

AGENDA



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MEMBERSHIP: Tony Robinson (Chair), Debbie Gregory and Nick Tupara

BYLAW SUBMISSIONS PANEL/KĀHUI TĀPAETANGA TURE Ā-ROHE Committee

DATE: Wednesday 26 April 2023

TIME: 1:00PM

AT: Te Ruma Kaunihera (Council Meeting Room), Awarua, Fitzherbert Street, Gisborne

AGENDA – OPEN SECTION

1. Apologies	1
2. Declarations of Interest.....	1
3. Leave of Absence.....	1
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9.1. 23-12 Draft Keeping of Animals Bylaw 2023 - Hearings Report	2

9. Reports of the Chief Executive and Staff for DECISION



23-12

Title: 23-12 Draft Keeping of Animals Bylaw 2023 - Hearings Report
Section: Strategy
Prepared by: Abi Wiseman - Senior Policy Advisor
Meeting Date: Wednesday 26 April 2023

Legal: No

Financial: No

Significance: **Low**

Report to BYLAW SUBMISSIONS PANEL/KĀHUI TĀPAETANGA TURE Ā-ROHE for decision

PURPOSE - TE TAKE

This report recommends that the Bylaw Submissions Panel receives and hears submissions on the draft Keeping of Animals Bylaw 2023.

SUMMARY - HE WHAKARĀPOPOTOTANGA

The Keeping of Animals, Poultry and Bees Bylaw 2012 (the current bylaw) aims to protect the public from animal nuisance through general and species-specific regulation of animals (except dogs), bees and poultry to reduce the incidence of odour, noise and vermin.

Council adopted the Statement of Proposal (SOP) for public consultation at the 15 December meeting (**Report 22-246**). Consultation on the SOP and draft Keeping of Animals Bylaw 2023 (the draft Bylaw) took place from 25 January to 16 March 2023. The original consultation end date of 2 March was extended by two weeks to account for the disruption to communications channels and community capacity to engage caused by Cyclone Gabrielle.

Council received 36 written submissions and one verbal submission on the SOP and draft Bylaw. All submissions are attached in **Attachment 1**. Three of the submitters have requested to present their submission to the Bylaw Submissions Panel on 26 April.

Part two of the Panel's process is to deliberate on the content of the submissions and to make recommendations to Council. A Deliberations Report will be provided separately that includes the submissions analysis and any further information requested by the Panel as a result of the Hearing and receiving the submissions. Recommendations from the Panel's deliberations will be considered by Council.

The decisions or matters in this report are considered to be of **Low** significance in accordance with the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

RECOMMENDATIONS - NGĀ TŪTOHUNGA

That the Bylaw Submissions Panel/Kāhui Tāpaetanga Ture ā-Rohe:

- 1. Receives and hears submissions on the draft Keeping of Animals Bylaw 2023.**

Authorised by:

Joanna Noble - Chief of Strategy & Science

Keywords: Animals, Bees, Poultry, Stock, Chickens, Roosters, Feral, Stray, submissions, hearings, Keeping of Animals Bylaw

BACKGROUND - HE WHAKAMĀRAMA

1. Council's Keeping of Animals, Poultry and Bees Bylaw 2012 (the current bylaw) aims to protect the public from animal nuisance through the general and species-specific regulation of animals (except dogs), bees and poultry to reduce the incidence of odour, noise and vermin.
2. On 15 December 2022, Council approved the Statement of Proposal and draft Keeping of Animals Bylaw 2023 (the draft Bylaw) for public consultation (**Report 22-246**). Consultation took place from 25 January until 16 March 2023 and followed the statutory Special Consultative Procedure as required under the Local Government Act (section 156).
3. The SOP included four key proposed changes to the current bylaw. The proposals were:
 - a. Simplify poultry keeping provisions and reduce limit on head of poultry in residential zones.
 - b. Simplify beekeeping provisions.
 - c. Simplify pig keeping provisions.
 - d. Add feral/stray animal provisions.

DISCUSSION and OPTIONS - WHAKAWHITINGA KŌRERO me ngā KŌWHIRINGA

4. Council received 33 written submissions through the online Participate portal, as well as three further written submissions received via email. One submission was made verbally during a drop-in session. Three individuals or organisations will attend the Hearing to present their views.
5. All submissions, including a written summary of the verbal submission, are included in full at **Attachment 1**.

ASSESSMENT of SIGNIFICANCE - AROTAKENGA o NGĀ HIRANGA

Consideration of consistency with and impact on the Regional Land Transport Plan and its implementation

Overall Process: **Low** Significance

Impacts on Council's delivery of its Financial Strategy and Long Term Plan

Overall Process: **Low** Significance

Inconsistency with Council's current strategy and policy

Overall Process: **Low** Significance

The effects on all or a large part of the Gisborne district

Overall Process: **Low** Significance

The effects on individuals or specific communities

Overall Process: **Medium** Significance

This Report: **Medium** Significance

The level or history of public interest in the matter or issue

Overall Process: **Low** Significance

This Report: **Low** Significance

6. The decisions or matters in this report are considered to be of **Low** significance in accordance with Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

TANGATA WHENUA/MĀORI ENGAGEMENT - TŪTAKITANGA TANGATA WHENUA

7. Staff reached out via email to Te Runanganui o Ngati Porou, Rongowhakaata Iwi Trust, Ngai Tāmanuhiri Trust, Te Aitanga a Mahaki Trust, Te Whanau a Kai and Nga Ariki to invite submissions on the SOP and draft Bylaw. No submissions were received from these iwi or hapū.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT - TŪTAKITANGA HAPORI

8. The consultation period was publicised broadly via the Council's website and social media channels, the Gisborne Herald, and radio ads across all major radio stations. Drop-in sessions were also held at Council, with low attendance.
9. Targeted engagement was limited to Iwi Trusts, as detailed in paragraph 7, as well as directly emailing respondents of an earlier pre-engagement survey targeted towards beekeeping, which ran online for two weeks in May 2022.
10. The consultation period was extended from the initial end date of 2 March 2023 to account for the disruption caused by Cyclone Gabrielle, including total loss of communication channels across Tairāwhiti from 14 February, with most communication channels restored within a week, as well as an ongoing reduction in our communities' capacity to engage given the broader impacts of the national emergency.

CLIMATE CHANGE – Impacts / Implications - NGĀ REREKĒTANGA ĀHUARANGI – ngā whakaaweawe / ngā ritenga

11. There are no climate change implications associated with the decision to receive and hear the submissions on the SOP and draft Bylaw.

CONSIDERATIONS - HEI WHAKAARO

Financial/Budget

12. There are no financial or budget implications arising from the matters discussed in this report.

Legal

13. The consultation process has followed the Special Consultative Procedures requirements under the Local Government Act 2002. The opportunity for submitters to speak to their submission to the Bylaw Submissions Panel satisfies the requirements of Sections 83(1)(d) and 82(1)(d).
14. The full submissions have been included in **Attachment 1**. Submitters contact details, except for those submitting on behalf of their organisations, have been redacted in line with Section 7(2)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act, as well as with Section 22 of the Privacy Act 2020.

POLICY and PLANNING IMPLICATIONS - KAUPAPA HERE me ngā RITENGA WHAKAMAHERE

15. The Keeping of Animals, Poultry and Bees Bylaw 2012 review presents no ongoing policy and planning implications beyond project delivery and implementation.

RISKS - NGĀ TŪRARU

16. There are no major risks associated with the decisions sought.

NEXT STEPS - NGĀ MAHI E WHAI AKE

Date	Action/Milestone	Comments
TBC	Deliberations.	
June 2023 (TBC)	Council decision to adopt the Keeping of Animals Bylaw 2023.	Dependent on work needed post deliberations. Anticipated to be either the June 2023 meeting.
TBC	Keeping of Animals Bylaw 2023 comes into effect.	Dependent on date adopted by Council and the date adopted for it to come into force.

ATTACHMENTS - NGĀ TĀPIRITANGA

1. Attachment 1 - Copy of Submissions on Draft Keeping of Animals Bylaw 2023 [23-12.1 - 101 pages]

Annex 1: Submissions on Draft Keeping of Animals Bylaw 2023

Table 1: Schedule of submissions being presented to Bylaw Submissions Panel on 26 April

Response No:	Name
21	Barry Foster, Apiculture NZ
41	Dr. Sarah Olson, Companion Animals NZ
42	Amelia Geary, Forest and Bird

Table 2: Schedule of all other submissions

Response No:	Name
1	Kelsey Griffin
2	Amy
3	Amy-Kelly Clark
4	Doris Kaihe
5	Kylie
6	Jenine Ritchie
7	Barb Woods
8	Blair Strickland
9	Peter McKay
10	J Kim Harvie
11	Matt Baddeley
12	Sarah Barton
13-20	Corinna Watts
22	Grant
23	Anna M Davis
24	Dale Coppin
25	Sarah Homer
26	Yvonne Wruck
27	Judah Theobald
28	Ian Harrington
29	Olivia Steven
30	Katrina Connelly-Maynard
31	Malissa fretwell
32	Claire Kelly
33	Jaimee
34	Tina Middlemiss
35	Sarah McDonald
36	Kathleen Fox
37	Jason Courtis
38	Lyll Evans
39	Bridget Scully
40	Anthony Dohrman
43	Arnja Dale, RNZSPCA
44	Gill Whitingham

Response No: 21

Name: Barry Foster

Submission received via Participate form 29 January 2023

Organisation: Apiculture NZ Tairāwhiti Hub Chair

Proposal B – Simplify Bee Keeping Provisions

Do you agree to retain some bee provisions and simplify hive limits to 2 hives for any property in the urban areas?

Yes

Tell us why

Having more than two full sized hives per property runs a greater risk of nuisance to neighbours and members of the public. Having said that at times beekeepers will place small nucleus hives on their urban properties for the purposes of mating the queen or for convenience [SIC] as far as management in conjunction with other apiary sites in rural areas. As a general rule two hives should be sufficient [SIC] per property in an urban environment. I could speak to this at the hearing.



1 March 2023

Dear Gisborne District Council,

Introduction

Companion Animals New Zealand (CANZ) is an organisation that educates the community on providing A Good Life for companion animals. CANZ is committed to animal welfare, and to advancing responsible companion animal ownership in New Zealand. Our hope is that all companion animals in New Zealand can enjoy A Good Life.

CANZ welcomes the opportunity to make a submission on the proposed changes to the Gisborne District Council Keeping of Animals, Poultry and Bees Bylaw 2012. We are specifically interested in giving feedback in relation to the management of cats.

Companion Animals NZ encourages the Gisborne District Council to include mandatory microchipping and desexing of cats in their Keeping of Animals, Poultry and Bees Bylaw.

Scientific evidence supporting the mandatory desexing of cats

CANZ considers desexing of cats to be an essential part of responsible cat ownership. The overpopulation of cats is a well-known and recognised issue not only in New Zealand but throughout the world.

Domestic cats can reach reproductive maturity as early as 3.5 months of age (Farnworth, 2013a). Research conducted in Australia has shown that only 70% of cats are desexed prior to the age of 6

months, allowing opportunity for sexually mature cats to produce litters before they are desexed (Toukhsati, 2005).

The exact numbers of stray cats in New Zealand is not definitively known, however one study has estimated it to be around 196,000 (Farnworth, 2013b). With 89% of companion cats in New Zealand being free roaming (Companion Animals New Zealand, 2020) the likelihood of interaction between owned and stray cats is extremely high. Consequently, there is huge potential for un-desexed owned cats to mate with stray cats and produce unwanted litters which contributes towards the overall overpopulation issue in New Zealand. In Gisborne, 46.7% of households have a cat. There are an average of 1.7 cats per household (Companion Animals NZ, 2020 unpublished data), and 4.3% of these cats are not desexed. The number of households in the Gisborne District is 16,509 (Stats NZ, n.d.). It can therefore be estimated that the Gisborne region contains 563 owned un-desexed cats.

Given that a female cat has an average of four kittens per litter, and can have up to three litters per year, it is easy to see how rapidly cat populations can expand. Desexing is the most affordable, sustainable, and practical solution to controlling the cat population.

Each year thousands of cats and kittens are taken to animal shelters, many of which are either unsuitable for adoption or are unable to find homes and are subsequently euthanised. There is a lack of national statistics relating to cat numbers in animal shelters, however 17,570 kittens arrived at SPCA centres across New Zealand in 2017 alone (SPCA, 2019). This is representative of the issue New Zealand wide and should be addressed through implementing mandatory desexing of owned cats to prevent unwanted litters and breeding with the stray cat population.

As well as the benefit of reducing unwanted litters and associated euthanasia as described above, there are additional benefits to the desexing of cats (Berg, n.d., Cupp, 2014). Desexed cats engage in less nuisance behaviour e.g. roaming, fighting, spraying. Desexing has important disease prevention benefits, such as reduced mammary, uterine and ovarian tumours and pyometra (uterine infection) in females, reduced risk of testicular tumours and prostate disorders including cancer in males, and an increased lifespan in both males and females.

As well as mandating the desexing of cats, CANZ believes it is important for Gisborne District Council to mandate the age by which cats must be desexed. As described above, age of desexing plays an important role in preventing unwanted litters and so managing the cat overpopulation problem.

The traditional age of desexing of cats is 6 months. However, research suggests there is no significant behavioural and physical advantages of desexing at this age (Joyce, 2011). The New Zealand Veterinary Association supports pre-pubertal desexing of cats from 8 weeks of age and cites benefits of early age

desexing including improved population control, faster surgical procedure with less trauma and stress for the individual cat, and reduced recovery times (NZVA, 2018). CANZ recommends amending the draft bylaw to include compulsory desexing by 4 months of age.

CANZ proposes that a cat should be exempt from desexing if:

- a) The cat is owned, for the purposes of breeding, by a cat breeder registered with the New Zealand Cat Fancy or Catz Incorporated
- b) The owner provides a certificate from a veterinarian stating that the desexing of the cat will adversely affect its health and/or welfare

CANZ position on mandatory microchipping of cats.

Further to the requirement for desexing cats, CANZ also suggests an addition to the bylaw mandating microchipping and registering of that microchip on the New Zealand Companion Animal Register (NZCAR).

An important aspect of being a responsible animal owner is ensuring your pet is identifiable. CANZ believes that all pets should be able to be identified as owned. Such identification gives the animal a greater degree of protection and a much higher chance of being returned to their home when lost or stolen. It is essential that all microchips are registered on the NZCAR, as an unregistered microchip cannot be used to identify a cat as belonging to a particular owner. NZCAR is the only database available in New Zealand to register microchips for cats.

In Gisborne in 2020, 39% of cats were microchipped, and of these, only 33% had their microchip registered on the NZCAR (Companion Animals NZ, 2020 unpublished data). This means only 13% of cats in Gisborne would be easily identifiable should they go missing.

Research has indicated that return-to-owner rates for cats that are microchipped is 20 times higher than for cats that are not microchipped (Lord, 2009). Following the 2011 Christchurch earthquake, 85 per cent of microchipped animals were reunited with their owners, compared with a rate of just 15 per cent for those without chips Stuff (2011)

There are a number of benefits to microchipping cats, both for the owner and animal, and for Gisborne District Council and other Animal Welfare Organisations.

Benefits of microchipping to the owner and animal:

- Microchipping allows the owner of a lost or stolen cat to be contacted so that the cat and owner can be reunited
- Owners of cats that are injured can be promptly identified and are able to make decisions about the cats' treatment
- Cats who are microchipped are able to utilise other microchip-activated devices such as microchip-activated feeders and microchip-activated cat doors
- Mass displacement of animals during events such as the recent flooding during Cyclone Gabrielle, are inevitable. The prevalence of these natural disasters is increasing and microchipping is an essential tool for facilitating effective repatriation during these times.

Benefits of microchipping to Gisborne District Council and other Animal Welfare Organisations:

- Cats that are causing nuisance or are non-compliant with the bylaw e.g. not desexed, can be identified and owners can be contacted and educated about their responsibility
- Quicker repatriation by using the NZCAR means less cost for managing and feeding found animals, and less administration and time spent on trying to locate owners using social media and advertising
- Feral and stray cats are listed as a Sustained Control Animals under the Northland Regional Pest and Marine Pathway Management Plan 2017-2027. In the event that the Gisborne District Council were undertaking control measures for feral/stray cats, mandatory microchipping would be of great benefit in providing assurance that cats being controlled were in fact feral/stray and not pets.

What about enforceability?

We appreciate that there is no national Cat Management Act allowing enforceability of cat-specific bylaws. We believe that the creation of such an Act would allow for a significant improvement in the lives of New Zealand cats, and we are part of the National Cat Management Strategy Group advocating for the creation of such an Act.

Despite the current enforceability issues, we nevertheless encourage Gisborne District Council to include these provisions in their bylaw for the following reasons

- The bylaw sets an expectation of what is required to be a responsible cat owner and normalises desexing and microchipping.

