



Sterling Board of Health

Sterling, Massachusetts - 01564

STABLE REGULATIONS

Acting under the authority of Sec. 31, Ch. 111, M.G.L.A. the Sterling Board of Health has adopted the following STABLE REGULATIONS to become effective 1/1/91 thereby amending regulations originally adopted 6/1/82.

1. DEFINITIONS:

- a. Stable: a building for horses
- b. Paddock: a small enclosed field near a stable
- c. Corral: an enclosure for horses
- d. Public Stable:: a stable to which the public has access for riding horses, riding lessons, viewing equestrian events, etc.
- e. Private Stable: a stable in which the horses are used by their individual owners.
- f. Animals: horses, ponies, mules, horses one year or older

2. LOCATION:

- a. Stables shall be located not less than one hundred feet from any building or structure used for human habitation, or any church, school, public building, hospital, nursing home or rest home. A dwelling on the same parcel of land as the stable shall be exempt from this provision.
- b. Stables shall be located not less than fifty (50) feet from any adjoining property or lot lines, or the line of any public street or way.
- c. Stables shall be located not less than one hundred (100) feet from any brook, stream, river, pond, or drainage easement and not less the four hundred (400) feet from any public water supply or tributary to a public water supply.

3. CONTRUCTION:

All building construction shall be in conformance with local building and fire prevention by-laws.

4. DRAINAGE:

Surface water run off from stables and paddocks shall not constitute a nuisance or health menace.

5. TOILET FACILITIES:

Public Stables shall be provided with two or more toilet rooms, including hand wahing facilities, for male and female employees and customers, and shall include a sanitary sewage disposal system approved by the Board of Health.

6. LIVING QUARTERS:

Stables shall not be used for human habitation.

STABLE REGULATION (cont.)

7. WATER:
A drinking water facility shall be provided for the animals. Public Stables shall be provided with a sufficient number of hose bib outlets for regular washing down of the stable.
8. CORRALS AND PADDOCKS:
 - a. Corrals and paddocks shall be sloped to minimize standing water.
 - b. Corrals and paddocks for animals shall be located not less than 100 (one hundred) feet from any brook, stream, river, pond or surface drainage easement, and not less than 400 (four hundred) feet from any public water supply or tributary to a public water supply.
 - c. Corrals and paddocks shall be properly fenced to insure the safety of the animals and minimize escapes.
9. FEED STORAGE:
All grain feeds shall be stored in a manner protecting it from access by rodents.
10. INSECT CONTROL:
Whenever necessary, openings to the outside air shall be screened and approved insecticides shall be applied to walls, ceilings, and exterior of stable buildings.
11. MANURE STORAGE:
Manure shall be stored in such a manner and location that there can be no drainage or runoff into any pond, waterway, or drainage easement. No more than one cord (4x4x8 feet) of manure shall be accumulated at any stable if such accumulation results in a public health problem or a public nuisance.

Public stables shall store manure in water-tight pits unless it is removed daily, and shall remove it once every ten days from April 1st to November 1st.
12. RESTRICTIONS:
All animals shall be kept in a building or enclosure of adequate size, and not permitted to be at large.
13. LICENSES:
Stables shall hold a yearly license from the Board of Health (Sec. 155, Ch. 111, M.G.L.) at an annual fee established by the Board of Health and issued following an inspection and approval of the facilities by the Board of Health.
14. NUMBER OF ANIMALS:
 - a. No horse shall be maintained on any lot of less than forty thousand square feet.
 - b. There may be no more than two horses on a forty thousand square foot lot.
 - c. Each additional horse maintained on the same premises shall require no less than twenty thousand square feet of land except by a special permit of the Board of Health.

STABLE REGULATIONS (cont.)

15. PENALTIES:

Following notice of violation of any of the preceding regulations and a reasonable time for correction, the owner or agent responsible for such violation may be subject to a fine of fifty dollars per day for each day that said violation exists, (Sec. 157, Ch. 111, M.G.L.A.) and to revocation of his license.

16. VARIANCE:

The Board of Health may vary any provision of these regulations with respect to any particular case when in its opinion (1) the enforcement there of would do manifest injustice, and (2) the applicant has proved that the same degree of protection can be achieved without strict application of the particular provisions. All variance requests shall be submitted to the Sterling Board of Health in writing and shall be considered and approved or disapproved by said Board of Health.

17. SEVERABILITY:

If any section or sentence, clause or phrase thereof shall be held invalid for any reason, the remainder of that section and all other sections shall continue in force.