



**BALTIMORE CITY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
BUREAU OF ANIMAL CONTROL
RULES AND REGULATIONS RELATIVE TO HORSE STABLES
AND GENERAL CARE OF HORSES**

BUREAU OF ANIMAL CONTROL

Rules and Regulations Relative to Horse Stables and General Care of Horses

Authority: Baltimore City Health Code, Sections 2-106, Title 10, Subtitles 1, 4 and 9, Edition 2000 as amended; Maryland Code Annotated, Criminal Law, Section 10-601 et. seq.; Transportation Article, Section 21-104; and Agriculture Article, Sections 2-701 et. seq.

A. Responsibilities:

1. Bureau of Ecology and Institutional Services: Prior to issuing a commercial license, the Bureau shall annually conduct a full inspection of stables located in Baltimore City.
2. Establishment Owners/Horse, Owners/Drivers/Riders, where applicable, shall be responsible for compliance with this or any other regulation or law governing the care and treatment of horses within Baltimore City.
3. Bureau of Animal Control: The Bureau shall enforce all codes, rules and regulations. In doing so, its agents/employees may enter the property during normal business hours.

B. Definitions:

1. *Animal* – means any non-human vertebrate.
2. *Attend* – means that a horse being used for riding purposes only shall be securely tied, not by the bit, to an immovable object or held, led or mounted by an individual person who is physically able to maintain full control of the horse; and that a horse being used for any other driving purpose shall be within the sight and within 75 feet of its custodian.
3. *Bureau of Animal Control* – a bureau of the Baltimore City Health Department for the protection/control of animals within the City of Baltimore.
4. *Bureau of Ecology & Institutional Services*- a bureau of the Baltimore City Health Department for the issuing of commercial licenses.
5. *Commercial Establishment* – means any animal auction, animal show, commercial kennel, grooming shop or similar facility where animals are bathed, clipped, plucked, or otherwise groomed for a fee. Pet shop, stable or other riding, boarding, sales, or breeding facility for horses, ponies, donkeys, mules, or burros, or zoological park.
6. *Commissioner* – refers to the Commissioner of Health or his designee.
7. *Corral* – An enclosure used to confine horses and other livestock.
8. *Custodian* – any person who has the immediate possession, bailment, custody, use or control of any horse (not including an individual who is peaceably sitting upon horse while such horse is being continuously held in place or restrained while being slowly walked on a lead by an owner, operator, or renter who is on foot.)

9. *Department of Health* – one of the charter departments of the Mayor and City Council.
10. *Director of Bureau of Animal Control* – means the head of the Bureau of Animal Control of the Baltimore City Health Department.
11. *Driver's License* – A license issued by the Commissioner of Health to an operator of a horse-drawn wagon, cart, carriage, or similar vehicles.
12. *Driving* – the process of operating a horse-drawn vehicle.
13. *Equipment* - any device or furnishing used in the general care, control or operation of horses.
14. *Establishment* – a permanent or temporary structure or dwelling that houses horses and equipment.
15. *Health Certificate* – a document issued to an owner or custodian after an examination by a veterinarian licensed in the State of Maryland. Such certificate shall include a description of the horse including sex, age, height, color, markings, and other information for health or identification purposes.
16. *Horse* – any of the various equine mammals such as mule, donkey, pony that are owned, used, operated or quartered, either permanently or temporarily, in the City of Baltimore for work purposes, for the performance of some work or labor which includes showing, performing in any exhibition, show, circus, rodeo, or similar use. The terms refer to and include any said animals used for riding, driving, or propagation, but shall not include animals owned by the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore or used by the Baltimore Zoo or its duly appointed agents or contractors, nor animals regulated by the Maryland Racing Commission.
17. *Horse Identification* – a driver or custodian of a horse shall carry a Health Certificate during the time this animal is used.
18. *Impaired Person* – a person who is under the influence of any intoxicating beverages or substances.
19. *License Plate* – a tag that is obtained by owners or operators for horse-drawn vehicles and is good for one year only.
20. *Licensee* – the person to whom a driver's license is issued by the Commissioner of Health of Baltimore City.
21. *Microchip* – a glass-encased, passive electronic devise that emits a radio frequency that shows a unique number when activated by a scanner.
22. *Operator* – the proprietor of, or the person who is in charge of an establishment (i.e. horse stable).
23. *Owner* – the person who is vested with the ownership, dominion, or title of a horse, equipment or establishment.

