

- Animals being transported by anyone other than the legal owner should have a letter or note from the owner authorizing that transport in conjunction with the inspection certificate (if required).
- Any livestock crossing a state line must be accompanied by a current health certificate. Contact your local veterinarian or the Colorado State Veterinarian's Office (303-239-4161) for specific information.
- A Farm Products (Livestock) Dealer's License is required to purchase or broker livestock from Colorado producers, owners and dealers for resale and processing.

Failure to comply with Colorado Livestock Law is at least a Class I misdemeanor with a \$250.00 minimum fine and/or up to 90 days jail time for the first offense.

## Water Quality Regulations

In addition to animal and livestock regulations, there are also regulations regarding water quality and quantity that may apply.

If a well supplies a property with water and the owner wishes to keep large animals, an appropriate well permit that allows for the watering of large animals is required. If the permit does not allow the watering of animals, water will need to be obtained through a different source. To determine what the well allows, contact the Colorado Division of Water Resources at 303-866-3581.

To reduce impacts to water quality, the State's Water Quality Control Division regulates Animal Feeding Operations (AFO).

An operation is an AFO if:

- Animals have been, are, or will be stabled or confined and fed or maintained for a total of 45 days or more in a 12-month period, and
- Crops, vegetation, forage growth, or post-harvest residues are not sustained in the normal growing season over any portion of the lot or facility.

Depending upon the number of animals confined at the AFO, the operation may meet the definition of a concentrated animal feeding operation (CAFO). CAFOs are required to apply through the State for a national Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit.

In addition, regardless of size, the state may designate any AFO as a CAFO upon performing an on-site inspection and determining that it reasonably could be a

significant contributor of pollutants to surface water.

Best management practice requirements for AFOs and the groundwater protection requirements for CAFOs can be found in the State's Animal Feeding Operations Control Regulation (Regulation No. 81). Permit requirements for CAFOs can be found in subsection 61.17 of Colorado Discharge Permit System Regulation (Regulation No. 61).

For additional information, contact the Water Quality Control Division, Animal Feeding Operations Program, at 303-692-3523 or visit the State's web site at [www.cdphe.state.co.us](http://www.cdphe.state.co.us).

### Acknowledgements

We would like give a special thanks to the Water Quality Control Division of the Colorado Department of Health and Environment, Colorado Division of Water Resources, Colorado State Veterinarian's Office, and the Brand Inspection Division of the Colorado Department of Agriculture.

### For more information about this document contact:

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## A helpful guide for large animal owners and property owners living next to large animals in Jefferson County

Jefferson County's population continues to grow within the Denver Metropolitan Area. In the past the county was home to many farms and ranches. While the county has become more suburban, many properties continue to allow domesticated large animals, such as horses, cattle, and llamas. The ability to keep animals and its proximity to Denver, attracts many people to Jefferson County. The presence of large animals benefits the county economically, socially, physically and psychologically. It is important to educate property owners on current Jefferson County, state and federal regulations and best management practices, so that people can continue to keep animals into the future.

## Current Regulations

The following represent the current regulations in place for large animal ownership in unincorporated Jefferson County. If you live within a city, please contact that city for their regulations on large animals. Additionally, there may be private covenants that also apply to your property.

## Jefferson County Regulations

The zone districts in Jefferson County that allow for the keeping of large animals are:

Residential One (R-1),  
Mountain Residential One (MR-1),  
Mountain Residential Two (MR-2),  
Suburban Residential One (SR-1),  
Suburban Residential Two (SR-2),  
Suburban Residential Five (SR-5),  
Agricultural One (A-1),  
Agricultural Two (A-2),  
Agricultural 35 (A-35), and  
Planned Development (PD) in some instances<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>Contact the Jefferson County Planning and Zoning Division at 303-271-8700 to determine the zoning on your property.



Z O N I N G

# RESOLUTION

The following regulations apply to all standard zone districts that allow large animals. PD zoning is specialized zoning and may or may not have the following standards.

