

ORDINANCE NO.: 3624
INTRODUCED BY: Garcia

AN ORDINANCE INITIATING A PILOT PROGRAM REGARDING THE KEEPING OF MINIATURE GOATS IN THE BACKYARD OF SINGLE-FAMILY DETACHED DWELLINGS.

WHEREAS, Section 6-36 of the Thornton City Code currently prohibits the keeping of goats in residential districts; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Thornton have expressed a desire to keep miniature goats in residential areas; and

WHEREAS, City Council has directed staff to prepare a pilot program, to last approximately one year, permitting the keeping of miniature goats under certain circumstances and conditions; and

WHEREAS, should City Council determine in its sole discretion that this Pilot Program has been successful, an amendment to the Thornton City Code will be considered; and

WHEREAS, this ordinance is necessary to promote the health, safety, and general welfare of the citizens of the City.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF THORNTON, COLORADO, AS FOLLOWS:

1. For purposes of this ordinance, a miniature goat means any breed of goat that reaches less than one hundred pounds at maturity.
 - a. Miniature goats shall be kept in a group of no less and no more than two. The keeping of only one miniature goat is prohibited, except as allowed in 2.a below.
 - b. Any offspring may be kept until those offspring are three months of age, at which time the offspring shall be removed from the property.
 - c. Miniature goats are subject to the limitations on animals in Section 6-37 of the City Code. When miniature goats are kept in combination with dogs, cats, and/or pigs, there shall be a maximum of four animals per dwelling unit.
2. Miniature goat keeping shall be allowed on a limited basis as a pilot program and the Pilot Program shall automatically expire on August 31, 2023, unless action is taken by City Council (Pilot Program).

- a. If City Council declines to amend the City Code to allow the keeping of miniature goats at the expiration of this Pilot Program, those miniature goats permitted during the Pilot Program will be allowed to remain within the City until their passing. Deceased miniature goats may not be replaced, and a single miniature goat may be kept in this circumstance until its passing.
 - b. The owner(s) of any miniature goats that remain within the City at the expiration of this Pilot Program shall remain subject to the requirements of this ordinance regarding notice of any change of residence within the City and subsequent inspection thereof, as well as all shelter and goat requirements contained below during the lifetime of the miniature goat.
3. Miniature goats are only permitted on lots developed with Single-Family Detached dwellings, unless located in an approved planned development district that prohibits the keeping of miniature goats. This requirement shall not apply to goats kept in accordance with Section 6-36(b) of the City Code regarding agricultural, residential estate, and preservation/revitalization zoning districts.
4. It shall be unlawful for any person to possess, harbor, keep, maintain, or allow miniature goats in the City without a permit issued pursuant to this ordinance. Permit applications and information on the permitting process shall be available on the City's website.
5. Permit Requirements.
 - a. A maximum of twenty (20) permits shall be issued during the term of the Pilot Program.
 - b. One permit shall be required for each property where the miniature goats will be kept. No more than one permit shall be issued per location.
 - c. Complete initial applications will be accepted and tracked on a first come, first served basis based on the date and time submitted.
 - i. To be considered complete, the initial application must include all items listed in 5.d.i, below, including the application fee.
 - ii. If there are fewer than 20 approved or pending permits at the time of acceptance, the applicant will be notified of permit availability. If there are 20 or more approved or pending permits, the applicant will be placed on a wait list based on the date and time of the application submittal (Wait List).

- iii. Applicants have three weeks from the date of notification to prepare their property for keeping miniature goats and notify the City that they are ready for the required inspection. If requested by the applicant, additional time may be granted at the City's discretion, if no other applicants are on the Wait List. The extended time shall not exceed one month from the conclusion of the initial three-week period, and only one extension may be granted.
 - iv. At the time of inspection, if the property is compliant with all requirements of this ordinance, a permit for keeping miniature goats will be approved.
 - v. At the time of inspection, if the property is not compliant with all requirements of this ordinance, the applicant shall have three weeks to correct any concerns and notify the City that they are ready for the required re-inspection. If requested, the applicant may be granted additional time for compliance, at the City's discretion, if no other applicants are on the Wait List. The extended time shall not exceed two months from the date of the initial inspection, and only one extension may be granted.
 - vi. If the inspection process is not successfully completed and a permit is not approved within the specified times in 5.c.v, the application shall be considered suspended and the next pending applicant on the Wait List shall be notified to proceed. Suspended applications will not be considered further, and the applicant must submit a new initial application if they desire to proceed with the permitting process. Applicants resubmitting a permit application within six months of the original application date are not required to pay an additional application fee.
- d. The application and permit issuance process requires the following:
- i. Initial application. Submit an initial application for a miniature goat permit, on a form provided by the City, including the following information:
 - 1. The name, address, and telephone number of the applicant. The applicant shall own and reside on the subject property, or shall have the right to possession and control of the property if the property is leased.
 - 2. A site plan of the property, including the proposed location of the shelter(s). The site plan shall include the dimensions of the goat shelter, the dimensions of the

outdoor space made available to goats, and the distance of the shelter and any fencing from the property lines.

3. If the applicant is not the owner of the subject property, a statement of approval signed by the owner of the property.
 4. A signed statement from the applicant that they will comply with the provisions and requirements of this ordinance.
 5. An application fee of \$150. This amount is applicable only during this Pilot Program.
- ii. Property inspection. The property shall be inspected by the City to verify all ordinance requirements are met, including but not limited to the shelters to be provided, the enclosures, etc. If the property meets the requirements of this ordinance, a miniature goat permit shall be approved and issued.
- e. The permit is non-transferrable and shall be specific to the permit holder, the specific miniature goats acquired, and the property.
 - i. If the permit holder moves to a new property within the City, they shall provide notice to animalcontrol@thorntonco.gov, or in writing delivered in person to Thornton Animal Control, located in the Thornton Police Department facility at 9551 Civic Center Drive. The new property shall be subject to a new inspection to ensure the new location meets the requirements of this ordinance.
 - ii. Once the permit is approved and issued, the permit holder shall submit a photo of the miniature goats to animalcontrol@thorntonco.gov or in person at the same location as above within fourteen days of acquisition of the miniature goats for future identification purposes. If a miniature goat is replaced during the Pilot Program, a photo of the new miniature goat shall be submitted as required in this paragraph.
6. Shelter Requirements.
 - a. The goat shelter must be in the rear yard of the residential property and must be set back a minimum of five feet from the property lines.
 - b. The shelter must provide a minimum of 50 square feet of indoor space, but shall not exceed 120 square feet.

- c. There shall be a minimum of 300 square feet of outdoor space accessible to the miniature goats.
- d. The miniature goat shelter shall be covered and predator-resistant, with proper ventilation, and shall be designed to be easily accessed, cleaned and maintained. It shall provide adequate shelter from inclement weather conditions, including protection from sun, wind, rain, snow, hail, and extreme temperatures.
- e. All miniature goats shall be closed inside the shelter from dusk to dawn. During the day, the goats shall have access to the shelter and the outdoor space with sturdy fencing sufficient to keep the miniature goats contained. Owners of miniature goats shall be subject to Section 6-7 of the City Code regarding animals at large.
- f. Removal and disposal of waste and feces shall be in accordance with Section 6-34(a) of the City Code.

7. Miniature Goat Requirements.

- a. Only vaccinated miniature goats and neutered males shall be kept on properties pursuant to this ordinance. Males shall be neutered by four months of age.
 - b. All miniature goats shall be disbudded.
 - c. Miniature goats shall be vaccinated according to recommendations by a licensed veterinarian.
 - d. Slaughter and/or butchering of miniature goats shall be performed in a licensed facility or outside the City in accordance with Sections 6-31 (a)(8) and 6-31(a)(9) of the City Code. The slaughter and/or butchering of any goats within the City at a non-licensed facility shall be considered animal cruelty and charged as such.
 - e. The breeding of miniature goats shall be prohibited within City limits.
8. This ordinance shall supersede any conflicting provisions regarding miniature goats within Section 6-36 of the Thornton City Code until expiration of the Pilot Program.
9. This ordinance shall not supersede any restrictions of a homeowners' association, metropolitan district association, or similar organization regarding the keeping of miniature goats.

