

# GUIDELINES - KEEPING OF RABBITS WITHIN RESIDENTIAL ZONES

This information sheet summarises and explains Council's requirements with regards to the keeping of rabbits within residential zones.

## Guidelines

- The rabbits must be of a recognised domestic breed or hybrid of a domestic breed. In no circumstances is a wild type of rabbit, or hybrid of a wild type, to be kept at the premises.
- The rabbits must be kept in a rabbit-proof enclosure.
- The rabbits must not be released, abandoned or left in any situation which would allow them to roam at large.
- Rabbits must not be vaccinated with the fibroma (myxomatosis) vaccine. It is illegal to possess fibroma vaccine. No fibroma vaccine shall be kept or brought onto the premises.
- The rabbits must be kept in accordance with the *Code of Practice for Intensive Husbandry of Rabbits*, produced by the Animal Health Committee to the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Resource Management.
- Ensure enclosures are regularly cleaned and maintained in a healthy condition by removing food scraps and rabbit faeces which may create a food source and/ or attract vermin.
- Ensure that the number of rabbits per enclosure allows the rabbits to move around, to feed and drink without difficulty and to lie on their sides.
- Odour can result from poorly managed sheds or waste storage and disposal, as rabbit manure and effluent contain high levels of ammonia. Ammonia production is largely a problem only during hot weather, and is generally worst with concrete-floored sheds and non-litter-based systems. Significant ammonia levels can affect the health of the rabbits as well as reduce the amenity of the surrounding area, potentially causing conflicts with neighbouring property owners.
- Floors on which rabbits are kept should be designed, constructed and maintained so that injury or distress is not caused to rabbits. Wooden or other absorbent surfaces are not recommended. Boards may increase urine staining.

Should council receive notification of justified nuisances, the owner of the rabbits may be directed to remove them from the premises.

Any structure used for the housing of rabbits that does not comply with the State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt And Complying Development Codes) 2008 will require approval from Council. Please find herewith standards set by the State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008 Part 2 Division 1 Subdivision 3A.

The development must:

- a) be associated with a residential use, and
- b) not have a floor area of more than 10m<sup>2</sup>, and
- c) be not higher than 1.8m above ground level (existing), and
- d) be located behind the building line of any road frontage, and
- e) be located at least 450mm from each side and rear boundary, and
- f) if roofed-be constructed or installed so that roof water is disposed of into an existing stormwater drainage system, and
- g) to the extent it is comprised of metal components-be constructed of low reflective, factory pre-coloured materials and have an impervious floor and
- h) there must not be more than 2 developments (animal shelters) per lot.

The Council, notwithstanding these guidelines being adhered to by any particular householder, shall always be deemed pursuant to the relevant provisions of the Local Government Act and Regulations to have the power to prohibit the keeping of rabbits on any specified premises or to control and regulate so as to limit the number of rabbits kept.

## For further information

Should you require additional information or advice, please contact Council's Customer Service team on 9725-0222.