



# Mack Goes to the Beach... and doesn't chase wildlife

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Conservation Week – Dogs and Coastal Wildlife



# A little about me and Mack

- Dog owner
- Marine mammal scientist







# New Zealand Biodiversity

- Marine mammals ~50 spp of marine mammal
- Seals - 2 spp that breed on our coasts + 5 rare visitors
- Sea birds ~80 spp, 1/3 are endemic





# The sad side





# The Dogs and Coastal Wildlife Project

- DOC and WPI (Worcester Polytechnic Institute)
- 3 year project on the issue
- 2017 focus – Human perceptions on the issue
- 2018 focus – Dog owner motivations
- 2019 focus – Effectiveness of interventions







# Key findings so far - 2018

- Dogs with **no degree of training** are the most likely to **always be walked off lead**

## Dog Owner Model

Responsible Behavior

29.1%

**Uninformed**

Low awareness but displays responsible behavior for reasons other than wildlife safety

19.4%

**Conscientious**

Closest to ideal dog owner

Low Awareness

High Awareness

**Reckless**

Low awareness and engage in irresponsible behavior

**Negligent**

Knows about wildlife on beaches but engages in irresponsible behavior

38.8%

12.6%

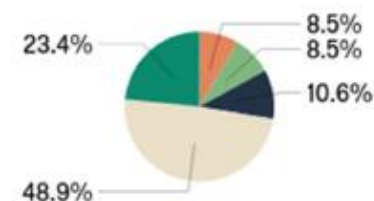
Irresponsible Behavior

13

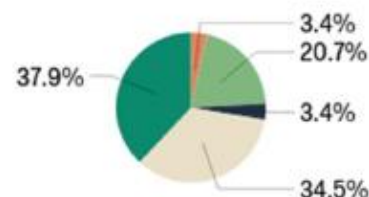
### Ongoing formal obedience training



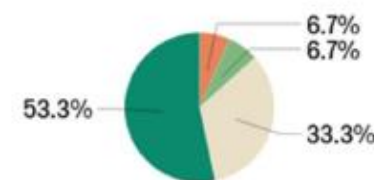
### Formal training, but only as a puppy



### At-home training



### None



Always on lead Mostly on lead Equal Mostly off lead Always off lead

Figure 31. Cross-tabulation of "What type of obedience training has your dog(s) participated in?" and "How often is your dog(s) on lead versus off lead at the beach?" (n = 103)



# DOG FRIENDLY BEACH TRIP

THE DO'S & DON'TS



## Ambassadors

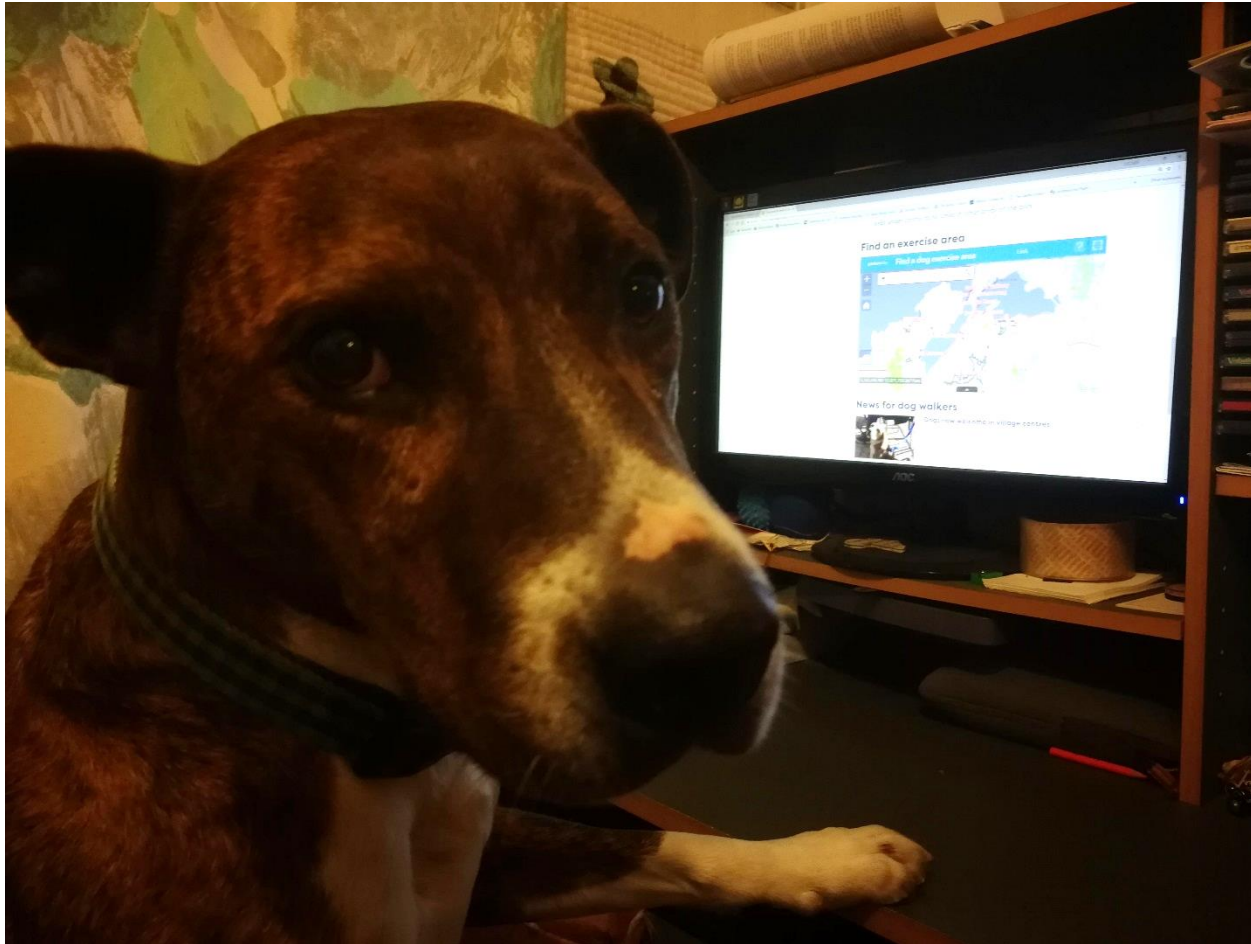
Sharing 5 easy tips to make **sharing** our **coasts** with our dogs and coastal wildlife **stress free, safe** and **enjoyable** for all concerned.



