

ANIMALS AND ANIMAL SHELTERS

The following standards shall apply within all zoning districts for the keeping of animals. However, these standards shall not be interpreted as applying to animal hospitals, veterinary clinics, kennels, riding stables, or normal farming operations.

1. It is permitted to maintain up to three (3) each of dogs and cats and litters of puppies or kittens up to six (6) months in age as domestic animals provided the following conditions are met: a. Maintaining dogs and cats shall be on a non-commercial basis with the exception for the sale of the litters as permitted by this section. b. The area on which a shelter and/or exercise run area is maintained must be suitably enclosed and located in the rear yard at least ten (10) feet from any lot line, and is not closer than fifty (50) feet to the nearest dwelling West Cocalico Township September 7, 2011 Zoning Ordinance 159 other than that of the owner. c. The area around which a shelter and/or exercise pen is maintained shall be kept in suitable grass cover and shall not be allowed to degrade to an erodible condition. d. The owner of the animals shall exercise suitable control over the animals and shall not allow a nuisance condition to be created in terms of excessive noise, dirt, or odor. e. The owner of the animals shall exercise suitable control over the routine and proper disposal of all animal waste so as not to become a nuisance to adjoining properties.

2. It is permitted to maintain small domestic animals, up to a total of twelve (12), provided the following conditions are met: a. Maintaining small domestic animals shall be within the rear yard area. b. Maintaining small domestic animals shall be on a non-commercial basis and be strictly as an incidental use. c. The area within which small domestic animals are kept shall be enclosed by a fence designed for containment. d. Such fence shall be at least fifty (50) feet from any lot line and not closer than one hundred (100) feet to the nearest dwelling other than that of the owner. e. The area within which small domestic animals are maintained shall be kept in a suitable grass cover and shall not be allowed to degrade to an erodible condition. f. The owner of the small domestic animals shall exercise suitable control over the animals and shall not allow a nuisance condition to be created in terms of excessive noise, dirt, or odor. For the purposes of this sub-section, small domestic animals shall include animals such as rabbits, guinea pigs, and chinchilla, and fowl such as chickens, turkeys, geese, ducks, and pigeons, but shall not include wild or exotic animals held in captivity.

3. The ownership of large domestic animals shall not exceed one and one half (1- 1/2) animal units per acre provided the following conditions are met: West Cocalico Township September 7, 2011 Zoning Ordinance 160 a. Maintaining large domestic animals shall be within the rear yard area. b. Maintaining large domestic animals shall be on a non-commercial basis and be strictly as an incidental use. c. The area within which large domestic animals are kept shall be enclosed by a fence designed for containment. d. No building, corral, fence, or stable shall be closer than one hundred (100) feet to the nearest dwelling other than that of the owner. e. The area within which large domestic animals are maintained shall be kept in a suitable grass cover of at least two acres in area and shall not be allowed to degrade to an erodible condition. f. The owner of the large domestic animals shall exercise suitable control over the animals and shall not allow a nuisance condition to be created in terms of excessive noise, dirt, or odor. For the purposes of this sub-section, large domestic animals shall include animals of the bovine, equine, porcine (swine), and sheep families, but shall not include wild or exotic animals held in captivity.

4. Wild or exotic animals held in captivity shall be limited to lots located in the ES, OS, A-1 and A-2 zoning districts with a minimum lot area of two (2) acres or greater, and shall be subject to the following additional requirements: a. The number of such animals shall not exceed the equivalent of one (1) animal unit per acre. b. Said animals shall be maintained only within the rear yard area. c. The building or area within which such animals are kept shall be enclosed by a fence or other form of enclosure designed for containment. d. Such fence or other form of enclosure shall be at least fifty (50) feet from any lot line and not closer than one hundred (100) feet to the nearest dwelling other than that of the owner. e. The area within which such animals are maintained shall be kept in a suitable grass cover and shall not be allowed to degrade to an erodible condition. West Cocalico Township September 7, 2011 Zoning Ordinance 161 f. The owner of such animals shall exercise suitable control over the animals and shall not allow a nuisance condition to be created in terms of excessive noise, dirt, or odor. g. All such animals shall be maintained in accordance with the regulations and/or permit requirements of the Pennsylvania Game Commission and other applicable agencies.