



## Training your **D****G**

### Obedience training for you and your dog

A trained dog will make a better pet. This is because they learn their place in the family 'pack' and can become more social with other people and dogs. With the appropriate training a dog can learn acceptable behaviour and be re-trained to stop bad habits. Check online for a dog training obedience club in your area.

### Reducing dog bites

While bites can be triggered by a person's actions or caused by a dog's environment, the dog owner is legally responsible for any attack their dog has on a person or animal.

The following tips can help reduce the likelihood of a dog biting someone.

- Approach the dog correctly:
  - Don't touch the dog on the back of the neck, or stand and lean over a dog, or approach a dog while it is eating as they see these actions as a threat.
  - Without leaning over the dog, you can bring your hand up slowly from below and present your fist to the dog to sniff and you may stroke the dog on its chin or its chest. This introduction to a dog is seen as neutral (non-threatening).
  - Allow the dog to come to you rather than going into its space.
  - Squat down with small dogs to avoid leaning over them.
- Treat your dog kindly.
- Where possible keep your dog inside. It will be better socialised to people and unusual situations. 84% of bites are caused by 'outside' dogs. If your dog is used for guarding it can guard you better from inside the home.
- If your dog must be outside, it will feel more secure in a good kennel with a run or a chain.

- De-sexing your dog may reduce aggressive behaviour, but it has no effect on protective behaviour. Most bites are caused by dogs that have not been de-sexed (entire dogs).
- Teach your children to be gentle with all animals.
- Do obedience training with your dog. This will give you and your dog the skills to handle unfamiliar surroundings or situations.

### How to train your dog to stop barking

There are many reasons why dogs bark. They may be hungry, cold, lonely or simply seeking attention.

If your dog is hungry, cold or lonely, the cure may be as simple as changing the dog's environment to make it feel more content. Feed your dog, give it a warm dry place to sleep and keep it close to you. If it's a puppy try putting a loud clock in its bed.

If your dog barks to seek attention this may be more difficult to fix. If the dog is scolded each time it barks, it gets the attention it wants. Treating the dog unpleasantly could increase the dog's anxiety and result in the dog seeking more attention. First observe the dogs behaviour and tell the dog firmly "No, bad dog" as it is about to bark. This will break its attention. Call the dog to you, say "sit, stay" then reward the dog for the good behaviour.

If your dog barks when you are out then give it a small den such as the bathroom or laundry. Feed the dog in there so it always feels positive about the room. Train your dog by locking it in the den for about 15 minutes at feeding time. Give your dog a bone or biscuits when you lock them in the den before leaving the house. They will then associate the den as a happy place to be.

We encourage you to contact one of our dog control officers if you need further advice to help with your training.

## What dog registration fees pay for

### Dog Control service

24 hour on-call dog control service responding to complaints about:

- barking or roaming dogs
- dog attacks on people, stock and other animals
- notifying known dog owners if their dog is impounded

### Education

- providing education programmes in schools and relevant community groups
- providing information about our dog policies and bylaws and how to take care of your dog
- provide education for owners of problem dogs and the benefits of de-sexing a dog

### Records

- keeping an up-to-date record of dogs within the Hauraki District and the national dog registration database
- sighting unregistered dogs in preparation for Council to prosecute offending owners

### Impounding and pound service

- maintenance of a dog pound/ complaints register
- impounding roaming dogs
- re-homing suitable dogs to appropriate homes
- destruction of unwanted dogs



### Dog control officer

Council's dog control officers are available 24/7

**P** (07) 862 8609 or 0800 734 834 (freecall within District)

**E** [info@hauraki-dc.govt.nz](mailto:info@hauraki-dc.govt.nz)

MDN: 2960632



# Responsible **D****G** CARE



## How to keep a dog healthy, happy and safe in your community

We come in all shapes, sizes and personalities!



### Choosing the right dog for you

Some breeds are fashionable, but may not suit your property or lifestyle. Answering the questions below might help you determine which breed is right for you.

- Why do you want a dog? Are you looking for a companion/pet, a working dog or a dog for showing/breeding?
- Do you spend a lot of time away from home, or at home?
- How much time do you have for exercising, grooming and training a dog?
- Do you have a secure fenced outdoor area on your property that is large enough for a dog to exercise in?
- Do you have a budget to cater for the associated expenses of owning a dog that would include veterinary bills, registration fees, food and shelter?
- Some breeds can live up to 15 years. What will you be doing for the next 15 years?

### Not all breeds are the same

Some dogs need more exercise than others, and some breeds may need more grooming. So before you make the decision to bring home a new best friend, have a look at some of these popular breeds and try and find a match to your lifestyle.

\* requires minimal attention in this area or small amount of feed.

\*\* requires regular attention in this area or more feed.

\*\*\* requires a great deal of attention in this area or a large amount of feed.

