

Submissions Booklet

Dog Control Bylaw and Policy Review 2025




Note: The Submitter highlighted in **bold and red font** has requested to speak in support of their submission.

Submission No.	Submitter Name	Page
001	Adrianna Astle	3
002	Lydia	5
003	Lynda Mullany	7
004	James William Gibb	9
005	Robyn Kay	11
005a	Robyn Kay	13
006	Joel Bradley	15
007	Companion Animals New Zealand	17
008	Anne Lemieux	23
009	Tama Blackburn	25
010	Terry Davy	27
011	Diana Duder	29
012	Stacey Brew	31

From: info@waitomo.govt.nz
Sent: Thursday, 1 May 2025 9:57 am
To: haveyoursay
Subject: The Form 'Submission Form - Dog Control Policy & Bylaw Review 2025' was submitted

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization. [Block sender](#) | [Report](#)



Umbraco Forms

Form Results

Full Name
Adrianna Astle

Phone
[REDACTED]

Organisation
Address
[REDACTED] Te Kuiti

Postcode
3895

Email
[REDACTED]

Do you agree with the proposal to make Ward Street reserve an on-leash area?
Yes

If no, why not?

Reasoning is valid

Do you agree with the proposal to make all of Centennial Park a dog prohibited area?

No

If no, why not?

I feel that if you prohibit dogs from an area, it would be ideal to offer development in another area that is a good alternative. Some balance please.

Do you have any other feedback or suggestions

There were a lot of dogs at Te Kuiti Muster and it was great - no fuss or drama, dogs well behaved, people asking to pat dogs, owners able to say no for reactive dogs but all happy together. Keep encouraging that.

Consent for storing submitted data

True

Do you wish to speak to your submission?

No

Security

<https://www.waitomo.govt.nz>

From: info@waitomo.govt.nz
Sent: Thursday, 1 May 2025 10:17 pm
To: haveyoursay
Subject: The Form 'Submission Form - Dog Control Policy & Bylaw Review 2025' was submitted

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization.

[Block sender](#) | [Report](#)



Umbraco Forms

Form Results

Full Name

Lydia

Phone

[REDACTED]

Organisation

Address

[REDACTED]

Te kuiti

Postcode

3910

Email

[REDACTED]

Do you agree with the proposal to make Ward Street reserve an on-leash area?

Yes

If no, why not?

Do you agree with the proposal to make all of Centennial Park a dog prohibited area?

Yes

If no, why not?

Do you have any other feedback or suggestions

Consent for storing submitted data

True

Do you wish to speak to your submission?

No

Security

<https://www.waitomo.govt.nz>

From:

Sent:

To:

Subject:

info@waitomo.govt.nz

Friday, 2 May 2025 12:11 pm

haveyoursay

The Form 'Submission Form - Dog Control Policy & Bylaw Review 2025' was submitted

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization.

[Block sender](#) | [Report](#)



Umbraco Forms

Form Results

Full Name

Lynda Mullany

Phone

Organisation

Address

, TK

Postcode

3910

Email

Do you agree with the proposal to make Ward Street reserve an on-leash area?

Yes

If no, why not?

Do you agree with the proposal to make all of Centennial Park a dog prohibited area?

Yes

If no, why not?

Do you have any other feedback or suggestions

I would really LOVE to see much stronger laws for roaming dogs. Especially when it happens more than once. I think fines for unregistered and roaming dogs should be \$500 first offence, \$750 second offence. AND make sure it's followed up.

Consent for storing submitted data

True

Do you wish to speak to your submission?


No

Security

<https://www.waitomo.govt.nz>

From: info@waitomo.govt.nz
Sent: Tuesday, 6 May 2025 6:28 pm
To: haveyoursay
Subject: The Form 'Submission Form - Dog Control Policy & Bylaw Review 2025' was submitted

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization. [Block sender](#) | [Report](#)



Umbraco Forms

Form Results

Full Name

James William Gibb

Phone

Organisation

Address

Te Kuiti

Postcode

3910

Email

Do you agree with the proposal to make Ward Street reserve an on-leash area?

