



# **ATTACHMENTS**

**Ordinary Council Meeting**

**23 May 2024**

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**Council’s Proposal**

**Proposed Animal Control Fees**

Highlighted lines are revised fees post consultation.

Fee / charge	2024/25 (Revised)	2024/25 (Proposed)	2023/24 (Current)	Difference (\$)	Revised (%)	Proposed (%)
Dog registration fees (in accordance with section 37 of the Dog Control Act 1996)						
Working dog	\$40.00	\$40.00	\$34.00	\$6.00	18%	18%
Entire dog fee (if paid on or before 31 July)	\$110.00	\$110.00	\$95.00	\$15.00	16%	16%
Entire dog fee (if paid on or after 1 Aug)	\$130.00	\$130.00	\$114.00	\$16.00	14%	14%
<b>Entire dog fee – Responsible Owner</b>	<b>\$75.00</b>	<b>\$80.00</b>	<b>\$70.00</b>	<b>\$5.00</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>14%</b>
Responsible Owner application fee (payable upon initial application ONLY, unless owner circumstances change)	\$40.00	\$40.00	\$34.00	\$6.00	18%	18%
<b>De-sexed dog discount (off the full-year registration fee; not applicable to working dogs)</b>	<b>\$15.00</b>	<b>\$13.00</b>	<b>\$11.00</b>	<b>\$4.00</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>18%</b>
Disability assist dog	No Fee	No Fee	No Fee			
Pet therapy dog (as approved by Council Officers)	No Fee	No Fee	No Fee			
Dangerous dog (*percentage of applicable Entire Dog Fee; before penalties are applied)	150%*	150%*	150%*			
Replacement tag	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$12.00	\$3.00	25%	25%

Fee / charge	2024/25 (Revised)	2024/25 (Proposed)	2023/24 (Current)	Difference (\$)	Revised (%)	Proposed (%)
Multiple dog application fee for more than two dogs (urban area only)	\$125.00	\$125.00	\$110.00	\$15.00	1%	14%
Dog Impounding fees (in accordance with section 68 of the Dog Control Act 1996)						
Dog – If registered and 1st impounding in any 12 months	\$95.00	\$90.00	\$80.00	\$15.00	19%	13%
Dog – If unregistered or 2nd or more impounding in any 12 months	\$200.00	\$180.00	\$155.00	\$35.00	23%	16%
After Hours Impounding Fee (5pm to 8.30am)	\$200.00	\$180.00	\$155.00	\$35.00	23%	16%
Sustenance and Care Fee (per dog per day in Pound)	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$17.00	\$3.00	18%	18%
Microchip Fee per Dog	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$25.00	\$5.00	20%	20%
Sale of Dog to the Public (including microchipping and registration)	\$125.00 plus desexing cost	\$125.00 plus desexing cost	\$110.00 plus desexing cost	\$15.00	14%	14%
Sale of Dog to Rescue Agencies	\$45.00	\$45.00	\$39.00	\$6.00	15%	15%
Other animal fees (in accordance with section 14 of the Impounding Act 1955)						
Impounding Fee	\$95.00	\$90.00	\$80.00	\$15.00	19%	13%
Sustenance (per animal per day)	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$17.00	\$3.00	18%	18%

**Proposed Food Licensing Fees**

Fee / charge	2024/25 (proposed )	2023/24 (current)	Difference (\$)	(%)
<b>Registration Fees</b>				
New Food Control Plan Registration – 1 Year Registration (excludes verification)	\$400.00	\$300.00	\$100.00	33%
New National Programme Registration (All Levels) – 2 Year Registration (excludes verification)	\$400.00	\$300.00	\$100.00	33%
<b>MPI Domestic Food Business Levy</b>				
Year One Levy (2025) (per Site)	\$57.50			
Year Two Levy (2026) (per Site)	\$86.25			
Year Three levy (2027) (per Site)	\$115.00			
<b>Miscellaneous Food Registration Fees</b>				
Significant Change Fee (FCPs & NPs)	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$0.00	0%
Significant Amendment Fee (FCPs Only) (excludes verification)	\$200.00			
<b>Renewal of Registration</b>				
Late Payment Penalty for overdue invoices	10%			
<b>Verification Fees</b>				
Verification Base Fee (NPs & FCPs) – Includes first two hours then hourly rate applies.	\$500.00	\$340.00	\$160.00	47%
EHO/Verifier Hourly Rate - invoiced in 15 min blocks (includes email close out of corrective actions)	\$220.00	\$185.00	\$35.00	19%

Fee / charge	2024/25 (proposed )	2023/24 (current)	Difference (\$)	(%)
Late cancellation/postponement or failure to attend verification penalty (<48 hours' notice)	\$110.00			
Verification Revisit/failure to complete CARs Fee (second and subsequent visits)	\$200.00			
<b>Enforcement Fees</b>				
Infringement for failing to register a food control plan or national programme with the appropriate authority in accordance with Food Act 2014	\$450.00	\$450.00	\$0.00	0%
Other Food Act 2014 infringements in accordance with Food Regulations 2015 Schedule 2 Infringement Offences and Fees	As per schedule (\$300 - \$450)	As per schedule		
Food Safety Officer Hourly Rate (where enforcement action is required)	\$250.00	\$185.00	\$65.00	35%
Request for review of enforcement	\$120.00			