Breed	Size	Grooming	Exercise	Feeding
Chihuahua	Small	*	*	*
Poodle	Small	**	**	*
King Charles Spaniel	Small	***	*	*
Bulldog	Small/medium	*	**	**
Corgi	Small/medium	*	**	*
Beagle	Medium	*	**	**
Border Collie	Medium	**	***	**
Springer Spaniel	Medium	**	***	**
Bull Terrier	Medium	*	**	**
Labrador	Medium/large	*	**	**
Retriever	Medium/large	*	***	**
Boxer	Medium/large	*	***	***
German Shepherd	Large	*	**	***
Rottweiler	Large	**	***	***
St Bernard	Large	**	***	***



# DOG owner responsibilities

## Register your dog with Council

- Your dog will need to be registered before they turn three months old or when you first get your dog.
- All dogs need to be registered each year by 1 July.
- Dogs registered for the first time (excluding working dogs) are required to be microchipped.
- Only two dogs are allowed to be kept on an urban property without written permission from the Council.

## Read our dog control bylaw and policy

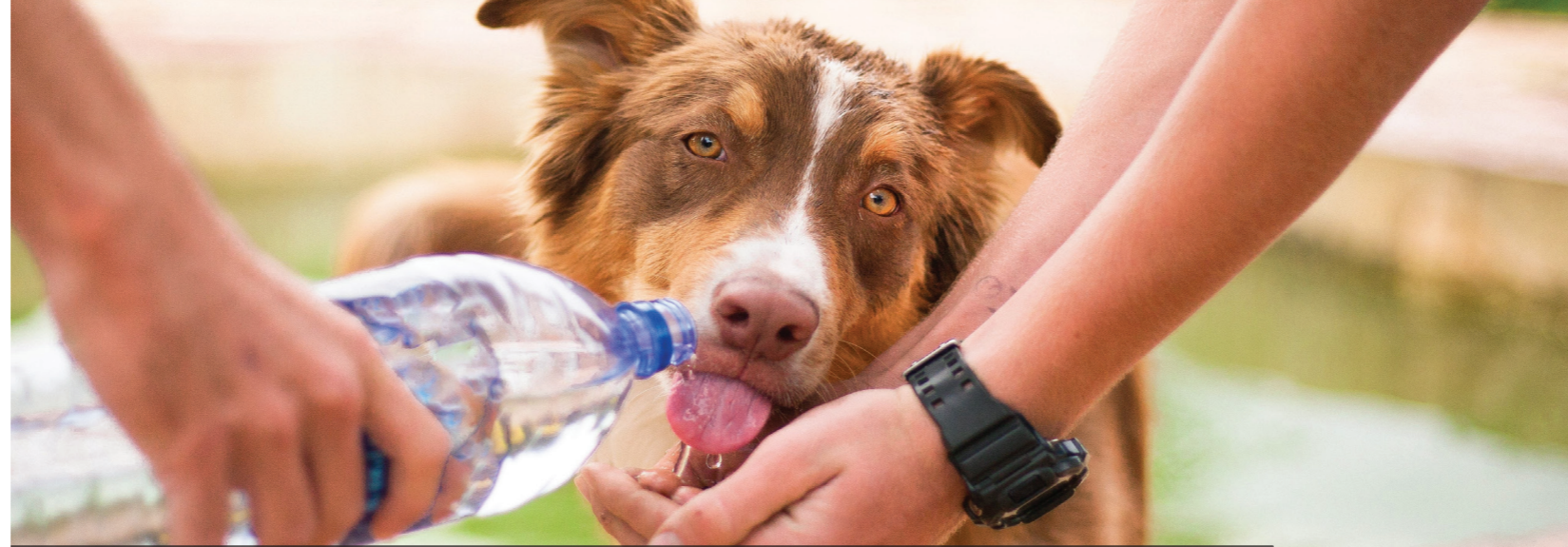
Our dog control policy promotes and encourages responsible dog ownership and the control of dogs in the interests of public safety, and our dog control bylaw specifies the requirements for keeping dog(s) on a private property and the rules for having a dog in a public place.

Find out more on our website [www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz](http://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz)

## Make sure your dog isn't a nuisance

Unless you want to become unpopular with your friends and neighbours, you must ensure that your dog does not:

- bark continuously night or day
- scavenge from rubbish bags
- wander from home and roam, as they could be impounded by Council
- chase people, animals, cars, trucks or bicycles as you will be responsible for any damage they cause.
- bite or scare people as this could lead to your dog being destroyed.
- enter any shop or shopping mall (unless they are a trained Guide Dog).



## Taking care of your pooch

### Shelter

If you keep your dog outside it will need a kennel that is warm, dry and the right size.

### Exercise

Dogs need regular exercise and should be kept on a leash in public areas. You are required to pick up your dog's faeces if they defecate in any public place.

### Attention

Dogs need to feel they are part of the family, not just a piece of furniture. Your dog needs care, attention, training and socialisation.

### Vaccinations

Your dog will need annual vaccinations against distemper, hepatitis, kennel cough, leptospirosis and parvovirus. Any of these conditions can be fatal. All of these vaccinations can be given in one injection. See your vet for more information.

### Food and water

Your dog will need access to clean water and to be fed every day with appropriate

nourishing food. Ensure dog food is hydatid free (hydatid tapeworm larva can be found in uncooked food).

