



Frequently Asked Questions: Keeping Livestock in Los Angeles County

In areas zoned for livestock, property owners need to follow local zoning regulations and Public Health codes to reduce the risk of disease and protect the public’s health.

Authority: Los Angeles County Health and Safety Code Title 11 and Title 8

What are some of the requirements for animal keeping?

Manage manure:	Manure must be removed from the areas at least once per week and pens cleaned daily to prevent fly breeding and odors.
Prevent vermin infestation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent and control the infestation, harborage, or breeding of flies, rodents, mosquitoes, and other vermin. • Store all open feed in rodent-proof containers with tight fitting lids. • Waste must be properly stored to prevent fly breeding and to not provide a food source for rodents and other wildlife. • Elevate salvageable items at least 18 inches off the ground with a clear space underneath and away from walls and fences to prevent rodent harborage conditions.
Prevent the pooling of water and urine:	Standing water and urine can quickly breed mosquitoes that can spread West Nile Virus, Western Equine and St Louis Encephalitis, and other diseases. Keep water dispensers clear of algae and free of leaks.
Proper placement of pens:	Livestock and fowl must be kept at least 35 feet from any dwelling, 100 feet away from any school or hospital and at least 100 feet away from any location where domestic water is drawn for human consumption.
Public Health License requirement:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently, if you have 50 or more livestock or 500 or more fowl or rabbits, you are required to have a Public Health License. • Routine inspections are conducted twice a year on licensed animal-keeping properties. • Complaint investigations are conducted on licensed and unlicensed animal-keeping properties when received by our office.