

Frequently asked questions

1. What are the local dog access rules?

The [Auckland Council Policy on Dogs 2019](#) (Policy) contains dog access rules that seek to provide a balanced use of public places for dogs and their owners that is safe for everyone. This includes people, animals, the environment and property.

The rules set out which local parks, beach and foreshore areas dog owners can take their dog under control off a leash, on a leash and where dogs are prohibited, at all times or during certain times and seasons.

2. What is the proposal for local dog access rules for?

The proposal focuses on managing changes to keep the local dog access rules up to date, and to continue to provide a balanced use of public places for dogs and their owners that is safe for everyone, for example:

- identifying new opportunities for dog friendly places in neighbourhoods with limited off-leash areas
- only restricting access for new park developments, or where there are more people, an increased presence of protected wildlife and new threats to natural habitat where the presence of dogs creates significant risk to people, stock, poultry, domestic animals, protected wildlife, natural habitat or property.

3. How did the changes come about?

Requests to change local dog access rules came from various sources including members of the public, council experts, elected members and external organisations.

4. Why are there not proposed changes for all local boards?

The proposed changes are based on requests to change local dog access rules. Some local boards did not receive any requests.

5. What process was used to determine whether a change to the local dog access rule is needed?

All requests to change local dog access rules were assessed against criteria in the Dog Control Act 1996 and Auckland Council Kaupapa mo ngā Kuri | Policy on Dogs 2019, which identified whether there are possible structural problems with the current rules.

Structural problem here refers to problems that place responsible dog owners, their dogs, other people, animals or property at significant risk or unreasonably restrict responsible dog owner access.

6. When will a final decision be made on the proposed changes?

Once public consultation has closed, all feedback received will be presented to the relevant Local Board Deliberations Panel before a final decision is made in mid-2025.