

Keeping of Animals Bylaw Review 2026

Statement of Proposal

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

INTRODUCTION

We are reviewing the Keeping of Animals Bylaw and would like to know what you think.

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.

The Bylaw was reviewed in 2022 when provision was added to ban the keeping of roosters in residential zone areas unless owners have written permission. This was in response to feedback about noise nuisance issues. The Bylaw is due for review.

PROPOSAL

Following initial community engagement, no substantive change is proposed to the Bylaw which seems to be working well to address issues related to keeping animals in Dunedin. One minor amendment to the definition of 'animal' is proposed for clarification.

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

What do you think about the proposal?

OPTIONS

Keeping roosters - no change proposed

The proposal is to retain the ban on keeping roosters in residential zone areas unless owners have written permission from the Council. The Council may impose conditions to the permission e.g. breeders/owners with no nuisance record. This helps to address noise nuisance issues with roosters and is in response to complaints and survey feedback.

Residential zone areas are spread throughout Dunedin City. Visit [2GP Planning map](#) to see the zones for your area of interest.

Option 1: Retain the ban on keeping roosters in residential areas unless with written permission from Council (proposed)	
<i>Advantages</i> • Greater ability to protect public health and safety and to protect public from nuisance. • Allows responsible owners to keep roosters (with written permission). • Allows control over any nuisance issues with owners who are granted permission.	<i>Disadvantages</i> • Potentially more restrictive for rooster owners in residential areas.

Does not restrict rooster owners outside residential areas.	
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Option 2: Do not restrict keeping roosters in any area	
<i>Advantages</i> Less restriction for rooster owners in residential areas.	<i>Disadvantages</i> Limited ability to protect public health and safety and to protect public from noise nuisance.

Keeping other animals - no change proposed

Bees

No change to the bylaw is proposed in relation to bees. This means there are no specific restrictions proposed for keeping bees as there is insufficient evidence to warrant this. The bylaw already provides generally if bees pose a nuisance.

Cats

No specific bylaw restrictions are proposed for keeping cats. The bylaw already allows the Council to impose a limit on the number and/or species of animals or birds kept at a property if owners are non-compliant in addressing nuisance issues.

A bylaw is not considered the most appropriate means of addressing cat issues specifically. While feedback shows most issues are with the number of cats, cats wandering and cats attacking wildlife, these issues do not, in themselves, pose a nuisance to the public or impact public health and safety. So, this falls outside the scope of the Local Government Act 2002, under which this bylaw is made, which is aimed at protecting people and communities rather than wildlife.

Where other issues such as cat faeces can be a nuisance or impact health and safety, they can be dealt with through existing bylaw provisions.

Some other councils have introduced microchipping and neutering requirements. However, discussions indicate that these are problematic in terms of management, enforcement, resources and do not fit well within the legislative framework of a bylaw.

DOCUMENTS

See Attachment A for the draft revised Keeping of Animals Bylaw with tracked changes showing the minor 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 21 August**.
- Hearings will be held around September 2026.
- The Council considers submissions and decides on any changes to the bylaw.
- The Council adopts the reviewed bylaw.

Keeping of Animals Bylaw 2026 submission form

Submissions are due by 5 pm Friday 21 August 2026

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.

General Support

Generally, do you agree that the current Keeping of Animals Bylaw works well to address issues relating to keeping animals in Dunedin?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Why/why not?

Roosters

Which of the following options do you support in relation to keeping roosters?

- ☐ Option 1 (proposed): Retain the ban on keeping roosters in residential areas unless with written permission from the Council.
- ☐ Option 2: Do not specifically restrict keeping of roosters in any area.

Why/why not?

Other comments

Do you have any other comments to make about the proposed Keeping of Animals Bylaw?

Remember your submission needs to reach the Council by 5 pm Friday 21 August 2026.

Thank you for your feedback.