



BALTIMORE CITY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

REGULATIONS
FOR
WILD, EXOTIC AND HYBRID ANIMALS

September 26, 2013

Supersedes earlier versions dated October 6, 2007 and March 2, 2012

OFFICE OF ANIMAL CONTROL
301 STOCKHOLM STREET
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21230

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I. AUTHORITY.

Baltimore City Health Code § 2-106; § 10-104; § 10-601; § 10-603 of the Baltimore City Health Code

II. PROHIBITED WILD, EXOTIC, OR HYBRID ANIMALS.

A. No person may keep or allow to be kept on that person's premises the following wild, exotic, or hybrid animals:

1. any wild, exotic, or hybrid animal whose possession or sale is prohibited by any Federal, Maryland, or City law, rule, or regulation;
2. all dogs, other than domesticated dogs (*Canis familiaris*);
3. all cats, other than domesticated cats (*Felis catus*);
4. all bears;
5. all bats;
6. all squirrels;
7. all fur-bearing mammals of the family Mustelidae, other than domesticated ferrets;
8. all venomous insects, other than honey bees;
9. all spiders including:
 - a) Black Widows,
 - b) Brown Recluses,
 - c) Mouse Spiders,
 - d) Hobo Spiders;
10. all scorpions including:
 - a) Arizona Bark Scorpions,
 - b) scorpions native to the Mediterranean and North Africa named *Buthus*, *Leiurus*, and *Androctonus*,

- c) scorpions native to Western and Southern Africa named Parabuthus,
 - d) scorpions native to the area from Southern Africa to Southeast Asia named Buthus, also known as Hottentotta,
 - e) scorpions native to Asia named Mesobuthus and Buthus, also known as Hottentotta,
 - f) scorpions native to South America named Tityus;
11. all centipedes;
12. all large rodents (Rodentia);
13. all even-toed ungulates (Artiodactyla) other than domesticated goats in the Miniature, Dwarf or Pygmy breeds. Excluded even-toed ungulates include:
- a) deer,
 - b) goat,
 - c) sheep
14. all odd-toed ungulates (Perissodactyla), other than domesticated horses (Equus caballus) used in the Arabber trade, carriage trade or used by Federal, State or local law enforcement police units.
15. all marsupials including:
- a) opossum,
 - b) kangaroo,
 - c) sugar glider;
16. all Procyonidae including:
- a) raccoons,
 - b) kinkajou;
17. all carnivorous mammals of the family Viverridae including:
- a) civit,
 - b) mongoose;

18. all non-human primates including:
 - a) apes,
 - b) monkeys;
19. all Bovine (cattle);
20. all porcine (pigs), boars, and swine, other than domesticated Vietnamese pot bellied pigs;
21. all rabbits of the family Leporidae, other than domesticated rabbits that have been bred and supervised in a properly maintained rabbitry;
22. all Crocodylia, including:
 - a) alligators,
 - b) caiman,
 - c) crocodiles;
23. all venomous reptiles that are harmful to people, even if de venomized;
24. all snakes capable of growing to more than 5 feet when fully grown;
25. all lizards capable of growing to more than 4 feet when fully grown;
26. all green iguanas (*Iguana iguana*) less than 30 inches long or more than 6 feet long when fully grown; and
27. all fowl (other than domesticated chickens and pigeons) including:
 - a) roosters,
 - b) ducks,
 - c) geese,
 - d) turkeys,
 - e) guinea fowl,
 - f) emus,
 - g) rheas,

h) ostriches.

III. CONDITIONS FOR KEEPING ALLOWED WILD, EXOTIC OR HYBRID ANIMALS.

A. VIETNAMESE POTBELLIED PIGS.

1. A permit from the Office of Animal Control is required to own, keep, or harbor in the City a Vietnamese pot bellied pig that is 6 months old or older.
2. Proof must be presented to show that the Vietnamese pot bellied pig is altered.
3. Boars are to be neutered prior to 9 weeks.
4. Gilts are to be spayed prior to 6 months.
5. No Vietnamese pot bellied pig may be kept if it is greater than 22 inches in height at the shoulder or weighs more than 150 pounds.
6. Tusks must be properly filed by an experienced handler such that the tusks do not show outside of the mouth when the mouth is closed.
7. Tusk removal, unless deemed medically necessary for the health of the animal shall be prohibited in Baltimore City. Rescue animals that have undergone this procedure are permitted. Paperwork indicating medical necessity or that the animal is a bona fide rescue animal must be made available to the Office of Animal Control upon request.
8. All pot bellied pigs must be kept in a clean and sanitary environment that will prevent disease, odor, and insect and rodent breeding.

