



NEW CASTLE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF LAND USE

FAQ

What are the regulations regarding animals in New Castle County? What kind of animals may be kept as pets

See Article 2, Chapter 4 of the New Castle County Code

The Delaware Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) enforces regulations regarding nuisance animals and animals that are mistreated.

All dogs over the age of 6 months are required to have a Delaware State Dog License and must display the license tag. Proof of current rabies vaccination is required to obtain a dog license.

All dogs are to be kept under restraint at all times.

Owners or persons responsible for dogs and/or cats are expected to prevent accumulation of animal excreta in the area where such animals are customarily kept. This regulation is enforced by the New Castle County Code Enforcement Division. To file a complaint, call 395-5555.

Owners of or persons responsibility for dogs or cats shall immediately remove, in a sanitary manner, any fecal matter deposited by such dog or cat upon any street, sidewalk or park or upon any property without the consent of the owner or tenant of such property. It shall not be a violation if such fecal matter is removed within one (1) hour.

The following animals are prohibited on any parcel of land that is in a residential district and less than one acre in total, any diversified planning unit development or in an MM zoned district: (Chapter 4, Section 04.02.004 of the New Castle County Code)

Cattle, poultry, sheep, goats, pigs, ducks, geese, waterfowl, guinea hens, chickens, turkeys, donkeys, quail, doves, llamas, raccoons, muskrats, nondomesticated mammals, game fowl, pigeons, pheasants, peacocks, foxes, minks, exotic animals, wild animals, game animals and other like animals. It is unlawful for any owner, tenant or other person in control of a property to raise, breed, keep, shelter or harbor any of the above.



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This section shall not apply to the keeping, sheltering or harboring of animals in connection with bona fide educational programs run or overseen by a public or private elementary, middle or secondary school or a college or university or the Delaware Cooperative Extension Education Program, the 4-H or the Newark Pigeon Club, Wilmington Homing Club or the Delmarva Pigeon Club.

This section shall not apply to the keeping, sheltering or harboring of horses. (Please refer to FAQ: [Can I have horses?](#))

For useful information regarding abandoned and unwanted animals, contact the [SPCA of Delaware](#) or the [Delaware Humane Association](#).

This FAQ only summarizes or highlights portions of the New Castle County Code. In all applications, the Code must be directly consulted. The language in the Code prevails over the FAQ.

Revised 05/10/05, 12/17/08