Department of  
Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*



# 1. Know before you go



**Check the rules when venturing  
somewhere new.**





## 2. Loose lead walking



**The more comfortable people are walking their dog on lead, the less likely they are to let them off.**

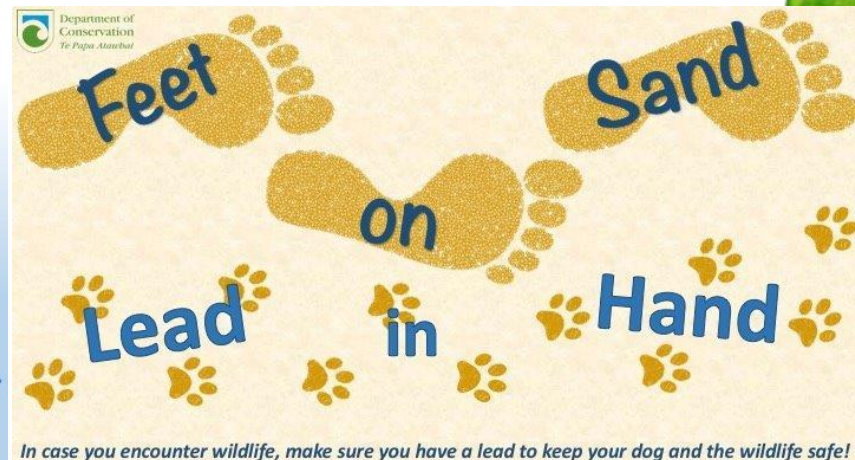




### 3. The Recall

- Be vigilant
- Interact with your dog
- If you see a ‘distraction’ recall them
- Leash 4 car lengths away

**If you cannot recall your dog – they should not be off lead**



## 4. Leave It!

Just like you don't want your dog to:

- **eat** something **toxic**,
  - **roll** in something **dead**,
- you don't want them to
- **tangle** with something that could **hurt** them.

**These tips are for dog safety as much as wildlife safety**







## 5. Let others know

- Help 'em out give a shout





# Species Awareness – just a few

## Fur seal



## Leopard seal



## Black billed gull



## Blue penguin





# Coastal wildlife and your dog



New Zealand's beaches provide several recreational opportunities for you and your dogs. Dogs are allowed on many of our beaches but must **always be kept under control.**

We share these beaches with some of New Zealand's special coastal wildlife, such as little blue penguins/korora, shags/kōau, terns/tara, dotterels/tūturiwhatu and New Zealand fur seals/kekeno.

Wildlife can be present on any beach at any time and are easily disturbed. By **always carrying a lead** and following these few simple guidelines, dog owners will help ensure the wellbeing of wildlife.

### If you come across wildlife on the beach:

- Put your dog on a lead when you are within 20 m
- Lead your dog away
- Warn other dog owners at the location
- Notify DOC if you see wildlife being harassed by people or dogs



**DON'T LET YOUR DOG GO WILD**



**DOC HOTline**  
**0800 362 468**  
Report any safety hazards or conservation emergencies  
For fire and search and rescue call 111

**Department of Conservation**  
*Te Papa Atawhai*

To learn about wildlife you might encounter on our beaches, go to:

Department of Conservation:  
[www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz)

New Zealand Birds Online:  
[www.nzbirdsonline.org.nz](http://www.nzbirdsonline.org.nz)

Some of our coastal wildlife



White-fronted terns and red billed gull

Pied shag

Variable oystercatcher



**Don't let your dog go astray,**  
**keep them leashed 4 car lengths away!**



**Alert fellow dog owners of wildlife ahead**



In case you encounter wildlife, make sure you have a lead to keep your dog and the wildlife safe!

# The Little Blue Needs You!

~ Penguin Protection is a Community Effort ~





# Thank you!