B. PIGEONS.

1. No person may own, keep, or harbor any racing pigeons, any show pigeons, or any other pigeons without obtaining a permit from the Office of Animal Control.
2. No person may own, keep, or harbor more than 125 pigeons.
3. No person may build or use a pigeon coop or loft without first obtaining all applicable zoning and building permits or authorizations.
4. Every coop or loft must provide at least 1 square foot of floor space for each pigeon over the age of 1 month. It must be constructed so that the interior is dry, airy, and bright, with adequate ventilation.
5. Each coop or loft must be well maintained and kept in a clean and sanitary manner so as to prevent disease, odor, and insect and rodent breeding.

6. Feed must be stored and used in a way that prevents the attraction of rodents.
7. No person may permit her or his pigeons to be outside the coop or loft except for the purpose of supervised exercise. This exercise is limited to a maximum of 3 hours a day.
8. The owner or keeper may not allow pigeons to perch or linger on the property or buildings of others.

C. GOATS.

1. This Regulation shall apply only to the keeping of Miniature, Dwarf or Pygmy breeds of goats.
2. No person may own, keep, or harbor any goat without obtaining a permit from the Office of Animal Control.
3. Goats must be dehorned, and male goats over the age of 6 months must be neutered.
4. No more than two female or neutered male goats may be kept, plus any of their offspring up to 6 months of age, on lots less than 20,000 sq. ft. On lots greater than 20,000 sq. ft., one additional goat is permitted for every 5,000 sq. ft. of lot area over 20,000 sq. ft. up to a maximum of six goats over the age of 6 months.
5. The yard in which goats are kept must be fenced so as to prevent the goats from roaming.
6. The yard must be properly graded, drained, and kept clean.
7. At least 150 sq. ft. of permeable space must be available per goat.
8. Goats shall be provided with fresh water at all times and adequate amounts of feed.

D. FERRETS.

Ferrets are permitted if:

1. A permit is obtained from the Office of Animal Control,
2. Evidence of a current rabies vaccination is provided,
3. Adequate food that is highly concentrated with fat as the main source of calories and highly digestible meat-based protein are readily available,
4. Adequate water is provided

5. Adequate exercise is provided in an appropriate enclosed area, and
6. Routine veterinary care is provided and readily available.

E. SNAKES UP TO 5 FEET LONG.

Snakes capable of growing to a length of no more than 5 feet when fully grown are permitted if:

1. A permit is obtained from the Office of Animal Control,
2. Adequate food and water appropriate for the species is readily available,
3. An adequate enclosure with sufficient space for the animal is provided, so as not to be inhumane,
4. Adequate heating and lighting, as required for the species, is readily provided at all times, and
5. Veterinary care for the species is accessible and provided as needed for the animal.

F. LIZARDS UP TO 4 FEET LONG.

Lizards capable of growing to a length of no more than 4 feet when fully grown are permitted if:

1. A permit is obtained from the Office of Animal Control,
2. Adequate food and water appropriate for the species is readily available,
3. An adequate enclosure with sufficient space for the animal is provided, so as not to be inhumane,
4. Adequate heating and lighting, as required for the species, is readily provided at all times, and
5. Veterinary care for the species is accessible and provided as needed for the animal.

G. GREEN IGUANAS (IGUANA IGUANA) 30 INCHES TO 6 FEET LONG.

Green Iguanas from 30 inches up to no more than 6 feet long when fully grown are permitted if:

1. A permit is obtained from the Office of Animal Control,
2. Adequate food and water appropriate for the species is readily available,

3. An adequate enclosure with sufficient space for the animal is provided, so as not to be inhumane,
4. Adequate heating and lighting, as required for the species, is readily provided at all times, and
5. Veterinary care for the species is accessible and provided as needed for the animal.

