

Controlling your dog

The Dog Control Act 1996 requires owners to keep their dogs under control at all times. This includes on your property and when out in public. As a dog owner, under the Dog Control Act 1996 you must:

- Register your dog
- Keep your dog under control at all times
- Comply with bylaws
- Ensure that your dog receives proper care and attention, is supplied with sufficient food, water, shelter and receives adequate exercise
- Take all reasonable steps to ensure your dog does not injure, intimidate or otherwise cause distress to any person
- Owners must muzzle their dogs in public if they are classified as menacing or dangerous
- Owners must accept liability for damage done by their dog
- Anyone taking a dog out in public is required to use or carry a leash at all times
- Owners must ensure that dogs on their land or property are under the direct control of a person, or confined within the property so that they cannot leave of their own free will

The above list is a summary of the major areas of owner responsibility under the Dog Control Act 1996. For full details of your responsibilities as a dog owner, please check the requirements of the Dog Control Act 1996 or speak to one of our Animal Management Officers on 03 788 9111 or 0800 807 239.