

TO: Alexandria Township Planning Commission
FROM: Julie Feuling, 2207 West Lake Jessie Dr. SE, Alexandria, MN
DATE: September 23, 2013
RE: small animal ordinance

When it comes to small animals, I favor keeping our ordinances fairly restrictive. The country lifestyle, complete with chickens and like animals, should be for lots in the country, not in neighborhoods with 1-acre lots.

My priorities are twofold: 1) protect residents' right to quiet enjoyment of their property, and 2) as an animal advocate, protect animals, making sure wild animals are not kept as pets, and domesticated animals are well cared for.

Here are my comments:

- 1) Keep current exemption from any requirements for lots greater than 5 acres, not change to 2.5 acres.
- 2) Allow for certain numbers of animals on lots between 2.5 acres and 5 acres. No small animals on lots smaller than 2.5 acres.
- 3) Hens that are safely contained are fine. No roosters on lots fewer than five acres.
- 4) Prohibit (regardless of lot size) wild and dangerous pets such as: Pythons, boa constrictors, anacondas, cobras, and other large snakes. No venomous snakes or spiders or insects. No poisonous or dangerous animals period. Several species of snakes, toads, scorpions and spiders are poisonous to dogs and cats.

The National Humane Society warns that many of these are dangerous wild animals, not pets. It is not only cruel to keep wild animals as pets, they can and do get loose with regular news stories on the subject. Perhaps the worst example is in Florida, where Burmese Pythons are out of control and threatening the environment.

- 5) Although it is difficult, perhaps we can at least do a better job than the state of Minnesota in defining exotic pets.

Thanks and regards.