

**SANTA CRUZ COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT POLICY/ORDINANCE
INTERPRETATION**

Interpretation No.: RES-HU-02 (Paddocks)
Effective Date: 07/26/04
Originally Issued: Supersedes previous verbal interpretations

Question:

What is the definition of a paddock?

**Applicable Ordinance Section(s)
And/or General Plan/LUP Policy(ies)**

13.10.322(b)

13.10.641

INTERPRETATION:

For zoning purposes, a paddock is a small fenced area, generally adjacent to a stable, where horses are fed or exercised. A corral is considered a paddock for zoning purposes.

Reason:

In the RA, RR, R-1, and SU (with a Residential General Plan designation) zone districts, private stables and paddocks are an allowed use, subject to the provisions of Section 13.10.641 Animal Enclosures – Stables and Paddocks. Specifically, Section 13.10.641(a)3 states:

- (3) Paddocks shall be located on the rear half of the lot and not closer than twenty (20) feet to any property lines, nor closer than forty (40) feet to any dwelling on the same or adjacent property, unless a Level V Use Approval is obtained.

Chapter 13.10 does not contain a definition of paddock and, therefore, there have been a number of interpretations of the term over the years.

Since paddocks result in the clustering of horses into a relatively small area, the impacts of this clustering, such as odors, flies, and manure piles, are addressed by the locational restrictions found in Section 13.10.641(a)3. These locational restrictions concentrate the more undesirable impacts of horse keeping to the more private rear yards of parcels and away from houses.

When horses are turned out or pastured, the locational restrictions found in Section 13.10.641(a)3 do not apply.

Section 13.10.641(a) does not apply to stables and paddocks located on property zoned CA, A, AP, TP, PR, or SU (with an Agricultural General Plan designation).

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