



PART 6. Chickens

506.01 Generally. Chickens are allowed on any lot with a single family residence that is issued a permit to do so by the City, with these caveats:

1. No roosters are permitted. All chickens must be hens. If a permit holder inadvertently keeps a rooster, then that rooster must be removed within twenty four (24) hours of the date of discovery.
2. Chicken food is to be kept in containers designed to prohibit access by rodents or other pests.
3. A run or exercise yard conforming with this section is required.
4. Chickens must not be kept in such a manner as to constitute a nuisance to the occupants of any adjacent property.
5. Dead chickens must be disposed of according to applicable law and must be removed immediately and in any event within twenty four (24) hours.
6. Chicken manure is to be contained in a weather and pest proof container and removed weekly or composted or used as fertilizer and incorporated into the soil. Chicken manure must not be allowed to accumulate in such a way as to cause an unsanitary condition or odors detectible on another property.
7. Chickens kept under this section may not be slaughtered within the City.
8. No more than four (4) chickens may be kept at any one lot at any time.
9. Chickens must be confined inside a coop or a fenced in run at all times and chickens may not be allowed to range freely.

506.02 Permits. A permit issued by the City is required to keep chickens. The application for a permit fee shall be set by the City Council. A permit lasts for two years from the date of issuance. The provisions of this ordinance apply to an approved application for the same time period, at which time a new permit must be secured. The application must specify the number of chickens anticipated. A permit may allow between one and four chickens. Only one permit per lot. If a person wishes to keep chickens at multiple lots then that person must obtain a different permit for each lot.

A permit may only be issued if all of the owners of all adjoining properties approve of the application by signing the application form. Adjoining property means all properties within fifty (50) feet of the proposed location of the coop and run that the applicant is applying for a permit to keep chickens on. If an adjoining property is occupied by a tenant of a rental property, then both the tenant and the owner must approve and sign. If there are multiple rental units in an adjoining property, such as an apartment building, then every tenant in addition to the registered owner must sign and approve. If an adjoining property is owned by a business or other entity, then the application must be approved and signed by an individual with authority to bind the business/entity. If adjoining property is owned by the State or the City or another governmental entity, then the application must be approved and signed by an individual with authority to bind the governmental entity. If the applicant is living in a rental property, then the registered property owner must also sign and approve the application.

Permits are non-transferable and do not run with the property. A permit constitutes a limited license granted to the chicken keeper by the City and in no way creates a vested zoning right. Site plans and coop designs are to be included with the permit application. A site plan must be a part of the document approved by the adjoining property owners.

By accepting the permit, the applicant is authorizing the City to inspect the chickens and facility during normal City Hall work hours. Law enforcement is exempt from this normal work hours limitation.

506.03 Coop and run. Coops and runs must be constructed and maintained to meet the following minimum standards:

1. A separate coop is required to house the chickens. The coop may not be attached to or inside any other structure such as a home or garage.
2. Only one coop is permitted per lot.
3. The coop must be fully enclosed.
4. The maximum height shall not exceed six (6) feet.
5. The maximum total square area of the coop and run shall not exceed seventy two (72) square feet.
6. Maximum coop size shall not exceed sixteen (16) square feet (four square feet per chicken).
7. The run size shall not exceed fifty-six (56) square feet and must have at least ten (10) square feet per chicken. The run must be fenced in on all sides and include a roof. The height of the run fence and roof must not exceed six (6) feet.
8. The coop must be at least twenty four (24) inches off the ground or in the alternative the coop may be placed on a concrete pad.
9. There must be sufficiently sized windows to permit natural light inside. Windows must be able to be opened for ventilation. Sufficient ventilation and insulation is required.
10. The construction must be done in a workmanlike manner and with durable material.
11. The coop and run must be located in the back yard of the property.
12. There must be sufficient moisture drainage to keep the coop well drained.
13. The coop must be rodent and predator proof. Any door or access point to the coop or run shall be able to be locked or otherwise secured.
14. Coops and Runs must be constructed to comply with setbacks applicable to the zoning district in which the property to be permitted is located. .
15. In addition to complying with all other applicable setbacks, coops must be at least twenty five (25) feet away from the applicant's residence and any residence on an adjoining property.
16. Coop designs must meet basic humane needs of chickens including heat, cooling, food, water, and protection from the elements.

506.04 Violations. Any person who commits, causes, permits, or allows a violation of the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a petty misdemeanor punishable by a twenty five (\$25) dollar fine. Each day during which a condition exists which is in violation of this section shall be deemed to be a separate offense. If a permit holder has two convictions under this subdivision within any two year permit period then that permit shall be revoked. Upon revocation all chickens must be removed from the property within forty eight (48) hours.