | 12 December 2023

Dog ownership - and exercising with the dog - has a positive influence on mental health. Wherever it is practical in public places, dogs and their responsible owners should be welcome. Regardless of human health, a dog needs off-leash exercise for its own health and well being. Responsible dog owners do not allow birds to be chased, and they clean up after their dog.

Contribution 37 of 39 | 12 December 2023

Given the extent of the Moturoa/Rabbit Island front beach, I consider it appropriate that a portion of the beach be designated off lead for dogs. This could be in conjunction with improving access to the Nelson end of the front beach. The Great Taste Trail section between Edward St and Higgins Road could also provide for dogs on lead or under control to allow for people walking around the block from the Wakefield residential area.

Contribution 36 of 39 | 12 December 2023

I know it is a cost to empty bins/provide poo bags, however, when they are removed, people just leave poo everywhere, which is terrible for multiple reasons. Please continue to provide this service for high foot/paw fall areas, within 50 metres of car parking. Thanks
Contribution 35 of 39 | 12 December 2023

There is no signage for Rangihaeata headland despite this being a dog prohibited area. People often walk their dogs around the headland in ignorance of the restrictions. Seals use it as a haul out area all year round. In springtime seal pups are resting there while their mothers are out feeding. Little Blue Penguins nest there, it being the second most important area in Golden Bay according to DOC. The area north of the beach front settlement on Rangihaeata Road, all the way round the headland until the straight beach to the right of Fenwick Road should all be a dog prohibited area with clear signage.
Contribution 34 of 39 | 11 December 2023

It is great to have off leash dog areas at Rough Island, the Ruby Bay coastline and the Kina Bluff area. Healthy for dogs to socialise as well as their responsible humans.
Contribution 33 of 39 | 10 December 2023

Pet peeve is seeing dog owners ignoring current signage, letting dogs off leash in leash only and dogs prohibited areas. Please keep our beaches clean and safe.
Contribution 32 of 39 | 9 December 2023

Dogs should be allowed off leash in open grass areas that have decent space e.g the creek by berryfields. But should be on leash on footpath and in town. There should be beach and wooded areas suitable for dogs to be off leash like rough island is. And same for rivers. There should be areas they are allowed but not at every one. Like maybe twin bridges is dog friendly but busche reserve isn't. Dogs need to have the option to be off leash. It's cruel to have them only on leashes all the time and only allowed in their back yard. But people should have a choice to go places that are dog free.
Contribution 31 of 39 | 9 December 2023

I am in full support of the Golden Bay Forest and Bird submission. I think they have nailed it. The clear signposting is key (currently signs are confusing and red, orange, green is simple). Having more education about our shoreline/estuary birds and why disturbing them is so serious an issue is essential. I often chat with other walkers, runners, dog owners, few people are aware of the birds' needs. Having more dog friendly areas is vital - hill walks, flat walks, circular of different lengths - a variety of areas other than beaches and estuaries. I am a dog owner and avid bird watcher. I am often distressed by dogs running into feeding birds, especially godwits. There are so few places for dogs to run that are pleasant for owners to walk/talk it is not surprising the current conflict exists. I live in Clifton, the old cemetery and golf course, beach and path above the beach or walking on the road are my local options. There are penguins nesting along from the Clifton Golf Club building to the left as you go down to the beach. I count the penguin footprints in the mornings. I recommend further restrictions to dog walkers so these penguins are protected during the nesting season. Please listen to Forest and Bird's thoughtfully informed and detailed recommendations.
Contribution 30 of 39 | 8 December 2023

No dogs on Little Kaiteriteri beach. This is an important breeding place for Little Blue Penguins. Even on a lead dogs are able to locate the burrows and traumatise the occupants.
Contribution 29 of 39 | 8 December 2023

Leave it the same. It's not broken so doesn't need fixing. Only need is registration of owners not dogs. Owners are the problem.
Contribution 28 of 39 | 7 December 2023

We'd love to have a dog park like the one in Marsden Valley Nelson. Maybe near Appleby to be central?
Contribution 27 of 39 | 7 December 2023

