



# FAQ'S

Frequently asked questions

## Keeping of Animals (excluding Dogs), Bees and Poultry Bylaw

*Te Whakahaere o ngā Kararehe: Tōki, Rāngai me ngā Pī (Hāunga ngā kurī)*

*Why do we need a Keeping of Animals (excluding Dogs) Bees and Poultry Bylaw?*

*He aha te take me whakarite he Ture ā-rohe mō te Whakahaere o ngā Kararehe: Tōki, Rāngai me ngā Pī (Hāunga ngā kurī)?*

The Keeping of Animals Bylaw sets the rules for keeping animals, poultry, bees, and stock (excluding dogs) in the Whakatāne District.

It aims to prevent nuisance and protect public health and safety.

**What animals does this bylaw relate to?**

*Mā tēhea momo kararehe tēnei ture ā-rohe?*

The bylaw covers most domestic and farmed animals, including:

- cattle, horses, deer, sheep, goats, pigs
- poultry (chickens, ducks, geese, etc.)
- bees and beehives
- birds kept domestically (parrots, pigeons, peacocks, etc.).

**What does this bylaw not cover?**

*He aha kāore i raro i te mana o te ture ā-rohe?*

This bylaw does not cover dogs, cats, unowned animals or wild or native animals.

**Does the bylaw deal with animal welfare?**

*E aro ana tēnei ture ā-rohe ki te toiora kararehe?*

No. Animal welfare is regulated nationally by:

- the Animal Welfare Act 1999,
- the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI), and
- SPCA codes and guidance.

The bylaw focuses on public impacts (nuisance, safety, hygiene), not welfare standards.

**What are my general responsibilities as an animal owner?**

*He aha aku takohanga whānui hei kaitiaki kararehe?*

You must ensure your animals:

- do not cause nuisance (noise, smell, damage, health risks)
- are not roaming in public places
- do not obstruct or frighten people
- are kept in clean, healthy, hygienic conditions
- are safely contained and cannot wander onto roads or other properties.



## Can I keep pigs?

### *Ka āhei te tiaki poaka?*

Pigs cannot be kept in urban areas.

In rural areas, pigsties must meet distance requirements from boundaries, dwellings, and food-related premises unless a permit is granted.

## Can I keep bees at home?

### *Ka āhei te tiaki pī?*

Yes - but only if your hives do not cause a nuisance.

If a hive becomes a problem (e.g., swarming onto neighbouring properties or public places), Council may require conditions or removal of the hive.

No general permission is required unless issues arise.

## How many chickens can I have?

### *Kia hia ngā heihei ka āhei te tiaki?*

- Up to 12 poultry can be kept without a permit.
- Roosters are not allowed in urban areas due to noise.
- Poultry must be kept in a clean, rainproof coop and fenced run, set back at least 2 metres from neighbouring buildings.
- Owners must prevent odour, vermin, and nuisance.

## Can I keep stock (cows, sheep, horses) in urban areas?

### *Ka āhei te tiaki tōki ki ngā wāhi tāone?*

Generally, no — unless you have written approval from the Council.

## What happens if stock is on the road?

### *Ka aha ina kei ngā rori ngā tōki?*

Wandering stock may:

- be impounded under the Impounding Act 1955
- incur recovery costs
- cause police involvement if accidents occur
- result in enforcement action if it becomes an ongoing issue.

Owners are responsible for preventing stock escaping.

## What happens if I breach the bylaw?

### *Ka aha ina takahi au i te ture ā-rohe?*

Breaches may result in:

- fines of up to **\$20,000** (under the Local Government Act)
- cost recovery for removal or cleanup
- possible impounding (for stock)
- suspension or revocation of permits.

## Can I apply for an exemption from this bylaw?

### *Ka āhei te tonu mā tētahi awerenga i tēnei ture ā-rohe?*

Council may consider exemptions in limited circumstances where:

- the purpose of the bylaw is still met
- public safety and nuisance protections remain intact.

Exemptions must be provided in writing.