

Date: Friday, 30 July 2021

**ANIMAL MANAGEMENT
BYLAW REVIEW 2021**

**KAIPATIKI LOCAL BOARD
WRITTEN FEEDBACK Vol. 1
(63–77)**

Sub #	Organisation Name	Local Board
63		Kaipātiki
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77		Kaipātiki



Animal Management Bylaw Review 2021

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Sometimes the way people interact with animals causes a problem. For example, a poorly maintained chicken coop may create an odour nuisance, or the feeding of wild animals may attract pests.

How Auckland Council helps maintain human-animal bonds

We make rules about animal ownership and interaction to minimise risks to public health and safety, nuisance, offensive behaviour and misuse of council-controlled public places.

The current rules are set in Te Kaunihera o Tāmaki Makaurau Ture-ā-rohe Tiaki Kararehe 2015 / the Auckland Council Animal Management Bylaw 2015 and associated controls.

Improving the rules about animal ownership and interaction

We recently checked how the rules are working and identified potential improvements.

Our main proposals are to:

- require an approval to keep more than two standard beehives on urban premises with a land area less than 2000 square metres (no approval currently required).
- incorporate rules from another bylaw about feeding animals on private property
- update the definitions, structure, format and wording of the Bylaw and controls to make them easier to read and understand.

Other aspects of the Bylaw, controls and their implementation remain unchanged, for example:

- the Bylaw continues to focus on the impact of animals on people
- matters already covered in existing legislation are not addressed in the Bylaw, for example animal welfare in the Animal Welfare Act, pest control in the Biosecurity Act and Auckland Regional Pest Management Plan and dogs in the Dog Management Bylaw
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Organisation (if applicable):

Your local board: Kaipātiki

Your feedback

Proposal 1: Require an approval to keep more than two beehives on urban premises 2000 square meters or less

We have heard a range of views about limits on beehives in urban areas. We are seeking feedback on:

- allowing more or less beehives without an approval than the proposed two (for example, retaining the current no limit)
- limits for different sized urban premises than the proposed 2000 square metres (for example, requiring an approval for any beehive on urban premises less than 600 square metres, or in an apartment).

To own more than two hives, people would need to apply for an animal management license, which would consider factors like location and proximity to neighbours. These rules will not affect people living in rural areas.

What is your opinion on this proposal? No, I don't agree - there should be fewer rules.

Tell us why: From my wide observation, those people who choose to keep and care for bees do so on properties which are suitable to support their activities. There ought to be no discouragement of this noble and increasingly critically important activity, by those who chose to practice it.

Proposal 2: Move rules about the feeding of animals on private property to the Animal Management Bylaw

These rules already exist but we are proposing to include them within the Animal Management Bylaw rather than the Property Maintenance and Nuisance Bylaw 2015, so it is easier to find rules about animals.

What is your opinion on this proposal? No, I do not agree

Tell us why: I would have to be convinced that this is absolutely necessary, and not just fussy bureaucracy which MY RATES are paying for? I feed wild native birds with commercial feed to assist them in winter, but I definitely do not agree that this ought be categorised as "Animal Management".

Proposal 3: Update the Bylaw definitions, structure, format, and wording

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- aligning definitions of 'nuisance' and 'public place' with those in the Public Safety and Nuisance Bylaw 2013
- aligning the Bylaw and control structure, format, and wording with current drafting practices.

What is your opinion on this proposal? Other

Tell us why: It's not reasonable to comment on this without sighting the documentation which will be impacted.

Are there any other comments you wish to make?

While there have been improvements, I would very much like to live in a city which is increasingly dog-friendly. Dogs are truly extraordinary companion animals, and few would deny their status as members of their human families. There remains too much ignorance around good animal husbandry for dogs. Anyone, including those who are not suited to caring for animals can own a dog. If a prospective dog owner had to sit a licence which included education, theory, and a test to be passed (just as with sitting a driver's licence test) - this would weed out those who would not care properly for dogs, in whose hands a dog would suffer cruelty.

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What is your opinion on this proposal? No, I don't agree - there should be fewer rules.

Tell us why: While there is a need to have some control over the number of hives (as it is with the numbers of dogs and cats per house), 2 hives is a number that is too low and does not conform with how bees work.

For example, in spring it is common for hives to be "split", where a beekeeper makes another hive from an existing one. If a beekeeper has two existing hives and splits then, now there are 4 - but the number of bees remains the same, until about a month later when the hives begin to expand in numbers.

Spring is also the time when hives swarm. Essentially half the hive departs, leaving the remaining hive to grow, and the swarming bees make another hive. When this happens, and 2 hives becomes 3, is the beekeeper at fault.