The Department of Conservation (DOC) is the government agency charged with conserving New Zealand's natural and historic heritage. Our work is guided by our strategy, which outlines our purpose and outcomes (ref Our purpose and outcomes: Our role). DOC administers and manages >50% of the land area of Tasman district, including three national parks (Abel Tasman, Kahurangi, Nelson Lakes), Mt Richmond Forest Park, Puponga Farm Park and Farewell Spit, and many other reserves and conservation areas which protect natural and cultural values and provide recreational opportunities for residents and visitors to the district. These include culturally and ecologically important sites such as Te Waikoropupū Springs in Golden Bay; and sites treasured by local communities, such as Snowdens Bush Scenic Reserve in Brightwater. DOC and the Tasman District Council jointly administer the Abel Tasman Foreshore Scenic Reserve which, together with the national park, is one of the district's key attractions. In the coastal marine area, DOC manages two marine reserves (Tonga Island and Westhaven (Te Tai Tapu)); and supports the Minister of Conservation's functions in respect of the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement and approval of regional coastal plans. DOC is also responsible for administering legislation relating to marine mammals and protected wildlife, wherever such species occur; has statutory interests in indigenous freshwater fisheries, recreational freshwater fisheries and freshwater fish habitats; and has a statutory function to advocate for the conservation of natural and historic resources generally. The following comments are made in the light of DOC's role and responsibilities as outlined above. Regarding the dog control bylaw review, I've looked at the Council's engagement tool and am wondering how you will make sense of the feedback, given the difference in views for almost every site – hopefully it won't boil down to a popularity contest (most pins wins)! Feedback from that tool will need to be considered alongside many other factors in order to make well-considered, principled decisions. FYI I have attached a copy of DOC's submission on the current dog control bylaw and policy when this was proposed in 2014. The submission included information on DOC's role in relation to dog control on public conservation land within the Tasman District, and comments/requests relating to specific areas. Much of what we said in 2014 is still relevant. Since 2014 there have been a number of requests to extend or add new areas where dogs should be prohibited or kept on a leash, most commonly for shoreline areas used by native birds (particularly areas used for breeding and high-tide roosts). The current dog control bylaw does require that "in any public place not specified in Schedule 1, 2 or 3 [relating to leash control areas, controlled dog exercise areas and dog prohibited areas, respectively], the owner of any dog or person being in possession of any dog shall keep that dog under effective control at all times." The meaning of 'effective control' is defined in the bylaw. The bylaw also requires that "Every dog shall be kept under continuous leash control on any occasions that it is likely to injure, endanger, or cause distress to any stock, poultry, domestic animal, or protected wildlife." In theory, these provisions should minimise risk to protected wildlife (such as native birds) in areas where dogs are allowed. However, in practice these requirements are often ignored, and owners do not have their dogs under 'effective control' or under leash control in situations where protected wildlife is (or is likely to be) encountered. Enforcement is also difficult. The distribution and abundance of coastal/shore birds have been documented in a number of reports prepared for the Council, notably: • McArthur, N.; Melville, D.S.; Schuckard, R.; Thomas, D.; Toy, R. and Toy, S. 2022. A baseline survey of the indigenous bird values of the Tasman District coastline. Client report prepared for Tasman District Council, Richmond • Schuckard, R.; Melville, D. S. 2019. Coastal birds of the Tasman/Nelson Region: A review of current information. Prepared for Tasman District Council and Nelson City Council. • Schuckard, R.; Melville, D. S. 2013b. Effects of selected activities on shorebirds in Tasman District: Management issues and options for sites of international importance. Prepared for Tasman District Council. • Schuckard, R.; Melville, D. S. 2013a. Shorebirds of Farewell Spit, Golden Bay and Tasman Bay. Prepared for Nelson City Council and Tasman District Council. These reports provide information on which sites are important to which species at different times of the year, and of the pressures on those sites/species. Dogs are currently prohibited (or seasonally prohibited) from some of the most important sites for coastal/shore birds (e.g. the southern end of Motueka Sandspit), and those dog prohibited areas should be retained. In addition, particular attention is needed for areas that are important for coastal/shore birds, but where dogs are currently allowed, to determine whether current controls are effective in protecting the birds that use those areas. If not, Council should consider whether existing controls can be made more effective, e.g. through education and/or a greater Council presence to enforce the 'effective control' and 'continuous leash control' provisions of the bylaw; or whether it is more appropriate, or necessary, to have a more restrictive policy at those sites (noting that this should also be coupled with education and enforcement). We look forward to further engagement on both matters (the proposed cat management bylaw and the dog control bylaw review) in due course. Please contact me if there is anything that you would like to clarify or discuss further in the meantime. Ngā mihi Lionel Solly Senior Ranger, Community | Kaitiaki Matua, Ao Hāpori Department of Conservation | Te Papa Atawhai