Yes

If no, why not?

Do you agree with the proposal to make all of Centennial Park a dog prohibited area?

Yes

If no, why not?

Do you have any other feedback or suggestions

Council needs to be far more active in controlling unregistered dogs which are roaming the streets. Some are becoming quite aggressive and although we have complained about one particular dog it is still roaming with one of it's last litter of pups. Roaming dogs which haven't been neutered or spayed is just asking for problems. These dogs reside on a property where no one is home during the day and the dogs are left loose with the road gate wide open.

Consent for storing submitted data

True

Do you wish to speak to your submission?


No

Security

<https://www.waitomo.govt.nz>

From: info@waitomo.govt.nz
Sent: Wednesday, 7 May 2025 12:17 pm
To: haveyoursay
Subject: The Form 'Submission Form - Dog Control Policy & Bylaw Review 2025' was submitted

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization. [Block sender](#) | [Report](#)



Umbraco Forms

Form Results

Full Name

ROBYN KAY

Phone

Organisation

Address

, Te Kuiti

Postcode

3910

Email

Do you agree with the proposal to make Ward Street reserve an on-leash area?

Yes

If no, why not?

Do you agree with the proposal to make all of Centennial Park a dog prohibited area?

Yes

If no, why not?

Do you have any other feedback or suggestions

Please erect a Dog Park sign at the awesome dog park beside the Redwood trees on the Esplanade. It's a wonderful safe space for registered dogs to run and play. Sadly, few ratepayers seem to know about it. Thank you for the walk-through entrance beside the locked gate.

Consent for storing submitted data

True

Do you wish to speak to your submission?


No

Security

<https://www.waitomo.govt.nz>

From: info@waitomo.govt.nz
Sent: Thursday, 8 May 2025 4:03 pm
To: haveyoursay
Subject: The Form 'Submission Form - Dog Control Policy & Bylaw Review 2025' was submitted

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization. [Block sender](#) | [Report](#)



Umbraco Forms

Form Results

Full Name
ROBYN KAY

Phone
[REDACTED]

Organisation
Address
[REDACTED], Te Kuiti

Postcode
3910

Email
[REDACTED]

Do you agree with the proposal to make Ward Street reserve an on-leash area?
Yes

If no, why not?

Do you agree with the proposal to make all of Centennial Park a dog prohibited area?

Yes

If no, why not?

Do you have any other feedback or suggestions

Thanks for responding to our previous feedback on the awesome dog park on the Esplanade. Forgot to mention the brpken wooden rail on the fence. Please repair asap as it allows people to easily lift off road bikes into the dog park. Thank you for the earlier fence reairs.

Consent for storing submitted data

True

Do you wish to speak to your submission?

No

Security

<https://www.waitomo.govt.nz>

From:

Sent:

To:

Subject:

info@waitomo.govt.nz

Friday, 9 May 2025 7:53 am

haveyoursay

The Form 'Submission Form - Dog Control Policy & Bylaw Review 2025' was submitted

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization.

[Block sender](#) | [Report](#)



Umbraco Forms

Form Results

Full Name

Joel Bradley

Phone

Organisation

Address

 Te Kuiti

Postcode

3910

Email

Do you agree with the proposal to make Ward Street reserve an on-leash area?

Yes

If no, why not?

Do you agree with the proposal to make all of Centennial Park a dog prohibited area?

No

If no, why not?

Definitely not, you just need to control it. It seems like banning areas for dogs is a copy out way to make your job easier. Centennial park is an awesome place to give your dog exercise, but it is just not controlled. At the end of the day that is all it comes down too, proper control, not banning everything to make life easier.

Do you have any other feedback or suggestions

Respectfully, Te Kuiti has some of the worst dog control I have ever seen, I have lived in many places in NZ and this is just ridiculous. I have been attacked 3 times in one run by 3 separate dogs, this was passed on to council and I recieved no response as to what happened. My wife has been chased multiple times too. We hardly take our dog out in this town because of the poor dog control from dog owners who should simply not own dogs. All it would taken is for the dog control to have more active presence and much stricter penalties.

