

POLICY FOR THE KEEPING OF LIVESTOCK IN THE EKURHULENI METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY

**Item B-ET (04-2009) APPROVAL OF A POLICY FOR THE KEEPING OF
MC 17/09/2009 LIVESTOCK IN THE EKURHULENI METROPOLITAN
MUNICIPALITY**

RESOLVED:

- 1. That** the Policy for the Keeping of Livestock in the Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality, attached to the report as **Annexure "A"**, **BE NOTED** and **APPROVED**.
- 2. That** the proposed policy mentioned in **1** above **BE IMPLEMENTED** with effect from the first day of the month following the date of Resolution.
- 3. That** approval to acquire or dispose of excess livestock **BE DELEGATED** to the Executive Director: Environmental Development in terms of the policy.
- 4. That** all previous policies in respect of Livestock in Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality **BE RESCINDED**.



Ekurhuleni
METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY

A Policy for the Keeping of Livestock by Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality

EKURHULENI METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY: POLICY FOR THE KEEPING OF LIVESTOCK

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EKURHULENI METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY: POLICY FOR THE KEEPING OF LIVESTOCK

DEFINITIONS

“adequate” means adequate in the opinion of the council;

“bird” means a feathered vertebrate other than poultry;

“domestic animal” means any cattle, sheep, goat, horse, mule, donkey, pig, rabbit, cat and dog

“enclosure” in relation to animals, means any kraal, pen, paddock or other such fenced or enclosed area used for accommodating, keeping or exercising animals;

“farmyard” means a facility that accommodates domesticated livestock.

“game” means any protected game, specially protected game, ordinary game or protected wild animal, whether alive or dead

“keep” means to keep live, to keep in captivity, to exercise control over or to supervise

“livestock” means horses, cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, mules, donkeys and poultry;

“live fish”, in relation to natural bait, means live aquatic fauna commonly known as fish;

“manager” means the person actually managing or actually in control of a facility, premises or business;

“nature reserve” means an area declared to be a nature reserve,.

“ordinance” means any Standard By-Laws Relating to the Keeping of Animals, Birds and Poultry and Business involving the Keeping of Animals, Birds, Poultry or Pets.

“poultry” means fowls, ducks, muscovy ducks, geese, turkeys, peafowl’s and domestic guinea-fowls;

“premises” means any land, building or structure or an portion of land, building or structure on or in which any of the activities regulated by these by-laws are carried on;

“sell” means to sell, to barter, to offer for sale, to display for sale or to give or to offer at a valuable consideration, and “buy” shall be construed accordingly;

“stock” means a horse, mule, ass, bull, cow, ox, heifer, calf, sheep, goat, pig or poultry

“wild animal” means any vertebrate, including a bird and a reptile but excluding a fish, belonging to a species which is not a recognized domestic species and the natural habitat of which is either temporarily or permanently in the Republic, and includes the carcass, egg, flesh, whether fresh or cured, biltong, hide, skin, thong, tooth, tusk, bone, horn, shell, scale, claw, nail, hoof, paw, tail, ear, hair, feather or any other part of such vertebrate, excluding any part of such vertebrate which has been processed into a final product.

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality (EMM) was established in 2000. The municipality covers a vast area, some 1 912 km². The EMM incorporates a diversity of land use, including, residential, agricultural, natural open spaces, industrial and

commercial areas. The growing needs of an increasing population have resulted in a growing demand for education and development thus resulting on an ever increasing impact on the environmental resources.

Current no policies govern the existing “farmyard” facilities, nature reserves and natural areas. Each facility is being managed in a style that emanates from the previous SDC’s. No corporate image or cohesive theme is present at any of the facilities that would brand them as a proud facility managed by Metro Parks.

Coupled with this the animals have been allowed to breed uncontrollably and by doing so have impacted negatively on living space, feeding requirements and medical expenses. The budget has not made provision for this increase in the animal population and the facilities are limited to the amount of animals they can keep in a healthy environment.

