



Call us about an animal welfare issue **0800 00 83 33** or contact your local SPCA Centre.

Email us your questions at animalwelfare@mpi.govt.nz

www.mpi.govt.nz/animalregs
others to check too at

Are you doing it right? Encourage
If an animal's welfare is seriously compromised,
higher penalties under the Animal Welfare Act
1999 apply.

Owning animals comes with a responsibility
to provide for their care and wellbeing. Take
some time to find out what your animals need by
checking the codes of welfare and regulations.
Regulations make it easier for MPI and SPCA to
take action against animal mistreatment. Fines
for breaching animal welfare regulations start
at \$300 for individuals and go up to \$25,000 for
businesses. Some breaches may also result in a
criminal conviction.

Animal Welfare Matters

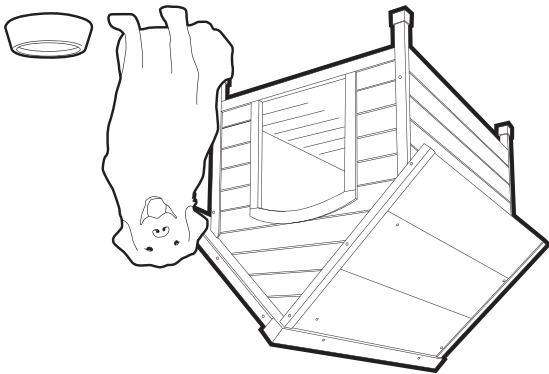
November 2022

Animal Welfare Regulations

Dogs



- ✓ Your dog can access their sheltered area any time. It's clean, dry, shaded and ventilated – not draughty – and protects them from the extremes of heat and cold.
 - ✓ It's big enough for them to stand up, turn around and lie down in comfortably.
 - ✓ They have constant access to clean drinking water.
 - ✓ There's no accumulation of droppings or urine.
- Your dog's shelter and living areas must meet these requirements:



Shelter
Clean, comfortable canines

More information

Many of the regulations come from the codes of welfare. These set out minimum standards and recommended best practices when caring for animals. Codes that may be relevant to you include:

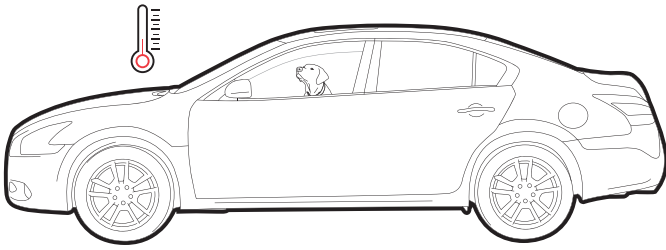
- companion cats
- dairy cattle
- deer
- dogs
- goats
- horses and donkeys
- llamas and alpacas
- pigs
- sheep and beef cattle
- transport within NZ

You can find the regulations, our guidance on the regulations, and the codes of welfare on our website at www.mpi.govt.nz/animalregs



In vehicles

Too hot for Spot!



Dogs quickly suffer and die in hot cars. Even warm days are a risk. **Heat stressed** dogs will seek shade and may pant, drool and hyperventilate.

✗ Don't let a dog get heat stressed in a car.

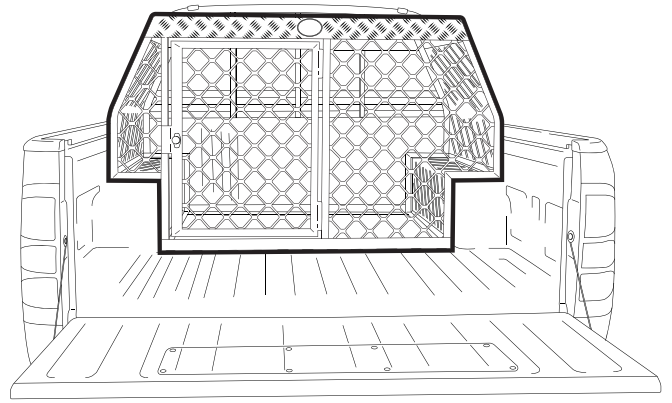
Plan ahead and ask yourself:

- ✓ What's the weather like?
- ✓ Will you have to leave your dog in the car and for how long?
- ✓ Is it better to leave the dog at home?

If you see a dog suffering in a hot car, take immediate action. Seek help to find the dog owner, or call Police or SPCA.

On vehicles

All paws on deck

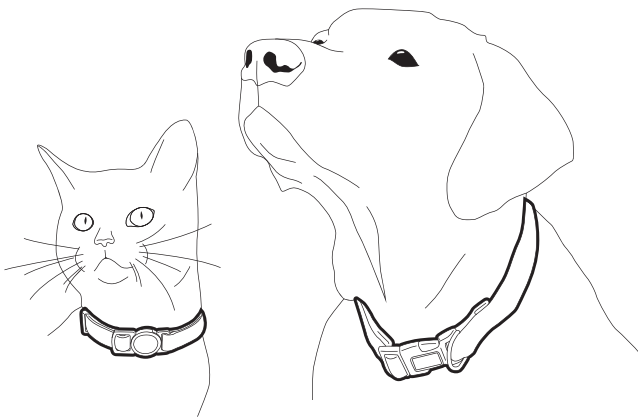


Dogs transported unsecured on the back of trucks, utes, and trailers can fall off or hang off the side, suffering severe injuries.

- ✓ When travelling on a public road, your dog must be **secured** in a cage or crate, or tied up **safely**. Any rope or leash must allow the dog to stand and lie down in a natural position, and prevent them from reaching their legs over the side.
- ✓ Farm dogs can be loose on a vehicle, including on public roads, when they are actively working.

Collars

Not too loose, not too tight, just right



Poorly fitted collars on any animal can cause pain and distress. Check your animal's collar regularly.

Collars must:

- ✓ be the right size and fit for each animal
- ✓ allow for normal breathing, panting and drinking
- ✓ not be so tight or heavy that it can cause skin abrasions, cuts or swelling, and
- ✓ not be so loose that it can cause an injury, like getting a leg caught in it.

Muzzles, tethers & docking

Heads, shoulders, tails and toes

If you need to use a **muzzle**, it must:

- ✓ be the right size and fit for your dog
- ✓ allow for normal breathing, panting, drinking and vomiting, and
- ✓ not cause cuts, swelling or abrasions.

Dogs are **social** animals and need regular **exercise**. Don't tether them for long periods of time as this can cause physical and behavioural issues.

If you have to use a **tether**, it must:

- ✓ allow your dog to breathe, pant and drink normally, and
- ✓ not let them get caught up and injured.

There are restrictions on removing a dog's **dew claws** – generally only by a vet and for a good reason.

✗ Routine **tail docking** of dogs (or banding) is **banned**.

If you see it, report it. If they're injured, see your vet.