



TOWN OF WESTPORT
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OFFICE OF BOARD OF HEALTH
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**EQUINE
REGULATION**
(Amended August 22, 2022)

1. AUTHORITY

The following regulation is adopted by the Westport Board of Health in accordance with the provision so MGL c. 111 section 31, effective August 22, 2022. They are enacted under the authority, which includes but is not limited to one or more of the following: Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 111, Sections 31, 122, 122A, 127, 143, 155, 187, Sections 310 CMR 11.02; Board of Health regulations are an exercise of the power under which various levels of government are responsible for protection of the public, health, safety, welfare, and the environment.

2. PURPOSE

To ensure the health and safety of Equines in the Town of Westport.

3. DEFINITIONS

Equine – of or belonging to the family Equidae, which includes but not limited to horses, asses, and zebras; characteristic of or similar to a horse in appearance or behavior.

4. FACILITIES (As defined in 330 CMR 16.03)

4.1. All areas where equines are kept shall be maintained in a safe and sanitary condition and in good repair, free of glass, wire, or other material, which may cause injury to equines. All areas shall be kept in such a manner as to prevent the infestation of the equines with internal parasites and the premises with external parasites or vermin and in such a manner as to prevent the spread of infectious or contagious diseases.

4.2. The area where equines are kept shall be cleaned as frequently as necessary to ensure their sanitary condition. All stables shall include a shelter, which is capable of being enclosed. The stalls shall be of adequate size such that the equine contained therein shall have room to stand and lie down comfortably.

4.3. Horses kept in outdoor holding or grazing areas shall be provided with a shelter as described above if they are out eight (8) hours or more and no natural shelter exists.

4.4. Turnout areas shall be of reasonable size for the number of horses sharing the turnout at any one time and fencing shall be kept in good repair and sufficient to contain the equines within its designated area.

4.5. The Board of Health or its agent may inspect any such facilities to verify compliance with these regulations.

4.6. Each person keeping four (4) or more equines on his/her property must obtain a Stable Permit from the Board of Health and less than four (4) equines must obtain an Equine Permit

5. FEEDING

Fresh food in an amount consistent with the dietary requirements of the horse shall be offered daily to non-grazing animals. Fresh clean water shall be available at all times. Containers used for the feeding and watering of equines shall be cleaned regularly in order that they remain free from debris and contamination. A clean, dry hay and grain storage area shall be furnished.

6. MANURE MANAGEMENT

6.1. All stables shall keep on-site equipment adequate for storage or disposal of waste material to control vermin, insects, diseases, and obnoxious odors.

6.2. All stables shall further establish a protocol for manure disposal that conforms to all state laws and regulations.

6.3. Manure shall be stored at least 50 feet away from property boundaries and 100 feet away from existing well. All equine wells shall be tested annually.

7. HEALTH ISSUES

7.1. All equines shall be vaccinated annually for Rabies. A proof of such vaccination shall be presented to the Board of Health to obtain a permit.

7.2. All equines shall be registered with the Board of Health Office.

7.3. All equines shall be kept properly shod or their feet shall be appropriately trimmed at all times.

8. NON-CRIMINAL DISPOSITION

Whoever violates any provision of this regulation may be penalized by the non-criminal method of disposition as provided in General Laws, Chapter 40, Section 21D or by filing a criminal complaint at the appropriate venue.

9. PENALTIES

A penalty of \$5.00 per animal per day will be assessed for any violation of this regulation.

9. SEVERABILITY

If any portion of or provision of this Regulation is declared invalid, it shall not invalidate any other portion or provision thereof.

WESTPORT BOARD OF HEALTH