**Summary of Submissions Animal Control and Dog Registration Fees**

Submission Point	Times Raised	Officers Response
Fee increases penalise good owners not bad owners.	28	Officers have recommended improved discount rates for positive practices like de-sexing and increased penalty fees for impounding.
We don't use Council services/ My dog doesn't need services.	18	<p>Council provides a range of services that people have access to, not everyone uses all these services, but many people pay through rates.</p> <p>Rates cover the majority of the cost of dog control due to the wider community benefits but those who own dogs generate the need for the service.</p> <p>A particular dog may not use all the available Council services, but owners may need to access them. Additionally, there is still a cost to administering the registration system which we are required to operate by law.</p>
Cost of living is already too high.	15	<p>The cost of living has continued to increase in line with the cost of doing business. Council like all organisations has costs it needs to recover to provide its services.</p> <p>We have proposed increases that are lower than the requirements of our 2021 Revenue and Financing Policy in acknowledgement of the cost of living and that making up the difference with a single increase would be unaffordable for many people.</p> <p>This would also potentially drive unintended consequences like more animals being surrendered to the pound or being abandoned.</p>
What do we get for our fees/ Council doesn't provide anything for my fees	12	<p>Registration fees help to cover part of the costs of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• providing and maintaining facilities for the care, welfare and return of lost, stray, impounded or seized dogs.</li> <li>• investigation, monitoring and resolution of dog issues such as nuisance (barking &amp; roaming), aggressive and dangerous dogs (rushing &amp; attacks).</li> <li>• monitoring and enforcement of the dog control act, bylaws and policy.</li> <li>• installation and maintenance of pooper scooper bags &amp; dispensers.</li> <li>• friendly and professional advice to dog owners, our community and visitors.</li> <li>• education programs.</li> <li>• patrolling public areas, reserves, parks, sports fields and signage in public all aimed at public education, safety and where required enforcement takes place.</li> <li>• standard overheads associated with animal control vehicles, technology, facilities, administration, record keeping of dogs required by central government</li> </ul>

		(including the updating of the National Dog Database), staff costs, management etc.
Council already takes enough money from rates.	7	If Council does not increase fees and charges for services, then more money is required from rates or significant cuts in level of service would be required.  Cuts to levels of service can only occur through the Long-term plan. Consultation on the Long-term plan will start in June.
Service should be cut back to reduce costs/ Council costs should be justified/ Council services are inefficient/ Council is over staffed.	6	The current level of staffing in the animal control team ensures that level of service is maintained. This is important in the animal control space as unattended or aggressive animals can be a major hazard to our community.
Rural (non-working) Dogs should get a discount because they don't use services.	5	Council previously had a registration category called rural other dogs.  We found out that we could not legally offer a reduction in fees under the Dog Control Act for 'rural other' dogs. The Act is quite prescriptive in that registration fees should only be reduced under special circumstances i.e. for working dogs, dogs that are neutered or disability/companion dogs. The 'rural other' category did not meet that test. It is considered that one registration rate for all pet dogs, rural or urban was a fair way to fund the services of animal control regardless of where they reside in the district. This reflects that all dog owners have access to all of our animal management services regardless of location – rural or urban. Following concerns about the removal of the rural dog other category, we sought an independent review of the decision and the reason behind it and that review reaffirmed the right decision had been made.
There should be discounts for those on pensions or benefits.	6	Officers have recommended that Council explore options for rebates in the next registration year.
There are massive problems with stray dogs.	6 (5 Tūrangi)	This feedback has been passed on to the Animal Control team, anyone in the community who see a stray dog should get in touch with Council.
The dog poo bags are always empty.	5 (1 Omori/Kuratau)	The feedback about dog poo bag holders being empty has been passed onto the team.
Have a fixed income and cannot afford to pay with more increases on everything.	4	Officers have recommended that Council explore options for rebates in the next registration year for those on fixed incomes
Increasing fees will increase number of unwanted animals or non-registered animals.	4	Officers are conscious of the relationship between unwanted or un-registered dogs and fee increases. The proposed fees attempt to balance the need for increases and this risk



Support fee increases/ fee increases are appropriate/ fee should increase to not put more pressure on rates.	4	The proposed fees attempt to balance the need for increased fees and the requirement for funding from rates.
Why not register cats? / There are too many cats and they don't have to pay.	4	Council does not currently have a bylaw that mandates the registration, de-sexing or microchipping of cats.  This is the only way currently Council could require the registration of Cats.
Bad owners don't pay anyway.	3	Officers agree there are a small number of individuals who have dogs unlawfully. Based on the available data the overwhelming majority of known dogs are registered.  There are some dogs enforcement officers aren't aware of and we rely in part on our community making reports to catch the individuals with unregistered, roaming or aggressive animals.
Discounts for positive owner practices like desexing should be higher.	4	Officers have recommended improved discount rates for positive practices like de-sexing and increased penalty fees for impounding.
Council should provide a fenced dog park.	5	This is outside of scope, but Officers have passed feedback onto the relevant teams.  We encourage submitters who would like to see funding for a dedicated facility/space to submit through the long-term plan consultation when it opens in June.
Why do we have to register dogs?	2	The Dog Control Act 1996 requires registration of Dogs
System should be user pays.	2	The system is split between users and ratepayers (some may also be users) as the benefits are to both dog owners and the wider community through animal control.
There should be town/area-based discounts.	2	Officers are not recommending town or area-based discounts.
Increases should be higher on fines	2	Officers have recommended improved discount rates for positive practices like de-sexing and increased penalty fees for impounding.
Dog fees are being increased for other reasons like paying for the new Council building.	2	The fees collected from Dog registration are not used for other purposes they are ring fenced.
Council should provide discounts for the canine good citizen programme levels/	2	Officers support positive steps taken by the Dog owning community. However, the canine good citizen programme often requires club membership to participate in. Council can provide a discount to owners for responsible practices

		<p>based on assessment criteria we set which is more accessible.</p> <p>Officers will explore the option for CGC to be a way for owners to qualify as a responsible owner.</p>
Why are dogs microchipped?	1	Dog are required to be microchipped under the Dog Control Act 1996 section 36A
Sale of dog to rescue agency fee shouldn't be increased.	1	The increase in costs reflects the increased costs of taking care of and getting them to rescue agencies.
Owners should be registered not the animal	1	The Dog Control Act 1996 requires dogs to be registered.

