



# The Keeping of Animals in Residential Zoning Districts

## FACT SHEET

Effective July 21, 2017

### KEEPING OF ANIMALS

- ❖ The keeping of exotic animals is prohibited.
- ❖ The keeping of domestic animals may be permitted on lots between one acre and five acres in accordance with ORC 519.21 and the following standards:
- ❖ Domestic animals shall not be kept on any lot that is less than one acre.
- ❖ Small domestic animals such as fowl may be kept on a lot one acre or more and at a density equal to one animal for every 5,445 square feet of lot area. That is eight (8) chickens per acre. Roosters are prohibited.
- ❖ Medium and large domestic animals such as goats, sheep, pigs, cows, and horses may be kept on a lot that is not less than three (3) acres at a density equal to one animal for every acre.
- ❖ Appropriate shelter must be provided to protect animals from the elements and from predators. The shelter must be adequately ventilated and designed to be easily accessed and cleaned and of sufficient size to permit free movement of the animals.
- ❖ Adequate fencing must be installed to safely contain the domestic animals inside the rear yard area.
- ❖ All buildings, coops, exterior storage, supplies, and refuse associated with the keeping of domestic animals shall be located in a rear yard and set back a minimum distance of 30 feet from all lot lines and 100 feet from adjacent residential dwellings. It is recommended that manure storage be located at least 100 feet from any drinking water well head.
- ❖ Buildings relating to the keeping of domestic animals on lots less than 5 acres are accessory structures and thus shall comply with the regulations of the appropriate zoning districts with regards to height and area.
- ❖ The keeping of domestic animals shall only be for the enjoyment of the property owner or lessee thereof and respective family, without the payment of any fee.
- ❖ The keeping of domestic animals or household pets for commercial purposes is prohibited.
- ❖ In no instance shall the keeping of any animal be allowed to become a public or private nuisance.

**Is a zoning permit required for the keeping of animals on a residential lot?**

In most instances, a zoning permit is required for the construction of fencing or accessory structures for the keeping of animals. Call the office for clarification.

**DEFINITIONS:**

**EXOTIC ANIMALS** Any cat, other than felis catus; any canine, other than canis familiaris, non-human primates; poisonous reptiles; alligators, crocodiles or lizards over two feet long; snakes over six feet long; bears; kangaroos; poisonous stinging insects; arachnids; any species of animal not indigenous to the local area, and similar animals as defined in the Ohio Revised Code.

**DOMESTIC ANIMAL** Shall include, but not limited to, horses, cows, llamas, alpaca, goats, sheep, pigs and fowl. For the purpose of this resolution “domestic animal” does not mean a “household pets”.

**HOUSEHOLD PET**. For the purposes of this resolution, a household pet refers to any animal that is commonly kept inside a residence such as a dog or cat.

**Contact information:**

Howland Township Zoning Department  
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Monday – Friday 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM