



# Dog Control Policy 2010

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Prepared pursuant to Section 10 of the Dog Control Act.

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## Introduction

This policy on dogs is prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Dog Control Act 1996 ('the Act') and came into force on 2010.

This policy aims to give effect to the Act by protecting the health and safety of the public whilst ensuring the well-being and welfare of dogs is protected through responsible ownership.

The community expects dog owners to act as responsible owners. It is recognised that many in the community believe dogs can play a positive role in society and provide enjoyment for individuals and families. This policy seeks to balance those two expectations.

## Objective of this Policy

The overriding objective of this policy is to encourage responsible dog ownership and community awareness to promote an environment where dogs and people can happily and peacefully co-exist.

In order to meet this objective, dog owners must:

1. register their dog/s at three months of age and every year after;
2. provide for the health and well being of their dog;
3. keep their dogs under control when in a public place, particularly in and near places frequented by children;
4. ensure their dog doesn't cause a nuisance to neighbours and other people by persistent and loud barking or howling;
5. keep their dog under direct control or confined on their property so it doesn't wander or become lost;
6. pick up any faeces left by their dog in public places or on land not occupied by the dog owner;
7. take all reasonable steps to ensure their dog doesn't injure, endanger, intimidate, or otherwise cause distress to children and other people so that the public can use streets and public amenities without fear of attack or intimidation;
8. take all reasonable steps to ensure their dog doesn't injure, endanger or cause distress to any stock, poultry, domestic animal, or protected wildlife and is kept out of prohibited areas;
9. ensure their dog doesn't damage or endanger any property belonging to other people;
10. provide for the training, exercise and recreational needs of their dogs.

**Our policy**

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## 1. Register your dog/s

All dog owners must register their dogs so the council can identify the person responsible for the care and control of each dog and ensure that the costs of dog control are evenly distributed. All dogs registered after 1 July 2006 must be microchipped. Also from that date, all dogs that are classified as dangerous or menacing under the Dog Control Act 1996 (including dogs classified since 1 December 2003) are required to be microchipped.

### How to achieve this:

- 1.1 Keep a register of dogs, provide information to the National Dog Control Information Database, set registration fees and provide dog owners with relevant information.
- 1.2 Inform and educate dog owners of the benefits of registration and microchipping.
- 1.3 Send annual registration renewal forms to all known dog owners.
- 1.4 Offer registration fee incentives for owners who have de-sexed their dog, passed a Dog Owner Licence test or paid their registration by the date given.
- 1.5 Target unregistered dogs and take strong enforcement action against owners of unregistered dogs.
- 1.6 To require dogs leaving the pound be registered before release.

## 2. Exercise areas for dogs

The council provides dog owners with a reasonable level of access to public places without compromising public safety and comfort.

### How to achieve this:

- 2.1 When making bylaws controlling the access of dogs to public places, the council will:
  - 2.1.1 Recognise the right of children and the general public to use public places without fear of attack or intimidation;
  - 2.1.2 Recognise the responsible dog owner as a user of public places;
  - 2.1.3 Aim for peaceful co-existence between dogs and their owners with other park users;
  - 2.1.4 Provide dog exercise areas in parks and reserves on a district wide basis;
  - 2.1.5 Provide bins for dog faeces in designated dog exercise areas;
  - 2.1.6 Ensure that designated dog exercise areas and playgrounds are well signposted and information is easily accessible for both dog owners and the general public;
  - 2.1.7 To provide suitable signage in areas where dogs are prohibited, where they are required to be on a leash and where they can be off leash;
  - 2.1.8 Protect sensitive public areas and significant ecological areas from dogs, such as areas where dogs may be a danger to children, wildlife or other animals, or where their presence may be offensive or disturbing e.g. cemeteries.

- 2.2 The Council will make bylaws that are consistent with the above principles which:
  - 2.2.1 Identify public places where dogs can either be exercised off a leash, or are required to be on a leash, or where they are prohibited;
  - 2.2.2 Recognise that dogs confined in a vehicle or cage, dogs taking part in council approved special events or working dogs carrying out work duties should not be prohibited from public places or required to be on a leash;
  - 2.2.3 Require dog owners to, on all areas other than their own property, immediately remove any faeces left by their dog.
- 2.3 Inform dog owners of land within the Gisborne District that is included in a designated exercise area or a prohibited area or a controlled or open dog exercise area under the Conservation Act 1987.
- 2.4 Take enforcement action against owners who breach the Act or the Dog Control Bylaw by failing to contain or control their dogs.

