

**HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP  
YORK COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2-2024**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 2 [ANIMALS]  
AND CHAPTER 27 [ZONING] OF THE CODE OF  
ORDINANCES OF HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP, YORK  
COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

**WHEREAS**, Hopewell Township, York County, Pennsylvania (“Township”) is a second class township duly organized and existing under the Second Class Township Code, 53 P.S. § 35101 *et seq*;

**WHEREAS**, the Township is empowered by the Second Class Township Code, 53 P.S. § 66506 *et seq*, to pass Ordinances for the health and welfare of the Township and its citizens;

**WHEREAS**, the Township has previously adopted the Hopewell Township Code of Ordinances (“Code”); and

**WHEREAS**, the Township adopted Chapter 2 [Animals] of the Code establishing rules and regulations for the management of animals within Hopewell Township; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Township adopted Section 27-317.6 as part of Chapter 27 [Zoning] of the Code regulating use and rules regarding Keeping of Domestic Livestock; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Township now desires to move the regulations in Section 27-317.6 to a new Part 3 of Chapter 2 [Animals]; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Township further desires to amend Section 27-317.6 to add a cross-reference to new Part 3 of Chapter 2 [Animals].

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED AND ORDAINED** by the Board of Supervisors of Hopewell Township as follows:

**SECTION 1:** The Board of Supervisors of Hopewell Township hereby adopts the attached Ordinance, marked Exhibit “A”, which shall be known as the “Hopewell Township Keeping of

Domestic Livestock Ordinance,” and shall be codified as a new Part 3 of Chapter 2 [Animals].  
The attached Exhibit “A” is incorporated herein as if fully set forth.

**SECTION 2:** Section of 27-317.6 is hereby deleted in its entirety and replaced by the following:

§27-317.6. Chickens and Other Fowl; Domestic Livestock.

- A. The keeping chickens and other fowl and domestic livestock use shall be in compliance with the requirements of Chapter 2 [Animals] of the Code of Hopewell Township. In the event that the provisions of Chapter 2 [Animals] are in conflict with the provisions of this Chapter 27 [Zoning], the provisions of Chapter 2 [Animals] shall take precedence.
- B. The Board of Supervisors may grant waivers and modifications to the requirements of Chapter 2 [Animals] in the case of a hardship established to the reasonable satisfaction of the Board of Supervisors.
- C. A violation of Chapter 2 [Animals] of the Code of Hopewell Township related to the keeping of chickens or other fowl or domestic livestock use shall also be a violation of this Chapter.

**SECTION 3.** In the event that this Ordinance shall be in conflict with any other duly adopted Ordinance of the Township, it is hereby ordained that this Ordinance shall govern.

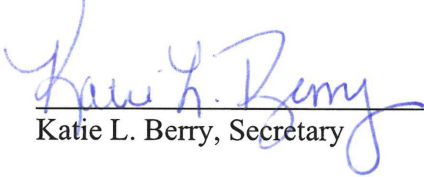
**SECTION 4:** In the event that any portion of this Ordinance or the attached Exhibit “A” shall be declared or stricken by any court of competent jurisdiction, as illegal, impermissible, null, or void, for any reasons, then the remainder of this Ordinance and the attached Exhibit “A” shall remain in full force and effect as if the stricken portion had not been enacted.

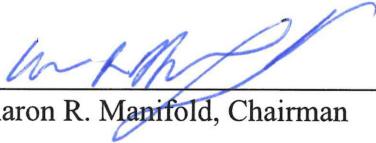
**SECTION 5:** This Ordinance and the attached Exhibit “A” shall be effective five (5) days after adoption.

ORDAINED AND ENACTED the 6th day of June, 2024.


ATTEST:


HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

  
Katie L. Berry, Secretary

  
Aaron R. Manifold, Chairman



  
John J. O'Neill, Supervisor

  
David T. Wisnom, Supervisor

**EXHIBIT A**  
**Part 3**  
**Domestic Livestock**

**§ 2-301 Short Title.**

This Part shall be known as the “Hopewell Township Domestic Livestock Ordinance.”

**§ 2-302 Intent.**

It is declared that the enactment of this article is necessary for the protection, benefit and preservation of the health, safety and welfare of the inhabitants of this Township.

