

A DOG'S TAIL Tale



Kia ora Masterton Dog Owners

The Animal Services team would like to start this year's edition of A Dog's Tale by thanking all the dogs who have kept their owners out of trouble in the past year.

We 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 the 30 June 2024 and once again, all dogs registered by that date will automatically go into the draw to win one of three prize packs. And all dogs registered by 31 July will go into a draw to win a refund of this year's registration. There are three to be won!

Congratulations to last year's winners: Richie McPaw, Ginny, Maggie, Tipp, Scott and Ranger.

Most dog owners meet the requirements of the Dog Control Act 1996 without issue. But to be fair on the majority of responsible owners, there have to be consequences for non-payment of registration – a penalty of 50 per cent is added if registration is not paid by 1 August. Owners of non-registered dogs can also face an infringement fee of \$300 per dog and ultimately, seizure of the unregistered dog. Chasing up unregistered dogs takes a significant amount of time for Animal Services staff.

Under the Act, you are also required to notify the Council of changes of circumstances during the year. We need to know if you have changed your address, or if you no longer have a dog. If your dog has died during the year, we need to know. It can be distressing to receive a registration notice for a dog that has died. You may also be eligible for a part refund of the registration fee.

Key Dates to remember

Mark them on your calendar!!

- Early June** → Registration invoices sent
- 30 June** → Registration due
- 31 July** → Registration must be paid in full to avoid additional 50 per cent penalty
- 1 August** → 50 per cent penalty added to all unpaid registration fees
- 1 October** → \$300 Infringement notices issued for failing to register (registration must still also be paid)
- December** → Unpaid infringements referred to court

REMEMBER: ALL dogs must be registered and microchipped by three months of age



Did you know...

The Animal Services team responded to 341 barking dog complaints from from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023. That's just about one a day.

Some common themes are obvious from complaints:

- owners had no idea that their dog/s were barking.
- neighbours were reluctant to talk to their neighbours to inform them of the problem.
- dogs roaming freely in the front of the property and barking at everything in the street.

We suggest that you keep your dog(s) to the rear of your property and make sure they have no visual stimulation from the footpath or road. You can use shade cloth on gates and fences to stop this. Investing in a security camera with sound enables you to check in on your dog when you're out.

Talk to your neighbours to find out if barking is common.

Dogs do not have the right to bark at anything and everything to the point that it upsets your neighbours.



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

Council's Annual Dogs in Togs event held in April

Has someone closed the gate?

Is someone always leaving the gate open? Here are a few tips to ensure your gate is always kept closed:

- Put a sign on BOTH sides of the gate to remind everyone to shut it.
- Put a spring on the gate so it shuts automatically.
- Padlock the gate.



Poo bags!

Masterton District Council sells compostable bags for doggy doo! These can be purchased from our Customer Service Centre in Queen Street – for \$7.90 per box



Demystifying muzzles

We know that muzzles get a mixed response from people, but they can be important to prevent incidents.

To get your dog used to a muzzle, put a little bit of a treat at the bottom of the muzzle on the inside! (peanut butter is ideal). With the treat smeared on the bottom of the muzzle, your dog will get used to keeping their nose in it for longer periods of time. As they become more comfortable, you can start to leave it on for an increased amount of time. Give heaps of praise – the point is that your dog associates the dog muzzle with fun activities.