

Analysis

This ordinance amends Title 10 – Animals of the Los Angeles County Code, Chapter 8 and Chapter 40, relating to the care of horses and other animals.

The ordinance is the result of recommendations made by a task force assigned to review policies and ordinances relating to the care of horses kept in commercial stables. The definition of stables was removed from Title 10 to avoid confusion with proposed Title 22 revisions relating to commercial stables. The proposed amendments to Title 10 set forth requirements relating to the care of horses and other animals, and require the posting of an evacuation plan in facilities that board animals, including commercial horse stables as defined in 22.212.020.

JOHN F. KRATTLI
County Counsel

By

DIANE C. REAGAN
Principal Deputy County Counsel
Health Services Division

DCR.vn

Requested: 07/03/13
Revised: 08/12/13

ORDINANCE NO. _____

An ordinance amending Title 10 - Animals of the Los Angeles County Code, relating to the care of horses and other animals.

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

SECTION 1. Section 10.08.145 is hereby deleted in its entirety:

~~**10.08.145 Stables.**~~

~~"Stables" means any property, premises, building or structure maintained for the lodging, feeding, or rental of horses and cattle.~~

SECTION 2. Section 10.40.010 is hereby amended to read as follows:

10.40.010 Animal care - Requirements for animal owners and animal facilities.

Every person, within the county of Los Angeles, who owns any animal or who owns, conducts, manages or operates any animal facility for which a license is required by this Division 1, shall comply with each of the following conditions:

A. ~~Housing facilities for animals shall be structurally sound and shall be maintained in good repair, to protect the animals from injury, to contain the animals, and to restrict the entrance of other animals.~~

B. ~~All animals shall be supplied with sufficient good and wholesome food suitable for the age, species, and nutritional requirements of the animal. and Animals should have access at all times to potable water that is free from debris unless directed otherwise by a veterinarian and is readily accessible and available as often as the feeding habits of the respective animals require. All animal food shall be properly stored to prevent contamination, infestation by vermin and exposure to the elements.~~

C. Animals shall be groomed and kept in a manner which is not injurious to their health. All animal buildings or enclosures shall be maintained in a clean and sanitary condition to control odors and to prevent the spread of disease.

D. All animals shall be so maintained as to eliminate excessive and nighttime noise.

E. No animals shall be without attention more than 12 consecutive hours; whenever an animal is left unattended at a commercial animal facility, the telephone number of the department of animal care and control, or the name, address and telephone number of the responsible person, shall be posted in a conspicuous place at the front of the property. Animal facilities that breed dogs shall comply with the applicable minimum staffing requirements set forth in Section 10.40.200.

F. Animals shall not be neglected, teased, abused, mistreated, annoyed, tormented or in any manner made to suffer by any person or means.

G. No condition shall be maintained or permitted that is or could be injurious to the animals. Tethering of animals is prohibited except as permitted under California Health and Safety Code Section 122335.

H. Animal buildings and enclosures shall be so constructed and maintained as to prevent escape of animals. All reasonable precautions shall be taken to protect the public from the animals and the animals from the public.

I. Every animal facility shall isolate sick animals so as not to endanger the health of other animals.

J. Every building or enclosure where animals are maintained shall be constructed of material easily cleaned and shall be kept in a sanitary condition and in

good repair. The building shall be properly ventilated to prevent drafts and to remove odors. Heating and cooling shall be provided as required, according to the physical need of the animals, with sufficient light to allow observation of animals and sanitation. An animal facility housing animals must be equipped with working smoke alarms and have means of fire suppression, such as a sprinkler system in each room where animals are kept, or functioning fire extinguishers.

K. An animal shall be taken to a veterinarian for examination or treatment, if the director finds it necessary to maintain the health of the animal, and orders the owner or custodian to do so.

L. All animal enclosures, including, but not limited to stalls rooms, cages, and kennel runs, shall be of sufficient size to provide adequate and proper accommodations for the animals kept therein. An enclosure with a wire bottom may only be used temporarily for dogs, and only if in compliance with Health and Safety Code Sections 122065 and 122065.5.

If enclosures, such as crates and other mobile enclosures are stacked upon one another, or on a surface other than the floor, the crates/enclosures must be securely fastened and designed and arranged so that: there is no danger of an enclosure falling; the animals do not have direct access to one another; and waste from one (1) enclosure cannot be transmitted to another enclosure. Food and water containers must be secured to prevent spillage. Crates may be stacked no more than two (2) crates high.

M. Every violation of an applicable regulation shall be corrected within a reasonable time to be specified by the director.

N. Proper shelter and protection from the weather shall be provided at all times.

O. An animal shall not be given any alcoholic beverage, unless prescribed by a veterinarian.

P. Animals which are natural enemies, temperamentally unsuited, or otherwise incompatible, shall not be quartered together, or so near each other as to cause injury, fear or torment. If two or more animals are so trained that they can be placed together and do not attack each other or perform or attempt any hostile act to the others, such animals shall be deemed not to be natural enemies.

Q. Any tack, equipment, device, substance or material that is, or could be, injurious or cause unnecessary cruelty to any animal shall not be used.

R. Working animals shall be given adequate rest periods. Confined or restrained animals shall be given exercise appropriate for the individual animal under particular conditions.

S. An animal which is overheated, weakened, exhausted, sick, injured, diseased, lame or otherwise unfit shall not be worked, used or rented.

T. Any animal which the department has suspended from use may not be worked or used until released by the department.

U. Animals bearing evidence of malnutrition, ill health, unhealed injury or having been kept in an unsanitary condition shall not be displayed.

V. Any animal whose appearance is or may be offensive or contrary to public decency shall not be displayed.

W. No animal shall be allowed to constitute or cause a hazard, or be a menace to the health, peace or safety of the community.

X. A person shall not violate any condition imposed by the director on any license issued by the department.

Y. Horses shall be maintained in accordance with the current Minimum Standards of Horse Care published by the University of California, Davis, Center for Equine Health, School of Veterinary Medicine.

SECTION 3. Section 10.40.055 is hereby added to read as follows:

10.40.055 Evacuation Plan Requirements

Any animal facility as defined in section 10.08.031 which boards animals, and any commercial horse stable as defined in Los Angeles County Code section 22.212.020, shall post an evacuation plan in a place that is clearly visible to patrons and the general public entering the facility. At a minimum, the plan shall include all of the following information:

- A. Name, address, and phone number of the relocation facility;
- B. Name and phone number of person(s) who will transport the animals to the relocation facility, and a description of the means of transportation of the animals to the relocation facility; and
- C. Name and phone number of person(s) who will take care of the animals at the relocation facility.

[1008145DRCC]