H. CHICKENS.

1. No person may own, keep, or harbor any chickens without:
 - a) obtaining a permit from the Office of Animal Control;
 - b) registering with the Maryland Department of Agriculture, Domestic Poultry and Exotic Bird Registration Division; and
 - c) obtaining all applicable zoning and building permits or authorizations prior to building or using a chicken coop or loft.
2. Numbers permitted:
 - a) No more than four (4) chickens over the age of 1 month may be kept on lots less than 2,000 sq. ft.
 - b) On lots greater than 2,000 sq. ft., four (4) chickens over the age of 1 month may be kept and one (1) additional chicken over the age of 1 month may be kept for every additional 1,000 sq. ft. of lot area, not to exceed a total of ten (10) chickens, except in the case of community gardens and urban agricultural enterprises approved by the Commissioner as described in (c) below.
 - c) On lots greater than 5,000 sq. ft. community gardens and urban agricultural enterprises may submit permit applications for keeping chickens in numbers greater than ten (10), which will be approved solely at the discretion of the Commissioner as follows:
 - i. One (1) additional chicken over the age of one month may be kept for every additional 1,000 sq. ft. of lot, not to exceed a total of fifty (50) chickens;
 - ii. The application must include a written management plan that includes, how the chickens will be housed, how waste will be managed, how the chickens and their feed will be protected from predators and other pests, and how impacts to surrounding property owners will be avoided.
3. All chickens must be provided with a sanitary and adequately sized covered coop or loft:
4. No coop or loft may be closer than 15 feet to any residence.

5. Each coop or loft must be kept clean, free of all odors and materials that may attract rodents.
6. Each coop or loft must be moved frequently to minimize turf destruction and the build-up of manure borne pathogens such as coccidiosis and roundworms.
7. Coops and/or lofts must allow a minimum of 2 square feet per hen.
8. All chickens must be provided with access to a well-constructed shelter that provides suitable protection from inclement weather.
9. The chickens must be provided with shade during warm weather.
10. Potable water and proper feed must be made available.
11. All chickens must be afforded veterinary care if they are known or suspected to be sick or injured.

I. HONEY BEES.

1. Beekeeping of honey bees is permitted in the City only if:
 - a) The activity is registered with the Maryland Department of Agriculture;
 - b) A beekeeper permit is acquired from the Office of Animal Control; and
 - c) No more than two (2) colonies and one (1) nucleus colony shall be allowed for lots up to 2,500 square feet of lot area;
 - d) On lots greater than 2,500 sq. ft., one (1) additional colony and one (1) nucleus colony may be kept for every 2,500 ft. of lot area over 2,500 ft.; and
 - e) Hives housing colonies are kept so that:
 - i. Except where a solid wall or solid fencing measuring at least 5 ft. in height and at least 5 ft. in width is located at a lot line to provide a barrier, they are not located within 5 feet of any lot line;
 - ii. they are inaccessible to the general public; and
 - iii. honey bee movement to and from the hive does not unreasonably interfere with the reasonable enjoyment of the property of others, with the comfort of the public or domestic animals, or with the use of any public right-of-way

J. RABBITS.

1. This section applies only to rabbits bred or supervised in a properly maintained rabbitry, This section shall not apply to wild rabbits or hares, .
2. No person may own, keep, or harbor any rabbits without obtaining a permit from the Office of Animal Control.
3. On lots less than 1,000 sq. ft., no more than one (1) breeding pair of rabbits may be kept and the total number of rabbits kept may not exceed twelve (12).
4. On lots greater than 1,000 sq. ft., no more than two (2) breeding pairs of rabbits may be kept and the total number of rabbits may not exceed twenty-four (24).
5. The keeping of rabbits shall be permitted if:
 - a) Adequate fresh water and adequate amounts of feed are accessible at all times.
 - b) All rabbits must be provided with access to a well-constructed shelter that provides suitable protection from inclement weather.
 - c) All rabbits must be provided with a sanitary and adequately-sized covered enclosure, or pen:
 - a. No pen may be closer than 15 feet to any residence.
 - b. Each pen must be kept clean, free of all odors and materials that may attract rodents.
 - c. Each pen must be moved frequently to minimize turf destruction and the buildup of manure borne pathogens.
 - d. Pens must allow a minimum of 3 square feet per rabbit. The rabbits must be provided with shade during warm weather.
 - e. All rabbits must be afforded veterinary care if they are known or suspected to be sick or injured.

