


## ANALYSIS

This ordinance amends Title 10 – Animals of the Los Angeles County Code, to amend and add provisions relating to the keeping of roosters and the consequences of violations of the ordinance. The revisions limit the number of roosters that may be kept on a single property to reduce public nuisances, illegal cockfighting, the raising of birds used for cockfighting, and to protect the health and safety of the County's residents.

MARY C. WICKHAM  
County Counsel

By   
DIANE C. REAGAN  
Principal Deputy County Counsel  
Social Services Division

DCR:dt

Requested: 12/7/17

Revised: 7/03/18

**ORDINANCE NO. 2018-0035**

An ordinance amending Title 10 – Animals of the Los Angeles County Code, to add provisions relating to the keeping of roosters in the County.

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles ordains as follows:

**SECTION 1.** Section 10.04.075 is hereby amended to read as follows:

**10.04.075 Administrative Citations.**

A. Violations.

The Department may enforce violations of the ordinances listed in subsection B as administrative citations in lieu of criminal prosecution subject to the following fines:

1. First violation: Fine of up to \$100;
2. Second violation of the same section of Title 10 within the preceding 12 months: Fine of up to \$250;
3. Third violation of the same section of Title 10 within the preceding 12 months: Fine of up to \$500;
4. Each additional violation of the same section of Title 10 within the preceding 12 months: Fine of up to \$500.

B. Provisions Subject to Administrative Citations.

A written Notice of Violation and Administrative Fine ("Notice") will be served on a person who has violated one of the following code sections:

1. Section 10.20.030: License—Required—Fees and Other Charges;
2. Section 10.20.185: Microchipping of Dogs and Cats Required;
3. Section 10.20.220: Vaccination Requirements;
4. Section 10.32.010: Dogs at Large; or

~~5. Section 10.40.060: Animal Noise.~~

5. Section 10.38.010: Keeping of Roosters; or

6. Section 10.40.060: Animal Noise

...

**SECTION 2.** Section 10.08.208 is hereby added to read as follows:

**10.08.208 Rooster.**

"Rooster" means a male chicken that is:

- A. Six months of age or older; or
- B. Has full plumage; or
- C. Is capable of crowing.

**SECTION 3.** Section 10.12.050 is hereby deleted in its entirety:

**~~10.12.050 Authority to Accept Negotiable Paper.~~**

~~The Director may accept negotiable paper as provided in the Administrative Code, subject to all applicable statutes.~~

**SECTION 4.** Section 10.28.060 is hereby amended to read as follows:

**10.28.060 License—Required for Certain Activities and Animals—Certain Animals Exempt.**

A person, including a new owner of an existing organization or business, cannot conduct or operate an animal facility or keep a wild animal within the Department's jurisdiction without first obtaining a license from the Department and any other applicable agency. Failure to obtain a license for an animal facility or a wild animal is a misdemeanor. A license is not required for the keeping of the following animals as pets:

1. Birds; but a license is required for the keeping of more roosters than allowed in Section 10.38.010 B.

2. Domestic rodents (pet mice, rats, guinea pigs, hamsters, and chinchillas);

3. Fish;

4. Non-venomous reptiles less than six feet in length;

5. Rabbits.

**SECTION 5.** Chapter 10.38 is hereby added to read as follows:

**10.38 Roosters.**

**SECTION 6.** Section 10.38.010 is hereby added to read as follows:

**10.38.010 Keeping of Roosters.**

A. Purpose.

The purpose of this chapter is to limit the number of roosters that may be kept on a single property to reduce public nuisances, illegal cockfighting, the raising of birds used for cockfighting, and to protect the health and safety of the County's residents. For purposes of this section a single property is defined as any parcel or combination of parcels operated as one unit.

B. Rooster Keeping Requirements.

1. It is unlawful to keep or maintain on any single property more roosters than are listed in the following table without an animal facility license:

Size of Property	Maximum number of roosters
Less than one-half acre	2
One-half acre to one acre	4
One to five acres	6
More than five acres	10

2. This section does not apply to commercial poultry ranches whose primary commodity is the production of eggs or meat for sale, and are regulated by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food Safety Inspection Service, or government-operated animal shelters or other animal welfare organizations that employ humane officers as described in Corporations Code section 14502.

3. Each individual rooster over the number listed in the table above for the applicable size of a single property constitutes a separate violation.