24. *Permit* – an animal establishment permit issued by the Baltimore City Health Department to owners or operators of stables; this permit is good for one year.
25. *Person* – an individual, firm, association, company, partnership, corporation, or other legal entity.
26. *Stable* – a barn or facility that houses horses.
27. *Stall* – compartments located within a stable to separate the horses from one another.
28. *Veterinarian* – means an individual authorized by law to practice veterinary medicine in the State of Maryland.

C. Standards and Guidelines Relating to the Issuance of a Driver's License

1. The applicant must be 18 years or older.
2. The applicant must produce proof of age and residency.
3. The Commissioner may require information to determine whether an applicant is capable of humanely handling a horse and whether a license may be issued.
4. The Commissioner may waive the requirements for a driver's license for persons participating in incorporated circuses, horse shows, rodeos, organized competitions and special events.
5. Any person convicted of cruelty to animals may not apply for a driver's license and/or stable license for a period of two years.
6. Any person, whose license has been denied or revoked for reasons other than animal cruelty, may not re-apply for a driver's license and/or stable license for a period of one year.

D. Procedure for Applying for a Driver's License

1. Prior to driving a horse-drawn carriage or cart in the City, individuals must have applied for and obtained a driver's license from the Commissioner of Health.
2. The application for a license shall be completed on forms provided by the Bureau of Animal Control of the Baltimore City Health Department.
3. Application forms are available Tuesday through Friday, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Municipal Animal Shelter, 301 Stockholm Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21230.
4. Applications processing is available Tuesday through Friday 11:00 a.m. through 3:00 p.m. at the Municipal Animal Shelter, 301 Stockholm Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21230. Appointments may be accepted at other times and days. Call 410-396-4688 to request special times.
5. Upon approval of an application, a fee of \$10.00 a year (Health Code 10-907) must be paid. Certified checks or money orders should be made payable to the Director of Finance.

6. Upon issuance of a driver's license, the driver shall carry the license when driving any horse-drawn vehicle, riding any horse, treating, caring or handling of any horse in the City of Baltimore.
7. A driver's license is not transferable.
8. Any license issued by the Commissioner of Health shall be subject to suspension or revocation.
9. The license expires on the annual anniversary of its issuance, unless sooner suspended or revoked.
10. Licenses renewed 30 days or more after the due date will be subject to a \$5.00 late penalty.

E. Denial, Suspension or Revocation of the Driver's License

1. Suspension/Revocation of Driver's License
 - a) Any permit authorizing a horse-drawn carriage or cart service may be either suspended for a period not to exceed two years or revoked by the Commissioner of Health.
 - b) The Commissioner of Health shall suspend or revoke a license of convenience and necessity if it is determined that the licensee has:
 - i. Failed to comply with a Correction Order issued to the holder of a driver's license by the Commissioner of Health or his designee, within the time specified in the Order.
 - ii. Intentionally or knowingly impeded the Commissioner of Health or a law enforcement agency in the performance of their duties.
 - iii. Failed to comply with the requirements established in the Baltimore City Code and Annotated Code of Maryland.
 - iv. Been convicted for violation in another city, state, or federal law, of which violation reflects unfavorably on the fitness of the licensee to perform a public transportation service, or humanely handle animals.
 - v. Substantially breached the terms of the license.
 - vi. Failed to pay the license fee at the time it is due.
 - vii. Been found to be intoxicated or under the influence of any intoxicating beverages or substances while operating a horse, horse and wagon or horse and carriage.
2. Written notice will be given, suspending or revoking of the license, authorizing the driving of horse-drawn carriage or cart service and stating the reasons for such suspension or revocation. Such notice shall be sent immediately to the licensee by certified mail or hand delivered. Such order or suspension or revocation shall be effective as of the date the notice is received. A person whose license has been suspended may appeal to the Commissioner of Health for reinstatement of the license by requesting a hearing. A request for hearing shall be hand delivered or mailed by first class mail to the Commissioner, in care of the Bureau of Animal Control, within ten (10) working days after the date of the notice of suspension or revocation.

