

Regulations for keeping

Livestock



Town of Pembroke, Massachusetts

**Pembroke Board of Health
Lisa Cullity, Agent
781-293-2718**

**Animal Control Officer
William Hart, Inspector
781-293-5288
(animal shelter)
(if emergency, call police station)**

**Animal / Farm Inspector
Lisa Cullity
781-706-7387**

**Division of Fisheries and Wildlife
Southeast District
195 Bournedale Road
Buzzards Bay, MA 02532
Louis Hambley, Jr., Supervisor
508-759-3406**

**State Licensing
Boston, MA
Robert Arini
617-626-1575**

The Board of Health, Town of Pembroke, Massachusetts, acting under the authority of Chapter III, Sections 31 and 155 of the General Laws, and any amendments or additions thereto and by any other power thereto enabling have in the interest of and for the preservation of the public health duly made and adopted the following regulations for the establishment, maintenance and operation of premises where livestock shall be kept.

This pamphlet of regulations for livestock shall be called

**Pembroke Board of Health
Regulation #2000-01-01**

**and shall supercede all regulations made by any Pembroke Health Board in the past
relative to the keeping of livestock**

Part I - General:

- Section A:** Any person keeping livestock or domestic fowl that is included in the following four (4) categories (see Part V) within the town limits of Pembroke, Massachusetts SHALL abide by the following Rules or face penalties under the law.
- Section B:** All people keeping livestock within the Town shall register their livestock with the Board of Health yearly beginning with January 1 and where applicable pay an annual fee.
- Section C:** Anyone keeping livestock shall have their barn / animal buildings and premises open for inspection by the Town animal inspector at any reasonable day or time and at least once per calendar year.
- Section D:** Each November (if you have previously kept livestock), you will receive an application in the mail for the following year's renewal. If you have not previously kept livestock, you must come to the Board of Health office and fill out the application. All applications must be completely filled out. Permits to keep livestock may be revoked for cause by the Board of Health.
- Section E:** Permits will not be issued to keep animals on swampy, wet lowlands unless approved by the animal inspector.
- Section F:** No animals may be kept within fifty (50) feet of a lake, pond, or stream, especially where runoff of their wastes creates a public health problem.
- Section G:** No stream or waterway may be altered so that it passes through an area where animals are kept.
- Section H:** Animals may have access to open bodies of water only if the entire body of water is within the owner's property and the water body itself does not become a hazard to the animals or surrounding public, either by foul odor or insect breeding.
- Section I:** Any livestock or fowl raised for consumption by anyone except the owner and their immediate family or raised for meat that is sold to any member of the public at large is considered to be a commercial "specialty slaughterer" and is subject to numerous regulations by the Massachusetts Food and Drug Administration. They are also subject to routine and unannounced inspections by the Town Health Inspector.

Section J: Eggs produced by any poultry for human consumption may not be sold to the public at large unless the eggs, the birds and the premises have been inspected by the Town health inspector.

Section K: All livestock must have annual rabies shots *except* chickens and rabbits.

Section L: Violation of any regulation herein shall cause the owner of the livestock in question to be fined fifty dollars (\$50.00) per offense at the discretion of the Board of Health. Each day the violation exists shall constitute a separate offense at the discretion of the Board of Health.

Part II - Buildings etc.:

Section A: All buildings, fences, or other structures constructed for the keeping of livestock shall comply with existing building and zoning regulations and shall be maintained at least fifty (50) feet from the homeowner's dwelling and at least fifty (50) feet from neighbors' dwellings.

Section B: Structures housing livestock shall provide protection against the elements, shall be adequately lighted and ventilated.

It is recommended that you consult a veterinarian for a safe way to control space requirements as animals can spread salmonella if too close to one another.

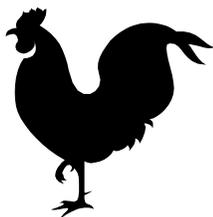
Section C: Buildings and premises used to house livestock shall, at all times, be clean and well kept. Premises shall be kept free of rubbish, rotting animal feed, garbage, stagnant water, and any debris that may cause unsafe or unhealthy conditions for animals or humans. Good livestock management practices shall be followed.

Section D: Whenever necessary, insecticides should be applied to the interior walls, ceilings, and stall area and to the exterior of the stable building in order to control fly populations. Space sprays and resin strips impregnated with insecticide may be used. Any chemical approved by the Department of Public Health shall be acceptable. Corral and/or stable may be required to have bug zappers or foggers effectively located at the discretion of the Board of Health. Extreme caution should be used with pesticides around livestock, especially birds and poultry. (Note: flies are NOT attracted to the light from bug zappers.)

Section E: Each stable shall be furnished with an adequate and safe water supply, both for feeding and cleaning purposes. Each corral area shall have a water receptacle and it shall be kept as sanitary as possible.

Section F: All livestock kept within the Town shall be properly restrained. Fences, pens, enclosures, etc. must be maintained. Animals shall be kept within the boundaries of the owner's property and shall NEVER be allowed to run at large.

Part III - Section A

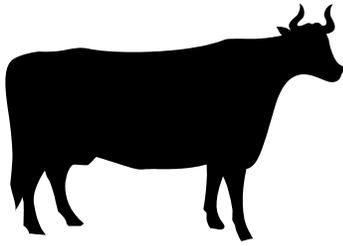


Poultry

Chickens, ducks, geese, guinea hens, peafowl, swans, turkeys, pigeons, pheasants, quails, grouse and game or show birds not listed here (excepting emus and ostriches, which are listed in Section C).

