



PIEDMONT TRIAD REGIONAL COUNCIL

Zoning & The Regulation of Animals on Private Property

Zoning regulation of animals on private property in North Carolina is generally left to the discretion of local cities and counties. Most state laws regarding animal ownership apply to farms and large livestock operations. Therefore, localities are able to tailor animal regulations, if any, to the needs and concerns of local citizens and governing boards.

As a rule, there is a stronger need for stricter animal regulations in urban areas vs. rural areas. This is primarily due to public health, odors, noise and safety concerns in densely populated areas. Given that Caswell County is predominantly rural, there may be no need for regulation of animal ownership on private property at all. For instance, neighboring Rockingham County allows ownership of any type of animal in any numbers throughout all unincorporated residential areas of the county

Pets such as dogs and cats are largely unregulated by zoning law in rural and agricultural areas. Other types of animals that are commonly owned on non-farm private property in rural areas can include horses, chickens, goats, sheep, turkeys and many others.

However, most jurisdictions do choose to regulate kennels for domestic animals (usually dogs and cats). Kennels can be used for boarding, breeding and training of domestic animals. They can range greatly in size. Again, the main reasons most localities regulate dog and cat kennels concern public health, safety, odors and noise. Additionally, kennel regulation can help ensure that animals are kept in clean and healthy environments with enough land space to accommodate larger numbers of animals.