

BULLER DISTRICT COUNCIL

KEEPING

OF

ANIMALS

BYLAW

2023

Keeping of Animals Bylaw 2022

Buller District Council

1 Title and Commencement

- 1.1 The title of this bylaw is the Buller District Council Keeping of Animals Bylaw 2023.
- 1.2 This bylaw comes into force on 20 December 2023.

2 Authority

- 2.1 This bylaw is made under:
- a) Sections 145(a) and (b) and 146(a)(v) of the Local Government Act 2002; and
 - b) Section 64(1)(a), (i), (j), and (m) of the Health Act 1956.

3 Purpose and application

- 3.1 The purpose of this bylaw is to:
- a) Regulate the keeping of animals (including pigs, poultry, bees, livestock and cats) in the district to protect, maintain and promote public health and safety and to avoid causing a nuisance to any person; and
 - b) Regulate the slaughtering of animals in the district so as not to be offensive and to avoid causing a nuisance to any person.
- 3.2 This bylaw shall apply to Buller District.

4 Exclusions

- 4.1 This bylaw does not apply to:
- a) Any animal kept in a zoo; or
 - b) Any dog.

5 Interpretation

- 5.1 In this bylaw unless the context otherwise requires:

Animal means any member of the animal kingdom, including any mammal, bird, finfish, shellfish, reptile, amphibian, insect or invertebrate, and includes their young, their carcasses or constituent parts of that animal, but does not include a human being or a dog.

Approval means a written approval from the Council.

Bylaw means this Buller District Council Animals Bylaw 2023.

Council means Buller District Council or any person delegated to act on its behalf.

District means the district within the jurisdiction of Buller District Council.

Domestic animal means any cattle, sheep, poultry, horse, mule, ass, dog, cat, pig, rabbit, or goat; but does not include any such animal that is living in a wild state.

Dwelling means any separately occupied household unit used in whole or in part for human habitation, and includes any building, tent, vehicle or other structure, whether permanent or temporary and whether attached to the soil or not.

Livestock includes any cattle, sheep, deer, horse, donkey, hinny, mule, goat, thar, alpaca, llama, bison, ostrich, emu, pigs or any other herd animal, regardless of age or sex.

Nuisance means any unreasonable interference with the peace, comfort or convenience of another person and includes a nuisance as defined in section 29 of the Health Act 1956, and includes the following:

- a) where any accumulation or deposit of any waste or other similar material is in such a state or so situated as to be offensive;
- b) where any buildings used for the keeping of animals are so constructed, situated, used, or kept or are in such a condition, as to be offensive; and
- c) where any noise emitted by an animal unreasonably interferes with the peace, comfort, and convenience of any person.

Occupier (of any property) means the person occupying the property.

Owner (of any property) means any person who would be entitled to receive the rent of the property, or would be so entitled if the property were let at a rent, and includes any person for the time being registered under the Land Transfer Act 2017 as the owner of the property.

Person includes an individual, a corporation sole, a body corporate, and an unincorporated body.

Poultry means any live, domesticated or farmed bird including, but not limited to, chicken, rooster, goose, duck, turkey, swan, pheasant, or peafowl.

Property means any parcel of land that is occupied or unoccupied.

Urban area means the land identified in the plans attached in Appendix 1 of this bylaw.

Waste has the same meaning as in section 5 of the Waste Minimisation Act 2008.

Zoo means a place where animals are kept for public exhibition, education, or entertainment, and includes a zoological garden.

5.2 A reference in this bylaw to any Act, Regulation or Rule, includes any amendment thereof, and any Act, Regulation or Rule in substitution therefor.

5.3 The Legislation Act 2019 applies to this bylaw.

6 Keeping of animals

6.1 No person shall keep, or allow to be kept, on any property any animal (including, but not limited to, livestock, poultry and bees):

- a) which causes a nuisance through noise, smell, dust or through the attraction of flies; or
- b) in a manner that is or is likely to become:
 - i) a nuisance; or
 - ii) offensive to the occupier of any neighbouring property; or
 - iii) injurious to the health of any person.

6.2 Clause 6.1 will apply regardless of whether a person has complied with any other provisions of this bylaw.

6.3 Any person keeping an animal (other than cats or bees) must confine the animal within the boundaries of the property where the animal is usually kept.

6.4 Clause 6.3 of this bylaw does not prevent a person from driving, leading or riding any animal.

6.5 No person shall release or abandon a domestic animal.

7 Keeping of cats in an urban area

7.1 No person shall keep, or allow to be kept, more than two (2) cats over the age of six months on any property in an urban area, except with the written approval of the Council.

7.2 Before granting any approval under clause 7.1 of this bylaw, the Council must be satisfied that:

- a) the cats will be adequately housed and that no nuisance will result; and
- b) any other lawful requirements of the Council have been satisfied including any relevant provisions of the Operative Buller District Plan.

