

Keeping Non-Domesticated Animals in the Rural Residential District

This handout addresses the common questions and answers in regard to the keeping of customary farm animals within the Rural Residential Zoning District within the City of Columbus. This informational handout should only serve as only a general summary of the City of Columbus Code. To find out more information please refer to the City Code, *Chapter 7A-804 General "Provisions for the Rural Residential District and Public Utility and Public Service Facility Standards"*.

ARE FARM ANIMALS ALLOWED IN THE RURAL RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT?

Yes, the City Code states that customary farm animals may be housed in the RR District, subject to Minnesota Law and the provisions listed in Section 7A-804 (H.)

WHAT IS A FARM ANIMAL?

The City of Columbus Code defines "Farm Animal" as any animal of species commonly associated with a farm or performing work in an agricultural setting. Such animals can include:

1. Equestrian family (horses, mules)
2. Bovine family (cow, bulls)
3. Sheep
4. Poultry (chickens, turkeys)
5. Fowl (ducks, geese)
6. Swine (including Vietnamese pot-bellied pigs)
7. Goats
8. Bees
9. llamas
10. Ostriches
11. Emus
12. Burros and Donkeys
13. Other animals associated with a farm, ranch, or stable.

WHAT IS FARM ANIMAL DENSITY?

The City defines density as the number of Animal Units Per Habitable Acres. There are 3 things to consider with density- Type of Animal, Habitable Acreage, and what an Animal Unit is.

1. Type of Animal:
 - a. *Hooved animal:* are limited to horses, cows, swine, sheep, goats, and other non-bird or furbearing animals.
 - b. *Non-Hooved:* Poultry, Roosters, Fowl, Farm-Birds, Rabbits, and Other Furbearing Animals.
2. Habitable Acres: An area is considered *habitable* if it is fenced as required to restrain the animal, adequately drains so that it is not flooded, accessible to the animal at all times of the year, and lastly, does not include the primary and alternate septic areas, the animal structure, and other structures.
3. Animal Units (A.U.): A *typical* Animal Unit is based off a 1,000 lb. Cow. So, naturally the number will vary from animal to animal.

ANIMAL UNITS	
1 mature dairy cow	1.4
1 slaughter steer or heifer	1.0
1 horse	1.0
1 swine weighing over 55 lbs.	0.4
1 swine weighing under 55 lbs.	.05
1 duck	0.2
1 sheep	0.1
1 Turkey	0.018
Chicken	0.01

DENSITY STANDARDS (Animal Unit/Habitable Acres)

1. Hooved Animals-
 - 1 A.U./ 0.5 *habitable* acres
2. Non-Hooved Animals-
 - *Poultry*= 16 A.U./1 *Habitable* Acre
 - *Fowl*=16 A.U./1 *Habitable* Acre
 - *Farm-birds*=16 A.U./1 *Habitable* Acre
 - *Rabbits*=16 A.U./1 *Habitable* Acre
 - *Other Furbearing Animals*= 16 A.U./1 *Habitable* Acre
 - Roosters shall only be permitted on lots of 5 acres or more.
3. The maximum number of Animal Units per Acre applies to animals over the age of **3 months**.

SANITATION

Animal structures and outdoor runs shall be cleaned of manure and feed residue as needed. Manure and feed residue shall be disposed of or composted in a manner that does not result in odors or unsanitary conditions impacting neighboring properties.

ANIMAL FEEDING AND WATER

Animal feed shall be kept in secure containers to prevent attraction to rodents or other vermin. Animals shall have daily access to water.

WHERE CAN ANIMAL STRUCTURES BE BUILT?

A permanent wood structure or pre-manufactured farm animal structures shall be required for the safe keeping of all farm animals. Structures shall be compatible with standards recommended by the University of Minnesota Extensions Service.

1. The standard setbacks are as follows
 - 100 ft from abutting property residence.
 - 75 ft from the side and rear yard.
 - Not allowed in the Front Yard of any property

OTHER ANIMAL RELATED REGULATIONS AND ORDINANCES

1. Feed Lots:
 - Feed lots with ten (10) or more animal units and the raising of hogs or swine *are not* allowed on parcels less than twenty (20) acres.
2. Commercial boarding of Horses:
 - Subject to restrictions applicable to Interim Use Permits and Residential Zone Businesses under §7A-806.
3. Dog Kennels:
 - Subject to provisions in §7A-809 Dog Kennels

WHERE CAN I GET ANY MORE INFORMATION?

You can always visit the [Columbus City Ordinances](#), Chapter 7A found on the City of Columbus website. If you have any additional questions, please contact the City Planning Technician at (651) 419-9008. You can also e-mail your questions to planningtech@ci.columbus.mn.us