



BROUGHT TO YOU BY NELSON CITY COUNCIL

# DOG & BONE



2019

## WELCOME TO THE 2019 EDITION OF DOG&BONE

NELSON CITY COUNCIL'S NEWSLETTER FOR DOG OWNERS.



## 2019 DOG REGISTRATIONS

It's time to renew your dog registration.

All dogs over three months of age on 1 July must have a current registration.

As a dog owner, you're responsible for ensuring your dog is registered by the 1 July deadline.

Payment can be made online at [my.nelson.govt.nz](http://my.nelson.govt.nz).

If you don't register your dog, you may be liable for a \$300 fine and your dog may be impounded.

Dog registration fees are used for dog control purposes including running the animal shelter, dog patrols, education, training, advice, signage and providing dog poop bags. Find out more at [nelson.govt.nz/dogs](http://nelson.govt.nz/dogs).

## DOGS ONLINE

You can now register, pay and manage your dog registration online at [my.nelson.govt.nz](http://my.nelson.govt.nz).

If you've already registered, we will have all your details so it will be a simple job to re-register your dog this year by logging in to the Dog Registrations portal at [my.nelson.govt.nz](http://my.nelson.govt.nz). You can also check that all of your details are up-to-date and make any changes you need to.

If you haven't already registered, you'll need to set up your account. Go to [my.nelson.govt.nz](http://my.nelson.govt.nz) and click on Dog Registration (under Animal Management) – then follow the prompts to create an account. You'll need your dog owner number, which you will find on the registration form you received with this newsletter, and your date of birth.

If you need any help with setting up an account, logging in or registering your dog, contact Council's Customer Service Centre and we can help. Just remember, however you do it, all dogs need to be registered by 1 July.

The Dogs Online system only accepts payment by credit card, so if you want to pay by internet banking go to [nelson.govt.nz/online-payments](http://nelson.govt.nz/online-payments) and use your owner number as a reference.

## DID YOU KNOW?

5869

DOGS REGISTERED IN NELSON CURRENTLY

1732

DOG RELATED SERVICE CALLS RECEIVED 2017/18

281

DOGS WERE IMPOUNDED IN 2017/18

568

DOGS WERE FOUND ROAMING IN 2017/18



## CHANGES TO DOG REGISTRATION FEES AND CHARGES

The cost of registering a dog has risen slightly to reflect the increases in the costs of the dog control service and increases in the numbers of dogs being kept. While dog owners will see a minor increase in their registration fees, impounding fees have increased so that owners of impounded dogs pay a larger share of the true costs of impounding their pet. Fees have not been increased since 2015.

To make sure you don't have to pay to get your dog out of the pound, now is a good time to make sure your fencing and dog control is up to scratch. This means checking your property fences and gates, and ensuring your dog is secure at home, whether you are there or not. And making sure you have a dog leash with you at all times when off the property, even in off-lead areas.

For a full list of dog fees and charges visit [nelson.govt.nz/services/licencing-and-environmental-health/dog-control-3/dog-ownership-fees/](http://nelson.govt.nz/services/licencing-and-environmental-health/dog-control-3/dog-ownership-fees/)

## IS YOUR DOG MICROCHIPPED?

All dogs registered in New Zealand for the first time from 1 July 2006, except working farm dogs, need to be microchipped within two months of when they were first registered. And while it is a legal requirement it also means that in the event of your dog getting lost, you'll stand a much better chance of getting him or her back quickly.

Microchipping is a quick and painless procedure which involves putting a tiny chip (about the size of a grain of rice) into the scruff of the dog's neck. Your local vet can take care of this and provide you with a certificate for Council to verify the microchipping and record your dog in the National Dog Database.

This is a one-off cost as the chip lasts for the life of the dog. If the dog is picked up lost or injured, Council can scan the chip, check its owner and re-unite owner and pet as soon as possible.

## KIDS AND DOGS - KEEPING THEM SAFE



Having children and a pet dog can be very rewarding, but your child is statistically more likely to be bitten by the family pet or a relative or friend's dog than an unknown dog.

In a dog's world, the following are not appropriate and so might put your child at risk even from a dog they know and love:

- Wrapping their arms around and hugging the dog
- Putting their face up to the dog's face and giving kisses
- Patting the dog while it is eating or putting hands near the dog's bowl
- Dragging the dog by the collar to get it to do something
- Trying to interact with a resting dog
- Laying on a dog or trying to hop into the dog's bed/crate/kennel with it.

Most kids and parents don't realise that this behaviour could result in a serious bite. It's important to teach your children how to interact with the family dog without putting themselves at risk or making the dog uncomfortable. Here are just a few examples of fun alternatives that they can do with their dog:

- Playing fetch
- Hide treats around the yard
- Write the dog's name with their biscuits on the ground and watch the dog eat the trail of biscuits
- Hiding treats in handee towel rolls, tissue boxes
- Have several containers upside down, hide treat under one container and watch the dog find the hidden treat.
- Encourage your child to give pats from the collar to tail.

Thanks to Vikki Pickering of [youandyourdog.co.nz](http://youandyourdog.co.nz) for the above article.

### Does Nelson need a dedicated Dog Park?

We're looking for feedback on whether you think a dog park is a good idea. Have your say at

[nelson.govt.nz/dog-park-survey](http://nelson.govt.nz/dog-park-survey)

