
APPLICATION FOR REARING CHICKENS

(PROPOSED INFORMATION HANDOUT AND APPLICATION)

(PCDC Final Version, Recommended: 2021 03-04)

The City of Olivette permits the keeping of up to ten (10) egg-laying chickens more than 18 weeks of age, at a single-family residence. Below are the steps to follow if you would like to raise chickens:

- a. Request application packet from the Department of Planning and Community Development.
- b. Review application packet.
- c. Coop and Pen. Placement of a Coop structure must be in conformance with Section 400.1592 of the City's Zoning Regulations. Said section permits:
 - o one (1) coop, not to exceed an area of sixty (60) square feet and height of eight (8) feet.
 - o one (1) pen not to exceed an area of one-hundred twenty (12) and height of eight (8) feet.

All Coops and Pens must be located behind the principal structure and at least five (5) feet from the rear property line.

- d. Variations. Any request for more than ten (10) chickens or to exceed the Coop and/or Pen standards under Section 400.1592, are subject to the review and approval of the City's Planning and Community Design Commission.
- e. Submit application along with the \$25.00 fee and drawing of rear yard showing proposed placement of coop/pen.
- f. Your proposed coop/pen placement will be reviewed and if in compliance, approved.
- g. Build coop and pen.
- h. Schedule inspection for placement review.
- i. Permit issued.

Common courtesies:

- Your subdivision may have indentures, by-laws, and/or covenants that limit, restrict, or prohibit the harboring of chickens. These indentures are legally binding, recorded documents recognized by the State of Missouri and recorded with the St. Louis County Recorder of Deeds Office. Please review indentures governing your subdivision and discuss with the appropriate trustees.
- Beyond the impact of necessary work conducted on your property for harboring chickens, the next impacted property is your neighbor's. The actions you take, and activities of your chickens may unintentionally impact your neighbor. Please make sure to reach out to your neighbor, keep them informed of your activities, and mediate concerns and issues to the best of your abilities.

If you have any questions, please call the Department of Planning and Community Development at 314-993-0252.

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APPLICATION FOR REARING CHICKENS

Note: Only allowed in the SR Single Family Residential District

I. Applicant acknowledges that they understand:

The keeping of up to ten (10) egg-laying hens more than 18-weeks of age in total shall be permitted as provided in this section only in the SR Single Family Residential Zoning District and only if a permit has been issued by the Department of Planning and Community Development.

a) Limitations:

- No more than ten (10) egg-laying hens more than 18-weeks of age, may be kept on a single lot.
- Roosters more than 18 months are prohibited. Upon discovery of roosters, the rooster(s) shall be relocated outside the City in a timely manner. If the City is made aware of a rooster on the premises during the permit time period, the City shall notify the owner that the rooster(s) must be relocated within a six (6) week period.
- Fighting or aggressive birds may be not kept.

b) Operations:

- All chickens shall be reared in a ventilated, safe and sanitary condition, which has adequate space for humane treatment and free from predators.
- All feed for the chickens shall be stored in water-tight and vermin-proof containers.
- Any manure or other waste from the chickens shall be collected and properly removed from the premises. According to Section 210.060 of the Olivette Municipal Code, it shall be unlawful for an owner to allow the accumulation of animal feces or manure in any open area, run, cage or yard wherein animals are kept and to fail to remove or dispose of feces or manure.
- No chicken shall be permitted to run at large.
 - The term “*run at large*” is defined as any chicken freely roaming in any area not on the premises to which the permit applies.
- No slaughtering of any chickens shall be allowed except within a fully enclosed premise completely blocked from public view.
- Deceased chickens shall be immediately disposed of in a proper manner.
- No person shall keep chickens in any manner so as to create a nuisance as defined in our ordinances.
- Eggs may not be sold on the premises.

c) Housing:

- The chickens must be adequately confined within a coop or pen in accordance with Section 400.1592:

(B.10) *Animal Shelters*, including the following:

Number: One (1) per lot.

Area: Not to exceed sixty (60) square feet.

Height: Not to exceed eight (8) feet.

Setback:

- (1) Front yard: Located behind the footprint of the principal structure. Screened from any adjacent street.
- (2) Side yard: Located behind the footprint of the principal structure and screened from view.
- (3) Rear yard: Five (5) feet from rear lot line.

Exterior finish: Materials shall be compatible with the character of the residence located on the lot and in keeping with the general character of the surrounding neighborhood.

(B.11) *Animal Fences (Pens)*.

