

CASE NO. 164-AT-25

SUPPLEMENTAL MEMORANDUM #2

January 5, 2026

Petitioner: Zoning Administrator

Request: Amend the Champaign County Zoning Ordinance as follows regarding the keeping of animals in Residential Districts within 1,000 feet of a home rule municipality:

1. Add the following definition to Section 3.0 Definitions: “URBAN ANIMALS” that are animals that may be kept in a Residential Zoning District within 1,000 feet of a home rule municipality.
2. Amend Section 5.2 as follows:
 - a. Add a Footnote to the Table of Authorized Uses for “URBAN ANIMALS” in the R-1, R-2, R-3, R-4 and R-5 Zoning Districts.
3. Add new Section 7.8 to establish regulations including but not limited to:
 - a. Limit the number of URBAN ANIMALS that may be kept on a lot in a Residential District within 1,000 feet of a home rule municipality.
 - b. Establish minimum requirements for the housing and care of URBAN ANIMALS on a lot in a Residential District within 1,000 feet of a home rule municipality.
 - c. Require that the keeping of URBAN ANIMALS on a lot in a Residential District within 1,000 feet of a home rule municipality must be registered with the Department of Planning and Zoning.

Location: Unincorporated Champaign County

Time Schedule for Development: As soon as possible

Prepared by: **John Hall**, Zoning Administrator
Charlie Campo, Senior Planner

STATUS

This case is continued from the 9/11/2025 meeting. At the 9/11/2025 meeting the Board reviewed protests from the City of Champaign and Village of Mahomet and communications from Averie and Michael Field, landowners who would be affected by the proposed amendment. The Fields have very clearly stated their concerns in their communications to the Board.

The Board also heard testimony from Johnna Parker and Ty Black, both of whom wanted to see a grandfathering mechanism for existing facilities. Also common was a concern about whether the proposed regulations were really necessary.

This memorandum includes a Revised Amendment that includes some minor improvements but retains the overall limit of .18 animal units (the equivalent of 18 hens) for by-right animal uses.

An Alternative Amendment is also proposed that attempts to address some of the concerns stated so far in the public hearing by allowing a greater number of animals on larger lots (one acre and larger) while maintaining a consistent limit on animal units per acre.

REVISED AMENDMENT

A Revised Amendment is included as an attachment. These revisions are only minor improvements to the original amendment and the basic limit on animal units is retained. The following revisions have been made to the amendment:

1. An exemption has been added for a lot partially zoned AG-1, AG-2, or CR Zoning District (see Sec. 7.9.1A.).
2. A specific reference to the Livestock Facilities Management Act has been added in Sec. 7.9.1.B.(10).
3. A table listing the animal units per animal has been added as Table 7.9.1. Animal units have been assigned to animals that are not included in the Livestock Facilities Management Act
4. A minimum separation distance between manure composting and adjacent dwellings on other property has been added at Sec. 7.9.2D.(8)b.
5. Standards for dead animal disposal based on the Illinois Dead Animal Disposal Act and prohibiting composting of dead animals has been added at Sec. 7.9.2G.
6. A “grandfather” provision for existing urban animal uses has been added at Sec. 7.9.5. State law does not allow a county to amortize existing uses. A 180 day period has been added for existing urban animal operations to register with the County.
7. A registration form for new and existing urban animal operations (or uses) has been added. Animal units have been assigned to animals that are not included in the Livestock Facilities Management Act.
8. A separate amendment to the Nuisance Ordinance is proposed to guard against careless animal keeping.

ALTERNATIVE AMENDMENT

An Alternative Amendment is included as an attachment. The Alternative Amendment is intended to reduce the burden on keepers of livestock on lots within 1,000 feet of a home rule municipality while still minimizing possible nuisance conditions.

The Alternative Amendment increases the number of animal units allowed “by right”. The Original (and the Revised) Amendment limited the animal units allowed by right based on lot size up to a maximum of .18 animal units which is the equivalent of 18 hens and required a special use permit for a greater number of animal units. The Alternative Amendment limits animal units allowed by right to a maximum of .40 animal units per acre which is the per acre equivalent of six hens (.06 animal units) on a 6,500 square feet (.149 acre) lot and requires a special use permit for more than .40 animal units per acre. A comparison table is attached that indicates the greater number of animal units allowed on a range of lot sizes.

In addition to the improvements in the Revised Amendment, the Alternative Amendment has the following changes:

1. A table listing the animal units per animal has been added as Table 7.9.1. Animal units have been assigned to animals that are not included in the Livestock Facilities Management Act. The animal units are the same in both amendments.
2. A maximum of .40 animal units for by-right uses has been added in Sec. 7.9.1C.(9). This allows greater flexibility for property owners before a special use permit is required.
3. Minimum height for fencing based on the type of animal being kept has been added at Sec. 7.9.2A., the same as for the Revised Amendment.
4. The minimum separation distance between animal housing and adjacent dwellings on other property in Sec. 7.9.2D.(2) has been increased to 1/3 the width of the animal property or not less than 20 feet. This added separation is intended to provide greater separation based on the greater number of animal units allowed by right.
5. In Sec. 7.9.2D.(3) the coop or hutch standards from the original amendment have been replaced with a reference to a livestock handbook titled *Midwest Plan Service STRUCTURES and ENVIRONMENT HANDBOOK*, Eleventh Edition, 1983. The Alternative Amendment allows a greater variety of animals and it would be difficult to include housing standards for that wide variety of animals in the actual amendment.
6. The same minimum separation distance between manure composting and adjacent dwellings on other property has been added at Sec. 7.9.2D.(5)b.
6. The same standards for dead animal disposal based on the Illinois Dead Animal Disposal Act and prohibiting composting of dead animals has been added at Sec. 7.9.2G.
7. The same “grandfather” provision for existing urban animal uses has been added at Sec. 7.9.4. State law does not allow a county to amortize existing uses. A 180 day period has been added for existing urban animal operations to register with the County.

8. A different registration form for new and existing urban animal operations (or uses) has been added. Animal units have been assigned to animals that are not included in the Livestock Facilities Management Act.
9. The same amendment to the Nuisance Ordinance is proposed to guard against careless animal keeping.

COMPARISON

A comparison table is attached that compares the number of animal units allowed for a range of lot sizes. Note the following:

1. A single sheep or goat could be kept on a lot that is 13,000 square feet in area under either amendment but under the original or revised amendment no more than one sheep or goat could be kept on any size lot in a residential district within 1,000 feet of a home rule municipality unless authorized by a special use permit.
2. The Alternative Amendment would allow no more than two sheep and/or goats (and up to eight hens or some other combination of poultry) to be kept on a 30,000 square feet lot in a residential district within 1,000 feet of a home rule municipality.
3. The Alternative Amendment would allow up to four sheep and/or goats on a one-acre lot in a residential district within 1,000 feet of a home rule municipality.
4. The Alternative Amendment is not based on the minimum amount of land necessary to keep a horse or other hooved animal. The Alternative Amendment would require 5 acres to keep a horse but it is well documented that a half-acre pasture is plenty of area for keeping a horse provided that other forage and food is also provided. The Alternative Amendment is simply based on the equivalence of six hens (.06 animal units) on a 6,500 square feet (.149 acre) lot and is more an “equal treatment” approach. Someone wanting to keep a horse on less than 5 acres (or any animal on less than the required amount of land) could apply for a special use permit and make their case to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

ATTACHED REFERENCES

The Livestock Facilities Management Act does not explain the basis of the animal units assigned to each type of animal and the amendment includes animals for which the Livestock Facilities Management Act provides no information. Attachments F and G are references that provide more background (primarily animal weights) on animals anticipated to be kept as urban animals.

PROPOSED NUISANCE ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

A Draft amendment to the Champaign County *Public Nuisance Ordinance* is also attached. An amendment to the Nuisance Ordinance may be warranted since existing urban animal uses must be allowed to continue and the current Nuisance Ordinance does not provide much enforcement capability against nuisance conditions.

ATTACHMENTS

- A Revised Proposed Amendment**
- B Draft Application for Registration of Urban Animal Use Form (Revised Amendment)**
- C Alternative Amendment**
- D Draft Application for Registration of Urban Animal Use Form (Alternative Amendment)**
- E Comparison Table of Animal Units Allowed By Right**
- F *Recommended Guidelines for Domestic Livestock in Residential Area.* Rutgers University Cooperative Extension Bulletin E353.**
- G *Ostrich, Emu, and Rhea Production.* New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station Fact Sheet FS8856.**
- H Proposed Amendment to Champaign County Nuisance Ordinance**

1. Add the following to Section 3. Definitions:

URBAN ANIMAL: An animal that may be kept for any reason in a Residential DISTRICT within 1,000 feet of a home rule municipality on a lot on which AGRICULTURE is not the principal USE, in addition to any dogs or cats otherwise allowed under this Ordinance and/or in addition to any other animal that may be kept as a pet that resides in the DWELLING. An URBAN ANIMAL may be kept as a source of food or fiber or kept simply as a hobby or an outdoor pet. An URBAN ANIMAL may be a hen, Guinea fowl, a duck (or a drake), a pigeon, a goose, a turkey, ~~and~~ a rabbit, or any animal that may be authorized as required in Sec. 7.9.

2. Amend Section 5.2 as follows:

SECTION 5.2 TABLE OF AUTHORIZED PRINCIPAL USES

Principal USES	Zoning DISTRICTS														
	CR	AG-	AG-	R-1	R-2	R-3	R-4	R-5	B-1	B-2	B-3	B-4	B-5	I-1	I-2
Resource Production and Agricultural Uses															
AGRICULTURE, including customary ACCESSORY USES				32	32	32	32	32							

Footnotes

32. The keeping of an URBAN ANIMAL in a Residential DISTRICT within 1,000 feet of a home rule municipality shall conform to the requirements of Section 7.9.