While the idea of limiting the number of hives is well-intended, the number of 2 hives is too low and the logistics of how bees operate naturally means that this number is unrealistic and unable to be maintained.

If there is a limit to be imposed then this should be raised to 5-6 hives so that the number is realistic to be able to operate within.

Proposal 2: Move rules about the feeding of animals on private property to the Animal Management Bylaw

These rules already exist but we are proposing to include them within the Animal Management Bylaw rather than the Property Maintenance and Nuisance Bylaw 2015, so it is easier to find rules about animals.

What is your opinion on this proposal? Yes, I agree

Tell us why: It is beneficial for all to have all rules in one place.

Proposal 3: Update the Bylaw definitions, structure, format, and wording

We have done this to make the Bylaw and controls easier to read and understand, for example by:

- aligning definitions of 'nuisance' and 'public place' with those in the Public Safety and Nuisance Bylaw 2013
- aligning the Bylaw and control structure, format, and wording with current drafting practices.

What is your opinion on this proposal? Yes, I agree

Tell us why: It is beneficial for all to have all rules uniform and in one place.

Are there any other comments you wish to make?

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What is your opinion on this proposal? Other

Tell us why: The existing rules were well-reviewed only a short time ago, and don't require changing.

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What is your opinion on this proposal? Yes, I agree

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What is your opinion on this proposal? No, I don't agree - there should be more rules

Tell us why: As a hobbyist registered beekeeper I believe that having only 2 beehives is an inappropriate number, I believe it should be no more than 6 hives per apiary to be managed effectively, for me personally I find 4 hives a good number to manage and produces a reasonable amount of honey. if you limit to only 2 hives I'm sure the beekeepers will find other multiple sites to use which will make the spread of disease such as AFB and varroa more easily spread, bees can fly 5kms - there are 2 beekeepers in my street that I know of, there are 5 beekeepers in my area that I know of, imagine what could happen if they all started spreading out and finding other sites to try and beat the new proposed bylaw. There is already a bee management organisation in place called the AFB Management Agency that already have a record of registered beekeepers, give them the power to police the amount of hives. There are a lot of unregistered hives out there as well that we never hear about that need to be regulated.

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These rules already exist but we are proposing to include them within the Animal Management Bylaw rather than the Property Maintenance and Nuisance Bylaw 2015, so it is easier to find rules about animals.

What is your opinion on this proposal? Yes, I agree

Tell us why: It makes sense to include them rather than keep separate for purposes of ease of finding them.

Proposal 3: Update the Bylaw definitions, structure, format, and wording

We have done this to make the Bylaw and controls easier to read and understand, for example by:

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What is your opinion on this proposal? Yes, I agree

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What is your opinion on this proposal? No, I don't agree - there should be fewer rules.

Tell us why: We have lots of beehives nearby in an urban area. Has never caused a problem.

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What is your opinion on this proposal? Yes, I agree

Tell us why: But I also wonder about the 600 m2 rule. There are more and more houses being built on smaller areas so I think this square metre measure could be smaller - like 500 or even 400 m2. I totally agree that approval should be needed if you are living in an apartment and wanting a beehive. I agree with the other limits - 2 beehives are sufficient for a residential property.

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What is your opinion on this proposal? Yes, I agree

Tell us why: Bees are animals so it is more logical to include any legislation/policy under animal management.

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The current rules are set in Te Kaunihera o Tāmaki Makaurau Ture-ā-rohe Tiaki Kararehe 2015 / the Auckland Council Animal Management Bylaw 2015 and associated controls.

Improving the rules about animal ownership and interaction

We recently checked how the rules are working and identified potential improvements.

Our main proposals are to:

- require an approval to keep more than two standard beehives on urban premises with a land area less than 2000 square metres (no approval currently required).
- incorporate rules from another bylaw about feeding animals on private property
- update the definitions, structure, format and wording of the Bylaw and controls to make them easier to read and understand.

Other aspects of the Bylaw, controls and their implementation remain unchanged, for example:

- the Bylaw continues to focus on the impact of animals on people
- matters already covered in existing legislation are not addressed in the Bylaw, for example animal welfare in the Animal Welfare Act, pest control in the Biosecurity Act and Auckland Regional Pest Management Plan and dogs in the Dog Management Bylaw
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To own more than two hives, people would need to apply for an animal management license, which would consider factors like location and proximity to neighbours. These rules will not affect people living in rural areas.