A hearing shall be scheduled by the Commissioner of Health or his designee within a reasonable time after the request for a hearing is received. Every effort shall be made to schedule a hearing within ten (10) days of receipt of the request for the hearing and to hold a hearing within thirty (30) calendar days.

3. A suspension of a license shall not affect the expiration date of the license.
4. In the event the Commissioner of Health denies, suspends, or revokes the license, the driver shall surrender the license within ten (10) days of such order to the Bureau of Animal Control.

F. Owner and Driver Regulations

1. Owner's and Driver's Duty to Comply:
 - a) Owner – In the operation of a horse-drawn carriage or cart service, an owner shall comply with these regulations established by the Commissioner of Health and other laws applicable to the operation of these services.
 - b) Driver/Rider – While on duty, a driver/rider will comply with these regulations and other laws applicable to the operation of a horse drawn vehicle in this state. A driver/rider shall also comply with orders issued by the owner employing the driver in connection with the owner's discharging of its operation authority and this chapter.
 - c) The owner and custodian shall at all times maintain a copy of the Certificate of Health of the horse where the horse is stabled and shall make such certificate available for inspection by police, animal control officers, and stable owners.
 - d) Owners, custodians, or drivers shall ensure that a copy of the horse's health certificate is carried whenever the horse is off the immediate stable area.
2. Owner's Duty to Enforce Compliance by Drivers:
 - a) Owners shall establish and implement policies in conformity with the regulations to discourage, prevent, or correct violations by drivers/riders who are employed or have custody of their horses.
 - b) An owner shall not permit a driver under his employment to operate a carriage or cart if the owner knows or has reasonable cause to suspect that the driver has failed to comply with the rules and regulations established by the Commissioner of Health.
3. Owner's Responsibility for Horses and Equipment:
 - a) The owner shall have each horse (which the owner has dominion or title) examined by a veterinarian licensed in the State of Maryland and issued a health certificate annually to verify that the animal is in good health before said animal is placed in service. The name of the veterinarian, phone number and address shall be provided in the event of an emergency. In addition, the Bureau of Animal Control is to be informed first before any horse is to be used in anyway on the streets of Baltimore City.
 - b) Each horse used in Baltimore City shall have a microchip implanted between the shoulder blades and the unique number registered with the Bureau of Animal Control and on the horse's health certificate.

- c) Any cost associated with any horse in the enforcement of this regulation or any law shall be the responsibility of the owner, custodian, or establishment owner.
- d) A copy of the Health Certificate of an examined horse duly signed by the examining veterinarian must be in the custody of any establishment owner. This certificate must include the following and be maintained on record by the establishment owner:
 - i. Name of Horse
 - ii. Owner of Horse
 - iii. Address of Stable
 - iv. Date of Examination
 - v. Results of Examination and Treatment
 - vi. Signature of Veterinarian, Date & Telephone Number
 - vii. Physical description of horse to include:
 - 1. Breed
 - 2. Sex
 - 3. Color
 - 4. Markings
 - 5. Age
 - 6. Other identifying marks, such as: brands/tattoos
 - 7. Microchip number
- e) Veterinarian care shall be provided as necessary any time animals show indications of illness or injury, etc.
- f) A horse shall be deemed unfit for work when:
 - i. Sick, diseased, injured or lame
 - ii. There are open sores caused by tack or equipment
 - iii. There are obvious signs of emaciation, dehydration or exhaustion
 - iv. There are loose shoes (if provided)
 - v. There are behavior problems such as rearing or acting defensively
- g) Horses not routinely worked shall be exercised for a period of not less than one (1) hour, 2 days per week.
- h) Hooves shall be trimmed and shoes re-set (if provided) every 6 to 8 weeks or as directed by a farrier.
- i) Disposition of horses:
 - i. If a horse dies, the Bureau of Animal Control must be notified immediately. Remains should not be removed from the city nor disposed of for a minimum of 12 hours after such notice unless the Bureau gives prior approval. The Bureau may order the delivery of the remains to the State Animal Health Lab or other veterinary facility for the purpose of performing a necropsy.
 - ii. The Bureau shall be notified of the transfer of ownership or other disposition of a horse within five (5) days. Such notice shall include date of disposition and, if sold in Baltimore City, the name, address and telephone number of the buyer or other transferee. A horse covered by these regulations shall not be sold or disposed of