3. Add new Section 7.9 Keeping of an URBAN ANIMAL

Section 7.9 Keeping of an URBAN ANIMAL

7.9.1 Authorized URBAN ANIMAL

A. A LOT that is partially within the AG-1, AG-2, or CR Zoning DISTRICTS shall be treated as if the entire LOT were within the AG-1, AG-2, or CR Zoning DISTRICT and there shall be no limits or restrictions on the keeping of livestock or URBAN ANIMALS on that LOT.

B. The following number of animals may be kept on a LOT in a Residential DISTRICT within 1,000 feet of a home rule municipality that meets the minimum requirements of this Ordinance (including a minimum lot area of 6,500 square feet or less) and provided there is a lawful DWELLING UNIT on the property:

(1) A maximum of six hens; or

- (2) A maximum of six Guinea fowl; or
- (3) A maximum of three ducks (including drakes); or
- (4) A maximum of 12 pigeons; or
- (5) A maximum of three geese; or
- (6) A maximum of three turkeys; or
- (7) A maximum of three rabbits; or
- (8) Any combination of animals listed above provided that the total number of animals does not exceed the equivalent of six hens based on the following:
 - i. One Guinea fowl is equal to one hen; and
 - ii. One duck or turkey or goose or rabbit equals two hens; and
 - iii. Two pigeons equal one hen.
- (9) The limit on URBAN ANIMALS in Section 7.9.1A.(8) may be increased proportionally based on LOT AREA for LOT AREAS greater than 6,500 square feet up to 20,000 square feet in area but no more than the equivalent of 18 hens shall be allowed on lots that are larger than 20,000 square feet in area unless authorized by Special Use PERMIT per Sec. 7.9.3.
- (10) The limits on number of URBAN ANIMALS that may be kept on a LOT are generally based on the number of “animal units” per animal as assigned in the Livestock Facilities Management Act (510 ILCS 77). The animal units for animals not listed in the Livestock Facilities Management Act (510 ILCS 77) shall be as given in Table 7.9.1 or as determined by the Zoning Administrator and shall approximate as closely as possible to the Livestock Facilities Management Act (510 ILCS 77).

C. Roosters are prohibited in Residential DISTRICTS within 1,000 feet of a home rule municipality.

D. The requirements of this section shall not restrict beekeeping in Residential Districts within 1,000 feet of a home rule municipality.

E. Slaughtering of URBAN ANIMALS in Residential DISTRICTS within 1,000 feet of a home rule municipality shall be done indoors in appropriate sanitary conditions. No meat products shall be sold to the public unless in compliance with the rules and regulations of the Champaign County Public Health Department.

F. Any sales of food items must comply with the requirements of the Champaign County Public Health Department.

Table 7.9.1 Animal Units per URBAN ANIMALS

Type of Animal	Animal Units
ANIMALS INCLUDED IN THE LIVESTOCK FACILITIES MANAGEMENT ACT¹	
Horse	2.00
Cattle (feeder or brood)	1.00
Cattle (dairy)	1.40
Swine (weight over 55 pounds)	0.40
Swine (weight under 55 pounds)	0.30
Sheep, lambs, or goats	0.10
Turkey	0.02
Duck	0.02
Hen	0.01
ANIMALS NOT INCLUDED IN THE LIVESTOCK FACILITIES MANAGEMENT ACT²	
Llama	0.40
Ostrich	0.40
Alpaca	0.30
Emu	0.10
Rabbit	0.02
Geese	0.02
Pigeon	0.005
Notes	
1. Animal Units as assigned in the Livestock Facilities Management Act (510 ILCS 77).	
2. The animal units for animals not listed in the Livestock Facilities Management Act (510 ILCS 77) approximate as closely as possible to the Livestock Facilities Management Act (510 ILCS 77). Animal units for animals not listed in this table shall be determined by the Zoning Administrator.	

7.9.2 Care and housing of URBAN ANIMAL

A. No URBAN ANIMAL shall be permitted to run at large. An URBAN ANIMAL shall be kept in a designated coop or hutch (building) or covered and fenced outdoor run. An URBAN ANIMAL may also be allowed to exercise in a rear yard with a 6 feet (6') or higher fence with supervision.

- (1) If the coop (or hutch) and run are not within a fenced yard, the URBAN ANIMAL must be kept within the coop (or hutch) and run at all times.
- (2) Fences must keep the URBAN ANIMAL on the property and meet the limits established in Sec. 4.3.3G.
- (3) Fences for sheep or goats need only be 4 feet high.

- B. URBAN ANIMAL feed grain or pellets must be stored in a fully enclosed, rodent proof container.
- C. An URBAN ANIMAL shall be provided clean water daily. In freezing weather the water shall be kept from freezing. If ducks are provided access to a pool the pool shall be cleaned daily or have an aerator or filtration system.
- D. Housing for any URBAN ANIMAL shall meet the following requirements:
 - (1) The coop (or hutch) and run shall be located in the REAR YARD.
 - (2) The coop (or hutch) and run shall be located at least five feet from the property line and at least twenty feet from any neighboring DWELLING.
 - (3) The coop or hutch must be built to provide ventilation, shade, protection from precipitation, protection from cold weather and to be secure from predators, wild birds, and rodents.
 - a. Openings in windows and doors must be covered by wire mesh or screens to deter predators.
 - b. Access doors must be sized and placed for ease of cleaning.
 - c. The enclosed run must be attached to the coop or must surround the coop. The sides of the run must be made of fencing or wire mesh that keeps out predators.
 - (4) The run must be enclosed by wire on all sides, including the top or roof plane.
 - (5) Size. The coop or hutch shall provide a minimum of four square feet of floor area per animal although for pigeons there need only be four square feet per pair of breeders. The run shall provide a minimum of 16 square feet of area per animal.
 - (6) Coops or hutches must be located at least five feet from a side or rear lot line and at least 20 feet from any adjacent DWELLING on other property.
 - (7) Coops or hutches over 150 square feet will require a Zoning Use Permit.
 - (8) The coop and run or hutch and run shall be kept in a clean, dry, and sanitary condition at all times. Manure, uneaten and discarded feed, feathers and other waste must be removed from the coop at a minimum of once per week.

- a. Odors from animals, manure or related substances shall be controlled and shall not be detectable at property lines.
- b. Manure may be composted onsite provided that the odor is minimized by appropriate composting procedures so as not to be detectable at property lines and does not result in drainage onto adjacent property or into a stream.
Composting or storage of manure shall not occur within 50 feet of a perennial stream or within the Special Flood Hazard Area or a distance that not less than 60% of the LOT width of the URBAN ANIMAL (subject) property from any adjacent DWELLING on other property.
- c. All manure not composted must be removed from the property a minimum of once per week or more often if necessary to control odor.

E. Any coop (or hutch) and run and all fencing located in a floodplain must be in compliance with the Champaign County Special Flood Hazard Areas Ordinance and a Floodplain Development Permit shall be required for any construction or fencing in the floodplain.

F. The keeping of an URBAN ANIMAL is not required to be registered as a NEIGHBORHOOD HOME OCCUPATION but all requirements of Section 7.1.1 shall also apply to the keeping of an URBAN ANIMAL except that manure and/or compost may be stored outside. If both a NEIGHBORHOOD HOME OCCUPATION and an URBAN ANIMAL USE are present on the same property, the limits of Section 7.1.1 shall apply to both uses except that any coop (or hutch) and/ or covered run shall be allowed in addition to any other STRUCTURE authorized in the NEIGHBORHOOD HOME OCCUPATION.

G. A dead URBAN ANIMAL must be disposed of in a manner consistent with Federal, State, and local laws. A dead animal must be removed from contact with live animals and disposed of within 24 hours. Burial onsite may be allowed consistent with the Illinois Dead Animal Disposal Act (8 Illinois Administrative Rules 90.110b) except composting of a dead URBAN ANIMAL shall not be allowed.

7.9.3 Registration of an URBAN ANIMAL USE

A. Any LOT with an URBAN ANIMAL shall be registered with the Department of Planning and Zoning on forms prepared by the Zoning Administrator. A site plan shall be submitted with the registration form that shows all animal coops and/or hutches, runs, fencing, pools, and manure disposal and/or compost sites.

7.9.4 SPECIAL USE Permit

BA. Any LOT with an URBAN ANIMAL that exceeds any of the standards in Sections 7.89.1 and 7.89.2 may be authorized by SPECIAL USE Permit. The SPECIAL USE Permit application shall include an URBAN ANIMAL registration application on forms prepared by the Zoning Administrator and shall give the proposed number of URBAN ANIMALS.

CB. Any keeping of an URBAN ANIMAL authorized by SPECIAL USE Permit shall be required to obtain a Zoning Use Permit in accordance with Section 9.1.2 prior to operation. The fee for the Zoning Use Permit shall be the same as the fee for a RURAL HOME OCCUPATION.

7.9.5 Existing URBAN ANIMAL USE

A. The above requirements notwithstanding, any keeping of an URBAN ANIMAL (livestock) that exists on {effective date} on a lot within 1,000 feet of a home rule municipality shall be allowed to continue until the existing rights of the persons in possession are terminated or when the URBAN ANIMAL (livestock) USE is discontinued, provided that the owner files an application to register the existing URBAN ANIMAL (livestock) USE with the Zoning Administrator within 180 days of {effective date} or within 180 days of becoming within 1,000 feet of a home rule municipality. The registration application shall be made free of charge on forms prepared by the Zoning Administrator and shall give the existing number of all animals on {effective date}.

