

Summary of Statement of Proposal

NELSON CITY COUNCIL DOG CONTROL POLICY AND BYLAW 2012

This statement is made for the purposes of section 89 of the Local Government Act 2002. Nelson's current Dog Control Bylaw is due for review and sections 10 and 10AA of the Dog Control Act require the Council to adopt a dog control policy and bylaw at the same time. Please note that the entire policy and bylaw is open for consultation, as well as any matters relevant to the policy and bylaw that people wish to raise as part of this consultation process. Council, in making its decision, will be taking account of all submissions made.

The Proposed Approach

Dogs in Public Places

Require dogs to be on a leash as the default in the urban area, including along the transport corridors (Railway Reserve and the Trafalgar 200/Atawhai Shared Pathway), on public streets and along esplanade reserves.

Add new dog prohibited areas, as follows:

- Haven Holes Reserve.
- The Brook Conservation Reserve.
- Trafalgar Park, the Saxton Field Cricket Oval and Athletics Track, and Saxton Field Hockey and Softball Areas.
- the picnic area associated with Sunday Hole, Black Hole and associated barbeque facilities, and Girlies Hole.
- The fenced area of the foreshore and esplanade reserve at Paremata Flats.
- The part of the Marsden Valley Reserve to the east of the Barnicoat Walkway.

Add new dog exercise areas, as follows:

- Maitai Valley – Almond Tree Flat and the paddock before the golf course.
- The following neighbourhood reserves:
 - Whangamoā – Frost Reserve.
 - Atawhai – Frenchay Reserve, Montrose Reserve, Te-Ata Reserve, Todd Bush Reserve and Tresillian Reserve.
 - Nelson City – Andrews Farm Reserve, Betsy Eyre Park, Custom House Reserve, Grampian Oaks Reserve, Pioneers Park, Russell Reserve, Wigzell Park and Wolfe Reserve.
 - Stoke – Aldinga Reserve, Ballard Drive Reserve, Bishops Park, Enner Glynn North Reserve, Manson Reserve, Manu Kau Reserve, Monaco Reserve, Neale Reserve, Ngaio Reserve, Nikau Reserve, Poets Park, Ranui Reserve, Tokomaru Reserve and Woodstock Reserve.
 - Tahunanui – Bisley Reserve, Blackwood West Reserve, Bolt Reserve and Centennial Park.

- Miyazu Reserve (between Neale Park and Paremata Street).
- Saxton Field Circus Oval – excluding the periods when a circus is occupying the area.
- Undeveloped areas of Saxton Field, and a large number of neighbourhood reserves.

Remove the following from the list of dog exercise areas (leash required in these areas):

- Boulder Bank Drive (Sewerside Drive).
- Maitai Walkway above the Collingwood Street bridge.
- The Railway Reserve.
- Bishopdale Reserve (South).

Reasons

The purpose of going to a leash required rule in general, except for defined exercise areas, is to ensure the general public have the confidence to use public areas without undue unwanted confrontation with dogs. This principle is especially important in multi-use areas such as public walkways and cycleways.

This increased restriction on dogs in general public areas has been balanced by providing a significant number of new exercise areas where dogs can be off leash.

A number of extra dog prohibited areas have been added (including Black Hole and the associated barbeque area, and the picnic area associated with Sunday Hole) because these are popular recreation areas used by families, including children. The other reason for dog prohibited areas is to protect wildlife (including at Haven Holes, Paremata Flats and the eastern half of Marsden Valley Reserve).

Good Dog Owner Policy

The Council proposes to discontinue the Good Dog Owner Policy, and to replace it with a discount for all dog owners who pay their registration fees on time.

Reasons

Most of the provisions of the Good Dog Owner Policy are now included in the Dog Control Act 1996. The Good Dog Owner Scheme takes a lot of time to administer, and it is not an effective mechanism for managing multiple dog ownership. A standard discount for paying registration fees on time will be simpler to administer, and assumes that everyone is a good dog owner unless proven otherwise.

Dog Ownership Information

Changes to the publicity material are proposed, including advice on what dog owners can do to avoid conflicts with other people in the community, the importance of locking extendable leads where there is a risk of tripping cyclists and pedestrians, and dog training options.

Reasons

The changes are intended to increase dog owners' understanding of the rules and community expectations, and therefore reduce conflict between dogs and people.

Multiple Dog Ownership

Allow Nelson residents to keep up to two dogs on any property within the urban area, as of right. Require any person who wishes to keep more than two dogs on their property to gain written permission from the Council to do so.

Dog owners who already have more than two dogs will have an "existing use right" to continue to own their existing dogs until the end of those dogs' lives. Written permission will be required for ownership of any additional dogs.

This limit does not apply to properties outside of the urban area, as defined on the map attached to both the dog control policy and the bylaw.

Reasons

To improve the Council's ability to manage the effects of multiple dog ownership through the use of property-specific conditions, and the ability to withdraw approval if conditions are not met or issues arise.

Statement of Proposal, Policy and Bylaw

Copies of the Statement of Proposal, and the draft Policy and Bylaw are available free of charge from Civic House on request. They are also available on the website www.nelsoncitycouncil.co.nz and at the Customer Service Centre and the Nelson libraries.

Submissions

Any person or body interested is welcome to make submissions or comments on any aspect of, or omission from, the bylaw. Please note that the entire policy and bylaw is open for consultation, as well as any matters relevant to the policy and bylaw that people wish to raise as part of this consultation process. Council, in making its decision, will be taking account of all submissions made.

These are to be in writing and forwarded to:
Dog Control Policy and Bylaw Review
Nelson City Council
PO Box 645
Nelson 7040

Or emailed to: submissions@ncc.govt.nz

Submissions must be received no later than 5.00pm on Monday 5 March 2012.

Any person who wishes to speak to the Council in support of their submission will be given the opportunity to address the Council at a hearing which commences at 9.00am on Tuesday 20 March 2012.

All enquiries should be directed to Debra Bradley on 546 0261.