

has been impounded twice to have an identification microchip inserted. This can be done by any vet, ideally when the dog is being seen for other reasons such as vaccinations.

In terms of enforcement, our approach is that dangerous or menacing dogs should be chipped under the law, but as long as the dog is registered we will give low priority to taking legal action against the dog owners who don't comply.

However, if the dog is impounded or is classified as dangerous or menacing, we **will** enforce chipping, and the costs involved are likely to be higher than if done voluntarily.

### **National Dog Database**

Recent amendments to the Act require us to provide details of all dogs and owners to a National Dog Database.

Our records have been reconfigured to meet the new national classifications for colour and breed. This has also required us to provide date of birth details for all registered dog owners. The National Database is updated daily to ensure that it is kept current. It can be accessed only by Councils and others involved in animal control and welfare.

### **Impounding of Dogs**

Uncontrolled dogs become impounded usually through negligence on the part of their owners. The fees for impounding of dogs are fixed from time to time by resolution of Council in accordance with the legislation. These fees must be paid prior to the release of any dog and the animal registered. Where a dog is not claimed by its owner it may be disposed of or sold to a new owner.

### **Dog Registration**

The registration of all dogs over the age of three months is required to be made by 31 July each year. A penalty charge equivalent to 50% of the relevant fee will be charged for all dogs that were due for registration on 1 July, but which are not registered by 1 August.



Clutha District Council

## Information for Dog Owners



### **Clutha District Council**

1 Rosebank Terrace,  
PO Box 25, Balclutha 9240

Phone: 03 419 0200

Fax: 03 418 3185

Email: [help.desk@cluthadc.govt.nz](mailto:help.desk@cluthadc.govt.nz)

[www.cluthadc.govt.nz](http://www.cluthadc.govt.nz)



## Introduction

The control of dogs is legislated for by the Dog Control Act 1996.

The Act provides a structure for the control of dogs and it aims to make better provision for the control and care of dogs, and to make provision in relation to damage caused by dogs.

This act was amended in 2003 and 2004 to:

- Require an identification microchip to be placed in all dogs born after 1 July 2006; all dangerous and menacing dogs; unregistered dogs that are impounded; and registered dogs that are impounded more than once.
- Require Councils to provide details of all dogs and owners to a National Dog database
- Create a new category of 'menacing' dogs, which are considered to pose a threat, but are not 'dangerous' in terms of the Act
- Increase the infringement fees and maximum penalties for offences, and create some new offences

This brochure explains the various provisions outlined in the Act, including the new requirements, and summarises the obligations of dog owners under Council's own Dog Control Bylaw. A full version of the Bylaw is available on request, or by visiting our website, [www.cluthadc.govt.nz](http://www.cluthadc.govt.nz)

## Shelter for Dogs

The owner of any dog shall provide suitable shelter to be kept in a clean and sanitary condition, and with access to clean water. No new kennel or place of containment shall be nearer than 2m from any boundary.

## Nuisances

Owners must:

- Prevent their dogs from becoming nuisances
- Confine bitches in season (except when being exercised)
- Ensure dogs are not permitted to wander at any time

- Ensure dogs do not create a nuisance by incessant barking

## Leash Control Areas

All dogs must be kept under proper and effective control at all times. Dogs must be on a leash when in a public place in any urban, industrial, or rural settlement areas, or in cemeteries. Dog owners must now also carry a leash with them when taking a dog in any public area outside the leash areas described above.

When a dog is on land or premises occupied by its owner, the owner must at all times ensure the dog is either under the direct control of a person, or is confined in such a manner that it cannot leave the land or premises.

If the dog is not restrained in all situations outlined above, the owner may face an infringement notice or fine.

## Dog Prohibited Areas

Council may prohibit dogs from certain areas where we consider it necessary for the protection of the health and safety of the public, or where it is considered desirable. Any prohibition does not apply to guide-dogs for the blind, hearing ear dogs, police dogs, dogs being used by security guards or dogs confined in an efficient container, or securely confined in or by lead or restraint on a vehicle.

Prohibited areas include:

- Areas laid out and equipped as children's playgrounds
- The designated playing area of all sports grounds
- All school grounds
- All swimming pools
- Any premises used for the manufacture, preparation, storage or the sale of food
- Designated areas of bathing beaches during periods when daylight saving is in force
- Clyde Street, Balclutha, between the intersections of Renfrew and Gordon streets
- The beach from the Nuggets Fishing Camp breakwater south to the first cattlestop on Nuggets Road and the beach and foreshore up to the Nuggets

Road from the first cattlestop south to the Boundary of the Nuggets Reserve, provided this prohibition does not extend to farm working dogs used for the purpose of moving livestock.

- Significant breeding areas for yellow-eyed penguins and/or blue penguins as outlined in the Bylaw.

## Fouling by Dogs

If a dog defecates in a public place or on private property, the owner or person in charge of the dog must immediately clean up the offending material. Where a public litter bin or similar is used to dispose of faecal matter, they must be suitably wrapped to prevent fouling of the bin.

## Infectious or Infested Dogs

An infected or diseased dog shall not be taken to any public place except when being transported to a veterinary clinic for treatment.

## Licence to Keep More than Two Dogs

An owner must apply for a licence if more than two dogs are to be kept on any premises in an urban, industrial or rural settlement area. Licence application forms are available from all Council offices or online at [www.cluthadc.govt.nz](http://www.cluthadc.govt.nz)

## 'Responsible Dog Owner' Policy

We will continue to recognise good dog owners and provide a financial incentive in the fee structure to encourage responsible ownership in the care and control of dogs. Owners will gain the privileges of this classification after an owner evaluation, inspection, and payment of an application fee.

## Microchipping

Amendments to the Act require all new dogs reaching three months of age after 1 July 2006, all dogs classified as dangerous or menacing, any unregistered dog that has been impounded, and any registered dog that