4. Nothing in this Title 10 may be construed as authorizing the keeping of roosters in violation of any other applicable law or ordinance. The construction and location of the cages or coops must not conflict with the requirements of any building code or setback line, and must be at least 50 feet from any residence other than the owner's residence.

5. Roosters must be kept in accordance with Section 10.40.010.

C. Rooster Animal Facility License.

An animal facility license may only be issued to a person approved by the Director who complies with the following requirements:

1. A person who seeks to keep or maintain more roosters than allowed under subsection (B)(1) above must file an application for an animal facility license, comply with the requirements of Section 10.28.050, and pay the required fee. A penalty in addition to the license fee will be charged to a person who keeps more roosters than allowed under subsection (B)(1) without an animal facility license.

2. The number of additional roosters allowed to be kept by an animal facility licensee will be determined according to several factors relating to the public



health, welfare, and safety, including but not limited to the following: parcel size, proximity to neighbors, sanitation, and ability to meet animal care standards set forth Section 10.40.010. No more than 25 roosters may be kept or maintained on any property.

3. Any person who seeks to keep or maintain more roosters than allowed under subsection (B)(1) above is subject to an onsite inspection of the premises by an animal control officer, humane officer, or peace officer upon demand. In addition, a person who seeks to keep or maintain more roosters than are permitted by subsection (B)(1) above as part of a local chapter of 4-H or Future Farmers of America (FFA) must meet all of the following requirements:

a. Provide written proof of current membership in 4-H or FFA to any animal control officer, humane officer, or peace officer upon demand;

b. Provide written documentation and approval of a 4-H or FFA project that involves the roosters to any animal control officer, humane officer, or peace officer upon demand. The approval must be from one of the following organizations: 4-H, the County 4-H Advisor, or the FFA. The documentation must state the nature of the project, the number of roosters required by the project, the breed of each rooster, the duration of the project, the purpose for keeping the roosters, and the address where the roosters are kept and maintained;

c. The roosters on the property are designated in the 4-H or FFA project documentation; and

d. The number of roosters on a single property does not exceed the number of roosters specified in the 4-H or FFA project documentation.

D. Violations.

Violators of this section are subject to citation under Section 10.04.075 of this Title 10, and to any other applicable penalties.

**SECTION 7.** Section 10.90.010 is hereby amended to read as follows:

**10.90.010 Licensing Fees Schedule.**

The license fees required to be paid are as follows, except that the Director may waive, reduce, or refund fees for undue hardship:

I. Individual Animal Licenses.	Fees
Except for discharged military dogs and service animals, a person who owns a dog or cat over the age of four months and pays the license fee required under this section will be issued a tag and license that must be renewed annually:	
A. Dog license and tag fees:	
1. Unaltered (Unspayed/unneutered) (\$5 of each fee received is designated for low cost spay/neuter program)	\$60.00
2. Altered (Spayed/neutered) (\$5 of each fee received is designated for low cost spay/neuter program)	\$20.00
3. Senior citizen—Spayed/neutered dog	\$7.50
4. Disabled Veteran	\$7.50
5. A delinquency charge equal to the cost of the license will be added if	

the license application or renewal is not submitted within 30 days after the due date.	
6. Replacement of tag or official license receipt	\$5.00
7. Transfer of ownership	\$5.00
8. Discharged military dogs (one-time registration fee)	\$5.00
9. Field enforcement fee: The owner or custodian of a dog found unlicensed by a Department employee in the field will be charged a field enforcement fee.	\$40.00
B. Cat license fees:	
1. Unspayed/unneutered	\$10.00
2. Spayed/neutered	\$5.00
3. Replacement cat tag	\$5.00
4. Transfer of ownership	\$5.00
5. A delinquency charge equal to the cost of the license will be added if the license application or renewal is not submitted within 30 days after the due date.	
6. Field enforcement fee: The owner or custodian of a cat found unlicensed by a Department employee in the field will be charged a field enforcement fee.	\$40.00
C. Other animals—Licenses required:	



1. Pygmy pigs	\$50.00
2. Wild animals	\$100.00
3. Service animals—one time registration fee	\$5.00
4. A delinquency charge for annual license renewal equivalent to the cost of the license, will be added to the license fee if the renewal is submitted more than 10 calendar days past the expiration date of a license, or if a license application was not otherwise timely submitted.	
5. Field enforcement fee: The owner or custodian of an animal found unlicensed by a department employee in the field will be charged a field enforcement fee.	\$40.00
D. Voluntary identification and registration:	
An animal may be registered in the Department's Voluntary Identification Program at the owner's request, if the animal is microchipped and upon the payment of the following fees:	
1. Initial identification and registration	\$20.00
2. Annual renewal	\$10.00
3. Transfer of ownership	\$5.00
II. Animal Facility Licenses.	Fees
Licenses for the animal facilities listed below are required to be obtained annually.	

