

## CHAPTER 7

### STABLE LICENSE

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- 7 **Authority** Board of Health of the Town of Norton, acting under the authority MGL Chapter 111 Sections 31, and 155 and amendments and additions thereto, in the interest of and for the preservation of the public health, and the environment adopts the following regulations for stables in the Town
- 7.1 **Licensing** No individual, partnership, company, or corporation shall keep any "horse" within the Town of Norton without first obtaining a Stable License. No license shall be issued until applicant verifies the property is zoned for this use. A fee for the license shall be as established in Appendix A and shall be valid for one year starting on June 1. 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. Any license can be revoked whenever, in the opinion of the Board, revocation is necessary.
- 7.2 **Definitions** The following definitions apply to this section:
- i "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.
  - ii "Stable" shall be defined as a structure or structures erected and maintained for the purpose of housing Equidae.
- 7.3 **Location** Shelters shall be located as required by the Norton Zoning Regulations. Shelters shall not be less than 100 feet from wells or from the high water mark of any source of drinking water supply or tributary thereof.
- 7.4 **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 feet and shall be at least 100 sf in area for the first animal and 60 sf for each additional animal. No animal shall be allowed to remain outdoors at all times without having access to proper shelter.
- 7.5 **Water** Water shall be made freely available to all animals. It shall be kept fresh, clean, and readily accessible, both indoors and outdoors.
- 7.6 **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 2,000 sf shall be considered adequate and it should be kept as clean and dry as possible.

7.7 **Fences** Adequate fencing, at least four 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.

7.8 **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, or May) for Equine Encephalitis (rabies). 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 31<sup>st</sup> of each year. Although rabies vaccination is not mandatory, it is strongly recommended by the Board of Health.

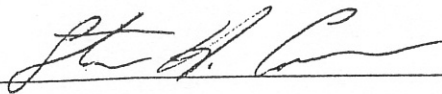
7.9 **Manure** Manure shall not be allowed to accumulate and create a nuisance. Manure shall be regularly removed from stables and shall be immediately removed from the premises or must be so kept that it will not constitute a nuisance. Manure shall not be stored within 150 feet of a private water supply wells or 500 feet of a public water supply well or within 150 feet from the high water mark of any source of drinking water supply or tributary thereof. Manure shall not be stored within 150 of a wetland. Provisions shall be made to remove manure with sufficient frequency and in such a manner as to be satisfactory to the Board of Health.

7.10 **Inspections** All stables shall be subject to a yearly inspection. 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.

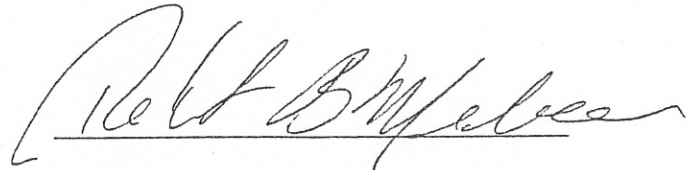
7.11 **Violations** - Any person found in violation of these regulations shall be fined, upon conviction, not more than \$1,000 per violation. Each day of noncompliance shall constitute a separate and new offense. Non-compliance with licensing regulations may result in fines or removal of the animals, at the owner's expense. Any person, who is issued a license by the Board and is found to be in violation of these or any other applicable regulation, may be subject to the immediate suspension or revocation of said permit or license. The Regulation may be enforced by the use of Non-Criminal Citations as put forth in Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, § 21D

# Board of Health Rules and Regulations


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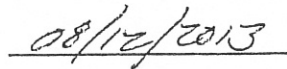
Steven H. Corr, P.E, Chairman



Robert B. Medeiros, Vice-Chairman



Diane Battistello, Clerk



Date