

The Waitākere Ranges is home to many rare and endangered birds, such as the matuku/bittern, tūturiwhatu/dotterel, oi/grey-faced petrel, pāteke/brown teal and the korore/little blue penguin.

Living in this special environment also means an extra responsibility in ensuring pets are well cared for so that they don't cause harm to the native wildlife.



IMAGE CREDITS - ©STEFAN MARKS: PATEKE, DOTTEREL, TUI; COVER IMAGE BY CHEVY ON UNSPLASH; WALKING DOG ON THE BEACH BY ROMAN BINTANG ON UNSPLASH



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Easy steps to responsible pet ownership

A GUIDE FOR OWNERS OF DOGS AND CATS
AROUND THE WAITĀKERE RANGES



Family Dogs

Coastal and ground nesting birds are vulnerable to predation by dogs. Even their presence, smell and sound can deter nesting birds.

Being a nature-friendly dog owner means that:

- ☒ You follow the **local dog bylaws**.
- ☒ You do not allow your dog to **chase birds**.
- ☒ You are able to **control your dog always**.
Local dog training groups are a great place to learn how to do this.



Family Cats

Cats are known to have contributed to the local or complete extinction of at least nine bird species native to Aotearoa.

Take our DOC-inspired cat quiz to see how nature-friendly your cat is. Give your cat 1 point for every true answer.

- ☐ Your cat is well fed, including real meat at regular times.
- ☐ Your cat wears a collar with bells that jingle or a brightly coloured cat ruffle.
- ☐ Your cat has been micro chipped and desexed.
- ☐ Your cat goes to a cattery when you go on holiday.
- ☐ Your cat can't find a place to hide that is close to where the birds feed or drink.
- ☐ You have installed animal guards around trees with nests, so that your cat can't climb these trees.
- ☐ Your cat has moving toys to play with.
- ☐ You have installed cat containment, such as a catio, cat netting or fence guards to keep your cat on your property.
- ☐ You keep your cat in your home/property by night.
- ☐ You keep your cat in your home/property by day.

Your score:



Tally up your total score and check it below:

SCORE

- 1-4 points** Your cat isn't conservation friendly yet. It will catch birds, lizards and wētā quite often.
- 5-8 points** Your cat could be a little friendlier. It will still catch some birds and lizards.
- 9-10 points** You have a conservation friendly cat! That's better for the native wildlife near you.



Scan the code for responsible pet ownership resources!

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