

PRESS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION

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Westport Livestock Owners to Register Animal Sites

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All owners of livestock, whether backyard farmer or commercial operation, in Westport now need to file a one-time, one-page, no-fee registration form with the Westport Board of Health. The form asks for the address, types and approximate numbers of farm animals on site, as well as contact information for the owner and a backup in case of emergency. The Board voted to adopt an animal Site Registry Regulation at its November 4th meeting.

The purpose is to develop a confidential animal site registry so the locations of livestock/farm animals will be available to Westport police, fire and public health officials responsible for the protection of public health and safety and emergency planning. The registry information will only be available to the Board of Health, Police and Fire Departments. This registry will also help the Town comply with state law requiring 'barn book' inspections of all livestock in town, which is done by state-appointed municipal animal inspectors. Information from barn book inspections goes directly to the Mass. Department of Agriculture and is not generally available to local officials.

If you own livestock/farm animals (cattle, goats, llamas, sheep, pigs, horses, mules, donkeys, llamas, alpacas, rabbits, chickens or other fowl) on any site in Westport, you should complete and submit one form for each location where animals are kept. The deadline is January 7th 2020 or within 30 days of when livestock are first brought onto the property. You do not need to register household pets, wild animals (which need state permits) or bees.

Ways to Submit the Completed Registration Form:

1. Mail or drop off the form to: Board of Health, 856 Main Road, Westport, MA 02790
2. Email the form to: Health@Westport-MA.gov
3. Fax the form to: 508-636-1016

You can get a copy of the Animal Site Registry regulation and the form at the Board of Health Office or on our webpage: www.westport-ma.com/board-health. A 'Frequently Asked Questions' document will also be available shortly or you may call 508-636-1015 for more information. #