B. Any increase in the number of adult URBAN ANIMALS over and above the number of adult URBAN ANIMALS on {effective date} shall require a SPECIAL USE Permit.

C. Any URBAN ANIMAL (livestock) USE that existed on {effective date} on a lot within 1,000 feet of a home rule municipality that subsequently comes under new ownership shall register with the Department of Planning and Zoning and shall comply with the standards in Sections 7.9.1 and 7.9.2 or shall be authorized by SPECIAL USE Permit.

D. The Champaign County Public Nuisance Ordinance establishes certain prohibited nuisance conditions related to the keeping of an URBAN ANIMAL and all URBAN ANIMALS shall be kept consistent with the Champaign County Public Nuisance Ordinance.

Attachment B. Application for Registration of Urban Animal Use (Revised Amendment)

JANUARY 05, 2026

Champaign County
Department of

**PLANNING &
ZONING**

Bennett Administrative Center
102 Est Main Street
Urbana, Illinois 61801

(217) 384-3708
zoningdept@co.champaign.il.us
www.co.champaign.il.us/zoning

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Township_____ Section_____

T_____R_____ Zoning District_____

PIN_____

Registration No._____

Approved By_____

Date_____

**APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION OF
URBAN ANIMAL USE (REVISED AMENDMENT)**

All information requested must be completed on this application.

Applicants are encouraged to visit the Department of Planning and Zoning for assistance in completing this form. It is best to make an appointment ahead of time by calling (217) 384-3708 or email zoningdept@champaigncountyil.gov.

Application is hereby made to register the keeping of an URBAN ANIMAL as required under the Champaign County Zoning Ordinance. In making this application, the applicant represents all of the following statements and any attachments as a true description of the proposed URBAN ANIMAL USE to be carried out on the subject property described herein. No fee is required to register an URBAN ANIMAL USE.

Owner and/ or Lessee of property: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Property Owner or Agent, if other than Applicant: _____

Address: _____ Telephone: _____

Address of proposed URBAN ANIMAL USE: _____

Legal Description of Property: _____

Tax Parcel Number: _____ Zoning District: _____ Lot Area : _____

Attachment B. Application for Registration of Urban Animal Use (Revised Amendment)
JANUARY 05, 2026

SPECIFICS OF URBAN ANIMALS USE

1. Brief description of the URBAN ANIMAL USE: _____

2. Numbers of animals by each species kept as URBAN ANIMALS (also enter on Urban Animals Worksheet on page 5; Urban Animal Use established after {effective date} is limited to a maximum of .40 urban animal units per acre of property):

3. Describe the fencing and structures (include dimensions of all structures) used to house the URBAN ANIMAL(S) on the property and show the fencing and structures on a site plan drawing included with application (new structures larger than 150 square feet in must have a Zoning Use Permit):

4. Describe where and how the URBAN ANIMAL food will be stored:

Attachment B. Application for Registration of Urban Animal Use (Revised Amendment)JANUARY 05, 2026

5. Describe where and how water will be provided to the URBAN ANIMAL(S) (including in winter time conditions; if ducks are involved describe frequency of cleaning and if an aerator or filtration system will be used):

6. Describe manure management and cleaning of the building housing the URBAN ANIMAL(S) (if composting of manure or bedding will occur please indicate where it will occur on the site plan drawing):

7. Will there be any food items sold from the URBAN ANIMAL USE? Any sales of food items must comply with the requirements of the Champaign County Public Health Department. Please include documentation of compliance with the requirements of the Champaign County Public Health Department.

8. Is there already a Home Occupation on the property? No Yes

9. Number of non-resident employees: _____ Full time: _____ Part time: _____

10. Will there be a sign advertising the URBAN ANIMAL USE? If so please indicate the size of the sign and indicate location on the site plan: No Yes _____

11. How will customers be limited on the property?

12. Describe any commercial vehicle used in the URBAN ANIMAL USE and kept onsite (include make, Model, and license number):

13. Other relevant information:

Attachment B. Application for Registration of Urban Animal Use (Revised Amendment)
JANUARY 05, 2026

I/We am/are the proprietor(s) and owner(s) or lessee(s) of the above described property and URBAN ANIMAL USE and have received a copy of and read Section 7.9 of the Champaign County Zoning Ordinance related to the keeping of an URBAN ANIMAL, and fully understand those requirements.

SIGNED: _____ DATE: _____

SIGNED: _____ DATE: _____

Attachment B. Application for Registration of Urban Animal Use (Revised Amendment)
 JANUARY 05, 2026

Urban Animal Units Worksheet

Property address:		Lot area:	
		Square feet: _____	
		Acres ¹ : _____	
Type of Urban Animal	Animal Units per Animal (AU / animal)	Number of Animals on Property	Urban Animal Units (AU / animal X number of animals)
ANIMALS INCLUDED IN THE LIVESTOCK FACILITIES MANAGEMENT ACT²			
Horse	2.00		
Cattle (feeder or brood)	1.00		
Cattle (dairy)	1.40		
Swine (weight over 55 pounds)	0.40		
Swine (weight under 55 pounds)	0.30		
Sheep, lambs, or goats	0.10		
Turkey	0.02		
Duck	0.02		
Hen	0.01		
ANIMALS NOT INCLUDED IN THE LIVESTOCK FACILITIES MANAGEMENT ACT³			
Llama	0.40		
Ostrich	0.40		
Alpaca	0.30		
Emu	0.10		
Rabbit	0.02		
Geese	0.02		
Pigeon	0.005		
TOTAL			
TOTAL URBAN ANIMAL UNITS			
Notes <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. One acre equals 43,560 square feet. 2. Animal Units as assigned in the Livestock Facilities Management Act (510 ILCS 77). 3. The animal units for animals not listed in the Livestock Facilities Management Act (510 ILCS 77) approximate as closely as possible to similar animals in the Livestock Facilities Management Act (510 ILCS 77). Animal units for animals not listed in this table shall be determined by the Zoning Administrator. 4. Urban Animal operation established after {effective date} is limited to a maximum of .18 urban animal units unless authorized more by special use permit. 			

Attachment C. Alternative Amendment
JANUARY 05, 2026

1. Add the following to Section 3. Definitions:

URBAN ANIMAL: An animal that may be kept for any reason in a Residential DISTRICT within 1,000 feet of a home rule municipality on a lot on which AGRICULTURE is not the principal USE, in addition to any dogs or cats otherwise allowed under this Ordinance and/or in addition to any other animal that may be kept as a pet that resides in the DWELLING. An URBAN ANIMAL may be kept as a source of food or fiber or kept simply as a hobby or an outdoor pet. An URBAN ANIMAL may be a hen, Guinea fowl, a duck (or a drake), a pigeon, a goose, a turkey, and a rabbit, or any animal that may be authorized as required in Sec. 7.9.

2. Amend Section 5.2 as follows:

SECTION 5.2 TABLE OF AUTHORIZED PRINCIPAL USES

Principal USES	Zoning DISTRICTS														
	CR	AG-	AG-	R-1	R-2	R-3	R-4	R-5	B-1	B-2	B-3	B-4	B-5	I-1	I-2
Resource Production and Agricultural Uses															
AGRICULTURE, including customary ACCESSORY USES				32	32	32	32	32							

Footnotes

32. The keeping of an URBAN ANIMAL in a Residential DISTRICT within 1,000 feet of a home rule municipality shall conform to the requirements of Section 7.9.

3. Add new Section 7.9 Keeping of an URBAN ANIMAL

Section 7.9 Keeping of an URBAN ANIMAL

7.9.1 Authorized URBAN ANIMAL

A. A LOT that is partially within the AG-1, AG-2, or CR Zoning DISTRICTS shall be treated as if the entire LOT were within the AG-1, AG-2, or CR Zoning DISTRICT and there shall be no limits or restrictions on the keeping of livestock or URBAN ANIMALS on that LOT.

B. The limits on number of URBAN ANIMALS that may be kept on a LOT are generally based on the number of “animal units” per animal as assigned in the Livestock Facilities Management Act (510 ILCS 77). The animal units for animals not listed in the Livestock Facilities Management Act (510 ILCS 77) shall be as given in Table 7.9.1 or as determined by the Zoning Administrator and shall approximate as closely as possible to the Livestock Facilities Management Act (510 ILCS 77).

Attachment C. Alternative Amendment
JANUARY 05, 2026

Table 7.9.1 Animal Units per URBAN ANIMAL

Type of Animal	Animal Units
ANIMALS INCLUDED IN THE LIVESTOCK FACILITIES MANAGEMENT ACT¹	
Horse	2.00
Cattle (feeder or brood)	1.00
Cattle (dairy)	1.40
Swine (weight over 55 pounds)	0.40
Swine (weight under 55 pounds)	0.30
Sheep, lambs, or goats	0.10
Turkey	0.02
Duck	0.02
Hen	0.01
ANIMALS NOT INCLUDED IN THE LIVESTOCK FACILITIES MANAGEMENT ACT²	
Llama	0.40
Ostrich	0.40
Alpaca	0.30
Emu	0.30
Rabbit	0.02
Geese	0.02
Pigeon	0.005
Notes	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Animal Units as assigned in the Livestock Facilities Management Act (510 ILCS 77). 2. The animal units for animals not listed in the Livestock Facilities Management Act (510 ILCS 77) approximate as closely as possible to the Livestock Facilities Management Act (510 ILCS 77). Animal units for animals not listed in this table shall be determined by the Zoning Administrator. 	