- 10. Violation of this ordinance may result in revocation of any permit issued pursuant thereto and also may be subject to the terms of Section 1-8 of the Thornton City Code. Any revocation or denial of a permit shall be a final decision.
- 11. Applications for miniature goat permits shall be available on June 1, 2022.
- 12. If any portion of this ordinance is held to be unconstitutional or invalid for any reason, such decision shall not affect the constitutionality or validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance. City Council hereby declares that it would have passed this ordinance and each part hereof irrespective of the fact that any one part be declared unconstitutional or invalid.
- 13. The repeal or amendment of any provision of the Code by this ordinance shall not release, extinguish, alter, modify, or change in whole or in part any penalty, forfeiture, or liability, either civil or criminal, which shall have been incurred under such provision, and each provision shall be treated and held as still remaining in force for the purpose of sustaining any and all proper actions, suits, proceedings, and prosecutions for the enforcement of the penalty, forfeiture, or liability, as well as for the purpose of sustaining any judgment, decree, or order which can or may be rendered, entered, or made in such actions, suits, proceedings, or prosecutions.
- 14. This ordinance shall take effect on second reading.

INTRODUCED, READ, PASSED on first reading, ordered posted in full, and title ordered published by the City Council of the City of Thornton, Colorado, on May 10, 2022.

PASSED AND ADOPTED on second and final reading on May 24, 2022.

CITY OF THORNTON, COLORADO



Jan Kulmann, Mayor

ATTEST:



Kristen N. Rosenbaum, City Clerk

THIS ORDINANCE IS ON FILE IN THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION.

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM:



Tami Yellico, City Attorney

PUBLICATION:

Posted at City Hall, Margaret W. Carpenter Recreation Center, Thornton Active Adult Center, and Trail Winds Recreation Center after first and second readings.

Published on the City's official website after first reading on May 11, 2022, and after second and final reading on May 25, 2022.

Miniature goats can make great pets who also provide ancillary benefits such as milk or fiber. Before deciding to keep goats on your residential property, it is important to understand that goats have different needs than a dog or cat. The following is a list of basic information to consider in addition to a list of resources to consult for more information:

Miniature Goats in Thornton

- Miniature goat keeping in Thornton is only permitted through a Pilot Program. The Pilot Program has an initial term of approximately one year. After that time frame has expired City Council must take action to extend the program. Any miniature goats allowed during the Pilot Program will be allowed to remain within the City until their passing should the Pilot Program not be continued.
- In the City of Thornton, if you are going to keep miniature goats on a residential property, you must keep two miniature goats. The goats must be disbudded (hornless) females or neutered males no larger than 100 pounds at full maturity.

Shelter and Outdoor Space

- The goats will need a minimum of 300 square feet of outdoor space in a sturdy pen.
- The pen should be made of sturdy fencing material as goats love to lean into and rub their coat on fences. Chicken wire is not sturdy enough and goats can pull wooden slats off fences and trap their heads in the opening that is left. Woven wire or chain link would be a good choice. The fence should be at least four feet (48 inches) tall.
- Consider providing opportunities for your goats to play and climb, just be careful not to locate any play structures too close to the fence or your goats may be able to jump out of the pen.
- Each goat will also need a shelter that provides at least 25 square feet of space for each goat (50 square feet for both goats). The shelter should be located in the rear yard of the property and must be set back a minimum of five feet from the property lines.
- The shelter should have a raised floor, be draft-free, have good ventilation, be easy to clean, and enclose the goats overnight to keep them dry and safe from predators.
- Consider whether the shelter will also be the place where you feed and water your goats. Will you need storage for feed and supplies? Will you need a light or water source inside the structure?

Milking and Kids

- If you are interested in the milk that a doe can provide, keep in mind that you will need to breed her. Breeding is not permitted inside the City, so you will have to take your doe to a buck outside of the City for breeding.
- Does can produce milk for approximately 300 days.
- Make sure you have considered who will care for your goats if you go on vacation or become ill. While a neighbor can easily feed goats, it may be difficult to find someone willing to milk your lactating goat(s) while you are away. Milking typically occurs twice a day, ideally at the same time each day.