### 3. Encourage responsible dog ownership

Dog owners must be encouraged to meet their obligations under the Act, to protect their dog's health and well-being and to ensure that neighbourhoods remain safe and pleasant. A responsible dog owner will:

- when purchasing a dog, ensure that the dog is suitable to their needs and their ability to care for the dog;
- provide appropriate accommodation for the dog and the exercise space needed for the breed;
- when in a public place carry a bag to pick up their dog faeces;
- ensure that faeces is picked up;
- attend appropriate dog owner and training courses; and
- ensure that their dog/s don't enter private land or prohibited Department of Conservation areas.

#### **How to achieve this:**

- 3.1 Reward dog owners demonstrating a specified level of responsible dog ownership.
- 3.2 Provide educational information on council's website on the shelter and health needs of dogs.
- 3.3 Include within the Dog Control Bylaw, limitations on the number of dogs that can be kept within the urban areas and only allow exemptions where there are no adverse effects.
- 3.4 Ensure dog owners take the necessary steps to ensure their dog's health and well being.
- 3.5 Through the bylaw prescribe minimum accommodation standards for dogs.

## 4. Enforce dog owner obligations

Powers of enforcement under the Act should be used appropriately to ensure public safety and comfort and to penalise and deter irresponsible dog ownership.

### How to achieve this:

- 4.1 Receive, investigate and resolve and respond to dog complaints from members of the public.
- 4.2 Remove dogs threatening public safety and comfort.
- 4.3 Assist dog owners and the public by:
  - giving out good dog owner information; or
  - issuing warnings; or
  - where appropriate issuing infringement notices, prosecuting owners and where required using menacing dog, dangerous dog, probationary and disqualified dog owner classifications; and
  - taking immediate enforcement action against unregistered dogs.
- 4.4 Require that all dogs classified as menacing dogs be neutered in accordance with s.33E(1)(b) of the Act within one month after receipt of notice of the classification. In the case of dogs classified as menacing by another territorial authority, the dog be neutered within one month of registration with the Council.
- 4.5 Through the Bylaw require dogs found to be not within the control of their owner by Animal Control Officers on more than 3 occasions within a 1 year period to be neutered.
- 4.6 Through the Bylaw require bitches in season to be confined.

## 5. Education

Dog Control Officers will work with schools, children and dog owners and the community so that the public is aware as to how to live with dogs.

### How to achieve this:

- 5.1 Inform and educate dog owners and the general public through media such as brochures, the Councils website and school education programmes.
- 5.2 Promote the availability of dog obedience courses.

## 6. Provide adequate funding for dog management services

Adequate funding must be provided to maintain an acceptable level of dog management services.

When considering dog-related fees, the council must take into account the user-pays principle, penalty-based fees, legislative requirements; the council's funding policies, community responsibilities and recognition of responsible dog ownership.

Council's current policy is that dog registration fees pay for 100 per cent of dog management related costs.

**How to achieve this:**

- 6.1 Set reasonable fees for the registration and control of dogs in accordance with the information above.
- 6.2 Set lower registration fees for working dogs and for owners demonstrating a specified level of responsible dog ownership.
- 6.3 Set a higher registration fee for owners who do not meet the date given for payment of registration fees.

## **7. Gather information to assess the effectiveness and fairness of our policy on dogs**

Information will be gathered to determine if the council's methods are working towards achieving the objectives in this policy.

**How to achieve this:**

- 7.1 Report annually on the council's administration of dog control methods and the dog policy. The council must give public notice of the report and send a copy of it to the Secretary for Local Government.

## **8. Provide for special purpose dogs**

Council recognises that where a person with special needs (certified by a Medical Practitioner) requires a special purpose dog, that dog is recognised as a working dog provided that dog has had training acceptable to the Chief Animal Control Officer. This approval, where granted will allow the dog to enter public buildings and prohibited areas whilst it is working as a special purpose dog.

**How to achieve this:**

- 8.1 Where a dog provides for the special needs of a member of the public and this is demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Chief Animal Control Officer, council will resolve that the dog will be a working dog for the purposes of Gisborne City's Dog Control Bylaw.