**Summary of Submissions Food Licensing**

<b>Submission Point</b>	<b>Times Raised</b>	<b>Officers Response</b>
Food fees punish small business/they hurt local business/ they pay enough already.	4	<p>We understand that fees have an impact on Businesses however if we don't collect the revenue from the businesses to cover the costs then rate payers will have to cover the costs of licensing private businesses.</p> <p>Officers have proposed that over the next year Council explore options for differential pricing</p>
I agree with the increases but only for well established businesses	1	As above
Food compliance should be better.	1	Officers agree that food compliance can always be better and we work hard to improve our own training and experience and to upskill food businesses to ensure they understand their compliance obligations
TDC should not put these fees up and should charge more on other businesses or events like hotels and motels or Ironman.	1	Council has no means of cost recovery for food fees for non-food registered businesses. Fees for other Council services are also proposed to be increased through the Long-term plan and will be consulted on in June.
Cafes benefit from visitors and events. Rate payers cover most of the costs of this.	1	Thanks for your feedback, Council tries to strike a balance between users and rates across the services we deliver. This is to help ensure we have a safe, healthy, and vibrant community.

Consultation Document

Fees & Charges 2024

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## Summary of submissions

Statistics Report

06/05/2024

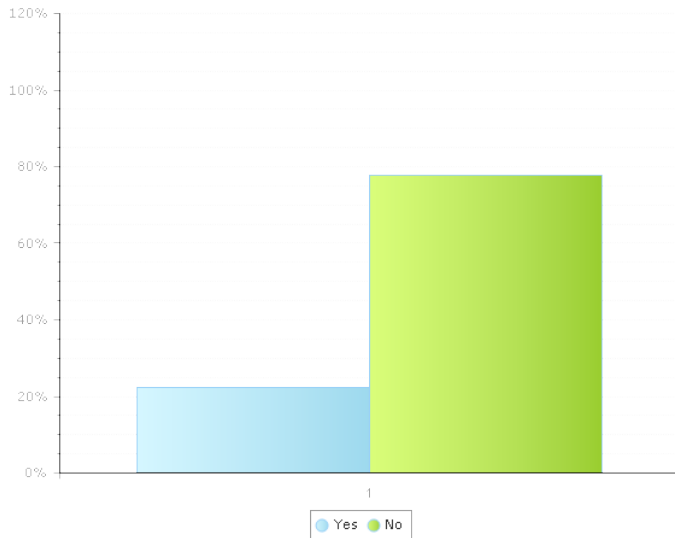


Report: Fees & Charges 2024 Statistics report

Category Name: Proposed Animal Control Fees
Overview of Category:
Total number of submitters: 131
Total number of points: 130

Response field Number and Name: 1.1- Proposed Animal Control Fees		
Question: Do you support the dog registration fees for the next financial year?		
Total number of responses:130		
Decision Sought	Number of submitters who selected this option	%
Yes	28	22.22%
No	98	77.78%

Proposed Animal Control Fees



Submitters for this question
Submitters for this question
Response field Number and Name: 1.2-If workflow is no
Question: Please tell us why you don't support them
Total number of responses:104
Submitters for this question
Submitters for this question
2 - Jill Stanaway: Question Comments: We live on a lifestyle block in Oruanui. Pipi comes to work with me as I am a gardener/landscaper. The only other times Pipi comes to town is when we have takeaways round the lake or something (which is about 3 times a year). I always bring my own poop bags and clean up her mess. She is not a working dog, however she doesn't use the dog park facilities or anything like that. I think that farm dogs who don't use town dog facilities, should pay a lesser fee.
3 - Pamela Soden: Question Comments:

Taupo District Council SUBMISSION REGARDING INCREASE IN DOG REGISTRATION CHARGES

I am a 77-year-old pensioner living on a widow's pension and the owner of 2 small Maltese Terriers: a male dog 15 years old and a female dog 13 years old. Over the years it has become increasingly more difficult to find the money for their Taupo Registration fees, increases in vet bills and dog food. Older people in the Taupo community living on a pension already face Council rate increases, power charges and many other cost of living increases. I, like many other pensioners need the comfort and friendship of our 'fur babies', especially when living alone. I appreciate that Taupo Council have to 'balance the books' with increases across many areas where investment is needed to continue to operate in a sound financial way. Many older members of Taupo Community will not be able to afford to own a dog to motivate them to exercise regularly with walks and fresh air – the perfect way to their good health. Some may deny themselves food in order to meet the new increased registration fee, choosing to feed their dogs and not themselves. Dog Registration Fee increases may become counter-productive I suspect older people make up a large number of owners who regularly register their dogs each year for many years, bringing much needed fees to the Council. Putting up registration fees will put pensioners at a disability as they are not able to earn any extra income. Please consider giving pensioner dog owners a substantial discount when registering their dogs in the future.

Pamela Soden

**4 - Melissa Cleverley : Question Comments:**

my dog is well looked after never is out of our properties and I have never had interactions with dog control and never see any action taken when have phones about problem dogs in the area, so don't agree that we as owners should be penalized for other people's lack of responsibility with there pets, make the impound cost higher and penalize the ones that are irresponsible.

**5 - Jodi Wakelin: Question Comments:** You already take enough money from us in rates and are no doubt increasing them again this year so its a no from me

**6 - Claire Rowe : Question Comments:** I'm a responsible dog owner who cares for all my dogs needs. Charge the people who don't care for there animals correctly not the ones who do! Make them responsible for there own actions.

**7 - Fleur Steiner: Question Comments:**

everything is going up and this is just one more to put on the list. It is just too much for all of the community to deal with. Rates in itself is enough. What will i see for this change in fees personally?

**8 - Celeste Lourens : Question Comments:** i think putting fees up for dog registration especially above \$100 is getting greedy. As someone who also pays rates i feel like im bleeding money out for services i dont require and i believe this will just increase people's inabilities to register their dogs. Not only the fact it seems the only animals to be penalised are dogs.