AC. The following number of animals may be kept on a LOT in a Residential DISTRICT within 1,000 feet of a home rule municipality that meets the minimum requirements of this Ordinance and provided there is a lawful DWELLING UNIT on the property:

- (1) A maximum of six hens; or
- (2) A maximum of six Guinea fowl; or
- (3) A maximum of three ducks (including drakes); or
- (4) A maximum of 12 pigeons; or
- (5) A maximum of three geese; or
- (6) A maximum of three turkeys; or
- (7) A maximum of three rabbits; or

(8) Any combination of animals listed above provided that the total number of animals does not exceed the equivalent of six hens based on the following:

- i. One Guinea fowl is equal to one hen; and
- ii. One duck or turkey or goose or rabbit equals two hens; and
- iii. Two pigeons equal one hen.

(9) The limit on URBAN ANIMALS in Section 7.89.1C.(8) may be increased proportionally based on LOT AREA for LOT AREAS greater than 6,500 square feet ~~up to 20,000 square feet in area but no more than the equivalent of 18 hens shall be allowed on lots that are larger than 20,000 square feet in area unless authorized by Special Use PERMIT per Sec. 7.89.3. but shall not exceed 0.40 animal units per acre unless authorized by Special Use PERMIT per Sec. 7.89.3.~~

BD. Roosters are prohibited in Residential DISTRICTS within 1,000 feet of a home rule municipality.

CE. The requirements of this section shall not restrict beekeeping in Residential Districts within 1,000 feet of a home rule municipality.

DF. Slaughtering of URBAN ANIMALS in Residential DISTRICTS within 1,000 feet of a home rule municipality shall be done indoors in appropriate sanitary conditions. No meat products shall be sold to the public unless in compliance with the rules and regulations of the Champaign County Public Health Department.

EG. Any sales of food items must comply with the requirements of the Champaign County Public Health Department. ~~Any lot on which there are sales shall be registered as an NHO per Section 7.1.1.~~

7.89.2 Care and housing of authorized URBAN ANIMALS in a Residential DISTRICT ~~within 1,000 feet of a home rule municipality~~

A. No URBAN ANIMAL shall be permitted to run at large ~~and URBAN ANIMALS shall be kept in a building or fenced area. An URBAN ANIMAL shall be kept in a designated coop or hutch (building) or covered and fenced outdoor run. An URBAN ANIMAL may also be allowed to exercise in a rear yard with a 6 feet (6') or higher fence with supervision.~~

(1) ~~If the coop (or hutch) and run are not within a fenced yard, the URBAN ANIMAL must be kept within the coop (or hutch) and run at all times.~~

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(2) Fences must keep the URBAN ANIMAL on the property and meet the limits established in Sec. 4.3.3G. The minimum height of perimeter fencing is as follows:

- (1) Six feet for poultry.
- (2) Four feet for sheep and goats.
- (3) Five feet for horses, cattle, llamas, and alpacas.

B. URBAN ANIMAL feed grain or pellets must be stored in a fully enclosed, rodent proof container.

C. An URBAN ANIMAL shall be provided clean water daily. In freezing weather the water shall be kept from freezing. If ducks are provided access to a pool, the pool shall be cleaned daily or have an aerator or filtration system.

D. Housing for any URBAN ANIMAL shall be provided and shall meet the following requirements:

- (1) The coop (or hutch) and run URBAN ANIMAL housing shall be located in the REAR YARD.
- (2) The coop (or hutch) and run URBAN ANIMAL housing shall be located at least five feet from the property line and at least twenty feet a distance that is not less than 33% of the LOT width of the URBAN ANIMAL (subject) property or not less than 20 feet from any neighboring DWELLING.
- (3) The coop or hutch URBAN ANIMAL housing must be built to provide ventilation, shade, protection from precipitation, and protection from cold weather and at a minimum shall meet the minimum requirements of Midwest Plan Service STRUCTURES and ENVIRONMENT HANDBOOK, Eleventh Edition, 1983. and to be secure from predators, wild birds, and rodents.
 - a. Openings in windows and doors must be covered by wire mesh or screens to deter predators.
 - b. Access doors must be sized and placed for ease of cleaning.
 - c. The enclosed run must be attached to the coop or must surround the coop. The sides of the run must be made of fencing or wire mesh that keeps out predators.
- (4) The run must be enclosed by wire on all sides, including the top or roof plane.

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(5) ~~Size. The coop or hutch shall provide a minimum of four square feet of floor area per animal although for pigeons there need only be four square feet per pair of breeders. The run shall provide a minimum of 16 square feet of area per animal.~~

(6) ~~Coops or hutches must be located at least five feet from a side or rear lot line and at least 20 feet from any adjacent DWELLING on other property.~~

(4) Coops or hutches URBAN ANIMAL housing over 150 square feet in roofed area shall require a Zoning Use Permit.

(5) ~~The coop and run or hutch and run URBAN ANIMAL housing~~ shall be kept in a clean, dry, and sanitary condition at all times. Manure, uneaten and discarded feed, feathers and other waste must be removed at a minimum of once per week.

a. Odors from animals, manure or related substances shall be controlled and shall not be detectable at property lines.

b. Manure may be composted onsite provided that the odor is minimized by appropriate composting procedures so as not to be detectable at property lines and does not result in drainage onto adjacent property or into a stream.
~~Composting or storage of manure shall not occur within 50 feet of a perennial stream or within the Special Flood Hazard Area or a distance that not less than 60% of the LOT width of the URBAN ANIMAL (subject) property from any adjacent DWELLING on other property.~~

c. All manure not composted must be removed from the property a minimum of once per week or more often if necessary to control odor.

E. Any ~~coop (or hutch)~~ URBAN ANIMAL housing and run and all fencing located in a floodplain must be in compliance with the Champaign County Special Flood Hazard Areas Ordinance and a Floodplain Development Permit shall be required for any construction or fencing in the floodplain.

F. The keeping of an URBAN ANIMAL is not required to be registered as a NEIGHBORHOOD HOME OCCUPATION but all requirements of Section 7.1.1 shall also apply to the keeping of an URBAN ANIMAL except that manure and/or compost may be stored outside. If both a NEIGHBORHOOD HOME OCCUPATION and an URBAN ANIMAL USE are present on the same property, the limits of Section 7.1.1 shall

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apply to both uses except that any ~~coop (or hutch) and/ or covered run~~
URBAN ANIMAL housing shall be allowed in addition to any other
STRUCTURE authorized in the NEIGHBORHOOD HOME
OCCUPATION.

G. A dead URBAN ANIMAL must be disposed of in a manner consistent with Federal, State, and local laws. A dead animal must be removed from contact with live animals and disposed of within 24 hours. Burial onsite may be allowed consistent with the Illinois Dead Animal Disposal Act (8 Illinois Administrative Rules 90.110b) except composting of a dead URBAN ANIMAL shall not be allowed.

7.9.3 Registration of an URBAN ANIMAL USE

A. Any LOT with an URBAN ANIMAL shall be registered with the Department of Planning and Zoning on forms prepared by the Zoning Administrator. A site plan shall be submitted with the registration form that shows all animal coops and/or hutches, runs, fencing, pools, and manure disposal and/or compost sites.

7.9.4 SPECIAL USE Permit

BA. Any LOT with an URBAN ANIMAL that exceeds any of the standards in Sections 7.89.1 and 7.89.2 may be authorized by SPECIAL USE Permit. The SPECIAL USE Permit application shall include an URBAN ANIMAL registration application on forms prepared by the Zoning Administrator and shall give the proposed number of URBAN ANIMALS.

CB. Any keeping of an URBAN ANIMAL authorized by SPECIAL USE Permit shall be required to obtain a Zoning Use Permit in accordance with Section 9.1.2 prior to operation. The fee for the Zoning Use Permit shall be the same as the fee for a RURAL HOME OCCUPATION.

7.9.5 Existing URBAN ANIMAL USE

A. The above requirements notwithstanding, any keeping of an URBAN ANIMAL (livestock) that exists on {effective date} on a lot within 1,000 feet of a home rule municipality shall be allowed to continue until the existing rights of the persons in possession are terminated or when the URBAN ANIMAL (livestock) USE is discontinued, provided that the owner files an application to register the existing URBAN ANIMAL (livestock) USE with the Zoning Administrator within 180 days of {effective date} or within 180 days of becoming within 1,000 feet of a home rule municipality. The registration application shall be made free of

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charge on forms prepared by the Zoning Administrator and shall give the existing number of all animals on {effective date}.

- B. Any increase in the number of adult URBAN ANIMALS over and above the number of adult URBAN ANIMALS on {effective date} shall require a SPECIAL USE Permit.
- C. Any URBAN ANIMAL (livestock) USE that existed on {effective date} on a lot within 1,000 feet of a home rule municipality that subsequently comes under new ownership shall register with the Department of Planning and Zoning and shall comply with the standards in Sections 7.9.1 and 7.9.2 or shall be authorized by SPECIAL USE Permit.
- D. The Champaign County Public Nuisance Ordinance establishes certain prohibited nuisance conditions related to the keeping of an URBAN ANIMAL and all URBAN ANIMALS shall be kept consistent with the Champaign County Public Nuisance Ordinance.

Attachment D. Application for Registration of Urban Animal Use (Alternative Amendment)
JANUARY 05, 2026

Champaign County
Department of

**PLANNING &
ZONING**

Bennett Administrative Center
102 Est Main Street
Urbana, Illinois 61801

(217) 384-3708
zoningdept@co.champaign.il.us
www.co.champaign.il.us/zoning

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Township _____ **Section** _____

T _____ **R** _____ **Zoning District** _____

PIN _____

Registration No. _____

Approved By _____

Date _____

**APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION OF
URBAN ANIMAL USE (ALTERNATIVE AMENDMENT)**

All information requested must be completed on this application.

Applicants are encouraged to visit the Department of Planning and Zoning for assistance in completing this form. It is best to make an appointment ahead of time by calling (217) 384-3708 or email zoningdept@champaigncountyil.gov.