- The bylaw would show Gisborne District Council to be leaders in animal and environmental welfare.
- The bylaw would serve as an indicator to Central Government that Local Government feels the control of cats is of importance. The more District Councils have bylaws which show the need to control cats, the more attention may be paid to the control of cats by Central Government, ultimately resulting in effective legislative change such as the introduction of a Cat Management Act. There are currently five city/district councils in New Zealand mandating the microchipping and registration of cats (Wellington, Palmerston North, Selwyn, Whanganui, Whangarei).
- These bylaws encourage cat owners to desex and microchip their cat, resulting in increased rates of microchipping and desexing. Increased rates of microchipping and desexing has benefits for cats, cat owners, Gisborne District Council, animal welfare organisations and the environment.

To illustrate this, Figure 1 below depicts the rate of registration of cat microchips on the New Zealand Companion Animal Register between 2010 and 2020 in Wellington. As you can see, in Wellington there was a significant increase in the rates of microchip registration of cats coinciding with the introduction of the local bylaw mandating feline microchipping and registration.

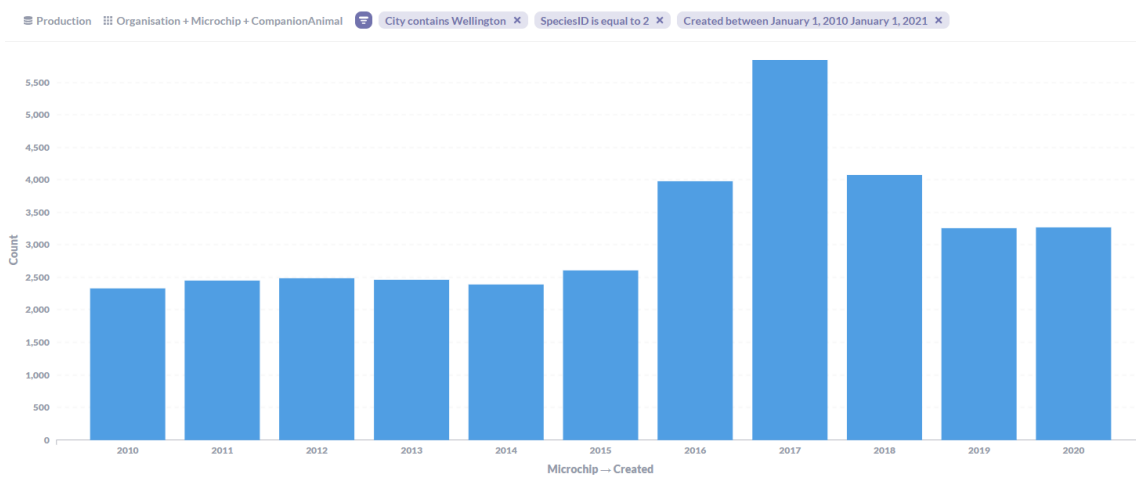


Figure 1: Rates of feline microchip registration in the Wellington region 2010 – 2020.

Conclusion

CANZ appreciates the opportunity to contribute to the Gisborne District Council Animals Bylaw. CANZ requests that Gisborne District Council include a requirement for residents to desex their cats in the bylaw. We kindly ask that you consider our suggestions above regarding mandating desexing of cats by four months of age, compulsory microchipping, and registration of the microchip on the New Zealand Companion Animal Register.

CANZ would welcome further engagement on these issues. If any further information is required, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Olson

Welfare Manager, Companion Animals New Zealand

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Forest & Bird

TE REO O TE TAIAO | *Giving Nature a Voice*

2 March 2023

Submission on Gisborne District Council Draft Keeping of Animals Bylaw 2023

To: Gisborne District Council
Submitted via email to service@gdc.govt.nz

From: Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society Inc (Forest & Bird)
Amelia Geary – Regional Conservation Manager
a.geary@forestandbird.org.nz or 022 039 9363

Introduction

1. Forest & Bird is New Zealand's largest independent conservation organisation. Our mission is to protect New Zealand's unique flora and fauna and its habitat.
2. We congratulate Gisborne District Council (GDC) for the review of its Keeping of Animals Bylaw. Gisborne has a well-known issue with nuisance cats. Forest & Bird encourages councils, through their bylaws, to adopt meaningful cat management policies and regulations to support responsible cat ownership, to minimise risk to human health and to minimise the risk of nuisance cats to native species.
3. We acknowledge the purpose of the bylaw is to manage the keeping of animals within the District to ensure these activities do not create a nuisance or become a threat to public health and safety. In this light, Forest & Bird contends that the proposed feral/stray animal provisions don't go far enough to specifically address the problem of cats in Gisborne District. Specific provisions to address the management of owned cats are not only necessary, they would enable council to effectively implement its Regional Pest Management Plan.
4. We would like to speak in support of our submission.

Submission

5. Cats are apex predators. Domestic cats pose a significant risk to native and endemic birds, lizards, and insects throughout New Zealand. The detrimental direct effect of cats on populations of native species has been widely recognised and documented^{1,2} and include devastating examples such as a recent case where a single domestic cat decimated the breeding attempts of native banded dotterels breeding on a beach in Wellington harbour, for the second season in a row.³
6. Domestic cats are also carriers of zoonotic diseases. This includes toxoplasmosis said to now be present in a high percentage of New Zealanders⁴ and a contributing factor in the death of a number of native species.^{5,6,7} Recent research from Australia has shown that the costs associated with diseases transmitted by cats cost the Australian economy more than A\$6 billion annually through their impact on human health and the agricultural sector.⁸
7. Domestic cats do not respect property boundaries. They are the cause of many cases of nuisance such as defecating in peoples' garden, children's play areas as well as having the potential to kill the beloved pets (birds, guinea pigs etc) of those who have no control over the unwanted movements of others' free-ranging cats. Furthermore, cats (particularly un-neutered toms) pose a significant threat to other cats and can cause innocent families large vet bills after a fight.
8. It is well known that Gisborne has a very real problem with uncontrolled cats across the District.⁹ When poorly managed, irresponsible owners of domestic cats contribute to the growth of stray and feral cat populations, which have even more devastating and compounding impacts.¹⁰ This takes on more significance when there are community conservation projects at Gray's Bush, Motu Valley, Tītīrangī/Kaiti Hill etc bordering on private houses and in coastal areas where native birds, reptiles and insects need to breed, nest and live.
9. In Gisborne there is an aspiration to return native birds to the urban environment. Projects such as the Waimatā Catchment Restoration Project that involves extensive trapping and native tree planting along the banks of the Waimatā, links Waikereru eco sanctuary to the city and the Tītīrangī/Kaiti Hill restoration project that GDC is undertaking. All of the expense and work involved in these restoration projects can be undone by not controlling predators in the area. From this point of view, the control of cats is a good investment.
10. In GDC's Regional Pest Management Plan, feral cats are defined as cats without a collar/harness or microchip that are found outside the Gisborne urban area or a rural township.¹¹ By GDC's

¹ <https://zslpublications.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1017/S095283690200328X>

² <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0006320709004133>

³ <https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/117263362/lone-tabby-on-its-way-to-wiping-out-second-generation-of-dotterels>

⁴ <http://www.stuff.co.nz/national/10056562/Cats-will-damage-your-mind-Morgan>

⁵ <https://www.doc.govt.nz/nature/pests-and-threats/diseases/toxoplasmosis-and-hectors-and-maui-dolphin/>

⁶ https://www.researchgate.net/publication/261836844_Four_Cases_of_Fatal_Toxoplasmosis_in_Three_Species_of_Endemic_New_Zealand_Birds

⁷ <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/00480169.2016.1230526>

⁸ <https://www.rnz.co.nz/national/programmes/sunday/audio/2018770798/cats-costing-billions-each-year-by-spreading-diseases>

⁹ <https://www.gisborneherald.co.nz/local-news/20190226/pet-to-pest/>

¹⁰ <https://www.doc.govt.nz/nature/pests-and-threats/animal-pests/feral-cats/>

¹¹ https://www.gdc.govt.nz/__data/assets/pdf_file/0026/9548/regional-pest-management-plan-2017.pdf

definition therefore, an unchipped cat is a pest cat outside of human habitation. Given cats' known roaming range (up to 30km in a week¹²), failing to include compulsory microchipping in this bylaw completely undermines Council's ability to declare and implement site-led control programmes for feral cats and puts itself at odds with its own investment in biodiversity restoration across the district.

11. Forest & Bird acknowledges the position cats hold as a valued companion animal to loving owners. As a loved animal, these owners also need to take responsibility for their cat's behaviour and safety. Limiting the number of cats on a property and ensuring all cats are de-sexed and microchipped is the bare minimum of this responsibility.

Forest & Bird proposes a limit of three cats per household

12. Forest & Bird is supportive of policies in Keeping of Animal Bylaws that reflect the need to better manage the negative impacts of cats. However, we would like to see specific provision in the proposed amendments to limit the number of cats per household across Gisborne District.
13. New Zealanders show a high level (>65%) of support for limits to be placed on the number of cats owned per household.¹³ Even Wairoa has a cat limit in its District. Imposing cat limits to households where cats pose a nuisance is an easy way to address and abate the nuisance.
14. Forest & Bird requests a limit on the number of cats per household across Gisborne District to three. Over 50% of councils that regulate cat numbers have set the limit to three (Table 1.). As recently as 2021, Mackenzie District Council imposed the strictest cat limit in the country, allowing only two per household in urban areas. Whanganui District Council also recently amended its draft Bylaw from a limit of four to three cats per household. Similarly, during its Animal Bylaw review in 2019, New Plymouth District Council reduced its cat limit from five to three, in line with the direction other councils are taking around New Zealand and in response to the service requests and complaints received relating to nuisance from cats.

Table 1. Territorial Authorities that currently limit cat numbers in their bylaws.

Cat limits per household	Council
Two cats	Mackenzie District Council ¹⁴
Three cats	Buller District Council ¹⁵ Carterton District Council ¹⁶ Invercargill City Council ¹⁷ Masterton District Council ¹⁸ Rangitikei District Council ²¹ South Wairarapa District Council ²² Tararua District Council ²³

¹² <https://search.informit.org/doi/abs/10.3316/informit.789061824412055>

¹³ Walker, J.K., Bruce, S.J., Dale, A.R. 2017. A Survey of Public Opinion on Cat (*Felis catus*) Predation and the Future Direction of Cat Management in New Zealand. *Animals (Basel)*. 7(7): 49. Accessed: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5532564/>

¹⁴ https://www.mackenzie.govt.nz/__data/assets/pdf_file/0005/589829/Keeping-of-Animals-Poultry-and-Bees-Bylaw-2021.pdf

¹⁵ <https://bullerdc.govt.nz/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/Keeping-of-Cats.pdf>

¹⁶ https://www.swdc.govt.nz/sites/default/files/Part%206%20Keeping%20of%20Animals%20Poultry%20and%20Bees%20Bylaw_Current_0.pdf

¹⁷ <https://icc.govt.nz/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Keeping-of-Animals-Poultry-and-Bees-Bylaw-2013.pdf>

¹⁸ See Footnote 16.

²¹ <https://www.rangitikei.govt.nz/files/forms/Animal-Control-Bylaw-2019.pdf>

²² See Footnote 16.

²³ <https://www.tararua.govt.nz/Publications/Policies-Bylaws>

	New Plymouth District Council ¹⁹ Palmerston North City Council ²⁰	Wairoa District Council ²⁴ Whanganui District Council ²⁵
Four cats	Hastings District Council ²⁶ Marlborough District Council ²⁷	Manawatū District Council ²⁸ Ruapehu District Council ²⁹
Five cats	Far North District Council ³⁰ Southland District Council ³¹	South Waikato District Council ³²

15. As currently written, Gisborne’s draft Bylaw gives no certainty or direction for Council Officers to impose a limit on cat numbers as a means of dealing with a nuisance when a complaint is received. We suggest it is out of step with best practice to not impose a firm cat limit.

Forest & Bird proposes that microchipping and registering is compulsory

16. Forest & Bird believes that microchipping and registering cats should be required of all cat owners. Requiring individuals to microchip and register their cats allows for a clear delineation between stray, feral and free-roaming owned cats. Identification of cats is paramount to ensuring that effective strategies for control of un-owned cats, that Council may wish to undertake, can progress.

17. In this context, catching microchipped cats allows not only the return of someone’s beloved pet, like the cat trapped in Inglewood and returned to its family six years after it went missing,³³ but also presents an opportunity to educate that cat owner who may have previously been oblivious to the negative impact their cat was having in the local community and the distance they may have travelled. Furthermore, compulsory microchipping would bring Gisborne District Council in

¹⁹ <https://www.newplymouthnz.com/-/media/NPDC/Documents/Council%20Documents/Bylaws/Animals%20Bylaw%202020.ashx?la=en&hash=A677A7CBBBA6FDC4E908A526DFC6A5DE7C136DFC>

²⁰ <https://www.pncc.govt.nz/media/3130963/animals-and-bees-bylaw-2018.pdf>

²⁴ <https://www.wairoadc.govt.nz/assets/Document-Library/Bylaws/WDC-Part-3-Public-Safety-Bylaw-FINAL.pdf>

²⁵ <https://www.whanganui.govt.nz/files/assets/public/bylaws/keeping-of-animals-poultry-and-bees-bylaw-2020.pdf>

²⁶ <https://www.hastingsdc.govt.nz/assets/Document-Library/Bylaws/Hastings-District-Council-Consolidated-Bylaw/hastings-district-council-consolidated-bylaws-october-2016.pdf>

²⁷ <https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/repository/libraries/id:1w1mps0ir17q9sgxanf9/hierarchy/Documents/Your%20Council/AnimalsBylaw2017.pdf>

²⁸ <https://www.mdc.govt.nz/Documents/Bylaws>

²⁹ <https://www.ruapehudc.govt.nz/repository/libraries/id:2dyphjrmg1cxby65trfv/hierarchy/our-council/policies-and-bylaws/theruapehubylaw/documents/The%20Ruapehu%20Bylaw%202022.pdf>

³⁰ <https://www.fndc.govt.nz/files/assets/public/objectivedocuments/governance-and-executive-management-gem/bylaws/keeping-animals-poultry-and-bees/keeping-of-animals-poultry-and-bees-2007.pdf>

³¹ <https://www.southlanddc.govt.nz/assets/bylawspolicies/Keeping-of-Animals-Poultry-and-Bees-Bylaw-come-into-effect-12-October-2020.pdf>

³² <https://www.southwaikato.govt.nz/repository/libraries/id:24rtvarkd17q9s3wxfnn/hierarchy/our-council/strategies-plans-policies-bylaws/bylaws/documents/Keeping%20of%20Animals%2C%20Poultry%20and%20Bees%20Bylaw%202017.pdf>

³³ <https://www.nzherald.co.nz/stratford-press/news/hundreds-of-kittens-and-cats-rescued-this-year-alone-by-taranaki-animal-protection-trust/SGLHEBF4GHSTZNGIDWCIXCNMGU/>

line with recent bylaws enacted by Whanganui, Palmerston North, Wellington City,³⁴ Selwyn District,³⁵ Whangārei³⁶ and most recently Ruapehu District.³⁷

18. Microchipping is a well-supported management tool for cats in New Zealand. A study of public opinion found 66% agreed it should be compulsory for companion cats to be microchipped.³⁸ The Ministry for Primary Industry's Code of Welfare: Companion Cats 2018's Recommended Best Practice is that cats should be identified with a microchip³⁹. Given microchipping is compulsory for dog owners, few truly loving cat owners will be put off by the imposition of the cost of microchipping to ensure the protection of their companion animal.
19. Furthermore, compulsory microchipping and registration of cats would support Council to enforce proposed Clause #.4 below, regarding Nuisance Cats. If Nuisance Cats are identified and not compliant with proposed identification measures, then it will be easier for Council to take precautions to reduce the nuisance effect.

Forest & Bird proposes the compulsory requirement to de-sex cats

20. It is clear that uncontrolled breeding is a big nuisance issue that Gisborne District needs to tackle. Tararua, Palmerston North, Whanganui, Whangārei and Ruapehu District Councils all included de-sexing in their recent Animals Bylaw reviews. Forest & Bird suggests Gisborne District Council would be lagging behind other councils if it didn't include the requirement to de-sex cats in this bylaw.
21. The reproductive potential of a single female cat is estimated at 300 kittens in her reproductive lifetime. The potential for a male cat is far beyond that. MPI's Code of Welfare states puberty can occur from four months of age. Responsible cat ownership includes having cats desexed at or before puberty. Forest & Bird would support the provision of targeted funding towards voluntary de-sexing and the establishment of an education programme teaching responsible cat ownership in addition to regulation through this Bylaw.
22. Most local councils have bylaws covering the keeping of domestic animals. At the time of Whangārei's Animals Bylaw review in 2017 for example, Council established at the time that non-regulatory measures would be insufficient to address the District's cat problem. The difficulty with any generic nuisance provisions and voluntary compliance regime is that individuals may not have an adequate incentive to comply and Council Officers have limited enforcement ability.