**9 - Rachel Hughes : Question Comments:** I feel fair enough I town like Taupo where there is a big issue with wondering dogs etc and turangi I live in whakamaru and pay enough now for registration in feilding district they pay \$35 a year. Maybe breaking them down into prices per town instead of the same price for the whole district. ??

**10 - Luke Kirkeby : Question Comments:** Absolutely unjustified to consider raising rural dog fees when the vast majority of the time these dogs do not leave their property and hence don't use any of the facilities that the council upkeeps/provides.

**11 - Tina Land: Question Comments:** As a responsible dog owner, i pay the fee every year - and get what for my money. Im osying merely to comply. I dont use any services, ever. So why would i be in favour of increasing my fees. Apart from a cheap dog tag with a number on it. I get nothing. My is mocrichipped so is traceable with or without a collar. No i do not support an increase in fees

**12 - Emma Cairns: Question Comments:**

Unfortunately the "good" dog owners appear to be getting punished for those who don't take responsibility for owning a dog. These people:

- a. Don't look after their dog properly by way of securing their dog day and night(constant posts regarding roaming dogs), therefore, the services of such places as the Pound are called upon. Why are these owners not dealt to by way of a fine for this? The dog seems to be the one being punished for bad owners?
- b. Don't Actually register their dog. Again, owners who do not register their dogs should be fined.
- c. Are not responsible owners. Are owners made accountable for the inability to care for a dog under their care?

Due to this, those people like myself, are getting charged more fees, and honestly, don't necessarily see any benefit from this? Where is this extra money going to?

I overheard a Council person(employer at the Taupo Pound), gloating that they SHOT a number of dogs on their watch. Extremely unprofessional, and very offensive and concerning. Could this extra money go towards possibly humanely euthanising(if this is necessary), by way of injection, rather than a BOLT shot through their head? I would also recommend that those employers that work in this line of work, are reminded that their actions/words when spoken out of line (in a public place), is not acceptable. Think before speaking.

**13 - Sasha Jassar: Question Comments:** i am a responsible owner and make sure my dog never needs those services. If he ever did need them i would rather pay for those services as he uses them and believe everyone should do so. For those dogs who do not have owners theirs should be covered by keeping the fees as is

**16 - Lee Drinkrow : Question Comments:** i do not support this, the fees used are for mostly unlicensed dogs, why are people who work hard to look after there dogs , register, respect the rules clean up poop in public places, train there dogs to behave I, have paid for fencing etc, why are we footing the bill for other people who don't look after there dogs whom don't register, why should we get punished for something the council and government should do, i believe you should have a license to buy a dog, i think breeding needs to controlled and i could go on for hours, but i think making good people that follow the rules pay is an absolute bad thing because people will just so angry

**17 - Aroha French: Question Comments:** This country is in a state of Recession dealing with runaway inflation and mortgage rates creeping higher all you will be doing will be sending more dogs on the streets for whanau who are trying to stay above water. You are penalizing ratepayers who don't want roaming dogs, stray cats left attended. You are disadvantaging the elderly and taking money out of their food budgets. You are being unfair when Gang members are repeatedly laughing at ratepayers who abide and pay for registrations. Wholeheartedly disagree.

**19 - Samantha Alcaraz: Question Comments:** I suggest you leave the fees as they were for the average dog (it is already quite a lot of money), however increase the fees for: dangerous dogs, sale of dogs, fines, and impounding fees to make up the extra revenue needed.

**20 - Grahame HARRIS: Question Comments:**

For GOOD DOG owners, who keep control of their dogs at ALL TIMES - council does NOTHING.

Such is our dog - it's chipped, well trained, not allowed to roam, kept on a leash, kept under full, complete control at parks/reserves etc, or kept in a secure, locked, fenced residential section. WE are GOOD responsible owners.

Council provides NO SERVICES or ACTION for OUR dog. Zip. Zilch. Nada. NOTHING. Tell me I'm wrong.

Why not apportion fees to BAD DOGS and BAD OWNERS who create problems needing council input? NOT the likes of US or OUR Dog ?

**21 - Sue Carr: Question Comments:**

To say "the fees for dog registration and animal control haven't moved much over the last decade" is totally incorrect. In 2018 they jumped to \$90 from \$25 for a rural dog, and we all know the person behind that increase!

Maybe this is the reason there is a shortfall in dog registration fees? Why should dogs on a farm have to pay that much when they rarely use any public spaces, in fact most of them visit town to go the vet only!

Am totally opposed to putting these fees up - in fact would like to see rural dog fees dropped to a realistic level.

**22 - Dale Mayhew: Question Comments:**

In my view the council should only charge dog owners for transparent services **directly** provided to dog owners but not for the general bureaucracy concerning regularity or other costs within the community. Reason: there is no transparency and if the council decides to allot resources to these areas this is outside the control dog owners and truly relates to the general operation of council and as such paid by ratepayers.

**23 - Richard Baker: Question Comments:**

I pay rates. I did apply for a rates rebate to offset this new increase but I am a responsible dog owner and rate payer. dont look a gift horse in the mouth. Cut back service until it disappears back to a sensible sustainable structure

**26 - James van Bohemen: Question Comments:**

Why have the Dog registration fees for Working Dogs lifted the most?

This group of dogs is least likely to see any payback, contribution or benefit from registration fees?

What is the return on registering a working dog? How does a working dog, or working dog owner benefit from a registered dog vs. non registered?

Rural councillors need to speak up and be a voice for a part of the community who already gets very little payback from the Taupo DC.

**27 - Frankie Taituma: Question Comments:** The increase is warranted if small increments occur annually, not in the range of a 13% to 25% blanket increase to those that truthly register their dogs. You may want to see the pressure held by our animal care centres due to unwanted animals. Also, the cost of pet food has increased significantly too.

