

# Animal Keeping Code Revisions

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# Discussion

1. Background on Animal Keeping Code
2. Community input
3. Existing Animal Keeping Code – what’s working, what isn’t
4. Recommended revisions
5. Discussion

# Background

## Animal Keeping Code – Updated in February 2016

1. Clarified rules for animal keeping
  - Established requirements for shelters and limits on the number of animals.
2. Reduced barriers
  - Shortened distance requirements
  - Allowed bees and goats on smallest lot sizes
3. Instituted animal welfare guidelines
  - Created spacing requirement per animal
4. Shifted focus to food security





# Community Input

## Community Forum Survey

- 233 Respondents
  - 58% were satisfied with existing code
  - Of 153 comments, distance requirements and “restrictiveness” of the code were mentioned only 5 times
  - 65% of those who had a desire to keep chickens would be willing to complete a permit application
  - 64% of neighbors aware of animal keeping did not experience nuisances
  - Noise and odor were the most common nuisances in other 46%





# What's Working with Existing Code

## Community and City staff input

- Clear rules on how to keep animals
  - Number, type, shelters, spacing, and setback requirements
- If setback requirements are met, easy to keep livestock
- Minimal complaints for beekeeping
- Allows for increased food security relative to old code



# Challenges with Existing Code

## Enforcement

- Incomplete record of animal keeping within city-limits
- Animals are not properly contained
- Vagueness of descriptions of nuisances in existing Code

## Nuisances

- No maximum number of total animals across categories
- Animals allowed to roam up to the property line
- Goats have a large impact
- Attraction of predators, rodents, and other pests



## Allowing animal keeping in urban areas

### Benefits

- Increases local food production, food security
- Inexpensive source of eggs, meat, and dairy
- Reduces carbon footprint of food

### Challenges

- Difficult to eliminate nuisances (smell, noise)
- Can negatively affect quality of life and property values of neighbors



# Proposed Code Revisions

1. A free permitting process
2. Containment of livestock in animal runs
3. Adjust setback requirements
4. Limit on total number of animals across different categories
5. Revocation of animal keeping permit for complaints, animal welfare concerns and incompliance with Code



# Proposed Code Revisions

## Permitting

Implement a mandatory free permitting system that requires:

- Demonstrating knowledge of basics in animal husbandry
- Basic site plan – modeled after fence permit
- Site inspection
- Acknowledgement of code requirements
- Subject to quarterly inspections following approval
- Notification of neighbors



# Proposed Code Revisions

## Require containment in animal runs

- Animals must be kept within animal shelters and runs at all times
- Runs must be built to ensure containment and protection from predators





# Proposed Code Revisions

## Alter setback requirements

- Reduce required distance from the property line:
  - Shelters must be at least five feet from any property line
  - Animal runs must be at least two and a half feet from any property line
- Add a setback requirement from neighboring dwelling units:
  - Animal shelters and runs must be at least 20 feet from nearest neighboring dwelling unit
- Adjustments allow residents greater flexibility in locating shelters



# Proposed Code Revisions

## Limit total number of animals across categories

- Set a limit of 5 total animals on smallest lot size
  - Current Code allows for 5 chickens/ducks/rabbits, as well as 2 goats on smallest lot size (less than 20,000 square feet)
- No more than 2 goats OR no goats at all
- Animals under 4 months old are not subject to maximum number