Application is hereby made to register the keeping of an URBAN ANIMAL as required under the Champaign County Zoning Ordinance. In making this application, the applicant represents all of the following statements and any attachments as a true description of the proposed URBAN ANIMAL USE to be carried out on the subject property described herein. No fee is required to register an URBAN ANIMAL USE.

Owner and/ or Lessee of property: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Property Owner or Agent, if other than Applicant: _____

Address: _____ Telephone: _____

Address of proposed URBAN ANIMAL USE: _____

Legal Description of Property: _____

Tax Parcel Number: _____ Zoning District: _____ Lot Area : _____

Attachment D. Application for Registration of Urban Animal Use (Alternative Amendment)
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SPECIFICS OF URBAN ANIMALS USE

1. Brief description of the URBAN ANIMAL USE: _____

2. Numbers of animals by each species kept as URBAN ANIMALS (also enter on Urban Animals Worksheet on page 5; Urban Animal Use established after {effective date} is limited to a maximum of .40 urban animal units per acre of property):

3. Describe the fencing and structures (include dimensions of all structures) used to house the URBAN ANIMAL(S) on the property and show the fencing and structures on a site plan drawing included with application (new structures larger than 150 square feet in must have a Zoning Use Permit):

4. Describe where and how the URBAN ANIMAL food will be stored:

Attachment D. Application for Registration of Urban Animal Use (Alternative Amendment)JANUARY 05, 2026

5. Describe where and how water will be provided to the URBAN ANIMAL(S) (including in winter time conditions; if ducks are involved describe frequency of cleaning and if an aerator or filtration system will be used):

6. Describe manure management and cleaning of the building housing the URBAN ANIMAL(S) (if composting of manure or bedding will occur please indicate where it will occur on the site plan drawing):

7. Will there be any food items sold from the URBAN ANIMAL USE? Any sales of food items must comply with the requirements of the Champaign County Public Health Department. Please include documentation of compliance with the requirements of the Champaign County Public Health Department.

8. Is there already a Home Occupation on the property? No Yes

9. Number of non-resident employees: _____ Full time: _____ Part time: _____

10. Will there be a sign advertising the URBAN ANIMAL USE? If so please indicate the size of the sign and indicate location on the site plan: No Yes _____

11. How will customers be limited on the property?

12. Describe any commercial vehicle used in the URBAN ANIMAL USE and kept onsite (include make, Model, and license number):

Attachment D. Application for Registration of Urban Animal Use (Alternative Amendment)
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13. Other relevant information:

I/We am/are the proprietor(s) and owner(s) or lessee(s) of the above described property and URBAN ANIMAL USE and have received a copy of and read Section 7.9 of the Champaign County Zoning Ordinance related to the keeping of an URBAN ANIMAL, and fully understand those requirements.

SIGNED: _____ DATE: _____

SIGNED: _____ DATE: _____

Attachment D. Application for Registration of Urban Animal Use (Alternative Amendment)
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Urban Animal Units Worksheet

Property address:		Lot area:	
		Square feet: _____	
		Acres ¹ : _____	
Type of Urban Animal	Animal Units per Animal (AU / animal)	Number of Animals on Property	Urban Animal Units (AU / animal X number of animals)
ANIMALS INCLUDED IN THE LIVESTOCK FACILITIES MANAGEMENT ACT²			
Horse	2.00		
Cattle (feeder or brood)	1.00		
Cattle (dairy)	1.40		
Swine (weight over 55 pounds)	0.40		
Swine (weight under 55 pounds)	0.30		
Sheep, lambs, or goats	0.10		
Turkey	0.02		
Duck	0.02		
Hen	0.01		
ANIMALS NOT INCLUDED IN THE LIVESTOCK FACILITIES MANAGEMENT ACT³			
Llama	0.40		
Ostrich	0.40		
Alpaca	0.30		
Emu	0.10		
Rabbit	0.02		
Geese	0.02		
Pigeon	0.005		
TOTAL			
TOTAL URBAN ANIMAL UNITS PER ACRE⁴ (TOTAL AU _____ / lot area in acres _____)			
Notes <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. One acre equals 43,560 square feet. 2. Animal Units as assigned in the Livestock Facilities Management Act (510 ILCS 77). 3. The animal units for animals not listed in the Livestock Facilities Management Act (510 ILCS 77) approximate as closely as possible to similar animals in the Livestock Facilities Management Act (510 ILCS 77). Animal units for animals not listed in this table shall be determined by the Zoning Administrator. 4. Urban Animal operation established after {effective date} is limited to a maximum of .40 urban animal units per acre of property unless authorized more by special use permit. 			

Attachment E. Comparison of Animal Units Allowed By Right
JANUARY 05, 2026

Comparison of Animal Units Allowed By Right

Lot Area	Animal Units ¹ Allowable By Right ²	
	Original and Revised Amendment	Alternative Amendment
6,500 square feet	0.06	0.06
13,000 square feet	0.12	0.12
19,500 square feet	0.18	0.18
20,000 square feet	0.18	0.18
30,000 square feet	0.18	0.28
1.0 acre	0.18	0.40
2.0 acres	0.18	0.80
2.5 acres	0.18	1.00
5.0 acres	0.18	2.00 ³
10.0 acres	0.18	4.00

Notes

1. Animal Units as assigned in the Livestock Facilities Management Act (510 ILCS 77).
2. A greater number of animal units may be authorized by special use permit.
3. A horse is assigned two animal units in the Livestock Facilities Management Act (510 ILCS 77) and therefore keeping a horse will require a five acre lot.

Recommended Guidelines for Domestic Livestock in Residential Areas



Cooperative Extension Bulletin E353

Michael Westendorf, Extension Specialist in Livestock and Dairy

Bob Mickel, Retired Hunterdon County and Regional Livestock Agent

Carey Williams, Extension Specialist in Equine Management

I. Introduction and Definitions

The purpose of these guidelines is to assist citizens and local government officials in establishing criteria for the management of domestic livestock on private residential property within the municipality.

These guidelines are not criteria for the management of commercial agriculture which is more intensive and continuous in nature.

Residential keeping of livestock is defined as:

The husbandry of domestic livestock and their products for home use or consumption including breeding, feeding, raising, caring, and housing. Any sales are minor and incidental.

Domestic livestock means horses, cattle, swine, sheep, goats, rabbit, poultry, fowl, and furbearing animals excluding household pets.

The key concepts are “home-use or consumption.” A municipal zoning ordinance permitting residential animal agriculture might include the following language:

Livestock may be kept in the residential zone provided animal numbers, as well as care and management, reasonably conform to currently recommended animal husbandry management practices established by Rutgers Cooperative Extension and the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station. All livestock in New Jersey must be raised in conditions to meet or exceed the standards set by N.J.A.C. 2:8 – Humane Treatment of Domestic Livestock. All items in these guidelines meet or exceed the minimum standards.

There may be pre-existing “domestic livestock” already present in residential areas within a municipality. It is presumed that these can continue, provided they are conducted within the recommended guidelines.

A: Basis for Recommendation

The management recommendations established in this document represent the best collective professional judgment and opinion of a select committee of faculty of Rutgers Cooperative Extension and the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station at Rutgers University in consultation with the New Jersey Department of Agriculture (NJDA). Keepers of domestic livestock in residential areas and their neighbors should have reasonable use of their properties which is the goal of these recommendations.

The following criteria should be considered:

- Aesthetics
- Animal density
- Animal health
- Animal husbandry
- Animal welfare
- Environmental stress
- Municipal administration
- Safety
- Shelter and confinement need
- Waste management

B: General Waste Management

All farms, regardless of size, are required to comply with the General Requirements of the New Jersey Department of Agriculture’s Animal Waste Management regulations (N.J.A.C. 2.91 et seq.). “Farm” means parcels of land where livestock is housed, kept, stabled, confined, fed, or otherwise maintained or any parcel that receives or applies animal waste. A farm may include parcels owned, leased, or otherwise available to a person.

The General Requirements are:

1. Agricultural animal operations shall not allow animals in confined areas to have uncontrolled access to waters of the State.
2. Manure storage areas must be 100 feet from waters of the State, and on slopes less than 5 percent.
3. Land application of animal waste shall be performed in accordance with the principles of the NJDA Best Management Practices (BMP) Manual.
4. Dead animals and related animal waste resulting from a reportable contagious disease or an act of bioterrorism shall not be disposed of without first contacting the [State Veterinarian](#).
5. Any person entering a farm to conduct official business related to these rules shall follow bio-security protocol.

This is not a general requirement – Some farms may be required to submit Animal Waste Management Plans (AWMP) in accordance with the regulations. It is anticipated that most residential animal agriculture operations will fall below animal unit thresholds.

For questions about Animal Waste Management compliance, please see the following websites: [NJAES Animal Waste Management information](#) or [Animal Waste Regulations from New Jersey Dept. of Agriculture](#). Or, you may want to contact your local [Rutgers Cooperative Extension county office](#). Residential animal agriculture farms with less than 8 animal units (one Animal Unit is equal to 1,000 pounds of live weight) are not required but are encouraged to submit an AWMP.

Animal manure may be of concern in residential zones. In small volumes, fresh manure has fewer odors and is relatively free of flies. Proper management can prevent annoyance to neighbors. Manure generally produces more odors and may attract flies when it accumulates. Proper manure management is the key.

During cold months and with ample bedding materials and good management, odors and flies can be controlled. As weather moderates, odors and flies develop. Dry interior stalls should be maintained. Mud should be controlled in outside areas. Manure should be removed regularly from interior housing or exterior lots.