- When you breed goats, you'll eventually get to experience the kid birthing process. The gestation period for goats is 21 weeks. While many times the doe can handle this process on her own, there may be situations that require your intervention. Review the resources at the bottom of this document so you are prepared for this experience.
- If you decide to breed your goat(s), you will be responsible for finding a home for her kids before they are 3 months old. You will also be responsible for their care, which can include disbudding (burning emerging horns to prevent them from growing), castration, vaccinations, and bottle-feeding, if the kid refuses to nurse from the doe.

Feeding and Nutrition

- Goats are ruminants, which means they have a different digestive system than humans, dogs, or cats. Goats have a four compartment stomach comprised of the rumen, reticulum, omasum, and abomasum. Goats regurgitate their food (the "cud"), chew it again, and re-swallow it as a normal digestive process. It then travels through the stomach, getting fermented and broken down further along the way to the intestines.
- A goat's digestive system works best on high quality grass hay (or average quality alfalfa). Grains are harder for goats to digest and too much grain can lead to serious diseases such as bloat, acidosis, laminitis, enterotoxemia, etc). Pelleted feed is recommended. Make sure you can source food for your goats before you obtain them.
- Goats may need mineral supplements to balance out their diet. You should consult your veterinarian on an appropriate supplement based on their primary diet. In general the supplement should be labeled for sheep or goats.
- Feed should be stored in a secure place or container out of reach of goats, kids, or other animals. Feed should be offered from a feeder and never be placed on the ground. This will prevent your goats from eating too much, prevent feed from being contaminated with urine or feces, prevent disease, and ensure your investment in feed is put to good use.
- Goats typically drink 2 to 3 gallons of water per day and need access to fresh, clean water at all times.

Healthy Goats

- Average lifespan of 8 to 15 years
- Normal body temperature is between 101.5°F and 104°F
- Normal pulse rate is between 60 and 90 beats per minute
- Normal respiration rate is 15-30 per minute

Health and Disease

- Hooves should be trimmed by a farrier or experienced person every 2-3 months. Check their hooves regularly for foot scald or foot rot. The affected foot will become pink to red, the skin between the toes may appear slimy, and there may be an offensive odor.
- Make sure your goats are tested for Caprine Arthritic Encephalitis (CAE) and Caseous Lymphadenitis (CL) before you purchase them. These are deadly diseases for goats.
- Goats should be vaccinated for Clostridium perfringens type C and D (overeating disease) and Clostridium tetani (tetanus). Your veterinarian may recommend other vaccinations as well.

- Goats need to stay dry and in a draft-free shelter at night.
- Goats often have internal parasites (worms) and external parasites (lice, fleas, ticks). Talk with your veterinarian on ways to identify or manage parasites.
- Q fever is a zoonotic disease that can be transmitted between goats and humans. Typically, this is transmitted as an aerosol in dust or soil that has been contaminated by birth fluids or animal waste, but this can also be transmitted through unpasteurized milk. In humans, Q fever can be mild or severe with the most serious cases causing heart issues, miscarriage, stillbirth, or other pregnancy complications.
- Another illness that can be transmitted between goats and humans is Orf (sore mouth).
- Humans caring for goats should use biosecurity measures to protect themselves from diseases. The Q Fever Fact Sheet referenced at the bottom of this document suggests a variety of biosecurity measures.
- Call your veterinarian if your goat exhibits unusual behavior or an abnormal appearance.

Cleanliness

- Goat bedding and waste should be cleaned often. An accumulation of feces or soiled bedding can be a breeding ground for disease.

Resources:

Online:

Van Meter, D. *Q Fever Fact Sheet 8.022*. Colorado State University Extension, Dec. 2014, extension.colostate.edu/docs/pubs/livestk/08022.pdf.

Goat keeping forum. www.thegoatspot.net

Books:

The Ohio State University Extension. *Goat Resources Handbook*. 2008. OSU Extension Publications. 2017. <https://extensionpubs.osu.edu/goat-resource-handbook/>.

Weaver, Sue. *The Backyard Goat: An Introductory Guide to Keeping Productive Pet Goats*. Storey Publishing, 2011. www.storey.com/books/the-backyard-goat/.

