



2024

BROUGHT TO YOU BY NELSON CITY COUNCIL

# DOG & BONE



## Welcome to the 2024 edition of Dog&Bone

Nelson City Council's newsletter for dog owners.



## 2024 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 2024 must have a current registration. Registrations are due on 30 June 2024.

Payment can be made in person at Nelson City Council or online at [my.nelson.govt.nz](https://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](mailto:customer.service@ncc.govt.nz).

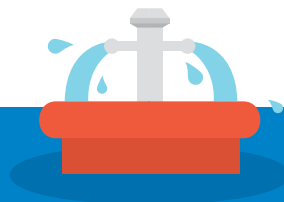
Registration fees have increased by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) this year. This equates to an increase of \$4 – \$7 per dog to keep fees in line with costs.

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 2024

Rural dogs (properties of 1 hectare or more)	64.00
Urban dogs	115.00
All dogs classified as dangerous (standard registration fee, plus 50% surcharge as required by statute)	172.50
Police, Seeing Eye and Hearing dogs	5.50
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	89.00
Second Impounding	180.00
Third Impounding	271.00
Daily charge (for each day following impounding)	18.00
After hours callout charge (outside normal working hours)	96.00
Microchip impounded dogs where required	44.00



# 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

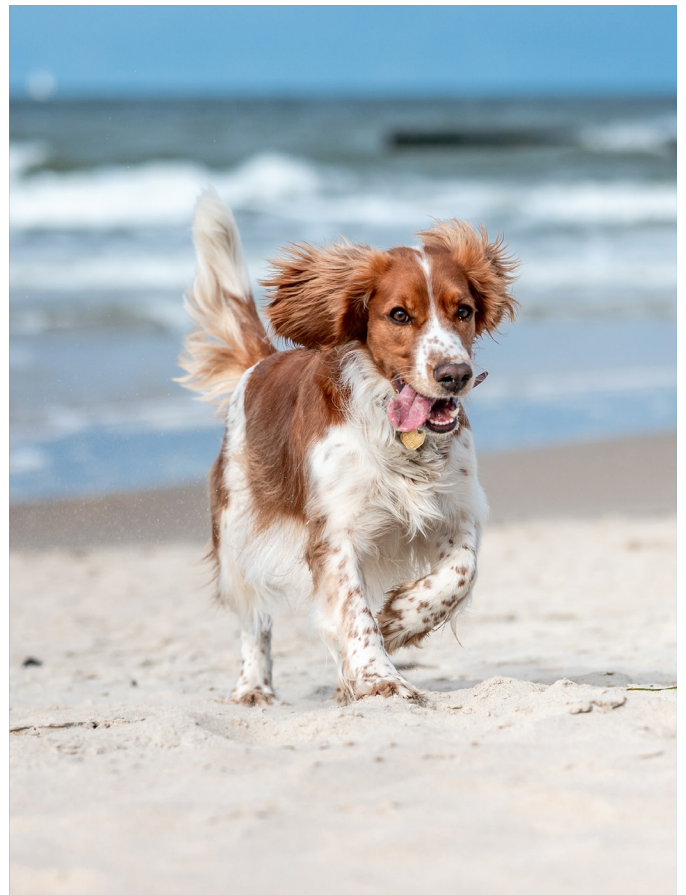
We also recognise the importance of community support. Approximately 10% of the costs are covered by ratepayers to acknowledge the benefits that a robust dog control service brings to our community. Together, we can ensure a harmonious environment for everyone.

## 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. 2024 dog registration fees will increase in line with the Consumer Price Index (CPI) to keep pace with inflation. This means a 5.6% increase for a standard urban dog registration fee. These adjustments enable us to continue providing essential services such as dog patrols, complaint resolution, and educational programs.

## Considering the context

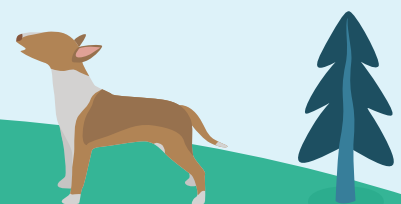
We understand that dog registration fees can vary across different councils in Aotearoa New Zealand. It's important to provide some context to avoid confusion. When compared to similar-sized councils like Napier, New Plymouth, and Palmerston North, our standard registration fee for 2024 (\$109) is comparable. 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](https://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](https://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](https://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

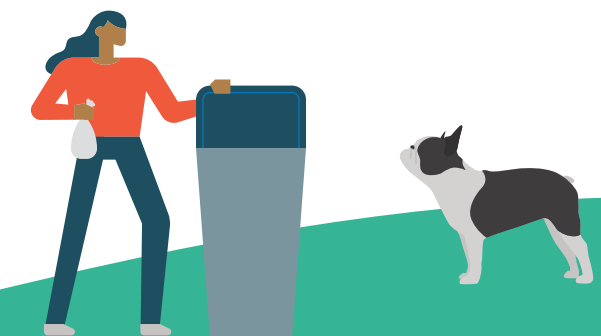
We all want both visitors and residents to experience Nelson Whakatū at its very best and our outdoor spaces are a big part of that experience.

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 = \$17,000 for 360,000 bags.
- Annual dispenser servicing costs of our 11 dispensers = \$10,240.44.



# Dogs on buses



In 2023, eBus began a trial of dogs on buses. Phase 1 was to allow small dogs in a suitable carry container. This trial has been successful and has led to Phase 2, allowing all dogs on board, this time with a muzzle and leash.

The Regional Transport Committee has accepted a proposal for a 12-week trial of dogs on our eBus network. The trial will begin on 1 April 2024.

Auckland Council with Auckland Transport recently completed a similar trial. We have followed their approach.

This is a trial and as such it is really important for pet owners to stick to the rules if we want this to become a permanent fixture of our bus service. As it is a trial we will be accepting feedback from dog owners, and public transport users. We will determine how the service will continue if it was to pass the trial phase.

We recommend preparing your dog for wearing a muzzle (if they've never worn one before).

## When can your dog travel?

You can travel with your pet on weekdays between the hours of 9:00am and 3:00pm, after 6.30pm, and all-day on weekends and public holidays.

## Does your dog have to wear a muzzle?

All dogs must be wearing a cage type muzzle and lead or be travelling in an approved pet carrier.

## Can my dog be in a carrier?

Pet carriers must be small enough to fit under a seat, or on the passenger's lap.

## What if my dog makes a mess?

You are responsible for your pet's mess and must ensure that any pet mess is cleaned up before leaving the bus.

## How much will my dog pay?

Your dog gets free travel on the bus.

## What if the bus is crowded?

You may be unable to board the bus with your dog if the bus is too crowded.

## What about if the dog is being a nuisance?

You may be refused entry or asked to leave the bus if your pet is like to or is causing a safety risk or nuisance to other passengers. If this happens you won't be entitled to a refund.

## Can a child board with a dog?

Children younger than 16 years old cannot travel with a dog unless they travel with an adult.

## What happens if a disability dog boards?

You may be asked to move if a disability dog boards to avoid it being distracted by other dogs.

## How many dogs can I board with?

Only one pet per customer is permitted.

