

Containment of dogs

Containment is a key responsibility of dog owners as it helps avoid problems such as wandering dogs, lost dogs and even attacks on passers-by.

When your dog is on your own property, legally you must ensure:

- the dog is under the direct control of a person; or
- the dog is confined within the land or premises in such a manner it cannot freely leave the property



Council encourages the containment of dogs by offering a discount if your dog is contained on your property in one of the following ways:

- A fully fenced property; or
- A fenced or portable enclosure; or
- A dog motel; or
- A kennel with an enclosed run attached; or
- A leash attached to a running wire.

Tethers or leashes

While it may meet legal requirements as a means of containment, Council does not offer a fees discount for dogs kept tethered or on a leash.

The Government's Code of Welfare for Dogs recommends:

- Where a leashed dog is unsupervised there should be nothing within reach of it which could cause injury or which the leash could become entangled with. If the leash is long enough for the dog to climb onto nearby objects then, to prevent the dog hanging itself, it needs to allow the dog to reach the ground on the other side. Swivel clips and light, strong chains are less likely to become tangled than ropes, and cannot be chewed through.
- Dogs should not be left unattended while using a choker chain or other devices which tighten around the neck
- Prolonged containment or tethering with minimal provision for exercise or social interaction can have a significant negative impact on the physical and mental health of dogs and can contribute to behavioural problems. The need for exercise as well as access to food, water and shelter while in containment all have to be considered.

For further information on tethering dogs please refer to the Code of Welfare on the MPI website.

Changes

It's important to let us know if there are any changes relating to your dog. Simply go to southlanddc.govt.nz/dogchanges or contact our friendly team on 0800 732 732.

WIN AN IPAD OR A \$50 PREZZY CARD

All dogs registered online via our website southlanddc.govt.nz/dogregistration before **July 1, 2020** will go in the draw to win one of three iPads or one of twenty \$50 Prezzy Cards. Winners will be drawn at random.



Dog registration in the Southland District

Man's best friend comes with responsibilities. Dog owners must:

- Register all dogs by the age of three months
- Promptly notify Council of any change of ownership, address or circumstances relating to your dog
- Provide your dog with proper care, exercise and attention, including sufficient food, water and shelter
- Keep your dog under control at all times and ensure it does not cause a nuisance or endanger any person, animal or property

Puppies

Have you welcomed a new four-legged friend?

All dogs must be registered before they are three months old. Puppy fees are proportionately reduced during the registration year.

FREE Microchipping

You can get your dog microchipped for FREE at one of Council's microchipping sessions (subject to the Covid Level). Check out our website to find the next session near you or ring Dog Control on 0800732 732.

How do I pay?

We have a range of payment methods available for dog registrations.

Online

The easiest way to pay your dog registration is online. Simply go to southlanddc.govt.nz/dogregistration. You will find the dog number required below your dog's name on your registration reminder form. If you pay online, you do not need to return the form. We will post the receipt and tags to you.

Any changes?

Before you pay online, let us know if there are any details which need to be updated – change of ownership, address or dogs that are new/sold/passed away. Simply go to southlanddc.govt.nz/dogchanges to notify us of any changes.

In person

Visit any Southland District Council office in Lumsden, Otautau, Riverton, Te Anau, Winton, Wyndham, Stewart Island or Invercargill.

By post

Please check all information on your registration form is correct, sign it and pop it in the post with the fee to Southland District Council, PO Box 903, Invercargill 9840.

What does it cost to register my dog?

We reward our dogs for good behaviour so it's only fair it goes both ways. Responsible dog ownership earns discounts in dog registration.

Non-working dog \$100

How to get a discounted fee:

- 1 Dog desexed – save \$10**
You will need to provide evidence from your vet such as a receipt or certificate.
- 2 Containment discount – save \$20**
Your dog is contained in a fully fenced property, a fenced/portable enclosure, dog motel, a kennel with enclosed run or a leash attached to a running wire.
- 3 Responsible ownership and microchipping – save \$30**
The dog is microchipped as required by the Dog Control Act 1996.
There has been no written warning, barking abatement notice, seizure or infringement under the Dog Control Act 1996 within the last two years relating to any dog owned by the person applying for the registration.

Owners are not limited to one discount. Total available discount is \$60.

Working dog \$36

There are no discounts for working dogs.

Reminder: dogs kept solely or principally for the purpose of herding or driving stock will need to demonstrate their ability to execute these tasks should Council request it.

Only stock driving dogs are exempt from being microchipped.

Late registration penalty (all dogs): + 50% of the total registration fee

Note: Classification as a hunting or sporting dog is no longer applicable.