

ORDINANCE NO.: 2009-106

Amending the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina,
Chapter 4, Animals, Article II, Livestock

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Columbia, South Carolina this ___ day of _____, 2009, that the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 4, Animals, Article II, Livestock, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 4-31. Livestock and fowl running at large.

It shall be unlawful for any person who may own or have under his control any horse, mule, ass, jennet, swine, sheep, goat, goose, chicken and other fowl, or cattle of any description to allow or permit the animal or fowl to run at large within the corporate limits of the city.

Sec. 4-32. Keeping hogs.

It shall be unlawful for any person to keep or maintain any hogs or pigs within the corporate limits of the city.

Sec. 4-33. Raising or keeping fowl or rabbits.

The raising or maintaining of live fowl and rabbits is prohibited within the city, except as provided in this Article with regard to the keeping of chickens.

Sec. 4-34. Keeping livestock and fowl generally; location of pens and stables.

It shall be unlawful for any person to own livestock and live fowls, other than chickens as provided in this Article, or to establish a stable or riding academy or to engage in the business of renting, hiring, selling or trading livestock or live fowls within the city; provided, however, that the provisions of this section shall not apply when the stable or pen for keeping livestock or live fowls is so situated as to maintain a distance of at least 500 feet between the livestock and live fowls and any improvements or structure used for residential, commercial, professional, recreational, church, school or other institutional purposes, and provided further that the livestock or live fowls are kept securely penned in a clean and sanitary manner and in conformance with all county and state regulations and city public service department regulations.

Sec. 4-35. Raising or keeping chickens, generally.

The keeping of chickens shall be in compliance with the following, in addition to any zoning and/or building regulations that may be applicable to the construction of coops and runs:

(a) No more than four (4) hens shall be kept or maintained on a single premise. It shall be unlawful to keep roosters or more than four (4) hens.

(b) Such hens must be confined in a coop not less than 18 inches in height and with a minimum square feet of floor area of two (2) square feet per hen over four (4) months of age, connected to a run of not less than eight (8) square feet per hen over four (4) months of age, both of which shall be fully enclosed and with a solid floor made of cement or other suitable washable material.

The run must be well drained so there is no accumulation of chicken excrement and shall be cleaned regularly with all droppings and excretions placed in a fly-proof container unless otherwise disposed of in accordance with any federal, state or local health regulations.

The coop shall be a minimum of 25 feet from any property line and at least 50 feet from the nearest residence other than that of the owner.

No coop shall be placed in a front or side yard.

Failure to confine the hens, maintain the coop or manage the droppings and excretions in compliance with this section shall be unlawful.

(c) It shall be unlawful to slaughter any chickens on the premises.

(d) It shall be unlawful to raise chickens for commercial purposes within the corporate limits of the city.

(e) It shall be unlawful to keep chickens on premises within the City without first obtaining a certificate of inspection from the animal control division; issued pursuant to this section, for which an annual inspection fee of \$100 shall be paid.

Sec. 4-35.36 Impoundment.

(a) *Duty to impound.* It shall be the duty of the animal control officer or any police officer to seize any and all animals and/or fowl, other than common household pets, that may be found in violation of the provisions of this article within the city.

(b) *Advertisement.* Upon the impoundment of any animal or fowl under the provisions of this section, the city shall immediately advertise the animal at the police headquarters, giving a correct description thereof.

(c) *Redemption.* Should the owner of any animal or fowl impounded under the provisions of this section appear within four days thereafter and prove his right to the possession of the animal or fowl, then the city shall deliver the animal or fowl to him on the payment of all fees due as a result of such impoundment.

(d) *Fees.* A fee of \$20.00 shall be charged for each animal or fowl impounded under the provisions of this section. In addition thereto, there shall also be charged against such animal and fowl all expenses actually incurred by each animal or fowl so impounded for feeding, care and keeping of the animal or fowl.

(e) *Sale; disposition of proceeds.* Should no owner appear within the time described in subsection (c) of this section or, appearing, should the owner fail or refuse to pay the fees or fine imposed, then it shall be the duty of the city to expose to public sale such animal or fowl impounded for the satisfaction of such fine.

This ordinance shall be effective as of _____.

Requested by:
Animal Services _____

Approved by: _____

Mayor

Interim City Manager

Approved as to form: _____

City Attorney
Public Hearing:
Introduced:
Final Reading:

ATTEST:

City Clerk