



**From the desk of Robert W. Smith – Ordinance Enforcement Officer
Summit Township**

To clarify and hopefully clear up some questions from some of our Township residents concerning the possession of certain animals while residing in a “residential district,” e.g. number of dogs a resident can possess and the issue of “chickens.”

Per Township Ordinance #92 – “Animal” item (G) - A person shall be in violation of this chapter if he or she “Owns any livestock or poultry which is kept, possesses or harbored within the boundaries of **any nonagricultural area within the township.**” In other words if your property is not zoned AG-1 (Agricultural) you **cannot** possess chickens as they are considered a farm animal.

In regard to dogs: Item (L) states “A person will be in violation of this chapter if he or she; “Permanently or temporarily keeps more than **2 dogs, six (6) months or older** on premises located within a residential district.”

Please be advised that a guilty finding of a violation of this Ordinance is a “**misdemeanor/criminal offense**” and a penalty may be imposed by the Court of up to 90 days incarceration in the County Jail of Jackson County and/or fines up to \$500.00 plus the costs of prosecution.

Another area that we receive questions about is, “Hunting and Firearms.”

Per Section 132.31 & 132.32 of the Township Zoning Code – Discharge of any firearm (all examples are listed in this Section) is **strictly prohibited in a residential district and is against the law.**” Firearms can be discharged IF you are on property that is zoned **AG-1** but provided that they are not discharged within **450 feet** of ANY dwelling or outbuilding located in the township. Violation of this Section of the Zoning Code is also a “misdemeanor offense.”