

# DOMESTIC FARM ANIMAL REGULATIONS: FAQ ABOUT PROPOSED CHANGES

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## COLUMBUS CITY HEALTH CODE 221.05 AND 221.06

### **Why are changes being proposed to the current animal regulations?**

To increase transparency to allow permit holders to successfully maintain animals in manner that would protect public health, public safety and animal welfare. The proposed changes add standards to the rules for keeping these animals that help prevent issues around public health, public safety and animal cruelty. A fee has also been set to cover a portion of the cost of the program.

### **What domestic animals require a permit?**

The domestic animals that need a permit include: Alpaca, Bison, Camel, Caribou, Cattle, Deer, Elk, Goat, Horse, Llama, Moose, Mule, Ox, Pig, Pony, Reindeer, Sheep, Water Buffalo, and a bird kept outside or fowl. Columbus Public Health reserves the right to add to this list, as needed. Dogs, cats, ferrets and other more common domestic animals do NOT require a permit through Columbus Public Health.

### **Who is affected by the proposed changes to the regulations?**

Any individual or business that currently owns, keep, harbors, sells, trades or exhibits domestic animals within the City of Columbus will need a permit from Columbus Public Health, including all current permit holders.

Current permit holders will not be required to renew their permits until December of 2016. Applications will be mailed to current permit holders in December.

### **What recommended changes are important to be aware of?**

1. Permit categories:
  - Individuals
  - Large Animals
  - Temporary and Mobile public contact venues
  - Business
  
2. Spacing requirements for the keeping of animals:
  - For fowl, coop and run size will determine the maximum number of animals allowed.
  - For large animals (those with an anticipated adult weight greater than 500 lbs.), a minimum of ½ acre per animal, not including asphalt and buildings.
  - Minimum space requirements for other animals will be determined using [The Ohio State University Bulletin 604](#) and other authoritative sources.
  
3. Permit renewal and inspection:
  - Four year permit renewal required for small animals (e.g. chickens) which includes an inspection during the permit period.

- Annual permit renewal and inspection is required for all large animals and business permit holders.
- A permit fee and plan review charge (\$50.00) is proposed for all permits:
  - Small Animal Four Year Permit \$150.00
  - Large Animals Annual Permit \$125.00
  - Business Annual Permit \$125.00
  - Temporary Permit \$30.00/event
  - Mobile Annual Permit \$125.00

### **If I already have a permit, how will these changes affect my current set up?**

The major change from the previous standards is the requirement to renew a permit for fowl or other small animals every four years. Large animal and business permits will renew annually. As long as the current permitted setup is not causing issues related to public health, public safety or animal welfare/cruelty, current permittees will be grandfathered and not be required to change the setup in terms of the design or how many animals have been permitted.

### **How are businesses defined by these regulations?**

Businesses are defined as those involved with the purchasing, selling, negotiating, soliciting, reselling, exchanging, trading, transferring, exhibiting, boarding, riding and/or giving away of domestic animals requiring a permit as defined in this chapter. Examples include animal dealers, hatcheries, stores, exhibitors, operators of auction sales, brokers, intermediate handlers, and/or carriers. Business shall also include any operation that advertises the sale of eggs, animal products, or animal by-products resulting from the keeping of domestic animals requiring a permit.

### **How are businesses regulated differently from individuals?**

There are several differences between businesses and individual permits: Businesses are required to develop isolation procedures for sick animals. Businesses are also required to have handwashing stations readily available. Finally, businesses are required to have insurance.

### **What are the differences between “temporary” and “mobile” public contact animal venues?**

The difference has to do with the number of times and locations for that a single entity (individual or business) operates. A single entity is only allowed up to 12 temporary permits in a year and will be limited to no more than 2 permits in a year for the same location. A mobile venue would be an entity that plans to operate in the city more than 12 times per year, but will still be limited to not operate at the same location more than 4 times in a year.

### **Are dangerous or wild animals being regulated by these changes?**

No. Dangerous or wild animals, such as lions and tigers, will still be regulated by the Ohio Department of Agriculture.

### **When and where will these changes be enacted?**

The changes will be considered for adoption at a regularly scheduled Board of Health meeting to be held at Columbus Public Health. The earliest date at which these proposed changes may be acted upon is the September Board of Health meeting scheduled for September 20. Please check back at for meeting dates and agendas at <http://columbus.gov/publichealth/About/Columbus-Board-of-Health/>.