

New rules for animals

This includes stock animals. Cats and dogs are excluded, except for dogs in national parks.

 Guidance is available for authorities



Emergencies involving stock

Authority can place stock on nearby private property after reasonable attempt to gain land owner/occupier consent

Authority must remove animal as soon as possible after emergency ends

Authorities can act outside of their area of operations

Unattended animals in public

Authority may return the animal to the responsible person

Authority can take possession immediately

An animal is not unattended in public if it is permitted to be there by the authority

Authorities can act outside of their area of operations

Owner may be fined \$660 for the first animal. Fines may compound for additional animals

Unattended animals on private land

Occupier of private land may take possession of animal and must:

- inform owner of animal's location within 24 hours, and
- return animal to owner within 4 days, or
- contact authority for animal to be taken to place of care within 4 days

Owner may be fined \$660 for the first animal. Fines may compound for additional animals

After animal is taken possession of

Responsible person has 7 days to reclaim animal

If not reclaimed, responsible person may be fined \$660, and animal may be sold or otherwise disposed of

All reasonable efforts must be made by the authority to sell, give away or rehome an unclaimed animal in possession

Authorities may only destroy an animal in limited circumstances under the Act



Animals taken into possession must be cared for in line with animal welfare laws



Public Spaces (Unattended Property) Act 2021