



14th March 2023

Tēnā koutou katoa,

**RE: Submission on prolonged tethering of dogs.**

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission on this proposal.

The constraint of dogs in both public and private spaces also strongly relates to the protection and welfare of children and adults, who sustain unacceptably high numbers of injuries due to dogs every year, as highlighted in a recent study. [1] Engineering barriers to appropriately constrain dogs are the most effective evidence-based approach to prevent injuries from dogs in children, as described in a recent systematic review of dog-bite prevention strategies. [2,3]

The Paediatric Society of New Zealand / Te Kāhui Mātai Arotamariki o Aotearoa proposes:

Any legislation regarding the constraint of dogs takes into account the importance of protecting children and vulnerable people from dog attacks.

Improved funding of Animal Management Officers would be a likely mechanism of providing the outcomes from the proposed legislative change in addition to education regarding dog safety and welfare checks.

Development of legislation to require mandatory notification of dog-attacks by health and veterinary professionals to provide monitoring and support for future dog-harm improvement strategies.

Nga mihi nui,

Dr Mike Shepherd  
President - PSNZ

Dr Rebecca Hayman  
Consultant Paediatrician - Kidz First Hospital

References:

- 1 Duncan-Sutherland N, Moaveni Z, Exeter D, et al. Epidemiology of dog related injuries in New Zealand. *N Z Med J* 2022;135.
- 2 Duncan-Sutherland N, Lissaman AC, Shepherd M, et al. Systematic review of dog bite prevention strategies. *Inj Prev* 2022;;injuryprev-2021-044477. doi:10.1136/injuryprev-2021-044477
- 3 Jakeman M, Oxley JA, Owczarczak-Garstecka SC, et al. Pet dog bites in children: management and prevention. *BMJ Paediatr Open* 2020;4:e000726. doi:10.1136/bmjpo-2020-000726