

DOG CONTROL POLICY FOR RESERVES AND LAND UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE PARKS DIVISION

May 2005 Amended as at August 2011

Note: This policy refers only to dogs on the parks, reserves and open spaces managed and controlled by the Parks Division

This policy will be incorporated into all reserve management plans as they come up for review, amendment or renewal.

1.0 Objectives

- 1.1 To provide environments within the city's parks and reserves where dogs and people can happily co-exist.
- 1.2 To allow dogs and their owners reasonable access to the city's parks and reserves, at the same time protecting the safety and comfort for all users.
- 1.3 To make available areas of open space in the city's parks and reserves, which provide reasonable exercise and recreational opportunities for dogs and their owners.
- 1.4 To minimise danger and/or nuisance caused by dogs to the public or to wildlife and natural habitats on the city's parks and reserves.
- 1.5 To provide appropriate signage and public notification to dog owners (or those people exercising their dogs) informing them of their responsibilities while using the city's parks and reserves.

2.0 Policies

- 2.1 **Access**
Appropriate levels of access to parks and reserves for dogs and their owners shall be made available.
- 2.2 **Safety and Conflict**
Dog access to parks and reserves shall be restricted or, in some cases, prohibited where the likelihood of conflict exists between dogs, the public or the environment.

2.3 **Exercise Areas**

Dog exercise areas shall be made available to provide sufficient opportunities for the needs of dogs in the city's parks and reserves.

2.4 **Signage and Education**

A review of the dog control signage on parks and reserves in the city shall be carried out with a goal of standardising and simplifying this. Opportunities for informing the public on dog control policies on parks and reserves, such as newsletters, media releases and advertising shall also be considered. Appropriate signage will be erected at various locations to assist dog owners in complying with this policy.

2.5 **Dog Fouling**

Every person, whose dog defecates on any city park or reserve, is required to remove the deposited faeces from the reserve area immediately or dispose of the material in a suitable receptacle.

2.6 **Responsibilities**

It is the responsibility of the person exercising the dog on the city's parks and reserves to ensure the dog is fully registered and that it complies with any other Council dog control bylaw.

2.7 **Enforcement**

Parks Division officers shall convey the agreed policies to dog owners when observing any offence. Enforcement will be via Council's dog control officers and, if necessary, by provision of the Reserves Act 1977, parks rangers and the introduction of bylaws.

3.0 **Definitions**

3.1 **Dogs-on-a-Leash Areas**

Areas where dogs are required to be leashed at all times are –

- All parks and reserves in the Invercargill City Council area, with the exception of areas classified as –
 - dog-prohibited areas
 - designated dog-exercise areas

Dogs-on-a-leash areas include all walking tracks on parks and all cemeteries and crematoria areas.

3.2 **Dog-Prohibited Areas**

Areas where dogs are prohibited are –

- Anywhere within ten metres of any children's play equipment, including skateboard ramps and paddling pools
- The designated playing areas of all marked sports fields

- The areas around the Sandy Point ponds and lagoons specifically designated as wildlife habitats [*refer to Sandy Point Management Plan*]
- The area around and in the Donovan Park pond where there is risk of disturbing wildlife [*refer to Donovan Park Management Plan*]
- Areas that from time to time the Council will notify by way of signage and advertising that there is a temporary dog prohibition in place because of wildlife, stock or other issue

3.3 **Designated Dog-Exercise Areas**

These are areas designated for dog exercise where dogs are permitted to be at large while under continuous surveillance and effective control. Maps showing these areas are included as **Appendix A.**

- Elles Road Dog Park, dog park features plantings, a high fence for safety precautions, a doggy doo depot and bags so people can clean up after their pets and facilities so people can water their dogs.
- Sandy Point Domain, excluding playgrounds, marked sports fields and the ponds and lagoons designated as wildlife habitats. Dogs must be on a lead while on all formed walking tracks.
- Donovan Park, excluding marked sports fields and the Donovan Park pond area where there is a risk of disturbing wildlife.
- Elizabeth Park, excluding playgrounds. Dogs must be on a lead while on all formed walking tracks.
- Turnbull Thomson Park, excluding playgrounds and marked sports fields. Dogs must be on a lead while on all formed walking tracks.

Notes

- *The person exercising the dog must be able to control it as if it was on a leash. If the person exercising the dog cannot stop or retrieve the dog immediately with a whistle or call, then the person cannot exercise their dog with its leash off.*
- *The person exercising the dog must carry a leash at all times.*
- *The person exercising the dog must be capable of restraining the dog.*
- *The person exercising the dog is responsible for removing any deposited faeces from the dog exercising area.*

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