Area Veterinarians for Goats

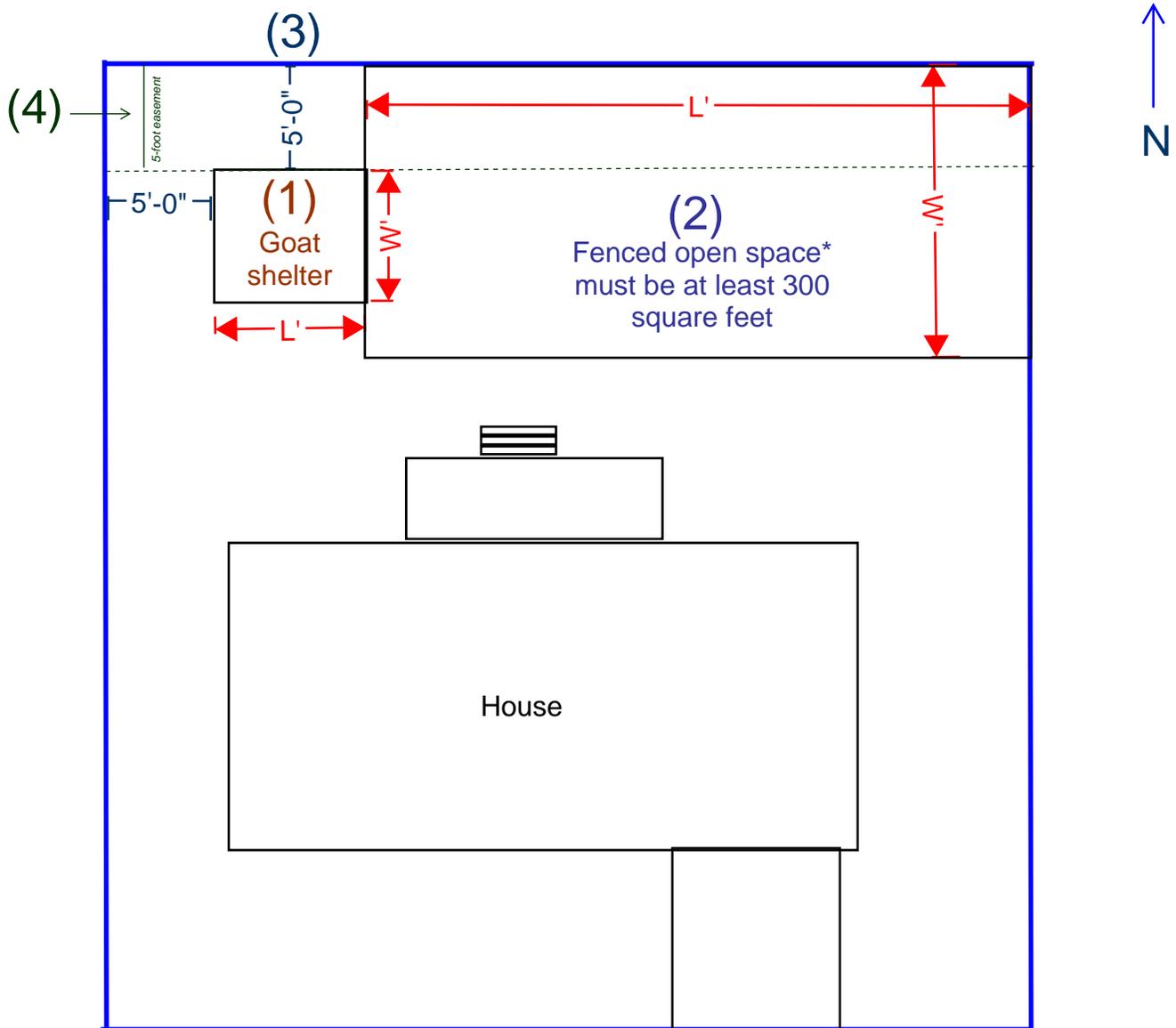
Horizon Veterinary Clinic
2730 E Bridge Street
Brighton, CO 80601
(303) 659-0385

