

**ZONING
INFORMATION
BULLETIN NO.1**

Watertown Charter
Township
Planning & Zoning Office
12803 S. Wacousta Rd
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

(517) 626-6593
Fax (517) 626-6405
www.twp.watertown.mi.us

Keeping of Animals in Watertown Charter Township

Animals

Dogs, cats, birds, fish, hamsters and other animals generally considered household pets are permitted in all zoning districts.

Kennels

New definitions for private and commercial kennels were recently passed by the Township Board. These new definitions are more consistent and are in line with the Michigan Dog Law.

Private kennels are permitted uses in the more rural residential districts, AP, AG, and RR. Private kennels are for those people who may incidentally breed or board three or more animals at their residence. Private kennels are not allowed in the more dense residential districts, R-1, R-2, R-3, or the commercial and industrial zoning districts. They are allowed as a Special Land Use with a valid permit in the VSC zoning district.

Commercial kennels are allowed as a Special Land Use in the AP, AG, RR, VSC zoning districts. Commercial kennels are those which breed and board animals for profit.

Livestock Animals

The Township board also made amendments to this section of the zoning ordinance, to bring it more in line with the Michigan Right to Farm Act.

Large animals include cows, pigs, horses and bison. Large animals that are part of a legitimate farming operation are allowed on all parcels in the AP, AG, RR and LI zoning districts. They should be kept in accordance with the generally accepted agricultural management practices required by the state of Michigan. No large animals are permitted in the R-1, R-2, R-3, VSC, B-1 or B-2 zoning districts.

Intensive Livestock Operations

Intensive Livestock Operations are sometimes called CAFO's. They are large scale operations that raise a large number of livestock animals. These operations are permitted uses in the AP zoning district, and are Special Land Uses in the AG zoning district. There are a number of requirements that the operations must meet to be a special land use, including lot size requirements, setbacks, runoff, distance from wells, the discharge and storage of animal waste and others. The Michigan Department of Agriculture and the Department of Environmental Quality also regulate this type of operation.

Barking Dogs

Believe it or not, most people don't realize their dog barks when they are not home, or that the barking disturbs neighbors. Often a tactful conversation with your neighbor about the barking dogs will alleviate the situation. If not, the Township or the County Animal Control *may* be able to help. Call to discuss the particulars of the situation, and we will do our best to help.

Friendly Suggestions

- Make sure that your pets are on a leash, or within a fenced yard at all times.
- Try to keep your dogs from excessively barking, especially during the night. There are a number of websites with suggestions on how to handle this, or contact Animal Control, the Humane Society, or your veterinarian for assistance.

Make sure your dogs are licensed and have updated shots, and that all your pets regularly visit the veterinarian.

For additional information regarding animals, please review section 28-570 of the Zoning Ordinance.

