

Environmental

Health

RULES & REGULATIONS

GOVERNING
FOOD PRODUCING ANIMALS



Approved for Publication:

[Signature]
Vice Chair, Board of Environmental Health

Approved:

[Signature]
Chair, Board of Environmental Health

Adopted

[Signature]
Interim Manager, Department of Environmental Health

Approved as to form:

[Signature]
Douglas J. Friednash, Esq.
Attorney for the City & County of Denver

Effective Date: September 8, 2011

**BOARD OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
RULES AND REGULATIONS
GOVERNING
FOOD PRODUCING ANIMALS**

Effective Date: September 8, 2011

SECTION 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The City Council has determined on the basis of evidence and testimony presented at public hearing that a restricted livestock or fowl license is required for certain food producing animals, namely: up to eight (8) ducks and or chickens combined, and up to two (2) dwarf goats, D.R.M.C. 8-91.

These rules and regulations (Rules) are adopted and issued by the Board of Environmental Health of the City and County of Denver (the Board) in accordance with the authority contained in Article II of the Charter of the City and County of Denver, in order to implement said provision of the Code.

The Manager shall use best efforts to maintain a current copy of these Rules on the City and County of Denver website. See: <http://www.denvergov.org/BEH>.

1.0 ADEQUATE SHELTER AND FENCING.

Adequate shelter and fencing for food producing animals kept pursuant to a restricted livestock or fowl license shall mean shelter and fencing that meets the following conditions:

1.1 Overcrowding. Food producing animals shall not be kept in an overcrowded condition. Food Producing Animals that are suffering from overcrowding will demonstrate a variety of symptoms, which can include disease, mites, low body weight, missing feathers (not due to seasonal molt) or fur, and injuries. If the animals appear healthy and these symptoms of overcrowding are not evident, the shelter may be considered adequate.

1.2 Shelters and Enclosures for Fowl. The function of both a nighttime enclosure and a daytime shelter can be served by one single structure. However, if one structure is serving both purposes, it must meet all of the requirements of paragraphs 1.2.1 and 1.2.2.

1.2.1 Daytime Shelter. A daytime shelter must have at least 3 solid walls and a solid roof. It must be large enough for the fowl to scratch, peck, walk freely, and spread their wings. Daytime shelter must provide protection from precipitation, wind, and sun.

1.2.2 Nighttime Enclosure. A nighttime enclosure must be predator-resistant. In order to be predator-resistant, the enclosure must have 4 solid walls and a solid roof. The door must be able to close securely. The floor of the enclosure may either be: 1) solid wood, concrete, or other impermeable material; 2) securely attached hardware cloth or chicken wire, which forms a barrier to prevent predators from digging into the enclosure; or 3) permeable ground, with chicken

wire or hardware cloth buried at least 12 inches around the perimeter of the enclosure, to prevent predators from digging in. Nighttime enclosure should be large enough for the fowl to rest comfortably and walk around each other. A nighttime enclosure must provide protection from precipitation and wind. The inside of the enclosure must remain dry, or a perch must be provided. The enclosure must minimize drafts and provide protection from the wind in cold weather.

1.3 Shelters and Enclosures for Dwarf Goats

- 1.3.1 **Shelter.** A shelter must have at least 3 solid walls and a solid roof. It must be large enough for the dwarf goats to move around freely without coming into contact with another goat. Shelter must provide protection from precipitation, wind, and sun. The inside of the enclosure must remain dry. The enclosure must minimize drafts and provide protection from the wind in cold weather.

- 1.3.2 **Predator-Proof Enclosure - Best Practice.** Depending on the location within the City & County of Denver, dwarf goats may be at risk from large mammal predators. In those cases, dwarf goat owners may opt to make their shelter predator-resistant (see paragraph 1.2.2 above). However, since large mammal predators are not an issue in every part of Denver, this is considered a best practice and not a requirement.

2.0 COST OF LICENSE.

A fee for a restricted livestock or fowl license shall be assessed in the manner and amount established by the Board of Environmental Health; see the *Rules and Regulations Governing Establishment of Animal Service Fees*.

3.0 EFFECTIVE DATE

The *Rules and Regulations Governing Food Producing Animals* contained herein shall be effective on the date of signature by the Manager of the Department of Environmental Health.

[END]