

46 – Keeping of Animals

46.1 FARM ANIMALS

46.1.1 Purpose

The purpose of this Subsection is to regulate the keeping of farm animals in the City of West Haven in order to protect the health, safety, and public welfare of residents of the (community) city and to ensure their right of quiet and peaceful enjoyment of their property. These Requirements are in addition to the minimum lot area requirements for a farm. (see Table 39.1)

46.1.2 Scope

Farm animals include all those traditionally raised on farms or ranches such as but not limited to geese, ducks, turkeys, hogs, rabbits, cattle, sheep, goats, horses, ponies, donkeys, etc., whether for the residents pleasure or consumption, or for breeding or other commercial purposes. This shall not include animals listed above for which one (1) farm animal less than 100 pounds in weight is kept on property as a pet.

46.1.3 Health Hazard or Nuisance

A health hazard or nuisance shall include situations of rat harborage, noxious odors, excessive noise, animals running loose and any other situation or nuisance which might be mentioned in the health code, zoning regulation, local ordinance, state statutes or excepted legal interpretation.

46.1.4 Keeping of Farm animals

The keeping of one or more farm animals whether of one species or more than one species will be permitted in any district provided:

1. The animal or animals are housed overnight in a structure which is a minimum of 100 feet from any dwelling unit.
2. The animal or animals shall be kept a minimum distance of 25 feet from all adjoining property lines and that they shall be prevented from straying onto any street, roadway, or adjoining private property.
3. The premises or operation meet all applicable local and state health codes.
4. No nuisance is created or maintained.
5. Any manure, feces or animal droppings shall be kept in a covered watertight pit or chamber that shall be removed at least once weekly.

46.3 Keeping of Hens

1. No more than four (4) hens may be kept on any property no less than .25 acres and located in the following residence zoning districts as a non-commercial accessory use:
 - R-1 (Single Family Detached Residence)
 - R-2 (Single Family Detached Residence)
2. The hens shall be confined to a fenced enclosure of no more than 200 square feet in area, located in a rear yard. The fenced enclosure shall be at least twenty five (25) feet from any street line, at least ten (10) feet from any residential dwelling and at least ten (10) feet from any property line.

3. Any portion of the enclosure located closer than ten (10) feet to a property boundary or directly visible from a street line at any distance shall be screened by either a fence or a landscaped buffer of at least four feet in height.
4. A proper building shall be required for the hens. Any building used for this purpose shall be located at least ten (10) feet from any lot line. All such buildings shall be constructed so as to prevent pests or predators access to it and the design (including potential heating sources) must be approved by West Haven Animal Control before Construction/Installation. All food products for the hens are to be kept in a watertight and pest proof container or structure. Animal waste is to be mixed in with yard clippings then bagged for pick up or added to compost container/pile kept on property so as to prevent offensive odors and the presence of pests and predators.
5. No hens may be kept inside any structure used for residential purposes.
6. No rooster shall be kept on any property.
7. The hens shall be prevented from straying onto any street, roadway, or adjoining private property.
8. The keeping of hens shall be conducted in a manner consistent with and in compliance with the Health Code of the City of West Haven.
9. A permit must be applied for with the West Haven Planning and Development Department. An inspection of the location and structure intended to house the hens must be conducted by West Haven Animal Control before any application can be approved. Animal Control will also have the right to inspect that the proper housing and health standards are being followed by any permittee. The permit will have to be renewed annually with the West Haven Planning and Development Department. Any failure to adhere to the guidelines may result in fines and/or revocation of the issued permit.
10. All hens must be of good health. Animal Control will then supply bands to place an identifying band on the leg of each hen.