A further issue is the disposal of excess livestock. Currently no policies indicate how this should be done and within which framework it has to be done

The live stock policy will form the foundation from which all sections within Metro Parks can develop a medium and long-term livestock management strategy. This policy will make livestock issues an essential part of all decision making processes.

1.1. What is a Policy?

A policy can be defined as a “purposive course of action” based on accepted societal values. The definition has two main components, namely

- *“purposive”, which implies a point of departure (i.e. what is the concern or issue the policy is needed for) and an outcome (i.e. what is the desired end result); and*
- *“course of action”, which implies action (i.e. what needs to be done) and actors (i.e. who needs to do it).*

1.2. What is the Purpose of the Policy?

The development of a policy for the Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality is a mandate and responsibility placed on Local Governments to ensure a safe and healthy environment for all livestock being kept living within the area of jurisdiction.

The purpose of this policy will be:

- To guide officials in making the correct decisions when dealing with livestock.
- To improve the well being of kept livestock of the municipality
- To create awareness amongst officials within the municipality of what the responsibilities and aims are for the purpose of keeping livestock
- To enhance a safe and healthy environment for livestock

2. EMM LIVESTOCK POLICY STATEMENT

Within the frame work of the Livestock Policy the Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality commits to:

- ❖ Comply with all applicable international conventions, national environmental legislation and policies, regulations, codes of practice, and other environmental requirements to which the Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality subscribes.
- ❖ Protect and manage livestock, conservation areas and resources, minimize asset losses, conserve our natural resources and proactively assist with environmental education.
- ❖ Improve the quality standard of the environment through partnership with community organizations, government agencies, customers and Interested and Affected Parties (I & AP's)
- ❖ Foster openness and communication with all stakeholders in order to share relevant information, contribute to the development sustainable solutions, and respond in a constructive and timely manner.

3. VISION OF THE EMM

The vision and mission of the Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality (EMM) is as follows:

- Vision:
The smart, creative and developmental city
- Mission:
Ekurhuleni provides a sustainable and people centred developmental services that are affordable, appropriate and of high quality. We are focused on social, environmental and economic regeneration of our city and communities, as guided by the principles of Batho Pele and through the commitment of a motivated a dedicated team.

The EMM identified seven strategic development priorities they include the following:

- Promoting Good Governance
- Fighting Poverty and Underdevelopment
- Urban Renewal
- Job Creation
- Safety and Security
- Partnership against HIV/AIDS
- Enhancing Public Participation

In terms of the Ekurhuleni Growth and Development Strategy 2025, some of the milestones identified for the Environment are the following which will have an impact on Metro Parks:

- A clearly defined and functional open space network:
 - Open space plan to be finalized by 2007

- 50% of open space system to be developed by 2015
- 100% of open space system to be developed by 2025

4. GENERAL POLICY PRINCIPLES

4.1 Facilities

4.1.1 All current facilities shall belong to the EMM and shall be managed by the EMM or agreed upon partnership.

4.1.2 All facilities shall be correctly zoned for the specific land usage.

4.1.3 All buildings within a facility shall at all times comply with the basic health requirements and standards as set out in the relevant legislation and by-laws of council for both domesticated stock and Game and wild animals.

4.1.4 Minimum amount of facilities per region.

It is intended that one (1) farmyard facility be maintained per region and a maximum be determined by need and the budget.

4.1.5 Standards of facilities

That all facilities be maintained at an internationally acceptable standard and comply at all times with current by-laws and property zonings.