## Appendix A - Exercise Areas

Areas in which dogs may be exercised:

1. Alfred Cox Park
3. Awapuni Stadium
4. Road End Reserve (Sheehan Street)
4. Road End Reserve (Stafford Street)
4. Road End Reserve (Hall Street)
4. Road End Reserve (Ballance Street)
4. Road End Reserve (Fox Street)
4. Road End Reserve (Fitzherbert Street)
5. Atkinson Park
6. Centennial Crescent Reserve
7. Beach and foreshore (Pacific Street to Waipaoa River)
8. Nelson Park (Pool end)
8. Nelson Park
9. Kaiti Beach
9. Waikanae Beach
9. Waikanae and Midway Beaches to Pacific Street
10. Wainui Beach
11. Kaiti Hill
12. Reynolds Creek Reserve
13. Blackpool Street Reserve
14. London Street Reserve
15. Waikirikiri Reserve
16. Grant Road Reserve
17. Coldstream Reserve
18. Heath Johnston Park (Paraone Road end)

## Leashed Areas

Except for the hours between 6.00am and 9.00am daily when dogs may be allowed to be off leash

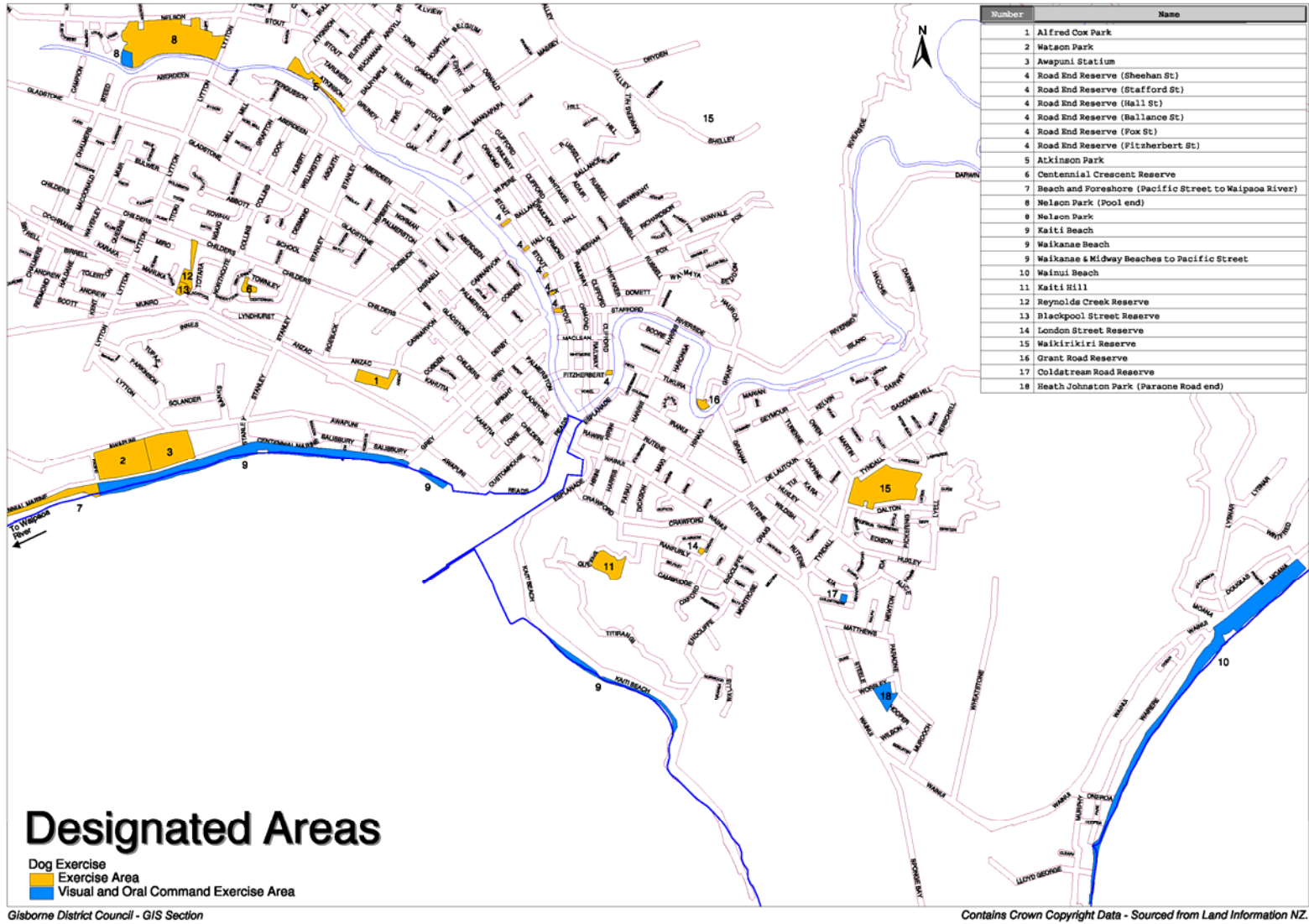
1. *Alfred Cox Park* - Dogs belonging to the Dog Obedience Club only
2. *Stadium* - exercise areas
3. Any Road End Reserve
4. Atkinson Park
5. Centennial Crescent
6. Beach and foreshore to Waipaoa River
7. Nelson Park - other than the visual and oral command areas
8. Kaiti, Waikanae and Midway to Pacific Street Beaches during school and public holiday's
9. Wainui Beach during school and public holidays.
10. Kaiti Hill
11. Reynolds Creek Reserve
12. Blackpool Street on Childers Road side
13. London Street Reserve
14. Waikirikiri Reserve
15. Grant Road Reserve
16. Coldstream Road Reserve

