

Date: Friday, 30 July 2021

**ANIMAL MANAGEMENT
BYLAW REVIEW 2021**

**WAIHEKE LOCAL BOARD
WRITTEN FEEDBACK Vol. 1
(166–167)**

Sub #	Organisation Name	Local Board
166		Waiheke
167		Waiheke



Animal Management Bylaw Review 2021

Every day Aucklanders interact with animals in ways that benefit their mental and physical wellbeing: with their pets at home for companionship, with animals in public to connect with nature, or for recreation such as horse riding.

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
- 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: Waiheke

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? Yes, I agree

Tell us why: But If a person or business wants to have more than two hives on a residential property all effected parties including neighbours should be consulted - Bee pooh effects surrounding area effecting outdoor furniture, drying of clothes on washing lines, windows, etc -

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
- 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:

Are there any other comments you wish to make?

The personal information that you provide

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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 fewer rules.

Tell us why: Bees are important pollinators and we need them

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: Domestic animals should be fed on the owners' properties. This especially applies to cats - all of which wander over neighbouring properties and predate on native wildlife. Part of cats' feeding is preying on native wildlife outside of their owners' properties. This is unacceptable. The specific exemption for cats to be allowed to roam must be stopped. All cats should be required to be kept within private properties. This is entirely possible - all the major Australian cities have cat curfews. I live on Waiheke, which is part-way through a project to make the island predator-free, and which is widely supported by the community. Trouble is the known apex predators in the Waiheke environment are cats, which are feeding themselves outside of their 'home' properties, at the expense of native skinks and birds. This is our major animal management issue in our community, and this must be addressed.

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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?

The Bylaw rules about cats must be changed; and as public servants, people at Auckland council are obligated to listen to community feedback. The specific exemption in the laws about containing domestic animals, that allow cats to roam freely, must be addressed. So yes, you should seek feedback on this issue - and accept it when it's given - for cats are the most significant predator we have in our community on Waiheke Island - which is spending much time and energy and money in trying to become predator free. CATS MUST BE REQUIRED TO BE KEPT WITHIN PROPERTY BOUNDARIES AT ALL TIMES. The current soft approach to 'encourage responsible pet ownership' is not working. Besides, this does not address the problem of feral cats on Waiheke - which should also be exterminated by Auckland Council, and our Local Board which has a stated objective, and i therefore duty bound, to protect and enhance our natural environment.

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