What is your opinion on this proposal? No, I don't agree - there should be more rules

Tell us why: Beekeepers should be able to keep up to 10 beehives - neighbors written approval if more. In spring bees multiply by swarming. These swarms would ordinarily die if not recued by local bee keepers. Swarm hives are generally unproductive in the first year and a recued by the beekeeper for ecological reasons. If the limit was set at 2 per beekeeper they wouldn't be able to rescue the bees that would otherwise die. The swarm would eventually find nesting spaces in cavities of houses and create a nuisance. In late autumn and winter, up to 40% of hives die through disease or pest related stress. Losing two beehives from a single site is common and would mean that many beekeepers would lose all their stock of breeding queen bees.

Proposal 2: Move rules about the feeding of animals on private property to the Animal Management Bylaw

These rules already exist but we are proposing to include them within the Animal Management Bylaw rather than the Property Maintenance and Nuisance Bylaw 2015, so it is easier to find rules about animals.

What is your opinion on this proposal? Yes, I agree

Tell us why:

Proposal 3: Update the Bylaw definitions, structure, format, and wording

We have done this to make the Bylaw and controls easier to read and understand, for example by:

- aligning definitions of 'nuisance' and 'public place' with those in the Public Safety and Nuisance Bylaw 2013
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What is your opinion on this proposal? Yes, I agree

Tell us why:

Are there any other comments you wish to make?

Bees are an important for the environment and world wide under stress. Due to the prevalence of Varoa and AFB it is important that we allow beekeepers to assist with their ecological success. Any changes made must take into account the natural lifecycle of bees and support the good work Beekeepers perform.

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What is your opinion on this proposal? Yes, I agree

Tell us why: I think the location of beehives should be looked at more holistically, which would likely be through a permit process, but not necessarily through more rules. It could look at how many beehives are in a suburb and the ability for bees to find enough food to support the hive. If increasing hive numbers across Auckland would this lead to more swarms? Will the bees compete with native bees and pollinators? Would there be a buffer around public spaces such as playgrounds, (is this even a risk?)

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What is your opinion on this proposal? Yes, I agree

Tell us why: I agree as there should be a welfare aspect of any animals that are being managed by people.

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What is your opinion on this proposal? Yes, I agree

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What is your opinion on this proposal? No, I don't agree - there should be fewer rules.

Tell us why: 1. Your 'Problem Definition' as described does not cite any issues from urban beekeeping. That suggests that in terms of beekeeping, the existing bylaw is working well and does not need to be changed.

2. Your proposal to require approval to keep more than 2 hives on an urban section of 2000m² or less will have the opposite of the intended effect of better bee management. A good beekeeper should have two hives, so that they can best manage the colonies to ensure their continued good health. This means that they can merge the hives if one is not strong, or split the hive if it is needed. Also, one of the ways to manage swarming is to remove the old queen to a nuc box (small hive) with about half the bees. That way, she will think she has swarmed and then will not leave and cause a nuisance in the community. This means that there needs to be the ability for the number of hives to go up and down as good apiary management dictates. It should be careful beekeeping that is the objective, not a specified number of hives that will likely have perverse outcomes - i.e. let the old queen swarm rather than need to get an approval for another hive.

3. Nuisance factors already dictate hive management. This should be the key criteria. One hive, poorly sited can easily cause a nuisance, but 4 well-sited urban hives will be no problem at all.

4. I strongly advocate that you keep the current no limit system. Beekeeping is already highly regulated, and by adding more bureaucracy you risk losing a large number of urban bees which would be an environmental disaster. It could lead to a massive explosion in the wasp population which urban beekeepers currently work to control. Wasps are inarguably a much bigger nuisance than bees, without the pollination value that bees offer.

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What is your opinion on this proposal? Yes, I agree

Tell us why: Pigeons are a major pest. They spread avian disease, cause noise pollution on our roof and poop everywhere. I would love people to stop feeding them.

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What is your opinion on this proposal? Other

Tell us why: I agree with a plain english approach. But I do not agree with the proposed modifications to urban beekeeping.

Are there any other comments you wish to make?

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What is your opinion on this proposal? Yes, I agree

Tell us why: I like to keep my car clean and I have spent many hours rubbing bee poo off my car's paintwork. That is unfair on citizens and clearly unreasonable.

It seems obvious to me we have too many beehives within densely populated areas.

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What is your opinion on this proposal? Yes, I agree

Tell us why: Although it does create a nuisance, excessive private feeding of pest animals, such as cats, pigeons and sparrows, is clearly an animal management problem.

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What is your opinion on this proposal? Yes, I agree

Tell us why: The bylaws need to be more explainable be easily understood by citizens.

Are there any other comments you wish to make?

No.

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What is your opinion on this proposal? Yes, I agree

Tell us why:

Are there any other comments you wish to make?

