

# **Wānaka Airport Animal Control**

Version 1  
24 February 2025

## 1. Purpose

Minimise the hazard to aircraft operations created by the presence of dogs and/or other domestic animals on or in the vicinity of Wānaka Airport.

## 2. Responsibilities

**Head of Operations, Compliance & Safety:** has overall responsibility for the development and implementation of Wānaka Airport Animal Control policy.

**Wānaka Airport Operations:** have responsibility for ensuring compliance with the Animal Control policy at Wānaka Airport.

**Organisations/Individuals operating at or visiting Wānaka Airport:** are responsible for compliance with the requirements of the Wānaka Airport Animal Control policy.

## 3. Definitions and References

This document outlines the policy and procedures for the control of domesticated animals and/or pet animals such as dogs and cats at Wānaka Airport. It does not cover wildlife hazards to aircraft operations such as that presented by birds, rabbits, cattle or wild dogs/cats: for this, please refer to [Wānaka Airport Wildlife Hazard Management](#).

**Wānaka Airport:** All land, both airside and landside, within the fenced boundaries of the airfield. This is the area outlined in red in Figure 1 below.

**Airside:** the part of the aerodrome inside current security fencing: this includes the Runway, Manoeuvring and Movement Areas plus all other area such as aircraft parking and green spaces. This is the area shaded in blue in Figure 1 below.

**Landside:** portion of the aerodrome between its boundary and the security fencing. The major elements of landside are the airport's public buildings, hangars, roadways, and parking facilities. This is the area shaded in green in Figure 1 below.

**Figure 1: Wānaka Airport**



## **4. Policy and Procedures**

### **4.1. Animals Airside**

- Only animal going airside for the purposes of being transported on an aircraft are permitted entry airside.
- All animals taken airside for the purpose of being transported on an aircraft must be restrained by leash, or inside an appropriate cage or container before entering airside. Once airside, animals are not to be released from their leash, cages or containers.
- Operational Police Dogs accompanied by an Operational Police Dog Handler are exempt from this rule.
- Animals approved for the purposes of airport pest control are also exempt from this policy. However, animals approved for the purposes of pest control that need to be unrestrained, must be fitted with a perimeter control device and GPS tracker prior to being unrestrained.

#### **4.1.1. Animal Loose Airside**

- Animals are prevented from entering airside by keeping gates and doors shut, and maintaining boundary integrity. If an animal does gain entry airside, it must

be removed via the closest exit as soon as possible. If an animal is airside but retrieval is beyond the scope of the observer, Wānaka Operations should be contacted immediately. Consideration should be given to also making a radio broadcast on the Wānaka Airport Frequency 120.1 alerting aircraft in the vicinity to Animal Loose Airside.

- Wānaka Operations will take all reasonable steps to catch or corral the animal and remove the animal from airside by the closest exit. If the animal cannot be removed immediately, or if there is any concern regarding aviation operations, a radio broadcast will be made on the Wānaka Airport Frequency 120.1 alerting aircraft in the vicinity to Animal Loose Airside.
- Firearms will only be used as a last resort to harass animals away from movement areas. Permission to use a firearm will only be given by the Chief Operating Officer, or the Head of Operations, Compliance & Safety in the Chief Operating Officer's absence. Public sensitivity is always to be considered and animals will not be destroyed unless there is an immediate danger to essential facilities or to the safety of an aircraft.
- Once the animal is removed from the airside, it must be restrained (e.g. on leash or equivalent) or contained (e.g. in cage, building or vehicle). If the owner / responsible individual cannot be identified, Queenstown Lakes District Council Animal Control Wānaka will be contacted to request animal impound.
- All Animal Loose Airside incidents must be reported via the Wānaka Airport Hazard and Incident form.

#### 4.2. Animals Landside

- All animals landside within the boundaries of the Wānaka Airport, must be restrained by a leash or equivalent at all times to prevent them from gaining airside access.
- Operational Police Dogs accompanied by an Operational Police Dog Handler are exempt from this rule.
- Animals approved for the purposes of airport pest control are also exempt from this policy. However, animals approved for the purposes of pest control which need to be unrestrained, must be fitted with a perimeter control device and GPS tracker prior to being unrestrained.

##### 4.2.1. Animal Loose Landside

- Where an animal is not restrained by a leash or equivalent landside at Wānaka Airport, it should be returned to its owner directly for immediate compliance.
- If the owner / responsible individual cannot be identified, Queenstown Lakes District Council Animal Control Wānaka will be contacted to request animal impound.
- All Animal Loose Landside incidents should be reported via the Wānaka Airport Hazard and Incident form.