



Maricopa County

Planning & Development Department

Department Directive

Department Directive:
DD-2020-03

Supersedes:
DD-2003-05
DD-2013-14

Effective: February 18, 2020

Initiator: Tom Ewers

Director: Jennifer Pokorski

Purpose: To clarify the definition of a kennel in the Maricopa County Zoning Ordinance (MCZO) for the purposes of code enforcement. This directive also clarifies the differences between the definition of a kennel in the MCZO and the definition of a kennel in Arizona Revised Statutes.

References:

Arizona Revised Statute (ARS) § 11-1001 (8): "Kennel" means an enclosed, controlled area, inaccessible to other animals, in which a person, keeps, harbors or maintains five or more dogs under controlled conditions.

Arizona Revised Statute (ARS) § 11-1009: Kennel permit; fee; denial; inspection; violation; classification

- A. A person operating a kennel shall obtain a permit issued by the board of supervisors of the county where the kennel is located except if each individual dog is licensed.

Maricopa County Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 2 – Excerpt

Kennel: Any premises that are used for the commercial breeding, boarding, training, grooming or bathing of dogs, cats, and/or other small domesticated household pets (not farm animals), or for the breeding or keeping of dogs for racing purposes.

Statements:

The MCZO does not limit the number of small animals that can be kept as personal pets in rural and residential zoning districts.

Under ARS § 11-1009, kennel permits can be issued to commercial kennel operators or to individuals who keep five or more personal dogs under controlled conditions.

Policy/Procedure:

Dogs, cats and/or other small domesticated house pets (not farm animals), kept for commercial purposes or the breeding or keeping of dogs for racing purposes, as described in the MCZO, will require a special use permit for a kennel if the operation does not meet the conditions for a home-based business as outlined in MCZO Articles 501.2 and 601.2 and in DD 2019-03.

Concerns regarding the well-being of animals may arise during the course of an inspection of a potential code violation involving numerous animals. Special attention will be directed toward the conditions in which numerous personal pets are kept. Referrals to Animal Care and Control Services or the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office will be made in cases where animal care and overcrowding may be a concern or in cases where the animal licensing requirements may not be met.

This directive is not meant to limit the number of personal pets kept on a parcel.