

## Ahuriri Wildlife Refuge

The tidal areas of the lower and middle Ahuriri Estuary including Pandora Pond, the Westshore Lagoons and the Southern Marsh are incorporated in the Ahuriri Wildlife Refuge. The refuge status provides a legal mechanism to protect areas that are important to wildlife from human and other disturbances that may be harmful.

The Ahuriri Wildlife Refuge provides important feeding and resting areas for over 70 species of resident and migratory water birds. Many of these birds such as godwits, knots and golden plover migrate here to escape the northern hemisphere winter. They come here each year from their arctic breeding grounds to recover and rebuild body condition and energy levels for the next round of nesting and chick raising. Others such as wrybills, oystercatchers, pied stilts and royal spoonbills gather here over the winter from their South Island homes, and utilise the estuaries abundant food supplies.

Without protected and relatively undisturbed areas such as the Ahuriri Wildlife Refuge, these birds would not be able to regain sufficient body condition to survive the rigors of their annual migrations and breeding demands. They would soon disappear altogether.

Dogs are instinctive hunters and most just love to chase birds. Although this may seem a harmless source of exercise to the dog's owners, it does interrupt the essential rest and feeding time available to these birds. The result is they either don't recover sufficiently to enable them to successfully negotiate their migrations, or they are in such weak condition when they do arrive at their destination they are extremely vulnerable to natural predation and disease.

**Please observe the rules applying to dogs here and ensure you don't contribute to the disappearance of wildlife from this valuable area and to their possible extinction.**



## Environmental Care Code



Protect plants and animals  
Remove rubbish  
Keep streams and lakes clean  
Keep to the track  
Consider others  
Respect cultural heritage  
*Enjoy your visit and  
Toitu te whenua /  
Leave the land undisturbed*

## Further information

### Department of Conservation

Hawke's Bay Area Office  
59 Marine Parade  
P.O. Box 644, Napier 4140  
Phone: 06 834 3111  
Fax: 06 834 4869  
E-mail: [napierao@doc.govt.nz](mailto:napierao@doc.govt.nz)  
Web: [www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz)

### Napier City Council

231 Hastings Street  
Napier 4110  
Phone: 06 834 4177 (24 hrs)  
Fax: 06 835 7574  
E-mail: [info@napier.govt.nz](mailto:info@napier.govt.nz)  
Web: [www.napier.govt.nz](http://www.napier.govt.nz)

If you think there is a safety hazard in a conservation area, call DOC HOTline or the nearest DOC office.

Photos: Corey Mosen

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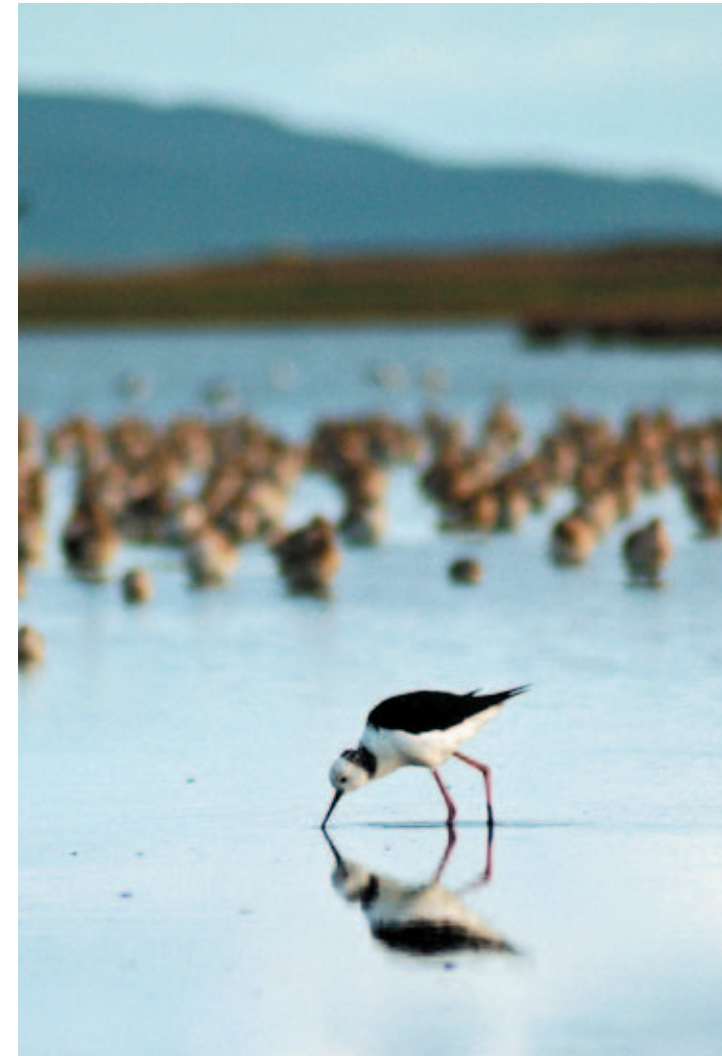
[newzealand.govt.nz](http://newzealand.govt.nz)

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

## Controlling dogs at Ahuriri Estuary

NAPIER

JANUARY 2010



Department of  
Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*



## Dog owners

You must follow the laws relating to dogs as shown here. Failure to do so may result in instant fines or prosecution.



Ahuriri Wildlife Refuge  
No dogs at any time



Dogs must be on a leash  
at all times



Dog exercise area (off  
leash) on mown grass



Ahuriri Walkway

Westshore  
Lagoons

Ahuriri Estuary

Pandora Pond

Southern Marsh

Humber Street  
Reserve

0 100 200 metre