A. Initial animal facility license fees (including inspection):	
1. License fees:	
a. Pet shop	\$250.00
b. Grooming parlor/mobile	\$250.00
c. Animal menagerie	\$250.00
d. Wild animal dealer	\$250.00
e. Hobby breeder (See Section 10.20.045)	\$250.00
f. Rodeo	
(i) First day or one day event	\$250.00
(ii) Each additional day	\$25.00
g. Animal exhibition	
(i) First day or one day event	\$250.00
(ii) Each additional day	\$25.00
h. Pygmy pig breeder	\$250.00
i. Non-profit humane organization facility	\$250.00
j. Dog and cat breeding and/or boarding facility:	
For purposes of license fee computation, fee is based on 75 percent of the total capacity of the facility or the actual animal population housed at the time of the inspection, whichever is greater.	

(i) 5-20 dogs or cats	\$300.00
(ii) 21-50 dogs or cats	\$350.00
(iii) 51-75 dogs or cats	\$400.00
(iv) 76-100 dogs or cats	\$450.00
(v) Over 100 dogs or cats	\$525.00
<u>k. Rooster animal facility license</u>	<u>\$ 25.00</u>
2. Penalty for operation of an animal facility without license. A penalty equivalent to the cost of the license will be added to the license fee if a facility operates without a license.	
3. Fee reduction for each additional animal facility application made at the same location at the same time.	\$125.00
B. Renewal animal facility license fees (including inspection):	
1. All animal facilities:	
a. Pet shop	\$175.00
b. Grooming parlor/mobile	\$175.00
c. Animal menagerie	\$175.00
d. Wholesale wild animal dealer	\$175.00
e. Hobby breeder (defined in Section 10.20.045)	\$175.00
f. Pygmy pig breeder	\$175.00

g. Non-profit humane organization	\$175.00
h. Dog and cat breeding and/or boarding facility:	
For purposes of license fee computation, fee is based on 75 percent of the total capacity of the animal facility or the actual animal population housed at the time of the inspection, whichever is greater.	
(i) 5-20 dogs or cats	\$225.00
(ii) 21-50 dogs or cats	\$275.00
(iii) 51-75 dogs or cats	\$325.00
(iv) 76-100 dogs or cats	\$375.00
(v) over 100 dogs or cats	\$450.00
<u>i. Rooster animal facility license</u>	\$ 25.00
2. A delinquency charge equal to the cost of the license will be added if the license application or renewal is not submitted within 30 days after the due date.	
3. Fee reduction for each additional animal facility renewal application made at the same location at the same time.	\$50.00
C. Miscellaneous fee provisions:	
1. Reinspection	\$40.00
2. Inspection fee for animal permits under Los Angeles County Code Sections 22.52.330 and 22.56.420—22.56.530	\$50.00

3. Businesses using dogs for protection (Sections 10.20.280 and 10.20.290)	\$50.00
4. Penalty for ownership of wild animal without license	\$100.00

[100.28060DRCC]



SECTION 8 This ordinance shall be published in The Daily Commerce a newspaper printed and published in the County of Los Angeles.



*Sheila Kuehl*  
Chair

ATTEST:

*Celia Zavala*

Celia Zavala  
Executive Officer -  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles

I hereby certify that at its meeting of September 25, 2018 the foregoing ordinance was adopted by the Board of Supervisors of said County of Los Angeles by the following vote, to wit:

Ayes

Noes

Supervisors Hilda Solis  
Mark Ridley-Thomas  
Sheila Kuehl  
Janice Hahn  
Kathryn Barger

Supervisors None

Effective Date: October 25, 2018

Operative Date:

*Celia Zavala*

Celia Zavala  
Executive Officer -  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles

I hereby certify that pursuant to Section 25103 of the Government Code, delivery of this document has been made.

CELIA ZAVALA  
Executive Officer  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

By *[Signature]*  
Deputy



APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
MARY C. WICKHAM  
County Counsel

By *[Signature]*  
Lester J. Tolnai  
Chief Deputy County Counsel