except in a humane manner and in accordance with all State and local laws and regulations.

j) **Inspection and Review of Record Keeping:**

- i. Stables in which horses are housed shall be accessible for inspections during normal hours of operation by authorized officers, veterinarians and employees of the Department of Health, and other persons designated by the Commissioner to enforce the provisions of this subtitle.
 - ii. Immediately on request by authorized officers, veterinarians, employees of the Department of Health, and/or other person (s) designated by the Commissioner, the applicant or licensed stable shall permit above said person (s) to inspect the establishment during normal hours of operation.
 - iii. The Commissioner may designate any person (s) to act as its agent and perform investigations, routine annual inspections and/or additional inspections.
 - iv. An owner of a horse business or stable establishment shall keep records, not limited to, drivers' names and drivers' licenses, horse identification numbers, horse health certificates and vehicle license plate numbers. Such records shall be available for inspection.
- k) Carriages, carts and equipment must be inspected immediately upon request. Vehicles and equipment must be maintained and stored in a safe manner. When operating before sunrise or after dusk, horse-drawn vehicles shall be provided with reflective devices visible from 100 ft.
- l) Each vehicle shall be equipped with thermometers measuring in two (2) degree increments on the left side of the cart.

G. Requirements for Drivers and Owners

1. The owner shall ensure that all drivers of their horses are properly trained. This training shall include: Handling of horses, recognizing the symptoms of stress in the horse and the operation of carriages or carts. Drivers shall be physically and mentally fit and able to operate such carriages or carts. It shall be the responsibility of the owner to insure that drivers are familiar with streets within the city where horse-drawn carriage and cart services are allowed.
2. The owner and drivers shall insure that saddles, shoes, bridles, and other equipment used with respect to any horse shall be in good condition; and sharp spurs, bucking straps, and similar devices may not be used. All equipment shall fit properly and shall be inspected regularly by the owner, driver, or custodian to insure that it is maintained in good condition.
3. The driver of any vehicle shall insure that:
 - a) The horse is fit and sound for work.
 - b) Any wagon, carriage or equipment is in good condition.
 - c) Axles are well greased.
 - d) Brakes or other operating mechanisms are in good working order.
 - e) That the towing weight does not exceed the weight of the horse.
 - f) Clean water is provided to the horse for drinking after each two hours of working.

4. All drivers shall:
 - a) Not permit other persons to operate carriages or carts under his control at any time under any circumstances.
 - b) Not leave a horse untethered or unattended except when confined to a stable or other enclosure.
 - c) Maintain the horse at a speed no faster than a walk. A slow trot is permitted when traveling through intersections or for exigent circumstances.
 - d) Not operate on streets within the central business district (bounded on the north by North Avenue, on the east by the Jones Falls Expressway, on the south by Key Highway, and on the west by Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard) during the morning peak traffic hours of 6:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. and during the evening peak hours of 3:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Vehicles may not operate on arterial streets outside the central business districts during morning/evening peak traffic periods.
 - e) Take care of and control the horse at all time.
 - f) Not overdrive or overload any horse as evidenced by physical stress or exhaustion of the horse.
 - g) Obey all orders issued by the Commissioner.
 - h) From the last Sunday in October through the first Sunday in April ensure that horses are returned to the stable by dusk; during the summer season ensure that horses are returned by nine o'clock.
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H. Responsibility of Stable Establishment Owner