Animal Clinic, LLC
232 First Street
Fort Lupton, CO 80621
(303) 857-6671

Instructions for Application to the Residential Goat Pilot Program

- 1) Print the application, then fill out with required information.**
- 2) Gather all necessary documents (which include at minimum a site and shelter plan, and may include landlord permission and/or HOA approval)**
- 3) If you are needing to construct a fence, please contact City Development to find out if there are any restrictions or permits that you may need**
- 4) Bring the completed application and all necessary documents to the Reception desk in the Main Lobby at 9500 Civic Center Dr, Thornton, CO 80229. You will pay your fee here and be issued a receipt. You will then proceed to the Records desk at the Police Department (9551 Civic Center Dr) with your documentation and the Paid receipt.**
- 5) After turning in your application you will be contacted by City staff, who will advise you if you are within the allotted 20 permits. You then have three weeks to complete any necessary modifications to your property in order to meet the requirements of the ordinance.**
- 6) Once you are prepared please send an email to animalcontrol@thorntonco.gov – include your name, address, and phone number. An animal control officer will be in touch with you.**

SITE PLAN MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS



1234 Goatkeeping Lane, Thornton, CO 80229 (5)

(1) **Goat shelter** shall be a minimum of 50 square feet, and a maximum of 120 Square feet. Label **dimensions** of the goat shelter. Square-footage is calculated by multiplying the length (L) of the structure by the width (W) of the structure. (For example, if the shelter floor is 15 feet long, and 8 feet wide, the square-footage of the shelter is $15 \times 8 = 120$ square feet).

(2) **Open space*** must be at least 300 square feet. Label the **dimensions** of the open space. Square-footage is calculated by multiplying the length (L) of the open-space by the width (W) of the open-space. (For example, if the fenced area is 20 feet long, and 20 feet wide, then the square-footage of the area is $20 \times 20 = 400$ square feet).

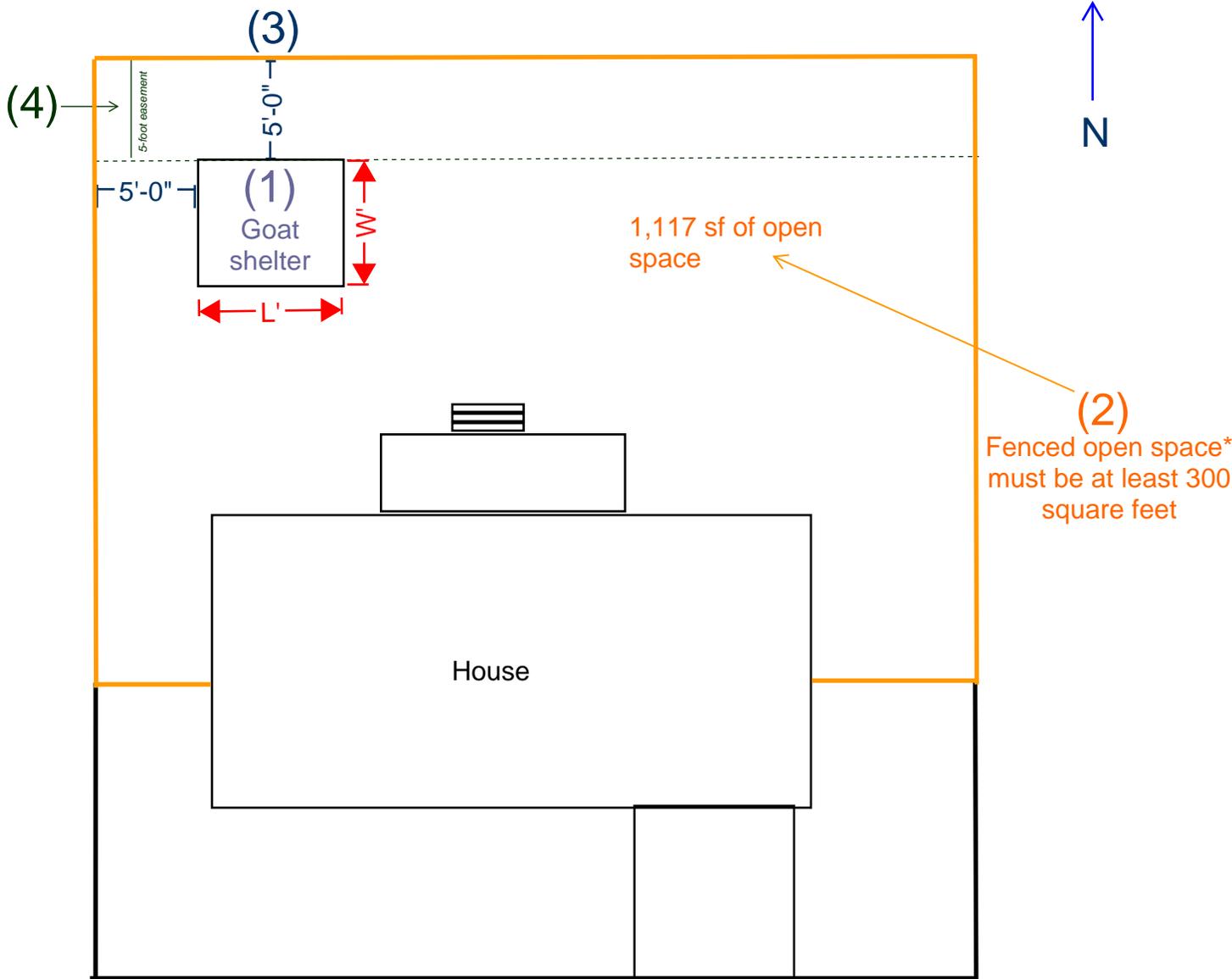
(3) Shelter should be **set back** at least 5 feet from the property line.

