

## **CITY OF LIVERMORE**

### **ANIMAL FANCIER'S PERMIT RULES AND REGULATIONS**

The following rules and regulations are adopted pursuant to Section 6.20.070 of the Livermore Municipal Code. Compliance with these rules and regulations shall be prerequisite to the issuance and continues validity of any Animal Fancier's permit for ownership of over six household pets (only three of which can be dogs) or any livestock or exotic animals.

#### **I. Applications Procedure**

- A. Application for an Animal Fancier's Permit will be submitted to the City Finance Department. Permit fees shall be established pursuant to the resolution of the City Council. The fees will be collected by the Finance Department, the application then forwarded to an Animal Control Officer for a premises inspection.
- B. Initial and follow-up inspections of the premises where the animal(s) are to be maintained shall be made by an Animal Control Officer to determine whether the site complies with the City of Livermore's Animal Fancier's Permit Rules and Regulations.
- C. If during the initial inspection, the Animal Control Officer determines that the applicant's premises do not comply with Livermore's Permit Rules and regulations, a copy of the application may be forwarded to the Animal Control Director for the final determination.
- D. When it is determined that all of the provisions of federal, state and City of Livermore laws have been met, and Animal Control Officer will forward the approved application to the Finance Department.
- E. Permits may be revoked or suspended for any of the following:
  - 1. Falsification of information.
  - 2. Failure to comply with any of the provisions of the Animal fancier's Permit rules and Regulations and/or Livermore Municipal Code; Chapter 6.04, during the term of the permit.
  - 3. Valid complaints from neighboring properties that cannot be resolved.

## II. Inspection

A. Before issuing a permit, inspection of the premises, where the animal(s) are to be maintained shall include, but not be limited to, a determination that:

- Adequate housing is provided to protect the animal(s) from the elements.
- Cages and enclosures are of sufficient size to provide ample space for exercise.
- Appropriate bedding for the animal(s) is provided.
- Fencing for livestock meets the minimum standards specified in Food and Agriculture section 17121. More restrictive fencing can be mandated as prerequisite to Permit approval.
- When required for safety, cages are constructed of sufficient size and strength to prevent the animal(s) from escaping.
- Shelter, cages and enclosures are to be kept in good repair with no protrusions or devices on which the animal could injure itself.

### B. Feeding and watering

Feeding and watering shall be done daily in sufficient quantity and nutritional value, to meet the normal daily requirements for the conditions and size of the animal(s) except in such cases where hibernation, nature of the animal or its feeding habits dictate otherwise.

### C. Treatment and Sanitation

- All animals maintained shall be handled in a humane manner and kept free from parasites, sickness and disease. When they are afflicted and or become unsightly, they shall be given immediate medical attention and treatment by a veterinarian licensed to practice in the State of California at the owner or keeper's expense.
- Animals in need of medical treatment, which the owner has failed to supply will be treated by a veterinarian upon order of the Animal Control Officer and such charges shall be made pursuant to Section 597f of the California Penal Code.
- All cages or other enclosures shall be cleaned regularly, and their surroundings shall be kept in a sanitary condition, free from offensive odor. The animal feces shall be stored in a fly-proof container to be properly disposed of a minimum of once weekly.

D. Cages and enclosures

- Household pets are not required to be maintained in cages or enclosures, unless otherwise specified in the permit.
- When cages are required, the cages shall be of such strength and type of construction that: the animal cannot escape, ample space for exercise is provided and overcrowding is avoided.
- Species requiring larger cages, special cages or holding facilities shall be accommodated according to recommendations of the Animal Control Officer.
- Each cage or enclosure shall be provided with a weatherproof shelter, bedding and perch when appropriate. A suitable shield for protection against the sun shall also be provided. Where the natural climate of the species of the animal differs from the climate of Livermore, provisions must be made to adjust holding conditions to the natural habitat.
- Animals with a propensity to fight, or which are otherwise incompatible, shall be kept separated.
- Cages shall have tops to prevent escape by climbing or jumping.
- No cage or structure in which animals are fed, sheltered, or kept shall be located less than 5 feet from any lot line on which the primary use is residential.

The following are minimum cage and/or enclosure size and specifications for those domestic animals for which an Animal Fanciers Permit is required by the City of Livermore.

1. CLASS AVES

- a) **Doves and pigeons** (order Columbiformes) when kept in excess of four.

Cage Size: 4'X6'X6' for five birds. Increase the cage on e additional square foot per each additional bird.

Cage Specifications: 12 to 14 gauge, ½” to 1” wire mesh to include perch.

Not to exceed 25 birds per lot.

- b) **Ducks, Geese and Swans** (Order Anseriformes),

Enclosure Size Minimum 40 square feet.

Duck: 2 square feet per each additional bird

Geese: 4 square feet per each additional bird

Measures must be taken to prevent excessive noise.

Enclosure Specifications Wood and wire mesh construction with a watertight roof and a water container large enough to permit birds to swim.

- c) **Chickens** (Order Galliformes, Family Phasianidae)  
**Roosters are not allowed**

Enclosure Size: Minimum of two square feet per bantam bird, minimum of three square feet per standard breed. Not to exceed 10 birds per lot.