Number: One (1) per lot.

Area: Not to exceed one hundred twenty (120) square feet.

Height: Not to exceed six (6) feet.

Setback:

- (1) Front yard: Located behind the front yard setback of the lot.
- (2) Side yard: Five (5) feet from the side lot line.
- (3) Rear yard: Five (5) feet from rear lot line.

Exterior Finish: Materials shall be compatible with the character of the residence located on the lot and in keeping with the general character of the surrounding neighborhood.

c) Other Requirements:

- Subdivision Indentures. As is the case with many regulations, when applicable, subdivision indentures may be more restrictive than City ordinances; therefore, it is recommended that the applicant seek subdivision approval prior to filing this application.
- Rental Property. If the applicant is not the owner of the property on which such activity is proposed, written authority from the owner must be provided.
- Other Code regulations. Nothing in this section shall be deemed to preclude the enforcement of any violation of any City ordinances committed in connection with the keeping of chickens, notwithstanding the issuance of such permit.
- Inspections. By applying for a permit under this section the property owner authorizes City officials at all reasonable times and in a reasonable manner to enter upon and inspect the property with respect to which such permit is applied for to determine whether the keeping of chickens violates this section or any other applicable ordinances.
- Annual fee. The annual fee for a permit shall be twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) to help defray costs of inspection and enforcement, payable on issuance of the permit and on January 1st of each year.
- Non-transferability of permit: A permit issued hereunder shall be nontransferable. It is unlawful to keep, harbor, maintain, possess, or otherwise control any chicken on property that is not identified on the permit.

Upon termination of a permit, the applicant shall remove all associated structures utilized for harboring chickens and restore the grounds to reflect the adjacent yard area.

CERTIFICATION BY PETITIONER(S)

I (we) hereby certify that I (we) have a legal interest in the hereinabove described property and that all information given herein is true and a statement of fact.

Signature: _____

Printed Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone No.: _____

E-mail Address: _____

CERTIFICATION BY OWNER(S)

I (we) hereby certify that I (we) have a legal interest in the hereinabove described property and that all information given herein is true and a statement of fact.

Signature: _____

Printed Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone No.: _____

CHICKEN CARE CONSIDERATIONS **Provided by The Humane Society of the United States**

Chickens are energetic, inquisitive, and friendly animals who are a joy to watch, but the decision to keep them should not be made lightly. Chickens require dedicated, consistent care and there are important issues to consider before acquiring a backyard flock.

Many municipalities prohibit residents from having backyard chickens. Be sure to contact local authorities (such as your local animal control or zoning/planning departments) to ensure such animals are legal before you bring any chickens home.

Cockerel conundrum. Within city limits, many municipalities that permit chickens nevertheless limit the number of chickens that one household can keep, and roosters are generally not permitted at all, as their crowing can disturb neighbors. This creates an ethical conundrum, because when chickens are purchased as young chicks it is not possible to accurately determine their sex.

Chicks purchased through mail order or local farm supply outlets may be sold in groups separated by sex, but since gender determination is inexact, as the birds grow, families often find they have one or more male birds when they were expecting to have only females. Many young roosters are being relinquished to shelters and sanctuaries, organizations already overburdened with unwanted animals. Worse, these roosters may be simply abandoned or killed.

The adoption option. For these reasons, The HSUS recommends that families consider adopting adult birds, when the animal's gender is already known. Adult hens can usually be located through your local humane society or animal control. Chickens end up in traditional shelters more often than people realize, and adopting from a shelter is a great way to save a life. You might even ask to be put on a waiting list to be contacted about hens as they come into the shelter.

If your local shelter has no chickens available, look to adopt a "retired" hen from a factory farm who now lives at a rescue or sanctuary that adopts these birds out. While not as productive as they were in their prime, many of these chickens still lay multiple eggs per week. Most of these older hens would otherwise end up being killed on the farm or sent to slaughter. You can find a list of adoption agencies near you by visiting sanctuaries.org or petfinder.com.

Alternatively, you may want to look at flyers posted in your local farm/feed stores, check your newspaper's classified ads, or even scan websites like craigslist.org to find chickens who need good homes.

