

Some Helpful Hints

- Observe the dog from behind the gate. Analyse the behaviour and body language before you open the gate. Do not go in if you are at all concerned. Do not approach the dog. Let it approach you.
- When you first encounter a dog it will be in a state of alertness. The dog will have a high surge of adrenaline through its body and will be very sensitive to any movement. "STAND STILL". If the dog received pleasant or familiar impressions it should exhibit friendliness after the adrenal reaction has ceased.
- Never reach over a dog with an open hand. Many dogs are punished with an open hand. Use a closed fist and bring it up from below the dog's chin. Dogs are not threatened by a fist it merely represents an object which is harder and less attractive to bite.
- A common trigger to a bite is unnecessary patting. Do not pat the dog unless it shows you it really wants to be patted.
- Try to avoid the dog directly, turn side on to it. This will reduce your visual impact.
- Do not behave in a threatening or dominant manner towards the dog. This may cause a fearful dog to perceive you as a threat and therefore defend itself or it



may be a signal to a dominant dog that it needs to defend its dominance. Also, aggression can be motivated for a number of reasons. If you act dominantly to a dog that is aggressive for maternal reasons (protecting pups), then you may find yourself in a very serious situation.

- At all times act confidently. Do not try and push your friendship onto the dog. If it wants to make friends, it will when it is ready.
- Avoid direct eye contact, especially in the early stages of the meeting, but do not lose sight of the dog. You may find out very quickly that you missed some signal from the dog.
- If the dog is "asking" for attention, avoid patting it on the top of the head and shoulders. Never lean over the dog; crouch down. Keep your face out of the way.
- Angle away from the corner of the house if you are walking around a property, so you don't startle the dog.
- Never think that a chained up dog cannot reach you. The chain may be longer than you think and chains have been known to snap.
- Do not stand square-on to doorways. Stand off centre or side on.
- Where possible, go into potentially dangerous situations by vehicle and park as close as possible to the door. Leave the car door ajar—a quick escape route should you need it.
- If a dog is snoozing and does not notice your arrival, wake it up gently, from a distance.
- Dogs often consider their doorstep as a "safe" place. Never approach the door if a dog is right up against it and barking. If you back off slowly and give the dog enough room to escape, it will probably run off the step and circle around you, giving you access to the door, but keep your eyes on the dog.
- Depart the property as slowly as you approached and, if necessary, to the point of backing out. Many dogs will attack you from behind.

A Guide to

Dog Registration and Dog Problems



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Registration Information

All dogs over the age of three months must be registered. On change of ownership of any registered dog, both the previous owner and the new owner must, within 14 days, give written notice to Ruapehu District Council of the change of ownership and the residential address of the new owner and the address at which the dog will be kept. If the owner's address is changed within the District, the owner must, within 14 days, give written notice of the change to Ruapehu District Council.

- If any dog is transferred to and kept in the district of another territorial authority, other than the one in which it has been kept, for one month or more, the owner must, within six weeks of the transfer, give written notice of the transfer to both territorial authorities, setting out the address at which the dog will be kept.

Microchip Transponder

Section 36A, Dog Control Act 1996

A Microchip transponder must be implanted in certain dogs, ie, if the dog:

- Is registered for the first time on or after 1 July 2006.
- Is classified as Menacing under Section 33A or Section 33C on or after 1 December 2003; or
- is classified as Dangerous under Section 31 on or after 1 December 2003.

Control of Dogs

Section 52, 53 and 65, Dog Control Act 1996

The owner of a dog must keep the dog under control at all times and, when in a public place, must use or carry a leash at all times.

A dog will be treated as not being under control:

- If it is found at large on any land or premises other than a public place or a private way without the consent (express or implied) of the occupier or person in charge of the land or premises; or
- If it is found at large in any public place or private way in contravention of any regulations or bylaw.



Obligations of Dog Owner Generally

Section 54, Dog Control Act 1996

The owner of a dog must:

- Ensure that the dog receives proper care and attention and is supplied with proper and sufficient food, water and shelter; and
- Ensure that the dog receives adequate exercise.

Obligations of Dog Owner on Owner's Property

Sections 52A and 65, Dog Control Act 1996

(from 1 June 2004)

The owner of a dog must ensure, when the dog is on land or premises occupied by the owner:

- That the dog is under the direct control of a person; or
- That the dog is confined within the land or premises in such a way that it cannot freely leave the land or premises.

Owner's Date of Birth

Section 34(2)(a), Dog Control Act 1996

Your date of birth is required to enable you to be distinguished from other persons with the same name. Certainty of identification is required in the enforcement of the provisions of the Dog Control Act 1996. Failure to supply any of the information requested that is relevant to your application may prevent the registration of your dog. You are encouraged to request Ruapehu District Council to correct or amend any of these details if you discover a mistake or if the relevant circumstances change. You are required to notify Ruapehu District Council of any change of address or change in the ownership of the dog.

Territorial Aggression

Dogs are territorial by nature. The more a dog is confined, the more territorial it is likely to become. They seem to treat strange people in the same manner as they would strange dogs, as an intruder and threat to their territory.

Whilst territorial aggression can be a desirable trait if one wants a guard dog, it can also become a serious problem when dogs attack friends, meter readers, delivery persons, etc. Anyone having a dog like this is required, by law, to keep it under strict control at all times.