7.3 The approval of the Council under clause 7.1 of this bylaw may include such terms and conditions as the Council considers appropriate in the circumstances, including requiring the cats to be desexed.

7.4 Any person to whom an approval has been given under clause 7.1 of this bylaw must comply with the terms and conditions of the approval.

7.5 Nothing in clause 7.1 of this bylaw applies to a lawfully established SPCA facility or other animal shelter, or a lawfully established veterinary clinic or cattery.

7.6 Any cat over six (6) months must be:

- a) Microchipped and the cat's microchip registered with the New Zealand Companion Animal Register and
- b) Be de-sexed, unless:
 - i. The cat is kept for breeding purposes; and registered with a nationally recognised cat breeder's body OR
 - ii. The owners provide a certificate from a veterinarian stating that the de-sexing of the cat will adversely affect its health and/or welfare.

8 Keeping of poultry in an urban area

- 8.1 No person shall keep, or allow to be kept, any roosters, ganders or peacocks on any property in an urban area.
- 8.2 No person shall keep, or allow to be kept, more than 12 head of poultry on any property in an urban area.
- 8.3 A person who keeps poultry on any property in an urban area must ensure the poultry are confined to that property by providing either:
- a) an enclosed poultry house with an attached poultry run; or
 - b) an enclosed poultry house and adequate fencing of the property;
- and the poultry house and poultry run (if any) must comply with clause 9 of this bylaw.
- 8.4 A person who keeps poultry on any property in an urban area must ensure that the poultry do not cause a nuisance to any person, including a noise nuisance or odour nuisance.
- 8.5 If poultry on any property in an urban area cause a nuisance, the Council may by written notice to the owner or occupier require the owner or occupier to abate the nuisance.
- 8.6 Any owner or occupier who receives a notice under clause 8.5 of this bylaw must, without delay, act to abate the nuisance as required by the notice.

9 Poultry houses and poultry runs

- 9.1 A person who keeps chickens on any property in the District must ensure:
- a) The chickens have access to shelter from adverse weather that is likely to cause heat or cold stress, and to reduce the risk of predation; and
 - b) Openings provided for the chickens to access an outside area are wide enough to enable the chickens to freely move to and from the outdoors at all times without risk of smothering or injury; and
 - c) Where access to an outside area is provided it must be managed to prevent the development around the poultry house of muddy, dusty or contaminated conditions to an extent that could be harmful to the chickens' health; and
 - d) Precautions are taken to protect the chickens from pests, including predators.
- 9.2 No person shall place, or allow to be placed, any poultry house or poultry run:
- a) Within ten metres of any dwelling on any neighbouring property; or
 - b) Within two metres of the boundary of any neighbouring property.
- 9.3 Every poultry house and poultry run must be adequately graded and drained and must be kept clean and in good repair.
- 9.4 No person shall discharge effluent from a poultry house or poultry run in such a manner as to cause a nuisance.
- 9.5 If a poultry house or poultry run on any property causes a nuisance, the Council may, by written notice to the owner or occupier, require the owner or occupier to abate the nuisance.

- 9.6 Any owner or occupier who receives a notice under clause 9.5 must, without delay, act to abate the nuisance as required by the notice.

10 Beekeeping

- 10.1 No person shall keep, or allow to be kept, any bees on any property in the District if the keeping of the bees is, or is likely to become, dangerous or injurious to the health of any person, or cause a nuisance to any person.
- 10.2 A person who keeps bees on any property in the District must ensure that hives are positioned so as to not cause a nuisance to any person.
- 10.3 If bees cause a nuisance to any person, or may be dangerous or injurious to the health of any person, the Council may by written notice require the beekeeper, or the owner or occupier of the property on which the bees are kept, to undertake one or more of the following steps to mitigate or abate the nuisance or danger:
- i) ensure the bees are kept in accordance with the Apiculture NZ Code of Conduct and/or similar code of conduct;
 - ii) relocate the hives to another area on the property;
 - iii) develop a flight management plan and submit this to the Council for approval by the Council to ensure that the bees flightpath is diverted from or made to go a minimum of 1.8 metres high over an adjacent property, footpath, or road;
 - iv) reduce the maximum number of hives allowed on the property; and/or
 - v) remove some or all of the existing hives from the property.
- 10.4 Any beekeeper, owner, or occupier who receives a notice under clause 10.3 of this bylaw must, without delay, comply with the notice.

Keeping of bees in an urban area

- 10.5 No person shall place, or allow to be placed, more than two hives on any property in an urban area, except with the written approval of the Council.
- 10.6 Before granting any approval under clause 10.5 of this bylaw the Council must be satisfied that:
- a) increasing the number of hives will not cause a nuisance or be injurious to the health of any person; and
 - b) the property on which the hives are located is in excess of 1,500 m².
- 10.7 Any approval granted by the Council under clause 10.5 may provide for the placement of up to and including four hives.
- 10.8 Any approval granted by the Council under clause 10.5 of this bylaw may include such terms and conditions as the Council considers appropriate in the circumstances.
- 10.9 Any person to whom an approval has been given under clause 10.5 of this bylaw must comply with the terms and conditions of the approval.