(4) Label all easements on the property. Easements must stay open and unobstructed.

(5) Include address on site plan.

***Note: All fences over 30 inches in height require a building permit.**

SITE PLAN MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS



1234 Goatkeeping Lane, Thornton, CO 80229 (5)

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(2) **Open space*** must be at least 300 square feet. Label the square-footage of the area and draw **fence line**. Square-footage is calculated by multiplying the length (L) of the open-space by the width (W) of the open-space. (For example, if the fenced area is 20 feet long, and 20 feet wide, then the square-footage of the area is $20 \times 20 = 400$ square feet).

(3) Shelter should be **set back at least 5 feet** from the property line.

(4) Label all **easements** on the property. Easements must stay open and unobstructed.

(5) Include address on site plan.

***Note: All fences over 30 inches in height require a building permit.**



Goat Keeping Permit Application
PILOT PROGRAM
 Permit # _____

Applicant Information

Applicant Name:		
Goat Keeping Address:		
Applicant Phone:	Applicant Email:	
Property Owner Name: <input type="checkbox"/> Same as above		
Property Owner Address: <input type="checkbox"/> Same as above		
City:	State:	Zip:
Property Owner Phone:	Property Owner Email:	

If the applicant is not the site property owner, the property owner must provide a written statement authorizing the proposed goat keeping and related shelter requirements.

Goat Keeping Information

Describe area to be used for goat keeping and changes to be made to property (mark boxes as applicable):

New Fence Required (separate building permit required) OR New Shelter Required

✓ Submittal Requirements

	Site plan showing a layout of the property. Include the distances from property lines to the outdoor enclosure boundaries and shelter structure(s), and the dimensions of the outdoor enclosure and the shelter.
	Shelter plan showing the floor plan, elevations, and materials proposed for construction
	Letter or copy of lease allowing use of the property (if not owned by applicant)
	Written approval from the homeowner's association (if applicable)
	\$150.00 application fee

Affirmation Statement

I acknowledge that I am applying for a miniature goat keeping permit as a part of a pilot program ("Pilot Program") and that the City of Thornton may choose not to extend the program beyond the initial period. I affirm that I have read and understand the requirements of the Pilot Program. I will keep no more than four total household pets, including two miniature goats, on the designated property. I acknowledge that the permitting process will require one or more inspections of the property where the goats will be kept. I also agree to allow additional periodic inspections during the permit term to observe and monitor the impacts associated with miniature goat keeping on residential properties. I understand that my permit may be revoked if it is determined that my goat keeping practices are not in conformance with the requirements of the Pilot Program. I understand that the permit is non-transferrable and that any change in location requires notice to the City and new inspections for conformance with Pilot Program requirements.

Applicant Signature _____
Date

CITY OF THORNTON USE ONLY – ROUTE TO ANIMAL CONTROL

Date application received:	Time application received:
Person accepting application:	