



Animals (Excluding Dogs) Bylaw 2026

Decision Story

Western Bay of Plenty District Council has reviewed its Animals (Excluding Dogs) Bylaw 2025. Council considered community feedback received, and adopted a final bylaw on Thursday 27 August 2026. We wanted to let you know about the key decisions.



**Western
Bay of Plenty**
District Council

Animals (Excluding Dogs) Bylaw 2026

This bylaw helps Council manage how animals (other than dogs) are kept in the District, to reduce nuisance and protect health and wellbeing.

We reviewed the Animals (Excluding Dogs) Bylaw in 2025 and found that it is generally working as intended, with some minor updates made. But before making the final decision, we checked in to make sure it's still appropriate for the community.

The Animals (Excluding Dogs) Bylaw was required to be reviewed by August 2026 to meet legislative timeframes. This timeframe reflects five years since the bylaw was created in 2019, plus a two-year period in which to undertake the review.

What was proposed?

We proposed to continue the Animals (Excluding Dogs) Bylaw as it is, including the minor updates made in 2025. No major changes were proposed.

Keeping the bylaw provides clarity and certainty. It helps residents understand the rules and allows Council to respond to animal-related nuisance when needed.

What did the feedback tell us?

In total, 10 submissions were received during the consultation period. The following matters were raised by submitters:

- Allow hens, rabbits and goats in fenced back yards
- Allow pet shop birds with a limitation on the size of the aviary
- Limitations on the ownership of guinea fowl in areas where owners are within 500 metres of another property
- Introduce responsible cat ownership provisions, including desexing, microchipping and registration, limitations on the number of cats owned, restrictions on feeding stray cats and improve Council tracking of nuisance complaints.
- Requesting Council advocates for national legislation on responsible cat ownership
- Welfare and hygiene of the housing of animals, including bedding and freedom of movement without prolonged tethering.



Our Decisions

Council has approved the bylaw. There are no changes from the draft version.

No changes are proposed to the bylaw as a number of the matters raised are already included in the bylaw, don't fall inside Council's remit, or are things Council is already doing.

Council has decided to create a webpage on the Council website around responsible cat ownership. The purpose of the webpage is to promote the work and initiatives undertaken by other animal welfare and environmental groups, including those who submitted. Council will also track the number and nature of complaints received regarding cats to better understand the issues in our District, and to inform any future decisions. Council staff will generally not be following up on those complaints, but recording the information will allow us to measure the scale of any issues.

The Animals (Excluding Dogs) Bylaw will come into effect on Wednesday 30 September 2026.



Would you like to know more?

For full copies of the bylaw, you can visit one of our libraries and service centres or visit our website at [Bylaws and Policies - Western Bay of Plenty District Council](#).

Full copies of the reports are also available on our website as part of the Council meeting agendas at [Agendas and Minutes - Western Bay of Plenty District Council](#).