Forest & Bird proposes allocating appropriate resources to ensure bylaw effectiveness

23. Forest & Bird suggests Council needs to provide sufficient budget to provide affordable de-sexing to cat owners and provide Officers with the necessary regulatory framework to enforce de-sexing when the voluntary measures fail. In Wellington, for example, they have an officer

³⁴ https://wellington.govt.nz/your-council/plans-policies-and-bylaws/bylaws/wellington-consolidated-bylaw-2008/part-2_-animals#four4

³⁵ <https://www.selwyn.govt.nz/news-And-events/news/new-rules-agreed-for-keeping-animals-in-selwyn-towns>

³⁶ <https://www.wdc.govt.nz/files/assets/public/documents/council/bylaws/animals-bylaw.pdf>

³⁷ <https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/300757581/clampdown-on-freewheeling-backyard-moggies>

³⁸ Walker, J.K., Bruce, S.J., Dale, A.R. 2017. A Survey of Public Opinion on Cat (*Felis catus*) Predation and the Future Direction of Cat Management in New Zealand. *Animals (Basel)*. 7(7): 49. Accessed:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5532564/>

³⁹ <https://www.agriculture.govt.nz/dmsdocument/1413-Companion-Cats-Animal-Welfare-Code-of-Welfare>

who works two days a week systematically clearing out the city's stray cat populations. They have partnered with a shelter to ensure captured cats are housed for the required length of time and any cats that are suitable for re-homing, are re-homed.

24. Cat management in Gisborne need not be expensive or unachievable. It just requires leadership and a well-balanced approach of education, targeted funding and enforcement.
25. We have suggested wording to strengthen the proposed regulation, presented below.

Cats

#.1 Except with the approval of Council, no person shall keep more than three (3) cats over the age of three months on premises within Gisborne District.

#.2 Any cat over four (4) months must be:

(a) microchipped and the cat's microchip registered with the New Zealand Companion Animal Register;

and

(b) de-sexed unless:

(i) the cat is kept for breeding purposes; and registered with a nationally recognised cat breeders body;

or

(ii) the owner provides a certificate from a veterinarian stating that the de-sexing of the cat will adversely affect its health and/or welfare.

#.3 Clauses #.1 and #.2 do not apply to lawfully established:

(a) vets; or

(b) SPCA or similar charity; or

(c) cat boarding premises.

#.4 If, in the opinion of Council, the keeping of cats on a premises is or is likely to cause or become a Nuisance, Council may in writing require all or any of the following:

(a) reduce the number of cats kept on the premises; or

(b) take other such precautions as may be considered by Council to reduce the Nuisance effects.

Submission ends.

Participate Gisborne

Have your say

Jan 25, 2023 - Mar 15, 2023

Project: Keeping of Animals Bylaw

Tool Type: Form

Activity ID: 46

Exported: Mar 28, 2023, 12:47 PM

Exported By: Ikubrova



Response No:
1

Contribution ID: 1304
Member ID:
Date Submitted: Mar 15, 2023, 07:23 PM

Q1 Name

Short Text Kelsey Griffin

Q2 Organisation (if applicable)

Short Text

Q3 Address

Long Text

Q4 Email

Email

Q5 Do you wish to present your submission in person to councillors at the hearing?

Multi Choice No thanks

Q6 Staff will contact you with the date and time of the hearing. Please provide your daytime contact number.

Short Text

Q7 Proposal A - Simplify Poultry Keeping Provisions

Multi Choice No

Q8 Tell us why

Long Text I believe it is unfair to reduce the number of poultry allowed to be kept in an urban area to only 6. Considering the current cost of eggs and inflation, it is unfair to have people, who are trying to maintain some level of self-sufficiency through the keeping of eggs, to be put in a position to have to buy from the supermarket. Not only that but at an emotional level it's unfair. I have 8 chickens in my flock and they are my pets who I love and to be told I have to choose between them is cruel.

Q9 Proposal B - Simplify Bee Keeping Provisions

Multi Choice

Q10 Tell us why

Long Text

Q11 Proposal C - Simplify Pig Keeping Provisions

Multi Choice

Q12 Tell us why

Long Text

Q13 Proposal D - New Feral/Stray Animal Clause

Multi Choice Yes

Q14 Tell us why

Long Text

Response No:
2

Contribution ID: 1276
Member ID:
Date Submitted: Mar 09, 2023, 07:47 AM

- Q1 Name**
Short Text Amy
- Q2 Organisation (if applicable)**
Short Text
- Q3 Address**
Long Text
- Q4 Email**
Email
- Q5 Do you wish to present your submission in person to councillors at the hearing?**
Multi Choice No thanks
- Q6 Staff will contact you with the date and time of the hearing. Please provide your daytime contact number.**
Short Text
- Q7 Proposal A - Simplify Poultry Keeping Provisions**
Multi Choice No
- Q8 Tell us why**
Long Text
I agree to rewording the poultry section but do not agree with option 2, lowering poultry numbers.
I agree to option 1, retaining current number restrictions.
I have kept poultry for many years across several regions and 12 is the standard restriction of urban poultry. 6 hens can supply a small family in eggs, but not a larger family, especially considering laying can fluctuate greatly. It also doesn't allow for raising a couple of new chicks each year replacing older hens once the chicks lay
- Q9 Proposal B - Simplify Bee Keeping Provisions**
Multi Choice Yes
- Q10 Tell us why**
Long Text
- Q11 Proposal C - Simplify Pig Keeping Provisions**
Multi Choice
- Q12 Tell us why**
Long Text
- Q13 Proposal D - New Feral/Stray Animal Clause**
Multi Choice
- Q14 Tell us why**
Long Text

Response No:
3

Contribution ID: 1274
Member ID:
Date Submitted: Mar 09, 2023, 06:15 AM

Q1 Name

Short Text Amy-Kelly Clark

Q2 Organisation (if applicable)

Short Text

Q3 Address

Long Text

Q4 Email

Email

Q5 Do you wish to present your submission in person to councillors at the hearing?

Multi Choice No thanks

Q6 Staff will contact you with the date and time of the hearing. Please provide your daytime contact number.

Short Text

Q7 Proposal A - Simplify Poultry Keeping Provisions

Multi Choice No

Q8 Tell us why

Long Text The limit should not be reduced to 6.

Q9 Proposal B - Simplify Bee Keeping Provisions

Multi Choice Yes

Q10 Tell us why

Long Text More than 2 hives is dangerous

Q11 Proposal C - Simplify Pig Keeping Provisions

Multi Choice Yes

Q12 Tell us why

Long Text This is necessary

Q13 Proposal D - New Feral/Stray Animal Clause

Multi Choice Yes

Q14 Tell us why

Long Text This is necessary

Response No:
4

Contribution ID: 1273

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Mar 09, 2023, 05:58 AM

Q1 Name

Short Text **doris kaihe**

Q2 Organisation (if applicable)

Short Text

Q3 Address

Long Text

Q4 Email

Email

Q5 Do you wish to present your submission in person to councillors at the hearing?

Multi Choice **No thanks**

Q6 Staff will contact you with the date and time of the hearing. Please provide your daytime contact number.

Short Text

Q7 Proposal A - Simplify Poultry Keeping Provisions

Multi Choice **No**

Q8 Tell us why

Long Text **The price of eggs is unbelievable since christmas 2022 the highest price being \$29.99 for a tray that i saw! If GDC is truly caring of gisborne as they say they are leaving the current limit of keeping 12 hens instead of reducing it to 6 benefit people in gisborne financially. Its bad enough that food prices have increased.**

Q9 Proposal B - Simplify Bee Keeping Provisions

Multi Choice **No**

Q10 Tell us why

Long Text

Q11 Proposal C - Simplify Pig Keeping Provisions

Multi Choice **No**

Q12 Tell us why

Long Text

Q13 Proposal D - New Feral/Stray Animal Clause

Multi Choice **Yes**

Q14 Tell us why

Long Text

Response No:
5

Contribution ID: 1271
Member ID:
Date Submitted: Mar 09, 2023, 03:13 AM

Q1 Name

Short Text Kylie

Q2 Organisation (if applicable)

Short Text

Q3 Address

Long Text

Q4 Email

Email

Q5 Do you wish to present your submission in person to councillors at the hearing?

Multi Choice

Q6 Staff will contact you with the date and time of the hearing. Please provide your daytime contact number.

Short Text

Q7 Proposal A - Simplify Poultry Keeping Provisions

Multi Choice Yes

Q8 Tell us why

Long Text Because both my neighbours chickens and we have rats because of it. The thought of having 24 potential chickens neighbouring us in unsettling.

Q9 Proposal B - Simplify Bee Keeping Provisions

Multi Choice Yes

Q10 Tell us why

Long Text

Q11 Proposal C - Simplify Pig Keeping Provisions

Multi Choice Yes

Q12 Tell us why

Long Text

Q13 Proposal D - New Feral/Stray Animal Clause

Multi Choice Yes

Q14 Tell us why

Long Text

Response No:
6

Contribution ID: 1268

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Mar 08, 2023, 08:10 PM

- Q1 Name**
Short Text Jenine ritchie
- Q2 Organisation (if applicable)**
Short Text
- Q3 Address**
Long Text
- Q4 Email**
Email
- Q5 Do you wish to present your submission in person to councillors at the hearing?**
Multi Choice No thanks
- Q6 Staff will contact you with the date and time of the hearing. Please provide your daytime contact number.**
Short Text
- Q7 Proposal A - Simplify Poultry Keeping Provisions**
Multi Choice No
- Q8 Tell us why**
Long Text 6 chickens may feed a family of 4 when you have young chickens and it's summer but it certainly won't when they age. 12 is a better number to cater for succession chickens, molting periods and in the cold weather when they lay less.
- Q9 Proposal B - Simplify Bee Keeping Provisions**
Multi Choice No
- Q10 Tell us why**
Long Text Some properties indicated as urban are large and/or have rural Neighbour's and therefore additional hives would not infringe on Neighbours.
Equally we need bees in our rural areas to continue pollination of our flora.
- Q11 Proposal C - Simplify Pig Keeping Provisions**
Multi Choice No
- Q12 Tell us why**
Long Text If pigs are kept well, they are not a nuisance.
Deal with people who don't keep them well on a case by case basis and don't impinge on the people doing the right things.
- Q13 Proposal D - New Feral/Stray Animal Clause**
Multi Choice
- Q14 Tell us why**
Long Text

Response No:
7

Contribution ID: 1241
Member ID: 280
Date Submitted: Mar 02, 2023, 10:39 PM

Q1 Name

Short Text Barb. woods

Q2 Organisation (if applicable)

Short Text

Q3 Address

Long Text

Q4 Email

Email

Q5 Do you wish to present your submission in person to councillors at the hearing?

Multi Choice No thanks

Q6 Staff will contact you with the date and time of the hearing. Please provide your daytime contact number.

Short Text

Q7 Proposal A - Simplify Poultry Keeping Provisions

Multi Choice Yes

Q8 Tell us why

Long Text 6 will limit the nuisance factor and it's nice to have the chickens free range so good to not have any restrictions about where on section they can go

Q9 Proposal B - Simplify Bee Keeping Provisions

Multi Choice No

Q10 Tell us why

Long Text Two is too many, due to nuisance factor, messing washing, stings etc. 1 is acceptable, needs to have in urban areas for the environment

Q11 Proposal C - Simplify Pig Keeping Provisions

Multi Choice

Q12 Tell us why

Long Text

Q13 Proposal D - New Feral/Stray Animal Clause

Multi Choice

Q14 Tell us why

Long Text

Response No:
8

Contribution ID: 1208
Member ID:
Date Submitted: Feb 22, 2023, 11:35 AM

Q1 Name

Short Text Blair Strickland

Q2 Organisation (if applicable)

Short Text

Q3 Address

Long Text

Q4 Email

Email

Q5 Do you wish to present your submission in person to councillors at the hearing?

Multi Choice No thanks

Q6 Staff will contact you with the date and time of the hearing. Please provide your daytime contact number.

Short Text

Q7 Proposal A - Simplify Poultry Keeping Provisions

Multi Choice No

Q8 Tell us why

Long Text Cause it will effect law abiding people

Q9 Proposal B - Simplify Bee Keeping Provisions

Multi Choice Yes

Q10 Tell us why

Long Text

Q11 Proposal C - Simplify Pig Keeping Provisions

Multi Choice Yes

Q12 Tell us why

Long Text

Q13 Proposal D - New Feral/Stray Animal Clause

Multi Choice No

Q14 Tell us why

Long Text Go after people that don't get animals de sexed

Response No:
9

Contribution ID: 1204
Member ID:
Date Submitted: Feb 13, 2023, 10:54 AM

Q1 Name

Short Text Peter McKay

Q2 Organisation (if applicable)

Short Text

Q3 Address

Long Text

Q4 Email

Email

Q5 Do you wish to present your submission in person to councillors at the hearing?

Multi Choice No thanks

Q6 Staff will contact you with the date and time of the hearing. Please provide your daytime contact number.

Short Text

Q7 Proposal A - Simplify Poultry Keeping Provisions

Multi Choice Yes

Q8 Tell us why

Long Text

Q9 Proposal B - Simplify Bee Keeping Provisions

Multi Choice No

Q10 Tell us why

Long Text I believe option two is the best solution, but limit it to 1 hive as bees in large numbers can cause significant nuisance in built up areas.

Q11 Proposal C - Simplify Pig Keeping Provisions

Multi Choice Yes

Q12 Tell us why

Long Text

Q13 Proposal D - New Feral/Stray Animal Clause

Multi Choice Yes

Q14 Tell us why

Long Text

Response No:
10

Contribution ID: 1171
Member ID:
Date Submitted: Feb 03, 2023, 10:01 AM

Q1 Name

Short Text J Kim Harvie

Q2 Organisation (if applicable)

Short Text

Q3 Address

Long Text

Q4 Email

Email

Q5 Do you wish to present your submission in person to councillors at the hearing?

Multi Choice No thanks

Q6 Staff will contact you with the date and time of the hearing. Please provide your daytime contact number.

Short Text

Q7 Proposal A - Simplify Poultry Keeping Provisions

Multi Choice No

Q8 Tell us why

Long Text A believe "up to 12" is a better number. Especially for those who have large sections and supply family members and friends with fresh eggs.

Q9 Proposal B - Simplify Bee Keeping Provisions

Multi Choice Yes

Q10 Tell us why

Long Text

Q11 Proposal C - Simplify Pig Keeping Provisions

Multi Choice

Q12 Tell us why

Long Text

Q13 Proposal D - New Feral/Stray Animal Clause

Multi Choice

Q14 Tell us why

Long Text

Response No:
11

Contribution ID: 1160
Member ID:
Date Submitted: Feb 01, 2023, 08:03 PM

Q1 Name

Short Text Matt Baddeley

Q2 Organisation (if applicable)

Short Text

Q3 Address

Long Text

Q4 Email

Email

Q5 Do you wish to present your submission in person to councillors at the hearing?

Multi Choice No thanks

Q6 Staff will contact you with the date and time of the hearing. Please provide your daytime contact number.

Short Text

Q7 Proposal A - Simplify Poultry Keeping Provisions

Multi Choice Yes

Q8 Tell us why

Long Text

Q9 Proposal B - Simplify Bee Keeping Provisions

Multi Choice Yes

Q10 Tell us why

Long Text

Q11 Proposal C - Simplify Pig Keeping Provisions

Multi Choice Yes

Q12 Tell us why

Long Text

Q13 Proposal D - New Feral/Stray Animal Clause

Multi Choice Yes

Q14 Tell us why

Long Text

Response No:
12

Contribution ID: 1139

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jan 30, 2023, 10:28 PM

Q1 Name

Short Text Sarah Barton

Q2 Organisation (if applicable)

Short Text

Q3 Address

Long Text

Q4 Email

Email

Q5 Do you wish to present your submission in person to councillors at the hearing?

Multi Choice No thanks

Q6 Staff will contact you with the date and time of the hearing. Please provide your daytime contact number.

Short Text

Q7 Proposal A - Simplify Poultry Keeping Provisions

Multi Choice No

Q8 Tell us why

Long Text Old hens no longer lay an egg every day. Nobody should have to kill their older hens, they eat so many slugs, snails, and grass grubs.

12 hens give about 9-10 eggs per day, enough for a family of 8.

Q9 Proposal B - Simplify Bee Keeping Provisions

Multi Choice

Q10 Tell us why

Long Text

Q11 Proposal C - Simplify Pig Keeping Provisions

Multi Choice

Q12 Tell us why

Long Text

Q13 Proposal D - New Feral/Stray Animal Clause

Multi Choice

Q14 Tell us why

Long Text

Response No:
13

Contribution ID: 1115
Member ID: 99
Date Submitted: Jan 29, 2023, 04:17 PM

Q1 Name

Short Text Corinna Watts

Q2 Organisation (if applicable)

Short Text

Q3 Address

Long Text

Q4 Email

Email

Q5 Do you wish to present your submission in person to councillors at the hearing?

Multi Choice No thanks

Q6 Staff will contact you with the date and time of the hearing. Please provide your daytime contact number.

