

**BALTIMORE CITY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

**OFFICE OF ANIMAL CONTROL  
301 STOCKHOLM STREET  
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21230  
410-396-4688; FAX: 410-396-7332**

**REGULATIONS  
FOR  
WILD, EXOTIC, AND HYBRID ANIMALS**

**February 2012**

## **I. AUTHORITY.**

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

## **II. IN GENERAL – WILD, EXOTIC, OR HYBRID ANIMALS.**

*A. No person may keep or allow to be kept on that person's premises any wild, exotic, or hybrid animal without a permit from the Health Commissioner to do so.*

*B. Exceptions. This permit requirement does not apply to:*

- 1. an animal show or zoological park licensed under Title 10 of the Baltimore City Health Code and regulated by a Maryland or federal agency; or**
- 2. a laboratory where scientific research is carried out under regulation of a Maryland or federal agency.**

## **III. 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) (deer, goat, sheep, etc.), other than domesticated goats in the Miniature, Dwarf or Pygmy breeds;

14. all odd-toed ungulates (*Perissodactyla*), other than domesticated horses (*Equus caballus*) used in the Arraber and Carriage trade;
15. all marsupials (opossum, kangaroo, sugar glider, etcetera);
16. all *Procyonidae* (raccoons, kinkajou, etc.);
17. all carnivorous mammals of the family *Viverridae* (civit, mongoose, etc.);
18. all non-human primates (apes, monkeys, etcetera.);
19. all Bovine (cattle);
20. all porcine (pigs), 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 the alligator, caiman, and crocodile;
23. All venomous reptiles that are harmful to people, even if de venomized;
24. All snakes over 5 feet long;
25. All lizards over 5 feet long;
26. All green iguanas (*Iguana iguana*) less than 30 inches long or over 5 feet long; 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.

***B. This section does not apply to:***

- a) a zoological park or aquarium accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums.
- b) a research facility licensed under the Federal Animal Welfare Act.
- c) a circus or native wildlife rehabilitator licensed by federal, state, or City permit.
- d) an Office of Animal Control permitted and approved venue to exhibit or use animals, which has adequate operating protective measures to prevent these animals from becoming a public nuisance, injuring the public, or causing a public health threat.
- e) an animal owned by and working for law enforcement or other governmental agency.
- f) an animal trained to perform tasks for its owner by a non-profit tax-exempt organization that is dedicated to improving the quality of life of persons who have disabilities that severely limit mobility.

#### **IV. CONDITIONS FOR KEEPING ALLOWED WILD, EXOTIC,**

## **OR HYBRID ANIMALS.**

### **A. VIETNAMESE POT BELLIED 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. No tusks may show outside of the mouth when the mouth is closed.**
- 7. 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 a day.
8. The owner or keeper may not allow pigeons to perch or linger on the property or buildings of others.

**C. CHICKENS.**

1. No person may own, keep, or harbor any chickens without:
  - a) obtaining a permit from the Office of Animal Control; and
  - b) registering with the Maryland Department of Agriculture, Domestic Poultry and Exotic Bird Registration Division.
2. No more than 4 chickens over the age of 1 month may be kept on lots less than 2,000 sq. ft. On lots greater than 2,000 sq. ft., one additional chicken is permitted for every 1,000 sq. ft. of lot area over 2,000 sq. ft. up to a total of not more than 10 chickens.
3. All chickens must be provided with a sanitary and adequately-sized covered enclosure, or pen:
4. No pen may be closer than 15 feet to any residence.
5. Each pen must be kept clean, free of all odors and materials that may attract rodents.
6. Each pen must be moved frequently to minimize turf destruction and the build up of manure borne pathogens such as coccidiosis and

**roundworms.**

- 7. Pens must allow 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.**

**D. BEES.**

- 1. Beekeeping is permitted in the City only if:**
  - a) The activity is registered with the Maryland Department of Agriculture; and**
  - b) A permit is acquired from the Office of Animal Control; and**
  - c) no more than two hives, each containing no more than 1 swarm, shall be allowed for lots up to 2,500 square feet of lot area; on lots greater than 2,500 sq. ft., one additional hive, containing no more than one swarm may be kept for every 2,500 sq. ft. of lot area over 2,500 sq. ft.**
  - d) hives and swarms are kept so that:**
    - (1) they are inaccessible to the general public; and**
    - (2) they are not located within 5 feet of any lot line.**
- 2. Hives must be kept so that bee movement to and from the hive does not unreasonably interfere with the proper enjoyment of the property or surrounding properties by others, with the comfort of the**



public, or with the use of any public right of way.

3. Bees have easy access to water on the property inside a structure, in a container attached to the hive or other means that will prevent bees from traveling to neighboring properties.

4. Proof of Maryland Department of Agriculture registration is readily available for inspection by the Office of Animal Control on request.