## Off Leash Areas

Areas in which dogs may be exercised without physical constraint but under the oral command of their owners or on a lead:

1. Coldstream Road Reserve
2. All beaches except for school and public holidays
3. Nelson Park adjacent to footbridge
4. Heath Johnson Park - strip on Paraone Road side of Park
5. Ayton Park

# Designated areas

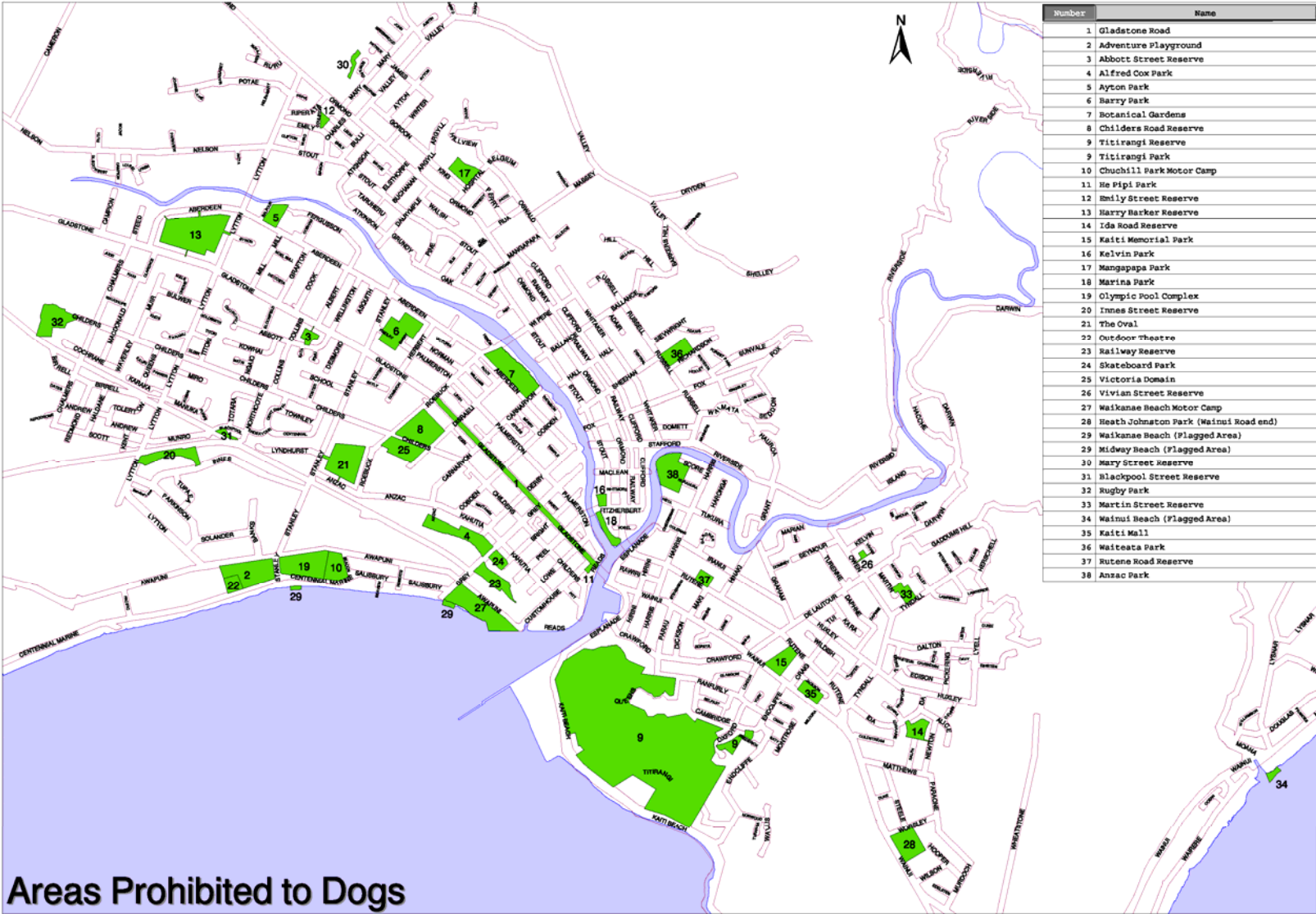


## Appendix B – Prohibited Areas

Areas in which dogs are prohibited:

1. Gladstone Road between customhouse Street and Roebuck Road
2. Adventure Playground
3. Abbot Street Reserve
4. Alfred Cox Park
5. Ayton Park
6. Barry Park
7. Botanical Gardens
8. Childers Road Reserve
9. Titirangi Park
10. Churchill Park Motor Camp
11. Hei Pipi Reserve
12. Emily Street Reserve
13. Harry Barker Reserve
14. Ida Road Reserve
15. Kaiti Memorial Park
16. Kelvin Park
17. Mangapapa Park
18. Marina Park
19. Olympic Pool Complex
20. Innes Street Reserve
21. The Oval
22. Outdoor Theatre
23. Railway Reserve
24. Skateboard Park
25. Victoria Domain
26. Vivian Street Reserve
27. Waikanae Beach Motor Camp
28. Heath Johnston Park (Wainui Road end)
29. Midway Beach (Flagged area)
30. All of Gisborne Airport land
31. Mary Street Reserve
32. Blackpool Street Reserve
33. Rugby Park
34. Martin Street Reserve
35. Wainui Beach (Flagged area)
36. Kaiti Mall
37. Waiteata Park
38. Rutene Road Reserve
39. Anzac Park
40. Watson Park

# Prohibited areas



**Areas Prohibited to Dogs**

Gisborne District Council - GIS Section

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## Appendix C – Infringement Fees

