

# **The Kampala City Livestock and Companion Animal Ordinance: A Guideline**



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1. Kampala City Council is aware that food security is an important aspect of urban planning and management. That is why, in 2003, it organized public meetings to help draft these new Ordinances governing urban agriculture and food handling in the City.

2. Livestock keeping is a part of urban agriculture, and is mentioned in the Urban Agriculture Ordinance. This Ordinance governs the keeping of all animals. These are livestock, meaning those animals that are kept for food production and farming, and animals that are kept as companions.

3. The keeping of livestock contributes to the City's food supply. It benefits health in terms of nutrition from fresh livestock products. But keeping animals in the City can also create health hazards and environmental damage. Therefore, it must be subject to proper planning and management.

4. The Kampala City Council intends to document and regulate urban agriculture, including the keeping of animals, to the benefit of residents and the city population in general.

5. In the interests of effective regulation, the Kampala City Council will:

- a. Publish this set of Ordinances and the Guidelines that explain them
- b. Organize the listing of all urban agriculture activities
- c. Promote public discussion of the Ordinances
- d. Amend the Ordinances as needed
- e. Enact and enforce the Ordinances

6. Keeping animals in the City creates more risks to health than in the countryside because the animals, and their wastes, are close to so many people. Some dangerous diseases can be spread from animals to humans. This Ordinance is about how to keep things clean and well organized with animals in the City.

7. Permits and licences help to regulate and control the keeping of animals in the interests of the public, and also raise revenue for the Council. Permits for livestock keeping are intended to be affordable. They will help Council provide services to urban farmers. Penalties for offences under the Ordinance are aimed at improving the management of urban agriculture and livestock keeping.

8. The keeping of dogs and cats as companion animals needs to be controlled through licensing, specifically to prevent the spread of rabies, which is a very dangerous disease for people. The licence fees pay for the cost to the Council of operating pounds and controlling the spread of disease.

## **Don't Let Your Animals Create a Nuisance**

9. Nobody can keep any animal that is an annoyance to people in the neighbourhood.

10. This is the most basic rule in keeping animals in the City. It gives your neighbours the right to take you to court if you are not looking after your animals properly, so that they are a nuisance because of noise, smell, spreading disease or otherwise annoying people.

## **Permits and Licences for Keeping Livestock**

11. You can get a permit to farm livestock if you comply with Clause 3 and / or 4 of the "Kampala City Council Urban Agriculture Ordinance." So take a look at that Guideline as well as this one.

12. Under Clause 3, you can get permission to do urban farming just by being on the Council's list. But if you are keeping livestock, the list will say what kind of animals and how many, where exactly they are kept and how long the permit is valid for.

**13. For the time being, just having your name on the list means you have permission to operate!**

14. You may have to pay Council a small amount to have your name on the list. You will be issued with a receipt which constitutes a temporary permit, so keep it carefully.

**15. And even more important, you need to read this Ordinance, and to make every effort to comply with it. All the requirements that you need to comply with are explained in this Guideline.**

16. Under Clause 4, if you have an established livestock farming business, and especially if you operate on a large scale, you need to get a commercial Urban Agriculture Licence.

17. For this full commercial Licence the City Council requires you to make a formal application, giving your

name and address, the type of agricultural activity and its location. You will also need to show Certificates from the Medical Officer of Health, and to get the premises inspected, as explained under the Urban Agriculture Ordinance Guideline.

### **Don't Let Your Livestock Graze Where They Shouldn't**

18. Your livestock must not be allowed to graze in places where the City Council says it is prohibited.

19. If you allow your animals to do this, the Council will remove them and keep them in its pound. The Council will keep them for seven days. It will try to let you know they are there, but you will be charged a fee for each animal for each day it is kept there.

20. You can get the animals back as soon as you pay the fees. After that, if you have not collected your animals, the Council may get rid of them.

21. You are not entitled to any compensation if this happens.

22. If one of your animals is bitten by another animal that has rabies, you should get advice from a vet immediately.

### **Offences and Penalties**

23. You commit an offence if you do not follow this Ordinance, as explained in this guideline.

24. You commit an offence if you use your permit or licence to do something that is not allowed in this Ordinance, or the Urban Agriculture Ordinance.

25. You commit an offence if you remove your livestock from the Council pound without permission, or even if you try to do so.