Enclosure Specifications: Wood and wire mesh construction.

2. CLASS INSECTA

a) **Common Honeybee** (Order Hymenoptera, Family Apis Mellifera)

Hive size:

Minimum 2'X2'X 1 ½"

Hive Specifications:

Wood and screen combination, color white only

Water must be always available within 10 ft of the hive and changed a minimum of once a week.

Lot size requirements:

<5,000 sqft = 0 hives  
>5,000 sqft = 1 hive  
>10,000 sqft = 2 hives  
>20,000 sqft = 3 hives

Special requirements:

Applicants shall provide written notice to all current residents and owners of the residential development that are within a 300-foot radius of the hive placement site.

Hives must be located to the rear of the primary dwelling and shall not be located within 15 feet of any property line or 20 feet from a property line that is adjacent to a sidewalk, street, or the public thoroughfare.

All hives shall be located behind a barrier at least six feet in height consisting of an impenetrable structure not limited to a fence, wall, building or dense vegetation.

Bees or hives shall be considered a public nuisance when the beekeeper's bees swarm, the bees abscond, or the beekeeping does not conform to this code, or hives are abandoned by the beekeeper.

### 3. CLASS MAMMALIA

#### a) **Domestic Dog** (Family Canidae, Genus Familiaris)

<u>Enclosure Size:</u>	Cages or enclosures are not required. When cages are appropriate, a minimum of 40 square feet per dog.
<u>Limitation:</u>	All dogs must be currently licensed through the City of Livermore.
<u>Enclosure Specifications:</u>	Wood, metal or wire fence at least 4 feet in height. Floor can be dirt, gravel or cement. Cement is recommended but not required.

To prevent a potential animal nuisance from developing or to resolve a nuisance as defined in Livermore City Code, Section 6.04.060, the Animal Control Director may require as a condition of issuance and/or renewal of an Animal Fancier Permit, that the dog owner construct a fence to be made of wood and/or wire of such height and strength as to restrict the dog to an area designed by Animal Control Officer and take steps to solve barking noise complaints by the use of bark collars, debarking or other approved methods.

All dogs kept outdoors must be provided with shelter and protection from the elements, (doghouse) or access to the applicant's garage.

#### b) **Domestic Cat** (family Canidae, Genus Felis Catus)

<u>Enclosure Size:</u>	Cages and enclosures are not required. However, over the allowable number of six cats must not be allowed access off of the owner's property.
	When cats are confined in a cage or enclosure the cage or enclosure shall meet the conditions outlined in Section II, part D of the Animal Fanciers Permit rules and Regulations. Minimum cage size shall be no less than 3 square feet per cat.

c) **Horse, miniature horse, only, donkey and burro** (Family Equidae)

Enclosure Size: 300 square feet minimum stall, with no side less than 10 feet. To be located on the rear ½ of the lot. One-half acre of open field space, not including the residence per animal. The field must be located a minimum of 200 feet away from any other residence.

Enclosure Specifications: Wood, metal or wire fence at least 4 feet in height. Barb wire must be 4 tightly installed strands.

d) **Cows, sheep and goats** (Family Bovidae)

Enclosure size: Cows: 300 square feet minimum with no side less than 10 feet, located on the rear 1/2 of the lot as specified in Food and Agriculture Code, Section 17121. One-acre open field per animal located a minimum of 200 feet from any other residence.

Enclosure Specifications: Cows: Wood, metal or wire fence at least 4 feet in height.

Enclosure Size: Sheep and goats: 200 square feet per animal located on the rear ½ of the lot. Minimum ¼ acre lot per animal. Enclosure to be located at least 50 feet from any other residence.

Enclosure Specifications: Sheep and goats: Wood or wire mesh at least 4 feet in height.

e) **Domestic rabbit** (Family Oryctolagus)

Cage size: 2'X2'X1/2' minimum per rabbit.

Cage Specifications: Welded wire or wood and wire mesh: top to be watertight.

f) **Domestic pot-bellied pigs** (Family Sidae)

Pot Belly pigs cannot be over 24 inches at the shoulder or exceed 250 pounds. At no time will an uncastrated male over 4 months be allowed.

Enclosure size: **Domestic pigs:** 200 square feet minimum per animal located on the rear ½ of the lot. One half acre per animal with the enclosure at least 200 feet from any other residence.

Enclosure Specifications: Wood or metal fencing of adequate strength.

Enclosure Size: **Pot Belly Pigs:** Minimum of 300 square feet per animal of outside exercise area per animal. Limit 2 per lot.

Enclosure Specifications: Wood or metal fencing of adequate strength.

g) **Reptiles** (Family Reptilia) when over six feet in length or over six specimens.

Enclosure Specifications: Enclosure size and temperature determined by species requirements.

Other animals such as mice, rats, guinea pigs, turtles, tropical fish, canaries, or birds of the psittacine family, and other similar animals commonly kept as household pets, may be kept so long as such animals do not constitute a nuisance and are afforded food, care and sanitary facilities or exceed the six-household pet restriction.