These are a series of offences that are subject to fines or legal proceedings instituted. The Animal Control Officer can issue instant fines for the following offences:

Section	Brief Description of Offence	Infringement Fee
18	Wilful obstruction of Animal Control Officer or Ranger.	\$750.00
19(2)	Failure or refusal to supply information or wilfully providing false particulars.	\$750.00
19A(2)	Failure to supply information or wilfully providing false particulars about dog.	\$750.00
20(5)	Failure to comply with any bylaw authorised by the Section.	\$300.00
28(5)	Failure to comply with effects of disqualification.	\$750.00
32(2)	Failure to comply with effects of classification of dog as dangerous dog.	\$300.00
32(4)	Fraudulent sale or transfer of dangerous dog.	\$500.00
33E(2)	Failure to comply with effects of classification of dog as menacing dog.	\$300.00
36A(6)	Failure to implant microchip transponder in dog.	\$300.00
41	False statement relating to dog registration.	\$750.00
42	Failure to register dog.	\$300.00
46(4)	Fraudulent procurement or attempt to procure replacement dog registration label or disc.	\$500.00
48(3)	Failure to advise change of dog ownership.	\$100.00
49(4)	Failure to advise change of address	\$100.00
51(1)	Removal, swapping or counterfeiting of registration label or disc.	\$500.00
52(A)	Failure to keep dog controlled or confined.	\$200.00
53(1)	Failure to keep dog under control.	\$200.00
54(2)	Failure to provide proper care and attention, to supply proper and sufficient food, water and shelter and to provide adequate exercise.	\$300.00
54A	Failure to carry leash in public.	\$100.00
62(A)	Allowing dog known to be dangerous to be at large unmuzzled or unleashed	\$300.00

## Appendix D – Dog Control Bylaw