DUNEDIN CITY COUNCIL | kaunihera a-rohe o Ōtepoti

Keeping of Animals Bylaw Review 2026
Statement of Proposal on cat restrictions

This statement of proposal is prepared under sections 83, 155, 156, 159 and 160 of the Local Government Act 2002.

INTRODUCTION

We are continuing the review of the Keeping of Animals Bylaw and would like to know what you think about a proposal to introduce specific cat restrictions that would require cat owners to have their cats microchipped and de-sexed (with some exceptions).

BACKGROUND

The Keeping of Animals (excluding Dogs) and Birds Bylaw was introduced in 2010 to protect the public from nuisance and to protect, promote and maintain public health and safety by controlling the keeping of animals and birds within the residential and rural-residential district. It does not extend to dogs which are regulated by the Dog Control Act 1996 and Dog Control Bylaw.

PROPOSAL

Following consultation on this review, the Hearings Committee is now proposing to introduce specific cat restrictions. This would require cat owners to have their cats over four months microchipped and de-sexed. Microchips would need to be registered with the New Zealand Companion Animals Register. Exceptions to de-sexing would be cats kept for breeding purposes and registered with a nationally recognised cat breeders' body or a veterinarian determines that de-sexing would adversely affect the cat's health or welfare. A transition period of six months is proposed. This proposal is to help manage cat-related nuisance issues in Dunedin.

More information, including reasons for this proposal, is included in the options section.

What do you think about the proposal?

OPTIONS

Cats – add to Bylaw mandatory microchipping and de-sexing cats over four months

Option 1 (proposed) Require cats over 4 months to be microchipped and desexed via bylaw (with some exceptions)	
Advantages	Disadvantages
- Could provide an additional tool to manage cat-related issues - Potentially fewer unwanted or feral cats.	- Would require rate payer funding for additional staff - Enforcement is problematic and costly e.g. proving cat ownership.

Cats – no Bylaw rules but promote and educate responsible cat ownership

Option 2: Promote responsible cat ownership (microchipping and de-sexing) e.g. via education, collaboration and marketing	
Advantages	*Disadvantages*
- Minimal, if any, ratepayer funding required - Encourages responsible cat ownership	- May not be so effective as including within a bylaw.

- Potentially fewer unwanted or feral cats.	

DOCUMENTS

Draft revised Keeping of Animals Bylaw with tracked changes showing proposed changes.

HAVE YOUR SAY

What do you think about the proposed bylaw? Are proposed changes appropriate?

Please fill out the feedback form so we can take your views into account.

1. Where to from here?

- Public submissions period closes **5 pm Friday 11 December.**
- Hearings will be held during February 2027.
- The Council considers submissions and decides on any changes to the bylaw.
- The Council adopts the reviewed bylaw.

Keeping of Animals Bylaw (cats) November 2026 submission form

Submissions are due by 5 pm Friday 11 December.

Late submissions may not be accepted.

The provision of your personal information is optional, however, should you provide this information please note your name and organisation may be included in papers for the public and media. Information you have provided will only be used for the purpose of the consultation on the Keeping of Animals Bylaw review. The Council will collect, use and store your information in accordance with the Privacy Policy which can be found on the Council website www.dunedin.govt.nz/privacy-policy . If you would like a copy of the personal information we hold about you, or to have the information corrected, please contact us at dcc@dcc.govt.nz or 03 477 4000.

Send to: Keeping of Animals Bylaw
Dunedin City Council
PO Box 5045
Dunedin 9054

Deliver: Keeping of Animals Bylaw
DCC Customer Services Centre
Civic Centre
50 The Octagon
Dunedin

Online: www.dunedin.govt.nz/consultation
Email: AnimalRules@dcc.govt.nz

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Organisation (if applicable): _____

Postal address: _____

Postcode: _____

Email Address: _____ Phone: _____

Would you like to speak to the hearing panel in person?

(If you do not tick a box, we will assume you do not wish to be heard.)

❑ Yes ❑ No

If you wish to speak, you will be contacted with a speaking time as soon as possible after submissions close. *(Note: You may also be able to present your views by audio or audio-visual link.)*

You may answer as many or as few questions as you wish.

1. Which option do you support in relation to managing cat-related issues in Dunedin?

    - Option 1 (proposed): Mandatory microchipping and de-sexing
    - Option 2: No bylaw rules – but promote and educate on responsible cat ownership
    - Other, please specify: _____

    Please explain your answer: _____

2. Do you have any other comments relating to cat management in Dunedin? _____

Remember your submission needs to reach the Council by 5 pm Friday 11 December.

Thank you for your feedback.