Chicken care essentials. Once hens have been adopted, proper care and housing are vital. In addition to regular daily attention, feed and clean water, and securing them in their shelter at night, the following care principles are also essential:

- **Chickens are heat- and cold-sensitive.** Like dogs and cats, chickens must have shelter to protect them from temperature extremes. Hens and roosters with large single combs are prone to frostbite in cooler climates, and all chickens need shade during periods of heat. It is important that the shelter is both insulated and well-ventilated. Straw bedding will add comfort and warmth to a shelter's floor space, but it should be replaced regularly with new, clean straw.
- **Predator protection is vital.** Chickens need absolutely secure shelter at night or they can easily fall prey to urban wildlife like raccoons and opossums. Dogs may also attack chickens. They must be completely enclosed in a safe henhouse, with four solid walls and a sturdy roof, every night. Predators can also dig under fences and walls, so this should be considered when planning the chickens' home. During the day, chickens should be kept in a fully-fenced enclosure or yard with proper protection from aerial day-time predators, neighborhood dogs and, in the case of small bantam hens, free-roaming cats.
- **Hens need an appropriate environment.** Hens need an enclosed nesting space (a "nestbox") in which to lay their eggs. They also need an elevated roost on which to perch at night; this is where they prefer to sleep. Hens enjoy loose substrate such as dirt, sand, or peat for dustbathing, and they should also have free access to grass and other vegetation to engage in natural pecking, scratching, and foraging behaviors. Often-used areas may become denuded, and it is important to provide plenty of space, giving them as much room as possible to express natural behavior outdoors. Hen houses, coops, and runs must be kept very clean at all times, for the health of the chickens and the food safety of the eggs.

- **Chicken Poop.** The University of Missouri Extension reports six commercial laying hens will generate approximately 11 pounds of manure every week (1.5 gallons). Chickens will poop everywhere, your walkways, your porch, your lawn chairs, your lawn – it'll all end up with chicken poop on it. That is why it's important to keep their food and water away from nesting bars or nesting boxes because (you guessed it!) they'll poop right in or on them. If their nesting boxes aren't clean it can actually deter them from laying. So if you want to up your egg production then be sure to clean your hens' nesting boxes regularly. It is important to routinely clean your coop and pen area.
- **Chickens will require veterinary care.** While it may be tempting to think of a backyard flock as a source of inexpensive eggs, hens, like cats and dogs, require periodic veterinary care. Chickens can become ill or get injured, and vet exams and treatment can easily cost over \$100 per visit. These expenses should be carefully considered before the decision is made to keep backyard chickens. Not all avian veterinarians are experienced with chickens, so be sure to locate a trusted poultry vet in your area ahead of time.
- **Vacation help is a must.** Since chickens require daily care, a designated caretaker must be arranged for vacations and other periods away from the house. Someone must be present to feed and water the hens and to put them inside their secure shelter every evening.
- **Chicken nutrition is important.** It is a common misperception that chickens can be fed on corn kernels or kitchen scraps alone. Chickens need a balanced diet, like one of the commercially available feeds that have been carefully formulated by nutritionists specifically for adult hens. The protein requirements of chickens change with the birds' age, so it's important to feed an age-appropriate diet.
 - Laying hens also need access to a supplemental source of course calcium, such as limestone (available at livestock supply stores) if their feed ration does not already contain enough. In addition to calcium, hard insoluble granite grit should be fed, free choice, 2 or 3 days per month.
 - Chickens enjoy fresh fruits, grains, and vegetables in addition to their regular feed, but certain plants can be toxic. Avoid raw green potato peels, dried or undercooked beans, and avocados. Chickens should receive fresh feed and water daily—discard any feed that is old, moldy, or stale.
 - The Alabama Cooperative Extension System has published a detailed page on the feeding requirements of backyard chicken flocks throughout their lives.
- **Prevent disease.** Chickens can carry and become ill from a variety of infectious diseases. It is important to keep the hens' environment clean with regular manure removal, and by washing the feed and water containers. You should also avoid mixing birds from different flocks. (Temporarily quarantine any new birds for two weeks and watch them closely for signs of illness or parasites before introducing them into an already established group.) Don't share equipment with neighbors (each chicken house should have dedicated tools, wheelbarrows, buckets, etc.), because pathogenic organisms can travel on these items. Diseases can spread to chickens from pet birds and wild birds, so limit contact where possible.
- **Give your birds plenty of attention.** If you spend time watching and interacting with your chickens, you will find that each one has a unique personality, and they are friendly and curious when treated kindly. They display interesting behavior patterns such as dustbathing and foraging, and their complex social interactions are entertaining to observe. Enjoy their antics, and remember that your hens are completely dependent on you for responsible, committed care for their entire lives.