



2023

BROUGHT TO YOU BY NELSON CITY COUNCIL

DOG & BONE



Welcome to the 2023 edition of Dog&Bone

Nelson City Council's newsletter for dog owners.



2023 Dog Registrations

It's time to renew your dog registration.

All dogs who are (or will be) three months of age or more on 1 July 2023 must have a current registration. Registrations are due on 30 June 2023.

Payment can be made in person at Nelson City Council or online at my.nelson.govt.nz. If you require assistance making a payment, don't hesitate to get in touch with our

Customer Service Centre on **03 546 0200** or email customer.service@ncc.govt.nz.

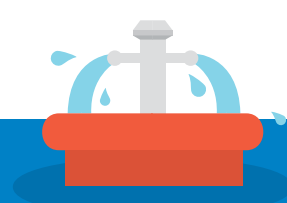
Registration fees have increased by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) this year. This equates to an increase of \$4-\$7 per dog to keep fees in line with costs.

There is a grace period of up to one month, however failure to register your dog before 31 July will incur a penalty fee.

Registration Fees

from 1 July 2023

Rural dogs (properties of 1 hectare or more)	61.00
Urban dogs	109.00
All dogs classified as dangerous (standard registration fee, plus 50% surcharge as required by statute)	163.50
Police, Seeing Eye and Hearing dogs	5.00
Replacement registration disc	5.00
Registration discounts (applied annually):	
Desexed dog (proof from a vet is required)	-5.00
Impounding fees (in any 12 month period)	
First Impounding	85.00
Second Impounding	171.00
Third Impounding	257.00
Daily charge (for each day following impounding)	17.00
After hours callout charge (outside normal working hours)	91.00
Microchip impounded dogs where required	42.00



Dog registration fees explained



Sharing the costs

We recognise the importance of responsible dog ownership and appreciate your commitment to the welfare of your furry companions. In line with our current policy, dog owners contribute to approximately 90% of the expenses associated with dog control services. This approach allows us to maintain a high standard of safety for the entire community.

Support from the wider community

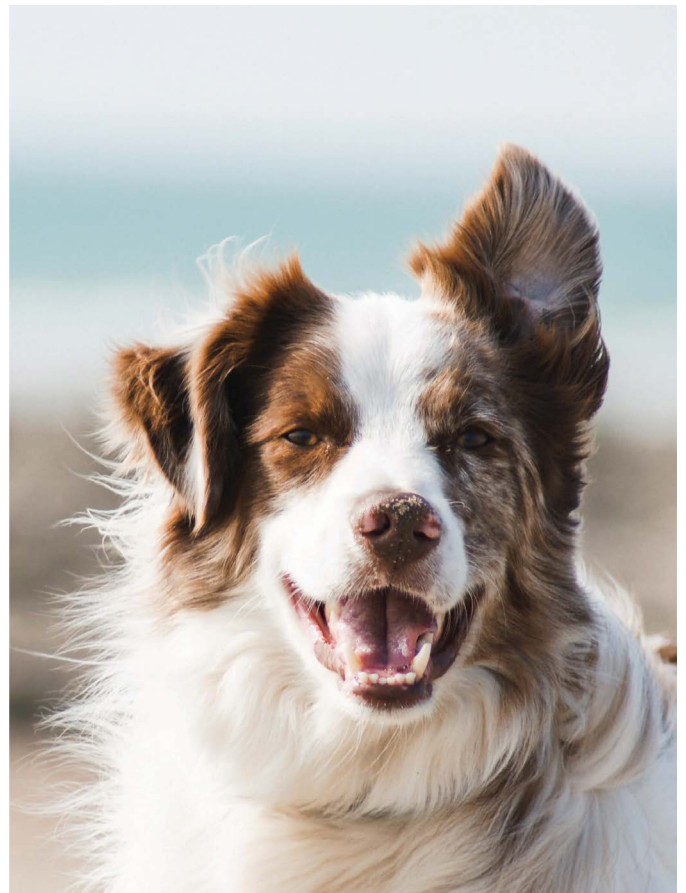
We also recognise the importance of community support. Approximately 10% of the costs are covered by ratepayers to acknowledge the benefits that a robust dog control service brings to our community. Together, we can ensure a harmonious environment for everyone.

Reasons for the fee increase

The adjustments to dog registration fees are necessary to keep up with inflation and maintain the quality of our dog control services. The fee increases are modest and based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) with urban dog registration going up by \$7.00 and rural registration by \$4.00. These adjustments enable us to continue providing essential services such as dog patrols, complaint resolution, and educational programs.

Considering the context

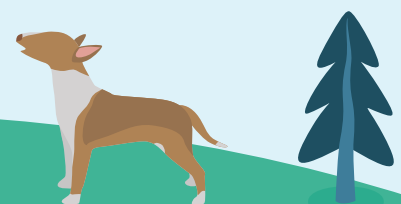
We understand that dog registration fees can vary across different councils in Aotearoa New Zealand. It's important to provide some context to avoid confusion. When compared to similar-sized councils like Napier, New Plymouth, and Palmerston North, our standard registration fee for 2023 (\$109) is comparable. We strive to strike a balance between affordability and maintaining necessary services for our community.



What do these fees pay for?