**28 - Harawira Wilson : Question Comments:** my dogs dont go out in the public they working hunting dog no ranger needed to check on my dogs as they are locked in a fully fenced property and then go hunting on private land it should be cheaper for everything please have a nice day chur Harawira Wilson

**29 - John March: Question Comments:** Putting up the fee's for all dog owners is not the way forward. In the Food Licensing Fee table you talk about an hourly rate if enforcement is required. Why don't you do the same thing for the dogs? If owners do not keep their dog in a responsible and secure area then they get charged a whole lot more. Stop putting fees up for responsible people. A user pays system. Not everyone else paying for the officers that are required by the irresponsible. Keep registration fees the same and put up the penalty rates so those that are causing the issues are paying big time for it.

**30 - Cynthia Mann: Question Comments:** The system should always be user pays, it is with most things, as a dog owner of a rural working dog, I would like to know what I'm going to get for my extra \$6, our dog doesnt leave the property, doesnt use the dog parks or poo bags supplied to all by council if requested, or the poo bins we see dotted around taupo, I get that some rural dogs end up lost or stock worrying, but does this not come back to a user pays system, I would be more than happy if my dog was picked up by council to pay a larger fee for release, as would all responsible dog owners, the increase looks to be a penalty for those that do register their dogs, rather than a penalty on those that are not responsible. In my thoughts, times are tough and a increase to cover the deficit is going to cause more of a deficit as less people will register their dogs due to financial constraints.

**32 - Paul Sutton : Question Comments:** I have never understood the concept of paying dog registration fees. The argument has always been that it's to pay for control of wandering and unregistered dogs. But why are good owners paying for the control of bad owners dogs?

**33 - Jenny Nelson: Question Comments:**

A 14% price hike is ridiculous especially to rural dog owners, whose dogs do not leave the property or use any town facilities.

At the last increase, several of us met with the Mayor to explain why we reject price increases for rural dogs. The reasons still stand

**34 - Wayne Wilson : Question Comments:**

I own 2 small dogs, both desexed and fully fenced residence. Always registered and never subject to any complaints.

Apart from supplying a plastic tag yearly when I pay for my registration, what service does Council do for me and my dogs. I am registered as a responsible owner and take care of my dogs. It is unethical to suggest I should subsidise any other dog owner who may not comply with Dog rules set by Council. Please supply a full list of services you supply to me, Apart from my plastic tags and justify any increase in dog fees.

Thank you.

**36 - Richard Mabin: Question Comments:** as usual the law abiding people have to pay for the unlawful dog owners, law abiding dog owners should be rewarded with cheaper registration, been a responsible dog owner should be rewarded as we will pay it cos we love dogs and the same irresponsible will not pay , i don't think the current system is very good and the continued harassment of the law abiding dog owners

**37 - Julie Waitai: Question Comments:** Responsible dog owners pay. There is really no incentive for dog owners that dont use the services like the pound or roaming dogs etc. These owners should be rewarded with an attractive fee to encourage them to continue to be great dog owners. There is also no fee for rural dogs that arent working. Desexed dogs should have a bigger discount to encourage less unwanted pregnancies.

**38 - Lynne Bowyer: Question Comments:**

I understand that due to the way our society is structured, the council generates funds via the users of its various services. This means that it is the individual person that has to shoulder the burden of cost increases. I also note that costs associated with every facet of life have gone up, all of which are passed on to and carried by individuals. So unless structural changes take place, the council has to navigate a fine line so that it does not over-burden individuals and run the risk of people not paying because they can't afford to pay. "Well they shouldn't have a dog if they can't afford one", you might say. But this ignores the fact that people may have had their dog when life was affordable, and the continual erosion of affordability might just tip them over the edge of non-compliance.

Even if we acknowledge that some increases for dog services are necessary under the current social structure, there are two areas that need to be re-thought. The first is micro-chipping. What is the purpose of this? We have dog registration tags for identifying dogs 'in the system'. We have records kept on registered dogs and dog infringements. What does the microchip add? Anyone not

registering their dog probably won't have them microchipped anyway. When I have come across wandering dogs in Turangi I have had them quickly identified by their dog registration tag and I have been able to reunite them with their owner. On the two occasions I came across dogs without a collar and/or tag, there was no one available with a microchip scanner to be of help. Again I ask, what is the purpose of the microchip? Is this something that could be rendered obsolete? Just because a technology exists, it is not imperative that we use it.

The other instance is the fee increase for the sale of a dog to rescue agencies. This strikes me as extremely callous. The fact that rescue agencies work to care for and re-home dogs who would be otherwise destroyed if they were left with council, means that rescue agencies should not have to pay at all for the service they provide. These agencies rely on volunteers and donations to enable them to do their work. Council should not be preying on benevolent agencies in order to generate funds.

The council cannot hide behind claims of the "associated legislation" or "policy" in regard to these issues. People make legislation and policy, and people can change legislation and policy if they no longer makes sense and are not fit for purpose.

**39 - Mary Keane: Question Comments:** Because the cost of living has gone up, our rates have increased also, put another drinking fountain for the dogs by the bmx track up the top parking instead of seeing bowls from rice cookers and heaps of bottled water there, if you can pretty up all the lakefront you can pretty up the top if spa park for all our dogs, theres never any bags at the top field where we start our walks, just a bloody joke if you ask me, ill do a better job and get things done along with other like minded dog owners like myself

**41 - Nichola Mansfield: Question Comments:** i live rural and my dog does rural work . You wont allow me to register my dog as working because of its breed yet breed does not determine wether its capable of being a working dog , its how they are trained / taught. I do not accept the fee increases its ridiculous as it is , families can barely afford to pay the fee now let alone an increase , the council has increased its rates and now animal registration fees to , its appalling to say the least and im sure the rest of Taupo would say the same .