# Code Revisions



## Limit total number of animals across categories

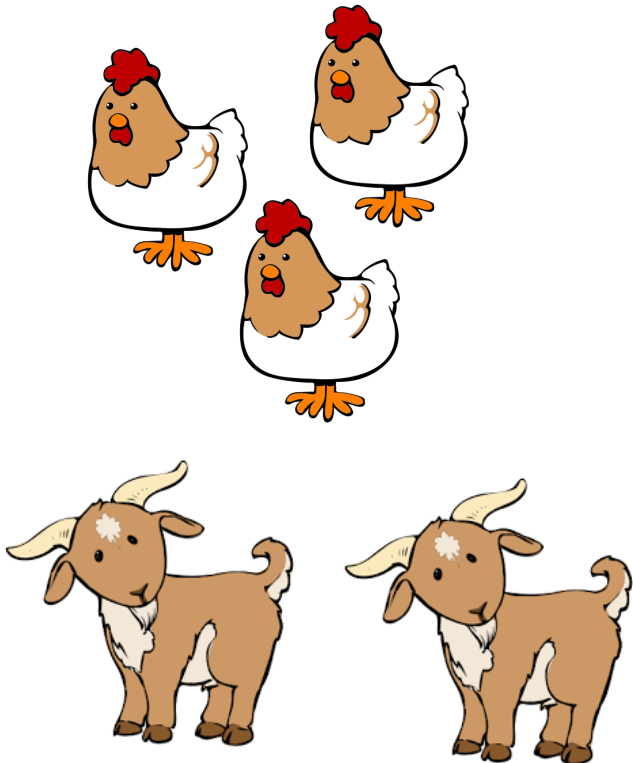
Type of Animal	Zones in which Specific Animals are Permitted	Maximum Number of Animals Permitted per Lot Size						
		≤19,999 sq ft	20,000 – 29,999 sq ft	30,000 – 39,999 sq ft	40,000 – 79,999 sq ft	80,000 – 119,999 sq ft	120,000 – 159,999 sq ft	≥160,000 sq ft
<b>Large Livestock</b>								
Equine, Cattle, Swine, Llamas, Alpacas, Goats, Sheep	ER and RR	0	0	0	4	5	6	7
<b>Small Livestock</b>								
Goats (miniature, pygmy, dwarf)	All zones*	2	2	2	4	4	4	4
Maximum number of small livestock (Goats plus Ducks, Rabbits, Chickens)	All zones*	5	10	15	24	29	29	29
<b>Bees</b>								
Bee Colonies	All zones*	2	4	6	8	8	8	8

\*Only lot sizes under 40,000 sq ft will see a change

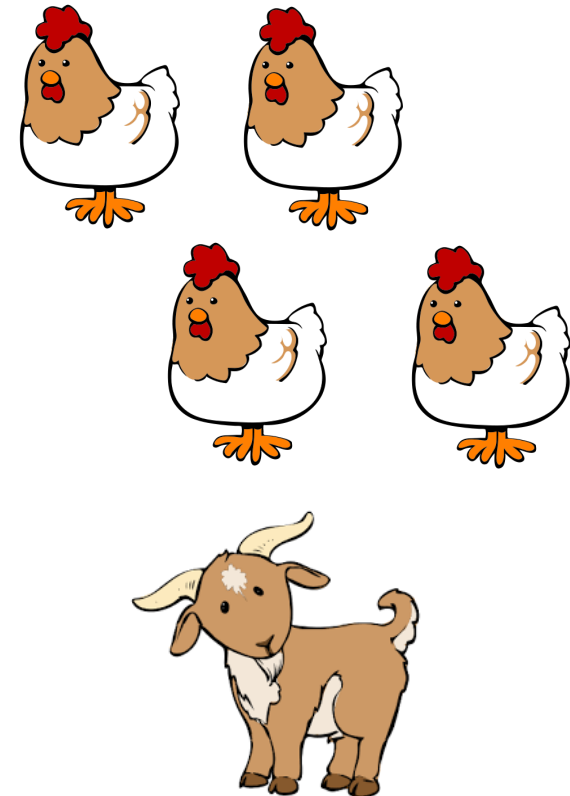
# Proposed Code Revisions

## Limit total number of animals across categories

- Example:
  - On a lot size of 15,000 square feet – Max of 5 total animals and no more than 2 goats



**OR**





# Proposed Code Revisions

## **Animal keeping permits will be revoked in case of:**

- Failure to comply with the specifications of the Code
- Concerns of animal welfare
- Regular nuisance complaints verified by Code Compliance staff



# Goat Discussion

## Seeking guidance on how to address goats

Due to the nuisance they can pose, staff recommend either:

1. Requiring neighbor approval if keeping goats

OR

2. Prohibit goats in zones other than Estate Residential or Rural Residential

If changes adopted, how does the City handle existing goats?

1. Existing goats would be grandfathered in, but no new goats can be added

OR

2. Owners would have 6 to 12 months to relocate goats

# Questions and Council Direction





# Research



## Staff looked to the following Cities in recommending amendments

- Minneapolis, Minnesota
- Portland, Oregon
- Cleveland, Ohio
- Fort Collins, Colorado
- Boise, Idaho
- Boulder County, Colorado
- Tucson, Arizona