



## **Part II**

### **Section 23**

#### **Non-Commercial Household Pets, Domestic Hoofed Livestock, Poultry, Fowl and Livestock**

PART II, SECTION 23: NONCOMMERCIAL HOUSEHOLD PETS, DOMESTIC  
 HOOFED LIVESTOCK, POULTRY, FOWL AND  
 LIVESTOCK

A. INTENT

The intent of this section is to provide guidelines and regulations for the keeping of animals/livestock on private property. These regulations are also for the maintenance of a healthy environment for humans and animals and for the protection of the ground and vegetation of the property.

B. HOUSEHOLD PETS

Household pets inclusive of, but not limited to, dogs and cats shall be permitted in all zones allowing for residential use provided that not more than four (4) animals of more than four (4) months of age are kept by the property owner/occupant of any residential unit. (Kennels, boarding facilities and commercial activities are not allowed.)

This provision does not apply to tropical fish, small rodent animals (gerbils, hamsters) and small birds kept as pets, unless raised for commercial purposes, kept outdoors or kept in an accessory structure.

C. DOMESTIC HOOFED LIVESTOCK (NONCOMMERCIAL)

1. Noncommercial, domestic hooved livestock shall include, but not be limited to, horses, cattle, mules, sheep and goats. The following restrictions shall apply to such animals allowed in the R-1, R-2, RA-1, RA-2, AR and A-2 zones. **For PUD zoning refer to applicable Development Guide**

- a. R-1 zone: This zone shall allow two (2) equine. No other large animals, such as cattle, sheep and goats will be allowed.
- b. R-2 zone: This zone allows no large animals, such as horses, cattle, sheep and goats.
- c. RA-2, R-1, R-2 zones will not allow swine on parcels 4.999 acres or less.
- d. 4H or 4H-like groups and/or 4H-like projects are allowed in RA-2, RA-1, AR and A-2.

2. A-2, AR, RA-1 and RA-2 zones and non-conforming parcels of less than thirty-five (35) acres: The maximum density is one (1) animal unit per one-half (1/2) acre.

|                               |   |        |
|-------------------------------|---|--------|
| One (1) horse, mule or bovine | = | 1 unit |
| Five (5) sheep or goats       | = | 1 unit |
| One (1) swine                 | = | 1 unit |
| One (1) llama                 | = | 1 unit |
| Two and ½ alpacas             | = | 1 unit |
| Two (2) ostriches             | = | 1 unit |
| Four (4) miniature horses     | = | 1 unit |



3. Young animals under six (6) months of age may be kept until weaned without counting toward the allowable unit limit.
4. When the number of animals on a parcel of land equals one (1) animal unit, a shelter shall be required
5. Although the entire lot may be fenced, a containment area (corral) must be provided where the animals will normally be penned and supplementary fed if the animal unit exceeds one (1) per thirty-five (35) acres. A grazing plan on the balance of the parcel may be acquired from the Soil Conservation District, the County Extension Office or the Elbert County Community and Development Services.
  - a. The containment area (corral) should be adequate in size for the number of animals involved and shall not exceed ten percent (10%) of the gross lot acreage or one-half (1/2) acre, whichever is less.
  - b. The containment area (corral) shall not be constructed closer to any property line than the zone accessory use setback allows.
6. Existing exceptions as applicable to building, fencing, containment area size and setbacks will be subject to the regulations outlined in the Nonconforming Uses and Buildings, Part I, Section 5 of these Regulations.
7. Regular removal or spreading of manure is required so that it does not become unsightly to neighbors or passersby.
8. The possession of animals will not be allowed to create excessive odor and noise problems or present health hazards to surrounding properties.
9. Adequate drainage facilities or improvements shall be provided by the property owner and constructed so as to protect any adjacent properties from runoff containing contaminants such as sediment or organic wastes.

D. POULTRY, FOWL AND SMALL LIVESTOCK (NONCOMMERCIAL)

Domestic, noncommercial use of poultry or fowl shall include, but not be limited to: chickens, turkeys, pigeons, small birds and ducks. Small livestock shall include, but not be limited to: rabbits, chinchillas or similar animals.

1. On parcels containing more than 34.999 acres, there shall not be a limit on the number of poultry, fowl or small livestock allowed except when the keeping of such is not for domestic, consumptive, hobby or pet uses by the residents of the parcel of land.

A containment area for the below listed zoning for the poultry or fowl shall be required and not be closer than fifty (50) feet to any property line. Small livestock for the below listed zoning must be properly housed (i.e., rabbit hutches) and not be located closer to any property line than the zone accessory use setback allows.

- a. A-2 & AR: A maximum number of thirty (30) poultry and/or fowl and fifty (50)



- rabbits or other small livestock shall be allowed.
- b. RA-1, RA-2 and R1: A maximum number of fifteen (15) poultry and/or fowl and twenty-five (25) rabbits or other small livestock shall be allowed.
  - c. R2: A maximum number of three (3) poultry and/or fowl and six (6) rabbits or other small livestock shall be allowed.
  - d. **For PUD zoning refer to applicable Development Guide**