Consent for storing submitted data

True

Do you wish to speak to your submission?

No

Security

<https://www.waitomo.govt.nz>

From: Tamera Ketika <tamera@companionanimals.nz>
Sent: Friday, 16 May 2025 11:28 am
To: haveyoursay
Cc: CANZ Welfare
Subject: Written Submission: Dog Control Bylaw & Policy Review 2025 - Companion Animals New Zealand
Attachments: Waitomo District Council Submission May 2025.pdf; Formal Submission Form.pdf

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization.

[Block sender](#) | [Report](#)

Kia ora,

Thank you for providing the opportunity for Companion Animals New Zealand (CANZ) to make a submission regarding the Dog Control Bylaw & Policy Review 2025.

Please see attached our formal submission form and 'Waitomo District Council Submission May 2025' documents that we would like to submit.

If you have any questions or require any further information, please do not hesitate to reach out 😊

Ngā mihi / Many thanks,

Tamera Welfare Assistant

Companion Animals New Zealand

Phone: 0508 LOSTPET

PO Box 27273, Marion Square, Wellington 6141

The image is a promotional graphic for Companion Animals NZ. On the left, there is a blue square containing the organization's logo (a white silhouette of a dog, cat, and rabbit) and the text 'Companion Animals NZ' and 'A Good Life for Animals'. Below this, in white text on the blue background, is '2024 NZ PET DATA REPORT'. To the right of the blue square is a photograph of a smiling woman with long brown hair, wearing a white tank top, lying on a light-colored rug and petting a large, light-brown dog. At the bottom of the graphic, a light blue banner contains the text 'Read our latest pet data report available now!' in dark blue.

Visit our [website](#)

Like us on [Facebook](#)

For urgent assistance or enquiries about lost or found animals, please contact the NZ Companion Animal Register: email info@animalregister.co.nz or phone 0508 LOSTPET (567873).

Sub Num. COUNCIL USE

FORMAL SUBMISSION FORM - HAVE YOUR SAY

DRAFT DOG POLICY & BYLAW REVIEW 2025

You can share your views by:

- Completing this submission form and returning it to us by: 31 May 2025.
 - o **Visiting** our Customer Service Centre, 160 Rora Street, Te Kūiti. 9am - 4pm. Monday - Friday.
 - o **Emailing** it to: haveyoursay@waitomo.govt.nz (scan and pdf or take a photo)
 - o **Posting** to: FREEPOST 112498, Waitomo District Council, PO Box 404, Te Kūiti 3941.
- Visiting our **website**: www.waitomo.govt.nz/council/haveyoursay and filling in an online submission form.

SUBMISSIONS CLOSE 31 MAY 2025

NAME Nicola McDonald PHONE 021 953 914ORGANISATION (if responding on behalf of) Companion Animals New Zealand (CANZ)

ADDRESS _____

EMAIL nicola@companionanimals.nz

1. Do you agree with the proposal to make Ward Street reserve an on-leash area

☐

Yes

☐

No

If 'no', why not? _____

Please see attached document 'Waitomo District Council Submission May 2025' for further information.

2. Do you agree with the proposal to make all Centennial Park a dog prohibited area

☐

Yes

☐

No

If 'no', why not? _____

Please see attached document 'Waitomo District Council Submission May 2025' for further information.

3. Do you have any other feedback or suggestions?

Please see attached document 'Waitomo District Council Submission May 2025' for further information.

I wish to speak to Council about my submission.

(Hearings are scheduled for 10 June 2025. We will contact you to arrange a time.)

☐

Yes

☒

No

The Local Government Act 2002 requires submissions to be made available to the public. Your name and/or organisation will be published with your submission and made available in a report to elected members and to the public. Other personal information supplied (such as address / email address) will be removed from the public copy.



13 May 2025

Waitomo District Council
PO Box 404
Te Kūiti 3941.