**44 - Philippa Lintott: Question Comments:** I believe that they are already enough for those that follow the law and register their dogs. Much more effort needs to go on getting those many 1,000's that do not. You only have to look at the social media pages for Taupo on a daily basis to see wandering dogs (often repeat offenders) being tagged to see how bad the problem is. You penalise those that are honest and law abiding. Many of these dogs that are tagged are bull terrier types and are very menacing to those that walk their dogs responsibly on a lead. Make it easy to become a responsible dog owner under the scheme, fine those or impound those obvious potentially dangerous dogs wandering, this includes the spate of 'labradors' out in packs of 2 or 3 - as dangerous as any.

**45 - Harry Bailey: Question Comments:**

Absolute bullshit I say

**47 - sarah Collins: Question Comments:**

the animal protection services are already over run with strats unwanted animals. The cost of living and husing crisis means pets are being surrendered. rentals dont allow pets and pets are becoming a 'luxury' oeople cant afford.

those that font register their pets and let them roam will still not pay or contain animals.

another tax on the competent. Those that pay, pay and now at a higher rate for services they dont use

**48 - Sophie Blick: Question Comments:** Rural dogs do not use any of the facilities provided by the council for dogs. They are not going to be inpounded in your facilities so increasing working dog fees will just encourage more owners to be irresponsible and not to bother registering dogs as

**49 - T Lawless: Question Comments:**

I believe you should scrap this idea and focus on registering Cats? Look forward to your response.

This will be a major help towards conservation

**51 - Kelly Stevens: Question Comments:** i live rurally. My dogs are never in town and never off the property. There should be a separate category for pet dogs that dont live in town.

**52 - Katrina Flett: Question Comments:** 1. Currently it is a struggle to pay the fees you already charge. Due to costs I am already trying to rehome one of my dogs.  
2. My dogs and I have no benefit at all from the fees we pay now. Generally I don't walk my dogs in public because they are likely to be attacked by other dogs straying about. While my dogs have not been attacked I have seen others dogs attacked.  
3. It seems to me you are penalising those who are responsible owners.

I suggest:

1. You look at how you can be more responsible with the money you already collect from dog owners. Given the number of dogs in Turangi this must be thousands of dollars.
2. Put steps in place to have the MANY unregistered dogs registered.
3. Even better stop dog registration altogether. Done in the current 'ad hoc' manner (some dogs registered, many not) basis it seems a bit pointless. Dog registration was introduced to support the Hydatids eradication program. Hydatids has been eliminated in New Zealand many years ago so the registration program has fulfilled its meaningful purpose.

In summary dog registration money for me is currently a tax which "flushes my money down the toilet" as there is nothing show for it. People are employed as "dead wood" where nothing productive is produced.

I deeply resent the suggestion of being asked to pay more. The most likely outcome is that I will have to euthanise my oldest dog- Smokey. I'm sure i wont be the only one but I may be one of the few to openly admit it.

Heart breaking.

**57 - Steve Punter: Question Comments:** Responsible Owner application fee should be wiped - the idea is to encourage and motivate, not charge people to qualify.

**58 - Miriama Tungia: Question Comments:** Not only is the price for dog registration fees high enough as it is, increasing the price plus dealing with the day to day living cost will not only put pressure on the average home but could cause alot of dog owners to either abandon their animals or yet not register them all together. Most rural dog owners don't even use the facilities provided from council, yet we still pay the same amount as someone in town, not only is that unfair but rural owners should receive a reduction in fees, we shouldn't have to bare the cost of something we do not use.

**59 - matt burton: Question Comments:** especially as a rural person, we do not see ANY reason to register a dog whatsoever, as we get nothing for this money, no facilities or services that I am aware of. So to see it increased - is this just more managers justifying their existence?

**60 - Debbie Bond: Question Comments:** As a responsible dog owner I'm not happy with the proposed increase. My reason being We are classified as responsible dog owners as section is fully fenced and door accessible by visitors without dog present.

She is always registered

We abide by dog policy laws if we happen to take her out Our dog is very old and frail and hardly leaves property as she can't walk far My question is why should I have to pay more when others don't pay at all. Their dogs roam the streets here in Mangakino and can be very intimidating sometimes. Not to mention doing their business everywhere This does not seem fair. Hardly ever see anyone around from council checking up on these dogs We are on a pension and this is just another expense we will have to bear. Where is the justice when we are doing the right thing and others aren't.



