

Having been duly posted on the 14th day of December, 2000 and the public having the opportunity to comment on the propriety of the following regulation will be duly promulgated and become effective on the 18th day of December 2000.

RE: **ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION NO. 00-3**
Zoning and Development Code
City of Grand Junction

ISSUED BY: /s/ Kathy Portner
Katherine M. Portner
Acting Community Development Director

12/14/00
Date

Topic: Racing Pigeons and conditions for keeping these animals.

Background: Section 4.3.A.3.c.3. of the Zoning and Development Code provides for a maximum of six (6) adult birds on any parcel one-half acre or less and fifteen (15) adult birds per acre on any parcel larger than one-half acre as small agricultural animals. Because racing pigeons are not specifically mentioned in the Code, they were categorized as a small agricultural animal. This staff determination was requested to be reviewed by the Grand Junction Racing Pigeon Club. The club has requested that racing pigeons be defined as Other Animals under Section 4.3.A.5 of the Zoning and Development Code and that conditions for keeping of racing pigeons be required as recommended by the Avian Assistance Council and the American Racing Pigeon Union, Inc.

Contact with several cities shows varied results from no provision for the keeping of pigeons to the allowance of racing pigeon lofts with conditions.

Administrative Interpretation: “Racing Pigeon”, by definition means a pigeon which, through selective past breeding, has developed the distinctive physical and mental characteristics as to enable it to return to its home after having been released a considerable distance therefrom, and which is accepted as such by the American Racing Pigeon Union, Inc. or the International Federation of Racing Pigeon Fanciers. Also commonly known as Racing Homer, Homing Pigeon or Carrier Pigeon. The structure for the keeping or housing of pigeons permitted by this administrative regulation is defined as a “loft”.

The keeping of pigeons as defined above shall be permitted on the following conditions which are, in part, recommended by the Avian Assistance Council and the American Racing Pigeon Union, Inc:

- 1) The loft shall be of such sufficient size and design, and constructed of such material, that it can be maintained in a clean and sanitary condition and shall contain at least one (1) square foot of floor space for each mature pigeon kept therein.

- 2) The construction and location of the loft shall not conflict with the requirements of the Zoning and Development Code or Building Code. The loft shall be enclosed except for the aviary portion which cannot exceed 20% of the floor area of the loft.
- 3) The loft shall be maintained in a sanitary condition and in compliance with all applicable health regulations of the city.
- 4) All feed for said pigeons shall be stored in such containers as to protect against intrusion by rodents and other vermin.
- 5) A maximum of 50 performing birds shall be allowed on parcels of one-half acre or less. On parcels greater than one-half acre, a maximum of 100 performing birds shall be allowed. Performing birds are birds that leave the loft in training and for racing.
- 6) All pigeons shall be confined to the loft, except for limited periods necessary for exercise, training and competition; and at no time shall pigeons be allowed to perch or linger on the buildings or property of others. Pigeons shall be fed only in the confines of the loft.
- 7) No one shall release pigeons to fly for exercise, training or competition except in compliance with the following rules:
 - a. The owner of the pigeons must be a member in good standing of an organized pigeon club, such as the Grand Junction Racing Pigeon Club, The American Racing Pigeon Union, Inc or other club that has rules that will help preserve the peace and tranquility of the neighborhood.
 - b. Pigeons will not be released for flying which have been fed within the previous four (4) hours.
- 8) Pigeons shall be banded and registered with one of the national pigeon associations/registries.