Submission re: Dog Policy & Bylaw Review 2025

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed changes to your Dog Policy and Bylaw.

Companion Animals New Zealand (CANZ), formerly the New Zealand Companion Animal Council, is a respected animal welfare organisation committed to advancing A Good Life for companion animals. We own and manage the New Zealand Companion Animal Register (NZCAR) and actively promote the importance of permanent identification and traceability through microchipping and registration. The NZCAR is NZ's leading microchip database for pets with more than 1.4 million pets registered and over 1000 approved users nationwide, such as vet clinics, SPCA and rescues. We connect companion animals to their guardian details to ensure swift repatriation in case of separation, and we offer a lost and found service. Through our 'Good Life for Animals' research, community engagement and education work we promote improved standards for welfare and responsible companion animal guardianship in New Zealand. Our mission is that all companion animals in New Zealand should enjoy '**A Good Life**'.

The Importance of Microchipping and Registration

Companion Animals NZ strongly advocates for the microchipping and registration of all dogs on the New Zealand Companion Animal Register (NZCAR). Dogs that are microchipped and registered on the NZCAR are three times more likely to be reunited with their guardians. We encourage councils across New Zealand to check the NZCAR guardianship records when attempting to reunite lost or roaming dogs with their guardians, particularly in cases where council records for dogs may be unavailable.

Our feedback

Companion Animals New Zealand supports measures that promote responsible dog guardianship, public safety, and animal welfare. The following feedback is provided with these goals in mind, and we appreciate the Council's efforts to update their policies in line with community needs and best practices in animal management.

Feedback on Proposed On-Leash and Prohibited Area Changes

While we are not locals to Waitomo and therefore cannot comment specifically on the proposed changes to Ward Street Reserve and Centennial Park, we would like to offer some general recommendations regarding the importance of maintaining accessible recreational areas and parks for dogs and their guardians.

Recreational areas are essential for promoting the physical and mental wellbeing of both dogs and their guardians. Off-leash activity supports healthy weight, improves behaviour, and encourages regular outdoor exercise. This is particularly important given research showing that over 40% of New Zealand's dog population is overweight or obese (Animates, n.d.; Forrest et al., 2022).

Dog parks and other accessible off-leash areas have been shown to increase dog owner satisfaction and usage (Lee et al., 2009). The *NZ Code of Welfare for Dogs* emphasises that a lack of sufficient exercise can lead to both behavioural and health issues, affecting not only the dog but also their human companions and the wider community. Furthermore, studies indicate that on-leash walks often do not meet dogs' natural pace or cognitive needs, whereas managed off-leash experiences allow for essential behaviours such as exploration, sniffing, and mental stimulation (Foltin & Ganslosser, 2021).

To help balance safety with freedom, we recommend promoting the use of **longlines** with dog owners. Longlines give dogs more freedom of movement while still being under direct control. They support natural behaviours like roaming and scenting and are especially valuable in public areas where full off-leash access may not be appropriate. For more guidance on longline use, please see our educational video: **[Summer 'Pet-iquette' Series – Long Lines and Safe Play.](#)**



Companion Animals New Zealand provides a range of free online resources designed to support dog guardians in practicing responsible care and management. These resources include an evidence-based online library, free webinars, and informative videos on topics such as ethical training tools, behaviour modification, and safe handling practices like the use of longlines.

- Online library: <https://www.companionanimals.nz/articles-and-advice>
- Free webinars and videos:
<https://www.youtube.com/@companionanimalsnewzealand341/featured>

We would welcome the opportunity to also provide information outlining our position on cats in relation to any upcoming bylaw revisions and proposals.

Thank you for considering our feedback. If you have any questions regarding this, please feel free to contact me.

Ngā mihi

N McDonald

Dr Nicola McDonald

Animal Welfare Operations Officer

Companion Animal New Zealand

PO Box 27273, Marion Square, Wellington 6141

nicola@companionanimals.nz

Ph: 021 953 914

References:

Animates. (n.d.). *Pet obesity*. Retrieved March 19, 2025, from <https://www.animates.co.nz/articles/pet-obesity>

Foltin, S., & Ganslosser, U. (2021). Exploration behavior of pet dogs during off-leash walks. *Journal of Veterinary Science Medicine*, 9(9), 1-9.

