

### **Sec. 2.01.013 Maximum number of animals**

- (a) In residential areas of the city with lot sizes of less than one acre, a household may keep, shelter, maintain or harbor up to:
  - (1) A maximum number of four cats or four dogs or any combination up to four total cats and dogs, no more than two of which may be unsterilized.
  - (2) A total of six animals of any combination of domestic dogs, cats, domestic fowl, snakes, rabbits, or any other approved animal in accordance with this Code and other applicable building and zoning regulations.
- (b) In residential areas of the city with lot sizes of greater than or equal to one acre but less than two acres, a household may keep, shelter, maintain or harbor up to:
  - (1) A maximum number of four cats or four dogs or any combination up to four total cats and dogs, no more than two of which may be unsterilized.
  - (2) Maximum number of ten domestic fowl/rabbits.
  - (3) Maximum number of two livestock animals as defined by this chapter.
  - (4) A total of ten animals of any combination of domestic dogs, cats, domestic fowl, snakes, rabbits, or any other approved animal in accordance with this Code and other applicable building and zoning regulations.
- (c) In residential areas of the city with lot sizes of greater than or equal to two acres, a household may keep, shelter, maintain or harbor up to:
  - (1) A maximum number of four cats or four dogs or any combination up to four total cats and dogs, no more than two of which may be unsterilized.
  - (2) Maximum number of ten domestic fowl/rabbits.
  - (3) Maximum number of four livestock animals as defined by this chapter.
  - (4) A total of twenty animals of any combination of domestic dogs, cats, domestic fowl, snakes, rabbits, or any other approved animal in accordance with this Code and other applicable building and zoning regulations.
  - (5) An additional five total animals per additional acre over two acres.
- (d) An adult animal is hereby defined as one over four months of age.
- (e) Anyone keeping, maintaining or harboring on his business or household premises more than the above allotted domestic dogs, cats, fowl, snakes, rabbits, or any other approved animal in accordance with this Code, shall be deemed to be operating a kennel, and must comply with requirements in this chapter, as well as all city, county and state requirements for such operation, including registration and licensing required by this chapter.
- (f) No household shall provide feed, water or shelter to more than three feral cats at one residence. Additional feral cats may be removed by animal control or a citizen and the feral cat may be released at a city approved alternate location. The department has the right to immediately seize and remove all, or parts of any colony for the following reasons:
  - (1) Public health and public safety concerns including rabies, other epizootic and certain zoonoses identified by the department of health; or
  - (2) Animals creating a public nuisance.

- (g) All domesticated animals must be currently vaccinated for rabies.
- (h) Each animal must have access to shelter when housed outside.
- (i) The owner of the animals must have adequate property or facilities to ensure they do not disturb any neighbors. Any outdoor facilities shall be subject to inspection by the department.
- (j) *Excess animal permit.* In order to have more dogs or cats, or chickens than this chapter allows at a residence, an owner must apply for an excess animal permit which shall be valid for one year. The criteria used to evaluate the granting of an excess animal permit are as follows:
  - (1) All dogs and cats for which a permit is required must be sterilized, unless the animal qualifies for a certified medical exception by a licensed veterinarian or is under four months old.
  - (2) Animals must be currently vaccinated for rabies.
  - (3) All dogs and cats must have a registered microchip.
  - (4) The dogs and/or cats must not be housed exclusively outside, and no more than two dogs may be housed outside between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m.
  - (5) The primary form of restraint for any dog shall not be tethering.
  - (6) Each dog must have access to its own shelter when housed outside.
  - (7) All dogs and cats must have a photograph of each animal attached to an animal profile sheet that will be kept on record as verification of the animals allowed in the permit. Rescuers with a rescue license or official fosters of licensed rescue group registered with the department shall be exempt from the photograph and profile sheet requirement for those animals that are temporarily being housed at the location for less than four months.
  - (8) If the owner of the dogs and/or cats is not the owner of the property, the permission of the property owner must be obtained before a permit application will be processed.
  - (9) A check will be made to determine if there are any previous valid complaints. A previous valid complaint can be grounds for the denial of a permit request.
  - (10) The requestor must have adequate property or facilities to ensure the dogs and/or cats do not disturb any neighbors. The facilities shall be subject to inspection by the department.
  - (11) Organizations with an approved rescue group license who are temporarily housing pets (less than four months) with the intent to rehome pets elsewhere may exceed the minimum number of pets as long as they follow requirements required for those with an excess animal permit, and are registered with the city.

(1972 Code, sec. 4.318; 2008 Code, sec. 2.01.012; Ordinance 2019-59, sec. 1, adopted 11-19-19)