

What you should do if you have non-domestic animals. If you have non-domestic animals read further to determine what action you should take.

Question 1.

Question 2.

<p>Is your property in Zoning District A-R, Agricultural Reserve, or District R-1A, Modified Single-Family (see how to determine you zoning below)? If no continue to question 2.</p>	<p>Do you have no more than 2 non-domestic animals and your lot is 20,000 sq. ft. or more in area? If no, and you have more animals or your lot area is smaller, continue by review the Options below.</p>
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If Yes, there is nothing further required.

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Option One

Option Two

Option Three

<p>You can decrease or eliminate the animals to achieve conformance.</p>	<p>If your situation was lawful at an earlier period, you may be “grandfathered.” This is done by requesting a Letter of Zoning Compliance</p>	<p>Lastly, you can apply for a Special Exception due to your own unique circumstances.</p>
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How to obtain a Letter of Zoning Compliance.

- Grandfathering would be established if it can be shown that the animal-keeping has occurred continuously since the city first adopted a zoning ordinance in 1971 or since the date the property was annexed into the city.
- Another means of documentation is establishing that the condition existed before an ordinance change that resulted in it becoming non-conforming.

[Letter of Zoning Compliance application.](#)

How to apply for a Special Exception.

Obtain an application for a Special Exception from the Community Development Department or the city’s website.

Applications for a special exception of an illegal, non-conforming use may take into consideration the duration of time that the use has existed, any complaints made against the non-domestic animals, and any features that may distinguish the property and make it suitable for that use, including the size of the property and the surrounding uses.

[Special Exception Application.](#)

How to determine your zoning classification.

You can determine the property’s zoning classification in one of three ways:

- Contact the Community Development Department at 278-2344
- Access the zoning map on the city’s website and find you zoning classification. (www.cityofjohnston.com)
- Look up the Polk County Assessor’s Office website for you property and they list the zoning classification for your property (www.assess.co.polk.ia.us/beb/inven/query/queryAll.html)

The Community Development staff is available to assist you and answer questions in order to determine what course of action you should take. You can contact staff by calling 278-2344, emailing the staff at switmer@ci.johnston.ia.us or stop by city hall at 6221 Merle Hay Road. Thank you.