



Planning & Economic Development

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ANIMAL KEEPING

WHAT ZONES PERMIT ANIMAL KEEPING?

Livestock and poultry are allowed for hobby and personal use in the Residential Low (RL) zone. This is a single-family zone.

Property identified by Kitsap County with the current use classification of agriculture shall be exempt from limitations on number of animals set forth in [PMC 18.70.070 P](#). Further, any property which is operating a wildlife refuge/rehabilitation facility may also be exempt.

LIVESTOCK

Livestock means any horse, beef or dairy cattle, sheep, goat, llama, alpaca, mule, jack, jenny, burro, emu, ostrich, poultry or similar animal.

- *Large Livestock.* The keeping of livestock that will weigh more than 500 lbs at maturity requires a minimum lot size of 1 acre for the first animal. For each additional animal, an additional contiguous 20,000 square feet must be available. The minimum 1 acre lot may include a normally permitted residence; provided, that at least one-half acre is still available for livestock use.
- *Small Livestock.* The keeping of livestock that will weigh 100-500 lbs at maturity will require a minimum lot size of one-half acre for the first animal. For each additional such animal, an additional contiguous 10,000 square feet must be available. The minimum one-half-acre lot may include a normally permitted residence; provided, that at least one-quarter acre is available for livestock use.
- *Miniature Livestock.* One miniature livestock, such as certain breeds of mini-goats and mini-horses, and types of swine commonly referred to as miniature Vietnamese, Chinese or Oriental pot-bellied pig, that will weigh under 100 lbs at maturity shall be allowed on lots 7,500 square feet or larger. Additional miniature livestock (more than one) will be allowed if the lot size requirements for small livestock specified above are met.

Barns and shelters used to house livestock shall be located in the rear yard and set back at least 50 feet from the property line(s). Doorways and other openings shall be oriented away from neighboring properties.

POULTRY AND RABBITS

The keeping of chickens, other domesticated poultry, domesticated hare or rabbit, and similar animals is permitted as follows:

- Two on lots 5,000 to 7,500 square feet in size.
- Four on lots 7,501 to 10,890 square feet in size.
- Six on lots 10,891 square feet to one acre.
- No limit on lots one acre or larger.
- No turkeys, peacocks, or roosters are permitted.
- Shelters shall meet the setback requirements.

BEEKEEPING

One hive may be kept on lots 20,000 square feet or larger. Hives shall not be located within 25 feet of any lot line.

PRIVATE COVENANT OR HOA

The city has no authority to enforce private covenants or restrictions on land prohibiting the keeping of livestock. Compliance with the provisions of [PMC 18.70.070 P](#) does not relieve a private property owner from complying with any such private covenant or restriction.

CONFINEMENT

All livestock and poultry shall be kept and maintained in a manner that confines their movement and activity to the premises of the owner/tenant.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

All livestock and poultry shall be kept in such a manner so as not to create any objectionable noise, odor, or otherwise cause to annoy or become a public nuisance to the health, safety or general welfare of any person. Provisions shall be made to ensure that animal food stored outdoors will not attract rodents or insects.

Animal waste shall be properly disposed of at sufficient intervals to maintain the sanitary condition of the site and storm-water runoff. Any accumulated animal waste or composting must not constitute a nuisance, and must be stored outside of required setbacks areas.

WHAT ABOUT CATS AND DOGS?

Household pets are defined as domesticated animals or fish kept for pleasure rather than utility. Pets include animals such as dogs, cats, hamsters, reptiles, insects, non-venomous snakes, fish and birds.

No more than 5 dogs or cats or any combination thereof may be kept on any single-family residential property in the city.

Disclaimer: this handout should not be used as a substitute for codes and regulations. The applicant/property owner is responsible for compliance with all code and rule requirements, whether or not described here. Please see the City of Poulsbo Municipal Code for complete text and requirements.

