



CITY OF ATASCADERO

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

FARM ANIMAL REGULATIONS

Keeping of farm animals is allowed subject to Atascadero Municipal Code Sections 9-6.112 Farm animal raising, 9-6.109 Agricultural accessory buildings and the individual zoning district.

Minimum Lot Size & Zoning

- Farm animals allowed in RS & RSF zones; no farm animals are permitted in RMF or LSF zones
- Large animals (horses, donkeys, cows, pigs): one (1) acre minimum
- Small animals (goats & turkeys): one-half (1/2) acre minimum
- Chickens & other birds: no minimum lot size

Number of Animals

- The maximum allowable animal density for a site is established by “animal equivalency units”
- RS zone is allowed 3 units per acre, RSF zone is allowed 2 units per acre
 - Large animals (horses, donkeys, cows, pigs): Each animal equals one animal equivalency unit
 - Small animals (goats & turkeys): Two (2) animals equal one animal equivalency unit
 - Chickens & rabbits: 20 animals equal one animal equivalency unit
 - For the first two (2) acres, no more than one large animal shall be allowed for each full half acre
- Example: 2.8 acre parcel in the RS Zone would allow for 8.4 animal equivalency units, which is rounded to 8 units. This equals 4 horses, 6 goats, and 20 chickens, or other equivalent combination
- Additional animals may be permitted for youth projects or with a business license for small scale breeding

Setbacks

- Ag. buildings used to house farm animals (barns, stables, coops) shall have minimum front setback of 50 feet, plus minimum side and rear setbacks of 25 feet, measured from the property line
- Uncovered animal enclosures (corrals, pens, feed areas, uncovered stables) shall have minimum setbacks, measured from the nearest building used for residential purposes on adjacent property:
 - 100 foot minimum setback: pigs
 - 50 foot minimum setback: horses, donkeys, goats & turkeys
 - 25 foot minimum setback: chickens & rabbits
- The occasional grazing of domestic animals in the setbacks is allowed provided that the pasture area is adequately fenced or the grazing animal is securely restrained
- All poultry, turkeys and rabbits shall be contained in coops or pens and not be allowed to run free on site

Maintenance

- Premises shall be maintained in a neat and sanitary manner. All animal enclosures, buildings and pasture areas shall be maintained free from litter, garbage and the accumulation of manure.