

CHAPTER 8

STABLE LICENSE

8.1 SCOPE

In accordance with Section 31 of Chapter 111 of the General Laws, the Board of Health of Norton, Massachusetts has determined the following regulation:

No individual, partnership, company, or corporation shall keep any "horse" within the Town of Norton without first obtaining a Stable License. No permit shall be issued until applicant verifies the property is zoned for this use. Only a person who complies with the requirements set forth shall be entitled to receive and retain such a license. All stables may be subject to a yearly inspection. No stable for which a license is granted shall be occupied until the Board of Health or its agent inspects it and any license granted can be revoked whenever, in the opinion of said Board, revocation is necessary. Prior to the issuance of any new stable license, the Board of Health or its agent shall inspect the premises to determine if the stable is in compliance with these regulations. Re-inspection upon yearly renewals is not required unless the Board of Health has acted upon a complaint concerning the stable during the previous license period. Upon receipt of a complaint, the Board of Health will arrange for an inspection of the property within a reasonable amount of time. Non-compliance with licensing regulations may result in fines or removal of the animals, at the owner's expense. Fines for non-compliance shall accrue at a rate of ten dollars (\$10.00) per day and each day shall constitute a separate offense.

8.2 FEE

A fee for the license shall be as established in the fee schedule and shall be valid from June to May.

8.3 DEFINITIONS

- A. "Horse" shall be defined as any animal belonging to the family Equidae, to include, but not limited to horse, donkeys, mules, burros, miniature horses, ponies, or any crosses thereof.
- B. "Stable" shall be defined as a structure or structures erected and maintained for the purpose of housing Equidae.

8.4 LOCATION

Shelters shall be located as required by the Norton Zoning Regulations. Shelters shall not be less than one hundred (100) feet from wells or from the high water mark of any source of drinking water supply or tributary thereof.

8.5 STABLES

A minimum of an open shed, facing south, can suffice (with a weather tight roof and sides). All shelters shall have a minimum overhead clearance of eight (8) feet and shall be of an adequate size for the total number of animals housed within. The shelter shall have sufficient space for the animal to comfortably lie down

or stand up. No animal shall be allowed to remain outdoors at all times without having access to proper shelter.

8.6 WATER

Water shall be made freely available to all animals. It shall be kept fresh, clean, and readily accessible, both indoors and outdoors.

8.7 CORRALS, PADDOCKS, AND PASTURES

Corrals, paddocks, and pastures shall be designed to minimize standing pools of surface water, and to facilitate proper drainage to prevent conditions that may create a health or safety hazard. They shall be provided with adequate fencing, constructed to safely confine the animal. A minimum of two thousand (2,000) square feet shall be considered adequate and it should be kept as clean and dry as possible.

8.8 FENCES

Adequate fencing, at least four (4) feet high, shall consist of a safe material that is clearly visible, and shall not include barbed wire in any form. Fencing shall be maintained in order to protect both the animal and any neighboring properties.

8.9 HEALTH

Every animal should have regularly scheduled veterinary and hoof care to help maintain good health. The Norton Board of Health requires that all horse/ponies within the Town be vaccinated in the spring of each year (March, April, May) for Equine Encephalitis. Owners of horse/ponies must then provide the Norton Board of Health with a letter from a veterinarian certifying that the vaccination has been completed. The Norton Board of Health office must receive this certification by May 31st of each year. Although rabies vaccination is not mandatory, it is strongly recommended by the Board of Health.

8.10 MANURE

No manure shall be allowed to accumulate and create a nuisance. Manure shall not be stored within one hundred (100) feet from wells or from the high water mark of any source of drinking water supply or tributary thereof. Storage of manure shall not threaten wetlands.

8.11 EXEMPTIONS

Preexisting buildings currently functioning as horse stables as of February 7, 1997 need not conform to the dimensions defined in the sections 8.4 location and 8.5 stables.