Short Text

Q7 Proposal A - Simplify Poultry Keeping Provisions

Multi Choice

Q8 Tell us why

Long Text

Q9 Proposal B - Simplify Bee Keeping Provisions

Multi Choice

Q10 Tell us why

Long Text

Q11 Proposal C - Simplify Pig Keeping Provisions

Multi Choice

Q12 Tell us why

Long Text

Q13 Proposal D - New Feral/Stray Animal Clause

Multi Choice No

Q14 Tell us why

Long Text The founder and head of the trust is very experienced with and knowledgeable of trapping and desexing cats and is well known among the animal and animal welfare community, and in Tairāwhiti in general for her amazing work. She could be approached to organise and facilitate TNR programmes for stray or wild cats here, if funding can be found for them.

Response No:
14

Contribution ID: 1114
Member ID: 99
Date Submitted: Jan 29, 2023, 04:13 PM

Q1 Name

Short Text Corinna Watts

Q2 Organisation (if applicable)

Short Text

Q3 Address

Long Text

Q4 Email

Email

Q5 Do you wish to present your submission in person to councillors at the hearing?

Multi Choice No thanks

Q6 Staff will contact you with the date and time of the hearing. Please provide your daytime contact number.

Short Text

Q7 Proposal A - Simplify Poultry Keeping Provisions

Multi Choice

Q8 Tell us why

Long Text

Q9 Proposal B - Simplify Bee Keeping Provisions

Multi Choice

Q10 Tell us why

Long Text

Q11 Proposal C - Simplify Pig Keeping Provisions

Multi Choice

Q12 Tell us why

Long Text

Q13 Proposal D - New Feral/Stray Animal Clause

Multi Choice No

Q14 Tell us why

Long Text

Further to my submission about funding Trap-Neuter-Return and support programmes to reduce numbers of stray and feral animals, for animal species where that is able to be done, if the council is not able to find funding for these it would be fantastic if a trust or non profit organisation could be created for it where funding can be received. For stray or feral cats, another possibility could be to approach the Mutts & Moggies Tairāwhiti Animal Education and Care Charitable Trust. Cont'd next..

Response No:
15

Contribution ID: 1111
Member ID: 99
Date Submitted: Jan 29, 2023, 01:11 PM

Q1 Name

Short Text Corinna Watts

Q2 Organisation (if applicable)

Short Text

Q3 Address

Long Text

Q4 Email

Email

Q5 Do you wish to present your submission in person to councillors at the hearing?

Multi Choice No thanks

Q6 Staff will contact you with the date and time of the hearing. Please provide your daytime contact number.

Short Text

Q7 Proposal A - Simplify Poultry Keeping Provisions

Multi Choice

Q8 Tell us why

Long Text

Q9 Proposal B - Simplify Bee Keeping Provisions

Multi Choice

Q10 Tell us why

Long Text

Q11 Proposal C - Simplify Pig Keeping Provisions

Multi Choice

Q12 Tell us why

Long Text

Q13 Proposal D - New Feral/Stray Animal Clause

Multi Choice No

Q14 Tell us why

Long Text Please allow submissions to be any length we need them to be. It's really concerning that submissions are restricted to only 500 characters. People need to be able to express their feedback, concerns and ideas as much as we need to. It is extremely important. I'm very concerned that the council is limiting people with this. This is not promoting and encouraging consultation and feedback. I've just had to make multiple submissions that should have been one. Many people won't bother.

Response No:
16

Contribution ID: 1110
Member ID: 99
Date Submitted: Jan 29, 2023, 01:03 PM

Q1 Name

Short Text Corinna Watts

Q2 Organisation (if applicable)

Short Text

Q3 Address

Long Text

Q4 Email

Email

Q5 Do you wish to present your submission in person to councillors at the hearing?

Multi Choice No thanks

Q6 Staff will contact you with the date and time of the hearing. Please provide your daytime contact number.

Short Text

Q7 Proposal A - Simplify Poultry Keeping Provisions

Multi Choice

Q8 Tell us why

Long Text

Q9 Proposal B - Simplify Bee Keeping Provisions

Multi Choice

Q10 Tell us why

Long Text

Q11 Proposal C - Simplify Pig Keeping Provisions

Multi Choice

Q12 Tell us why

Long Text

Q13 Proposal D - New Feral/Stray Animal Clause

Multi Choice No

Q14 Tell us why

Long Text

These have been shown around the world to be the most effective methods, and the most humane. Stray and feral animals don't choose to be stray and wild. They are victims of circumstance. Killing them is the equivalent of killing homeless people for being homeless. There is no difference, except that animals are considerably more vulnerable and more victims of circumstance than homeless humans. They deserve to be loved, cared for and to live as much as any other animal or human.

Response No:
17

Contribution ID: 1109
Member ID: 99
Date Submitted: Jan 29, 2023, 12:54 PM

Q1 Name

Short Text Corinna Watts

Q2 Organisation (if applicable)

Short Text

Q3 Address

Long Text

Q4 Email

Email

Q5 Do you wish to present your submission in person to councillors at the hearing?

Multi Choice No thanks

Q6 Staff will contact you with the date and time of the hearing. Please provide your daytime contact number.

Short Text

Q7 Proposal A - Simplify Poultry Keeping Provisions

Multi Choice

Q8 Tell us why

Long Text

Q9 Proposal B - Simplify Bee Keeping Provisions

Multi Choice

Q10 Tell us why

Long Text

Q11 Proposal C - Simplify Pig Keeping Provisions

Multi Choice

Q12 Tell us why

Long Text

Q13 Proposal D - New Feral/Stray Animal Clause

Multi Choice No

Q14 Tell us why

Long Text ...responsible for nuisance caused by them. It does not say anything about the person needing to be found to be feeding or giving shelter to them. This is absolutely wrong and must be changed.
The most effective and humane methods for reducing stray and feral animal populations, in species where this is available, is to fund Trap-Neuter-Return programmes for the public, and to provide funding or assistance to people to feed the animals until their lives come to their natural end. Continued next

Response No:
18

Contribution ID: 1107
Member ID: 99
Date Submitted: Jan 29, 2023, 12:45 PM

- Q1 Name**
Short Text Corinna Watts
- Q2 Organisation (if applicable)**
Short Text
- Q3 Address**
Long Text
- Q4 Email**
Email
- Q5 Do you wish to present your submission in person to councillors at the hearing?**
Multi Choice No thanks
- Q6 Staff will contact you with the date and time of the hearing. Please provide your daytime contact number.**
Short Text
- Q7 Proposal A - Simplify Poultry Keeping Provisions**
Multi Choice
- Q8 Tell us why**
Long Text
- Q9 Proposal B - Simplify Bee Keeping Provisions**
Multi Choice
- Q10 Tell us why**
Long Text
- Q11 Proposal C - Simplify Pig Keeping Provisions**
Multi Choice
- Q12 Tell us why**
Long Text
- Q13 Proposal D - New Feral/Stray Animal Clause**
Multi Choice No
- Q14 Tell us why**
Long Text ...It does not state the person must be found to be actively feeding or giving shelter to the animals before they are responsible for nuisance caused by them. This has been incorrectly stated in the information above. Above you have said the person is responsible for nuisance caused by the animal if the person has been 'encouraging' the animal to become a nuisance. But that is not what Section 7 (2) says. This section makes any person living on land where strayvor feral animals emanate from...

Response No:
19

Contribution ID: 1106
Member ID: 99
Date Submitted: Jan 29, 2023, 12:37 PM

Q1 Name

Short Text Corinna Watts

Q2 Organisation (if applicable)

Short Text

Q3 Address

Long Text

Q4 Email

Email

Q5 Do you wish to present your submission in person to councillors at the hearing?

Multi Choice No thanks

Q6 Staff will contact you with the date and time of the hearing. Please provide your daytime contact number.

Short Text

Q7 Proposal A - Simplify Poultry Keeping Provisions

Multi Choice

Q8 Tell us why

Long Text

Q9 Proposal B - Simplify Bee Keeping Provisions

Multi Choice

Q10 Tell us why

Long Text

Q11 Proposal C - Simplify Pig Keeping Provisions

Multi Choice

Q12 Tell us why

Long Text

Q13 Proposal D - New Feral/Stray Animal Clause

Multi Choice No

Q14 Tell us why

Long Text Policies that make an owner or occupier of land responsible for nuisance caused by stray or feral animals emanating from their land is absolutely wrong and should not be put in place. Stray and feral animals live where they live, it is not the fault of a person living on the land. In the draft for this bylaw, Section 7 (2) says 'the owner of occupier of a property from which a feral or stray animal is emanating, must ensure that the animal does not cause a nuisance'. continued next..

Response No:
20

Contribution ID: 1105
Member ID: 99
Date Submitted: Jan 29, 2023, 12:22 PM

- Q1 Name**
Short Text **Corinna Watts**
- Q2 Organisation (if applicable)**
Short Text
- Q3 Address**
Long Text
- Q4 Email**
Email
- Q5 Do you wish to present your submission in person to councillors at the hearing?**
Multi Choice **No thanks**
- Q6 Staff will contact you with the date and time of the hearing. Please provide your daytime contact number.**
Short Text
- Q7 Proposal A - Simplify Poultry Keeping Provisions**
Multi Choice **No**
- Q8 Tell us why**
Long Text **Looking at rewording is a good idea. I don't support the number of poultry able to be kept being reduced to 6. The council has said it doesn't receive a significant amount of complaints about poultry. Is there actually a problem related to the current limit?
I would support reducing the limit to 8.
Keeping the exception for properties that are rural in character is fair.
If there is any difficulty with that perhaps more set criteria for it could be created, in consultation with the public.**
- Q9 Proposal B - Simplify Bee Keeping Provisions**
Multi Choice
- Q10 Tell us why**
Long Text
- Q11 Proposal C - Simplify Pig Keeping Provisions**
Multi Choice
- Q12 Tell us why**
Long Text
- Q13 Proposal D - New Feral/Stray Animal Clause**
Multi Choice **No**
- Q14 Tell us why**
Long Text **The proposed changes aren't clear in how they will apply. We need clear information on exactly what constitutes nuisance with stray or feral animals. I absolutely do not support any policies that restrict people from feeding, caring for or giving shelter to stray or feral animals - unless there are fair and clearly defined criteria for what constitutes nuisance.**

I do not support making owners or occupiers of land responsible for nuisance caused by stray or feral animals on their property.

Response No:
22

Contribution ID: 1097
Member ID:
Date Submitted: Jan 29, 2023, 07:29 AM

Q1	Name
Short Text	Grant
Q2	Organisation (if applicable)
Short Text	
Q3	Address
Long Text	
Q4	Email
Email	
Q5	Do you wish to present your submission in person to councillors at the hearing?
Multi Choice	No thanks
Q6	Staff will contact you with the date and time of the hearing. Please provide your daytime contact number.
Short Text	
Q7	Proposal A - Simplify Poultry Keeping Provisions
Multi Choice	Yes
Q8	Tell us why
Long Text	We have chickens and know what it takes to care for them, 12 is far too many to have on a residential property.
Q9	Proposal B - Simplify Bee Keeping Provisions
Multi Choice	Yes
Q10	Tell us why
Long Text	
Q11	Proposal C - Simplify Pig Keeping Provisions
Multi Choice	
Q12	Tell us why
Long Text	
Q13	Proposal D - New Feral/Stray Animal Clause
Multi Choice	
Q14	Tell us why
Long Text	

Response No:
23

Contribution ID: 1076
Member ID:
Date Submitted: Jan 27, 2023, 07:19 PM

Q1 Name

Short Text Anna M Davis

Q2 Organisation (if applicable)

Short Text

Q3 Address

Long Text

Q4 Email

Email

Q5 Do you wish to present your submission in person to councillors at the hearing?

Multi Choice **No thanks**

Q6 Staff will contact you with the date and time of the hearing. Please provide your daytime contact number.

Short Text

Q7 Proposal A - Simplify Poultry Keeping Provisions

Multi Choice **No**

Q8 Tell us why

Long Text **Chicken's greatly reduce the amount of organic waste a household produces amongst other benefits.**

I agree that 6 chickens should be more than enough for most people, but do see this as limiting for people who are choosing to raise up chicks. Basically I want more people to have the opportunity to keep these helpful birds and I think there should be an option for families to hand raise these birds for other families.

Q9 Proposal B - Simplify Bee Keeping Provisions

Multi Choice **No**

Q10 Tell us why

Long Text **I see Bee keeping is an environmentally positive activity, simplified bylaws would be helpful.**

I'm unsure how setting a limit on hives would impact bee keepers, and do t have personal experience with this.

Q11 Proposal C - Simplify Pig Keeping Provisions

Multi Choice **Yes**

Q12 Tell us why

Long Text **I don't see suburban pig keeping as entirely appropriate. They are; large, intelligent, loud, and fairly destructive animals.**

Pigs are a nuisance in rural settings, I don't like the idea of them being kept in town... I do understand that sometimes people keep them as pets, and I see that as Ok. I would not however be pleased if my neighbour set up a pig run to raise them for meat.

Q13 Proposal D - New Feral/Stray Animal Clause

Multi Choice **Yes**

Q14 Tell us why

Long Text

I hope to see the council extend provisions to help people manage feral animals, and that is more important to me than whether or not you have more clarity around who you can assign blame to.

A significant catch and neuter protocol would be appropriate, as well as spending the resources to resolve problems caused by stray animals WITH people.

Response No:
24

Contribution ID: 1059

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jan 26, 2023, 09:07 PM

- Q1 Name**
Short Text Dale Coppin
- Q2 Organisation (if applicable)**
Short Text
- Q3 Address**
Long Text
- Q4 Email**
Email
- Q5 Do you wish to present your submission in person to councillors at the hearing?**
Multi Choice No thanks
- Q6 Staff will contact you with the date and time of the hearing. Please provide your daytime contact number.**
Short Text
- Q7 Proposal A - Simplify Poultry Keeping Provisions**
Multi Choice Yes
- Q8 Tell us why**
Long Text Chickens are noisy and messy, 6 is plenty in town.
- Q9 Proposal B - Simplify Bee Keeping Provisions**
Multi Choice Yes
- Q10 Tell us why**
Long Text I am a commercial beekeeper, I do not keep hives in town at all any more as they can cause nuisance to neighbors at certain times of the year.
- Q11 Proposal C - Simplify Pig Keeping Provisions**
Multi Choice Yes
- Q12 Tell us why**
Long Text
- Q13 Proposal D - New Feral/Stray Animal Clause**
Multi Choice Yes
- Q14 Tell us why**
Long Text Feral/stray animal numbers should be minimised for conservation/environmental reasons, we definitely should not condone anyone encouraging the breeding of feral cats.

Response No:
25

Contribution ID: 1053
Member ID:
Date Submitted: Jan 26, 2023, 01:34 PM

Q1 Name

Short Text Sarah Homer

Q2 Organisation (if applicable)

Short Text

Q3 Address

Long Text

Q4 Email

Email

Q5 Do you wish to present your submission in person to councillors at the hearing?

Multi Choice No thanks

Q6 Staff will contact you with the date and time of the hearing. Please provide your daytime contact number.

Short Text

Q7 Proposal A - Simplify Poultry Keeping Provisions

Multi Choice No

Q8 Tell us why

Long Text We have kept hens for years in town and I would not say there is any notable decrease in the burden caused by them to our neighbors whether we kept 6 or 12. In fact, our neighbors loved when we kept more as they would throw their scraps over the fence and we would share the eggs with them. Less waste, shared resources.

Q9 Proposal B - Simplify Bee Keeping Provisions

Multi Choice No

Q10 Tell us why

Long Text

Q11 Proposal C - Simplify Pig Keeping Provisions

Multi Choice

Q12 Tell us why

Long Text

Q13 Proposal D - New Feral/Stray Animal Clause

Multi Choice

Q14 Tell us why

Long Text

Response No:
26

Contribution ID: 1047
Member ID:
Date Submitted: Jan 26, 2023, 12:13 PM

- Q1 Name**
Short Text Yvonne Wruck
- Q2 Organisation (if applicable)**
Short Text Na
- Q3 Address**
Long Text
- Q4 Email**
Email
- Q5 Do you wish to present your submission in person to councillors at the hearing?**
Multi Choice No thanks
- Q6 Staff will contact you with the date and time of the hearing. Please provide your daytime contact number.**
Short Text
- Q7 Proposal A - Simplify Poultry Keeping Provisions**
Multi Choice No
- Q8 Tell us why**
Long Text Size of flock should represent the pen size. A decent sized pen in an orchard can house more chicken than a stretch of dirt behind a garage.
- Q9 Proposal B - Simplify Bee Keeping Provisions**
Multi Choice Yes
- Q10 Tell us why**
Long Text Although number of hives could be related to size of property but should be more about what's growing on the property and how many other hives are in the neighbourhood
- Q11 Proposal C - Simplify Pig Keeping Provisions**
Multi Choice Yes
- Q12 Tell us why**
Long Text No idea about keeping pigs.
- Q13 Proposal D - New Feral/Stray Animal Clause**
Multi Choice No
- Q14 Tell us why**
Long Text Council needs to help with stray animals. Just because a stray animal has chosen your property doesn't mean you're responsible for nuisance by it.

