
REPORT 8
(1215/12/IM)

**RATIFICATION OF TAWA COMMUNITY BOARD
SUBMISSION TO THE WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL
DRAFT DOG CONTROL POLICY**

Officers recommend that the Tawa Community Board:

1. *Receive the information.*
2. *Ratify the Board submission to the Wellington City Council Draft Dog Control Policy.*

Attached is the Board submission to the:

- Wellington City Council Draft Dog Control Policy (Appendix 1)

APPENDIX 1

Submission Tawa Community Board – 6 August 2009

The Tawa Community Board (TCB) Submission on Draft Dog Policy

The Council has clarified in the background information to this policy that the following matters have been considered:

- The exercise and recreation needs of dogs and their owners
- The need to minimize dangers, distress and nuisance to the community
- The need to avoid the danger of uncontrolled dogs in public places
- The importance of enabling the public to use streets and public amenities without fear of attack or intimidation by dogs.

We accept that the majority of dog owners are aware of their obligations under this bylaw and understand the reasons for it.

It is also noted that 92% of Wellington householders are not dog owners.

It is accepted that where a park is used (seasonally) for sports it is not appropriate for free use of dogs during that time. Arthur Carmen Park in Tawa is used during the winter months for sport and its use as a Park exercise area specified times is correct for this area. Council officers should ensure that the area is checked, particularly for faecal contamination, prior to the beginning of the sports season.

We accept the list of owner's responsibilities as outlined:

- Dogs must be under control at all times
- Dogs must be on a leash unless in an exercise area
- Dogs must be registered and micro chipped (dogs whelped post 2006)
- Handlers must remove their dog's faeces in public spaces and should carry plastic bags, which are cheaply available, for this purpose.
- Dog handlers with responsible dog owner status merit a discount on fees. It must be ensured that all dog owners are informed of their responsibilities and this should be the responsibility of council.

It is noted that council will only recover 75% of the total cost associated with dog control through registration and enforcement – with only 8% of Wellington householders being dog owners the council should consider over a period of time to revise its revenue and financing policy to ensure that the total cost (100%) be eventually recovered from the dog owners and not be met from residential rates.

We agree that:

- The open grassed area at Waitangi Park is added to the prohibited public places due to potential conflict with park users.
- To ensure public safety we accept the change in 4.6.3 – that the owner or handler of the dog should immediately remove and dispose of faecal matter.
- For responsible dog ownership, we agree with the proposal changes to reinforce knowledge of rules concerning dog ownership and welfare
- The right of passage through the central city restriction zone to allow access to waterfront, so long as the dog is on a leash and controlled should be allowed, although the policing of this may be a cause of concern to council officers.

We prefer the policy to be called "Dog control policy".

The Tawa community board does not wish to speak on our submission.

APPENDIX 1

Wellington consolidated bylaw 2008 part 2 – Animals

The TCB accepts:

- The bylaw needs to be clarified in regard to multiple ownership of dogs, such that a restriction, without council approval, of 3 dogs on an urban property and regardless of the numbers of registered owners .
- Feeding of animals in a manner not to cause nuisance
- We accept the council needs to have an avenue of control to ensure a perceived problem but we must ensure that the feeding of ducks by children in a park-surrounding is not too restrictively controlled, as interaction with animals is part of learning respect and welfare for all animals in later life.
- We agree the proposal to require permission for the keeping of roosters and more than 6 poultry in an urban area.

The Tawa Community Board will not require an oral submission on this policy.

For the majority of the general public, the most common referred nuisance expressed is the fouling of public place and the subsequent failure by some dog owners to remove the faeces. We believe greater emphasis should be placed on sections within this bylaw to stress to owners that this is unacceptable. A specific fine applying to this process and extra education should be added to the bylaw, requiring not only removal immediately, but to ensure all dog handlers have a supply of plastic bags on there person while exercising their dogs.

Tawa Community Board

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