1. Shall maintain a copy of the Health Certificate of each horse stabled in his or her establishment.
2. Shall ensure that any new horse receive a Health Certificate within 10 days of its arrival.
3. Animal Control shall be notified of the arrival of any new horse and provided with a copy of the Health Certificate within 5 days of its issuance.
4. If a horse is transferred to another stable, the Health Certificate goes with the horse and the new stable notifies Animal Control within 5 days.
5. Maintain a record of all vehicle license numbers at that establishment and provide to Animal Control any new licenses obtained.
6. Insure that any employee, owner, driver, or custodian of any horse in the stable is in compliance with these regulations and the laws of Maryland.

7. Vehicle Licenses and Health Certificates shall be available on demand at the establishment subject to inspection by the Commissioner or designee, the Bureau of Animal Control, or any such authorized individual.

I. Weather Conditions:

1. The official Baltimore temperature shall be determined by the National Weather Service (410) 936-1212. Any owner, operator, renter or custodian of a horse shall not permit its use or work on the public streets or byways during periods when:
 - a) The temperature exceeds 92 degrees Fahrenheit.
 - b) When the real and effective temperature falls below 20 degrees Fahrenheit.
 - c) Snow, ice or excessive rain (the intent is to have horses off streets during hazardous driving conditions when accidents are most likely to occur).
 - d) The Commissioner of Health or Director of Transportation designates as being dangerous.
 - e) Any horse already in use at a time a condition as described in a, b, c or d occurs shall be returned immediately by its custodian, renter or owner by the safest direct route to the stable from which it was obtained.

STRUCTURAL AND OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR STABLES

A. Water for Horses

1. Public water service must be available on site.
2. Water must be accessible to horses at all times at the stable.
3. Watering devices should be durable, in good repair and free of sharp edges.
4. Water must be clean and free of algae or dirt.

B. Buildings/Structures/Grounds

1. Stable and stalls shall be in good repair.
2. The stable roof shall be sturdy, provide adequate drainage and be in good repair.
3. Lighting shall be provided in the horse stable area.
4. Stable and turn out shall be free of hazards and debris.
5. Stables must be well ventilated.

C. Hay and Grain Storage

1. Hay shall be stored at least 6 inches above the ground.
2. Hay storage area must be kept clean.
3. Grain must be stored in covered metal containers.
4. Adequate rodent control measures must be used.

D. Manure Handling, Storage, Removal and Fly Control

1. Manure and soiled bedding must be contained in such a manner so as not to become odorous, rodent or insect nuisance to the community.
2. Manure shall be removed from the premises as needed, but at least once per week.
3. Adequate measures should be taken to control flies and odors.

E. Maintenance and Sanitation of Horse Stalls

1. Stalls must be cleaned daily or more often as needed.
2. Stalls shall be provided with bedding of shavings, sawdust, straw or other suitable material sufficient to maintain the horse in a clean and dry environment.
3. Minimum depth of bedding shall be at least 4 inches of bedding over rubber mats or at least 6 inches of sawdust/shavings or 1 foot of straw over concrete and other hard surfaces.
4. Stalls must be large enough for horses to lie down.
5. Damage to stalls should be repaired immediately.
6. Each stall shall have posted the name of the horse and owner.
7. Tethering of horses in stalls shall not encumber a horse from lying down.

F. Health Care

1. The horse shall receive regular routine care including but not limited to inoculations, worming, dental and foot care.
2. Proper food must be provided in order to maintain a body condition score of 4 on the Henneke scale.
3. Horses may not be worked if lame or unsound.
4. Hooves must be shod or trimmed regularly in a manner that provides traction and maintains soundness.
5. If significant wounds or open harness sores are present, the horse must not be worked and must be provided with appropriate veterinary care.

ADOPTED/APPROVED _____



PETER BEILENSON, M.D., M.P.H.
COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH

6/11/03

DATE