- 1. Some birds require state licensure – pheasants, quails, and grouse. Check with the State Fisheries and Game Division (see back of front cover).**
- 2. Poultry houses should provide approximately two (2) cubic feet per bird with roosting and nesting facilities adequate for the number of birds.**
- 3. Poultry yards / cages should provide approximately three (3) cubic feet per bird. (A pen 8'W x 10'L x 6'H should house no more than 16 birds of normal size.)**
- 4. Roosters and peacocks may be kept so long as they do not become a public nuisance. No crowing of male birds that can be heard for a distance of one hundred (100) feet may occur before 7:00 a.m. on weekdays and 8:00 a.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.
(Birds may be silenced by shutting them into an insulated building and letting them outside after the proper time.)**
- 5. Domestic ducks and geese as well as other domestic waterfowl shall not be kept on public waterways and left to roam at large.**
- 6. The feeding of non-domestic waterfowl on public waterways shall be illegal and is an offense for which a person may be fined fifty dollars (\$50.00) per occurrence.**

Part III - Section B

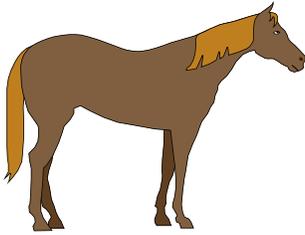


Bovine, etc.

Buffaloes, cows, goats, pigs, sheep and any bovine or porcine animal not noted.

- 1. Milk producing livestock must be tested for TB and Brucellosis every three (3) years.**
- 2. A MAXIMUM of three (3) pigs may be kept on a property. Four (4) pigs constitutes a piggery and shall NOT be allowed.**
- 3. The keeping of livestock described in this section shall require at least ten thousand (10,000) square feet of land that is open and grassed and not covered by anything other than a building used to house the animals.**
- 4. The animal area shall be at least fifty (50) feet from any component of any septic system and shall be at least one hundred (100) feet from any well, including irrigation wells.**

Part III - Section C

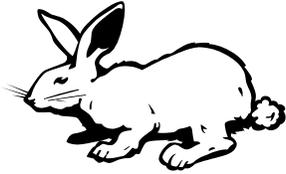


Equine

Horses, donkeys, mules, ponies and any other equestrian animals as well as emus and ostriches.

- 1. All equines must be vaccinated against Eastern and Western Equine Encephalitis annually and must have a negative Coggins test every two (2) years. Horses must have annual tetanus and encephalytus shots in addition to annual rabies vaccines. These services are available from veterinarians.**
- 2. No permit shall be issued for this type of livestock unless the owner's property has at least fifty thousand (50,000) square feet and at least twenty-one thousand seven hundred eighty (21,780) square feet of support area per animal. Exceptions / variances to this rule are at the discretion of (1) the animal inspector and (2) the Board of Health.**
- 3. More than three (3) equine constitute a stable and shall require licensure as such.**

Part III - Section D



Rabbits, etc.

Rabbits, minks, chinchillas

- 1. The keeping of five (5) or less of these animals is considered not to be a commercial venture and therefor permits are not required.**
- 2. Over five (5) of any of these animals must be registered and a fee is applicable.**

Part IV – Manure

Section A: Manure shall be cleaned from the buildings and pens of animals on a regular basis (Part II, Section C)

Section B: Manure shall be piled in a central location where odors and insects do not create a nuisance or hazard to abutters.

Section C: Manure piles shall be at least fifty (50) feet from lakes, ponds, streams or areas subject to run-off.

Section D: Manure piles shall not be kept in swamps or wetlands.

Section E: Manure shall not be used as fill to fill in swamps or wetlands. This will cause a MAJOR water pollution problem.

Section F: Unless by special permission by the Board of Health, keepers of livestock MAY NOT stockpile manure in a quantity of more than ten (10) cubic yards on their property.

Section G: Manure used to fertilize lawns or gardens shall be immediately turned under and not allowed to lay on top of the ground causing nuisance by odor and insects.

Part V - Fee Structure

Group A:

POULTRY

Chickens, ducks, geese, grouse, guinea hens,
pea fowl, pheasants, pigeons, swans, turkeys,
any game birds or show birds not mentioned

(emus and ostriches are classified under Group C Equine)

\$.50 per bird per year (max \$25.00)

Group B:

BOVINE

Cows, buffalo, goats, pigs, sheep and any bovine
or porcine animal not mentioned

Any number **\$5.00 per animal per year (max \$25.00)**

Group C:

EQUINE

Donkeys, horses, mules, ponies and any equine animal not mentioned. Also
includes emus and ostriches.

Personal use up to (3) animals:

\$10.00 per animal per year – maximum \$25.00 per year

Stable permits: (3+ horses = stable)

\$25.00 per year

Group D:

RABBITS

Rabbits, chinchillas, minks and any domesticated
fur bearing animal not listed

\$.50 per animal per year (max \$25.00)

MAX FEE PER HOUSEHOLD ADDRESS IS \$75.00 TOTAL

NOTE: Proof of 61-A “Farm Status” must be provided to negate the fees.