



# Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning

*Planning for the Challenges Ahead*



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TO: Staff

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## **SUBDIVISION AND ZONING ORDINANCE INTERPRETATION NO. 2021-02 CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING ANIMAL PERMIT REQUIREMENT**

### **PURPOSE**

This memorandum provides guidance on when an Animal Permit should be required for the noncommercial or personal keeping of animals (accessory to a permitted residential use) when they are not listed in Title 22 (Planning and Zoning) of the Los Angeles County Code (County Code).

### **BACKGROUND**

Clarification is needed on when to require an Animal Permit for the keeping of animals that are not listed in Title 22. Title 22 allows the keeping of both domestic and wild animals for noncommercial or personal use as accessory to a permitted residential use on a property pursuant to Section 22.140.070 of the County Code. Animals that are not listed in Section 22.140.070.C require an Animal Permit pursuant to Chapter 22.152. This leaves numerous types of animals, such as cats and rabbits, regardless of their numbers, subject to an Animal Permit (Type II Review).

In addition, clarification is needed on requiring an Animal Permit for animal license referrals from the County Department of Animal Care and Control (DACC), which also regulates the keeping of animals through Title 10 of the County Code (Animal Code). DACC issues and renews animal licenses and conducts periodic inspections. DACC requires the County Department of Regional Planning (DRP) to sign off on any Animal Facility License applications required by Title 10. However, because the type and/or the number of animals in Title 10 is not consistent with the type and/or number of animals listed in Title 22, it is not clear if an Animal Permit is also appropriate.

## **APPLICABILITY**

This memorandum applies to the noncommercial or personal keeping of animals (accessory to a permitted residential use) that are **not listed** in Section 22.140.070.C of the County Code, and therefore may require an Animal Permit. It does not apply to the following:

- Commercial keeping of animals (Reference: Section 22.140.060).
- The keeping of animals in numbers greater than allowed, on lots having less than the required area, or that are considered wild animals (Reference: Section 22.140.070).
- Animal raising in certain zones (Reference: Section 22.140.080).
- Chickens (Reference: Interpretation Memo issued on September 8, 1993).
- Maintaining or keeping a rescue facility where the purpose is to rescue/rehabilitate any animal.

## **INTERPRETATION**

The keeping of animals not listed in Section 22.140.070.C may be subject to an approved Animal Permit; if it is considered expansive and/or an intense accessory use to a residential property based on available evidence.

Generally, the keeping of animals should be permitted **without** an Animal Permit if maintained for personal use and not operated as a rescue facility and if all of the following applies:

- The animals are domesticated and maintained for personal or noncommercial purposes.
- The keeping and/or the number of the animals does not necessitate detached structures or modification/expansion of existing structures, for example, due to their number.
- There are no complaints received by DRP or DACC that are related to keeping of animals and remain unresolved at the time of determination.
- The keeping of animals does **not** require an Animal Facility License by DACC.
  - The animals listed below are exempt from an Animal Facility License per Title 10 (Section 10.28.060):
    - Birds, except roosters.
    - Domestic rodents.
    - Fish.
    - Non-venomous reptiles less than six feet in length.
    - Rabbits.

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- The keeping of animals requires an Animal Facility License by DACC, but for animals specifically permitted pursuant to Section 22.140.070.C, such as certain type and number of wild animals or one pigmy pigs.

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