26. If you commit any of these offences, a penalty will be imposed.

27. If you continue to do any of these offences after you have already been convicted, the permit will be withdrawn and further penalties will be imposed.

28. The Council can cancel your permit or licence if the buildings have to be demolished or for any legal reason, such as if your neighbours are successful in court in claiming that the animals create a nuisance.

### **Licensing of Companion Animals**

29. You can only keep a dog or cat that is over six months of age if it is registered by the Council and issued with a licence.

30. The Council will only agree to license your dog or cat if you produce a certificate from a veterinarian showing the animal is vaccinated against rabies. The vaccination must be of the approved type, and up-to-date.

31. You will be charged for this licence, which must be renewed every year.

32. The Council will issue a badge and collar which the dog or cat must wear at all times. If it does not, you are committing an offence.

### **Keeping Companion Animals Under Control**

33. You cannot allow your dog or cat to roam freely in the City if it is:

- Dangerous or ferocious
- A female in season for mating
- Suffering from a contagious disease such as rabies, mange, ringworm or distemper.

34. If you do so, anyone can take the animal to the Council's pound.

35. You can claim the animal back on payment of a daily fee, but you will have to write a letter saying you are going to keep it under control.

36. If you have not claimed it within seven days, the Council may get rid of the animal.

37. You can apply to a magistrate if you think your animal has been wrongly seized. The magistrate will decide whether to release the animal to you or not, and who will pay the costs.

38. You cannot allow your dog or cat to create a nuisance from excessive barking or howling.

39. You cannot encourage your dog to attack people or other animals.

40. Any dog or cat that does not have a current badge or collar with its licence number can be seized and taken to the pound. If the animal is not diseased or savage, it will be kept for seven days. The Council will try to notify you. But if you have not claimed it

within seven days, the Council can get rid of the animal. You will not be compensated. And if you claim it back, you must pay the daily fee for each day it was kept.

### **The Council's Animal Pounds**

41. The City Council can establish pounds for keeping stray and seized animals, which it will manage itself, charging the necessary fees.

42. The Pound Master will take charge of the animals impounded under this Ordinance.

43. He or she will keep the pound clean and hygienic, and arrange adequate food, water and shelter for the animals. The council officers will notify the owners of the impounded animals.

### **Other Companion Animals**

44. If you have any other kind of companion animal, other than a dog or cat, you also have to get a permit from the Council.

45. The Council will charge a fee for this permit.

46. The animals must be kept in a way approved by the Council, and you must not break any other laws applying to endangered species.

The same applies to these animals if you let them stray or roam freely as it does to dogs and cats.

### **Animal Waste Disposal**

47. Whether you keep livestock or companion animals, you have to keep the premises clean and dispose of wastes hygienically.

48. You are not allowed to dump or burn wastes from the animals, their fodder or bedding in any street or public place.

49. If there is such a dump next to your premises it will be assumed it is yours.

50. If one of your animals dies, you must take it to be buried within four hours. If it dies at night, you must take the carcass for burial within four hours of daylight. The Council has approved places for the burial of carcasses.

51. You cannot throw or dump an animal's carcass in the street, into a drain, lake, river or any water-course. Also, you must not allow any one else to do so.

52. If the Council has to collect any kind of animal waste, it will make an extra charge for doing so.

### **Offences and Penalties**

53. You commit an offence if you do not follow this Ordinance, as explained in this guideline.

54. You commit an offence if you remove your companion animal from the Council pound without permission, or even if you try to do so.

55. If you commit any of these offences, a penalty will be imposed.

56. If you continue to do any of these offences after you have already been convicted, further and more severe penalties will be imposed.

#### **KUFSALC**

The Kampala Urban Food Security, Agriculture and Livestock Committee was set up in 2004. Its members, from university, public and civil society organizations including the Kampala City Council, are concerned to promote the availability of healthy and safe food for Kampala, and are actively involved in research, policy dialogue and public awareness.

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#### **URBAN HARVEST**

The Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) established Urban Harvest as a system wide initiative on urban and peri-urban agriculture in 1999. It is based at the International Potato Centre (CIP), whose regional office is in Nairobi, Kenya. Urban Harvest established a Kampala office in 2002 at the Department of Veterinary Public Health and Preventive Medicine at Makerere University, and is an active member of KUFSALC which it supports through its programme.

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