<p><b>61 - Marianne Schroder: Question Comments:</b> I am vehemently opposed to the proposed increases.</p> <p>I live in Tokaanu, am on superannuation as my source of income ( and you are correct - EVERYTHING has gone up ( and I believe rates are up for a significant increase too).</p> <p>Plus, there is nothing provided for dogs in my area. Walking areas, bags etc.</p> <p>Please add my dismay at these increased costs, and reasons why, into this proposal.</p>
<p><b>62 - J Rang: Question Comments:</b></p> <p>Personally I do not think its necessary, I register my dogs to avoid big fines if yous pick them up. My dogs do not use any of the facilities like doggy bags etc.</p> <p>If yous built a fenced dog park, specifically made just for dogs then that would be most understandable as other BIGGER towns that charge more for registration has fenced dog parks all around their towns, why doesnt Taupo?</p> <p>I dont trust the TDC Animal Control anyways</p>
<p><b>64 - Peter Kidd: Question Comments:</b> My NO to increased fees is conditional not absolute. I note that the increase in fees which would apply to dogs which create the control workload is less than the standard registration fee increase. I would like to be satisfied that there is sufficient deterrent in these fees so all owners apply the same essential husbandry which comes with dog ownership. Accordingly I would like to see the increases for dog control costs, requiring Council officers attendance, increasing at least the same as working dogs if not more. The impounding fee is a 13% increase, the lowest.</p>
<p><b>65 - Leyla Wilson: Question Comments:</b> I do not support this its already so expensive. I think with all the price rises in pet food and fees the registration should not increase and if they need to cover costs for parks and council control then up the fines for the people who dont follow the rules, great way to get people to be responsible and if they choose not to then the increased fine surely will cover for the costings of pound fees paperwork etc.</p>
<p><b>67 - Rob Elvin: Question Comments:</b> I appreciate you contacting me regarding a potential Dog Registration Fee increase and yest it is tough out there for everyone and a \$10/\$15 increase on this fee will make some people consider no longer having a pet Dog.</p> <p>In my view you need to consider what type of Dog does anyone own – I accept you consider working dogs as being different and that is reasonable however like me there are 100'2 if not 1000's of pet owners who own a small (Lap) dog many for companionship and MOST of these dogs will most likely NEVER cause the Council any issues.</p> <p>They are unlikely to be allowed to roam.</p> <p>They certainly are unlikely to be dangerous.</p> <p>Most owners will ensure they are neutered and vaccinated against all the nasties that can be caught.</p> <p>Many of these dogs WILL be micro chipped.</p> <p>The owners of these small dogs should not be subject to the same fee as a Rottweiler, Bull dog, German Shepherd, Staffi or other potentially dangerous dog that at times even the owners cannot control.</p> <p>In addition the fees we pay should be used to get out to those dog owners who DO NOT register, Neuter or control their animals and its these people who cause most of the issues with roaming dogs, no collars, not micro chipped.</p> <p>I own a Lap dog (used to be two – one since passed) she is always in a controlled fenced area, she sleeps on my bed, she couldn't maul a sausage and she is neutered and fully vaccinated – WHY am I going to be paying more when I am DOING everything you want and all you have to do is know who I am, my address and my dogs name, sex and breed – how hard am I to keep records for???</p> <p>I object to paying more!!</p> <p>I am a pensioner – I've just received a wage rise that oh wow it has also just been taken for a rent increase – one step forward 3 steps back.</p>
<p><b>68 - Debra Forster: Question Comments:</b></p>
<p><b>70 - Fernie Sanders: Question Comments:</b> Gotta pay for that huge and unnecessary council building somehow, haven't you???</p> <p>Surely the dog fees could be offset by all the money collected from those antisocial and dangerous E-scooters that nobody but drunks and lazy teenagers wanted!</p>
<p><b>71 - Cam Tarrant: Question Comments:</b> I cant see why an increase is needed? What does the council even do for my dog that my rego pays for?</p>
<p><b>72 - Georgia Smith: Question Comments:</b> We have two dogs who live in a fully fenced section, we are responsible for our dogs and dont feel a raise in fees is necessary dogs dont use anything and council cant even keep the dog poo bags restocked along the lake paths, We always take our own clean up after OUR dogs.</p> <p>rasing the fees is just another way to get money out of locals who already pay alot of the ever increasing property rates.</p> <p>Taupo also doesn't have a designated fully fenced dog park like every other city in the country, the council does nothing to support dog owners apart from charging disgusting fees.</p> <p>So why should responsible dog owners be charged extra when our dogs are taken care off and not using council services.</p>
<p><b>73 - Sherryll Worthington: Question Comments:</b> Regarding your request for feed back here are my thoughts on an increase in Dog Registration fees. For time immemorial it has always been a case of Good Owners paying for neglectful owners. Absolutely nothing has changed and that is evidenced by daily sighting of un collared roaming dogs here in Turangi. Take a look at the local Facebook noticeboard and the multiple postings each week acting as the default lost and found communication. Ad to that the demands on the local Animal Care facility through which endless numbers of both dogs and cats continue to roll , and frankly the situation is beyond depressing.</p> <p>A pathway out of this and the cycle of increasing demand on services , the ghastly practice of euthanasia and general animal wellbeing might be to start some conversation around the privilege and responsibility that goes with pet ownership. Some frank conversation around de sexing is also well overdue and should be facilitated by both Council and the Veterinary community .</p> <p>A pathway to owners , rather than the animals, being registered to enable ownership would be no bad thing. Continuing with the present practice of maintaining the status quo will only perpetuate the practice of ever increasing registration fees and solve nothing.</p> <p>I look forward to hearing about a more enlightened approach</p>
<p><b>74 - John Ridd: Question Comments:</b> Absolutely disgusting to increase the fees. I suggest if you want to make up any shortfall I suggest you look at the overpaid managers you employ and maybe make some redundancies or stop supplying a new car every few years plus free use of petrol wherever they choose to go in New Zealand. There are pensioners struggling to cope with the high cost of living and no doubt they will face a new rate rise shortly.</p> <p>Some times a dog is their only companion.</p>
<p><b>75 - Simon Owens: Question Comments:</b></p> <p>Thank you for the heads up about increased proposed fees....the only question I have to put forward is: 'How much money do you thing you can squeeze out of people in this cost-of-living-crisis's?'</p> <p>PS...if we are tightening our belts more and more then don't you think you should to???</p>
<p><b>76 - Tim Logan: Question Comments:</b> Increase, what for I have 2 dogs at home we don't go out, except in the car.</p> <p>Why should I pay anything.</p> <p>You say times are tough And you guys want to make it harder.</p> <p>Born in Taupo, myself So you guys pay my bill.</p>
<p><b>78 - Hermann Geister: Question Comments:</b> Guten Tag</p> <p>my guess would be that your shortfall of fees is because not every dog owner pays the registration fee, not by a long shot and you will not be able to enforce it.</p>

So the honest and responsible people have to pay more.  
Thanks for the information

**80 - Larry Parton: Question Comments:** I disagree with this proposal. In consideration of the exorbitant increases in rates suffered by the community over the past few years through increases in RVs, most of which are far in excess of current market values, AND the wasteful vanity-project spending inflicted upon the ratepayers, perhaps consideration could be given to curtailing expenditures and letting the resultant cost-savings be employed to reducing fees.