**§ 2-303 Applicability.**

The requirements of this section shall only apply in the Residential Zone (R) and Residential II Zone (R-II). Domestic livestock may be kept in any other zone without being subject to the requirements of this section. Domestic livestock use shall also be in compliance with Chapter 27 [Zoning]. This Part 3 shall not apply to the keeping of chickens and other fowl regulated by Part 2 of Chapter 2 [Animals].

**§ 2-304 Definitions.**

**DOMESTIC LIVESTOCK**

Animal generally associated with agriculture, including but not limited to: horses (equine), swine, goats, cattle (bovine), sheep, llamas and alpacas (camelid) which are kept for personal use, rather than for commercial or agricultural production purposes. Chickens and other fowl regulated by Part 2 of Chapter 2 [Animals] are not considered domestic livestock.

**DOMESTIC LIVESTOCK USE**

Any activity involving the keeping and/or raising of domestic livestock for hobby/personal use. A domestic livestock use shall be accessory to a dwelling located at the same lot. This definition excludes all commercial animal operations.

**§ 2-305 Density.**

Domestic livestock may be kept in accordance with the following table:

<b>Animal</b>	<b>Acres Required for the First Animal</b>	<b>Additional Acres Required for Each Additional Animal</b>
Horse	3.0	1.0

<b>Animal</b>	<b>Acres Required for the First Animal</b>	<b>Additional Acres Required for Each Additional Animal</b>
Cattle	3.0	1.0
Swine	3.0	1.0
Sheep/Goats	3.0	1.0
Llamas/Alpacas	3.0	1.0
Other domestic livestock	3.0	1.0

**§ 2-306 Calculation of Area.**

Fifty percent of the area required for the first animal must be open grazing pasture. One-hundred percent of the area required each additional area must be open grazing pasture.

**§ 2-307 Setback Requirements.**

All buildings and structures housing domestic livestock, and any buildings or structures used to store feed or other materials used for domestic livestock use shall be located a minimum of 50 feet from all property lines, or the setback required by the zone in which the use is located, whichever is greater. A minimum of 100 feet shall be provided between any storage area or structure used for the storage of domestic livestock wastes and all property lines, existing street right-of-way lines, wetland and water courses.

**§ 2-308 Fence Requirements.**

Domestic livestock shall be kept within a fenced enclosure at all times when said animals are not leashed, haltered or bridled and under the direct control of the owner or authorized agent of the animal. Any damage done by domestic livestock kept in accordance with this section, regardless how minor, is the joint and several responsibility of the landowner and animal owner, if different.

**§ 2-309 Height Restrictions.**

All buildings and structures associated with the domestic livestock use shall meet any applicable height requirements in Chapter 27 [Zoning] applicable to the zoning district where the buildings are located.

**§ 2-310 Accessory Buildings and Structures.**

All accessory buildings and structures shall comply with the building coverage, open space and impervious surface restrictions in Chapter 27 [Zoning] applicable to the zoning district in which the lot is located.

**§ 2-311 Wetlands and Waterways.**

Domestic livestock shall not have direct access to wetland, watercourses, spring or well. However, a stabilized stream crossing may be permitted with Township approval. All pasture shall be managed to assure dense vegetation throughout the growing season. Dense vegetation means the pasture is managed to minimize bare spots and to maintain an average vegetation height across the pasture during the growing season at least three inches high.

**§ 2-312 No Nuisance.**

Domestic livestock use meeting the requirements of this section shall not constitute a nuisance with regards to noise, odor, vectors, dust, vibration or other nuisance effects beyond the property lines of the parcel upon which the use is located.

**§ 2-313 Penalties.**

Any person, firm or corporation who shall violate any provision of this Part, upon conviction thereof in an action brought before a magisterial district judge in the manner provided for the enforcement of summary offenses under the Pennsylvania Rules of Criminal Procedure, shall be sentenced to pay a fine of not more than \$1,000 plus costs and reasonable attorney fees incurred by the Township in the enforcement proceedings and, in default of payment of said fine and costs, to a term of imprisonment not to exceed 90 days. Each day that a violation of this Part continues or each section of this Part which shall be found to have been violated shall constitute a separate offense.