

#### 40-699. Livestock and Farm Animals.

The following requirements shall apply to the care and keeping of all livestock and farm animals on individual parcels within the Township.

- (1) On those parcels which meet the description of "Category 1" or "Category 2" sites under GAAMPs, livestock and/or farm animals may be kept as regulated, herein.
- (2) On those parcels which meet the description of "Category 3" sites under GAAMPs, livestock and/or farm animals, not to exceed 50 in number, may be kept provided:
  - a. The parcel upon which farm animals or livestock are proposed to be kept is not located within 1/8th of a mile of a subdivision or platted lots with more than 13 homes or residences;
  - b. There is not a non-farm residence within 250 feet of the parcel.
- (3) On those parcels which meet the description of "Category 4" sites under GAAMPs, there is no statutory right to farm or to keep or maintain farm animals or livestock. Local zoning ordinances apply.
- (4) On all parcels where Livestock and/or farm animals are permitted to kept, hereunder, they shall be kept only in strict compliance with the requirements set forth, herein.
  - a. Livestock. Livestock shall only be kept and maintained in the Township in compliance with the following requirements:
    1. Minimum acreage. No livestock shall be kept or maintained in any zoning district on a lot or parcel less than five (5) acres. Livestock may only be kept, added or substituted, as listed on the chart below.
    2. Restrictions. The parcel must also have at least 100 feet of public road frontage, have a continuous width of at least 100 feet and at least 100 feet for each additional dimension of the parcel, and comply with the following regulations:
      - i. Facilities providing shelter to livestock located on the site shall be located at least 250 from any adjacent residence and the parcel owner must apply for and receive a zoning permit prior to their erection;
      - ii. All fencing for livestock and fencing and structures for farm animals shall be at least a minimum of 100 feet from all adjacent residences, excluding residences on the parcel at issue, and shall be maintained clean and free from refuse, debris and manure;
      - iii. Breeding. Any resulting offspring must be removed from the property within 90 days of birth.

- b. Farm Animals. Farm animals shall be allowed on parcels of five (5) acres or more in compliance with the above restrictions and in addition to livestock as listed in the chart below.

<b>Number of animals allowed and their equivalent substitute as noted per quantity of acres</b>		
<b>LIVESTOCK</b> – Only 1 group of the bulleted animals or combination equal to 1 group are permitted per the acreage listed	Min five (5) acres	Per add 1 acre
a. Bovine &/or Cattle	1	1
b. Equine&/or Horse, alpaca, donkeys	2	1
c. Swine &/or Pig, hog	2	2
d. Ostrich, Emu, llama, etc.*	2	1
e. Ovine - Sheep, goats, etc.*	6	2
<b>FARM ANIMALS</b> In addition to livestock, chickens, rabbits, poultry, or furred animals, etc.*	100	40
*As determined appropriate by the Zoning Administrator in compliance and recognition of other State and/or National Standards adopted by resolution of the Township Board.		

- c. Sketch Plan. Anyone desiring to have livestock or farm animals on parcels of less than 5 acres (with the exception of the “Residential Restrictions” listed below) must submit a “Sketch Plan” and application to the Planning Commission a minimum of 28 days prior to the meeting for review and approval at regular meeting, to be held no sooner than 15 days after notice has been provided by the Township and at the applicant’s expense to the owners and occupants of all parcels of land within 300 feet of the applicant’s parcel. Application fees shall be determined by Resolution of the Township Board, from time to time.

(5) Residential Restrictions. Farm animals (excluding livestock) may be kept and maintained in the Township on residential lots, under 5 acres, in compliance with the following requirements:

- a. Farm animals/pets, for personal or for “4-H” activities, such as chickens, rabbits, or other small animals, in any total combination up to 4, excluding roosters, may be kept, provided they are caged and/or fenced and are located to the rear and/or side of the occupant’s residence and at least 5’ from adjoining property lines, unless they are deemed to be creating a nuisance, and are ordered removed. (Requirements of the “Animal Control Ordinance” will regulate dogs and cats)
- b. Any resulting offspring must be removed from the property within 90 days of birth.

- (6) The following shall apply to the keeping of any and all animals: All animals must be kept in a safe and humane manner with provision for the proper feed, water, space and including shelters for the protection from the elements and subject to all local, state and federal requirements.
- (7) All structures and fencing for the keeping of animals must be approved by the Zoning Administrator and/or Building Official and must be constructed and maintained in compliance with Township Ordinances and all necessary permits must be secured before construction commences.
- a. Kennels and/or commercial stables are prohibited in any residential district.
  - b. Detached accessory structures for livestock or farm animals may not be erected on any vacant residential parcels without a variance from the Zoning Board of Appeals.
- (8) Animal Waste and Manure, means livestock excreta, bedding material, milk house waste, soil, compost, hair, feathers, egg shells, or other debris normally included in manure handling. Any zoning request to permit animals on any GAAMP category or specially approved site by the Planning Commission must include an animal waste removal plan for approval. The animal waste removal plan must include storage area, removal procedures and schedule for waste removal from the site, odor control and locations of any and all floodplains, wetlands, creeks, ponds, waterways and wells, active and non-active. Any verified complaints pertaining to any of the above conditions could result in the revocation of the approval.
- (9) Animals generally considered “exotic” or “dangerous,” in any manner, as determined by the Ordinances of Port Huron Township and the Zoning Administrator and/or which require specific state and/or federal registrations and/or regulations must be approved prior to harboring in the Township. Note: Bees are not considered livestock or farm animals and will not be regulated unless determined to be a nuisance or blight.