

ORIGINAL
STAMPED IN RED

ORDINANCE NO.: 2023-099

*Amending the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina,
Chapter 4, Animals, Article II, Livestock to add Sec. 4-37, Temporary Use of Goats for
Prescribed Grazing and Chapter 8, Environmental Health and Sanitation, Article I, In General,
Sec. 8-1, Hazardous fences*

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council this 5th day of December, 2023, that the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 4, Animals, Article II, Livestock and Chapter 8, Environmental Health and Sanitation, Article I, In General, Sec. 8-1, Hazardous fences are amended to read as follows:

Chapter 4 - ANIMALS

ARTICLE II. - LIVESTOCK

Sec. 4-37. Temporary Use of Goats for Prescribed Grazing.

- (a) *Definitions.* Prescribed Grazing means the temporary use of goats as a landscape management technique to control the growth of undesirable vegetation and a Prescribed Grazing Permit means a permit issued by the City's Planning and Development Department that allows prescribed grazing of only female and neutered goats within the City limits, the purpose of which is to establish conditions under which the temporary and periodic use of a limited number of goats for prescribed grazing for vegetative landscaping.
- (b) *Permit Required.* Notwithstanding the restrictions on livestock as may be found in Chapter 4, Article II, a Prescribed Grazing Permit to be issued by the City's Planning and Development Department, must be obtained prior to the use of any goats within the City limits for the limited purpose of prescribed grazing. A one-time fee of \$25 shall be charged to offset the cost of administering this permit and such permit shall be nontransferable.
- (c) *Standards.* The use of goats for prescribed grazing shall be compliant with the current standards and procedures promulgated by the Animal Services Division as Prescribed Grazing Permit Conditions. In addition to other, more specific standards as may be set forth in the Prescribed Grazing Permit Conditions, the following shall apply to all permits:
 - (1) An application for a Prescribed Grazing Permit must include at a minimum: a detailed site plan, a description of the fencing to be used, the dates the project will begin and end, a signature of the premises owner, the company name and contact information of the goat supplier, as well as a certificate of insurance maintaining coverage in an amount of \$1,000,000.00 per occurrence, and \$2,000,000.00 in the aggregate from the goat supplier; and,
 - (2) No more than five (5) goats per $\frac{1}{4}$ acre and no more than 15 goats per project will be allowed and no front yard grazing shall be allowed on lots with a residence; and,

(3) The use of one joule or less electrified low voltage fencing may be allowed for the duration of the permit subject to approval and provided a copy of the permit is displayed on the premises; and,

(4) All fencing must have a warning sign clearly visible and posted every 25 feet with a minimum of one sign per side of fencing with said fencing to be placed not closer than 1 foot from adjacent occupied property and for front-yard grazing on vacant lots an additional orange-colored fence shall be required four (4) feet in front of any electrified fencing and at least two feet back from front property line; and,

(5) All premises on which goats are kept shall be clean and used in a manner so as not to constitute a nuisance either by odor, noise, attraction of vermin, impairment of water quality, or violation of any other regulation found elsewhere in Columbia's Code of Ordinances.

(d) *Duration.* No person shall keep any goats under a Prescribed Grazing Permit for longer than seven (7) consecutive days or fourteen (14) total days in any six-month period. The permit shall issue only when in the discretion of the Department the keeping of such an animal in a yard or building under the circumstances as set forth in the application for the permit will not injuriously affect the public health.

(e) *Inspections and Enforcement.* The premises for which a permit issues shall at all times be open to inspection by a City Official during the grazing period. If a violation of the permit terms is found, the property owner or goat owner will be notified and the violation remedied within 24 hours or the permit may be revoked by the issuing Department.

Chapter 8 – ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SANITATION

ARTICLE I. – IN GENERAL

Sec. 8-1. Hazardous fences.

It shall be unlawful for any person to install, erect, maintain or permit on property owned, occupied or controlled by such person any fence, wall, screen, barricade, post or structure which has affixed to or incorporated into it barbed wire, concertina wire, electrically charged wire, spikes, blades, glass or any other sharp objects or hazardous materials at a level lower than five feet above the ground or the surface upon which pedestrians or vehicles may travel; provided that a fence may have pointed surfaces above and aligned parallel to the fence at a level not lower than 45 inches above the ground or the surface upon which pedestrians or vehicles may travel. Notwithstanding the preceding prohibition, the use of one joule or less, low impedance, pulse type, properly grounded energizers and electrified low voltage fencing shall be allowed if permitted pursuant to a prescribed Grazing Permit as provided for in City Code Section 4-37.

(Code 1979, § 2-2051)

This ordinance is effective thirty days from final reading.

Requested by:

Councilman Howard Duvall

Approved by:

Cheressa B. Wilson
City Manager

Approved as to form:

[Signature]
City Attorney

Mayor

[Signature]

ATTEST:

Quiana D. Hammond
City Clerk

Introduced: 11/21/2023
Final Reading: 12/05/2023