

# Staff Report



**To:** Sandy City Council  
**From:** Director Ian Williams  
**Date:** 2/1/2023  
**Re:** Large Animal Hobby Permit

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## BACKGROUND

At the December 6, 2022, session of City Council, administration was directed to develop a hobby permit for large animals. The intent is to create a code amendment for a large animal hobby license that will allow the licensee to maintain more than four horses on a residential lot within an “A” designated zone with the square footage and farm area set aside requirements for each additional horse. The number of large animals not to exceed the maximum number permitted by zone.

Standards for care and animal welfare are to be included in the permit requirements.

## Discussion

### An Existing Regulation

Sandy City has an existing hobby permit and application process under Title 12-2 of the Sandy City Code of Ordinances. This title is designed as a dog hobby license which allows the qualifying licensee to maintain a maximum of five dogs over one year of age. The section addresses the property requirements, shelter, fencing, waste management, nuisance abatement, welfare standards, and more. It is specific to the keeping and maintaining of dogs in our community.

### Expanding Title 12-2

Rather than create a new chapter under Title 12, I believe the clean approach is to expand the existing regulation specifying a section for dog requirements and section for horse requirements. In this manner we take advantage of existing and established ordinances and processes.

**Section A** of the Title will be **Dog Hobby License**.

**Section B** of the Title will be **Large Animal Hobby License**.

Key provisions of Large Animal Hobby license include:

- Statement of Hobby Interest
- Establishment of outdoor requirements including shelter, fencing, and designated farm area.
- Requirement of a plot plan from the applicant.

- Cleaning of shelters and outdoor areas including a waste management plan.
- Food and water requirements
- Noise control and compliance with Land Use Regulations.
- Establishment of vaccination requirements for the animals.

#### **Concerns about the number of animals**

A question was raised in Council's discussion during the 12/6/22 session about the number of animals this type of permit might allow. Could we see 50 small dogs on a large lot? The answer is no.

The limit of small, medium, and large animals is regulated by **Title 21 – Land Development Code and Chapter 21-11-3 Animals (Farm and Household Pets)**.

To stay consistent with our land use and zoning regulations we follow the limits prescribe in that section of our city code.

The limit for the number of horses on a lot is based upon the square footage. Only lots in an "A" designated zone larger than one acre or 50,000 square feet could qualify for a large animal hobby permit.

#### **Renewal of a Hobby License**

Hobby Licenses are issued on an annual basis and automatically expire 12 months after it is issued. Our division issues a notice of renewal.

#### **Addressing Complaints**

Our division, code enforcement and police officers may respond to complaints regarding violations of this title or have animal welfare concerns.

Our existing hobby permit provides that the officers may inspect each licensed premises. Failing to allow inspection is a violation of the license.

#### **Revocation of a hobby license**

A process for revocation of hobby licenses is part of the existing title. However, I have included one update. The hobby license shall be revoked if the licensee pleads to or is found guilty of animal cruelty.

## **CONCLUSION**

We present members of Council with a version of Chapter 12-2 Hobby License which includes a section for a Large Animal Hobby License which addresses standards of care, welfare, and maintenance of horses in our community. It provides a path for residents in a zone with an "A" designation and lot size to keep more than 4 horses.

#### **Effects of a large animal hobby permit**

Because of the required lots size, "A" designated zone, and other provisions outlined in this report and the proposed ordinance change, I believe any effect on our residents and city staff will be limited.

*February 10, 2023*

The process and requirements on staff time for a large animal hobby license will be no different than for that of a dog.

I also believe that the requirements of the permit hold the license to high standard of care and maintenance designed to minimize nuisance issues while promoting the health and welfare of the animals.