Forrest, R., Awawdeh, L., Esam, F., Pearson, M., & Waran, N. (2022). *Potential owner-related risk factors that may contribute to obesity in companion dogs in Aotearoa New Zealand*. *Animals*, 12(3), 267. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ani12030267>

Hurley KJ, Elliott DA, Lund EM (2011). Dog obesity, dog walking and dog health. In: *The health benefits of dog walking for people and pets: evidence and case studies*. United States: Purdue University Press. p. 125–43.

Lee, H., Shepley, M. & Huang, C. (2009): Evaluation of off-leash dog parks in Texas and Florida: A study of use patterns, user satisfaction, and perception. Retrieved from: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0169204609001030>

From:

Sent:

To:

Subject:

info@waitomo.govt.nz

Saturday, 17 May 2025 8:53 pm

haveyoursay

The Form 'Submission Form - Dog Control Policy & Bylaw Review 2025' was submitted

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization.

[Block sender](#) | [Report](#)



Umbraco Forms

Form Results

Full Name

Anne Lemieux

Phone

Organisation

Self

Address

Te Kuiti

Postcode

3910

Email

Do you agree with the proposal to make Ward Street reserve an on-leash area?

If no, why not?

Do you agree with the proposal to make all of Centennial Park a dog prohibited area?

No

If no, why not?

The size of the area allows for multiple types of recreational activities; for sports and for people wanting to exercise their dogs.

Do you have any other feedback or suggestions

Need areas for dogs or council will be constantly following up complaints for breaches. It would be more appropriate to follow up wandering and aggressive dogs rather than those that may be exercised at parks

Consent for storing submitted data

True

Do you wish to speak to your submission?

No

Security

<https://www.waitomo.govt.nz>

From: info@waitomo.govt.nz
Sent: Sunday, 18 May 2025 9:52 pm
To: haveyoursay
Subject: The Form 'Submission Form - Dog Control Policy & Bylaw Review 2025' was submitted

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization.

[Block sender](#) | [Report](#)



Umbraco Forms

Form Results

Full Name

Tama Blackburn

Phone

[REDACTED]

Organisation

Address

[REDACTED]

Postcode

Email

[REDACTED]

Do you agree with the proposal to make Ward Street reserve an on-leash area?

No

If no, why not?

Most dogs are good. This proposal is extremely risky adverse. There is no monitoring strategy. Will cause disarming in the community through arguments.

Do you agree with the proposal to make all of Centennial Park a dog prohibited area?

No

If no, why not?

This will discourage families from enjoying the park with their pet dog when no one else is around.

Do you have any other feedback or suggestions

Place signage and doggy poo bins with free little bags, to encourage owners to pick up the pool. Have a .ore reactive dog control officer to pick up strays faster. Don't punish good dogs and their owners for the sake of strays and bad owners. Build a stronger community instead of stronger rules.

Consent for storing submitted data

True

Do you wish to speak to your submission?

No

Security

<https://www.waitomo.govt.nz>

From: info@waitomo.govt.nz
Sent: Tuesday, 20 May 2025 9:41 pm
To: haveyoursay
Subject: The Form 'Submission Form - Dog Control Policy & Bylaw Review 2025' was submitted

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization.

[Block sender](#) | [Report](#)



Umbraco Forms

Form Results

Full Name

Terry Davey

Phone

[REDACTED]

Organisation

Address

[REDACTED], Te Kuiti

Postcode

3910

Email

[REDACTED]

Do you agree with the proposal to make Ward Street reserve an on-leash area?

Yes

If no, why not?

Do you agree with the proposal to make all of Centennial Park a dog prohibited area?

No

If no, why not?

