

Dog Fees

In July/August we asked which services matter most, and where changes could be made, to help keep rates affordable. Your feedback has helped shape proposals to reduce service costs and the amount funded through rates.

This proposal includes potential savings and other details that may change your views.

Please tell us what you think.

YOUR RATES YOUR SERVICES YOUR PLAN

LONG-TERM PLAN 2027/37



What we are proposing

Council is considering increasing dog registration fees so that dog owners pay a greater share of the cost of animal control services.

- The table below shows the type of changes currently being considered.
- These figures are indicative only and may change as Council completes its financial review.

Fee Category	Current Fee	Proposed Fee (subject to Financial Review)
Entire Dog Registration	\$129.50	\$160.00 (+24%)
Desexed Dog Registration	\$99.50	\$120.00 (+21%)
Responsible Dog Owner Registration	\$64.50	\$80.00 (+24%)
Working Dog Registration	\$35.00	\$70.00 (+100%)
Responsible Dog Owner Application Fee	New Fee	\$20.00
Hunting Dog Category	\$45.00	Category removed

What we deliver

Council provides dog control services to help keep people, pets and communities safe.

These services include:

- Registering dogs
- Responding to complaints about dogs
- Investigating dog attacks
- Managing dangerous and menacing dogs
- Operating the dog pound
- Educating people about responsible dog ownership
- Maintaining the National Dog Database

These services help owners look after their dogs while helping keep public places safe.

Who should pay for dog control?

Council is required by law to provide dog control services to help keep people, pets and livestock safe. Its approach focuses on helping dog owners understand and follow the rules, preventing problems and responding when issues arise.

Council believes dog owners should cover most of the cost through registration fees. A smaller contribution comes from rates because everyone benefits from safer parks, streets and public places.

Currently, dog fees cover less of the total cost than the policy intends. Government is also encouraging councils to make greater use of fees and charges. Increasing the share paid by dog owners would reduce the amount funded through rates and place more of the cost on those who benefit most.

Please note that Council is intending to consult separately on the general principles of increasing fees and charges to lower rates at a later date.



How does our level of service stack up?

Ruapehu's dog registration fees are generally lower than many neighbouring and comparable councils.

Dog category	Ruapehu current fee	Comparison council fees
Entire Dog Registration	\$129.50	\$120 to \$211
Desexed Dog Registration	\$99.50	\$93 to \$182
Responsible Dog Owner Registration	\$64.50	\$47 to \$127
Working Dog Registration	\$35.00	\$43 to \$120
Hunting Dog Category	\$45.00	Not offered by other councils

Even with the increases being considered, fees for responsible dog owners and working dogs would still be lower than many of our neighbouring councils.

What you could save

If dog owners pay more of the cost of animal control, less of the cost needs to be paid through rates.

The biggest changes being considered could generate around **\$125,000** per year in additional revenue for animal control services. This would reduce the amount that needs to be funded by all ratepayers by the same amount.

The trade-off is simple:

- Higher dog fees = dog owners pay more, rates pay less.
- Lower dog fees = more of the cost is shared by all ratepayers, including people who do not own a dog.

The question for the community is whether dog owners should pay a larger share of the cost of dog control services.

Questions

1. Do you own a dog? Yes ☐ No ☐
2. Do you think dog owners should pay a greater share of dog control costs? Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure ☐
3. Do you think Council should offer lower fees to incentivise owner behaviour e.g. discounts for desexed dogs or responsible owners? Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure ☐
4. Should working dogs have a lower fee than pets? Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure ☐
5. Should recreational hunting dogs be treated differently to pets? Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure ☐
6. Would you support a discount for pensioners (Gold Card Holders), if that slightly increased the costs (either for other dog owners or through rates)? Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure ☐
7. Where do you live?

☐ Taumarunui

☐ Ohura

☐ Ongarue

☐ Owhango

☐ Ohakune

☐ Waimarino

☐ Rangataua

☐ Raetihi

☐ Waiouru

☐ Other