

*City of Colonial Heights, VA
Friday, December 22, 2023*

Chapter 98. Animals

Article I. General

§ 98-10. Number of companion animals per residence limited.

- A. Except as otherwise provided herein, it shall be unlawful for any person to own, house, keep, board or have more than four companion animals at any one residence within the City unless permission to do so shall have first been obtained from City Council or unless there shall be at such residence a structure or other means reasonably suited for the provision of permanent shelter to the extent required in § 98-43 herein; any such required structure or other means being more than 300 feet from any other residence. The City Council shall consider the grant of such permission in those cases where the keeping of such animals does not create a health hazard. When it is proposed to keep more than four companion animals at any one residence within the City, application shall be made by the owner to the City Council, setting forth the number of such companion animals, the location of a kennel or other structure, if any, and the plans for its construction; and if, in the opinion of the City Council it is proper so to do so permission may be granted for the construction of such kennel or other structure in accordance with the plans submitted and for the keeping of the companion animals, under such reasonable conditions as the City Council deems proper. The kennel or other structure shall be subject to inspection by an Animal Control Officer to ascertain compliance with the permit at any hour during the daytime, and the permit so granted by the City Council shall be revocable at any time when, in the sole discretion of the City Council, it is proper to do so in the protection of the public health.
- B. For the purposes of this section, if any companion animal at any one residence gives birth to a litter, then an animal in that litter will not be considered as a companion animal at that residence until the animal in the litter exceeds the age of three months.
- C. If City Council grants permission, then it shall be unlawful for any person to own, house, keep, board or have more companion animals at any one residence than Council has agreed to allow.

COMPANION ANIMAL

Any domestic or feral dog, domestic or feral cat, nonhuman primate, guinea pig, hamster, rabbit not raised for human food or fiber, exotic or native animal, reptile, tropical bird or any bird that spends any time outside, or any feral animal, any animal under the care, custody, or ownership of a person, or any animal that is bought, sold, traded, or bartered by any person. Agricultural animals, game species, or any animals regulated under federal law as research animals shall not be considered companion animals for the purposes of this chapter.

[Amended 2-12-2019 by Ord. No. 19-2]