11 Keeping of livestock in an urban area

- 11.1 No person shall keep, or allow to be kept, any livestock on any property in an urban area at a distance less than two metres from a boundary of any adjoining property if the presence of the

livestock within that area causes a nuisance to any person.

- 11.2 A person who keeps livestock on any property in an urban area must ensure that the livestock do not cause a nuisance to any person, including a noise nuisance or an odour nuisance.
- 11.3 If livestock on any property in an urban area cause a nuisance, the Council may by written notice to the owner or occupier require the owner or occupier to abate the nuisance.
- 11.4 Any owner or occupier who receives a notice under clause 11.3 must, without delay, act to abate the nuisance as required by the notice.

12 Keeping of pigs in an urban area

- 12.1 No person shall keep, or allow to be kept, more than two (2) pigs on any property in an urban area.
- 12.2 A person who keeps pigs on any property in an urban area must ensure that the pigs do not cause a nuisance to any person, including a noise nuisance or an odour nuisance.
- 12.3 No person shall:
- a) keep, or allow to be kept, pigs on any property in an urban area in such a manner as to cause a nuisance, or likely to be injurious to the health of any person, or be offensive; or
 - b) discharge effluent from a pigsty in such a manner as to cause a nuisance.
- 12.4 If pigs or a pigsty on any property in an urban area cause a nuisance, the Council may by written notice to the owner or occupier require the owner or occupier to abate the nuisance.
- 12.5 Any owner or occupier who receives a notice under clause 12.4 must, without delay, act to abate the nuisance as required by the notice.

Note: The Operative District Plan contains provisions on the keeping of pigs. All pig farmers must also comply with the provisions of the Biosecurity Act 1993, Animal Welfare Act 1999 and any other relevant regulations.

13 Slaughter of livestock

- 13.1 A person responsible for the slaughter of any livestock must ensure:
- a) the slaughter is carried out in such a way that it cannot be seen by any other person nearby;
 - b) the processing of the slaughtered livestock (including skinning, gutting, and cutting of a carcass is carried out in such a way that it cannot be seen by any other person nearby;
 - c) the waste associated with a slaughter is disposed of in such a way that it cannot be seen by any other person nearby; and
 - d) the slaughter and the processing of the slaughtered livestock does not cause a nuisance or be offensive to any other person nearby.
- 13.2 A person responsible for the slaughter of any livestock must ensure:
- a) any waste associated with the slaughter of livestock is immediately removed: and
 - b) the body or part of the body of any slaughtered livestock is disposed of in a manner that will not cause a nuisance (including producing odour), become a threat to the health of any person, or otherwise become offensive to any person nearby.
- 13.3 For the purposes of clause 13 of this bylaw:

A person responsible for the slaughter of any livestock includes:

- a) the owner of the livestock concerned;
- b) any person contracted or otherwise engaged to perform the slaughter; and
- c) any person carrying out the slaughter and associated processing and disposal.

Any person nearby:

- a) includes a person on a neighbouring property, whether in a dwelling on that property or not, and a person in a dwelling on the property where the slaughter is carried out; but
- b) excludes any person responsible for the slaughter of the livestock.

- 13.4 If clauses 13.1 and 13.2 are not complied with, the Council may by written notice to the person responsible for the slaughter of the livestock, as set out in 13.3, require the person responsible to abate the nuisance.
- 13.5 A person responsible for the slaughter of livestock who receives a notice under clause 13.4 must, without delay, act to abate the nuisance as required by the notice.

14 Fees

- 14.1 The Council may prescribe fees payable for any approval by the Council under this bylaw.

15 Offences and Penalties

- 15.1 Every person who fails to comply with this bylaw commits an offence and is liable to enforcement action by the Council and the penalties set out in the Local Government Act 2002 or the Health Act 1956, as the case may be.
- 15.2 Notwithstanding the above, nothing in this Bylaw prevents the Council from exercising its powers under the Health Act 1956 or Resource Management Act 1991.

16 Repair and Removal of Works in breach of bylaw

- 16.1 The Council may repair, remove, or alter, or cause to be repaired, removed, or altered, any work, material, or thing erected or done in breach of this Bylaw, and may recover from any person responsible for the work, action, or thing, all expenses incurred by the Council in connection with the repair, removal, or alteration (including the cost of debt collection and legal fees incurred by the Council).

17 Revocation

- 17.1 All bylaws previously made by the Council which relate to the keeping of animals are hereby revoked.

APPENDIX 1 Urban Areas

Carters Beach



Westport



Reefton

