

Model Domestic Fowl Keeping Development Standards

Keeping and housing domestic chickens as an accessory activity on residentially-zoned and occupied property in the (R1, R2, and R3) Districts, and as an accessory activity on properties less than (two 2) usable acres in area in the (R1-C) District, shall be permitted in accordance with the following terms and conditions. These provisions shall not be construed to allow the keeping of game birds, ducks, geese, pheasants, guinea fowl, or similar fowl/poultry.

- A. Chickens allowed pursuant to this section shall be kept and raised primarily for the benefit and enjoyment of the occupants of the property. However, nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the sharing of eggs with friends or neighbors or the sale of eggs, either on or off the premises.
- B. The maximum number of chickens permitted on a residential lot shall be one (1) hen per 2,500 square feet of lot area, not to exceed a maximum of sixteen (16) hens.
- C. No chickens shall be allowed on townhouse, duplex, condominium, apartment or manufactured housing park properties.
- D. No roosters shall be allowed.
- E. Pens, coops, or cages shall not be located in any front or side yard area.
- F. All pens, coops, or cages shall be situated at least ten (10) feet from adjoining property lines and twenty-five (25) feet from any dwelling located on a property not owned by the applicant. Pens, co-ops, or cages shall not be located in a storm drainage area that would allow fecal matter to enter any storm drainage system or stream.
- G. All chickens shall be provided with a covered, predator-proof shelter that is thoroughly ventilated, provides adequate sun and shade and protection from the elements, is designed to be easily accessed and cleaned. Such structures shall be enclosed on all sides and shall have a roof and at least one access door. Coops shall provide adequate space for free movement and a healthy environment for birds.
- H. All pens, coops, or cages shall be kept in a neat and sanitary condition at all times, and must be cleaned on a regular basis so as to prevent odors perceptible at the property boundaries. All feed for the chickens shall be kept in a secure container or location to prevent the attraction of rodents and other animals.
- I. No person shall store, stockpile or permit any accumulation of chicken litter and waste in any manner whatsoever that, due to odor, attraction of flies or other pests, or for any other reason diminishes the rights of adjacent property owners to enjoy reasonable use of their property.
- J. In the case of proposals for accessory backyard chicken-keeping in the (R1-C, R1, R2, and R3) Districts, the property owner must file an application with the Town Code Enforcement Officer. The application shall include a sketch showing the area where the chickens will be

housed and the types and size of enclosures in which the chickens shall be housed. The sketch must show all dimensions and setbacks. Upon review and determination that the proposed chicken-keeping complies with the standards set forth above, Code Enforcement shall issue a permit to document that the proposed activity has been reviewed and is authorized pursuant to the terms of this chapter. Accessory residential chicken-keeping operations shall be subject to periodic inspection to assure compliance with the performance standards established in this section.

- K. Proposals for keeping more chickens than allowed by the Town Code, for observing setbacks of a lesser dimension than any of those set forth above, or for keeping roosters, may be considered and approved by Special Use Permit in accordance with all applicable procedural requirements.