**E. 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. The keeping of Rabbits, not deemed wild, shall be permitted if:

a) No person may own, keep, or harbor any rabbits without obtaining a permit from the Office of Animal Control.

b) No more than four rabbits are kept on a lot less than 2,000 sq. ft. On lots greater than 2,000 sq. ft., one additional rabbit is permitted for every 1,000 sq. ft. of lot area over 2,000 sq. ft. up to a total of not more than 10 rabbits.

c) Adequate fresh water and adequate amounts of feed are accessible at all times.

d) All rabbits must be provided with access to a well-constructed shelter that provides suitable protection from inclement weather.

e) All rabbits must be provided with a sanitary and adequately-sized covered enclosure, or pen:

*(1) No pen may be closer than 15 feet to any residence.*

- (2) Each pen must be kept clean, free of all odors and materials that may attract rodents.*
- (3) Each pen must be moved frequently to minimize turf destruction and the buildup of manure borne pathogens.*
- (4) Pens must allow 2 square feet per rabbit. The rabbits must be provided with shade during warm weather.*
- (5) All rabbits must be afforded veterinary care if they are known or suspected to be sick or injured.*

**F. GOATS.**

- 1. This Regulation shall apply only to the keeping of goats of the Miniature, Dwarf or Pygmy breeds.**
- 2. No person may own, keep, or harbor any goat without obtaining a permit from the Office of Animal Control.**
- 3. Goats may be kept if they are Miniature, Dwarf or Pygmy breeds.**
- 4. Goats must be dehorned, and male goats over the age of 6 months must be neutered.**
- 5. 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 total of not more than six goats.**
- 6. The yard in which goats are kept must be fenced so as to prevent the goats from roaming.**
- 7. The yard must be properly graded and drained and kept clean.**
- 8. At least 150 sq. ft. of permeable space must be available per goat.**
- 9. Goats shall be provided with fresh water at all times and**

adequate amounts of feed.

**G. *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.**

**H. *SNAKES UP TO 5 FEET LONG.***

**Snakes up to 5 feet long are permitted if:**

- 1. Adequate food and water appropriate for the species is readily available,**
- 2. An adequate enclosure if provided with sufficient space for the animal is provided so as not to be inhumane,**
- 3. Adequate heating and lighting, as required for the species, is readily provided at all times, and**
- 4. Veterinary care for the species is accessible and provided as needed for the animal.**

**I. *LIZARDS UP TO 5 FEET LONG.***

**Lizards up to 5 feet long are permitted if:**

- 1. Adequate food and water appropriate for the species is readily available,**
- 2. An adequate enclosure if provided with sufficient space for the animal is provided so as not to be inhumane,**
- 3. Adequate heating and lighting, as required for the species, is readily provided at all times, and**
- 4. Veterinary care for the species is accessible and provided as needed for the animal.**

***J. GREEN IGUANAS (IGUANA IGUANA) 30 INCHES TO 5 FEET LONG.***

**Green Iguanas from 30 inches to 5 feet long are permitted if:**

- 1. Adequate food and water appropriate for the species is readily available,**
- 2. An adequate enclosure if provided with sufficient space for the animal is provided so as not to be inhumane,**
- 3. Adequate heating and lighting, as required for the species, is readily provided at all times, and**
- 4. Veterinary care for the species is accessible and provided as needed for the animal.**

**V. QUALIFICATION FOR, APPLICATION FOR, AND TERM OF PERMIT OF ALLOWED EXOTIC, WILD, OR HYBRID ANIMALS.**

***A. Applicant must have a conference with a representative of the Office of Animal Control to discuss the process and sign forms. Call the Office of Animal Control at 410-396-4694 to schedule a conference.***


- 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. Applicant must provide a photo of the animal. Proof of current vaccinations and health examination 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 breed and the gender of the animal.**
- E. Renters must submit written permission from the property owner to have the animal at the residence.**
- F. Applicant shall post the residence for ten (10) days before a permit is granted. If within the ten (10) day posting period, written objections are not received and the application is complete, the Office of Animal Control shall issue the permit. If written objections are submitted to the Office of Animal Control, a public hearing shall be held in relation to the issuance of the permit at which interested parties shall have an opportunity to be heard.**
- G. The posting sign shall not be less than four (4) feet long and three (3) feet high with black lettering not less than two (2) inches high on white background. The sign shall be posted on the front of the residence in a conspicuous manner, not over ten (10) feet above the ground level and where it will be clearly visible and legible to the public. This sign shall be posted not later than ten (10) days after the conference.**
- H. An application provided to the Office of Animal Control must be completed and submitted with cash or a non-refundable check or money order made payable to The Director of Finance in the amount for the permit.**
- I. There shall be a one-time permit application fee.**

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

*A. Subject to the provisions of § 10-219(B) and § 10-220 of the Baltimore City Health Code, the Health Commissioner may deny, amend, suspend, revoke, or refuse to renew 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:  2/21/12  
Oxiris Barbot, M.D. Date  
Health Commissioner

Effective date when filed with the Department of Legislative Reference: 3/2/12  