

Masterton District Council

Responsible Dog Owner



We're big fans of responsible dog owners and great news we now have a special status just for them. The new Responsible Dog Owner Status means MDC will reward those owners with a discount on registration costs if they meet certain criteria.

To be eligible to apply –

- Your dog registration fees must have been paid by 31 July for the previous two years (or, if newly registered in Masterton, able to provide evidence that registration was paid on time to the previous territorial authority).
- Your dog/s must be desexed. (An exception may be made for certified breeders, at MDC's discretion).
- Your dog/s must be kept securely on your property with access to at least one door of the dwelling available without encountering the dog.
- Your dog's shelter must comply or exceed the requirements of the Masterton District Council Consolidated Bylaw – Part 7 'Control of Dogs'
- Your dog must be microchipped (if the dog was registered for the first time after 1 July 2006).
- Your dog has not been the subject of a substantiated complaint or impounded in the previous two years.
- You have not been issued with an infringement notice in regards to any dogs owned by you in the previous two years.

Rural, menacing by deed and dangerous dogs are not eligible for Responsible Dog Owner (RDO) status.

An application fee of \$20 (non-refundable) applies. If you move address a further property check may be required*. Applications for RDO status will be accepted any time during the year but any application received after 31 March will apply to the following registration year (e.g. an application received on 1 June 2018 will not receive a discount until the 2019-2020 registration year).

If a dog owner moves to the Masterton district, and provides evidence that they currently hold RDO status (or equivalent) with another territorial authority, this will be recognised by MDC. An application form must be completed but no further application fee will be payable*.

**If the new property does not meet criteria and further inspections are required a \$20 reinspection fee may apply.*

RDO status may be revoked if the owner:

- is convicted of an offence under the Act;
- is issued with an infringement notice;
- has their dog impounded;
- has one or more substantiated complaints within a 24 month period; or
- fails to pay their registration on time.

Once application is made your application will be processed and an Animal Services team member will contact you to arrange a property inspection. You will be required to be present for the inspection. Applicants granted RDO status will receive a 25% discount off the current registration fees.