This is the only place where dogs can run freely and really stretch their legs. There have been signs up at Centennial Park for years banning horses, motor bikes and golf with absolutely no enforcement. These activities cause far more damage and danger to the public and property than registered controlled dogs getting much needed exercise with their loving responsible owners.

Do you have any other feedback or suggestions

Consent for storing submitted data

True

Do you wish to speak to your submission?


No

Security

<https://www.waitomo.govt.nz>

From: info@waitomo.govt.nz
Sent: Saturday, 31 May 2025 12:31 pm
To: haveyoursay
Subject: The Form 'Submission Form - Dog Control Policy & Bylaw Review 2025' was submitted

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization. [Block sender](#) | [Report](#)



Umbraco Forms

Form Results

Full Name

Diana Duder

Phone

Organisation

Address

 Te Kuiti

Postcode

3982

Email

Do you agree with the proposal to make Ward Street reserve an on-leash area?

Yes

If no, why not?

Do you agree with the proposal to make all of Centennial Park a dog prohibited area?

Yes

If no, why not?

Do you have any other feedback or suggestions

Consent for storing submitted data

True

Do you wish to speak to your submission?

No

Security

<https://www.waitomo.govt.nz>

From: Stacey Brew [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, May 31, 2025 6:36 PM
To: Mx InfoClass <mx.InfoClass@waitomo.govt.nz>
Subject: Submission for the Dog Bylaw review

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization.

[Block sender](#) | [Report](#)

Good Evening

Your website advised the submissions closed on the 31st however the online form was not available on the 31st, and advised it has closed. There was no cut off time notified. Given this email is sent on the 31st, please consider this submission.

I would like to bring up 3 points in response the dog bylaw.

1. I understand the council has financial restrictions to putting in proper off leash parks etc.... however as a dog owner in Te Kuiti, there is a lot of focus on where dogs can't go and very little focus on where dogs can go. There isn't more facilities needing to be built, there just needs to be more freedom offered.

Every year there is more areas that are restricted to dogs, that leads the question, where can we exercise dogs in Te Kuiti, and how can we involve our dogs in our lives more?

Dog ownership is a huge part of people's lives, providing exercise, and companionship.

When comparing Te Kuiti to other townships close by, Otorohanga and Te Awamutu, the opportunity to move around with your dog is much higher - and on leash is a perfectly acceptable, and often preferred restriction.

When dog owners have more freedom to take their dogs places, there is a higher expectation of behaviour expected from the dogs and owners, which creates an incentive to train and expose your dog to be more worldly. Seeing dogs out that are well behaved also provides motivation for people to improve their own training of their own dog.

Dog safety is a big motive for the council, which I support hugely. However the highest incidence of dog bites is from dogs that are owned by a family or home, but not part of a family or home. These dogs are poorly socialised, and there is minimal incentive to do so.

In recent years we have tried to find a suitable location for a dog training class in Te Kuiti and failed, instead the class was taken to Waitomo and ultimately Te Kuiti residents pulled out.

As a dog owner, I regularly travel to Oto or Te Awamutu to ensure my dog can get sufficient exercise and exposure to his world as this is something I find very difficult to achieve in Te Kuiti. Talking to other dog owners, this is a shared opinion. When reaching out to other dog owners to start a dog walking group, we realised Te Kuiti isn't suitable.

In Te Awamutu my dog is also welcomed at several cafes on the sidewalk. He is often joined by other dogs, who all sit quietly at their owners feet as good canine citizens. They have been permitted to practise this behaviour.

2. I would like clarification on Brook Park, as when dogs are permitted. It advises not during lambing season, can this please be clarified, is it when they are lambing, or post weaning?

3. I would like clarification on the walkway along Ahoroa Ford road walkway. This walkway I used to use regularly and then a no dogs sign was erected. However this isn't present in any documentation, I can find online. Is there a reason this is no dogs? Every time I have walked this prior, every dog owner was considerate. The biggest issue down there have been people who chose to ride horses?

If the opportunity is available, I would like to speak to council regarding my thoughts on the bylaw.

Kind Regards

Stacey Brew

[REDACTED] Te Kuiti