

# EUGENE CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY



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## Work Session: Urban Goat-Keeping

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Meeting Date: February 27, 2012  
Department: Planning and Development  
*www.eugene-or.gov*

Agenda Item Number: C  
Staff Contact: Mike McKerrow  
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### ISSUE STATEMENT

This work session provides an opportunity for the council to review and discuss the City's land use code as it relates to goats and other micro-livestock.

### BACKGROUND

Eugene's land use code is an important part of creating, protecting and improving the quality of life in Eugene. The code provides farm animal standards which regulate goats and other animals. The standards are designed to allow some animals associated with agricultural uses within the urban growth boundary while limiting impacts on adjacent neighbors.

The farm animal standards (Section 9.5250) allow goats in agricultural and low density residential zones on lots 20,000 square feet or greater. On these large AG or R-1 zoned parcels of at least 20,000 square feet, one goat is allowed for every 5,000 square feet of property. This means any property large enough for goats according to the current Eugene Code may have four goats ( $20,000/5,000=4$  goats). Larger properties may have additional goats at a ratio of one goat for every additional 5,000 square feet, but never on less than 20,000 square feet. There is no limit to the number of goats if the necessary 5,000 square feet of acreage exists for each goat.

The farm animal standards also require fencing, proper sanitation and setbacks from property lines and adjacent dwellings for any structure providing animal shelter. There is no distinction in the code between miniature and other types of goats. The farm animal standards also apply to other large animals, including cows, horses, sheep, emus and llamas. Permit and Information Center staff receives several inquiries a year about how goats are regulated. The City rarely receives complaints about goats.

Staff has recently reviewed a sample of other jurisdiction's regulations on goats. Ordinances generally identify the specific type of animal allowed and the maximum number allowed depending on zone, lot size and performance standards.

- Springfield allows two pygmy goats on low-density residential lots of at least 20,000 square feet. One additional pygmy goat is allowed for each additional 10,000 square feet of lot area. Sanitation and enclosure standards also apply.

- Seattle regulates miniature goats (includes pygmy, dwarf and miniature goats) in a category of “small animals” which includes potbelly pigs and rabbits. Any three small animals are allowed on any residential lot. Miniature goats must be dehorned and males neutered. Offspring are allowed until weaned but no longer than three months. Seattle requires an annual license and \$30 fee.
- Portland includes pygmy goats with the regulation of chickens, ducks, doves, pigeons and rabbits. Residential lots are allowed to have up to three of the animals in this category if they are enclosed, and sanitation is maintained and odors controlled. Having four or more of these animals requires an annual permit, fee and inspections. A variance process is also available.
- Berkeley, California allows up to two female goats per lot in most residential areas but prohibits male goats.

In 2010, the City Council reviewed the Community Climate and Energy Action Plan (CEAP) as well as the Food Security Scoping and Resource Plan (Resource Plan). One of the recommendations identified in both documents is to, “Revise Eugene City Code to address urban agriculture and homesteading opportunities.” The Food Security Scoping and Resource Plan has a specific recommendation to increase micro-livestock raising in the City limits. The March 2011 Envision Eugene draft proposal also includes a strategy to, “Facilitate urban agriculture by evaluating and removing barriers in the land use code and permitting processes . . . in accordance with the Food Security Scoping and Resource Plan.”

On September 29, 2010, the City Council reviewed the Food Security and Resources Plan. Part of the discussion included the number of chickens allowed by the land use code. The City Council passed a motion to continue suspension of enforcement on the number of chickens allowed on a lot until the land use code could be modified. The performance standards in the code related to odor, sanitation and fencing are still being enforced. Urban goat-keeping is a similar urban agriculture topic.

Modifying the land use code has a number of steps including evaluation by both the Planning Commission and City Council with accompanying public hearings. At this time, no revision to farm animal standards is scheduled. However, goats and chickens, along with the regulation of other micro-livestock (rabbits, pot-bellied pigs etc.), will be incorporated into code change proposals as part of Envision Eugene.

### **RELATED CITY POLICIES**

- Community Climate and Energy Action Plan recommendation
- Food Security Scoping and Resource Plan recommendation
- Envision Eugene Draft Plan recommendation

### **CITY MANAGER’S RECOMMENDATION**

There is no City Manager recommendation at this time

### **SUGGESTED MOTION**

There is no suggested motion.

**ATTACHMENTS**

A. Eugene Code 9.5250 Farm Animal Standards

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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Eugene Code

9.5250 **Farm Animal Standards.** All of the following standards are applicable to farm animals:

(1) **Farm Animals Allowed:**

- (a) Except as provided in subsection (1)(b) below, up to 2 adult rabbits or fowl (no roosters) over 6 months of age are allowed in any residential zone.
- (b) Rabbits, fowl (no roosters), cows, horses, sheep, goats, emus, and llamas are allowed in AG and R-1. There is no limit on the number of fowl (no roosters) or rabbits over 6 months of age permitted in AG and R-1 provided they are on a development site that contains at least 20,000 square feet and they meet the farm animal standards.

(2) **Sanitation:** Proper sanitation shall be maintained for all farm animals.

Proper sanitation includes:

- (a) Not allowing farm animal waste matter to accumulate,
- (b) Taking necessary steps to be sure odors resulting from farm animals are not detectable beyond property lines, and
- (c) Storing all farm animal food in metal or other rodent-proof containers.

(3) **Fencing:** Shall be designed and constructed to confine all farm animals to the owner's property.

(4) **Setbacks:** All structures that house farm animals shall be located at least 25 feet from all existing residences (except the animal owner's) and at least 10 feet from interior lot lines.

(5) **Minimum Lot Size and Area for Large Animals:**

- (a) Minimum lot size of 20,000 square feet for cows, horses, sheep, goats, emus, and llamas.
- (b) Minimum area per animal over 6 months of age:  
Cows, horses: 10,000 square feet  
Sheep, goats, emus, and llamas: 5,000 square feet