



**Town of Hanson Board of Health
542 Liberty Street
Hanson, MA 02341**

Horse Regulations

The Board of Health of the Town of Hanson, Massachusetts acting under the authority of the General Laws of Massachusetts and all amendments and additions thereto, and every other law or power thereto enabling and acting thereunder and in accordance therewith have, to the interest of and for the preservation of the public health, duly made and adopted the following Board of Health Rules and Regulations, covering horses by substituting therefore the following:

Permits -- Section: 1,2,4,6, 14, 15
Stable - Section: 3, 5, 7, 8
Drinking Water - Section: 9
Insecticides Sprays - Section: 10
Manure -- Section: 11
Bedding - Section: 12
At Large - Section: 13
Violates - Section: 16
Inoculation - Section: 18
Conflict Rules - Section: 17, 19
Appeal - Section: 20
Effect Date - Section: 21

Section 1: Permits for the keeping of one or more horses shall be subject to the following conditions, with which the holder thereof must in all respects comply:

A. Terms Defined:

- a. Persons - shall include an individual, partnership, corporation, firm, association, or group, including a city, town, county, or other governmental units.
- b. Stable - the building and other enclosures used to keep one or more horses and store the food supplied and equipment normally associated with the keeping of horses.
- c. Horse - the word horse shall include ponies, colts, mules, and any other solid hooved animals.
- d. At Large - any such animal shall be deemed loose when it is out of its enclosure, outside of its stable and not in its enclosure and outside of both and not secured.
- e. Pre-Existing Conditions to include fencing, corrals, barns, stables, etc that existed with a Barn & Stable permit issued by the Board of Health before the adoption of this regulation or when the

property was purchased or conditions that existed before the adoption of regulations or the issuance of Barn & Stable permits by the Board of Health are considered to be grandfathered and can remain so long as they are not altered or enlarged without the necessary approvals.

Section 2: No person or persons shall stable or otherwise keep and maintain any horse or horses within the limits of the town on any premises unless such use is granted by the Board of Health and in such case, only to the extent so granted. All permits shall be issued to the owner of the lot of land on which the stable is erected or to be erected.

Section 3: No person shall maintain a horse or horses anywhere in the town without first providing an approved stable.

Section 4: An application for a permit to occupy or use any building for the stabling of a horse or horses shall be submitted on a form to be supplied by the Board of Health. Such application shall be accompanied by a plan showing the property to be used, the location of the stable and appurtenances thereof, a floor plan of the stable, the location of any source of drinking water, surface water supplies or (reservoirs), tributaries to reservoirs including open and surface drains, watercourses, including streams, ponds, marshes, open subsurface drains and adjacent dwellings, within one hundred (100) feet of the stable. The application shall also be accompanied with and showing the construction details of all dry wells, drainage systems. The plan will also indicate the location and dimensions of the fencing.

Section 5: The distance from any part of the stabling facility or the limits of corral to the property lines on which they are constructed shall not be less than:

- a. Twenty (20) feet from any building or structure used for human habitation and two hundred (200) feet from any church or meetinghouse erected and used for the public worship of God, school, playground, hospital, nursing, or rest home.
- b. Ten (10) feet from any adjoining property lot line, the line of any street, court, passageway, swamp, marsh, stream, or pond.
- c. One Hundred (100) feet from the high water mark of any source of drinking water supply or any tributary thereof, nor less than one hundred (100) feet from the high water mark of any open waters flowing directly or ultimately into any source of water supply.

Section 6: No permit for a stable for a single horse shall be issued unless the lot of land on which the stable is erected or is to be erected contains at least 25,000 square feet of “usable land” for the horse. No such permit shall be issued for two (2) horses to be kept on any lot of land that contains less than 30,000 square feet of “usable land” for the horses nor for three (3) or (4) horses on any lot of land that contains less than 50,000 square feet of “usable land” for the horses, and for each additional horse an additional 10,000 square feet of land shall be necessary. Any large population of horses, five (5) or more shall be housed away from nearby populations within the town boundaries in areas approved by the Board of Health.

Section 7: Specifications must be in accordance with town building codes

Section 8: Stable Floors: Types of acceptable flooring:

- a. Wooden Flooring - shall consist of materials required by the Building Inspector.
- b. Earthen Type - if flooring is to be made of earth, then the owner must excavate to a minimum depth of two (2) feet of the entire floor area of the stable and be filled with gravel with suitable drainage and be topped with suitable bedding as outlined in Section twelve (12).
- c. Concrete with rubber stall mats

Section 9: Animals shall have access to fresh water at all times

Section 10: An effective insect control plan must be in effect during the months of May through October.

Section 11: Stable shall be cleaned daily of all manure and shall be limed as needed. Manure must be removed, composted or piled and moved twice (2) a year; Spring - April - May and Fall - October - November.

Section 12: Bedding shall consist of peat moss, chopped straw, pine wood pellets, hay, shavings or like substances

Section 13: Horses shall be kept either in an approved building or in an enclosure where shelter is provided.

Section 14: No stable for which a permit is granted shall be occupied until it is inspected and approved by the Board of Health.

Section 15: A permit granted by the Board of Health may be revoked whenever in the opinion of the said Board revocation is deemed necessary; the permit is not transferable; does not follow the real estate, and terminates when the building ceases to be used as a stable. If a permit is revoked by the Board of Health, any and all animals will be immediately impounded and transported to a suitable stable as designated by the Board of Health and all costs incurred shall be burdened by the owner.

Section 16: Whoever violates any provision of the foregoing regulation or order made thereunder, shall be subject to fines being imposed as described in M.G.L. Chapter 40, Section 21D and Hanson Board of Health Regulations until such time as the violation(s) are corrected. The regulations provide for penalties of \$25 for the first offense, \$50 for the second offense, \$100 for the third offense, and \$200 for all subsequent offenses. Each day on which a violation exists shall be considered a separate offense.

Section 17: All rules and regulations in conflict with these Rules and Regulations are hereby repealed.

Section 18: Inoculations - It is required that horses be inoculated for West Nile Virus, Encephalitis, Rabies and Tetanus, in accordance with a veterinarian's recommendation.

Section 19: So far as this Board of Health may provide, each section separate to the end that if any section, sentence, clause, or phrase shall be held invalid for any reason the remainder of these rules and regulations shall continue in full force

Section 20: Appeal - Any person aggrieved by a decision of the Board of Health in the enforcement of these regulations may request a hearing before the Board of Health by filing within seven (7) days following receipt of a written order a written petition requesting a hearing on the matter. Upon receipt of such a petition, the Board of Health shall set a time and place for such a hearing and shall inform the petitioner thereof in writing. After the hearing, the Board of Health shall sustain, modify, or withdraw the order and may suspend or revoke the license or permit, and shall inform the petitioner in writing of the decision. If the Board of Health sustains or modifies the order, it shall be carried out within the time period allotted in the original order or in the modification. Any person aggrieved by the decision of the Board of Health may seek relief therefrom in any court of competent jurisdiction as provided by the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Section 21: These Rules and Regulations were adopted by vote of the Board of Health, Town of Hanson, Massachusetts on December 3, 1974. And are to be in force and effect on and after April 1, 1975, and shall be before said effective date, be published in a newspaper and a copy thereof shall be deposited in the office of the Town Clerk. Permit fee remains the same according to the Board of Health's posted fee schedule.

Revised and adopted: March 6, 2012

Voted 2-1, as follows:

Tom Constantine, Member

Terrence McSweeney, Member

Abstained
Richard Edgehille, Chair