Response No:
27Contribution ID: 1046
Member ID:
Date Submitted: Jan 26, 2023, 12:11 PM

Q1	Name
Short Text	Judah Theobald
Q2	Organisation (if applicable)
Short Text	
Q3	Address
Long Text	
Q4	Email
Email	
Q5	Do you wish to present your submission in person to councillors at the hearing?
Multi Choice	No thanks
Q6	Staff will contact you with the date and time of the hearing. Please provide your daytime contact number.
Short Text	
Q7	Proposal A - Simplify Poultry Keeping Provisions
Multi Choice	No
Q8	Tell us why
Long Text	The limits on poultry are fine as they are, halving the limits will not change whether peoples chickens escape and roam. If anything, the GDC should better address the rare complaints that they receive, give animal control staff the power to fine people or confiscate/destroy poultry. Allowing people to grow and produce their own food should be allowed and encouraged, providing it is done sustainably and ethically. Enforce the current bylaws better, fine and punish peoples who ruin it for others.
Q9	Proposal B - Simplify Bee Keeping Provisions
Multi Choice	No
Q10	Tell us why
Long Text	I don't keep hives, but a friend of mine does. Beekeeping seems to be quite uncommon already. Considering how crucial bee's are to our very existence, and all the threats they face due to climate change and pesticides, shouldn't any attempt to bolster them be allowed? Providing the owners are following MPI regulations, and aren't making other humans unsafe, we should not regulate beekeeping any further than we already do.
Q11	Proposal C - Simplify Pig Keeping Provisions
Multi Choice	Yes
Q12	Tell us why
Long Text	I have no opinion on pig keeping but am forced to answer yes or no. Keeping animals should not have a great negative impact on others though, and should be done safely even to the people who are keeping them. So if restricting pig keeping further is believed to be a good decision for health reasons and to protect the neighbors of pig keepers, so be it.
Q13	Proposal D - New Feral/Stray Animal Clause
Multi Choice	Yes

Q14 Tell us why

Long Text

Feral animals are a danger to themselves and others, and if they cannot coexist nicely with humans and other animals, then we should not be trying to harbor them. The right thing to do might be to destroy them, and if the GDC need more power to do that, then they should be given it.

Response No:
28

Contribution ID: 1038
Member ID:
Date Submitted: Jan 26, 2023, 10:33 AM

Q1 Name

Short Text Ian Harrington

Q2 Organisation (if applicable)

Short Text

Q3 Address

Long Text

Q4 Email

Email

Q5 Do you wish to present your submission in person to councillors at the hearing?

Multi Choice No thanks

Q6 Staff will contact you with the date and time of the hearing. Please provide your daytime contact number.

Short Text

Q7 Proposal A - Simplify Poultry Keeping Provisions

Multi Choice No

Q8 Tell us why

Long Text Reducing the numbers is not going to be a solution when the hens area is next to a neighbours boundary may cause increase in rodent numbers and smell. Further guidelines as to keeping the area sanitary not just as to a limit

Q9 Proposal B - Simplify Bee Keeping Provisions

Multi Choice No

Q10 Tell us why

Long Text Go to option one as more care needs to be taken in numbers of hives and their environment in all of your district not just urban areas. Just because the hives are located in a rural classified area doesn't mean there is no issues on hive numbers. Commercial beekeepers don't abide by a nuisance factor. Simply not providing adequate water supplies so that the bees have to go searching and cause annoyance is common everywhere. More work is required on this change

Q11 Proposal C - Simplify Pig Keeping Provisions

Multi Choice Yes

Q12 Tell us why

Long Text

Q13 Proposal D - New Feral/Stray Animal Clause

Multi Choice Yes

Q14 Tell us why

Long Text

Response No:
29

Contribution ID: 1037
Member ID:
Date Submitted: Jan 26, 2023, 10:22 AM

Q1 Name

Short Text Olivia Steven

Q2 Organisation (if applicable)

Short Text

Q3 Address

Long Text

Q4 Email

Email

Q5 Do you wish to present your submission in person to councillors at the hearing?

Multi Choice No thanks

Q6 Staff will contact you with the date and time of the hearing. Please provide your daytime contact number.

Short Text

Q7 Proposal A - Simplify Poultry Keeping Provisions

Multi Choice No

Q8 Tell us why

Long Text I believe we need to encourage people to grow/raise their own food and the number should be related to the size of the property instead of the zone that the property is in

Q9 Proposal B - Simplify Bee Keeping Provisions

Multi Choice Yes

Q10 Tell us why

Long Text

Q11 Proposal C - Simplify Pig Keeping Provisions

Multi Choice Yes

Q12 Tell us why

Long Text

Q13 Proposal D - New Feral/Stray Animal Clause

Multi Choice No

Q14 Tell us why

Long Text If people are composting, this would likely encourage feral animals, and there is little that can be done to discourage them... I hope this change would not discourage composting

Response No:
30

Contribution ID: 1033
Member ID:
Date Submitted: Jan 26, 2023, 09:27 AM

Q1 Name

Short Text Katrina Connelly-Maynard

Q2 Organisation (if applicable)

Short Text

Q3 Address

Long Text

Q4 Email

Email

Q5 Do you wish to present your submission in person to councillors at the hearing?

Multi Choice No thanks

Q6 Staff will contact you with the date and time of the hearing. Please provide your daytime contact number.

Short Text

Q7 Proposal A - Simplify Poultry Keeping Provisions

Multi Choice Yes

Q8 Tell us why

Long Text 6 choose is more than reasonable in urban areas.

Q9 Proposal B - Simplify Bee Keeping Provisions

Multi Choice Yes

Q10 Tell us why

Long Text 2 hives is essential.

Q11 Proposal C - Simplify Pig Keeping Provisions

Multi Choice Yes

Q12 Tell us why

Long Text Didn't really bother with this one.

Q13 Proposal D - New Feral/Stray Animal Clause

Multi Choice Yes

Q14 Tell us why

Long Text

Response No:
31

Contribution ID: 1031
Member ID:
Date Submitted: Jan 26, 2023, 08:16 AM

- Q1 Name**
Short Text Malissa fretwell
- Q2 Organisation (if applicable)**
Short Text
- Q3 Address**
Long Text
- Q4 Email**
Email
- Q5 Do you wish to present your submission in person to councillors at the hearing?**
Multi Choice No thanks
- Q6 Staff will contact you with the date and time of the hearing. Please provide your daytime contact number.**
Short Text
- Q7 Proposal A - Simplify Poultry Keeping Provisions**
Multi Choice No
- Q8 Tell us why**
Long Text As all properties are different. There might be a 3 acre block in town and you are reducing them to 6 chickens. It doesn't make sense. Leave it as is and train your people on how to assess the environment around them.
- Q9 Proposal B - Simplify Bee Keeping Provisions**
Multi Choice No
- Q10 Tell us why**
Long Text Same again different size properties. Not everyone in town had 500sqm properties. Think it through and train your staff to assess the environment around them. 3 acre property is going to be different from a 500sqm property.
- Q11 Proposal C - Simplify Pig Keeping Provisions**
Multi Choice No
- Q12 Tell us why**
Long Text
- Q13 Proposal D - New Feral/Stray Animal Clause**
Multi Choice No
- Q14 Tell us why**
Long Text

Response No:
32

Contribution ID: 1029
Member ID:
Date Submitted: Jan 26, 2023, 08:07 AM

Q1	Name
Short Text	Claire Kelly
Q2	Organisation (if applicable)
Short Text	
Q3	Address
Long Text	
Q4	Email
Email	
Q5	Do you wish to present your submission in person to councillors at the hearing?
Multi Choice	No thanks
Q6	Staff will contact you with the date and time of the hearing. Please provide your daytime contact number.
Short Text	
Q7	Proposal A - Simplify Poultry Keeping Provisions
Multi Choice	Yes
Q8	Tell us why
Long Text	Over stocking in small areas is not good for the birds and not necessary to support a family. I would also ban roosters in Urban areas - no need to backyard breed chickens and the noise is an issue.
Q9	Proposal B - Simplify Bee Keeping Provisions
Multi Choice	No
Q10	Tell us why
Long Text	Bees are not a nuisance
Q11	Proposal C - Simplify Pig Keeping Provisions
Multi Choice	Yes
Q12	Tell us why
Long Text	
Q13	Proposal D - New Feral/Stray Animal Clause
Multi Choice	Yes
Q14	Tell us why
Long Text	

Response No:
33

Contribution ID: **1028**
Member ID:
Date Submitted: **Jan 26, 2023, 08:02 AM**

- Q1 Name**
Short Text **Jaimee**
- Q2 Organisation (if applicable)**
Short Text
- Q3 Address**
Long Text
- Q4 Email**
Email
- Q5 Do you wish to present your submission in person to councillors at the hearing?**
Multi Choice **No thanks**
- Q6 Staff will contact you with the date and time of the hearing. Please provide your daytime contact number.**
Short Text
- Q7 Proposal A - Simplify Poultry Keeping Provisions**
Multi Choice **Yes**
- Q8 Tell us why**
Long Text **12 poultry is far too many in residential areas. They attack flies and rodents and some people would not enjoy listening to them.**
- Q9 Proposal B - Simplify Bee Keeping Provisions**
Multi Choice **Yes**
- Q10 Tell us why**
Long Text
- Q11 Proposal C - Simplify Pig Keeping Provisions**
Multi Choice **Yes**
- Q12 Tell us why**
Long Text
- Q13 Proposal D - New Feral/Stray Animal Clause**
Multi Choice **Yes**
- Q14 Tell us why**
Long Text

Response No:
34

Contribution ID: 1027
Member ID:
Date Submitted: Jan 26, 2023, 07:36 AM

Q1 Name

Short Text Tina Middlemiss

Q2 Organisation (if applicable)

Short Text

Q3 Address

Long Text

Q4 Email

Email

Q5 Do you wish to present your submission in person to councillors at the hearing?

Multi Choice No thanks

Q6 Staff will contact you with the date and time of the hearing. Please provide your daytime contact number.

Short Text

Q7 Proposal A - Simplify Poultry Keeping Provisions

Multi Choice Yes

Q8 Tell us why

Long Text From experience 6 is plenty on a quarter acre urban residence

Q9 Proposal B - Simplify Bee Keeping Provisions

Multi Choice Yes

Q10 Tell us why

Long Text From experience 2 is plenty on a quarter acre urban residence

Q11 Proposal C - Simplify Pig Keeping Provisions

Multi Choice

Q12 Tell us why

Long Text No experience with pigs to answer this

Q13 Proposal D - New Feral/Stray Animal Clause

Multi Choice Yes

Q14 Tell us why

Long Text Sounds reasonable

Response No:
35

Contribution ID: 1021

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jan 26, 2023, 04:14 AM

Q1 Name

Short Text Sarah McDonald

Q2 Organisation (if applicable)

Short Text

Q3 Address

Long Text

Q4 Email

Email

Q5 Do you wish to present your submission in person to councillors at the hearing?

Multi Choice No thanks

Q6 Staff will contact you with the date and time of the hearing. Please provide your daytime contact number.

Short Text

Q7 Proposal A - Simplify Poultry Keeping Provisions

Multi Choice No

Q8 Tell us why

Long Text The number is less important than other things like how they are kept eg distance from boundary and how they are kept. In a time where self sufficiency is increasingly important, this makes no sense. It is a huge drop from 12 to 6 and many people have had more than 6 prior to egg shortage. Some properties are rural in nature. Recruit workers with appropriate assessment /critical thinking skills rather than change legislation. 12 to 6 now. 0 next year? This is control not simplification.

Q9 Proposal B - Simplify Bee Keeping Provisions

Multi Choice No

Q10 Tell us why

Long Text Similar to reasons as stated above.

Q11 Proposal C - Simplify Pig Keeping Provisions

Multi Choice No

Q12 Tell us why

Long Text

Q13 Proposal D - New Feral/Stray Animal Clause

Multi Choice No

Q14 Tell us why

Long Text

Response No:
36

Contribution ID: 1014
Member ID:
Date Submitted: Jan 25, 2023, 10:39 PM

Q1 Name

Short Text Kathleen Fox

Q2 Organisation (if applicable)

Short Text

Q3 Address

Long Text

Q4 Email

Email

Q5 Do you wish to present your submission in person to councillors at the hearing?

Multi Choice No thanks

Q6 Staff will contact you with the date and time of the hearing. Please provide your daytime contact number.

Short Text

Q7 Proposal A - Simplify Poultry Keeping Provisions

Multi Choice Yes

Q8 Tell us why

Long Text I come from a big family and know how hard it is to feed a family, I'm also the neighbour tht would moan about stray any animal so in saying this, 6 is a good number and they should provide enough eggs to feed a family sufficiently throughout the weeks

Q9 Proposal B - Simplify Bee Keeping Provisions

Multi Choice

Q10 Tell us why

Long Text

Q11 Proposal C - Simplify Pig Keeping Provisions

Multi Choice

Q12 Tell us why

Long Text

Q13 Proposal D - New Feral/Stray Animal Clause

Multi Choice

Q14 Tell us why

Long Text

Response No:
37

Contribution ID: 996

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jan 25, 2023, 07:58 PM

Q1 Name

Short Text Jason Courtis

Q2 Organisation (if applicable)

Short Text

Q3 Address

Long Text

Q4 Email

Email

Q5 Do you wish to present your submission in person to councillors at the hearing?

Multi Choice No thanks

Q6 Staff will contact you with the date and time of the hearing. Please provide your daytime contact number.

Short Text

Q7 Proposal A - Simplify Poultry Keeping Provisions

Multi Choice Yes

Q8 Tell us why

Long Text 12 too many in urban backyards, poor conditions will continue and inhumane caging, driven by desire for eggs. 6 is enough. They are quite noisy (have our own)

Q9 Proposal B - Simplify Bee Keeping Provisions

Multi Choice Yes

Q10 Tell us why

Long Text Keep it manageable or poor practices will come, disease and rookies.

Q11 Proposal C - Simplify Pig Keeping Provisions

Multi Choice Yes

Q12 Tell us why

Long Text

Q13 Proposal D - New Feral/Stray Animal Clause

Multi Choice Yes

Q14 Tell us why

Long Text

Response No:
38

Contribution ID: 991
Member ID:
Date Submitted: Jan 25, 2023, 07:32 PM

Q1	Name
Short Text	Lyal Evans
Q2	Organisation (if applicable)
Short Text	NA
Q3	Address
Long Text	
Q4	Email
Email	
Q5	Do you wish to present your submission in person to councillors at the hearing?
Multi Choice	No thanks
Q6	Staff will contact you with the date and time of the hearing. Please provide your daytime contact number.
Short Text	
Q7	Proposal A - Simplify Poultry Keeping Provisions
Multi Choice	No
Q8	Tell us why
Long Text	Have chickens and have for year and less than 6, however I think the issue is more around section size as know people with large section that 6 would b perfectly acceptable. I think that the drive for simplicity is reducing freedoms. If keeping chicken is not done in a healthy way then council should be able to act. It is not around a defined number. This is far to simple a view.
Q9	Proposal B - Simplify Bee Keeping Provisions
Multi Choice	
Q10	Tell us why
Long Text	
Q11	Proposal C - Simplify Pig Keeping Provisions
Multi Choice	
Q12	Tell us why
Long Text	
Q13	Proposal D - New Feral/Stray Animal Clause
Multi Choice	
Q14	Tell us why
Long Text	

Response No:
39

Contribution ID: 964
Member ID:
Date Submitted: Jan 25, 2023, 02:02 PM

Q1 Name

Short Text **Bridget Scully**

Q2 Organisation (if applicable)

Short Text

Q3 Address

Long Text

Q4 Email

Email

Q5 Do you wish to present your submission in person to councillors at the hearing?

Multi Choice **No thanks**

Q6 Staff will contact you with the date and time of the hearing. Please provide your daytime contact number.

Short Text

Q7 Proposal A - Simplify Poultry Keeping Provisions

Multi Choice **No**

Q8 Tell us why

Long Text **I think the term 'rural character' should be kept and instead defined based on size of property and natural foraging/food source available. For e.g. a small caged section would not be suitable for a dozen chickens however a large section with excellent animal management and good tree cover would easily accommodate this amount of poultry. The number of poultry allowed should be reduced. People rely on poultry as a food source and council needs to consider this in difficult economic times.**

Q9 Proposal B - Simplify Bee Keeping Provisions

Multi Choice **Yes**

Q10 Tell us why

Long Text **I think limiting the amount of beehives that are installed in one particular area appears reasonable. Bees have a long range of forage and if there are too many beehives there will be food shortages for the bees. Council could set a limit to the number of hives in a suburb for example. Bees are essential for pollination so changing the perception of them as a nuisance would be good. Many people rely on hives as a food source so any restrictions on use need to take that into consideration.**

Q11 Proposal C - Simplify Pig Keeping Provisions

Multi Choice

Q12 Tell us why

Long Text

Q13 Proposal D - New Feral/Stray Animal Clause

Multi Choice

Q14 Tell us why

Long Text

Response No:
40

Contribution ID: **962**
Member ID:
Date Submitted: **Jan 25, 2023, 01:57 PM**

- Q1 Name**
Short Text **Anthony Dohrman**
- Q2 Organisation (if applicable)**
Short Text
- Q3 Address**
Long Text
- Q4 Email**
Email
- Q5 Do you wish to present your submission in person to councillors at the hearing?**
Multi Choice **No thanks**
- Q6 Staff will contact you with the date and time of the hearing. Please provide your daytime contact number.**
Short Text
- Q7 Proposal A - Simplify Poultry Keeping Provisions**
Multi Choice **No**
- Q8 Tell us why**
Long Text **Some families would use more than 6 eggs a day, so limiting the number of hens to 6 means they could not supply their family's egg needs without having to buy some more eggs. Keeping hens is a cost effective way of reducing the grocery budget so think 12 hens would be a better number of hens for large families. We need to help families reduce the cost of living if they want to put in the effort!**
- Q9 Proposal B - Simplify Bee Keeping Provisions**
Multi Choice **Yes**
- Q10 Tell us why**
Long Text
- Q11 Proposal C - Simplify Pig Keeping Provisions**
Multi Choice **Yes**
- Q12 Tell us why**
Long Text
- Q13 Proposal D - New Feral/Stray Animal Clause**
Multi Choice **Yes**
- Q14 Tell us why**
Long Text



Submission by the
Royal New Zealand Society for the
Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Inc.

