

- A. Purpose: The purpose of this section is to promote the public health, safety, comfort, and general welfare of the community through proper control of animals by their owners and others. See Section 16-202 for animal class definitions.
- B. Class I animals may be maintained in any zoning classification district, subject to specific restrictions herein.
- C. Where farm animals are maintained coincident with a farm or farm operation, then and in such event, such farm animals and/or any associated livestock production facility shall be exempt from the regulations therein where a livestock production facility and/or any associated manure storage facilities are regulated, operated, managed, and conducted in accordance with a GAAMP as adopted and published by the State Department of Agriculture, or its successor, and as amended from time to time. Where a farm or farm operation proposes new and/or expanding livestock production facilities at a capacity of fewer than 50 animal units, such farm or farm operation and/or livestock production facility shall request and received siting verification from the State Department of Agriculture.
- D. Where class II and class III animals are not maintained coincident with a farm or farm operation, then the following regulations shall apply:
 - 1. Class II animals may be maintained in the VLRD, LRD, LMRD, MRD, and RC Districts, subject to the following conditions:
 - a. The minimum lot area required to maintain class II animals (large) is two acres. One class II animal shall be permitted for the first two acres. Thereafter, one additional class II animal shall be permitted for each full one acre in excess of two acres.
 - b. The minimum lot area required to maintain class II animals (small) is two acres. Four (4) goats and/or sheep shall be permitted for the first two acres. Thereafter, two (2) goats and/or sheep shall be permitted for each full one acre in excess of two acres.
 - c. There shall be adequate fencing, or other restraining device, for the purpose of maintaining animals within the restricted areas provided for in this chapter.
 - d. Structures housing class II animals shall be located no nearer than 200 feet to any dwelling which exists on an adjacent lot and no nearer than 100 feet to any adjacent lot line. Fenced areas shall be located no nearer than 50 feet from any dwelling which exists on an adjacent lot.

- e. The refuse and wastes resulting from the maintenance of animals shall be controlled upon the premises, and shall be cared for or disposed of within a reasonable time so as to minimize hazards of health and offensive effects upon neighboring people and uses.
 - f. All feed and other substances and materials on the premises for the maintenance of animals shall be stored so as to not attract rats, mice, or other vermin.
- 2. Class III animals may be maintained in the VLRD, LRD, LMRD, MRD, and RC Districts, subject to the following conditions:
 - a. The minimum lot area required to maintain class III animals shall be 1.75 acres. Ten class III animals shall be permitted for the first 1.75 acres. Thereafter, one additional class III animal shall be permitted for each full one-quarter acre in excess of 1.75 acres.
 - b. There shall be adequate fencing, or other restraining device, for the purpose of maintaining animals within the restricted areas provided for in this chapter. Fenced areas shall be located no nearer than 50 feet from any dwelling which exist on an adjacent lot.
 - c. Structures housing class III animals shall be located no nearer than 100 feet to any dwelling which exists on an adjacent lot and no nearer than 50 feet to any adjacent lot line.
 - d. The refuse and wastes resulting from the maintenance of animals shall be controlled upon the premises, and shall be cared for or disposed of within a reasonable time so as to minimize hazards of health and offensive effects upon neighboring people and uses.
 - e. All feed and other substances and materials on the premises for the maintenance of animals shall be stored so as to not attract rats, mice or other vermin.
- E. Wild animals shall not be permitted to be maintained in the township, temporarily or permanently. For purposes of this section, the term "wild animal" shall mean an animal not otherwise defined as a class I, II, or III animal, and which is not customarily domesticated and customarily devoted to the service of mankind in the township. The term "wild animal" also means any animal which a person is

prohibited from possessing by law. The characterization of an animal as being wild shall not be altered by virtue of the fact that one or several generations of the animal in question have been maintained in captivity.

- F. Nuisance: The keeping of animals shall not be permitted to constitute a nuisance to persons living in the surrounding area. Upon receipt of a written complaint filed by an abutting property owner with the Township stating animals allowed under the provisions listed above constitute a nuisance, the Township Zoning Administrator shall determine whether the animals constitute a nuisance. If the nuisance claim is found to be for a farm operation protected under the Right to Farm Act, the Zoning Administrator shall file the complaint with the State Department of Agriculture to determine if such nuisance is present and appropriate action taken.