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## PET POLICY

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## **STATEMENT OF INTENT:**

It is the overarching policy of Mount Cook Adventure Centre that domestic pets are not permitted on site or on activities unless under extenuating circumstances.

Staff, freelancers, volunteers and visitors to Mount Cook Adventure Centre should be aware that there are issues regarding bringing personal domestic pets onto Mount Cook Adventure Centre premises or involving them in Mount Cook Adventure Centre activities. Staff and volunteers must also take into consideration before accepting a position of responsibility at the Mount Cook Adventure Centre or acquiring a pet, their work routines on the clear understanding that it is not normally acceptable for them to have their pet with them on Mount Cook Adventure Centre activities.

Animals and in particular dogs are sentient beings with complex emotional needs, and if a dog is simply taken onto activities without any prior training or assessment, it is a very stressful environment for that dog to be in. If this is compounded with children and adults who have very little idea on how to treat and be around a dog, through naivety and lack of education, you have a disaster waiting to happen. Unfortunately, a number of dogs have now bitten children in schools, and each time the dog in question has sadly been put to sleep.

In the right situation and with the right group there can be a recognised benefit to involving an animal in an activity programme. People of all ages can respond positively to the presence of an animal and the author of this document has personally witnessed the transformation of introspective children into lively and involved group members; due in no small part to the existence of a dog on particular activities.

Mount Cook Adventure Centre as an organisation has taken time to consider pro's and con's of domestic animals being involved in activities and have implemented the following policy on the grounds of some of the following reasons.

## **THE REASONS INCLUDE:**

1. Hygiene reasons
2. Allergies of visitors and reactions to animals.
3. The unpredictable nature of animals and the safety of our visitors.
4. Distraction of visitors from instruction, especially with regard to safety.
5. Distraction of instructional staff from their principal duties.
6. Respect for the fear of individual visitors and members staff of the Mount Cook Adventure Centre.
7. The Mount Cook Adventure Centre does not allow visitors to bring pets onto activities due to the same reasons.

## **CURRENTLY THE ONLY EXEMPTION TO THIS POLICY WILL BE:**

1. Registered guide or assistance dogs
2. Search and rescue dogs
3. Animals specifically involved in programmes

## THE FOLLOWING PROCEDURES ARE IMPLEMENTED:

### 1. Buildings

No animals in any Mount Cook buildings or under canvas at any time, where guests or clients have access.

### 2. Grounds

Animals are to be kept on a lead or under strict control (within owner's sight) at all times in the grounds. Dogs must not be permitted to roam the grounds unsupervised.

### 3. Dog Faeces

Owner to bag and bin any poo *immediately* and wash down any known area known to have been urinated on. All faeces contains bacteria that can cause stomach upsets if ingested. However, the greatest risk to public health from dog faeces is toxocariasis. Toxocariasis is an infection of the round worm, spread via dog faeces. The parasite eggs responsible for toxocariasis can survive for many months in sand or soil, so all pet faeces should be collected and disposed of in the rubbish.

### 4. External Activities and Trips

Approval must be sought from the CEO, accompanying staff and young people before taking a dog or domestic pet on external Mount Cook activities. Points 2 & 3 should be followed at all times whilst out, particularly in areas with livestock.

### 5. Vehicles

Pets must not be permitted to sit on vehicle seats unless they are restrained using a dog seat harness and a seat cover. If the vehicle has a load guard then the dog should be behind this, but they are not permitted to sit/lay on equipment.

### 6. General

Pet owners are responsible for ensuring all hair / dirt is cleaned up. The owners will supply their own drinking and feeding bowls. The owner will pay for any damage to buildings, contents or personal property caused by their pet.

### 7. Risk Assessment

At any time, the CEO or senior rep of the centre may carry out a dynamic risk assessment which may override any other agreement with regard to domestic / other animals on the Mount Cook site or involved with Mount Cook activities. This decision will be final and must be adhered to until such times as an appeal / full risk assessment can be carried out.



Steve Turner  
Chief Executive Officer  
Mount Cook Adventure Centre

Owner: Steve Turner. Date for Review: Feb 2023

File Path: [https://mountcookactivity.sharepoint.com/sites/Operations/Documents/Mount Cook Policies/Checked by Steve Feb 22/MC - Pet Policy - Feb 22.docx](https://mountcookactivity.sharepoint.com/sites/Operations/Documents/Mount%20Cook%20Policies/Checked%20by%20Steve%20Feb%2022/MC%20-%20Pet%20Policy%20-%20Feb%2022.docx)