IV. QUALIFICATION FOR, APPLICATION FOR, AND TERM OF BALTIMORE CITY PERMIT OF ALLOWED EXOTIC, WILD, OR HYBRID ANIMALS.

- A. Applicant must submit a permit application that has been completed in accordance with this section to the Office of Animal Control within ten (10) days of acquiring the animal(s).

- B. Applicant must provide an affidavit certifying that neither the applicant or any operator, employee, or agent of the applicant has ever been convicted of animal abuse, cruelty, or neglect.
- C. Except in the case of beekeeping, applicant must provide a photo of the animal and proof of current vaccinations and health examination (as applicable to the type of animal). These records must be available for inspection by the Office of Animal Control on request.
- D. In the application provided by the Office of Animal Control, the applicant shall provide his/her name and address, and designate the type, breed, age, and the gender of the animal (as applicable).
- E. With the exception of beekeeping permits, a permit shall be valid only at the location where the animals are normally housed. A beekeeping permit shall be valid for each host site that is properly registered and approved under the permit with the Office of Animal Control.
- F. Renters must submit written permission from the property owner to have the animal(s) at the premises. This includes renters who are providing a premises as a host site for beekeeping.

G. Permit fees shall be as follows:

- 1. There shall be a permit application fee of \$80.00 for an individual animal or group of animals, of the same type except as noted below:
 - a) Snakes, lizards and green iguanas may together be considered a collection and as such, may pay one application fee for the collection.
 - b) Recognizing the unique role honey bees play in contributing to public welfare as pollinators sustaining a diverse variety of food crops, the need to increase honeybee populations generally, as well as the need to protect honeybees from disease, beekeepers shall not be required to pay a permit application fee. Beekeepers are nonetheless required to obtain a permit.

H. An application provided to the Office of Animal Control must be completed and submitted with cash or a certified check, bank check, or money order made payable to The Director of Finance for the total cost of the permit.

I. A permit shall remain valid unless it be suspended or revoked by the Commissioner.

V. KEEPING ANIMALS FOR PURPOSES OF URBAN AGRICULTURE..


A. In addition to the above requirements, applicant's wishing to keep animals for purposes of urban agriculture must adhere to all zoning requirements and all requirements of the Maryland Department of Agriculture as applicable.

- B. In cases where contiguous lots are being used cooperatively as part of a single farm or agricultural enterprise, they may be considered a single lot for the purposes of calculating minimum space requirements and contiguous open space.
- C. If lots used cooperatively under part V., item B. above are titled under different owners, written permission must be obtained from each property owner to have the animal(s) at the property.
- D. The slaughtering of animals for food, fur or other products is prohibited in Baltimore City.

VI. GROUNDS FOR DENYING, AMENDING, SUSPENDING, REVOKING, OR REFUSING TO RENEW THE BALTIMORE CITY PERMIT OF A WILD, EXOTIC, OR HYBRID ANIMAL.

- A. Subject to the provisions of § 10-219 and § 10-220 of the Baltimore City Health Code, the Health Commissioner may deny, amend, suspend, revoke, or refuse any permit issued under these Regulations.
- B. Further, the provisions of §§ 10-222, 10-223, 10-224 of the Baltimore City Health Code shall apply to a permit issued under these Regulations.

The above Regulations for Wild, Exotic and Hybrid Animals are hereby adopted:

Approved:  9-26-13
 Oxiris Barbot, M.D. Date
 Health Commissioner

Effective date when filed with the Department of Legislative Reference: 9/26/13

*Received on behalf of the
 Department of Legislative Reference -
 Nancy Boyd Kay*