

Welcome to

COUNCIL'S CANINE

COMMENT NEWSLETTER



In this edition:

-  **We look at important info about this year's registration process.**
-  **Park etiquette for dogs.**
-  **How you can keep your dog safe in an emergency.**

Registration is due by **30 June 2020**, so be sure to mark this date on a calendar or in your diary. A further month's "grace" will be allowed until **31 July 2020** before a **50% penalty** is applied to any fees that remain unpaid. Don't leave it until the last minute and risk having to pay a penalty.

HOW CAN I PAY?

We've recently updated the payment options on our website www.waipadc.govt.nz/do-it-online/make-a-payment so now you can pay by Account2Account, credit card and debit card. You may also notice a new QR code on this year's notice. Aim your smartphone camera at the barcode and you'll see a banner appear at the top of

your screen – tap the banner to go direct to our Make a Payment webpage. Some devices may require an app to use this feature, just search "QR Code Reader" in your Apple App Store or Google Play Store.

But if you prefer more traditional methods of payment, that's fine too. Front counters will re-open from Level 2, and we can also accept cheques via post. If all else fails, animal control admin staff will also be able to take credit card payments over the phone.

STRUGGLING TO PAY REGO FEES?

Give us a call.

It has been a difficult and uncertain time for all Waipā residents. If you're under financial strain due to Covid-19, please contact our friendly admin staff, Helen or Rochelle now to discuss payment options. We want to do as much as we can to help you.

Please remember that penalty fees will be applied to any unpaid fees on 1 August so don't wait until then to give us a call. The sooner we hear from you, the more we can do to help keep your fees to a manageable level.

WINNER FOR LIFE

Meet "Eddie" the winner from last year's early bird registration draw. Eddie, a Swedish Valhund, will receive free registration for the rest of his life. Congratulations Eddie!

Eddie is the fourth dog to win our annual draw, and we look forward to drawing the fifth winner this year. Register your dog by 30 June 2020 and be in with a chance to win free registration for life while living in Waipā.



WAIPĀ IS CURRENTLY HOME TO
8,720 DOGS

In the 12 months
from 1 January
2019 to 31 December
2019;

1727

COMPLAINTS RECEIVED
FOR INVESTIGATION
(112 of these related
to stock control)

⇒ AND ⇒

291

WERE REPORTED
AS LOST

7875 ARE MICRO-CHIPPED
(herding dogs and some elderly pet dogs are exempt)

419 dogs were impounded

350 WERE CLAIMED BY
THEIR OWNER

38 WERE HUMANELY
EUTHANASED

 **30** were
REHOMED



Did you know

-  you are responsible for picking up your dog's excrement from any public place or anyone else's property, and failure to do so can result in a \$300 infringement fine;
-  you must confine your dog to your property (ie, fence/cage/chain/indoors) anytime you are not actually supervising him/her;
-  you are legally responsible for your dog's well-being (eg quality food, clean water, adequate shelter from heat/cold, exercise, vet care, parasite treatments etc).

Etiquette AT THE PARK

Have you seen the new 'dog etiquette' signs in our dog parks yet? Signs were erected at Wordsworth Street park in Cambridge, and at Ash Grove in Te Awamutu, and we plan to erect more in the future.

We're keen to encourage all owners to be considerate towards other park users, mostly just by paying attention to what their dog is doing at all times and managing their dog's behaviour, so that everyone can enjoy their visit.

To spread this message our animal control team organised a series of fun evening events throughout late February and March to connect with owners and their doggos.

Our first event was held at the Lamb Street polo grounds in Cambridge and local dog trainer Darran Rowe from



Ruby and Sassy McPup show they know their manners at the Polo grounds event.

Mindfulness4Dogs came along to share in the fun. We had a great time promoting the key points of doggy manners while handing out treats, canine cupcakes and dog training tips. Dog owners also took the opportunity to pass on suggestions and comments to us.

Sadly, with Covid-19 Level 1 coming along not long after, the entire series ended up being cancelled. But watch this space, we will be back at a park near you next summer.

f Keep an eye on our Facebook page www.facebook.com/Waipaanimalcontrol for more info.


Thanks FROM OUR POUND DOGS

In last year's newsletter we called for assistance from volunteers to help local charity Pound Hounds Rescue sew bedding and dog coats for pound dogs and community dogs in need. Since then, they've received a number of kind offers, with some very caring locals cutting out a large number of patterns for coats and beds.

We'd like to make special mention to a former Waipā staff member Elizabeth for tirelessly sewing up all the dog coats (we hope your back is feeling better now Liz!).

A sincere thank you also goes to local dog owner Bryden, who has provided a number of beautifully sewn dog beds for our lucky pound dogs.

Before things get back to normal, we recommend giving your dog some alone time each day, and providing the usual "work day" structure with meals, walks, play time etc to prepare him/her for when you go back to work again. Google "dog enrichment" for ideas on providing entertainment when you are not home to help fill in the day.



EMERGENCY PLANNING

We talked about emergency planning in last year's newsletter, but with the pandemic situation this year we thought the timing was perfect to touch on this topic again. With Covid-19 we were lucky to be able to stay home with our families and farm animals and pets to keep everyone safe, but this may not be the case with other emergency situations.

Every pet owner should plan ahead for any emergency, as disaster can strike at any

time with little or no warning. The basics are:

- Have a plan! Don't wait until disaster strikes to decide what to do.
- Provide your pet with identification i.e. micro-chip, registration tag, name/phone tag etc
- Be prepared to take your pets with you if you have to leave home. Have pet cages (one for each), leads, and enough food and water for a minimum of 5 days on hand at all times.
- In case it is not possible to take your pets, have a safe place at home in mind for them.
- Have the contact number of a neighbour or friend handy, who can help if needed.

AN UPDATE ON COVID-19

As this newsletter went to print we were finishing week two of Alert Level 3 lockdown in the fight against Covid-19. This unprecedented situation has been very challenging, with many Waipā residents suffering hardship and everyone experiencing a completely different way of life.

But there has been one winner during this lock-down period - the family dog! We know most dogs have been enjoying having their owners at home each day and loving the increased exercise as we all get out and about for our daily allotted dose of fresh air.

It has also been a busy time for us in the animal control team. As essential workers, we have continued to look after the pounds and attend urgent call-outs during the lockdown period and Alert Level 3, and will continue to do so as the restrictions are gradually eased.

Interestingly we have noticed a general drop in the number of calls and complaints about dogs (especially barking dogs) but have still received a few calls about people walking their dogs off leash in public park areas.

While Covid-19 Alert Levels are still in place, we recommend you keep your dog on a leash in all areas and abide by alert level requirements.

For more info on Covid-19 requirements for dogs (and other animals), check out www.companionanimals.nz/covidupdates/.



WAIPĀ DISTRICT COUNCIL ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICES

We offer a 24 hour dog/stock control service:

8am to 5pm customer support staff are available to take calls.

5pm to 8am weekdays, weekends, and public holidays – after hours staff are available to deal with urgent incidents.

Contact us on
0800 924 723

For non-urgent matters you can email info@waipadc.govt.nz or visit

[waipadc.govt.nz/dogs](https://www.waipadc.govt.nz/dogs)

f WaipaDistrictCouncil

f WaipaAnimalControl