

Summary of decisions on Policy and Bylaw on Dogs

What are the main changes that happen on 1 July 2013?

- A single policy and bylaw on dogs to keep dogs as a positive part of Auckland life.
- A focus on responsible dog ownership, dog welfare, community education, dog safe access to public places, registration, and dog safe communities.
- Ability for local boards to decide dog access rules on local parks and local beaches.
- Region-wide dog access rules that include:
 - Allowing dogs under control on a leash on footpaths, town centres, car parks, boating areas, shared driveways, and in the vicinity of playgrounds and sports surfaces when in use.
 - Prohibiting dogs on playgrounds and sports (playing) surfaces, although the current exemptions that allow dogs on grass sports fields will continue to apply on Glover Park, Madills Farm, Shore Road Reserve, Thomas Bloodworth Park, Onetangi Sports Park, and on sports fields in the former Franklin district.
- Dog access rules on regional parks and associated beach and foreshore areas aligned to implement the Regional Parks Management Plan 2010. This includes allowing dogs under control off-leash in the open areas of Kakamatua Inlet (including beach), allowing dogs under control on a leash on Long Bay Beach south of Vaughan's Stream from 10.00am to 6.30pm during daylight saving, and prohibiting dogs from tracks within the Cascades Kauri Ark-in-the-Park area of the Waitakere Ranges.
- Region-wide rules requiring immediate picking up and appropriate disposal of dog faeces, requirement of a license to keep multiple dogs on premises, and to prohibit dogs in heat from public places and shared driveways.
- Compliance and enforcement activity that focuses on dog registration, seizure and holding of dogs that are a threat to public safety, classification of dangerous and menacing dogs, and de-sexing dangerous, menacing and uncontrolled dogs.

What about requests for changes to dog access rules on specific parks and beaches, and time and season dog access rules?

A new approach to deciding dog access to parks and beaches will also start in 2013. Dog access decisions will be made by local boards for local parks and beaches, and by the Parks, Recreation and Heritage Forum for parks and beaches of regional significance. Submissions requesting changes to dog access rules will be referred to local boards and the forum to consider using the new decision-making principles, criteria and guidance.

One of the new criteria – raised by the majority of submissions - are standard times and seasons to be used wherever a time and season dog access rule is used on a beach. The decision was to adopt a standard summer beach time and season of 10am and 5pm, Labour Weekend to 1 March, and to exempt its application on Hauraki Gulf islands (including Waiheke Island and Great Barrier Island).

However, the **new standard summer time and season will not be in effect until** the forum and local boards have reviewed all beach dog access rules in each area. The review will identify the most appropriate mix of dog access rules for our beaches. This might mean that the new summer times and season will apply to some beaches, while for other beaches dogs may be allowed under control off a leash at all times. The need to carry out this review and work out the best way to manage the safe interaction between people and dogs means that until those decisions are made the current dog access rules (which use a mixture of times and dates across Auckland) will continue to apply, and not the standard summer time and season of 10am and 5pm, Labour Weekend to 1 March.

Consideration of possible changes to dog access rules on beaches and specific parks will start in 2013. Any proposed changes will be publicly notified for submissions, and hearings will be conducted by the relevant delegated authority before a final decision is made.