Services covered by dog registration fees include:

- Dog training and on-site behavioural advice
- Dog bite prevention courses for adults and children, free for all schools, childcare centres and community groups
- Signage and advertising of dog-related issues
- Providing dog poo bags
- Dog control, including impounding wandering dogs, investigating dog attacks, minimising nuisances caused by dogs
- Responding to complaints
- Running the animal shelter
- Patrols
- Taking legal action when required
- Administration and maintenance of the Council database including the annual registration process





Do it online

Pay and manage your dog registration online at my.nelson.govt.nz.

If you've already registered, we will have all your details, so it will be a simple job to re-register your dog this year by logging into the Dog Registrations portal at my.nelson.govt.nz. You can also check that all of your details are up-to-date and make any changes you need to.

If you haven't already registered, you'll need to follow the prompts to set up your account. You'll need your dog owner number, which you will find on the registration form you received, and your date of birth.

If you need any help with setting up an account, logging in or registering your dog, contact Council's Customer Service Centre and we can help. Just remember, however you do it, all dogs need to be registered by 1 July.

The online dog registration system only accepts payment by credit card, so if you want to pay by internet banking go to nelson.govt.nz/online-payments and use your owner number as a reference. Alternatively, you can bring your registration form into Civic House and pay over the counter.

Pick up after your four-legged friends

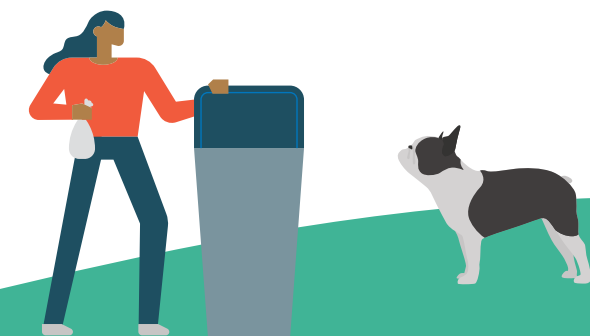
We all want both visitors and residents to experience Nelson Whakatū at its very best and our outdoor spaces are a big part of that experience.

We've been getting lots of reports of dog poo in our parks and reserves, including popular walking and biking tracks such as Centre of New Zealand, Botanics and Codgers, and the areas where our children play weekend sport. Not only is it an eyesore, dog poo contains diseases and parasites that can spread. We ask that dog owners respect the law by carrying a dog poo bag at all times, and consider all users of Nelson's parks and reserves by making sure they always pick up after their furry companions. That way everyone can enjoy their time outdoors.

Key facts

- Dog walkers are required by law to carry a dog poo bag when in a public place, and to immediately remove the poo. Breaching these requirements can result in a \$300 fine.
- Each of Nelson's approx. 6,000 registered dogs produces around 125kg of waste a year.

- Nelson City Council spends just over \$25,000 of dog registration funds on dog poo bags and dispenser servicing each year. **These bags are designed to be a backup for times when dog walkers forget their own bags or run out.**
- Annual bag costs = \$15,824 for 360,000 bags = 60 bags per registered dog per year = allowance of 1 bag per week per dog.
- Annual dispenser servicing costs of our 11 dispensers = \$9,563.



A day in my life as an Animal Control Officer in Whakatū Nelson



We have a small team of dedicated animal control officers who are responsible for upholding the Dog Control Act, ensuring public safety and promoting responsible animal ownership. The Act gives animal control officers certain powers to uphold public safety.

Nelson is home to a significant number of dog owners and their furry friends, with 5,283 registered dog owners and a total of 6,371 dogs.

Although no two days are the same, here is a snapshot of a day in the life of Ethan*, a Nelson City Council animal control officer.

8AM: I arrive at work and begin by checking my emails and reviewing any overnight complaints logged through the city's reporting system, plus anything else on my list for the day.

8.30AM: I head out on my morning patrol. On any given day, we deal with a variety of complaints, but as a general rule barking dogs is the most frequent complaint we respond to, followed by dogs wandering, dog attacks, and wandering stock. I also meet with members of the public to provide advice and information about dog-related issues in their neighbourhood.

I return to the office after handling several complaints, document the outcomes and update the database with the necessary information. To comply with legislation, accurate record keeping is crucial to maintaining a comprehensive overview of incidents and resolutions.

10:15AM: Back at the office, I continue to address complaints and conduct follow-up investigations. This involves making phone calls and scheduling home visits where needed.

1PM: It's time for a visit to the dog shelter. The shelter (or pound as lots of people call it) is not quite the place most people imagine. The dog pound is well managed, and dogs are treated with care while they are there. There are heated floors and blankets for the dogs, along with areas for the dogs to run around in. I note any maintenance or improvements needed. The dogs are fed, watered, and exercised (and yes, they get regular pats too). Animal control officers are trained on how to safely work with dogs, including those with behavioural problems.

*name changed

3.15PM: I continue tasks and daily patrols. It's dog registration time, so it's becoming busy for us with follow ups of unregistered dogs. Typical tasks include phoning the owners and visiting properties to confirm the dog is still present, and sometimes issuing warnings that an infringement/seizure may happen in the event of non-registration.

4:15PM: In the afternoon I generally attend to releases from the shelter and get things ready for the next workday. The vast majority of dogs that are brought to the shelter are reunited with their owners on the same day or the next. On the rare occasion that it is not possible to reunite a dog with its owner, we arrange for the dog to be rehomed.

5.00PM: As I head home I reflect on the day that was both rewarding and demanding. Engaging with the public and promoting responsible animal ownership are at the heart of my work. It's a job that brings real satisfaction, knowing that through my efforts, I contribute to happier dogs and a safer community.

