

Philadelphia Department of Public Health

Board of Health

REGULATIONS FOR GRANTING WAIVERS FOR KEEPING MORE THAN TWELVE ADULT DOGS OR CATS

Section 1. Pursuant to Section 10-103(8) of The Philadelphia Code, it is unlawful to keep more than twelve (12) adult dogs or cats combined in a residential dwelling. Section 10-103(8) permits the Department of Public Health to grant waivers to this requirement.

Section 2. The Department of Public Health (“Department”) may grant a waiver pursuant to Section 10-103(8) of the Code based on the following:

1. The property in question is a detached single-family dwelling located on one or more acres of property, with fencing adequate to prevent any dog kept at the property from escaping;
2. A list of all dogs and cats to be kept at the property is provided;
3. Documentation that all such animals have been vaccinated against rabies; all such animals in excess of four have been neutered or spayed; and that all dogs have been properly licensed;
4. Documentation that at least 75% of “neighboring occupancies,” meaning occupied premises the property line of which is located within 100 feet of the property line of the property at issue, approve of the waiver. For purposes of this requirement, the approval of at least one resident or owner of a neighboring occupancy shall constitute approval of the neighboring occupancy.
5. A determination by the Department, based on an inspection of the property if deemed necessary by the Department, that the facilities are adequate to maintain the quantity of animals for which a waiver is requested and appropriate sanitary conditions can be maintained.
6. Agreement by the person seeking the waiver that the Department has permission to monitor the property, included a right of entry into all interior and exterior portions, during the time the waiver is in effect.
7. Agreement by the person seeking the waiver that the waiver may be voided by the Department at any time if the Department determines that the facilities are no longer adequate to maintain the quantity of animals for which a waiver was granted or appropriate sanitary conditions have not been maintained.

- The current limit of 12 animals shall be in force with respect to the existing dwelling. Excess of the limit shall be determined at a rate of 2 animals per 100 additional square feet beyond the existing dwelling square footage. This calculation pertains only to attached structures.