



City of Taunton
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DOMESTIC ANIMAL AND BIRD REGULATIONS

These regulations are promulgated under authority of M. G. L. Ch. 11 Section 31 and Section 122. In order to protect public health, safety, welfare, environment and to avoid unnecessary public health nuisances, the following regulations shall be effective on the date of adoption by the Taunton Board of Health. These regulations shall supercede and previous local Board of Health regulations in effect.

1. These regulations shall apply in all local zoning districts (City of Taunton Zoning Ordinances) which permit the keeping or boarding of domestic animals or birds outdoors as a matter of right (excluding cats and dogs).
2. These regulations shall not apply to commercial farms of five (5) acres or more which are exempt from zoning restrictions or commercial farms of any size that are permitted as a matter of right in any zoning district listed in the City of Taunton Zoning Ordinances.
3. Domestic Fowl shall mean and include all specie of, but not limited to, all land and water fowl, such as chickens, turkeys, pigeons and duck or geese which are kept as pets or for personal use only.
4. Domestic animals shall mean and include all species of ungulates (hoofed animals) such as, but not limited to, cows, horses, sheep and goats which are kept as pets or for personal use only (pigs or swine are excluded and are regulated under another section).
5. The Taunton Board of Health shall have the power to remove, or cause to be removed, any such animal or fowl, from any place in the City, where said Board may deem such keeping or boarding detrimental to the health, safety and welfare of the neighborhood of the those passing by.
6. All animals and fowl regulated under these sections shall be registered with the Taunton Board of Health annually by June 1st of each year. A copy to be provided to the City Animal Control Officer.
7. All owners of animals shall provide the Taunton Board of Health at the time of registration, certification of all inspections and vaccinations by a Massachusetts Licensed Veterinarian as may be required by Massachusetts State Law, regulations and/or local Board of Health regulations.

8. All encampments such as barns, stables, sheds, coops, fenced pastures or exercise areas, and pens shall be at least ten (10') feet setback from property lines (Zoning Ordinances may be more restrictive and shall govern in all cases) and at least three hundred (300') feet from any dwelling.
9. The storage of animal and/or fowl feed shall be in metal containers with tight fitting lids and stored at least two (2') feet off the ground in an enclosed structure which shall be rodent and vermin proof in construction.
10. All animals and/ or fowl shall be provided with a sheltered structure such as a barn, stable, shed and/or coop which will provide shelter from adverse weather, provide security to the animals and birds and shall be rodent and vermin proof in construction, and shall be of sufficient area to accommodate the animal heard or fowl flock. Small fowl coops shall be at least two (2') feet above ground. "Lean-to" sheds are not acceptable.
11. All animals and fowl shall be provided with an enclosed and secured grazing or exercise area, (density and area requirements listed under other sections below). Fowl pens shall be screened top and sides.
12. All animals and fowl shall be provided with adequate shade within their pens, grazing, or exercising areas to accommodate the size of the heard or flock.
13. All animals and fowl shall be provided with adequate potable water within their pens, grazing, or exercising areas.
14. All large ungulates such as cows and horses shall be provided with a fenced in grazing or exercise area of one thousand (1000 s. f.) square feet per animal.
15. All small ungulates such as sheep and goats shall be provided with a fenced in grazing or exercise area of two hundred (200 s. f.) square feet per animal. The Board of Health shall reserve the right to determine animal size.
16. All barns, stables, sheds, feed storage sheds, coops, grazing or exercising areas and pens shall be maintained and cleaned as needed or at least once each week. In the summer months from June through September the Board of Health may require an accelerated disposal schedule.
17. All animal and fowl wastes (manure) shall be disposed of offsite as needed or at least once a week. In the summer months from June through September the Board of Health may require an accelerated disposal schedule.
18. No temporary animal and fowl waste (manure) pile shall be left exposed, but all wastes shall be placed in plastic bags and stored in covered receptacles.
19. Rabbits shall be subject to the same regulations effecting fowl coops, pens, feed storage, sanitation and waste removal.
20. Animal(s) and fowl(s) subject to the above regulations which escape and trespass onto public or private property, (with the property owners permission), may be picked up and returned or boarded by the City of Taunton Animal Control Officer. The cost of such activities shall be the responsibility of the owner of the

animal(s) or fowl(s). The Board of Health or City Animal Officer may bill the owner for their costs. Any animal(s) or fowl(s) which are not claimed and the owner's identification cannot be ascertained after 10 days, the Board of Health or City Animal Officer may sell or dispose of the animal(s) or fowl(s) as they see fit and any proceeds from the disposal or sale shall be turned over to the City Treasurer. Securing all animal(s) and fowl(s) are the owner's responsibility along with all costs for property damage and costs of recovery.

21. Any owner of property who keeps or boards domestic animal(s) and fowl(s) regulated under these provisions at the time of the effective date of these regulations, shall have three (3) years from that date to bring his property, animal(s) and/or fowl(s) into compliance with these regulations. The owner of property is responsible for any tenants keeping or boarding animal(s) or fowl(s) on his property. Tenants must have written permission from their landlord to keep or board animals or fowl.
22. Any owner of property who cannot, for good reason(s), comply within the three (3) year compliance period provision of these regulations, may file, within one (1) month prior to the anniversary date for compliance, with the Board of Health requesting a hearing relative to a request for extension of time or exclusion from these regulations. The Board of Health shall have the final determination relative to an extension of time or exclusion from these regulations. The cost of the advertisement and hearing shall be borne by the petitioner.
23. Owners of animals or fowl may slaughter for their own use as a matter of right. Slaughtering of animals and fowl for retail, wholesale, or for barter require a license from the Taunton Board of Health. All slaughtering of animals or fowl shall not be performed out of doors. Clean up of animal waste products left after slaughtering shall be done immediately after slaughtering and disposed of on the same day. The slaughtering area shall be sanitized immediately after slaughtering.
24. Violators of these provisions shall be subject to the following fines: First offense \$25.00; second offense \$50.00; third offense \$150.00. Violators may be subject to prosecution in District Court.
25. If any provisions or sections of these regulations are found by the courts to be unconstitutional, that provision or section shall not effect the remainder of these provisions or sections.
26. The authority to enforce these regulations shall be vested in the agents of the Board of Health and the City of Taunton Police Department, and the Taunton Animal Control Officer.
27. These regulations shall be further enforceable in any court of the commonwealth of Massachusetts having jurisdiction under authority and penalties contained in M. G. L. Chapter 111.
28. The effective date of these regulations is January 1, 1995.

NOTE: 105 CMR 530.000 – 539.000, The Sale of Rabbits and Sanitation in Meat and Poultry Products