On the

Tairāwhiti Draft Keeping of Animals Bylaw 2023

02 March 2023



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Introduction

The following submission is made on behalf of The Royal New Zealand Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (trading as SPCA).

SPCA is the preeminent animal welfare and advocacy organisation in New Zealand. The Society has been in existence for over 150 years with a supporter base representing many tens of thousands of New Zealanders across the nation.

The organisation includes 35 Animal Welfare Centres across New Zealand and approximately 60 inspectors appointed under the Animal Welfare Act 1999.

SPCA welcomes the opportunity to make a submission on the Tairāwhiti Proposed Keeping of Animals Bylaw 2023.

Submission

SPCA thanks the Gisborne District Council for the opportunity to provide comments and suggestions on the Tairāwhiti Draft Keeping of Animals Bylaw 2023. Below we offer feedback for the proposed changes to the bylaw to help advance animal welfare in the Tairāwhiti.

Proposal (a) Simplify poultry keeping provisions and reduce the limit on head of poultry on properties in urban areas

SPCA acknowledges that the preferred option for Gisborne District Council is to reduce the number of poultry a person can have in an urban area from twelve to six. We commend Gisborne District Council for keeping the exemption option permitting people to keep more poultry than the limit whilst not contributing to nuisance in their community. We advocate for Gisborne District Council to allow people who would end up having more poultry than permitted to be grandfathered into a change in



bylaw (if it changes) so that their flock can reduce over time without needing to rehome, euthanase, or abandon animals to meet the permitted limit.

Husbandry and welfare are intimately connected. Where husbandry is poor, often, an animal's welfare is at risk. SPCA advocates for a condition specifying poultry should have adequate and appropriate living environments. This includes companionship, shade and shelter, and space for nesting with nesting materials suitable for the species. The poultry house and run must be kept clean and in good condition, and free from any offensive smell, waste overflow, or pests.

Proposal (c) Simplifying pig keeping provisions

As noted above, how animals are kept and how they are treated are important parts of welfare. SPCA advocates for inclusion of environmental and husbandry conditions that would help protect animal welfare. SPCA advocates for the inclusion of conditions for enclosures that incorporate an animal's needs including:

- A condition specifying stock should have adequate and appropriate living environment including companionship, space, shade, and shelter. Providing appropriate conditions is important to avoid causing harm and distress to animals.
- A condition prohibiting the permanent tethering of stock. Tethering compromises an animal's welfare because they are unable to behave and move around normally. Permanent tethering can increase fear when it interferes with an animal's instinct to flee when alarmed. Tethered animals may lack sufficient shelter from all conditions or access to appropriate feed and water. Tethered animals can become entangled and harm themselves leading to painful injuries and are at risk from being harassed or attacked by other animals or people.

Proposal (d): Add feral/stray provisions

First, we recommend clarifying the definitions used in the draft bylaw, especially with respect to terms such as 'reasonably appears' when categorising a feral animal and a stray animal. Specifically, we focus our submission on cats because cats are likely an animal type that the bylaw is intended to address.



Cats, both owned companions and unowned strays, are also an animal in communities that can cause nuisance.

In our experience, definitions of cats should be more descriptive and less open to interpretation. More clear definitions help determine the best approach to management. We recommend not including language that relies on a person's interpretation of what would be reasonable appearance of a stray or feral cat. People can easily mislabel a cat as stray or feral based on aggressive behaviour, especially when a cat is fearful or stressed (e.g., a trapped cat is acting 'feral'). Any cat that is stressed or fearful can react with aggression.

To clarify who would be impacted by the draft bylaw, it is essential to distinguish the three different types of cats in New Zealand. SPCA recommends the inclusion of the following definitions of cats:

- **Companion cats** are owned by a person, sociable, and directly dependent on humans.
- **Stray cats** are unowned or semi-owned, of varying sociability, interactions with, and dependence (directly or indirectly) on humans. People may or may not manage these cats as individuals or in groups (i.e., colonies).
- **Feral cats** are unowned, unsocialised, and have no relationship with or dependence on humans. These cats are self-sustaining.

The [New Zealand National Cat Management Strategy Group](#) recommends definitions of cat categories to improve how different types of cats are managed. Cats live as a metapopulation, where the populations of companion, stray, and feral cats can overlap in space and behaviour. This is especially true when companion cats who are not desexed contribute to stray cat populations, or when companion cats become lost and may live as a stray cat. These different cat types can be confused leading to unintended consequences such as trapping companion cats.

Second, we commend Gisborne District Council for including information that encourages guardianship of stray animals when a person may be providing resources such as food. We encourage people who regularly feed cats to desex and microchip these animals and provide veterinary care when needed to help improve welfare and reduce the impacts of cat overpopulation.



Third, we welcome working with Gisborne District Council to improve cat management in Tairāwhiti. Our work in New Zealand communities to increase the numbers of cats and kittens that are desexed and microchipped is fundamental to our mandate to prevent cruelty and advance animal welfare. Desexing and microchipping cats are preventive strategies to reduce the problems with unowned and unwanted cats in New Zealand, and they are important tools for humane and effective cat management.

SPCA Centres also provide services to the most vulnerable animals in our communities, those who are sick or injured, very young or old, or otherwise at risk to welfare compromise. We do not regularly take in healthy adult stray cats, which allows us to maintain capacity for more vulnerable animals. We do not take healthy adult cats who are unsocialised to people because the Centre environment is too stressful for an unsocialised animal.

We recommend Gisborne District Council to inform people in Tairāwhiti that if they plan to trap a cat, they must have a plan for where they will take the cat once trapped, and they must know their obligations for trapping live animals under the Animal Welfare Act. SPCA is happy to provide further advice on cats. Attached to this submission is a Council Toolkit with cat related information and links to resources.

Finally, we commend Gisborne District Council in being flexible in allowing cat rescue activities to continue as this is an important value for many New Zealand communities.

However, SPCA is concerned that the focus on nuisance caused by stray and feral animals in this proposed bylaw does not fully capture the problems that companion cats can cause. We discuss this further below.

Address nuisance from stray and companion cats through more responsible cat ownership

We have few tools to reduce nuisance of stray cats humanely and effectively. Any attempt to address nuisance from stray cats needs to consider this is a diverse group of animals, including companion cats



that have become lost or abandoned, social unowned cats and kittens that can be rehomed, and cats that are provided care from community members.

Importantly, companion cats who are owned can cause nuisance in communities themselves, and also if undesexed and roaming, companion cats can contribute to the unowned population of cats in an area. Therefore, we advocate for requirements for more responsible cat ownership including desexing, microchipping with a registered microchip, and keeping cats at home.

There are roughly 1.2 million companion cats in 35-41% of households across New Zealand.^{1, 52} Many cat owners appreciate the benefits of responsible cat ownership such as desexing and microchipping their cats and to a lesser extent keeping their cats at home. Approximately 88% of cat owners in New Zealand desex their animals,¹ which is relatively high, however, there has been a downward trend from previous reports where 93.2%,³¹ and 93%,³⁵ of owners reported desexing their cats. An estimated 49% of cats are microchipped.¹

However, the gaps in responsible cat ownership contribute to problems with overpopulation of unowned and unwanted cats. Our SPCA Centres regularly see the welfare problems of overpopulation of cats, including:

- the predictable cycle of unwanted kittens each year because there are too many cats roaming that are not desexed;
- the numbers of cats and kittens that arrive who are lost or have strayed, but we cannot find their owner because they are not microchipped and registered; and
- the numbers of cats that come to our Centres who have contagious disease, are lost or have strayed, or injured because they roam freely from home.

Gaps in responsible cat ownership negatively impact other animals through predation on wildlife and spread of toxoplasmosis to farmed animals and vulnerable native marine mammals. Gaps in responsible cat ownership also negatively impact people in communities, as free roaming cats cause nuisance by toileting in neighbourhood gardens which can spread toxoplasmosis to people, spraying and fighting with other cats, and harming valued wildlife.



The unwanted cat population in New Zealand must be viewed as a public problem, requiring local (and national) policy solutions where the true cost of owning an undesexed and microchipped cat (e.g., costs that shelters and rescues absorb, costs that local councils absorb with managing unwanted cats, costs of increased protection of vulnerable wildlife) is not an undue burden on New Zealand society.

SPCA advocates for more responsible ownership for companion cats to improve the welfare of these cats and minimise the challenges with community nuisance, cat predation, and the overpopulation of unowned and unwanted cats.

Desexing of cats

Desexing cats is a fundamental mechanism to address problems with cat overpopulation and can ensure improved outcomes for the individual animal, other animals, and people (please see Table 1 below).

Table 1: Benefits of desexing cats

Ensures Improved Animal Welfare Outcomes
Reduces relinquishment to shelters and subsequent euthanasia. ³⁻⁹
Decreases reproductive disease, including cancers, infections, and tumours. ^{4,10}
Increases lifespan for both cats. ¹¹
Improves animal behaviour: reduced hyperactivity, increased affectionate behaviour, reduced aggression (fighting), and reduced sexually motivated frustration. ^{10, 12-15}
Reduces problematic sexually motivated behaviours: roaming (risk of hit by car), urine marking, humping, and vocalizing. ^{10, 15-17}
Facilitates access to cattery services. ¹⁸

Ensures Improved Community Outcomes
Reduces the number of unwanted cats in the community. ^{2, 19, 20}
Reduces nuisance behaviours: urine marking, fighting, roaming, and vocalisations. ^{10, 15-17}
Reduces risk of disease transmission to people and other animals (e.g., ringworm, FIV). ^{21, 22}



Ensures Improved Agricultural Outcomes
Reduces risk of toxoplasmosis transmission to farmed animals. ^{23, 24}

Ensures Improved Biodiversity Outcomes
Decreases predation pressure on native wildlife. ^{2, 25-30}
Decreases risk of toxoplasmosis transmission to native wildlife. ²⁴

Examples of mandatory desexing

Mandating desexing of cats happens at the local level in New Zealand, but there is growing interest in promoting it nationally. In July 2017, Local Government New Zealand passed a remit (51% in favour) supporting lobbying Government for a national cat management plan and to allow territorial authorities regulatory power to protect native wildlife by promoting responsible cat ownership, including desexing.³³ More recently in 2022, in response to a petition to the Environment Subcommittee on the topic of desexing (and registering) companion cats, groups representing diverse views and many people in New Zealand all consistently advocated this be the way forward for cat management in New Zealand.⁵³

There are a few places in New Zealand where desexing is locally regulated:

- Palmerston North City Council bylaws passed in 2018 mandate desexing for all cats over six months of age, born after the 1st of July 2018 (exemptions are in place for registered breeders).³⁸
- New Plymouth bylaws passed in 2020 allow for the Council to include terms and conditions such as requiring desexing of cats if a person seeks approval to keep more than three cats of kittens over the age of six months on their property.³⁶
- Whanganui District Council bylaws passed in 2020 require any cat over four months of age are required to be desexed unless for breeding purposes and nationally registered; or the owner provides a certificate from a veterinarian indicating desexing will adversely affect the cat's



health and/or welfare (vets, SPCA, and cat boarding premises are exempt from this requirement).³⁷

- Whangārei District Council passed bylaws in 2022 that require all cats more than six months of age be desexed.⁵⁰
- Ruapehu District Council passed bylaws in 2022 that require every person who keeps a cat that is over six months must ensure they are desexed.⁵¹

SPCA advocates for pre-pubertal desexing to reduce the likelihood of a cat having kittens prior to the 'traditional' time of de-sexing at six months of age. Desexing at six months allows cats to reach reproductive maturity before they are de-sexed.^{19, 47, 48} Cats may reach reproductive maturity as early as three and a half months of age.^{2, 32} Therefore, delaying the de-sexing of owned cats can result in unwanted litters of kittens which has long-term negative impacts on nuisance in communities, public health, and animal welfare.

Identification

SPCA prefers microchipping for identification because the chip cannot be removed, dislodged, or lost without surgical intervention. Once a cat is microchipped, the 15-digit microchip number, and the animal and owner's details can be registered with a microchip registration database, such as the New Zealand Companion Animal Register.³⁹ There are many benefits of microchipping for both cats and their owners (please see Table 2 below).

Table 2: Benefits of effective microchipping include:

Ensures Improved Animal and Human Welfare Outcomes
A lost or injured cat's owner can be identified and contacted.
Improved tracing and identifying cats in emergencies. During the 2011 Christchurch earthquake, 85% of owners of microchipped animals were contacted within 3 hours by the New Zealand Companion Animal Register, compared to only 25% of non-microchipped animals reunited with their owners within a 7-day period. ⁴⁰
Returning deceased cats to their owners (e.g., because of road traffic accidents).



Ensures Improved Community Outcomes
Identifying, educating, and warning/ penalising owners of a roaming and nuisance-causing cats.
Identification of specific animals such as breeding animals, competition animals.

Ensures Improved Biodiversity Outcomes
Distinguishing owned or managed stray cats from feral cats in pest management plans.

The addition of a collar and tag for companion or managed stray cats can provide a visual indication of a cat's ownership/management status and successfully help reunite lost cats with their owners/carers.⁴¹⁻⁴³

Examples of mandatory identification and registration

Mandatory identification requires cats are microchipped from a specific age, or if the cat is transferred among owners. There are few places in New Zealand where identification and registration are mandatory:

- Wellington City Council bylaws passed in 2016 require all cats over the age of 12 weeks be microchipped and registered on the New Zealand Companion Animal Register.⁴⁴
- Palmerston North City Council bylaws passed in 2018 require all cats over 6 months of age and born after 1st of July 2018 be microchipped and registered on the New Zealand Companion Animal Register.³⁸
- Whanganui District Council bylaws passed in 2020 require any cat over four months of age was required to be microchipped and registered with the New Zealand Companion Animal Register.³⁷
- Selwyn District Council passed bylaws in 2021 that require every person who keeps a cat over the age of four months is required to microchip and register the cat with the New Zealand Companion Animal Register or other approved registry.⁴⁵



- Whangārei District Council passed bylaws in 2022 that require all cats over six months of age are microchipped, and the microchip registered on the New Zealand Companion Animals Register.⁵⁰
- Ruapehu District Council passed bylaws in 2022 that require every person who keeps a cat that is over six months must ensure they are microchipped, and the microchip is registered on the New Zealand Companion Animal Register or other Council approved microchip registry.⁵¹

Keeping cats at home to reduce nuisance

As written, the draft bylaw includes cats in the definition of animal, therefore Part 1, section 6 would apply to cats. SPCA supports requirements for owners to keep their cats at home which helps reduce welfare issues associated with roaming such as injuries or death from vehicles, spread of disease, fighting and related injuries, and reduction of nuisance in communities and predation on wildlife. Allowing cats to roam is further problematic if they are not desexed and contribute to the unowned and unwanted population of cats and kittens in New Zealand.

Recent studies indicate that most cat owners do not restrict their cats roaming from their property.^{1,31, 49} The likelihood of undesexed companion cats with no identification or registration contributing to the unwanted population of cats is exacerbated by most cat owners allowing their cats to roam freely.

In addition to being at increased risk to welfare harms from disease, injury, vehicle accidents, and becoming lost, roaming cats can have negative impacts on other people and animals in communities.

We urge Gisborne District Council to consider the public health risks, nuisance, and property damage issues related to owned companion cats freely roaming. SPCA advocates for cat owners to keep their cats at home, and support bylaws that facilitate this owner behaviour.

Keeping track of nuisance complaints

SPCA is concerned that the true scale of nuisance related to roaming companion cats is not fully communicated to local councils and advocates for the use of robust monitoring of nuisance



complaints. People who are concerned about cat nuisance may not know they can contact Council, which can then lead to an underestimate of the extent of the issue.

SPCA regularly receives emails and calls from the public related to cat nuisance, e.g., the neighbour's cat is toileting in their garden. We even have a [website article](#) offering advice and tips for keeping cats out of your garden. However, this places the burden of managing nuisance on the non-owner, when preventing nuisance should be the cat owner's responsibility.