### Worming

All dogs need to be treated regularly for worms. Puppies are more susceptible to worms than adult dogs. People can be infected with tapeworm and round worm larvae. Remember to always wash your hands after handling a dog. Contact your vet or talk to our dog control officer for more information.

### Keeping your dog at home

Wandering dogs can have a short life span. They can get lost, stolen, hit by a car or even shot. Any dog found wandering by Council will be impounded and the owner issued with an infringement fine.

Visitors must be allowed to gain access to one door of your house without coming into contact with your dog. This means you need to be able to confine your dog to a suitable enclosed/secure area. Here are some recommendations to keep your dog secure and safe at home:

### Secure fencing

- The fence needs to be a sturdy and robust barrier to confine your dog at all times. Avoid picket fences because if the dog tries to jump out it could catch its leg between the pickets and cause a major injury.
- *Jumping dogs?* Install a lean-to section or outrigger on top of the fence which will stop most dogs from jumping over the fence.
- *Digging out?* A concrete strip under the fence with a wire an inch or two above the ground will stop your dog from escaping.

### Running leads

Install a strong wire two metres above the ground with the dog's chain attached to a swivel on the wire. A limiting device on the wire is needed to stop the dog being tangled at the ends.

### Pens and runs

Securing the dog in a kennel and run will prevent it wandering while you are out.

### Training

Training a dog to not jump over or dig under a fence takes time and consistency. Before a dog tries to jump the fence or escapes out of your property - shout "No", and then call the dog to you in a quiet encouraging voice and reward them when they come to you.

### De-sexing your dog

Each year Council impounds a number of dogs. Many of these are unwanted litters of pups or dogs found wandering the streets.

The advantages of having your dog de-sexed are:

- a male dog will be less aggressive, territorial, and less likely to get into fights with other dogs.
- a female dog will not come on heat or have litters of unwanted pups.
- your dog will be healthier with less chance of getting cancer, and less likely to wander.

If your dog has gone missing check with our dog control officer to ensure your dog has not been impounded.



## Going on holiday?

When planning a holiday think about where your dog will go well in advance.

### Decide who will look after your dog

- Boarding kennels - There are many reputable boarding kennels, but bookings will need to be made early. Decide on a suitable option by visiting the kennel/s. Your dog will need to be vaccinated if staying at a kennel, so ensure your dogs vaccination records are up to date.
- Friends and neighbours - Dogs can get lonely so it's better to have someone in the house if your dog is remaining at home, or arrange for your dog to stay at a friend's place.

### Taking your dog on holiday

- Check that your holiday accommodation/destination will allow you to have your dog there. Some motels are pet-friendly and do cater for this. Make sure your dog is under control at all times or you will not be welcome next year.
- If you take your dog in the car during summer make sure you park in a shady area, that the windows are partly open and there is water for your dog.
- Check the local authority's dog control bylaw or policies for areas that you can or cannot take your dog in that district.

For any further information on any subject regarding your dog please contact your local Dog Control Officer. We're here to help.

## Hydatids control programme

Hydatids is a disease that can seriously affect the organ health of humans, sheep and other animals. It can be contracted from dogs if the hydatid tapeworm is present in a dog's intestine.

The disease used to be prevalent but New Zealand was declared free of the disease in 1999. The hydatids control component of the previous legislation (Dog Control and Hydatids Act 1982) was removed by the Dog Control Act 1996. It is however still important to keep dogs safe from hydatids because if left untreated, hydatid infestation can be fatal to humans.

There are a few simple rules you should follow to keep a dog safe from hydatids:

- **Never feed raw offal\*** from any animal to your dog. Offal from domestic animals can carry the cysts of hydatids. People can carry the cysts as well. Sheep measles cysts can be in sheep and goats heads.
- **Always cook offal** if you want to feed it to a dog. Boil it until it is cooked right through. You can feed the gravy to the dog as well.
- **Always freeze or cook sheep or goat meat** before feeding it to your dog. Sheep or goat meat must be frozen for a minimum of 7 days at a minimum temperature of -10°C to ensure it is safe to feed to your dog.

- **Don't let your dog eat anything unless you know what it is.** Don't let your dog wander or scavenge as he may pick up a disease or even be poisoned. If you think your dog has eaten offal or untreated sheep or goat meat, please ask your vet to dose your dog.

*\*Offal in relation to any sheep, deer, goat or swine, means the whole or any part of the contents of the head, chest, abdominal cavity or pelvic cavity. Horse or cattle offal means the lungs, liver or heart.*

## Keeping records of your dog

It's a good idea to keep a record of your dog details including:

- name of your dog and its birth date
- dog tag number and the year of registration
- the name of your vet and the veterinary clinic name, address and phone number.
- the dog's health passport that records the type of vaccinations or worming treatment your dog has had (most veterinary clinics can provide you with one of these). This passport is useful when you need to place your dog in a boarding kennel.
- Details of any health related problems that your dog may have and the type of treatment it requires.

