



ERIE TOWNSHIP

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ZONING INFORMATION SHEET KEEPING OF ANIMALS

Keeping of Animals (Zoning Ordinance 117, Section 20.02)

(A) Vicious Animals: No vicious animal shall be kept permanently or temporarily in any District in the Township. 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 which 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 in any zoning district containing a residence, provided such activities do not constitute a kennel, and in accordance with the following provisions. No zoning permit is required for keeping household pets as authorized by this subsection.

1. In all residential districts, not more than two (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. In all residential districts, dogs born to a female kept in compliance with the provisions of this section may be kept on the premises of said female dog for a period of not more the sixty (60) days following said dogs birth, even if the total number of dogs exceeds two (2) for a period of time.
3. In all residential districts, small farm animals such as chickens, rabbits, goats, ducks and geese, may be kept on property as a source of food, or as pets, provided the total combined live body weight does not exceed thirty (30) pounds. An additional amount of small farm animals may be kept on property in residential districts after Special Use Approval in accordance with Article 5.
4. All free-standing structures designed to house household pets shall be place at least ten (10) feet from property lines.

(C) Non-Farm Stables and Livestock Raising: The non-commercial raising and keeping of livestock or other animals generally not regarded as household pets, and which do not meet the definition for "vicious animal" herein, for personal enjoyment and/or food may be conducted on a lot according to the following conditions. This subsection applies only to the keeping of livestock, horses, or other animals as an accessory use to the principal residential use of a lot and does not apply to farms and farm operations engaged in commercial production as defined herein.

1. Animals shall be owned and managed by the occupants of the residence on the lot.
2. Non-farm stables and livestock raising shall be permitted only in Conservation Districts (AC, BC, AP), and 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.

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5. The following setbacks apply:

a. No outdoor animal not regarded as household pets shall be permitted to approach closer than twenty-five (25) feet to a front, side or rear lot line. 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 fifty (50) feet from all lot lines, but in no case shall such building be located in a front yard or be closer than one hundred (100) feet from the existing residences on adjacent and nearby properties.

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

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

6. The minimum lot area and maximum animal density shall be as follows:

a. A minimum lot area of one (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 one (1) animal per one eighth (1/8) acre.

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

c. A minimum lot area of three (3) acres is necessary for the keeping of medium-size livestock, including sheep, goats, llamas, ostriches and similar sized animals, and the maximum animal density shall not exceed one (1) animal per one (1) acre of lot area.

d. A minimum lot area of three (3) acres is necessary for the keeping of large size livestock, including cows, steers, horses and similar size animals and the maximum animal density shall not exceed one (1) animal per one (1) acre of lot area.

7. Notwithstanding the above maximum animal density requirements, newly born horses, cows, donkeys, mules and similar large animals may be maintained on said parcel for up to one (1) year. Smaller newly born animals, such as pigs and sheep, may not be kept on said parcel for more than sixty (60) days.

8. 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.

9. No zoning permit is required for private stables and livestock raising authorized by this subsection (C).

10. When a proposed private stable or livestock raising does not meet one or more of the requirements of this subsection, approval may be granted as a Special Use in accordance with Article 5.

(D) Compliance with Regulations: The keeping, maintaining, and/or raising of animals shall comply with all County, State, and Federal regulations.