



City of Dallas

Update on Horse-Drawn Carriages Permitted for Transportation-For-Hire Services

**Quality of Life, Arts, & Culture Committee
December 5, 2023**

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City of Dallas

Presentation Overview



- Background/History
- Purpose
- Current Regulations
- Comparable Regulations
- Special Initiatives



Background/History



- Transportation Regulation - Division in the Department of Aviation
 - Regulation and enforcement of:
 - Transportation-for-hire (including horse-drawn carriage service)
 - Emergency services
 - Vehicle tow
 - Vehicle immobilization
 - Transportation services at Dallas Love Field Airport and City-wide
 - Staff includes Division Manager; Division Supervisor; Field Inspectors (2); Customer Service Representative



Background/History



- Ordinance enforced:
 - Chapter 47A – Transportation-for-Hire
 - Only one horse-drawn carriage company currently operating in Dallas:
North Star Carriage
 - Five carriage permits issued to date



Purpose



- Brief committee members of current carriage regulations in accordance with the Dallas City Code and provide comparisons to other cities



Current Horse Carriage Regulations



- SEC. 47A-3.2. REQUIREMENTS FOR HORSES IN SERVICE
- (a) Before any horse may be used in a non-motorized passenger transport service, the operating authority permit holder must furnish the director with:
 - (1) a state certificate of veterinarian inspection identifying the horse by description or photograph and showing that the horse has been examined at least once within the preceding six months by a veterinarian licensed by the State of Texas who specializes in equine medicine.
 - (2) proof that the horse has had tetanus, rabies, and Eastern-Western encephalitis vaccinations; and
 - (3) photographs showing identifying markings of the horse



Current Horse Carriage Regulations (cont.)



- (b) A horse used in a non-motorized passenger transport service must:
 - (1) be appropriately shod to work on paved streets; if a horse loses a shoe while working, an “easy” type boot may be used to finish the scheduled work day;
 - (2) not have an open wound, oozing sore, cut below skin level, or bleeding wound;
 - (3) not have evidence of lameness, such as but not limited to head bobbing or irregular rhythm;
 - (4) be offered not less than five gallons of drinking water at least every two hours;
 - (5) have at least a 10-minute rest period after every 50 minutes worked;



Current Horse Carriage Regulations (cont.)



- (6) not work longer than eight hours in a 24-hour period with a minimum of 12 hours rest;
- (7) have all harnesses properly fitted and in good repair with no deficiencies that could reasonably be deemed a safety hazard;
- (8) be properly cleaned with no offensive odors or caked dirt or mud;
- (9) wear a special sanitary device for containing animal excrement;
- (10) not work when the outside temperature exceeds 99 degrees Fahrenheit, or the thermal heat index exceed 150, as measured by the National Weather Service at Love Field; and
- (11) be examined at least once every six months by a veterinarian licensed by the State of Texas who specializes in equine medicine and receive a state certificate of veterinarian inspection, which must be submitted to the director.



Current Horse Carriage Regulations (cont.)



- Additional regulations apply to maintain all non-motorized passenger transport vehicles in good condition, including:
 - head-lights;
 - tail-lights;
 - flashing lights;
 - a “slow moving vehicle” sign attached to the rear of the vehicle;
 - evidence of insurance, as required.



Similar Carriage Regulations



- Many have similar regulations to the City of Dallas regulation, with minor variations:
 - Indianapolis, IN
 - No horse-drawn carriage allowed on any public street in the city between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m., or 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m., except on Saturdays, Sundays and city holidays.
 - Oklahoma City, OK
 - No stallion may draw a carriage
 - No regulation on rest periods or maximum work hours per day
 - New York, NY
 - Health certificate completed by licensed veterinarian within 30 days of application submission
 - Completed required Carriage horses shall not work more than 9 hours in any continuous 24-hour period, with a rest period of 15 minutes for every 2 pulling hours
 - Carriage horses shall not be worked when the air temperature reaches a high of 90 degrees Fahrenheit or a low of 18 degrees Fahrenheit



Comparable Carriage Regulations



- City of Austin, Texas

- A permit holder may not use an animal to provide the service unless the holder provides the department with a letter from a veterinarian licensed by the state, issued within the 90-day period immediately preceding the day the animal is to be used to provide the service, that includes:
 - (1) an identifying description of the animal; and
 - (2) a statement that the animal has been examined by veterinarian, is in good health, and is suited to and physically capable of pulling the proposed carriage equipment with passengers
- For the safety and well-being of the animals used to provide the service, a holder shall:
 - Provide shade for an animal during a rest period of while waiting if the temperature is reported to be above 90 degrees Fahrenheit at any Austin site monitored by the National Weather Service



Comparable Carriage Regulation



- City of Austin, Texas (cont.)

