

KEEPING OF ANIMALS. – Zoning ordinance 111, Article 20.02

(A) *Vicious animals.*

(1) No vicious animal shall be kept permanently or temporarily in any district in the township.

(2) For the purposes of this section, a **VICIOUS ANIMAL** shall be defined as any animal that attacks, bites or injures human beings or domesticated animals without adequate provocation, or that, because of temperament, conditioning or training, has a known propensity to attack, bite or injure human beings or domesticated animals.

(B) *Household pets.* The keeping of household pets, including dogs, cats, fish, birds, hamsters and other animals generally regarded as household pets is permitted as an accessory use in any zoning district containing a residence, provided such activities do not constitute a kennel, and in accordance with the following provisions:

(1) In the R-1, R-2 and R-3 districts, not more than 2 dogs may be kept in or about the premises of a single-family dwelling, a dwelling unit in a duplex, apartment, condominium, or other multi-family dwelling units.

(2) Dogs born to a female kept in compliance with the provisions of this section may be kept on the premises of the female dog for a period of not more than 60 days following the dog's birth.

(C) *Private stables and livestock.* The raising and keeping of livestock or other animals generally not regarded as household pets, and which do not meet this subchapter's definition for vicious animal, may be conducted as accessory to the principal residential use of a lot, according to the following conditions. This division (C) shall apply only to the keeping of livestock or other animals as accessory to the principal residential use of a lot, including private stables, and shall not apply to a farm.

(1) Animals shall be owned and managed by the occupants of the premises.

(2) The keeping of animals shall be permitted in the conservation districts only, but in no case shall occur in platted or condominium subdivisions, unless specifically designed to incorporate an equestrian center.

(3) All raising and keeping or killing and dressing of poultry and animals processed upon the premises shall be for the use or consumption by the occupants of the premises.

(4) The occupants of the premises shall keep the odor, sounds and movement of the animals from becoming a nuisance to adjacent properties.

(5) Manure piles shall be stored, removed, and/or applied to the soil in accordance with the Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices of the Michigan Agricultural Commission for manure management and utilization, and with Michigan Department of Agriculture and County Health Department regulations. The following setbacks shall apply.

(a) No outdoor animal shall be permitted to approach closer than 25 feet to a front, side or rear lot line. However, in no case shall the keeping of swine occur in a front yard.

(b) Any building housing a horse or other livestock shall be set back a minimum distance of 50 feet from all lot lines, but in no case shall the building be located in a front yard or be closer than 100 feet from the existing residences on adjacent and nearby properties.

(c) Any building housing a horse or other livestock that exceeds 3,000 square feet in area shall be set back a minimum distance of 100 feet from the front lot line, but in no case shall the building be located in a front yard.

(d) No storage of manure, odor- or dust-producing materials shall be permitted within 100 feet of any lot line.

(6) No animal shall be permitted to approach closer than 25 feet to a front, side or rear lot line. However, in no case shall a confined swine area be in a front yard.

(7) The minimum lot area and maximum animal density shall be as follows.

(a) A minimum lot area of 1 acre is necessary for the keeping of small livestock, including rabbits, chickens, turkeys, and geese, but excluding swine, and the maximum animal density shall not exceed 1 animal per 1/4 acre.

(b) A minimum lot area of 10 acres is necessary for the keeping of swine, and the maximum animal density shall not exceed 1 animal per 1 acre.

(c) A minimum lot area of 3 acres is necessary for the keeping of large livestock, including sheep, goats, llamas, ostriches, steer, cows, and horses, and the maximum animal density shall not exceed 1 animal per 1 acre of lot area.

(8) Newly born horses, cows, donkeys, mules and similar large animals may be maintained on the parcel for up to 1 year, provided the maintenance of these animals on the premises does not increase the permitted number of animal units beyond the limitations of division (C)(7) above by more than 100%. Smaller newly born animals, such as pigs and sheep, may not be kept on the parcel for more than 60 days, where the maintenance would increase the permitted number of animal units beyond the limitations of division (C)(7) above.

(9) Maintenance of animals and operation of private stables shall be in conformance with all applicable county, state, and federal regulations.

(10) All animal facilities shall be constructed and maintained so that dust and drainage from the facilities shall not create a nuisance or hazard to adjoining property or uses.

(11) No building shall exceed 5,000 square feet in area, and in no case shall living quarters be located in any private stable.

(12) A zoning permit is required for private stables and livestock authorized by this division (C). No zoning permit shall be issued prior to the Township Board holding a public hearing on the permit application, and approving the application, with or without conditions.

(D) *Compliance with regulations.* The keeping, maintaining, and/or raising of animals shall comply with all county, state, and federal regulations.

(Ord. 111, passed 10-16-2003; Am. Ord. 111-1, passed 9-14-2004; Am. Ord. 111-6, passed 10-10-2006) Penalty, see § [154.999](#)