4.2 Livestock Management

4.2.4 Quantities and Types

4.2.1.1 Domesticated Stock

The following table indicates the proposed different types of livestock that may be kept and the number approved at any one farmyard facility of the EMM. The number should be seen as guideline as circumstances at the facility may dictate more or less animals:

Table 1: Proposed Quantities & Types of Domesticated Stock per facility.		
Stock Type	Quantity	
	Male	Female
Horse/Pony	1	1
Cattle	1	2
Donkey	1	1
Sheep	1	4
Goat	1	4
Pig	1	1
Rabbit	15	45
Guinea Pig	3	20
Swan	10	10
Domestic Geese	5	25
Domestic Duck	5	25
Chicken	5	25

4.2.1.2 Game & Wild Animals

The following table indicates the proposed different types of Game and Wild Animals that may be kept at any one approved conservation facility of the EMM. The numbers will be determined by spatial requirements and carrying capacity of the natural habitat:

Table 2: Proposed Types of Game and Wild Animals per facility.	
Stock TYPE	
Tortoise	to be determined by spatial requirements
Ostrich	to be determined by spatial requirements
Blesbok	to be determined by spatial requirements
Springbuck	to be determined by spatial requirements
Reed Buck	to be determined by spatial requirements
Zebra	to be determined by spatial requirements
Wildebeest	to be determined by spatial requirements
Eland	to be determined by spatial requirements
Hartebeest	to be determined by spatial requirements
Brasilian Goats	to be determined by spatial requirements
Deer	to be determined by spatial requirements

4.2.2 Spatial requirements

4.2.2.1 Domesticated Stock

The minimum spatial requirements for livestock, shall be in accordance with the STANDARD BY-LAWS RELATING TO THE KEEPING OF ANIMALS, BIRDS AND POULTRY AND BUSINESSES INVOLVING THE KEEPING OF ANIMALS, BIRDS, POULTRY OR PETS, in terms of section 96bis(1) of the Local Government Ordinance, 1939 (Ordinance 17 of 1939):

4.2.2.2 Game & Wild Animals

The minimum spatial requirements i.r.o the keeping of game & wild animals, shall be in accordance with GUIDELINE TO GAME STOCKING IN GAUTENG NATURE CONSERVATION-ECOLOGICAL SERVICES

4.2.2.2.1 Due consideration shall be given to the grass types and feeding habits of the various species.

4.2.3 Feeding requirements

All livestock in the care of the EMM shall receive their basic nutritional dietary needs on a daily basis.

4.2.4 Health Requirements

4.2.4.1 All livestock in the care of the EMM shall at all times be cared for in an environment that promotes good health

4.2.4.2 All livestock shall be given the best medical assistance when needed.

4.2.5 Population control

4.2.5.1 In the interests of education livestock will be allowed to breed within limitations.

4.2.5.2 Where breeding is not desired the livestock concerned can be sterilized.

4.2.5.3 Where animals are hurt or sick beyond being nursed back to health the animal may be culled as determined by the manager of the farmyard or conservation facility and disposed of at an approved waste disposal site.

4.2.5.4 Where animals are found dead the remains must be disposed of as soon as possible in the most applicable manner by either burial or removal to a designated dump.

4.3 Excess Livestock Management

4.3.1 Determination of excess number

Any quantity of livestock / game animals over the proposed allowed numbers of livestock, game and wild animals will be deemed excess. See 4.2.1

4.3.2 Disposal of excess livestock.

4.3.2.1 With all disposals of excess livestock, whichever process is used, it will at all times be in accordance with the Local Government: Municipal Financial Act 56 of 2003 and the EMM Supply Chain Management Policy.

4.3.2.2 Before any excess livestock is disposed of, an exercise to determine the needs of domestic, game and wild animals at other farmyard and conservation facilities in EMM must be completed.

4.3.2.3 Livestock can be disposed of in the following manner.

4.3.2.3.1 Yearly Auction

4.3.2.3.2 Tender

4.3.2.3.3 Quotation

4.3.2.3.4 Donation

4.3.2.3.5 Culling

4.3.3 Forbidden Actions

Under no circumstances may any livestock be used by the EMM for human consumption.

4.4 ACQUISITION OF LIVESTOCK

4.4.1. Reasons for new acquisition

Livestock will need to be purchased every so often to replace old animals and to improve the gene pool of existing stock.

