



ORDINANCE

Amending Section 10-2: Keeping Farm Animals in City Limits

The Hillsborough Board of Commissioners ordains:

Section 1. The Code of Ordinances shall be amended as follows:

Sec. 10-2. Keeping farm animals inside city limits.

- (a) *Small farm animals.* Small farm animals may be kept as an accessory use in a residential zoning district under the following circumstances:
 - (1) Small farm animals mean those that normally weigh less than 100 pounds at maturity. Small animals include, but are not limited to: mini-goats and mini-sheep breeds, rabbits, mini-pig breeds, etc.
 - (2) All animals must be kept in fenced enclosures at least five (5) feet from the side and rear property lines. No animals shall be permitted to roam loose.
 - (3) The minimum lot size for keeping small farm animals is 20,000 square feet.
 - (4) Number of animals permitted: The maximum number of animals allowed is five (5) per lot.
 - (5) Animals must be kept secured on site under sanitary conditions with adequate food, water, and shelter, subject to inspection by the code enforcement officer and/or county animal control officer.
 - (6) Location of pens, barns, hutches, etc., for the animals shall be only in rear or side yards and shall be located at least five (5) feet from the property lines.
- (b) *Keeping of Domestic Chickens and Fowl.* Domestic chickens, quail, or guinea birds may be kept as an accessory use in a residential zoning district under the following circumstances:
 - (1) Domestic Chickens and fowl is defined as a domestic bird of whose eggs or flesh are used for food.
 - (2) The minimum lot size for keeping fowl is 15,000 sq. ft.
 - (3) Number and type of fowl permitted: The maximum number of female fowl (hens) allowed is eight (8) per lot. Roosters (male chickens) are prohibited.
 - (4) All fowl must be kept in fenced enclosures at least five (5) feet from the side and rear property lines. No fowl shall be permitted to roam loose.
 - (5) Chickens enclosed: A chicken coop and pen shall be provided, and such coops and enclosures may not include residential structures, carports, or garages/sheds, unless the garage/shed is fully converted to a coop. Fowl shall be secured in the coop during non-daylight hours. During daylight hours, fowl may be in the pen.
 - (6) Location of coops and pens: Chicken coops and fowl pens (whether stationary or moveable) shall only be in rear yards or side yards (behind the line formed by the back wall of the front porch), shall comply with a minimum setback of five (5) feet from side and rear property lines, and shall be located closer to the owner's primary structure than any neighbor's primary structure.
 - (7) Coop and pen construction and design: The coop, and pen shall be properly designed and constructed to provide adequate security from rodents, wild birds, and predators; sufficient ventilation; and suitable shelter for the fowl.

- (c) *Maintenance of coops, pens and surrounding areas.* For both small farm animals, chickens, and fowl the following standards must be maintained:
- (1) The coop, pen, hutch, shelters and surrounding area shall be cleaned of all droppings, uneaten feed, feathers, fur, and other waste, and shall always be kept in a neat and sanitary condition to preclude odors and aesthetic nuisances.
 - (2) Feed shall be stored in a secure container.
 - (3) All necessary action to reduce the attraction of predators and rodents and the potential infestation of insects and parasites shall be performed.
 - (4) All manure, uneaten feed, and other trash shall be removed in a timely manner and properly disposed of in a sanitary manner.
- (d) *On-site slaughter, breeding, sale of animals or animal products shall be prohibited.* If a chicken or animal dies or is killed by a predator, it shall be promptly and properly disposed of.
- (e) *Large farm animals.* Large farm animals may not be housed within town limits unless the property qualifies as a Bona Fide farm pursuant to NCGS 160D-903 in which case the property will be subject to the restrictions of the Hillsborough Unified Development Ordinance. Large farm animals include but are not limited to: full sized breeds of goats, sheep, cows, donkeys, horses, pigs, etc. Any property found to harbor large farm animals in violation of this ordinance will have fifteen (15) days to remove the animal(s) or it will constitute a public nuisance that will be abated according to section 11-58.
- Goats used temporarily to clear undergrowth and eat grass may be housed on a property for a maximum of seven (7) days. Goats shall be cared for subject to the terms of paragraph (a) standards (5) and (6) or it will constitute a public nuisance that will be abated according to section 11-58.
- (f) *Violations.* Any animals or property found in violation of this ordinance shall be removed or conditions corrected within fifteen (15) days of the receipt of a notice of violation. If violations are not corrected it will constitute a public nuisance that will be abated according to section 11-58.

Section 2. All provisions of any town ordinance in conflict with this ordinance are repealed.

Section 3. This ordinance shall become effective upon adoption.

The foregoing ordinance, having been submitted to a vote, received the following vote and was duly adopted this 8th day of September in the year 2025.

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent or excused:

Sarah E. Kimrey, Town Clerk