

FAQs – CBD trial dogs on-leash

- **Why is Council trialling dogs on-leash in the CBD?**

Council recently reviewed the Dog Control Policy and through the consultation process there was interest in allowing dogs into the CBD. The key reason is to enable dog owners to enjoy, and add to, the sense of vibrancy in public places. While community views were spread both for and against this change, the Council decided to trial a 12-month period to help decide if dogs should be allowed longer-term.

- **What is the CBD?**

The CBD is the Central Business District or the area within the Inner Ring Road: this is the area bounded by Grey/Walding Street, Princess Street, Ferguson Street and Pitt Street. The CBD also includes The Square.

The CBD is also called the City Centre.

- **Can I take my dogs into shops or other businesses in the CBD?**

The trial relates to public places within the CBD. Mostly this will mean outdoor spaces such as footpaths and public spaces such as The Square. It will be up to individual shops or businesses to decide if you are able to take your dogs into their premises.

Some businesses and companies have a policy about this so please respect their decisions if you're refused entry.

The Plaza and Downtown malls do not allow dogs.

- **Can I take my dog into Council facilities such as the City Library and the Civic Administration Building?**

No sorry. Only disability assist dogs can be taken into these facilities.

- **Can I take my dogs to events held in The Square or in other parts of the CBD?**

The Council will decide which events are considered acceptable to have dogs on-leash at. Factors to consider in making this decision will be numbers of people attending, presence of food and loud noises.

Council will let the community know which events they consider are not suitable for dogs.

- **Why short leads only?**

To try and minimise tripping or dogs being too far away from their owner. People's health and safety needs to be considered during the trial period.

- **What is considered a short leash?**

It's recommended to be 1.0 to 1.2 metres long (or less). This length keeps your dog from getting in others' way where there is lots of foot traffic or getting wrapped around poles and street furniture.

- **Why can't I have an extendable leash?**

Extendable or retractable leashes are not recommended because of the limited control they give you over your dog.

- **Who can I contact to give feedback on the trial?**

We welcome your feedback on this trial to:

Online form: pncc.govt.nz/cbddogs

Email: info@pncc.govt.nz

For any urgent matter call us on: 06 356 8199

- **Does this trial apply to all registered dogs?**

Yes, but we would urge people to exercise their judgement in deciding whether or not their dogs can behave appropriately in the CBD. Owners should ensure they are well-equipped in terms of having water, bags to dispose of any dog deposits and any other items your dog requires.

- **How will Council be monitoring the trial?**

We will be closely monitoring the feedback and well as collecting information through a mixture of observation and surveys. Reports will go to Council after six months of the trial commencing.

- **What happens at the end of the trial?**

At the end of the trial period Council will need to decide what type of dog control area the CBD should have. As this will require the Policy and the Bylaw to be amended, the public will get an opportunity to make submissions on this. Should the trial go for 12 months, Council will be seeking more feedback from the community in July 2019.

- **What circumstances will end the trial?**

If there is a serious incident, or a number of serious incidents that have been investigated and verified, or if there is evidence that dog deposits are not being cleaned up by owners then Council staff would make a recommendation back to the Planning and Strategy Committee to cease the trial. The CBD would then revert to a Prohibited Public Place for dogs.

- **Where shall I put my dog's deposits?**

All of Council's rubbish bins are suitable for disposing your dog's deposits. Please note that if you're found not to be picking up your dog's faeces and properly disposing of them, you may incur a \$300 infringement fee under the Dog Control Act 1996.

- **What if the dog poo dispenser pods are out of bags?**

Please call us on: 06 356 8199

- **Can I be fined for not having my dog on a leash?**

Yes, you can. Your dog can only be off-leash in Council's designated exercise or off-leash areas.

- **How much is the fine?**

Not having your dog on-leash is a \$300 infringement fee under the Dog Control Act 1996.