



RESIDENTIAL ANIMAL KEEPING & BARN INFORMATION

The purpose of Development Code Chapter 17.88 *Animal Regulations* is to establish reasonable limits related to animal keeping which is considered accessory to residential use and is limited according to the provisions within this chapter. Further, this chapter ensures that the keeping, raising, and maintenance of domestic pets, livestock animals, and bees within the city does not create an adverse impact on adjacent properties by reason of dust, fumes, noise, odor, insect or vermin infestations, or visual blight, and to maintain animal welfare and public health, safety, and well-being. This chapter makes a distinction between household pets, exotic animals and typical livestock and larger animals. ([Chapter 17.88](#))

Number of Animals Permitted by Zone

- The overall maximum number of animals that can be kept on a property can be a combination of the permitted different animal groups provided that:
 - The property complies with the minimum lot size requirement for each individual type of animal; and
 - The number of each individual type of animal does not exceed the maximum number of each type of animal(s) permitted on the property.
- Young animals born to a permitted animal may be kept on the lot until such animals are weaned.
 - Young animals are not subject to the maximum number of animals allowed in the table.

Table 17.88.020-1 NUMBER OF ANIMALS PERMITTED BY ZONE					
Type of Animal	Zones in Which Animals are Permitted	Maximum Number of Animals Permitted by Lot Size (sq. ft.)			
		<7,200	7,200 – 9,999	≥10,000 – 19,999	≥20,000
Domestic Pets					
Cats	All zones	3	3	4	4
Dogs	All zones	3	3	4	4
Pigeons, doves, parrots, and other small birds ⁽¹⁾	All zones	5	10	20	25
Exotic Animals ⁽²⁾					
Exotic animals	All residential and form-based zones	Number and type permitted determined by Minor Use Permit process			
Livestock and Poultry					
Large Livestock (1 animal per 10,000 sq. ft. of lot area)					
Bovine	VL and L zones	-	-	-	3
Horses	VL and L zones	-	-	-	6
Medium Livestock (1 animal per 5,000 sq. ft. of lot area)					
Llamas, alpacas, donkeys, ponies, or similar-sized animals	VL and L zones	-	-	-	4
Sheep, goats, swine, or similar-sized animals	VL, L, and ME1 zones ⁽³⁾	-	-	-	6
Small Livestock (1 animal per 5,000 sq. ft. of lot area)					
Dwarf and pygmy goats, miniature pigs or similar-sized animals	VL and L zones	-	-	4	6
Poultry (non-crowing), rabbits	All residential and form-based zones	-	4	5	25
Poultry (crowing)	VL zone only ⁽³⁾	-	-	-	2
	ME1 zone only ⁽⁴⁾	-	-	-	6
Bees					
Bee colonies	VL zone only	-	-	-	2
Table Notes:					
(1)	Total number of pigeons, doves, parrots, and other small birds per lot.				
(2)	Exotic animals require a minor use permit in all residential and mixed-use zones. Additional findings in section 17.88.040 shall be met.				
(3)	For crowing poultry in the VL zones, a minimum of one acre is required. The maximum number of animals allowed is two, subject to compliance with section 17.66.050 (Noise standards).				
(4)	For crowing poultry and livestock in the ME1 zone, a minimum of ten acres is required. The maximum number of animals allowed is six, subject to compliance with section 17.66.050 (Noise standards).				



Standards for Animal Shelter Locations

Refer to [Chapter 17.88](#) for all applicable standards. General information is provided below.

Large livestock shelter location:

- No less than 50 feet from any primary or main dwelling unit
- No less than ten (10) feet from any property line
- Horse corrals and stables shall be no less than 50 feet from all neighboring dwellings.

Medium livestock shelter location:

- No less than 50 feet from any primary or main dwelling unit
- No less than ten (10) feet from any property line.

Small livestock shelter location:

- No less than 20 feet from the nearest primary or main dwelling
- No less than ten (10) feet from property lines abutting another residential lot
- May extend up to any property line abutting a public alley.

Beehive location:

- Shall only be in rear yards and shall be placed a minimum of 50 feet from any property line, street, road, highway, public school, park, and any dwelling units other than the owner or caretaker's dwelling.

Barns

- Barns are considered accessory structures; therefore, lot coverage, height, and design standards are governed by [Chapter 17.42 Accessory Structures](#). If a barn structure is not used as an animal shelter, then setbacks also apply per Chapter 17.42.
- Accessory structures for equestrian or agricultural uses such as barns for keeping of horses or storing of agricultural equipment may include other roof materials (e.g., metal) as approved by the planning director. ([Chapter 17.120.030](#))

Building Permits

A building permit is required to construct or install an accessory structure over 120 square feet in area. Building permits are still required for electrical, mechanical, and plumbing work within accessory structures that are 120 square feet or less. Contact the Building & Safety Department for more information by calling 909-477-2710 or texting 909-488-4668 or email EDRnotification@cityofrc.us or visit their website at <https://www.cityofrc.us/community-development/building-safety>.

Contact Us – Planning Department

Phone: 909-774-4330

Email: Planning@cityofrc.us

Website: <https://www.cityofrc.us/community-development/planning>