SPCA is also concerned about issues related to the keeping of cats that may be perceived as non-nuisance such as predation on native wildlife. We also receive emails and calls related to the harms that members of the public voice about native wildlife predation, and we argue, this impacts the person and should be considered community nuisance. Cats are the definitive host of toxoplasmosis, and exposure to cat faeces in soil, sandboxes, litter beds, and gardens are risk factors for transmission to people and other animals.²³⁻²⁴ Finally, SPCA urges Gisborne District Council to consider the property damage associated with roaming cats, including spraying and defaecating on neighbour properties, and fighting with other cats causing injuries that then require veterinary treatment.

Supporting more responsible cat ownership

SPCA acknowledges that regulations alone will not address the problems with cat overpopulation and are in full support of complementary non-regulatory approaches to cat management. We urge Gisborne District Council to join us in our efforts to prevent problems before people end up dealing with difficult decisions about unwanted cats and cat behaviour in their communities.

We are happy to support and work with Gisborne District Council to provide comprehensive services for cat owners to help ensure more responsible cat ownership. This includes helping overcome the primary barrier to desexing, which is the cost. Desexing companion animals is one of the few humane methods we have for managing stray cats, as it reduces the flow of unwanted cats and kittens from the companion cat populations into the stray cat populations.



SPCA works closely with other local councils including Whangārei District Council, Auckland Council, and Waitaki District Council to address the barriers to desexing and microchipping cats. As an attachment to our submission, we have included our Snip 'n' Chip Council Package which provides more detailed information for how we work with local councils to promote more responsible cat ownership. We encourage Gisborne District Council to consider more comprehensive cat management to address nuisance in Tairāwhiti.

Conclusion

SPCA appreciates the opportunity to contribute to Tairāwhiti Draft Keeping of Animals Bylaw and welcomes further engagement on this issue. If any further information is required, the Society is happy to discuss this matter further.



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PROMOTING DESEXING AND MICROCHIPPING IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Snip n Chip is a desexing and microchipping service aimed at reducing the number of unwanted and unowned cats — a humane solution for the feline population and welfare management.

Launched nationally in 2022, SPCA's Snip n Chip offers low-cost, accessible desexing and microchipping for cat owners who need it most.

SPCA values working with local councils to increase the number of desexed and microchipped animals in their area and promote responsible pet ownership.

What is Snip n Chip?

- Available through an online system where owners can obtain a voucher to desex and microchip their cat at a heavily discounted rate.
- Designed to educate and promote responsible companion animal ownership by encouraging owners to desex and microchip their animals.
- Encourages owners to develop positive relationships with their local veterinary clinics.

What are the benefits for Councils?

- Promote compliance with Councils cat bylaws
- Reduction in abandonment and euthanasia of cats
- Reduction of feline behaviour issues in the community – noise, fighting, breeding
- Ability to target specific suburbs within the Councils region
- Reduced complaints from residents
- Positive community relations
- Demonstration of commitment to humane reduction of stray, unowned, or unwanted cats and kittens.

What does the service cost for Councils?

- A set price for each surgery and microchip
- Run as many campaigns as your budget will allow
- Administration and marketing support included
- Regular reporting to allow for greater transparency and reporting back to constituents and councillors

What have been the results?

Since launching in February 2022

- 13,000 vouchers issued across 16 campaigns
- Campaigns selling out in as little as one day
- Positive feedback from local communities for Councils participation
- 3 council partners have supported Snip n Chip campaigns in their communities

What has been the feedback?

Waitaki District Council

Regulatory Manager Andrew Bardsley said *“As well as the benefits for cat owners, Snip ‘n’ Chip will have an impact in the community in terms of a reduction in unwanted breeding and the number of orphaned or feral cats. Animal welfare is at the centre of this campaign, with the added benefits of a reduction in nuisance caused by cats and the ability for lost pets to be reunited with their owners through their microchips. The SPCA team’s work is extremely challenging and demanding, so it’s great that Waitaki District Council has been able to contribute towards this partnership and hopefully to reduce some of the cat welfare issues in Waitaki”*

Communications Team member Sonia Martinez said *“Our residents were really supportive of the campaign and we had lots of positive feedback saying it made a big impact on their ability to get their pet spayed and microchipped. Lots of sharing and engagement on social media not only resulted in the vouchers selling out super quickly but also helped spread the message of responsible cat ownership throughout the district”.*

Cat owner feedback:

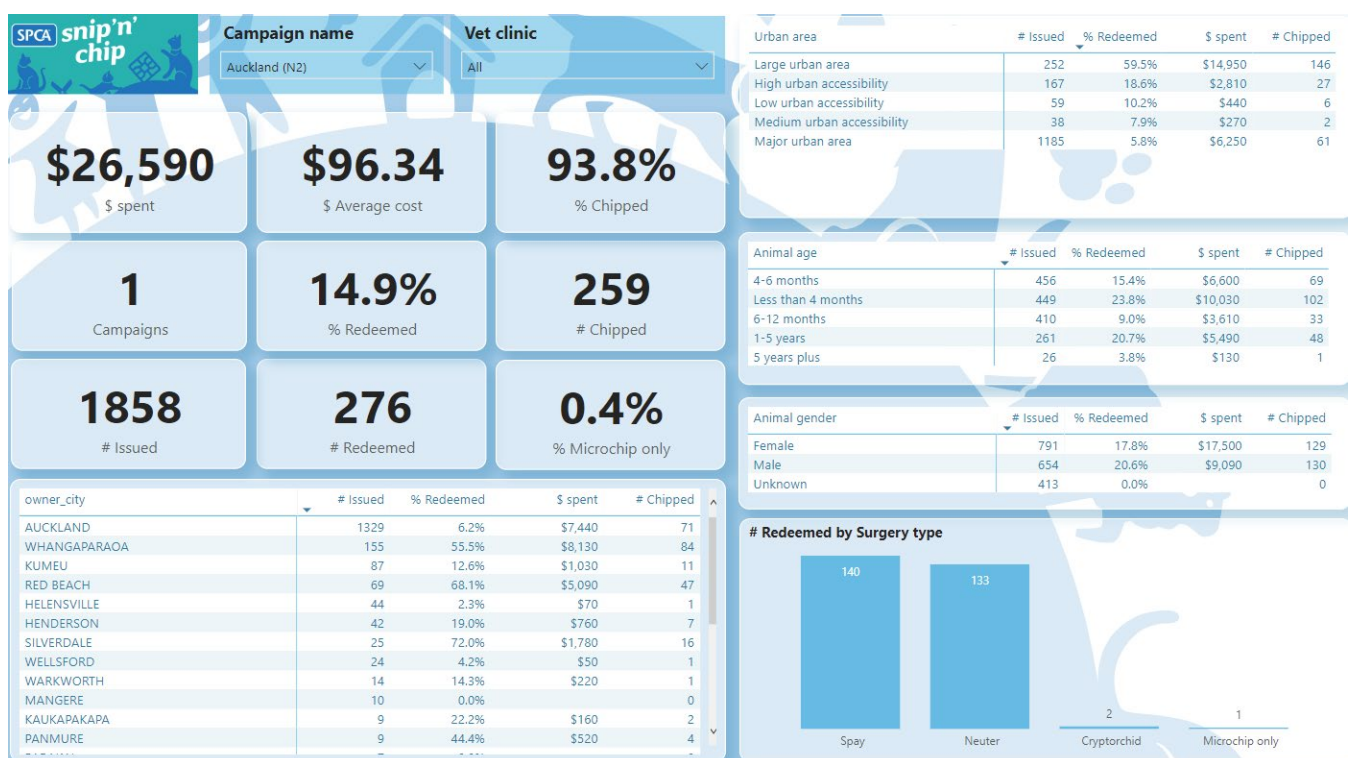
Waitaki resident, Helen, on Facebook said *“Thank you so much for this wonderful initiative. I live on a rural property and got a huge surprise when a little wildie/dumped kitten wandered into my kitchen in late January. S/he (I think he's a 'he') has settled into domestic life perfectly. He's staying in the house with another former wildie until I can build an outside house/enclosure for them. The subsidised spaying/neutering is greatly appreciated.”*

Duration:

- Studies have shown that to make effective change, desexing initiatives should be run regularly over a number of years
- A Campaign funded at \$15k per year over 3 years (\$45k total), could desex 500 cats and prevent thousands of unwanted litters.

Reporting:

An example of the types of reporting available



SPCA Key Contact:

Contact Name	Title	Phone Number	Email Address
Rebecca Dobson	National Desexing Programmes Manager	027 880 2476	rebecca.dobson@sPCA.nz



Toolkit for Humane and Effective Cat Management

July 2022



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Introduction

SPCA supports improved coordination across diverse stakeholders for humane and effective cat management in New Zealand. We have created this Cat Management Toolkit to facilitate local council engagement with the public. Below we discuss key aspects of cat management and how SPCA NZ can help. This toolkit is organised in three parts consisting of topical sections. Each section has a brief description of the topic and then examples of related available resources.

Sharing information

SPCA encourages local councils to provide information on their website to help members of the public access knowledge and resources to improve cat welfare for all cats. SPCA advocates that local council websites include information on the topics in this toolkit: the benefits of desexing, microchipping and microchip registration, keeping cats at home (i.e., not allowing them to roam from their owner's property), and cat health; what to do when finding a roaming cat or kittens; non-lethal deterrents to prevent roaming cat nuisance; and understanding obligations about humanely managing feral cats.

The following local council websites are provided here as examples for sharing information with the public for humane and effective cat management:

- [Auckland Council](#)
- [Palmerston North City Council](#)
- [Waitaki District Council](#)

Effectively and humanely managing free-roaming cats

Effective and humane cat management must consider the type of cat, the specific situation, and the people involved.

SPCA recognises three different types of cats based on their degree of socialisation and reliance on humans for their physical, health, and behavioural needs. To facilitate consistency in approaches to cat management, we recommend all local councils use these definitions for cats:

- > Companion cats are owned and rely on humans for their needs.
- > Stray cats live in and around human areas and may or may not be socialised to people or have an identifiable owner. Some of these cats may have been previously owned or may have been unwanted kittens of owned cats. Stray cats depend on resources supplied indirectly and unintentionally by humans.
- > Feral cats live in the wild. They are self-sustaining and do not rely on humans for their needs.

We recommend all cat management activities include local companion cat owner engagement to promote responsible cat ownership and inform owners of activities that may impact their companion cat. As a longer-term strategy to reduce the number of free-roaming cats, SPCA advocates that all owned cats are desexed, microchipped, and kept at home, which can help reduce the unwanted cat population, and cat impacts on wildlife and in communities.

Cat management must be humane

SPCA Centres have managed entry criteria which prioritise intake of animals vulnerable to welfare harms. This allows us to provide needed care without becoming overwhelmed by animals at our Centres. Vulnerable animals include very young, very old, sick, injured, pregnant or lactating, and otherwise at risk of welfare harm, such as an abandoned companion cat.

As an approved organisation with delegated authority under the Animal Welfare Act 1999, SPCA must enact a statutory seven-day holding period for all stray animals, including stray cats. This holding period can pose significant welfare issues for stray cats who are unsocialised to humans, as confinement in an animal shelter or pound is extremely stressful. Therefore, accepting unsocialised healthy stray cats into our Centres is not in the best interest of their welfare. SPCA is also not willing to take in healthy adult stray cats who are not vulnerable to welfare harms for euthanasia. We do not consider this a humane or effective approach to cat management, and we do not think our staff should bear the emotional burden of euthanasing healthy animals.

If cats are lethally controlled, and those controlling the cats should be aware of their legal obligations under the Animal Welfare Act. Cats must be humanely treated throughout the process and killed using effective and generally accepted methods. SPCA opposes the use of poisons and leg-hold traps to control populations of animals, including stray and feral cats. These methods are inhumane because they cause animals to experience intense suffering and a prolonged death.

Cat management should be effective

Attempts to control populations of stray and feral cats must be systematic and regularly evaluated to ensure they humanely and effectively reduce the number of cats in the targeted area and result in intended goals (e.g., protection of biodiversity). The following publications provide guidance on developing and monitoring control programmes for pest management, including cats:

- www.bionet.nz/assets/Uploads/A11-Feral-and-Stray-Cats-minor-revisions-2020.pdf
- www.pestsmart.org.au/toolkit-resource/code-of-practice-feral-cats/
- www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/conservation/threats-and-impacts/pest-control/sops/operational-planning/operational-planning-sop.pdf



Part 1: Promoting Responsible Cat Ownership

Cats are beloved companion animals in New Zealand and are valued by many people. We know that cats can thrive when they are part of a family that ensures they provide opportunities for positive welfare and provides for their physical, health, and behavioural needs. Many New Zealand cat owners appreciate the benefits of responsible cat ownership such as desexing and microchipping their cats and to a lesser extent keeping their cats at home. However, there are gaps in responsible cat ownership in New Zealand.

There are approximately 1.2 million companion cats in 41% of households across New Zealand, only:

- > 88 % of owners desex their cats (which is a downward trend from previous reports);
- > 49 % microchip their cats; and
- > 11 % keep their cats at home.¹

These gaps in responsible cat ownership result in cat overpopulation that negatively impacts our urban, rural, and wild communities.

Desexing

Desexing your cat or kitten is a fundamental humane and effective mechanism to prevent overpopulation of unwanted cats and kittens. Desexing is a key aspect of Responsible Cat Ownership as it helps promote the welfare of a companion cat and mitigates problems with overpopulation. Overpopulation negatively impacts cat and kitten welfare, leads to nuisance in communities, and negatively impacts wildlife. Overpopulation also burdens local cat and kitten rescues, the SPCA, and local councils who all absorb the true cost of a cat owner not desexing their cat.

The primary barriers to desexing are cost, feeling it is unnecessary, not realising a kitten can reproduce before 6 months of age, and believing there are benefits to allowing a cat to have a litter of kittens before being desexed.¹ In addition to cats that have not been desexed, some may have already had a litter before being desexed, which further contributes to the unwanted cat population. The likelihood of undesexed companion cats contributing to the unwanted population of cats is exacerbated by most cat owners allowing their cats to roam freely.

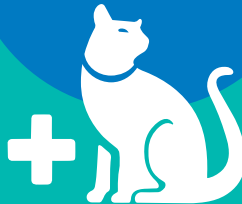
¹Companion Animals New Zealand. (2020). Companion animals in New Zealand. Retrieved from: <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5d1bf13a3f8e880001289eeb/t/5f768e8a17377653bd1eebef/1601605338749/Companion+Animals+in+NZ+2020+%281%29.pdf>; New Zealand Companion Animal Council. (2016). Companion animals in New Zealand. Retrieved from: https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5d1bf13a3f8e880001289eeb/t/5f556c917d0b-b54905a22858/1599433901911/Companion+Animals+in+New+Zealand+2016+Report_web.pdf; Gates, M. C., Walker, J. K., Zito, S., & Dale, A. (2019). A survey of opinions towards dog and cat management policy issues in New Zealand. *New Zealand Veterinary Journal*, 67 (6) 315-322.

The benefits of desexing your cat

DECREASE
unwanted litters



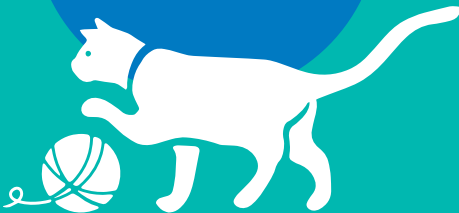
INCREASE
lifespan by
3-5 years



REDUCE
spraying
&
marking



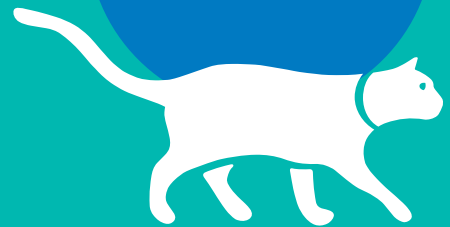
LOWER
risk of cancer



DECREASE
aggression



REDUCE
roaming



For more information about SPCA's desexing and microchipping services, visit spca.nz.



SPCA NZ Resources on desexing

- SPCA desexing resource.
 - > [Snip 'n' Chip](#) is our national programme that works with local veterinarians to provide subsidised desexing and microchipping for companion animals. In coordination with local councils, we can offer Snip 'n' Chip in targeted post codes, including those in sensitive ecological areas.
 - > Community desexing is a programme where we work with local veterinarians to provide discounted, usually free, desexing to owners whom SPCA staff interact with during their day-to-day activities. This is a more targeted approach as these animals are at higher risk of negative welfare outcomes than those with access to our Snip 'n' Chip. We do not advertise this programme to the general public.
 - > Mobile desexing is where we offer desexing to animals who are mainly in remote and isolated regions. These animals have often never seen a veterinarian before or have to travel significant distance to see one. This service is provided by way of a mobile desexing clinic.
 - > The [SPCA Desexing Grant](#) funds are for registered charities that carry out community desexing projects.
- SPCA Desexing Infographics are available as pdfs [here](#) in five languages.
 - > Benefits for desexing cats and kittens
 - > Break the Cycle of cat overpopulation
 - > You are welcome to use these infographics. Reach out to science@spca.nz if you need alternative artwork files for website embedding.