You need to sort out cats. I do not want my neighbours cats wandering on my property and disturbing me and killing the native birds.

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What is your opinion on this proposal? No, I don't agree - there should be fewer rules.

Tell us why: Responsible hive management should be promoted through the offering of hive management courses.

The vast majority of people who keep bees like their bees and respect their neighbours/community and wish to do no harm to either.

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What is your opinion on this proposal? Yes, I agree

Tell us why:

Are there any other comments you wish to make?

Management of cats needs to be addressed, particularly around native reserves.

Our property backs on to Rangatira reserve in Beach Haven and I have seen a number of cats, both domesticated and feral roaming the bush.

There is evidence that cats can be as devastating to the flora and fauna as any other pest animal or dogs for that matter which are controlled under their own by law

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How Auckland Council helps maintain human-animal bonds

We make rules about animal ownership and interaction to minimise risks to public health and safety, nuisance, offensive behaviour and misuse of council-controlled public places.

The current rules are set in Te Kaunihera o Tāmaki Makaurau Ture-ā-rohe Tiaki Kararehe 2015 / the Auckland Council Animal Management Bylaw 2015 and associated controls.

Improving the rules about animal ownership and interaction

We recently checked how the rules are working and identified potential improvements.

Our main proposals are to:

- require an approval to keep more than two standard beehives on urban premises with a land area less than 2000 square metres (no approval currently required).
- incorporate rules from another bylaw about feeding animals on private property
- update the definitions, structure, format and wording of the Bylaw and controls to make them easier to read and understand.

Other aspects of the Bylaw, controls and their implementation remain unchanged, for example:

- the Bylaw continues to focus on the impact of animals on people
- matters already covered in existing legislation are not addressed in the Bylaw, for example animal welfare in the Animal Welfare Act, pest control in the Biosecurity Act and Auckland Regional Pest Management Plan and dogs in the Dog Management Bylaw
- existing rules in the Bylaw and controls for which changes are not proposed remain, for example the restrictions on the ownership of stock in urban areas and conditions for riding horses on certain beaches in Auckland.

Note: *this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.*

Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable):

Your local board: Kaipātiki

Your feedback

Proposal 1: Require an approval to keep more than two beehives on urban premises 2000 square meters or less

We have heard a range of views about limits on beehives in urban areas. We are seeking feedback on:

- allowing more or less beehives without an approval than the proposed two (for example, retaining the current no limit)
- limits for different sized urban premises than the proposed 2000 square metres (for example, requiring an approval for any beehive on urban premises less than 600 square metres, or in an apartment).

To own more than two hives, people would need to apply for an animal management license, which would consider factors like location and proximity to neighbours. These rules will not affect people living in rural areas.

What is your opinion on this proposal? No, I don't agree - there should be fewer rules.

Tell us why: We are beekeepers in on an urban property of 675m2. Bee keepers are recommended to keep a minimum of two hives at any one time to help with assessing the health of each hive. We feel that 3 hives per section of this size is a comfortable number and more than adequate, plus you must make allowances for two Nuc's also, as you need to be encouraging more breeding for more hives across Auckland.

We have two hives that do not cause any impact on neighbours but this is mostly about correct placement of the hive entrances rather than the numbers. My key suggestion would be making your rules focus more on placement and flight path, not quantity. There are some small sections that would easily handle more hives, and others that would handle none. The location needs to receive good morning sun and not have a flight path that will go directly into pedestrians on foot path, it needs to have consideration given to where people's washing lines are and where they park there cars, and potentially where they access their front doors.

I think you need to be making beekeeping easier not harder for the few people that do it.

Proposal 2: Move rules about the feeding of animals on private property to the Animal Management Bylaw

These rules already exist but we are proposing to include them within the Animal Management Bylaw rather than the Property Maintenance and Nuisance Bylaw 2015, so it is easier to find rules about animals.

What is your opinion on this proposal? Yes, I agree

Tell us why: You need to include something about people feeding cat colonies in industrial parks, catch Snip chip but do not return the cats to go on causing nuisance

Proposal 3: Update the Bylaw definitions, structure, format, and wording

We have done this to make the Bylaw and controls easier to read and understand, for example by:

- aligning definitions of 'nuisance' and 'public place' with those in the Public Safety and Nuisance Bylaw 2013
- aligning the Bylaw and control structure, format, and wording with current drafting practices.

What is your opinion on this proposal? Other

Tell us why:

Are there any other comments you wish to make?

If the public is being adversely affected by cat nuisance factors, then why are you not seeking feedback on the lack of changes in the bylaw?

Cats cause many residents a great deal of nuisance, but residents are victimized by cat fanatics when we speak

The personal information that you provide

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