- Manure shall not be allowed to accumulate so as to cause a hazard to the health, safety or welfare of humans and/or animals. The outside storage of manure in piles shall not be permitted within 100 feet of the front lot line and shall conform to the side and rear setback requirements of a dwelling.
- Stallions and bulls shall be kept in a pen, corral or run area enclosed by a 6-foot chain link fence, or material equal or greater in strength, except when it is necessary to remove them for training, breeding or other similar purposes.

If a property is zoned R-1, MR-1, MR-2, SR-1, SR-2, or SR-5, the following regulations apply:

- The minimum square footage of open lot area, not including the dwelling, shall be 9,000 square feet for the first animal and 6,000 square feet for each additional animal. The total number of such animals that may be kept shall not exceed 4 per 1 acre; except that offspring of animals on the property may be kept until weaned.
- The front setback for accessory buildings housing horses, cattle, sheep, goats, rabbits, chinchillas, poultry, and pigeons shall be set back at least 100 feet from the front lot line. All other accessory buildings shall be set back at least 50 feet from the front lot line.

If the property is zoned A-1, A-2, or A-35, the following regulations apply:

- If the lot is larger than 1 acre there is no limit on the number of large animals.

- If the lot is 1 acre or less, the minimum square footage of open lot area, not including the dwelling, shall be 9,000 square feet for the first animal and 6,000 square feet for each additional animal. The total number of such animals that may be kept shall not exceed 4 per 1 acre, except that offspring of animals on the property may be kept until weaned.
- The front setback for accessory buildings housing livestock shall be set back at least 75 feet from the front lot line. Fur farms, poultry farms, kennels and catteries, including all pens, runs, or structures used or occupied in conjunction with these activities, shall be set back at least 100 feet from the front lot line.
- The side setbacks for accessory buildings housing livestock shall be set back at least 75 feet from the side lot line. Fur farms, poultry farms, kennels and catteries, including all pens, runs or structures used or occupied in conjunction with these activities, shall be set back at least 100 feet from the side lot line.

The Planned Development (PD) zone district may allow for large animals. This zone district has standards that are specific to a certain property. For the standards for a specific PD, please contact Jefferson County Planning and Zoning.

In addition to regulations, if a property owner is requesting that the allowed uses change on their property, then the recommendations in Jefferson County's community plans are reviewed. Many plan recommendations may include lot sizes, setbacks and other management practices for property owners who wish to keep large animals.

## State Regulations Livestock Regulations

The State of Colorado has many animal and livestock regulations. The following are some of the key animal and livestock regulations. For more information contact the Brand Inspection Division, Colorado Department of Agriculture at 303-294-0895.

Definitions of equine, llama, and livestock for the purposes of state regulations can be found in the Colorado Revised Statute.

- Confined animals must always be provided with adequate food and water.

- No animal is allowed to be mistreated or neglected so that the animal's life is endangered.
- Equine and llama professionals in Colorado are required to post and maintain signs warning people that they are not liable for injury to or death of a participant in equine or llama activities.
- Owners of trespassing livestock are not liable for damages caused by their livestock unless a lawful fence is in place. This means that landowners must fence neighbors' livestock out if they do not want the livestock on their property. If livestock trespass through a legal fence on a property, damages may be collected.
- Livestock operators should not knowingly allow livestock to graze or run at large in any incorporated or unincorporated municipality, lane, road, or public highway. This does not apply to livestock being driven on or through these areas.
- A brand inspection conducted by a state livestock inspector is required:  
Every time an animal is sold or purchased (horses, cattle, mules and donkeys) or when any change of ownership occurs, regardless of whether or not the animal is transported after or prior to the sale.  
When livestock is to be transported over 75 miles totally within the boundaries of Colorado (some exceptions).  
Every time livestock leave the state, regardless of circumstances.
- Any time livestock is to be transported on a public road, proof of ownership of the stock being transported must be available for inspection by the Colorado State Patrol, local law enforcement or a livestock inspector.

