

The standards in [Eugene Code \(EC\) 9.5250](#) allow for increased opportunities for residential urban animal keeping and farming within the city limits, while encouraging compatibility within the urban environment. Animal keeping is the practice of raising domesticated animals that are used primarily as food or product sources. These standards are intended to improve the way animals are cared for, while increasing the likelihood that neighbors will accept your property uses and food choices.

## Where are farm animals allowed?

Farm animals are allowed in the following zones:

- Agricultural (AG)
- Public Land (PL)
- Residential (R-1, R-2, R-3, R-4)
- Chase Node (S-C/HDR/MU & S-C/HDR)
- Downtown Westside (S-DW)
- Elmira Road (S-E)
- Royal Node (S-RN/LDR & S-RN/MDR)
- Whiteaker (S-W)

To determine the zone of your property go to <http://www.eugene-or.gov/zoningmap>.

You may have Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions (CC&R's) that may be more restrictive than these standards. You can obtain a copy of the CC&R's from Lane County Deeds and Records, your active homeowners association, or your landlord.

## What animals am I allowed to have?

If the property is less than 20,000 square feet in area, any two of the following four categories of animals are allowed:

1. **Chickens and Domestic Fowl** (quails, pheasants, ducks, pigeons, and doves). Up to 6 over six months of age and 6 under six months of age. No roosters, geese, peacocks, or turkeys allowed.
2. **Rabbits**. Up to 6 over six months of age and 6 under six months of age.
3. **Miniature Goats** (pygmy, dwarf, and miniature goats). Up to 3 provided that males are neutered.
4. **Miniature Pig**. One up to 150 pounds.

If the property is 20,000 square feet or greater in area, please contact Land Use staff at 541-682-8336 or [landuseinfo@eugene-or.gov](mailto:landuseinfo@eugene-or.gov) for additional animal allowances, honey beehive allowances, and setback requirements.

## Can I have honey beehives?

Yes, if the development site is less than 20,000 square feet in area, you can have up to three hives as long as they are located at least 5 feet from all property lines, pointed toward the center of the property, and a water source must be provided on site within 15 feet of each hive.

## Do I have to live on site?

The person responsible for keeping an animal must reside on or adjacent to the property the animal is kept. There is an exception for school and religious uses.

## What are the sanitation requirements?

Animal manure cannot be allowed to accumulate and should be disposed of so as not to create an odor issue that is detectable beyond property lines. Compost piles that contain manure and bedding must be located at least 5 feet from all property lines and be confined within a container or bin enclosed on all sides and covered to deter flies, rodents, and other pests.

Composting raw manure from backyard animals should be done with caution. Manures contain pathogens that can make people sick and should be composted with care. Most backyard methods are not sufficient to kill all pathogens. Any dumping, leaching, or disposal of pet waste in any open waterway or the Stormwater system is strictly prohibited.

## How do I prevent a rodent problem?

The person responsible for keeping animals must not allow conditions to exist that are likely to attract, feed, or harbor rats or mice per EC 6.015. Food must be stored in metal or other rodent-proof containers. Good practice is to feed amounts that can be consumed in a 15 minute period morning and evening.

[www.eugene-or.gov/farmanimals](http://www.eugene-or.gov/farmanimals)

## Am I required to provide fencing?

Yes, fencing is required and must be designed and constructed to confine all animals on the site. The fence location and height are those required by the zone that the property is located in. Animals are free to roam or graze up to the property line as long as fences keep animals on the owner's property.

## What about animal enclosures?

An enclosure is required to provide shelter from the weather for all animals kept outdoors and must be roofed and have at least two solid sides. The height of the enclosure must comply with the requirements for accessory structures in the applicable zone. Structures used to provide shelter for all animals must be located at least 10 feet from all property lines, including any covered animal runs (unless an adjacent property owner authorizes in writing that the enclosure can be located closer to their property).

## Do I need a permit for the enclosure?

A building permit is not required for an enclosure 200 square feet or less in area and that is no more than 10 feet high. Other permits (electrical, plumbing) may be required depending on the scope of the work.

Please contact a residential plan reviewer at [residentialpermitinfo@eugene-or.gov](mailto:residentialpermitinfo@eugene-or.gov) or 541-682-5611 for any building code related questions.

## Are there noise regulations?

Yes, any animal which makes sounds frequently or for a long duration creating a noise disturbance is prohibited per EC 4.083, 4.084, and 4.430. Animals make noises through the course of their day and some noise is to be expected. However, chickens squawking or the crying of a goat for longer than 15 minutes might qualify as unreasonable noises in a residential neighborhood. A good neighbor will not let these vocalizations continue for long durations of time.

## Is animal care regulated?

Yes, no person shall subject any animal to cruel mistreatment or neglect per EC 4.335 and 4.340. This includes, but not limited to; depriving any

animal of necessary food, drink, shelter, sanitation, space, exercise, and veterinary treatment; abandonment of any animal; and willfully torturing and inflicting inhumane injury or pain on any animal.

## Is my yard big enough?

Not every property is big enough to house the maximum number of animals and meet the required standards. It is important to confine animals to the owner's property, provide shelter to protect animals from predators and harm, and to provide enough room for animals to move freely as intended. Additional covered area may be necessary to store animal bedding, animal feed, tools, and, if desired, a compost area.

## Can I harvest animals on site?

Only chickens, domestic fowl, and rabbits can be harvested on the same development site in which they live. Harvesting must be done out of view of any public area or any adjacent property, in a humane and sanitary manner, and not for commercial purposes.

## How does the City regulate these requirements?

If you are not meeting these standards your neighbor has the right to submit a complaint to City staff. At this time there is no licensing requirement. It is recommended that some form of identification be on your animals in the event they get loose and need to be returned.

## How to be a good neighbor?

It is best to inform neighbors in advance and be proactive about your urban animal keeping intentions. Letting neighbors know that you are aware of the regulations regarding the keeping of urban animals is recommended. Let neighbors know that you intend to be a good neighbor and that concerns will be addressed in a timely manner.

Please contact Land Use staff at 541-682-8336 or [landuseinfo@eugene-or.gov](mailto:landuseinfo@eugene-or.gov) for information related to these standards. See the City of Eugene web page for community resources.

*Note: This document should not be used as a substitute for codes and regulations. The applicant is responsible for compliance with all code and rule requirements, whether or not described in this document.*

[www.eugene-or.gov/farmanimals](http://www.eugene-or.gov/farmanimals)