Manure can be handled as follows:

1. Regular placement in a plastic garbage bag, tightly closed, for periodic removal from the premises with normal garbage collection or stored for later use. Stored manure should not accumulate for more than three weeks.
2. Immediately incorporate manure into the soil of a garden, but not as surface mulch. (Incorporation is essential to reduce flies and odors).
3. Manure can be composted to reduce odors or fly breeding. Composted manure can be used in gardens or flower beds (must be incorporated in the soil). Neighbors may be interested in using compost on their gardens or flower beds. A static or unturned manure pile is not composting. Please see Rutgers Bulletin [E307, Best Management Practices for Horse Manure Composting on Small Farms](#) about the proper composting of manure on small farms.
4. Manure can be stored in a covered, well-drained storage area, located 50 feet or more from the property line until manure can be managed as described above. See more information at: [NJAES Animal Waste Management](#).

C: Humane Care

The State of New Jersey established minimum standards for the humane treatment of domestic livestock. These standards address feeding, watering, keeping, marketing and sale, and care and treatment of domestic livestock. These rules can be accessed at [state.nj.us/agriculture/divisions/ah](#). Contact the New Jersey Department of Agriculture Division of Animal Health for questions regarding these rules.

II. General Recommendations for Animals (Numbers, Care, and Management)

A. Animal Units

One animal unit means 1,000 pounds of live body weight (see Tables 1–4). The animal unit can be used to determine animal density, exercise, and food requirements. It may also be useful in determining special requirements for animal housing. The following tables give some guidelines for establishing animal units.

B. Large Animals (Horses, Cattle, Sheep, Goats and Swine)

Lot size: The minimum lot size will vary based on animal units and management. Well-managed locations may have higher animal densities than more marginal areas. To determine appropriate animal density, utilize resources from Rutgers Cooperative Extension and/or the New Jersey Department of Agriculture.

For a specific description of animal units by livestock category, see Table 1.

Large and medium-sized domesticated animals need exercise and living space compatible with their age and size.

An outside lot, when used to provide exercise grazing, should be fenced to ensure animal and human safety and minimize the possibility of property damage. Exterior fence lines should be made of appropriate materials and be at least 48 inches in height with posts no more than ten (10) feet apart.

Fencing materials should be selected to contain an area while minimizing potential injury based on the species, number, age, and temperament of the animals on the premises and the amount of land fenced. The fenced lot should be located and managed to minimize mud and surface drainage to prevent any standing water from accumulating. Lots should not be extended in proximity to waterways.

Table 1. Animal units for specific livestock categories

Livestock	Life Stage	Weight (pounds)	Animal Units	Remarks
Horses	All Breeds: 6 months or older	1,000	1	Includes ponies, mules, burros, and donkeys. Mares with foals until weaned or up to age of 6 months = 1 unit.
	All Breeds: Under 6 months	500	½	
Dairy	1 year or older	1,000	1	Or cow w/nursing calf
	Under 1 year	500	½	
Beef	1 year or older	1,000	1	Or cow w/nursing calf
	Under 1 year	500	½	
Steers	1 year or older	1,000	1	
	Under 1 year	500	½	
Bulls	1 year or older	2,000	2	
	Under 1 year	750	¾	
Sheep/Goats	1 year or older	100	1/10	Ewe w/nursing lamb up to 3 months
	Lambs over 3 months	50	1/20	
Swine	Over 1 year	500	½	Sow w/suckling pigs under 3 months
	3 months to 1 year	250	¼	

Note: Combination of different livestock species are acceptable, so long as total densities are not exceeded for acreage available. These numbers will vary by breed and age. The above weights and units are guidelines. If animals are smaller or larger than the guidelines given, then units must be adjusted to meet the 1,000-pound animal unit definition. There is no required density.

All species require adequate provisions for drainage. All confined, domesticated animals should have shelter to protect from rain, wind, and to provide shade.

The floor should prevent slipping and allow for the bedding to be routinely dry.

When an exterior lot is accessible, adequate indoor shelter should still be provided. If no exterior lot is provided, the indoor shelter must meet animal requirements.

Livestock should have daily access to water to provide for the animal's physiological demands. This can be evaluated by the animal's hydration status.

A building for housing large animals should be 50 feet from the property line unless there are existing impediments to modify this setback.

Suggested designs for structures are available through Rutgers Cooperative Extension. More design information is available through the [Midwest Plan Service](#).

C. Poultry (Chickens, Ducks, Turkeys, Geese, and Game Birds Such as Pheasants; Quail, Peafowl, and Guinea Fowl)

The animal unit used for large domestic animals can be adapted for small animals. Chickens are the most prevalent fowl in residential agriculture. An adult chicken weighs approximately eight pounds; therefore, one animal unit is equivalent to 125 chickens (layers, fryers, broilers, etc.) see calculations for other species in Table 2. It is unlikely that any home agriculture operation with poultry will have more than a fraction of an acre.

Larger fowl such as turkeys, ducks, and geese can also be adapted to animal units. Geese and ducks produce wetter manure; this will need to be considered when managing poultry manure.

Management Recommendations for Residential (Home) Flocks

A small flock of fowl may be confined to cages or raised on a conventional litter floor with or without access to an outside yard. Cages must be of sufficient size to allow each bird to stand upright in the cage without having its head protrude through the top of the cage, lie down, get up, walk, spread its wings, move its head freely, turn around, and rest. Bantams may be allotted one-half of the floor space recommended for standard size breeds. Turkeys, ducks, and geese should be provided 5 to 6 square feet of floor space per bird, depending on the size of the bird.

Although poultry may be raised entirely under cover with no access to the outside, some home operators may want to provide an outside lot or poultry yard. The birds' environment must provide relief from the elements, such as excessive wind, excessive temperature, and excessive precipitation, which may result in hyperthermia or hypothermia detrimental to the birds' health. Turkeys, ducks, and geese require a yard size 50 percent larger than that for chickens. More broilers, fryers, etc. can be accommodated with no additional yard or house space, provided sanitary conditions are met. If birds have access to a wired porch, similar square footage should be provided.

Table 2. Poultry Bird Units for Use With Home Animal Agriculture

Maximum Number of Birds		
	Average Weight (pounds)	Number of birds per animal unit
Chickens (mature)	8	125
Broilers and Fryers	5	200
Ducks	15	67
Turkeys	25	40
Geese	20	50
Pigeons or Squabs	3	333

Note: Combinations of different livestock species are acceptable so long as the total densities are not exceeded for acreage available. These numbers will vary by breed and age. The above weights and units are guidelines. If animals are smaller or larger than the guidelines given, then units must be adjusted to meet the 1,000-pound animal unit definition. There is no required density.

The yard should be fenced to protect the birds by preventing dogs and other predators from entering. Birds should have some foraging space; they need grit for their gizzard and like eating weeds. The yard should provide an environment that minimizes the risk of injury to the bird. The yard should be free of debris, weeds, and standing water and suitably screened with shrubbery or other appropriate visual screens for aesthetic purposes. The yard should be 25 feet from neighboring property lines and should be set back from the roadway. Outside fenced lots may require overhead fencing or cover to prevent predator access.

Given the many variables involved such as: 1) location, 2) type of management system to be followed, 3) nature of the surrounding area, 4) types of birds to be raised, etc., some situations should be reviewed with experts in agriculture. The county agricultural agent may be able to assist.

Poultry Manure Management

With a conventional flooring system, desirable housing conditions can be maintained through a deep litter management program. Litter, consisting of dry absorbent material such as straw, wood sawdust, shavings, or a pelleted wood or straw can be added to the floor at a depth of 4 to 6 inches. After 3 applications, the housing area should be cleaned.

The absorbent action, which takes place between the litter and the poultry droppings that accumulate daily, should result in dry floor conditions which will minimize flies and/or odors. When properly managed, litter floors need to be cleaned only once a year.

Dropping boards beneath roosting areas and cages, where manure accumulates, must be cleaned every 3 to 5 days.

Poultry manure can be applied to the soil in a vegetable garden. The application rate should not exceed 50 pounds per 1,000 square feet ($\frac{1}{2}$ pound per 10 square feet) once every three months. Manure should be incorporated into the soil and not used on the surface as mulch. It may be composted or stored as outlined under the Animal Waste Management section.

D. Pigeons

Pigeons are typically confined to a “fly loft” (a screened exercise area for pigeons) which includes an interior roosting area where pigeons are sheltered from the weather. The loft may or may not allow pigeons to have contact with the ground. Pigeons, when properly maintained, are compatible with small residential lots. Lots as small as one-fourth acre are acceptable as a minimum for raising pigeons. It is recommended that the “fly loft” be at least 25 feet from the property line.

Pigeon manure should be handled like poultry manure. It can be a valuable organic fertilizer additive for use in gardening. The application rate should not exceed 500 pounds per 1,000 square feet once every three months.

E. Rabbits

Rabbits are generally confined in cages with wire bottom floors. Typically, a rabbit is provided an exercise area made of wire that is exposed to the outside and has a wire bottom through which the manure falls to the ground or in dropping pans. In addition, they are provided with individual boxes to protect them from weather and for security and seclusion. The entire structure, which is referred to as a hutch, is raised off the ground for security, ease in caring for the rabbits, and to provide enough space to clean under the cage. It is recommended that hutches are at least 25 feet from property lines. A recommended cage size is 36" X 30" X 18" high. A cage with two partitions can accommodate three 4-pound rabbits; without partitions, one 12-pound rabbit.

Table 3. Rabbits

	Maximum Number of Rabbits	
	Weight (pounds)	Number of rabbits per animal unit
Rabbit (mature)	10	100

These numbers will vary by breed and age. The above weights and units are guidelines. If animals are smaller or larger than the guidelines given, then units must be adjusted to meet the 1,000-pound animal unit definition.
There is no required density.

