

A DOG'S TAIL Tale



Kia ora Masterton Dog Owners,

We all know dogs are a huge part of life for many people in Masterton District. Here's some of what we do to keep dogs and people happy together.

Pay your rego online and win!

Registering your dog early could pay off! Your dog's current registration expires on 30 June 2023 and this year all dogs registered by that date will automatically go into the draw to win one of three prize packs. All dogs registered by 31 July will go into the draw to win a refund of this year's registration. There are three to be won!

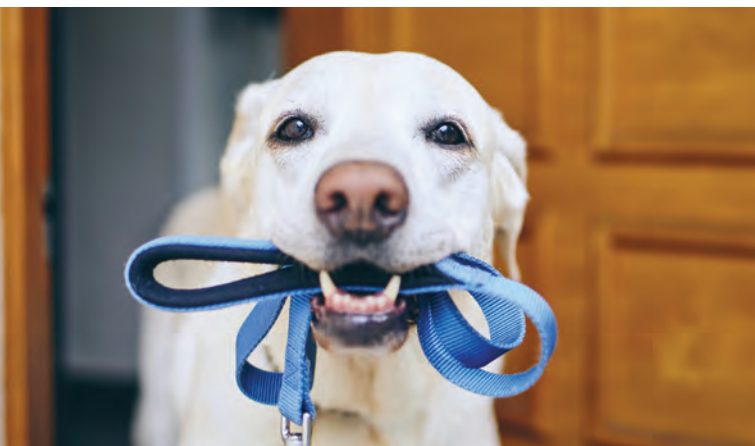
Walking your dog in the urban area

There are designated off-leash areas in Masterton District – and areas where dogs must be on a leash, and some where dogs are prohibited.

These areas are set out on the Masterton District Council website (mstn.govt.nz). Rules about dogs are to keep your dog and others safe.

Masterton dog prohibited areas:

- Masterton town centre from between Renall and King Streets, and between Chapel and Dixon Streets
- All children's play areas
- Aviary area of Queen Elizabeth Park



Be the person
your dog thinks
you are.

What happens if your dog takes itself for a walk

We often receive calls from people who have found dogs who have left home by themselves. If the dog has a registration tag, we can pass on the owner's contact details if we can get permission to do so - avoiding the need to impound the dog. It is really important that your contact details are kept up to date.

If we are unable to contact the dog owner at the time, the dog will be impounded - and fees must be paid to have the dogs released.

If the dog has a microchip that has been recorded in the National Dog Database we can contact the owner to advise that we have their dog safe, and the cost to have the dog returned. This will include an impounding fee and a daily fee to care for the dog while it is in our shelter. If the dog is not registered, fees to release it will include any outstanding registration fees.

There are costs related to the team having to collect and care for found dogs and these costs are higher after-hours. To be fair to all registered dog owners, costs are passed on to the dog owner.

Why dogs bark

Barking dogs can be a major source of irritation for neighbours. Dogs generally bark for a reason. It may be boredom, attention-seeking, responding to someone coming on to your property, seeing cats or birds nearby, or hearing other dogs and neighbours.

If you suspect your dog is barking while you are away, consult with your neighbours and ask them to monitor the barking when you are not home. When you are at home and your dog barks repeatedly, you should try to rectify the problem immediately.

Tips to prevent nuisance barking:

- Exercise your dog regularly.
- Rotate and restrict toys your dog can play with at one time. Easy access to all toys will quickly lead to boredom.
- Place treats in different places:
 - around the lawn so your dog can sniff them out
 - in a sandpit, if you have one, so your dog can dig the treats out
 - hanging on the end of a rope so your dog has to jump and work for them
 - in a treat ball.
- Get your dog to play with other dogs. This will help your dog learn the difference between safe and threatening situations (when barking may be helpful).
- Ask a friend or a dog-sitter to look after your dog.
- Keep your dog where it cannot see foot traffic to bark at.
- NEVER hit your dog. This only builds mistrust and will not stop nuisance barking.
- Seek advice from a professional, such as a dog trainer, local obedience club, one of our compliance officers, your local SPCA or your vet.

How registration fees benefit our community:

In Masterton, dog registration fees help to pay for most of our animal services activities, including:

- maintaining the animal shelter facilities for the care, welfare and return of lost and stray dogs
- dog safety talks to schools, community groups and workplaces
- upkeep of a dog registration base of over 6,000 dogs
- investigation, monitoring and resolution of dog issues such as nuisance, aggressive and dangerous dogs
- friendly and professional dog owner advice and education
- installation, upkeep and emptying poo bins.

MSTN.GOV.T.NZ

 [@MastertonDC](https://www.facebook.com/MastertonDC)

2021-22 THE STATS

6234 DOGS REGISTERED
97% OF KNOWN DOGS

405 WANDERING
STRAY AND LOST
DOG REPORTS

1670 REQUESTS FOR
SERVICE
(CALL-OUTS)

238 DOGS IMPOUNDED

213 OF THESE

& 16 REHOMED

RETURNED TO OWNER

Don't forget
to scoop your
poop and keep our
community tidy!



Heading away?

Heading away for a weekend or longer and leaving your dog/s at home under the care of family or friends? Please let your neighbours know. We've had many calls from neighbours concerned about the welfare of 'home alone' dogs only to find they're being well looked after when their owners are away. (It's also a good way to get to know your neighbours if you don't already).

