

**Circle D Country Acres
Animal Policy Committee
Final Recommendation August 9, 2018**

Considering:

1. The Circle D Country Acres restrictions allow the board only the authority to set a restriction as to the number of animals per parcel.
2. There is no data available to support the claim that animal issues were “the number 1 complaint” or even a significant number of complaints to the Circle D Country Acres Board.
3. There is no evidence that current deed restrictions (adequate fencing, non-commercial and for personal use only) related to animals are enforced.
4. The committee thinks there is authority for the board to set or impose fines or other penalties.

Therefore, the committee as a group does **not**, at this time, recommend that the board set a restriction as to the number of animals allowed per parcel. The committee does not believe such a change would:

- reduce or eliminate the number of issues supposedly reported to the Board,
- improve the quality of life in the community,
- support the majority opinion of property owners in Circle D Country Acres,
- be consistent with the surrounding communities, and would in fact be more restrictive than even the City of Bastrop,
- be enforceable in a meaningful way (adding more restrictions to those that are not enforced -- adequate fencing, non-commercial and for personal use – only weakens the board’s authority and could lead to the appearance of selective enforcement)

The committee recommends the Board

1. Post on its website the contact information for Bastrop County Animal Control, Bastrop County Sherriff and the Bastrop County/Texas A&M Agricultural Extension, along with when it is appropriate to contact each (see flowchart).
2. Make available to any person reporting an animal issue the contact information referred to immediately above in item 1.
3. Begin tracking reports of suspected violations of deed (and probably should consider tracking and categorizing all requests, issues, concerns, questions, etc...) along with the findings/outcomes/dispositions of the report. The collected data should be made available to the community at large, to the extent that it does not violate or infringe on the privacy of community members.
4. Begin to enforce existing deed restrictions before contemplating additional changes to the deed restrictions.
5. Delay considering changes to the animal restrictions at least until there is enough data to establish that there is a problem that limiting the number of animals would have a positive impact on and potentially until there is proof that increasing animal density/overpopulation are causing a negative trend on the quality of life in the Circle D Community.