

23 December 2009

Tawa Community Board  
c/- Democratic Services  
Wellington City Council

Submission: 311

Dear Tawa Community Board,

Thank you for your submission on the draft Dog Policy 2009. The Council's Strategy and Policy Committee received 381 written and heard 33 oral submissions on the draft policy. The majority of respondents were dog owners (84%).

The Dog Policy 2009 was adopted by the Council on Friday 11 December 2009. The revised policy aims to achieve a balance between the control of dogs and recognition of the health benefits of dog ownership.

There are now a total of eight designated beaches and 51 public areas in Wellington City where dogs can be exercised off-leash. The revised policy provides four new dog exercise areas: Chelmswood Reserve in Ngaio, Vice Regal North and Alexandra Road West on the Town Belt in Newtown and Worser Bay Beach (before 9am and after 7pm in summer and at all times in winter). Eighteen of the city's current dog exercise areas have been extended, including places like Trelissick Park, Dorrie Leslie Park and Meekwood Reserve. Maps of all dog exercise areas can be found at [www.wellington.govt.nz/services/dogs/exercise/dogmaps](http://www.wellington.govt.nz/services/dogs/exercise/dogmaps)

Dog owners can now take their dogs on-leash through the city centre to the waterfront or other parts of the city – but are not allowed to stop with their dog in the central business district area.

Macalister Park has been kept as a dog exercise area but dogs will no longer be allowed on Waitangi Park. Owners can take their dogs on-leash around the outside of Waitangi Park, but dogs will be prohibited from the open grass area.

Dog owners can continue to walk with their dog-on-leash in Karori Cemetery, but dogs are not allowed off-leash in any part of the cemetery. The Council decided against opening up any part of the cemetery to dogs off-leash, considering the weight of submissions and the legal status of the cemetery.

### **Key points from your submission**

For the majority of general public, the most common referred nuisance is the fouling of public place and the subsequent failure by some dog owners to remove the faeces. We believe greater a specific fine applying to this should be added.

### **Officer response**

Under section 20(5) of the Dog Control Act 1996 there is a \$300 fine for any person who fails to comply with a bylaw. Section 4.2 (b) of the Wellington Consolidated Bylaw: Part 2 – Animals requires owners to immediately pick up and remove and/or dispose of their dog's faeces when it defecates in any public place, or on land or premises other than that occupied by the dog's owner.

**Absolutely**

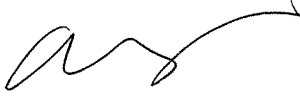
**POSITIVELY**

**Wellington**

ME HEKE KI PŌNEKE  
WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL

Thank you again for taking the time to comment on the city's Dog Policy. The Dog Policy 2009 and related Wellington Consolidated Bylaw 2008: Part 2 – Animals are available online at [www.wellington.govt.nz](http://www.wellington.govt.nz)

Warm regards



Aroha Rangi  
Senior Policy Advisor  
Ph: 803 8042  
Email: [aroha.rangi@wcc.govt.nz](mailto:aroha.rangi@wcc.govt.nz)