Manure must be cleaned every 3 to 5 days and handled in a similar manner as described for poultry. Some rabbit producers have an earthworm pit beneath the cage. Earthworms use this organic matter. This practice is acceptable if properly managed, and can provide a continuous source of fishing worms during the warm season months. Cages should be properly ventilated.

F. Exotic animals

There are several exotic animals that may be living in a residential setting. Llamas and alpacas can be managed like sheep and goats (see Table 1), and emus can be managed like the larger species of poultry (see Table 2). All three can be housed in outside lots, provided there is shelter for protection from the weather.

Llamas are not considered to be exotic animals but are noted here because they are managed like an alpaca. Manure must be cleaned every 3 to 5 days and handled in a manner as described in previous sections.

Table 4. Exotic species

	Weight (pounds)	Number of animals per animal unit
Llama	400	2½
Alpaca	200	5
Emu	50	20
Pot-belly pig (adult)	100–200	5–10
These numbers will vary by breed and age. The above weights and units are guidelines. If animals are smaller or larger than the guidelines given, then units must be adjusted to meet the 1,000-pound animal unit definition.		
There is no required density.		

G. Assistance

More information and/or assistance with these recommended guidelines are available through [Rutgers Cooperative Extension county offices](#), the [New Jersey Department of Agriculture Division of Agricultural and Natural Resources](#), and the [New Jersey Department of Agriculture Division of Animal Health](#).

September 2020

Posted By Equine Science Center at 1:41 pm

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RECEIVED**DEC 15 2025****CHAMPAIGN CO. P & Z DEPARTMENT**

Recommended Guidelines for Domestic Livestock in Residential Areas



Cooperative Extension Bulletin E353

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I. Introduction and Definitions

The purpose of these guidelines is to assist citizens and local government officials in establishing criteria for the management of domestic livestock on private residential property within the municipality.

These guidelines are not criteria for the management of commercial agriculture which is more intensive and continuous in nature.

Residential keeping of livestock is defined as:

The husbandry of domestic livestock and their products for home use or consumption including breeding, feeding, raising, caring, and housing. Any sales are minor and incidental.

Domestic livestock means horses, cattle, swine, sheep, goats, rabbit, poultry, fowl, and furbearing animals excluding household pets.

The key concepts are “home-use or consumption.” A municipal zoning ordinance permitting residential animal agriculture might include the following language:

Livestock may be kept in the residential zone provided animal numbers, as well as care and management, reasonably conform to currently recommended animal husbandry management practices established by Rutgers Cooperative Extension and the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station. All livestock in New Jersey must be raised in conditions to meet or exceed the standards set by N.J.A.C. 2:8 – Humane Treatment of Domestic Livestock. All items in these guidelines meet or exceed the minimum standards.

There may be pre-existing “domestic livestock” already present in residential areas within a municipality. It is presumed that these can continue, provided they are conducted within the recommended guidelines.

A: Basis for Recommendation

The management recommendations established in this document represent the best collective professional judgment and opinion of a select committee of faculty of Rutgers Cooperative Extension and the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station at Rutgers University in consultation with the New Jersey Department of Agriculture (NJDA). Keepers of domestic livestock in residential areas and their neighbors should have reasonable use of their properties which is the goal of these recommendations.

The following criteria should be considered:

- Aesthetics
- Animal density
- Animal health

- Animal husbandry
- Animal welfare
- Environmental stress
- Municipal administration
- Safety
- Shelter and confinement need
- Waste management

B: General Waste Management

All farms, regardless of size, are required to comply with the General Requirements of the New Jersey Department of Agriculture's Animal Waste Management regulations (N.J.A.C. 2.91 et seq.). "Farm" means parcels of land where livestock is housed, kept, stabled, confined, fed, or otherwise maintained or any parcel that receives or applies animal waste. A farm may include parcels owned, leased, or otherwise available to a person.

The General Requirements are:

1. Agricultural animal operations shall not allow animals in confined areas to have uncontrolled access to waters of the State.
2. Manure storage areas must be 100 feet from waters of the State, and on slopes less than 5 percent.
3. Land application of animal waste shall be performed in accordance with the principles of the NJDA Best Management Practices (BMP) Manual.
4. Dead animals and related animal waste resulting from a reportable contagious disease or an act of bioterrorism shall not be disposed of without first contacting the State Veterinarian (<https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/ah/about/contacts.html>).
5. Any person entering a farm to conduct official business related to these rules shall follow bio-security protocol.

This is not a general requirement – Some farms may be required to submit Animal Waste Management Plans (AWMP) in accordance with the regulations. It is anticipated that most residential animal agriculture operations will fall below animal unit thresholds.

For questions about Animal Waste Management compliance, please see the following websites: NJAES Animal Waste Management information (<https://njaes.rutgers.edu/animal-waste-management>) or Animal Waste Regulations from New Jersey Dept. of Agriculture (<http://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/anr/agriassist/animalwaste.html>). Or, you may want to contact your local Rutgers Cooperative Extension county office (<https://njaes.rutgers.edu/county>). Residential animal agriculture farms with less than 8 animal units (one Animal Unit is equal to 1,000 pounds of live weight) are not required but are encouraged to submit an AWMP.

Animal manure may be of concern in residential zones. In small volumes, fresh manure has fewer odors and is relatively free of flies. Proper management can prevent annoyance to neighbors. Manure generally produces more odors and may attract flies when it accumulates. Proper manure management is the key.

During cold months and with ample bedding materials and good management, odors and flies can be controlled. As weather moderates, odors and flies develop. Dry interior stalls should be maintained. Mud should be controlled in outside areas. Manure should be removed regularly from interior housing or exterior lots.

Manure can be handled as follows:

1. Regular placement in a plastic garbage bag, tightly closed, for periodic removal from the premises with normal garbage collection or stored for later use. Stored manure should not accumulate for more than three weeks.
2. Immediately incorporate manure into the soil of a garden, but not as surface mulch. (Incorporation is essential to reduce flies and odors).
3. Manure can be composted to reduce odors or fly breeding. Composted manure can be used in gardens or flower beds (must be incorporated in the soil). Neighbors may be interested in using compost on their gardens or flower beds. A static or unturned manure pile is not composting. Please see Rutgers Bulletin [E307, Best Management Practices for Horse Manure Composting on Small Farms](#) (<https://njaes.rutgers.edu/pubs/publication.php?pid=e307>) about the proper composting of manure on small farms.
4. Manure can be stored in a covered, well-drained storage area, located 50 feet or more from the property line until manure can be managed as described above. See more information at: [NJAES Animal Waste Management](#) (<https://njaes.rutgers.edu/animal-waste-management/>).

C: Humane Care

The State of New Jersey established minimum standards for the humane treatment of domestic livestock. These standards address feeding, watering, keeping, marketing and sale, and care and treatment of domestic livestock. These rules can be accessed at [state.nj.us/agriculture/divisions/ah](#) (<https://www.state.nj.us/agriculture/divisions/ah>). Contact the New Jersey Department of Agriculture Division of Animal Health for questions regarding these rules.

II. General Recommendations for Animals (Numbers, Care, and Management)

A. Animal Units

One animal unit means 1,000 pounds of live body weight (see Tables 1–4). The animal unit can be used to determine animal density, exercise, and food requirements. It may also be useful in determining special requirements for animal housing. The following tables give some guidelines for establishing animal units.

B. Large Animals (Horses, Cattle, Sheep, Goats and Swine)

Lot size: The minimum lot size will vary based on animal units and management. Well-managed locations may have higher animal densities than more marginal areas. To determine appropriate animal density, utilize resources from Rutgers Cooperative Extension and/or the New Jersey Department of Agriculture.

For a specific description of animal units by livestock category, see Table 1.

Large and medium-sized domesticated animals need exercise and living space compatible with their age and size.

An outside lot, when used to provide exercise grazing, should be fenced to ensure animal and human safety and minimize the possibility of property damage. Exterior fence lines should be made of appropriate materials and be at least 48 inches in height with posts no more than ten (10) feet apart.

Fencing materials should be selected to contain an area while minimizing potential injury based on the species, number, age, and temperament of the animals on the premises and the amount of land fenced. The fenced lot should be located and managed to minimize mud and surface drainage to prevent any standing water from accumulating. Lots should not be extended in proximity to waterways.

Table 1. Animal units for specific livestock categories

Livestock	Life Stage	Weight (pounds)	Animal Units	Remarks
Horses	All Breeds: 6 months or older	1,000	1	Includes ponies, mules, burros, and donkeys. Mares with foals until weaned or up to age of 6 months = 1 unit.
	All Breeds: Under 6 months	500	½	
Dairy	1 year or older	1,000	1	Or cow w/nursing calf
	Under 1 year	500	½	
Beef	1 year or older	1,000	1	Or cow w/nursing calf
	Under 1 year	500	½	
Steers	1 year or older	1,000	1	
	Under 1 year	500	½	
Bulls	1 year or older	2,000	2	
	Under 1 year	750	¾	
Sheep/Goats	1 year or older	100	1/10	Ewe w/nursing lamb up to 3 months
	Lambs over 3 months	50	1/20	
Swine	Over 1 year	500	½	Sow w/suckling pigs under 3 months
	3 months to 1 year	250	¼	

Note: Combination of different livestock species are acceptable, so long as total densities are not exceeded for acreage available. These numbers will vary by breed and age. The above weights and units are guidelines. If animals are smaller or larger than the guidelines given, then units must be adjusted to meet the 1,000-pound animal unit definition.

There is no required density.

All species require adequate provisions for drainage. All confined, domesticated animals should have shelter to protect from rain, wind, and to provide shade.

