

120.480 Noncommercial Keeping of Livestock and Honeybees.

A. Purpose.

The purpose of this Ordinance is to:

1. Allow property owners and occupants to keep livestock and honeybees for their private enjoyment on a noncommercial basis as an accessory use to the primary residence.
2. Provide minimum standards and allow reasonable accommodations for the keeping of livestock and honeybees.
3. Limit the adverse effects of the keeping of livestock and honeybees, which can include noise, odors, attraction of predators, unsanitary conditions, and similar adverse impacts on surrounding properties.

B. Zoning Districts.

The noncommercial keeping of livestock and honeybees is permitted in the A, R-1, R-2, and R-3 Districts on single-family properties per the requirements outlined herein.

C. Acreage.

Acreage requirements are exclusive, and the minimum required acreage must be provided for each animal, as follows:

1. Large animals. Two and one-half (2 ½) acres for the first large animal and one additional acre for each additional large animal (generally more than 300 pounds at maturity), including horses, cattle, swine, or similar animals.
2. Moderate-sized animals. One (1) acre for each moderate-sized animal (generally greater than 35 and less than 300 pounds at maturity), including sheep, goats, or similar animals.

3. Small animals. Small animals (generally under 35 pounds at maturity), including chickens, ducks, turkeys, rabbits, or similar animals are permitted with no specific acreage requirements. However, parcels and/or lots should be large enough to accommodate the small animals in a manner that allows the maintenance of the property and the condition of the animals to be such that ancillary nuisances such as noise, odor, attraction of insects and predators, unsanitary conditions, or other public health concerns are mitigated.
4. Honeybees. One-quarter acre per colony for the first acre. One additional colony shall be permitted for each additional one-half acre.

D. Breeding.

Any resulting offspring must be removed from the property within 90 days and the property shall be brought back into compliance with the acreage requirements related to number of permitted animals.

E. Shelter.

A shelter shall be constructed to house the livestock or honeybees, as follows:

1. No animal shelter or beehive shall be placed in the front yard of a lot in a subdivision or a building site in a site condominium.
2. Indoor structure space shall be designed to allow the animal(s) to comfortably lie down, stand-up, turn around, stretch their limbs, gain access to food and water, or permit normal postural adjustments for maintenance behaviors such as grooming or preening while kept indoors. Minimum space requirements shall meet the Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices.
3. A single beehive structure, which shall accommodate one bee colony, shall be a maximum of 20 cubic feet in volume.
4. All accessory structures or buildings constructed shall meet the requirements of Section 120.410: Accessory Uses or Buildings, accept as required herein.

5. Setbacks. If noted below, livestock shelters and beehives shall have additional setbacks beyond what is required for a residential accessory structure.
 - a. Livestock shelters for moderate- and large-sized animals shall be at least 50 feet from any property line and 150 feet from any neighboring pre-existing dwelling.
 - b. Beehives shall be set back 25 feet from any property line and 50 feet from any neighboring pre-existing dwelling.
 - c. The use of existing accessory buildings constructed prior to the date of this Ordinance to house livestock may be utilized and additional setback requirements waived.
 - d. Small animal shelters shall meet the requirements under Section 120.140: Accessory Uses or Buildings.

F. Enclosure.

Livestock shall not be allowed to roam freely beyond the limits of the property in which it is housed and must be contained in a fully enclosed fenced area. The enclosure shall be sized to meet Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices. Fencing shall be placed to prevent animals from becoming a nuisance or to trespass in any form onto neighboring properties. Fences shall also meet the requirements of Section 12.360. Animal enclosures are prohibited in the front yard of a lot in a subdivision or a building site in a site condominium.

G. Waste Management.

To minimize impacts on neighboring properties, proper waste management must be employed for the keeping of livestock. At minimum, the following must occur on a periodic basis (every 2 to 4 days):

1. Manure and organic material accumulations shall be removed from areas outside the shelter.
2. Indoor areas shall be cleaned, and all manure and indoor bedding removed.

3. If manure must be temporarily stored on the premises, it shall be placed in a covered bin or on a concrete pad. The storage area shall be covered at all times to reduce odors and the chance of attracting pests.
4. Storage of waste materials shall be a minimum of 100 feet from any property line.
5. No runoff shall leave the waste storage bin or concrete pad. No manure or wash water runoff shall be allowed to flow onto neighboring properties, into storm water systems, a road ditch, stream, creek, or other waterway. A direct discharge into a waterway is illegal and penalties may incur from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy.

H. Slaughtering.

Slaughtering of livestock shall occur in an enclosed area where all wash water and slaughtering by-products can be captured. At no time may by-products of slaughtering be allowed to flow onto the ground or any body of water. By-products shall be securely bagged and placed in an enclosed and covered bin or concrete pad until proper removal.

I. Additional Requirements for Bees.

1. Hives shall be placed in such a way that the entrance is positioned internal to the property.
2. A flyaway barrier at least six feet in height shall shield any part of the property line that is within 25 feet of a beehive. Such flyaway barrier must consist of a solid fence, dense vegetation, or combination thereof to direct a bee's flight pattern to be above six feet in height at the property line. The Zoning Administrator may approve an additional barrier type if it meets the intent of assisting the bees to gain altitude before leaving the property.
3. A constant supply of water shall be provided to all hives on site throughout the active flight season. Common water sources include birdbaths, plastic wading pools, or entrance feeders may be employed.

J. Prohibited Activities.

1. Roosters on property less than two and one-half (2½) acres in size.

2. The keeping, breeding, exchanging, or selling of any undomesticated, exotic, or dangerous animal classified as wild, which includes, but is not limited to alligators, bears, monkeys, wolves, coyotes, venomous or constrictor reptiles, panthers, cougars, tigers, lions, and other wild felines. It shall also include any hybrid between a wild animal and a domesticated animal, such as a dog and a wolf or a cat and a bobcat.
3. The keeping of livestock and honeybees where conditions of maintenance are such to cause:
 - a. Unpleasant odors to be generated sufficiently strong to be discernible upon property of others for continuous periods of longer than six days,
 - b. Noise to be generated sufficiently loud to penetrate indoors upon property of others for continuous periods,
 - c. Flies, insects, or rodents to be attracted to the place where said animals and/or fowl are kept and are thereafter permitted to multiply and escape upon adjoining property.

K. Zoning Review.

Zoning Administrator review is required for all moderate- and large-sized animals. The application shall include the following:

1. Property address and parcel number.
2. Zoning of property.
3. Total number of acres.
4. Requested number of animals.
5. Waste management plan.
6. Sketch plan that includes property lines; the location of existing buildings on the property; the location of residential dwellings within 200 feet of the property; the dimensions of any new structures; and, the distance of any structure, fence enclosure, and waste storage area from property lines.

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