4.4.2 Methods of Acquisition

- 4.4.2.1 Outright purchase
- 4.4.2.2 Quotation and tender
- 4.4.2.3 Donations

4.5 LIVESTOCK ASSESSMENT

- 4.5.1 Domestic animals must be assessed on a daily basis.
- 4.5.2 Wild animals must be assessed regularly to determine their condition and annually to determine their numbers.

4.6 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

4.6.1 Lease agreements etc.

- 4.6.1.1 All facilities where private persons are allowed to conduct business on the premises must be zoned for such use.
- 4.6.1.2 All persons conducting business at the farmyard or conservation facility must be in possession of a legal agreement with the EMM which has been procured by competitive bidding in terms of the Supply Chain Management Policy.

4.6.2 Partnerships

- 4.6.2.1 The EMM recognises the need for more educational facilities where the community can see livestock and is open to negotiations with any interested parties who would like to establish such a facility in partnership with the EMM.
- 4.6.2.2 Existing facilities are not excluded from such proposals.
- 4.6.2.3 All partnerships must comply with the Local Government: Municipal Finance Management Act 56 of 2003 sections 33 and 120 and the Municipal Systems Act 32 of 2000, Chapter 8 and sections 21A.
- 4.6.2.4 In addition to section 120 of the Local Government: Municipal Finance Management Act 56 of 2003, the regulations must be read with the Local Government Municipal Systems Act requirements and procurement requirements as set in the Supply Chain Management Policy, Preferential Procurement Policy and Supply Chain Management Regulations.

4.6.3 Sales of Food for Animals

Food that is made available for the feeding of the domestic livestock must be fresh and in the case of fresh vegetables washed free of any toxins.

4.6.4 Animal Welfare Organisations

The EMM welcomes a transparent relationship with the registered Animals Welfare Organisations.

4.6.5 Community Based Organisations

The EMM welcome all types of engagement with community groups to foster the well being of livestock and promote Environmental Education.

4.7 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

4.7.1 The departments responsible for the management of the facilities in conjunction with the Finance Department will practice a policy of zero based budgeting to determine an acceptable budget.

4.7.2 The budgeting procedure must include costs for feed, maintenance of facilities, medical costs and costs of daily care. Special attention must be given to overtime.

4.7.3 The implication of insufficient funding for farmyard or conservation facilities on the budget may require a reduction in the number of animal numbers and types of animals and even of facilities.

4.7.4 The EMM will accept donations provided the funds are managed in terms of the Municipal Financial Act.

4.7.5 The EMM is open to any proposal regarding Public Private Partnerships (PPP) where facilities can be created to foster an increased environmental awareness and environmental education.

4.7.6 Normal Budget process must be followed for any funding of the livestock in the EMM. The Supply Chain Management Policy and Procurement of Council should be followed with the appointment of any service providers and the procurement of goods.

4.8 EDUCATIONAL ASPECTS

4.8.1 Programmes

All farmyards and natural areas are available for the facilitation of educational programmes when coordinated with the management of the facility.

4.8.2 Demonstrations

All farmyard facilities are available for educational training demonstrations when coordinated with the management of the facility.

4.9 LAND MANAGEMENT

4.9.1 Firebreaks

Firebreaks in natural areas are to be maintained on an annual basis before the onset of winter.

4.9.2 Invasive plants

All facilities will be kept free of invasive plants at all times.

4.9.3 Undesirable animals

Where possible all undesirable or invasive animal types must be removed from EMM facilities.

5. THE WAY FORWARD

The EMM Policy for the Keeping of Livestock is an overarching document that aims to guide the applicable departments towards managing the facilities and livestock where livestock is kept in a correct and healthy manner. The EMM Policy for the Keeping Livestock will provide a framework for the various departments of the EMM to realign existing strategies, plans and policies and to develop new strategies, plans and policies to ensure compliance with and implementation and enforcement of the goals outlined in the EMM Policy for the Keeping of Livestock. Each EMM Department will be responsible to appropriately budget for the funding required to meet the goals and objectives of the policy and to implement those applicable to their functions.