Microchipping

SPCA advocates for microchipping cats for identification because the chip cannot be removed, dislodged, or lost without surgical intervention. Once a cat is microchipped, the 15-digit microchip number, and the animal and owner's details can be registered with a microchip registration database, such as the New Zealand Companion Animal Register. We recommend cats also wear a breakaway collar with their owner's information attached as a back up to their registered microchip.

The majority of New Zealand cat owners who microchip their cats (74 %) do so to help ensure they are found if lost or stolen.¹ Microchipping and microchip registration can help ensure a lost or injured cat's owner can be identified and contacted. This can be especially true during emergencies such as the 2011 earthquake in Christchurch, where 85 of microchipped animals were reunited with their owners, compared with just 15 % of those without microchips. In areas where cats are targets of pest control, microchipping and microchip registration or other forms of identification can help distinguish owned or managed stray cats from feral cats in pest management plans.

The main barriers to microchipping are not feeling it is necessary and the cost, or that it is not legally required.¹ Additionally, cat owners do not microchip their cats because they have not made the time yet to do it, or did not realise cats could be microchipped, or keep their cats inside.¹ The primary issue with microchip use is that owners must keep their cat's information updated if there is a change of address.

Resources on microchipping

- [Snip 'n' Chip](#) is our national programme that works with local veterinarians to provide subsidised desexing and microchipping for companion animals. In coordination with local councils, we can offer Snip 'n' Chip in targeted post codes, including those in sensitive ecological areas.
- The [New Zealand Companion Animal Register](#) is a registered charity that serves as the national database for registering companion animal microchips in New Zealand.

Keeping cats at home

Cats who are allowed to roam from home face numerous welfare risks including threats to their health, consequences of becoming lost or straying, and if not desexed, can contribute to the unwanted kitten population in New Zealand. Cats who are allowed to roam are at greater risk of injury and death from vehicles, fighting with cats and other animals, infectious disease transmission, and ingestion of harmful substances² and at greater risk of disease transmission to people and other animals (e.g., ringworm, toxoplasmosis)³. Cats who are allowed to roam are more likely to negatively impact wildlife⁴ and are more likely to cause neighbourhood nuisance such as toileting in gardens, spraying, and fighting with other cats.

SPAC NZ Resources for keeping cats at home

- [Guide to Keeping Cats Safe and Happy at Home](#) provides tips on enriching the home environment, options for keeping cats at home, and trouble-shooting any challenges.
- [Advice on keeping cats at home](#) is available on SPCA's website.
- [SPCA Kids Portal](#) resources help engage children and families in responsible guardianship including keeping cats at home.
- [SPCA Teachers' Portal](#) provides primary and intermediate teachers with animal welfare related educational resources, including those related to keeping cats at home.
- [Safe Cat, Safe Wildlife](#) is a co-branded programme between SPCA and the Zoo Aquarium Association (ZAA) which promotes keeping cats at home as part of responsible cat ownership.



²Bruce, S. J., Zito, S., Gates, M. C., Aguilar, G., Walker, J. K., Goldwater, N., & Dale, A. (2019). Predation and risk behaviors of free-roaming owned cats in Auckland, New Zealand. *Frontiers in Veterinary Science*, 6.; Loyd, K. A. T., Hernandez, S. M., Abernathy, K. J., Shock, B. C., & Marshall, G. J. (2013). Risk behaviours exhibited by free-roaming cats in a suburban US town. *The Veterinary Record*, 173, 295.; Rochlitz I. (2003a). Study of factors that may predispose domestic cats to road traffic accidents: Part 1. *Vet. Record*. 153:549–53. doi: 10.1136/vr.153.18.549; Rochlitz I. (2003b). Study of factors that may predispose domestic cats to road traffic accidents: Part 2. *Vet Record*, 153:585–88. doi: 10.1136/vr.153.19.585

³Hosie, M. J., Addie, D., Belák, S., Boucraut-Baralon, C., Egberink, H., Frymus, T.... Lloret, A. (2009). Feline immunodeficiency: ABCD guidelines on prevention and management. *Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery*, 11, 7, 575-584.; Stull, J. W., Brophy, J., & Weese, J. S. (2015). Reducing the risk of pet-associated zoonotic infections. *CMAJ*, 187, 10, 736-743.

⁴National Cat Management Strategy Group. (2020). National Cat Management Strategy Group Report. Retrieved from: https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5d1b-f13a3f8e880001289eeb/t/5f6d986d7bea696c449fa5a7/1601017986875/NCMSG_Report_August+2020.pdf

Cat Health and End of Life Planning

The health of a cat is essential for their welfare. Cat owners should be able to manage routine veterinary appointments, and additional veterinary care as needed. Preventive measures that can benefit a cat's health include maintaining an ideal weight, dental exams and cleanings, routine parasite control, and keeping vaccinations up to date. Your veterinarian can also help owners recognise when their cat is experiencing a decline in quality of life and help with end-of-life planning (palliative care, hospice, or euthanasia).

SPCA NZ Resources for cat health

- [SPCA's Cat and kitten care guide](#) provides information to help owners provide a good life for their cat where their physical, health, and behavioural needs are met.
- [Advice on companion cat health](#) for a variety of topics is available on the SPCA website.

Preparing the Emergencies

Cat owners should have a plan in the event there is an emergency, and they must evacuate their dwelling. Animal-specific evacuation kits should be prepared ahead of time with food, water, and medications.

Resources or emergency planning

- [SPCA's website article on emergency planning](#) provides information for what owners will need to include in the event of a natural disaster including links to [MPI's information on animals in emergencies](#).
- [SPCA's Checklist for Pets in Emergencies](#) provides a list of steps to take in planning and items to include in the preparation of an evacuation kit.



Part 2: Cats in our Communities and in the Wild

Reducing Abandonment

Under the [Animal Welfare Act, section 14\(2\)](#), it is an offence to desert an animal without provisioning for their physical, health, and behavioural needs. Cat abandonment can negatively impact a cat if they are reliant on humans for basic needs such as food, water, shelter, and also veterinary needs and companionship. A cat who is abandoned and not desexed will likely contribute to the unwanted population of cats and the problems with cat overpopulation.

Abandoning cats can also undermine successful managed, targeted Trap-Neuter-Return programmes (mtTNR). mtTNR is a comprehensive approach to reducing the number of cats living in a group or colony over time in areas where immediate removal of cats is not required. Significant reduction or extinction of the colony is possible however, cat abandonment is one contributing factor for why colony management of stray or unowned cats will not result in colony reduction. In some cases, there will be an increase in colony size due to an increase of cat abandonment near a managed colony.

In addition to the provisions of the Animal Welfare Act, some authorities in New Zealand have created rules under their Regional Pest Management Plan making it an offence to abandon a cat in a certain area.

Advice for when a member of the public finds a cat or kitten

The section below includes advice that councils can provide to members of the public who call about concerns for a cat or kitten.

STEP 1: Does this cat need urgent care?

If you are concerned about a cat, the first thing to do is determine if the cat needs urgent care:

1. Are you concerned about a kitten, pregnant queen, senior cat, or a sick or injured cat?

If yes, then SPCA can assist you immediately with these animals.

- Before the age of 8 weeks, kittens are best suited to stay with their mum (if she is social with people). However, if the kitten is abandoned, sick, or injured, then contact SPCA for immediate assistance. If the kitten is at least 8 weeks old, then SPCA can assist you in becoming a foster parent, adoptee, or provide additional support. If the mother cat is not social with humans, then the kittens can be separated for fostering as early as 6 weeks. By this age they are nearly or fully weaned, and it is important to start the socialisation process as soon as possible so the kittens are suitable for adoption.
- For young kittens that are not sick or injured or are not in immediate harm's way, it is best to see if their mother is still around. Often, the mother is away looking for food and will return. You may need to observe from a distance, and if the mother cat does not return after a few hours, then these kittens will need help.
- It is helpful to trap the mother with the kittens. The kittens can be fostered and rehomed, and the mother, even if unsocialised, needs to be desexed to prevent future litters.

2. **But first, before you do anything to help a cat, you need to have a plan.** Before you capture the cat, you need to know the following:

- Your obligations under the Animal Welfare Act for using live traps and abandonment of an animal; for example,
 - > you must check a live trap within 12 hours after sunrise each day the trap remains set, beginning on the day immediately after the day the trap is set, and
 - > that a live animal must be removed from the trap or attended to without delay.
- How to best set a live trap so that stressors are minimised, for example, do not set the trap where the cat may be exposed to inclement weather or heat stress.
- Your obligations if an unowned or stray cat is considered a pest in your region.
- Where you will bring this cat once it is trapped.
 - > SPCA does not typically take in healthy, adult stray cats. We need to ensure we have space for cats and kittens that need urgent care such as those that are very young or old, pregnant, or sick or injured.
 - > SPCA does not take in healthy stray cats to be euthanased for pest management or if they are a nuisance. This is not our role in our communities and euthanasing healthy adult animals places a significant emotional cost on our staff. If you are calling about a cat that is causing nuisance such as toileting in your garden, fighting with your cat or other pets, or spraying on your property, then please call your local Council and report this as nuisance.

Special note: Any cat trapped in a cage can be stressed and show many different behaviours, including aggression and fear; therefore, how a cat acts in a trap is not a reliable way to determine if they are owned, stray, or feral.



STEP 2: Does this cat have an owner?

If you are **concerned** about a free-roaming cat that does not need urgent care, the next thing to do is determine if the cat has an owner:

1. **Is this a healthy free-roaming cat?** If yes, then there are a few different things that you can do to help this cat.

- **Talk to your neighbours.** Many free-roaming cats likely have a home and will return on their own. Therefore, we advise not to feed healthy, free-roaming cats on your property. You can ask your neighbours or walk around your neighbourhood to see if you can find where the cat lives. Many cat owners underestimate how far their cat will roam from home. Sometimes a friendly conversation to alert an owner about their cat's travels can encourage cat owners to be more responsible.
- **Check for a microchip.** Take the cat to a veterinarian or SPCA to have it scanned for a microchip and check the NZ Companion Animal Registry to see if the cat's owner can be found: www.animalregister.co.nz/.
- **Use a paper collar.** Release the cat with a paper collar with a note to the owner to establish contact and alert them about their cat coming onto your property: www.sPCA.nz/images/assets/31718/1/spca2018_stray_cat_paper_collar_d3.pdf.
- **Share the cat's information.** Post the cat's information to the lost pet website to help identify an owner: www.lostpet.co.nz/. Also, consider posting to community social media pages, in local newspapers, or at community hub corkboards. Contact welfare groups in case the cat was reported missing with them.

STEP 3: How can I help an unowned cat?

If you are **concerned** about a cat and have not been able to find an owner, then there are options to help this cat:

- **Become a guardian for this cat, including fostering or adoption.** If you have trapped or found a cat and cannot find an owner, it is important to ensure the cat is desexed, microchipped, registered, and in good health. We encourage you to adopt or foster the cat, or once desexed and microchipped you can return the cat to where you found it, and provide for their welfare needs, such as food or shelter. We do not recommend you do this near ecologically sensitive areas where cats pose a risk to native wildlife.
- **SPCA or another welfare organisations may be able to take the cat.** An SPCA Centre may have space for a healthy socialised stray cat, once other options are exhausted. SPCA prioritises intake of animals based on their vulnerability to welfare harms, which allows us to maintain the highest levels of care and welfare for these animals without becoming overloaded with healthy ones.
- **Contact other cat rescue organisations.** Some stray cats can live good lives in a cat colony where a person or organisation carefully manages them to prevent breeding and ensure their welfare needs are met. Cat colony management, or any form of trap-neuter-return should not occur near sensitive ecological areas where cats pose significant risk to native wildlife.

Finding kittens

Kittens are born year-round in New Zealand, with a seasonal increase occurring late spring through the summer. Kittens may be left alone whilst their mother is finding food, or if something has happened to their mother preventing her from return. Kittens are vulnerable animals, especially during the first 8 weeks of life when they rely on their mother for feeding, grooming, keeping warm, and protection. Concerned members of the public who find kittens may remove them from an area not realising that their mother is away and will return. Whilst this may be appropriate if the kittens require urgent care (e.g., they are sick or injured) or are not in a safe location, the removal of kittens from the mother cat requires people to have skills, knowledge, and resources to provide appropriate care. Kittens who are younger than 4-5 weeks may not be fully weaned and require frequent assistance with feeding and toileting. Kittens at least 6 weeks usually need less assistance with feeding, provided they are able to eat solid food. We recommend two different times to intervene for preparing these kittens for a future human family:

- > If the kittens belong to an unsocialised mother cat, the age of 5- 6 weeks is appropriate for them to come under the care of humans so they can begin the needed socialisation process for a successful rehoming with a family. During this time, foster families and shelters will need to provide support to these kittens. Once they are 8 weeks old, they are ready for desexing, microchipping, and rehoming.
- > If kittens belong to a mother cat that is socialised to people, they can remain with the mother until they are ready to be desexed, microchipped, and rehomed at 8 weeks. We recommend frequent positive contact between people and kittens beginning around 4-5 weeks of age to promote socialisation.

SPCA NZ Resources for found kittens

- Our [SPCA Centres](#) are available for advice and assistance in the event that a person has found kittens.



Non-lethal deterrents for nuisance

If the steps above do not help resolve your cat management issue, the following information may provide additional support. Care should be taken to determine whether the following actions can be implemented on their own, or in coordination with other cat management activities.

Removing Attractants

Check for things on your property that may appeal to cats. Common cat attractants include food left outside intentionally or unintentionally, rubbish bins not properly secured, rodent populations, and having undesexed companion cats on your property.

Physical Barriers and deterrents

Fencing can be an effective barrier when designed correctly (e.g., of adequate height). If your property is already fenced, you can modify it with products such as roller bars designed to keep cats in or out of an area. Attaching a thin wire approximately 5cm above the fence along its entire length, can deter cats by interfering with their ability to balance on the fence. Netting, or plastic or metal sheeting attached to a fence at an outward slope can deter a cat from climbing onto your property.

Motion activated sprinklers can be effective at deterring cats. Ultrasonic deterrent devices are available which may help reduce the number of times a cat visits an area and the length of time they spend in an area.

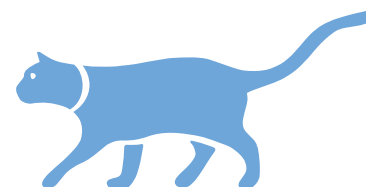
Chemicals used to deter cats include coffee grounds and various sprays from pet supply stores. These methods have largely shown mixed results and have not been well studied. Mothballs and citrus peels are toxic to cats, and may also attract cats, therefore, we do not recommend their use.

Managed Targeted Trap-Neuter-Return (mtTNR)

Managed, Targeted, Trap Neuter Return (mtTNR) is a long-term strategy to systematically and comprehensively stabilise or reduce the number of stray cats in a specific area. mtTNR can lead to stabilisation and extinction of a cat colony over time, however, there is considerable variation in how long it may take due to multiple factors. Therefore, trapping, neutering, and returning is unsuitable when acute issues (e.g., significant cat impacts on threatened or endangered species) require rapid extinction of a cat colony, and there are other humane options. Maintaining a small number of desexed cats in a community can be beneficial for controlling rodents, as rats and mice represent a high proportion of urban cat prey in some places. mtTNR programmes are not suitable near areas with sensitive wildlife vulnerable to cat predation.

SPCA NZ Resources for non-lethal deterrents

- [SPCA advice on non-lethal deterrents](#) includes information for deterring cat nuisance.



Lethal control of cats

If non-lethal methods are exhausted, and lethal control is justified, only methods relatively more humane for feral and stray cat management should be used. The type of method will depend on the type and age of the cat, the specific situation, and human competency and safety.

Trapping

Live trapping should only occur where a plan for who will euthanase or humanely kill the animal is determined before setting the trap, care is taken when and where the traps are set, and legislative obligations are met. SPCA does not euthanase healthy animals for pest management. If cats are live trapped as part of lethal control, they must be attended to (e.g., euthanased or humanely killed) once they are found. It is an offense under the Animal Welfare Act to drown an animal. For more information on methods of humane lethal control of cats please email science@spca.nz.

Part 3: More information

The National Cat Management Strategy Group (NCMSG)

The National Cat Management Strategy Group is a multi-stakeholder group with the aim of achieving humane and effective cat management in New Zealand. The NCMSG has developed a set of recommendations essential for cat management. These recommendations are available in the [National Cat Management Strategy Group Report](#) and include community engagement as an important topic.

Related Legislation

Below are the main pieces of legislation and related bylaws and codes of welfare related to cat management.

- [Animal Welfare Act 1999](#)
 - > [Code of Welfare Companion Cats](#)
 - > [Code of Welfare Temporary Housing of Companion Animals](#)
 - > [Code of Welfare Transport within New Zealand](#)
- [Biosecurity Act 1993](#)
- [Conservation Act 1987](#)
- [Local Government Act 2002](#)
 - > Local bylaws





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Response No: 44

Name: Gill Whitingham

Attended a drop-in session at Council on 31 January 2023.

Gill agrees with the proposal to reduce the limit on head of poultry to six in residential areas.

