

## **KEEPING LIVESTOCK WITHIN THE TOWN LIMITS**

Because agriculture plays a role in the town's heritage and certain residents desire livestock ownership, the desire exists to allow certain types of livestock in the town limits in a manner not to create nuisance to neighbors and unless prohibited by rules of an HOA. The following are guidelines. Currently existing situations when livestock are kept or built to accommodate livestock are grandfathered unless the property is subdivided reducing the size of the property available for livestock .

- All livestock practices must follow generally accepted methods that do not violate federal, state, or local laws; damage public health, safety, and general welfare; and are customary in the agricultural industry. Situations of potential animal cruelty will be reported by the Zoning Administrator to Pickens County Animal Enforcement.
- A 100 foot agricultural buffer is required where a new residence is proposed adjacent to agricultural land. The agricultural buffer shall be considered part of the open space and maintained by the non-farming lot owner. The burden of maintaining a vegetative buffer should not be placed on existing farm operations but rather on adjacent new residential development to avoid the potential for future conflict. The planting of trees and shrubbery may be required as part of an agricultural buffer. A buffer of lesser width may be approved as a variance if it can be demonstrated to adequately protect both the residential lot and the agricultural use.
- The portion of a building used for the housing and shelter of livestock shall be placed 15 feet from any property line owned by a separate property owner. A setback of lesser width may be approved as a variance if it can be demonstrated to adequately protect both the residential and the agricultural and livestock use.
- Fencing for livestock shall be installed so that no part of the animal can reach over the property boundary line and of a nature to ensure the livestock safely stay within the fenced area.
- To maintain, keep, or house within the town any swine would require a hearing with the Board of Zoning Appeals.
- It shall be unlawful to permit any fowl, including, but not limited to, chickens, ducks, geese, turkeys, guineas, or other fowl to run at large within the corporate limits of the town.
- No person may keep within the town any livestock and/or fowl except in accordance with this section.

### LIVESTOCK SPECIFICS

#### Chickens

- The care and handling of poultry is governed by South Carolina state law and regulation, requiring among other things, clean, healthy, ventilated, dry, and odor-free conditions. Poultry also needs fresh water sources. Compliance must be made with all applicable

State law and regulation and is the sole responsibility of the property owner and/or operator.

- Coops must be placed in a backyard, not a front or side yard. Chicken coops must be properly ventilated, and must be kept clean, dry, and odor-free
- If there is no coop or pen, chickens must be in a fenced in area. The fencing shall be at least 25 feet from any street line, at least 15 feet away from any residential dwelling and at least 5 feet away from any property line of a separate property owner. In the instance that more than one distance requirement shall apply, the greater distance requirement shall apply.
- Any rooster would require a hearing with the Board of Zoning Appeals.

This section shall also pertain to chickens and turkeys.

### Bees

- Hive Placement: Hives should be placed at least 25 feet from roads, walkways, or rights of way. They should be placed in a quiet part of a yard. They should not be placed near any location where there is human or pet traffic. The hive entrance should be placed facing the hive owner's property. If placed near a property line (not closer than 10 feet), there should be either a fixed wall or a dense vegetative barrier, of at least 6 feet in height, between the hives and the property line.
- Lots of  $\frac{1}{4}$  acres or less should limit the number of colonies to no more than two colonies and up to 2 nucleus colonies (nucs).
- Lots of  $\frac{1}{4}$  acre to 1 acre should limit the number of colonies to 6 colonies and up to 4 nucs.
- Lots greater than 1 acre will not be limited as long as the guidelines on hive placement are followed.
- Limitations will not be imposed under the following two conditions:
  - If the hives are situated more than 200 feet from a property line And
  - If the adjoining property is undeveloped land.
- Beehives shall be a minimum of 25 feet away from any dwelling on abutting properties.
- All hives must be maintained in accordance with state law and regulations to include pest management usage.
- Aggressive bees are prohibited.

### Other Livestock

- Other livestock shall be maintained on agricultural classified property only, unless by variance.

- The term livestock includes horses, cows, sheep, goats, only, unless a variance is granted.
- The keeping of livestock may include raising, breeding, instructing, training, sales, boarding, riding, driving, and other similar uses.
- All livestock shall be confined in keeping areas with adequate fencing
- Care and handling of livestock must be in compliance with all state law and regulations.

Rights provided under this section may be terminated if County, State, or Federal authorities determine that the owner or operator has violated applicable law or regulations with respect to the care and handling of livestock, poultry, or bees.