

REGULATION OF ANIMALS  
ORDINANCE No. 12092001

The Township of Laketon ordains:

**Section 1. Definitions**

- a. "Dangerous animal" means and includes:
  - (1) Any animal, amphibian, reptile or fowl which is of a species which, due to size; vicious nature or other characteristics, would constitute a danger to human life, physical well-being or other property including but not limited to, lions, tigers, leopards, panthers, bears, wolves, apes, gorillas, monkeys, fox, elephants, alligators, crocodiles, and venomous or constricting snakes.
  - (2) Any dog or cat having a disposition or propensity to attack or bite any person or animal without provocation is hereby defined as a "dangerous animal."
- b. "Household pets" means and includes cats, dogs, household fish or birds, hamsters and other similar animals.
- c. "Livestock" means and includes, but is not limited to, cows, bulls, horses, mules, goats, donkeys and swine.
- d. "Fowl" means and includes, but is not limited to, chickens, turkeys and duck.
- e. "Person" includes any natural person, association, partnership, organization or corporation.

**Section 2. Livestock and Fowl**

- a. Livestock may be permitted in any zoning district provided the following criteria are met.
  - (1) A residential dwelling must be on the parcel.
  - (2) The parcel has at least two and one-half (2 ½) acres in total area for the first animal. An additional one-half (½) acre for each head of livestock shall be provided in excess of the base acreage of 2 ½ acres.
- b. Fowl may be permitted on parcels of more than one (1) acre. The number of fowl permitted on one acre of land shall be limited to six (6) birds. For every one half ½ acre above the required one (1) acre to keep fowl, an additional two (2) fowl may be permitted.
- c. Roosters are deemed a nuisance because of continual crowing and aggressive behavior and shall not be permitted on parcels of less than two (2) acres.
- c. Permitted general farming operations that claim "Right to Farm" protection must demonstrate written compliance from the Michigan Department of Agriculture consistent with Generally Accepted Agricultural Management Practices (GAAMPs).

- d. Livestock and fowl shall be confined within a building, structure or fenced enclosure located at least fifty (50) feet from any well used for water for human consumption, house or dwelling unit, whether located upon the premises or adjacent thereto. Building setbacks and fencing shall otherwise comply with Zoning Ordinance standards and shall not be less than four feet in height, shall have a securely latched gate, and shall be appropriate to securely confine and prevent the escape of the kept, livestock or fowl.
- e. Livestock and fowl shall not be housed in any portion of a residence, including an attached garage or porch.
- f. Enclosures, structures, buildings and feed storage areas shall be maintained to prevent offensive odors or from attracting rodents, flies, vermin or insects upon the premises or neighboring properties.
- g. All animal waste shall be managed so as not to constitute a nuisance.
- h. Dead fowl and waste eggs shall be bagged and disposed of in the trash and dead livestock shall be properly removed from the site within forty-eight (48) hours.
- i. Round horse pens designed for training or exercising shall not be used as a living area for horses.

### **Section 3. Household Pets**

- a. Keeping of household pets is expressly permitted as an accessory use in any zoning district. No more than four (4) adult dogs or cats of over six (6) months in age, or any combination thereof, shall be kept in or at one dwelling unit.
- b. Any animal which barks, howls, crows or yelps with such a frequency and at such times as to disturb and irritate persons residing in the neighborhood in which it is kept is hereby declared to be a nuisance. See also the Township Anti-noise and Public Nuisance Ordinance.
- c. No person shall keep any animal in the Township of Laketon in such a manner as to permit such animal to become a nuisance.

### **Section 4. Dangerous Animals**

Unless duly licenced by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, no person shall own, keep or harbor any dangerous or wild animal in the Township of Laketon.

### **Section 5. General.**

- a. All household pets, livestock and fowl shall be supplied with sufficient, good, wholesome food and water as often as their feeding habits require, and shall be provided adequate area for exercise and activity.
- b. Dogs or cats shall not be chained, tied, fastened or otherwise tethered to dog houses, trees, fences or other stationary objects as a means of confinement to property, except temporarily and when attended.

- c. Proper shelter and protection from the weather shall be provided for household pets, livestock and fowl at all times.
- d. No household pet, livestock or fowl shall be left without attention for more than twenty-four (24) hours.

**Section 6. Severability**

Should any section, clause, or provision of this Ordinance be declared by the Courts to be invalid, the same shall not affect the validity of the Ordinance as a whole, or any part thereof other than the part so declared to be invalid.

**Section 7. Repeal**

All ordinances or parts of ordinances that are in conflict with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed upon the effective date of this ordinance.

**Section 8. Penalty**

- a. A violation of this Ordinance constitutes a municipal civil infraction. Any person, who violates, disobeys, omits, neglects or refuses to comply with any provision of this Ordinance, or any permit or approval issued hereunder, or any amendment thereof, or any person who knowingly or intentionally aids or abets another person in violation of this Ordinance, shall be in violation of this Ordinance and shall be responsible for a municipal civil infraction.
- b. For purposes of this Section, "subsequent offense" means a violation of the provisions of this Ordinance committed by the same person within twelve (12) months of a previous violation of the same provision of this Ordinance or similar provision of this Ordinance for which the person admitted responsibility or was adjudged to be responsible. Each day during which any violation continues shall be deemed a separate offense.
- c. The rights and remedies provided herein are cumulative and in addition to other remedies provided by law.

**Section 9. Effective date**

This Ordinance shall take effect thirty (30) days after its first publication.

I, Christina Achterhoff, the duly elected, qualified and acting clerk for Laketon Township, do hereby certify that the foregoing ordinance was duly adopted at a regular meeting of the Laketon Township Board on September 20, 2012

Adoption Date: 09/20/2012

Publication Date:

Effective Date:

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Christina Achterhoff, Township Clerk