

PROPOSED CHANGES TO PUBLIC HEALTH FEES

ANIMAL KEEPERS

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH



The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Division (EH), is proposing changes to the Los Angeles County Code, Title 8 – Consumer Protection, Business, and Wage Regulations; Division 1 – Public Health Licenses. These changes impact permit, plan check, and service fees that are collected under the authority of State and County Codes to carry out duties that protect public health and safety.

Overview of Program

The purpose of this program is to verify that animal keeping facilities are being maintained to protect the health of animals and the community by preventing diseases and infestations as authorized in Los Angeles County Code, Title 11.

An animal keeper is one who has, keeps, maintains, or raises a specific number of animals for profit. This does not apply to slaughterers, or dairyman.

Category	Number of animals
Animal Keeper – Category 1	10 or more but not more than 49 animals of same or different classification of horse (including ponies, mules or donkeys), cow, sheep, goat or hog species; 50 or more but no more than 499 rabbits or hares.
Animal Keeper – Category 2	50 or more but not more than 100 animals of the same or different classification of horse, cow, sheep, goat or hog species; 500 or more rabbits or hares; 500 or more but not more than 999 poultry or fowl.
Animal Keeper – Category 3	- More than 100 of the same or different classifications of the horse, cow, sheep, goat or hog species; 1,000 or more poultry or wild fowl.
<i>A 4-H Club, Future Farmers of America Club, school with animals maintained for agricultural classes, or other similar recognized group which carries on an organized program to encourage student participation in agricultural activities must obtain a permit; however, the permit is exempt from fees as authorized in County Code.</i>	

Why are the fees changing now?

Fees were last increased in 2018. While fees have remained the same, operational costs have increased annually due to negotiated employee salaries and benefits, along with inflation. From FY 19/20 through FY 25/26, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) increased by about 25%, and cost-of-living increases approved

for County workers totaled 20.5%. Yet fees have remained at 2018 levels despite these cost increases.

A comprehensive fee study was conducted along with an evaluation of current operational costs and the fee levels required to cover those costs. The study reviewed direct and indirect costs associated with program administration, inspection, oversight and enforcement. The fee analysis structure was validated by the LA County Auditor-Controller. The last comprehensive fee study for EH programs was conducted in 2011.

What are the fee changes?

A summary of the proposed fees is listed below. If approved by the Board of Supervisors, the new fees will go into effect December 15, 2026. Existing permitted businesses will receive a supplemental invoice for any increases in annual health permit fees for Fiscal Year 26/27, and existing businesses where annual permit fee decreased will receive a credit during the FY27/28 annual health permit billing.

To minimize the impact of future increases, starting in FY 27/28, fees will be adjusted annually based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI), with no fee exceeding the reasonable cost of providing services

SUMMARY OF ANIMAL KEEPER PROGRAM FEES

PERMIT TYPES	Current Fee	Proposed New Fee
ANIMAL KEEPER CATEGORY 1: Small business that keeps, maintains, or raises specified numbers & types of animals (horse, cow, sheep, goat, hog, rabbits, ponies, mules, donkeys)	\$522	\$291
ANIMAL KEEPER CATEGORY 2: Medium-size business that keeps, maintains, or raises a specified number and types of animals, including Category 1 and poultry	\$646	\$376
ANIMAL KEEPER CATEGORY 3: Large business that keeps, maintains, or raises more than 100 animals of different classifications or more than 1,000 poultry	\$708	\$424

Visit our website to learn more about [Animal Keepers](#).

How to provide feedback

Questions and comments can be submitted to: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/EHfees> or scan the QR code.

