

# Questions and answers on Keeping Animals, Poultry and Bees Bylaw

13 May 2021

The Keeping Animals, Poultry and Bees Bylaw was adopted by Selwyn District Council at the Council meeting on 12 May 2021. The new bylaw sets out the rules on keeping domesticated animals, poultry, stock and bees in urban areas.

The new rules will come into effect on 1 July 2021, except the rules for cats which will come into force a year later, on 1 July 2022.

*[Note that dogs are already regulated by Dog Control Bylaw and Dog Control Act.]*

## What animals are covered by this bylaw?

The following animals are covered by the new bylaw:

- Cats
- Poultry (any live domesticated bird including but not limited to domestic fowls, ducks, geese, turkeys, guinea fowl, pheasants, emu, pigeons and ostriches)
- Stock (includes any cattle, horse, donkey, ox, pig, sheep, goat, deer, alpaca and llama)
- Bees.

## Why have you adopted the new bylaw?

As Selwyn's population continues to grow, especially in our townships, so does the number of pets and animals we have in and around our homes. Domestic animals are an important part of many households, however, it's also important they are looked after in a way that protects the public from nuisance, maintains public health and safety, and protects the welfare of the animal. By setting standards and controls in the bylaw, this is what the new bylaw is aiming to achieve.

## Why have you decided to include cats in the bylaw?

When consulting on the draft bylaw there was overwhelming support from those who submitted for cats to be included. The hearing panel has listened to the feedback the Council received and recommended to the Council that the new bylaw should regulate cats by requiring microchipping.

## How will you ensure the animal owners comply with the new bylaw?

Council's emphasis is going to be on providing education to urban animal owners to ensure they are familiar with the new bylaw and what is required of them. By the time the new bylaw comes into effect we plan to develop a number of resources to help encourage responsible animal ownership.

## Will cat owners have to pay for microchipping or will it be free if done by Council like it is currently for dogs?

At this stage the Council has no funding for free microchipping cats, so owners will need to continue to do it at their local vet clinic. National research shows that almost half of cats in New Zealand are already microchipped.