

HORSE-KEEPING RULES · YORBA LINDA — ORANGE COUNTY

Can I actually keep horses here?

Six animals on one acre — and it is a combined cap, not a horse limit.

Yorba Linda sets the number by lot size, in bands, starting at 10,000 square feet. A one-acre lot gets six. Not eight, which is the figure circulating on at least three local agent sites.

PERMITTED BY RIGHT § 18.20.630(E)

15,000 sq ft +
In the R-A, RLD and R-E zones.

CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT § 18.20.630(E)

10,000–15,000 sq ft
Planning Commission hearing. No one can promise the outcome in advance.

ONE ACRE ALLOWS Table 18.20-1

6 animals
Then two more for each additional acre.

ANIMALS KEPT AWAY FROM § 18.20.650(A)

50 ft
Any adjoining dwelling, measured exclusive of the garage.

BARNs AND STABLES § 18.20.650(A)

50 ft
From any dwelling — the wording is broader than the animal rule above it.

MAXIMUM EQUINE AND CLEFT-HOOFED ANIMALS, BY LOT SIZE	
10,000 – 15,000 sq ft	1
15,001 – 17,000 sq ft	2
17,001 – 20,000 sq ft	3
20,001 – 25,000 sq ft	4
25,001 – 30,000 sq ft	5
30,001 sq ft – one acre	6
Each additional acre	+2
Yorba Linda Municipal Code § 18.20.630(E), Table 18.20-1	

What catches people out

№ 01

It is not a horse limit

The table is headed “Maximum Number of Equine *and Cleft-Hoofed* Animals.” Horses, goats, sheep and cattle all draw from the same pool. On a 20,001 sq ft lot — four animals — three horses and two goats is five, and five is over. Count everything with hooves before you count acreage.

№ 02

Miniatures cut the other way

Miniature horses, miniature goats and pot-bellied pigs are regulated the same as dogs and cats under § 18.20.630(A). They do not draw from the equine table at all — they draw from the three-animal domestic limit, cumulatively with any dogs and cats you own.

№ 03

A 12,000 sq ft lot is not a horse property

It is a lot on which you may apply to keep one horse. If a listing describes a sub-15,000 sq ft parcel as “horse property,” ask whether a CUP was ever actually issued — and ask to see it.

№ 04

The arena carve-out has a price

Arenas are excluded from the 50-foot barn-and-stable rule. But an arena closer than 50 feet to an adjoining dwelling may be used **no more than two hours per day**, and must control dust. That is a real constraint on anything being sold as a training facility, and it does not appear in listing copy.

№ 05

The 24-hour manure rule is a safe harbour, not a mandate

§ 18.20.680 sets a performance standard first — dust, odours, flies and noise must not adversely affect other property. The 24-hour and 7-day figures are the recommended route to it, binding only if no other sufficient technique is used. The obligation is the outcome.

Source and currency. Yorba Linda Municipal Code, eCode360 — includes legislation through Ord. No. 2026-1129, adopted 21 April 2026.

This document reports what the published code says. It is not a zoning determination and it is not legal advice. Ordinances change, and the answer for a *specific parcel* can turn on its zone, its slope, its recorded easements or a permit issued decades ago. Before you rely on any of it, confirm with City of Yorba Linda Planning Division.