The floor should prevent slipping and allow for the bedding to be routinely dry.

When an exterior lot is accessible, adequate indoor shelter should still be provided. If no exterior lot is provided, the indoor shelter must meet animal requirements.

Livestock should have daily access to water to provide for the animal's physiological demands. This can be evaluated by the animal's hydration status.

A building for housing large animals should be 50 feet from the property line unless there are existing impediments to modify this setback.

Suggested designs for structures are available through Rutgers Cooperative Extension. More design information is available through the Midwest Plan Service (<https://www-mwps.sws.iastate.edu/building-plans>).

C. Poultry (Chickens, Ducks, Turkeys, Geese, and Game Birds Such as Pheasants; Quail, Peafowl, and Guinea Fowl)

The animal unit used for large domestic animals can be adapted for small animals. Chickens are the most prevalent fowl in residential agriculture. An adult chicken weighs approximately eight pounds; therefore, one animal unit is equivalent to 125 chickens (layers, fryers, broilers, etc.) see calculations for other species in Table 2. It is unlikely that any home agriculture operation with poultry will have more than a fraction of an acre.

Larger fowl such as turkeys, ducks, and geese can also be adapted to animal units. Geese and ducks produce wetter manure; this will need to be considered when managing poultry manure.

Management Recommendations for Residential (Home) Flocks

A small flock of fowl may be confined to cages or raised on a conventional litter floor with or without access to an outside yard. Cages must be of sufficient size to allow each bird to stand upright in the cage without having its head protrude through the top of the cage, lie down, get up, walk, spread its wings, move its head freely, turn around, and rest. Bantams may be allotted one-half of the floor space recommended for standard size breeds. Turkeys, ducks, and geese should be provided 5 to 6 square feet of floor space per bird, depending on the size of the bird.

Although poultry may be raised entirely under cover with no access to the outside, some home operators may want to provide an outside lot or poultry yard. The birds' environment must provide relief from the elements, such as excessive wind, excessive temperature, and excessive precipitation, which may result in hyperthermia or hypothermia detrimental to the birds' health. Turkeys, ducks, and geese require a yard size 50 percent larger than that for chickens. More broilers, fryers, etc. can be accommodated with no additional yard or house space, provided sanitary conditions are met. If birds have access to a wired porch, similar square footage should be provided.

Table 2. Poultry Bird Units for Use With Home Animal Agriculture

	Average Weight (pounds)	Maximum Number of Birds	
			Number of birds per animal unit
Chickens (mature)	8		125
Broilers and Fryers	5		200
Ducks	15		67
Turkeys	25		40
Geese	20		50
Pigeons or Squabs	3		333

Note: Combinations of different livestock species are acceptable so long as the total densities are not exceeded for acreage available.

These numbers will vary by breed and age. The above weights and units are guidelines. If animals are smaller or larger than the guidelines given, then units must be adjusted to meet the 1,000-pound animal unit definition.

There is no required density.

The yard should be fenced to protect the birds by preventing dogs and other predators from entering. Birds should have some foraging space; they need grit for their gizzard and like eating weeds. The yard should provide an environment that minimizes the risk of injury to the bird. The yard should be free of debris, weeds, and standing water and suitably screened with shrubbery or other appropriate visual screens for aesthetic purposes. The yard should be 25 feet from neighboring property lines and should be set back from the roadway. Outside fenced lots may require overhead fencing or cover to prevent predator access.

Given the many variables involved such as: 1) location, 2) type of management system to be followed, 3) nature of the surrounding area, 4) types of birds to be raised, etc., some situations should be reviewed with experts in agriculture. The county agricultural agent may be able to assist.

Poultry Manure Management

With a conventional flooring system, desirable housing conditions can be maintained through a **deep litter management program**. Litter, consisting of dry absorbent material such as straw, wood sawdust, shavings, or a pelleted wood or straw can be added to the floor at a depth of 4 to 6 inches. After 3 applications, the housing area should be cleaned.

The absorbent action, which takes place between the litter and the poultry droppings that accumulate daily, should result in dry floor conditions which will minimize flies and/or odors. When properly managed, litter floors need to be cleaned only once a year.

Dropping boards beneath roosting areas and cages, where manure accumulates, must be cleaned every 3 to 5 days.

Poultry manure can be applied to the soil in a vegetable garden. The application rate should not exceed 50 pounds per 1,000 square feet ($\frac{1}{2}$ pound per 10 square feet) once every three months. Manure should be incorporated into the soil and not used on the surface as mulch. It may be composted or stored as outlined under the Animal Waste Management section.

D. Pigeons

Pigeons are typically confined to a “fly loft” (a screened exercise area for pigeons) which includes an interior roosting area where pigeons are sheltered from the weather. The loft may or may not allow pigeons to have contact with the ground. Pigeons, when properly maintained, are compatible with small residential lots. Lots as small as one-fourth acre are acceptable as a minimum for raising pigeons. It is recommended that the “fly loft” be at least 25 feet from the property line.

Pigeon manure should be handled like poultry manure. It can be a valuable organic fertilizer additive for use in gardening. The application rate should not exceed 500 pounds per 1,000 square feet once every three months.

E. Rabbits

Rabbits are generally confined in cages with wire bottom floors. Typically, a rabbit is provided an exercise area made of wire that is exposed to the outside and has a wire bottom through which the manure falls to the ground or in dropping pans. In addition, they are provided with individual boxes to protect them from weather and for security and seclusion. The entire structure, which is referred to as a hutch, is raised off the ground for security, ease in caring for the rabbits, and to provide enough space to clean under the cage. It is recommended that hutches are at least 25 feet from property lines. A recommended cage size is 36" X 30" X 18" high. A cage with two partitions can accommodate three 4-pound rabbits; without partitions, one 12-pound rabbit.

Table 3. Rabbits

	Maximum Number of Rabbits	
	Weight (pounds)	Number of rabbits per animal unit
Rabbit (mature)	10	100

These numbers will vary by breed and age. The above weights and units are guidelines. If animals are smaller or larger than the guidelines given, then units must be adjusted to meet the 1,000-pound animal unit definition.

There is no required density.

Manure must be cleaned every 3 to 5 days and handled in a similar manner as described for poultry. Some rabbit producers have an earthworm pit beneath the cage. Earthworms use this organic matter. This practice is acceptable if properly managed, and can provide a continuous source of fishing worms during the warm season months. Cages should be properly ventilated.

F. Exotic animals

There are several exotic animals that may be living in a residential setting. Llamas and alpacas can be managed like sheep and goats (see Table 1), and emus can be managed like the larger species of poultry (see Table 2). All three can be housed in outside lots, provided there is shelter for protection from the weather.

Llamas are not considered to be exotic animals but are noted here because they are managed like an alpaca. Manure must be cleaned every 3 to 5 days and handled in a manner as described in previous sections.

Table 4. Exotic species

	Weight (pounds)	Number of animals per animal unit
Llama	400	2½
Alpaca	200	5
Emu	50	20
Pot-belly pig (adult)	100–200	5–10

These numbers will vary by breed and age. The above weights and units are guidelines. If animals are smaller or larger than the guidelines given, then units must be adjusted to meet the 1,000-pound animal unit definition.

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G. Assistance

More information and/or assistance with these recommended guidelines are available through [Rutgers Cooperative Extension county offices](https://njaes.rutgers.edu/county) (<https://njaes.rutgers.edu/county>), the [New Jersey Department of Agriculture Division of Agricultural and Natural Resources](https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/anr/) (<https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/anr/>), and the [New Jersey Department of Agriculture Division of Animal Health](https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/ah/) (<https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/ah/>).

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Posted By Equine Science Center at 1:41 pm

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Attachment H. Proposed Amendment to Champaign County Nuisance Ordinance
JANUARY 5, 2026

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE
CHAMPAIGN COUNTY PUBLIC NUISANCE ORDINANCE**

1. Add definition of “URBAN ANIMAL” (same as the Zoning Ordinance definition).
2. Add the following as new Sec. 3.2P.:
 - P. The keeping of any URBAN ANIMAL under any of the following conditions:
 1. An URBAN ANIMAL that is not provided care or housing that provides relief from the elements such as excessive wind, excessive temperatures, and excessive precipitation, and that may result in conditions that are generally detrimental to animal health.
 2. An URBAN ANIMAL that is not provided reasonable care or medical treatment necessary to treat sickness or injury or that is not humanely euthanized.
 3. URBAN ANIMAL housing that is not cleaned at least weekly or that is not otherwise maintained in a clean, dry, and sanitary condition.
 4. An URBAN ANIMAL that is not kept in a fenced area or that is otherwise allowed to run freely off of the property.
 5. An URBAN ANIMAL that is not provided enough clean water daily in all-weather to meet that animal’s physiologic need. If necessary, the adequacy of the provision of water shall be determined as evidenced by the animal’s hydration status.
 6. An URBAN ANIMAL that is not provided daily access to sufficient and nutritious feed to allow for growth and maintenance of an adequate body condition.
 7. URBAN ANIMAL grain or pellet feed that is not stored in a rodent-proof container.
 8. Odors that are noticeable at the property line to a person of average sensibility that are caused by the keeping of an URBAN ANIMAL including from composting animal waste or bedding or from stored manure or from unclean housing.
 9. URBAN ANIMAL waste composting or manure storage within 50 feet of a perennial stream or in the Special Flood Hazard Area. Elevating above the Base Flood Elevation shall not be used to locate waste composting or manure storage in the Special Flood Hazard Area.

Attachment H. Proposed Amendment to Champaign County Nuisance Ordinance
JANUARY 5, 2026

10. Disposal of a dead URBAN ANIMAL in a manner inconsistent with Federal, State, and local laws.