STANDARDS RELATIVE TO ANIMALS
Columbus Public Health
Aaron K. Messer
Public Health Veterinarian

Within the jurisdiction of the City of Columbus Board of Health, a "person" may apply for a permit for the keeping of certain animals as specified in Columbus City Health Code (CCHC) 221.05. A "person" means and includes any individual, firm, corporation, business trust, estate, trust, association, syndicate, partnership, cooperative, governmental agency or any other entity recognized by law.

The following conditional criteria are evaluated prior to a permit being issued:

- Public Safety
- Public Health
- Animal Confinement
- Animal Cruelty
- Animal Welfare
- Owner Keeper Harborer Knowledge and Ability
- Neighborhood Opinion
- +/- Liability Insurance Need/Requirement

The progression of the permit process is:

1. Paperwork processing
2. On-site inspection(s) and evaluations
   - Inspection and evaluation responses
3. Conditional criteria review
   - Permit issued OR denied

GENERAL ANIMAL PERMIT INFORMATION

1. An animal permit application is available from the office of the Public Health Veterinarian.
2. The number and type of animals is regulated and, therefore, may be limited.
3. The property owner of the stated address must be on record as to being in favor of the keeping of such animal(s).
4. A written document outlining the intended disinfection and cleaning must be submitted to the office of the Public Health Veterinarian.
5. A written document outlining a general knowledge of the proper handling and care for the species of animal must be submitted to the office of the Public Health Veterinarian.
6. Plans for the intended caging or photographs of the existing caging must be submitted to the office of the Public Health Veterinarian such that the caging is found to be inoffensive, secure, be under cover, and have impervious flooring.
7. All wastes must be properly cleaned and disposed of. *NOTE: Composting of animal waste is not permitted within the City of Columbus.*
8. The proximity of the caging to other properties must not reasonably allow wastes to be directly deposited upon or carried into adjoining properties.

9. Steps must be taken to prevent feed from being scattered upon the ground such that it might attract vermin and create other environmental problems.
10. The animal(s) is not to enter other people's property or have contact with people not from your residence unless an active in-force insurance policy exists covering such occurrences. Licensed veterinary services for treatment and care of said animals are exempted.
11. Animals must be examined by a licensed practicing veterinarian of the State of Ohio for general health, parasites, and absence of zoonotic disease symptoms within twenty one (21) days of arrival to the Columbus Board of Health jurisdiction. A copy of such examination and/or Certificate of Veterinary Inspection must be mailed to the office of the Public Health Veterinarian within twenty eight (28) days of arrival to the Columbus Board of Health jurisdiction.
12. Public safety, public health, animal confinement, animal cruelty, and animal welfare standards must be maintained and in compliance with applicable City, State and Federal regulations.
13. The permit does not authorize the pursuit of a farm or agricultural type enterprise or expansion to the number or type of animals.
14. The receipt of valid public safety and/or public health complaints involving the animal(s) as well as any relevant violation of Columbus City Code and/or Columbus City Health Code, or any other just cause, will result in review and / or revocation of the permit.

SPECIFIC ANIMAL PERMIT INFORMATION

Domestic Fowl

1. Each pen or enclosure shall have a floor of impervious material and be under cover.
2. All roosters must be kept indoors between the hours of 10 PM and 8 AM so as no crowing is heard on adjacent properties.
3. Short term (up to an hour) of "free roaming" is allowed outside the pen but within a fenced yard if the following conditions are met:
   - There are no objections received from any directly touching properties where the free roaming is to occur.
   - An owner is present with the birds while they are out of their pen.
   - The birds can be easily and quietly returned to their pen upon demand.
   - Flight when possible, even if to a limited degree, is restricted (wings clipped and/or overhead fencing/barrier, is in place, etc.).
   - The perimeter of the "free roaming" must not reasonably allow waste to be directly deposited upon or carried into adjoining properties via water, wind currents, fomites, etc.
   - Wastes must be removed and not be allowed to accumulate on the ground regardless of location.

COLUMBUS CITY HEALTH CODE

221.05 Standards Relative To Animals And Fowl

(a) No person shall keep any equine, cow, sheep, goat, pig, llama or other large animal in any stable, barn or structure unless that stable, barn or other structure shall have a floor of impervious material and shall be so drained that all fluid excrement or refuse liquid shall be conducted into a City sanitary sewer. All manure and refuse shall be placed in tightly covered containers and removed from the premises before the manure and other refuse becomes offensive. The structure, animals and premises shall be kept in sanitary condition so that they shall not become offensive and so that they will not harbor animal or insect pests.

1) Exemption shall be made for any land annexed into the City of Columbus which is zoned agriculture and/or currently has livestock and/or domestic fowl at the time of annexation.

2) This exemption shall be in force as long as this land is zoned and/or used for agricultural purposes and poses no environmental or health hazards.

(Amended 3/1/92, Resolution 92-5)

(b) No person shall keep, store, maintain, shelter or care of, at any time, animals of the hog or goat kind, equine, cow, alligator, crocodile, caiman, sheep, goat, llama, captive wild fowl, and all domestic fowl in any pen or enclosure on any premise, lot or parcel of land in the City without written permission from the Health Commissioner. Anyone intending to keep such animals must first obtain a permit from the Health Commissioner. Each pen or enclosure for such animals shall have a floor of impervious material and be under cover. The Health Commissioner may grant permission on the above situations only after it is determined that the keeping of such animals:

(1) creates no adverse environmental or health effects;

(2) is in compliance with all other sections of this chapter; and

(3) in the judgment of the Health Commissioner, after consultation with the staff of the Health Department and with the surrounding occupants of the place of keeping such animals, and considering the nature of the community (i.e., residential or commercial single or multiple dwellings, etc.), is reasonably inoffensive. The Health Commissioner may revoke such permission at any time for violation of this chapter or any other just cause.

(Amended 3/1/92, Resolution 92-5)

CONTACT INFORMATION

Aaron K. Messer DVM, RS
Public Health Veterinarian / Registered Sanitarian
Columbus Public Health
240 Parsons Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43215-5331
Phone: (614) 645-6748
Fax: (614) 645-7155
E-mail: amesser@columbus.gov
CPH Website: www.publichealth.columbus.gov