**81 - Dorian Lloyd: Question Comments:** Living in Turangi and having 2 companion dogs, I live Alone. Most of the comments I've heard over time make reference to the question asked. What do we get for our participation and cost.  
Most sincere and good dog owners voice their concern as to what service they get and the availability of dog rangers. When roaming dogs or incidents occur, it often takes ages for a ranger to show up.  
My personal experience is - yes a genuine concern that rangers have to respond from Taupo.  
However I can say from a personal point of view the rangers I have had experiences with, have been excellent and very professional.  
My other question is why the council does not offer an incentive and discount re pensioners. My Gold card has come into good use recently as more businesses and organisations support this provision.  
Presently, Increases in everything continue to plague us but we get very little support to deal with this. Pensioners seem to be the forgotten sector.  
Before anyone says- they've just got an increase in line with the inflation figure, remember, for me- single gent it'll mean about \$18 a week more, but ha- about, \$5 of that goes directly back in tax and the rest in continued price increases. Bit of a joke really Rgds lyn Lloyd Sent from my iPhone

**83 - Nicole Martin: Question Comments:** Hello, I strongly oppose the council's decision to entertain this idea. It's unfair to shift the burden from negligent owners onto those of us who already uphold our responsibilities.

Instead, the council should enforce fines for owners who fail to clean up after their dogs or allow them off-leash when they show aggressive behaviour and pose a threat to other small dogs, or small children. There seems to be no recourse for the owners who's dogs have attacked or threatened to attack small dogs or children and this needs to change!!!

The approach of holding owners for bad/dangerous behaviour responsible financially, would ensure that the council gets what they need and everyone pays something....

**84 - Tracey Wheeler: Question Comments:** Hi team.

I would like the fees to remain the same or less. Our rates are rising which differently effects our pockets. We own 2 dogs which cost us a lot of money to feed let alone vet bills which are extremely expensive too. But I feel safe with my dogs as my husband works nights shift. With everything rising we are really feeling it. We are trying to meet all these cost but times are really getting hard, rates money that we pay doesn't seem to help our suburb much goes towards all the flash suburbs or areas just been built.  
Regards

**89 - Anna McNaughton: Question Comments:** I am writing to express my thoughts on the proposed increase in dog registration fees. While I understand the need to such increases, I believe it is important for the council to be transparent about the services that will be provided in return for these higher fees. One specific concern I have is the lack of rubbish bins for disposing of dog waste in the Jarden Mile area. Dog owners in this area, myself included, currently face difficulties in responsibly disposing of out pets' waste. Providing rubbish bins in this area would be a small but meaningful service that the council could offer to dog owners. In addition to this, I would like to know what other services or facilities the council plans to provide for dog owners. This could include amenities such dedicated fenced exercise area for dogs. In Wellington, for example, four of their exercise areas are fenced and they quickly became favourite destinations for dogs and their owners, and the Wellington council is looking to add more. Taupo, on the other hand, doesn't have one. Another example could providing educational programmes to promote public safety and responsible dog ownership including dog welfare, dog safety, presentations to schools and community groups on dog behaviour and how to be safe around dogs. I am also interested to learn about the council's efforts to cut spending in other areas. It is important to explore all avenues for cost savings before resorting to fee increases. As a ratepayer, I expect that any increase in fees will result in tangible benefits, such as new or improved services. I hope you will demonstrate how these additional funds will be utilized to benefit our community.

**90 - Campbell Speedy: Question Comments:** If you are going to put fees and charges for our dogs up, then you better improve your service. We live just out of Turangi (20 Te Awamate Rd) and we have lost ALL our livestock in the past year or so. 10 sheep/lambs (\$1,500 worth) and now 12 chickens (which we paid \$520 for in February 2024). No one along Hiranui Road is able to keep sheep, those that keep pigs have ongoing dog attack issues, and now our chickens are getting murdered by local dogs, in the dead of night. Drive around Turangi at 10.00pm any night and see how many roaming dogs there are.

That is on top of a 15% rate increase last year.

I would gladly pay more for dog control - as long as we get some service!

More action, less bureaucracy.

**91 - Genevieve Van Eden : Question Comments:**

Dear Members of the Taupo City Council

I am writing to formally express my disagreement with the proposed increase in dog registration fees for Semi - rural dogs in Mangakino. As a resident of this community, I am concerned about this increase's potential impact on our already struggling economy.

I would like to address the fact that our community is located 30-45 minutes away from the main city centre. While this may not seem significant to some, it means that we do not have easy access to certain services such as animal control. This raises questions about the frequency and effectiveness of animal control services in our community. How often do they respond to calls or complaints?. How many times have they visited our community in the last two years? These are important factors that should be considered before making a decision about increasing dog registration fees.

I respectfully request that the council provide a detailed list of animal control services in our community over the last two years. This should include the reasons for their visits, such as responding to stray animals or addressing complaints about aggressive dogs. It should also mention any outcomes or actions taken during those times. This information will not only clarify the level of service provided but it will give insight into the responsibilities and effectiveness of animal control in our village.

I understand that the councils reasoning for the fee increase is to cover the cost of animal control services. However, I assure you that our community is capable of handling our own dogs. We have three Jack Russells who are contained by a high wooden fence at all times. Additionally, if need be we have invested in bark collars to prevent any disturbances to our neighbours. Our annual vet and food bill is approximately \$5500-\$6000. Therefore, it seems unfair to ask us to pay an additional \$45 for a service that may not be necessary for our community.

Let me be clear, I am not against paying for necessary and beneficial services for our community. However, I strongly believe that the proposed increase in dog registration fees is unwarranted and could have a negative impact on our community. I urge the council to reconsider this decision and instead focus on finding more effective ways to utilise the funds already available.

In conclusion, I kindly request that the council carefully consider the potential impact of this increase on our community before making a final decision. I also urge you to provide us with the necessary information and evidence to justify this increase. Let us work together to find a fair and reasonable solution that benefits both the council and our community.

Thank you for taking the time to read my submission

With Kind Regards

Genevieve Van Eden

**92 - Alan aldridge: Question Comments:**

i havent seen any wild dogs roaming around taupo but there are stray cats everywhere, infact my neighbour has 21 of the mongrel things at this moment.Why am i as a responsible dog owner





