Contribution 26 of 39 | 6 December 2023

Dogs need spaces too! If they don't it will discourage people to walk them because not everyone can walk them onlead so barking noise will be alot worse with dogs at home longer.

Contribution 25 of 39 | 4 December 2023

Dogs should be on leash unless in designed dog parks which are contained. Far too often owners have no idea where their dogs are and have very little recall/control and allow them to rush people and dogs with zero concern.

Contribution 24 of 39 | 4 December 2023

We pay enough in dog registration so there should be a proper dog park be made available in the tasman area A fenced park with areas for quiet dog...big dogs and little dogs Then they cannot disrupt the wild life

Contribution 23 of 39 | 4 December 2023

The coexistence of children and dogs has its strengths and weakness. Owner responsibility is the key. I would like to see training emphasised with a goal of sociability for all dogs. Dog attacks are the greatest fear for vulnerable members of community, especially children. Second to this is the disease factor with dog faeces . For parents walking children in public parks and paths it can be a constant concern. It seems that dog numbers are increasing in the nelson/tasman region. For wildlife ,dogs are often associated with impact on native wildlife especially sea bird nesting colonies on the ground. I strongly believe in tougher legislation to control dogs to prevent these incursions in the natural habitat.

Contribution 22 of 39 | 4 December 2023

The current bylaws appear to cover most concerns but are dependent on owners being responsible so I would like to see a system of fining for owners who break the restrictions. Signs for th restrictions should be obvious and clear, and not stencilled on the ground to soon become worn off and illegible. I did notice that the Takaka Library car park is supposed to be a prohibited area for dogs according to your maps but on looking closely there, I could find no mention of this anywhere in the vicinity. So that needs fixing right away/

Contribution 21 of 39 | 3 December 2023

Unfortunately too many dog owners ignore current dog specific signage around Kaiteriteri in regards to dog lease control, dog no go areas, & picking up after their dogs.

Contribution 20 of 39 | 3 December 2023

I'm all for protecting nesting birds from dogs, but it is already very hard to exercise dogs in summer, and any restrictions to protect wildlife should be offset with improved access at other times or places. I support having dogs on a lead in Takaka township. It would be great if summer access could be improved in the Kaiteri area, as the morning access only really works for those who live right on the beach, not those who have to travel to the coast.

Contribution 19 of 39 | 3 December 2023

Coming from a farming background, I would support increased penalties for owners of dogs that are not kept under adequate monitoring & control, whether in private homes or on farms. I strongly oppose the 'entitled' philosophy that personal rights should take precedence over the broader public interest

Contribution 18 of 39 | 2 December 2023

I would love to see dogs banned from shorebird breeding area. In Tasman we have so many areas for dogs, this wouldn't affect them, but make a big difference for our birds

Contribution 17 of 39 | 1 December 2023

I very much appreciate the off lead areas for dog exercise, Ruby Bay Beach and nearby areas. It is so important for dogs and their owners to exercise together and maintain and improve our wellbeing. Dog walkers in this area, and others I use too, seem committed to picking up their dogs poo. I very much hope this area will remain an off lead walk area for our dogs.

Contribution 16 of 39 | 30 November 2023

Golden Bay has a small minority of people who hate dogs and they use misinformation in the media and to TDC to get their way. A few whining voices seem to have more sway with TDC than the majority. Over the years they have misrepresented penguin deaths as always being by dogs, neglecting starvation and seal predation.

Contribution 15 of 39 | 28 November 2023

Dogs who get the chance to run free are going to be calmer and better behaved at home.

