

## Small Livestock Policy

### *Purpose*

The purpose of this policy is to enable leaseholders on the Domain of the University of the South to raise small livestock on their property while limiting the potential adverse impacts. This policy applies to chickens and other small fowl (defined as birds less than ten pounds in weight) and to small mammals (less than ten pounds) such as rabbits. Other livestock are potentially allowable, but these would need to be subject to further study and approval by the Livestock Subcommittee.

Proposals for small livestock and subsequent oversight will be managed by the Livestock Subcommittee, a committee appointed by the Sustainability Steering Committee (but members of the subcommittee are not necessarily from the SSC). The Livestock Subcommittee is comprised of one faculty member, one staff member, one community member who is not employed by the University, and one other member.

### *Section 1: Numbers and type of small livestock*

- (1) Leaseholders who wish to keep small livestock should submit a written proposal describing the type of livestock proposed and detailing the housing, fencing and upkeep of the animals, including a plan of all structures with dimensions. This plan should include a map showing how the structures will relate to the existing buildings and edges of the lot. Care should be taken to locate livestock away from waterways. The usual set-back requirements for structures apply. These proposals will be reviewed in the same manner as proposals for other additions or renovations to leaseholds. The same guidelines about fences apply to small livestock proposals as to other fencing proposals. As with all proposals for modifications to leaseholds, it is usually advisable to inform neighbors of your plans and to be responsive to their concerns.
- (2) The number of small livestock will normally not exceed six adults of each species (e.g. six chickens and six rabbits on one leasehold are permitted, but generally not twelve chickens). Requests for numbers of animals over this limit should provide justification and explanation of how larger numbers will not cause problems. On some leaseholds, the maximum number of animals listed here may be too many for the size or configuration of the yard. Proposals should explain the number of animals requested and explain how this number fits with the particularities of the lease.
- (3) The livestock will be fenced at all times.
- (4) Livestock that are known to be noisy shall not be allowed on the Domain, specifically guinea fowl (either sex) and males of any bird in the phasianidae family (i.e., no rooster chickens, quail, partridge, etc).
- (5) Leaseholders are responsible for providing adequate food, water, shade, shelter, and veterinary care for their animals, ensuring the well-being of the animal at all times, and maintaining full compliance with Tennessee Statute 39-14-201-215 that protects animal welfare.
- (6) Proposals from groups of leaseholders wishing to share in the care of small livestock should follow the same guidelines as proposals from individuals, but should also indicate group membership and responsibilities.

- (7) Proposals should list a person with experience raising the animals in question who has agreed to act as a mentor for the small livestock project. If the leaseholder has experience themselves, this should be explained in lieu of, or in addition to, a mentor. The purpose of this requirement is to maximize animal welfare and to promote best practices for the raising of small livestock.

### *Sections 2: Enclosures*

- (1) Enclosures must be clean, dry, odor-free, and in a tidy and sanitary manner at all times as to not degrade the appearance of the property. It is expected that animal areas will be maintained daily and that thorough cleaning will take place regularly.
- (2) Livestock will not be kept inside a residence.
- (3) Enclosures must be reasonably located with respect to nearest neighbors.
- (4) Enclosures and livestock structures must have proper ventilation and latchable doors. Windows and vents on the structure must be covered with predator proof wire and food must be stored in a predator safe container.
- (5) Outdoor pens must be constructed using sturdy materials to deter predators and to prevent escape of livestock.
- (6) Birds must be provided with both indoor and outdoor space. A minimum of 16 square feet of outdoor space shall be provided for each bird, together with a minimum of 2 square feet per bird of indoor space. A minimum of 12 square feet of hutch space shall be provided for each rabbit.

### *Section 3: Manure, harvesting, and disposal*

- (1) Provision must be made for the storage and removal of manure. All stored manure shall be composted properly through the addition of carbon-rich materials and all other manure not used for composting or fertilizing shall be removed from the property.
- (2) Any odors from the livestock or livestock manure should not be perceptible at the property boundaries or disturb neighbors.
- (3) Harvesting of small livestock shall be done quietly out of view of neighbors and the public.
- (4) Any sick or dying animal must be properly cared for or humanely euthanized.
- (5) Disposal of dead animals or harvesting by-products must occur immediately and in a sanitary manner. Specifically, disposal should be conducted either through burial, disposal in the trash along with other domestic meat products, or through composting with large amounts of carbon (9:1 ratio of carbon to disposed waste).

### *Section 4: Permitting process and oversight*

- (1) Proposals should be submitted to the coordinator of the Livestock Subcommittee who will

share a copy of the proposal with the Lease Committee.

- (2) The Livestock Subcommittee will review the document, receive any input from the Lease Committee, and make a recommendation about approval.
- (3) Any complaints about livestock go to the coordinator of the new livestock subcommittee who will then work with the rest of the committee to talk to all concerned parties, to assess the situation, and to develop a solution to the problem that is neighborly, civil and meets all the guidelines in the livestock policy and the other lease regulations. These solutions will be developed through conversation with the involved parties. It is the goal of the subcommittee to develop these solutions in a way that minimizes conflict among neighbors and conflict between leaseholders and the University, while promoting the goal of allowing responsible husbandry of small livestock on the Domain.
- (4) If, after repeated good-faith efforts by the subcommittee, leaseholders keeping livestock are in continued willful violation of the livestock policy, other lease policies or the recommendations of the livestock subcommittee, then the leaseholder's permission to keep livestock will be revoked. Under the worse-case scenario of abandonment or neglect of animals, it will be the subcommittee's duty to ensure the welfare of the animals.

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