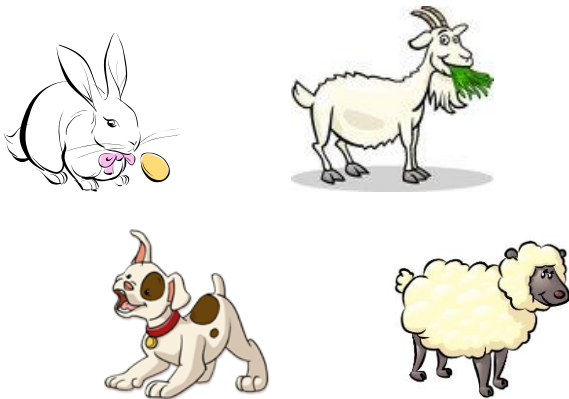# Marion County
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Regulations on keeping or raising pets and animals in Marion County

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Does Marion County regulate the raising, boarding, and/or keeping of animals?

Yes. Marion County has differing regulations for chickens and fowl, pets, and livestock. The applicable regulations also depend on the location and zoning of the property. Rural areas of the County are covered by the Rural Zone Code and urban areas, within the urban growth boundary of a city, are covered by the County's Urban Zone Code.

Generally speaking, there are no land use regulations regarding raising and/or keeping your own pet(s) on your property.

What qualifies as a pet?

The Rural Zone Code (Chapter 17.110.457) and the Urban Zone Code (Chapter 16.49.202) use the same definition of "pet":

"Pet" means a domestic animal customarily kept, and cared for, by the occupants of a dwelling for personal pleasure, and which are not raised for food, fur, or monetary gain. Typically, this includes dogs, cats, birds and other small mammals and reptiles, but not fowl, herd animals, goats or horses.

In addition, Rural Zone Code Chapter 17.126.020, Permitted Uses, Section 126.020(A)(11) "Pets", states that "… a conditional use permit is required in the RS and AR zones if there are more than 10 mammals over four months old. No birds or furbearing animals, other than pets, and no livestock or beekeeping are permitted in RS zones."

What are the regulations for other animals (horses, goats, llamas, cows, etc.)?

Chickens and Fowl: For residential zones (outside city limits) Marion County Code 6.15 allows a resident of a single-family dwelling or duplex to keep hens on the lot on which the resident resides. The maximum number of hens allowed is six, except in the Woodburn or Silverton Urban Growth Boundary where the maximum is three. In the Acreage Residential Zone (AR) keeping fowl is allowed but the animals shall be confined to the property on which they are being kept.

For rural areas of Marion County, animals raised for food, fur or monetary gain (which includes chickens) are considered a farm use. Farm use is allowed in rural farm and forest zones (EFU, SA, FT, TC) and the Acreage Residential zone, but not the Single Family Residential zone. Generally, farm use is also not allowed in any of the County's industrial or commercial zones.

Livestock: Animals raised for food, fur or monetary gain are considered a form of livestock and a farm use. Farm use is allowed in the rural farm and forest zones (EFU, SA, FT, TC) and the Acreage Residential zone, but not the Single Family Residential zone. This type of farm use is also not allowed in the County's urban areas, with the exception of the UT (Urban Transition) Zone. Generally, farm use is also not allowed in any of the County's industrial or commercial zones.

Specifically, Rural Zone Code Chapter 17.110.223 defines **"Farm Use"** as the current employment of land for the primary

purpose of obtaining a profit in money by…the feeding, breeding, management and sale of, or the produce of, livestock, poultry, fur-bearing animals or honeybees or for dairying and the sale of dairy products or any other agricultural or horticultural use or animal husbandry or any combination thereof.

Horses: "Farm use" also includes stabling or training equines including, but not limited to, providing riding lessons, training clinics and schooling shows.

Fish and Birds: "Farm use" also includes the propagation, cultivation, maintenance and harvesting of aquatic species and bird and animal species that are under the jurisdiction of the State Fish and Wildlife Commission to the extent allowed by the rules adopted by the State Fish and Wildlife Commission.

What about kennels?
Both the Rural Zone Code Chapter 17.110.300 and the Urban Zone Code Chapter 16.49.140 define "Kennel" as keeping four or more dogs, or cats, or pets over the age of four months for the purpose of sale, lease, breeding, training, racing or boarding. This term does not include kennels and dog training facilities meeting the standards and criteria in EFU, SA and FT zones.

As noted above, Rural Zone Code Chapter 17.126.020 "Pets", states that "… a conditional use permit is required in the RS and AR zones if there are more than 10 mammals over four months old. No birds or furbearing animals, other than pets, and no livestock, or beekeeping are permitted in RS zones."

What if I have a neighbor that is violating these regulations?
Assuming the property is outside any city limits, you can contact Marion County Code Enforcement. The number is (503) 373-4333 or enforcement@co.marion.or.us. You can also use the complaint form on their website: http://www.co.marion.or.us/SO/Operations/CodeEnforcement/complain.htm
Complaint information is kept strictly confidential.

Other Useful Animal-Related Resources:
Complaints regarding dogs (barking, roaming at large, etc.) are handled by Marion County Dog Control. Contact their office at (503) 588-5366 or their website: http://www.co.marion.or.us/CS/DogServices/

The Willamette Humane Society provides adoption or surrender services, behavioral classes, and provides temporary shelter for homeless animals. Contact WHS at (503) 585-5900 or the website at: https://whs4pets.org/

The Oregon Humane Society offers similar services and can be contacted at (503) 285-7722; http://www.oregonhumane.org/.

The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) is a nationwide program that offers adoption services on a national level, pet care information, reporting services for neglect or abuse, etc. Check out their website at: http://www.aspca.org/.

For more information, contact the Planning Division at (503) 588-5038, email at planning@co.marion.or.us or visit our website: http://www.co.marion.or.us/PW/Planning/default.htm