Contribution 14 of 39 | 28 November 2023

I have lived in Ruby Bay for 20+ years and love walking my dog on the beach off lead. It is a great place to walk with friends and meet new people. I have never had an incident with another dog or person. The beach is tidy and poo free. Sometimes I run with my dog and

our community group. Please keep this area off lead for dogs!

Contribution 13 of 39 | 22 November 2023

There are not enough bins and do bags, alot have been removed over the years, resulting in less people picking up there doggies dos.

Contribution 12 of 39 | 21 November 2023

Need more clear exercise areas safe from cycleways and where wildlife are not at risk. Lots of parks are restricted to dogs, but there's nowhere in walking distance to take them. Have more on-leash areas rather than a confusing mix of no dogs areas next to off leash. Far safer for everyone to encourage on leash in more spaces. Also, can you provide long leash options for sale in Council? Hard to find and would really help encourage keeping dogs on leash while allowing a bit more roaming space.

Contribution 11 of 39 | 21 November 2023

Bill Wilkes reserve has been successfully used as an off lead area for dogs for many years. I have used it at least twice a week over many years and incidences of problems are extremely rare. Most users are local regulars who know each other as well as their dogs knowing each other. I'd hate to see it moved to an on lead area as a result of voting by people who probably don't use it.

Contribution 10 of 39 | 21 November 2023

Great to have so many areas to walk dogs off lead, it is a huge asset to the community. Really annoying to go to other towns and not even allowed dogs at all. A few naughty dogs may ruin it for the rest but I urge you to keep all the areas open for dogs

Contribution 9 of 39 | 20 November 2023

The current dog walking zones in golden bay are both necessary and adequate and don't need changing. The rules around the holiday period are fair. Docs management of bird control is doing a great job of letting dog walkers know where and when is appropriate to walk to your dog in accordance with conservation. I believe this will create an even further division between council and the wider public. I believe their will be strong push back against TDC enforcement officers if there is considerable, unreasonable change in this area.

Contribution 8 of 39 | 20 November 2023

There are so few dog exercise areas, esp. beaches, that they concentrate on the few areas which are allowed. I'd rather see fewer dogs at more places.

Contribution 7 of 39 | 18 November 2023

The designated areas of different dog control and usage is a good system. However, emphasising the general dog control laws and educating dog owners is also needed. I bike, walk and run most days, around Richmond and in the wider region and have been chased, jumped upon and threatened by dogs numerous times. Many owners seem to be unaware of the responsibility involved in controlling a dog when it is off lead. Off lead areas do not mean dogs can run freely away from owners, and if the dog hasn't been trained to respond to commands 100% of the time then it should remain on a lead. I'm tired of being chased or threatened by a dog while it's owner ineffectually screams at it, then to receive the usual excuse of "it's never done that before" or "it won't hurt you it's friendly". The owner may believe this but as soon as a dog is running towards someone and not responding to its owner then the law is being broken. This is not complicated but too many dog owners are either unaware of their responsibilities or are too lazy to train their dog sufficiently but still want the convenience of letting it off its lead in public.

Contribution 6 of 39 | 18 November 2023

I walk on Ruby Bay beach twice a day with my dog. It is ideal for me as I do not have to get in the car to take him for a walk. He needs open space to run and there are few places locally for him to do this off leash. There is also a large local dog walking community that meets on the beach for dogs and people to socialise. Keep Ruby Bay beach off leash.

Contribution 5 of 39 | 17 November 2023

I think TDC does a great job providing bins and bags in many places. A fenced dog park would be a great thing to have near Richmond.
Contribution 4 of 39 | 16 November 2023

We moved up from Dunedin 10 years ago, and love the way the TDC have reasonable dog exercising areas off lease, and dog friendly by laws, as well as plenty of poo bags. Thanks everyone Involved. Keep up the great work!
Contribution 3 of 39 | 15 November 2023

Conflicting signage at Stephens Bay . TDC has no dogs on the beach Dec 1st to Mar 1st, however a DOC sign suggests they're allowed provided under control??anytime .
Contribution 2 of 39 | 13 November 2023

Too many dog owners appear to think that cleaning up after their dog is optional. This is particularly offensive in public paths etc. Dog owners need to get the message, and clean up or face fines or remedial action (such as keeping an area completely dog poo free for some weeks)
Contribution 1 of 39 | 13 November 2023