

KAUPAPA HERE RINGAMAU KOWHIRI SELECTED OWNER POLICY

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INTRODUCTION

WHAT IS A RESPONSIBLE OWNER?

A responsible owner is someone that:

- Chooses the right dog and treats them well.
- Ensures their dog has adequate exercise.
- Considers the health benefits for their dog of neutering them at an early age.
- Registers and microchips their dog.
- Teaches their dog basic obedience (keeps their dog under control at all times).
- Knows the best locations where they are allowed to take (exercise) their dog.
- Is particularly vigilant near children and closely supervises interaction between children and their dog.
- Knows when their dog will ignore commands: put dog on-leash, shorten leash, or avoid the area altogether (even if in an off-leash area).
- Respects other people’s personal space. Public places are for everyone’s enjoyment and not everyone is fond of dogs.
- Ensures their dog cannot leave their property by itself.
- Knows when their dog must be on a leash, and always carries a leash.
- Picks up after their dog and carries the means (e.g. a bag) to pick-up their dog’s faeces.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide incentive to dog owners to take good care of their dogs and be a responsible dog owner.

POLICY OBJECTIVES

As a way to encourage dog owners in our community to take good care of their dogs and be a responsible dog owner, Wairoa District Council has a Selected Dog Owner Policy.

This policy will reward responsible dog owners that are complying with the Dog Control Policy provisions and the Dog Control Bylaw with a discounted registration fee of 12.5% on top of the early payment discount set in the Council's Fees and Charges.

See the Fees and Charges Schedule for more information on the discounted registration fee for a specific year.

HOW TO BECOME A SELECTED OWNER

If you are a responsible dog owner and your property is a dog proof section that meets the below requirements regarding fencing, and you meet the following criteria you can apply to be a selected dog owner.

- We would prefer that your dog be neutered unless it is used specifically for breeding or show purposes
- Your dog is microchipped
- Your dog registration must always be paid before 31st July each year
- History proving good dog ownership history, no record of impounding, infringements or any justified complaints against your dog
- If you have more than two dogs on the property you must have a permit to keep more than 2 dogs

Exclusions:

- Dogs registered as Working Dogs

PROPERTY COMPLIANCE

Your dog must be contained on your property within a

- Fully fenced dog proof property, or within the property a fully fenced containment area suitable to the size of the dog.
- Containment area (enclosure) a suitable kennel raised off the ground, and size dependant on the dog

Visitors to your property must have free access to your front door, therefore you must have a suitable gated entrance to the front door, without entering the area where the dog is kept.

APPLICATION PROCESS

There is no cost to apply; applications need to be received before the 1st May, as the discount will apply from the following annual registration period i.e. 1 July that year.

Fill out the application form and return it to Council, when the form is returned an Animal Control Officer will arrange a time and day to inspect your property to ensure compliance with the requirements above. You would need to be present at the inspection to discuss the obligations of being a Selected Owner.

The Selected Owner Policy applies to the owner and only to the property that we have inspected. If you move you will need to notify us so that the new property can be inspected for compliance. If you sell or otherwise re home your dog(s) the discounted registration does not apply to the new owner.

If you have been a Selected Owner in another district, it does not automatically qualify you for this status in the Wairoa district

The Wairoa District Council reserves the right to revoke an owner's Selected Owner Policy status for any breach of the policy's conditions.

As noted above, owners of dogs registered as Working Dogs will be excluded from the discount associated with being a selected owner as their registration fees are set to only recover as near practicable the cost of the registration process as per the Council's Dog Control Policy.

Example of the Discounted Registration Fees using 2017/18 Registration Fees

Standard Breed – Class S:

Before 31st July \$70.00 less 12.5% discount \$61.25

Menacing Breed – Class Q:

Before 31st July \$120.00 less 12.5% discount \$105.00