- For the safety and well-being of the animals used to provide the service, a holder may not:
 - Work an animal:
 - No more than 1 hour without a 10-minute rest period
 - Longer than three consecutive hours without a continuous one-hour rest period;
 - Longer than a total of six hours per day
 - More than five consecutive days without a 24-hour rest period before the next working day
 - Work an animal during the time when the temperature at any Austin site monitored by the National Weather Service is reported to be at or below 30 degrees Fahrenheit, or work an animal over two hours when the temperature is reported to be above 95 degrees Fahrenheit



Comparable Carriage Regulation



- City of San Antonio, Texas

- Carriages shall not be operated in the King William District during the following hours:
 - After 10:30 p.m. Monday through Sunday
 - Before 12:00 p.m. on Sundays
- Carriage operations shall be suspended at 12:00 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. on Air Quality Health Alert Days
- Equines used in the operation of a carriage shall be licensed by the Animal Care Services Department of San Antonio and be available for inspection at all reasonable times with or without prior notice
- Each equine licensed shall be identified by a microchip or other means of identification as determined by animal care services. The cost of the microchip or other identifier shall be at the expense of the permit holder.
- A veterinarian employed or contracted by the city shall be available on a regular schedule to provide inspections and ascertain compliance



Comparable Carriage Regulation



- City of San Antonio, Texas (cont.)

- The holder shall use only equines which are geldings and mares; are a minimum of three years old and weigh at least 1,200 pounds
- Holders and drivers shall ensure that equine do not work more than eight hours in a 24-hour period without allowing a sixteen continuous hour rest period.
- Holders shall keep a current log provided by animal care services showing each equine's use
- Equines shall work in shifts, which are considered:
 - *Monday—Friday:*
 - Morning shift: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
 - Evening shift: 6:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m.
 - *Saturday—Sunday:*
 - Morning shift: 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
 - Evening shift: 6:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m.
 - *Holiday:*
 - Morning shift: 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
 - Evening shift: 6:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m.



Horse-Drawn Carriage Bans



- In recent years, some cities have enacted ordinances to end the use of horse-drawn carriages:
 - Chicago, IL
 - Salt Lake City, UT
 - Biloxi, MS
 - Camden, NJ
 - Santa Fe, NM
 - Kenneth City, FL
 - Key West, FL
 - Deerfield Beach, FL
 - Palm Beach, FL
 - Panama City Beach, FL
 - Pompano Beach, FL
 - Treasure Island, FL
 - Las Vegas, NV (banned on Strip)
 - *Pending ban by San Antonio City Council*



Special Initiatives



- August, 2023, Transportation Regulation inspectors conducted random afternoon/evening field inspections of all non-motorized operations in the City of Dallas.
 - Goal was to ensure ordinance compliance during hours of extreme temperature conditions



Special Initiatives



- Findings:
 - Carriage operations ceased in rainy conditions and when temperatures exceeded 99 degrees Fahrenheit
 - Company permit/insurance validated at time of field inspection
 - Two citations issued on September 16, 2023 afternoon/evening shift to individuals with no driver permits
 - Non-compliant drivers cited were removed from service
 - Field inspections post-September have shown no violations



Next Steps



- Receive Committee feedback on current regulations/operations
- Develop community/public engagement outreach to get input/feedback
- Bring feedback to Committee (Spring 2024)
- Develop go forward options for City Council consideration



Next Steps



	Veterinarian Examination	Rest Period	Work Maximum	Temperature Restrictions (Fahrenheit)	Special Requirements
Dallas	Preceding six months	10 min. rest per 50 min. work	Max 8 hours per day Min 12 hours rest	<99 degrees or thermal heat index of 150	
Austin	Preceding 90 days	10 min. rest per 60 min. work 1 hour rest per 3 hours work	Max 6 hours per day / 5 days total Min 24 hours rest	<95 or >30 degrees	Provide shade when temp is at or above 90 degrees Fahrenheit
San Antonio	Licensed by Animal Care Services Dept. of San Antonio with random inspection	Max 8 hours per day Min 16 hours rest		Suspend operations from 12:00 pm - 8:30 pm on Air Quality Health Alert days	Not allowed after 10:30 pm Monday - Sunday or before 12:00 pm Sundays Work in shifts
New York	Within 30 days of application	15 min. rest per 2 hours work	Max 9 hours per day	<90 or >18 degrees	
Oklahoma	Annually	No regulation			No stallion may draw carriage
Indianapolis	Annually	*in accordance with rules of good animal husbandry (good veterinarian practices)			Not allowed between 6am-9am or 3pm-6pm except weekends and city holidays





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