



# ANIMAL KEEPING

## WHAT IS ANIMAL KEEPING?

There are different forms of animal keeping. There are commercial and sport animal keeping activities as well as the desire of citizens to keep pets. The guidelines in this handout will assist you in using your personal discretion in animal keeping. These regulations also emphasize the significant responsibility of animal owners and keepers to protect the rights and lifestyles of their neighbors. Animal owners and keepers are expected to follow these guidelines as a reflection of their responsibility.

## HOUSEHOLD PETS:

### TYPES

Three dogs or fewer per dwelling unit, three cats or fewer per dwelling unit, three rabbits or fewer per dwelling unit, two miniature potbellied pigs per dwelling unit, in combination, no more than three of the following animals - dogs, cats, miniature potbellied pigs, or rabbits per dwelling unit, gerbils, guinea pigs, hamsters, mice, cage birds, tank fish, non-venomous reptiles and amphibians, other animals normally associated with a dwelling unit, and that are generally housed within the dwelling unit.

### REQUIREMENTS

- No application required.
- Maximum number of adult animals per one dwelling unit - Dogs (3), Cats (3), Rabbits (3), Miniature potbellied pigs (2), In combination, a total number of dogs, cats, miniature potbellied pigs, or rabbits (3), Other (no maximum).

- Minimum lot size: As required by general zoning regulations.
- Special regulations and requirements: Household pets, excluding dogs, cats, rabbits, and miniature potbellied pigs shall be housed within the dwelling unit. If housed outside of the dwelling units, household pets excluding dogs, cats, rabbits, and miniature potbellied pigs are regulated as small domestic animals.

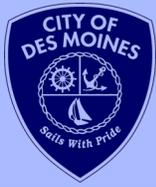
## SMALL DOMESTIC ANIMALS:

### TYPES

More than three dogs per dwelling unit, more than three cats per dwelling unit, more than three rabbits per dwelling unit, more than two miniature potbellied pigs per dwelling unit, in combination, more than three of the following animals - dogs, cats, miniature potbellied pigs, or rabbits per dwelling unit, fowl.

### REQUIREMENTS

- Application and City Manager review required.
- Maximum number of adult animals per one dwelling unit: 10 per 22,000 square feet, plus an additional five adult animals for each 11,000 square feet of lot size.
- Minimum lot size: 22,000 square feet per dwelling unit.
- Minimum setback: Any structure or enclosure used to house animals must be at least 35 feet from a property line and at least 45 feet from any dwelling unit located on an adjacent lot. Any "run" or animal exercise area must be at least 20 feet from any property line, and at least 30 feet from any dwelling unit located on an adjacent lot, and shall be constructed to affect these setbacks.



Disclaimer: This PAM should not be used as a substitute for codes and regulations. The applicant is responsible for compliance with all code and rule requirements, whether or not described in this PAM. Please see the City of Des Moines Municipal Code for complete text and requirements:

[www.codepublishing.com/wa/desmoines/](http://www.codepublishing.com/wa/desmoines/)

## **LARGE DOMESTIC ANIMALS:**

### **TYPES**

Horses, cattle, sheep, pigs, goats, other grazing or foraging animals.

### **REQUIREMENTS**

- Application and City Manager review required.
- Maximum number of adult animals per one dwelling unit: One per 35,000 square feet and one per each additional 17,500 square feet.
- Minimum lot size: 35,000 square feet per dwelling unit.
- Minimum setback: Any structure or enclosure used to house animals must be at least 35 feet from a property line and at least 45 feet from any dwelling unit located on an adjacent lot. Roaming or grazing areas must be at least 20 feet from any property line, and at least 30 feet from any dwelling unit located on an adjacent lot, and shall be constructed to affect these setbacks.

## **BEEES:**

### **REQUIREMENTS**

- Application and City Manager review required.
- Maximum number of adult animals per one dwelling unit: No maximum.
- Minimum lot size: 12,500 square feet per dwelling unit.
- Minimum setback: Hive must be at least 20 feet from a property line.
- Special regulations and requirements:

- ◇ A hive must be enclosed by a fence, at least four feet high.
- ◇ The applicant must install at least two signs, measuring two square feet each, which provide notice and warning of the hive.

## **SCREENING:**

The city may require screening to mitigate financial, health, and aesthetic impacts on adjacent residential property when such residential property is used for residential purposes. The screening shall consist of a solid wall, a view-obscuring fence or hedge not less than five feet nor more than six feet in height, which will be erected and maintained on any exterior boundary that is common with property used for residential purposes, or shall consist of predominantly view-obscuring evergreen shrubs and trees of a type, number, location, height, and size approved by the city.

## **PUBLIC NOTICING AND COMMENTING:**

In order to give all interested parties an opportunity to avail themselves of the appellate procedure contained in DMMC 18.20.170, the following procedure shall be followed in applications for small domestic animals, large domestic animals, and bee review. The applicant shall give notice of the pending application to all property owners within 300 feet of the applicant's property in the same manner as that required for a zoning amendment.

## **WILD OR EXOTIC ANIMALS:**

DMMC 8.04.310 states that no person shall have, keep, or maintain, in an area of the city, a live monkey (nonhuman primate), lion, tiger, bear, cougar, mountain lion, badger, wolf, coyote, fox, lynx, or a poisonous reptile or serpent, or any other dangerous, carnivorous, wild, or exotic animal or reptile.