

# **CITY COMMISSION WORK SESSION**

City Hall Commission Chambers

Monday, November 7, 2016

6:00 p.m.

## **CALL TO ORDER**

## **ROLL CALL**

## **WORK SESSION**

1. Business License
2. Permitting Chickens within City Limits

# Establishment Agreement

Establishment agreements are required for all new businesses since 2013.

One time fee of \$50.00.

## Service Provided

- Staff inspects the building for compliance with International Fire Code.
- Inspections include :
  - o Smoke detector testing and placement
  - o Emergency and exit lighting testing.
  - o Egress and panic hardware testing.
  - o Fire extinguisher placement and charge status inspections.
  - o Electrical inspection.
- High Hazard businesses inspections
  - o Yearly inspections or more.
  - o Hazardous material quantities documented
  - o Hazardous material locations documented
  - o Suppression systems testing.

## Documentation

- Staff documents the following items and are accessible to DCFD and DCPD.
  - o Building owner's contact information
  - o Tenant's contact information
  - o Locations of hazardous material
  - o Locations of all utility disconnects
  - o Sales tax ID number

Change of ownership or change in occupancy type requires a New Establishment Agreement.

Rarely do we have more than one at a time.

**General Business Licenses would include all of the above and the following.**

- Yearly inspections on all businesses.
- Yearly fees and registration
- Penalties for late registration

# Current Process For Keeping Fowl

## IF in Residential Suburban Zone:

- Must apply for a conditional use permit
  - \$200 fee
- Property Owner list from certified abstractor
  - \$100-400
- Notice in paper for Public Hearing
- Notices to neighbors within 200 feet
- Typically a 4-6 week process
- Must have site approved and permit paid to Animal Control
  - \$25 fee
- Total cost \$300-600+

**Pros** Gives Planning Commission Control  
Gives City Staff some influence  
Gives Neighbors some influence  
Only in Residential Suburban Zone

**Cons** Expensive – basically cost-prohibitive for most people  
Time – Is a lengthy process  
Considerable work for City Staff(Development Services)  
Only in Residential Suburban Zone

# Proposed

## 1. Same as current process, but allowed in ALL Residential Zones

**Pros**

- Gives Planning Commission Control
- Gives City Staff some influence
- Gives Neighbors some influence
- Allowed in all Residential Zones

**Cons**

- Expensive – basically cost-prohibitive for most people
- Time – Is a lengthy process
- Considerable work for City Staff(Development Services)

## 2. Remove the requirement of Conditional Use permit requirement for Keeping of Fowl

- would be allowed in all residential zones
- Applicant must acquire permit from Animal Control

**Pros**

- Much quicker process
- Considerably cheaper for applicant
- No work/time spent by Dev. Serv.
- Allowed in all Residential Zones

**Cons**

- No control by Planning staff or commission
- Neighbors have no say

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 **Why can't I have chickens within city limits?**

I LOVE BABY CHICKS and chickens if I had to get only females cause that male crows I would, but how come not females. I live in the middle of the city trying to find a place to move so I may have chickens. My cousin runs a feed and seed store and he gets baby chicks during the spring near easter also bunnies as well

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Answers Relevance

 **Best Answer:** Chickens are considered livestock and livestock is not allowed within city limits. Chickens usually poop quite a lot and their poop gets smelly and attracts flies. Flies can carry a lot of diseases. Chicken feed is very attractive to rodents. No one wants more rats or mice in the neighborhood.

In "some" suburban areas, it is okay to keep hens UNLESS your neighbors complain. If there is even one complaint, the chickens must go. Immediately.

In MOST areas it is illegal to sell bunnies, rabbits, chicks or ducklings until AFTER Easter. Your cousin may be breaking the law. Real farmers mailorder their own chicks, etc. The ones in pet and feed stores sell to people with NO KNOWLEDGE of how to feed, house and care for the animals. Humane groups became upset at the numbers of unwanted bunnies, chicks and ducklings that got dumped at shelters after Easter every year, (and those were just the Lucky Ones, that didn't die from being chilled, dropped, malnourished, stepped on, squeezed, etc.) and OUT-LAWED their sale several years ago.

Lizzie · 6 years ago Comment

2 0

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 Because "farm animals" are not allowed in residential zones.  
If they let you have the chickens then your neighbor will want to have a pig, then another neighbor will want to have a cow, and so on. You got the idea.

Anonymous · 6 years ago Comment

1 0

 It could be a disease thing, I'm not sure. Or to cut down on illegal chicken fighting.

Kelly D · 6 years ago

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How to find out if chickens can be kept within city limits?

Can You have chickens within Dallas, TX city limits?

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73 answers

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More questions



Smell, noise and rats/mice are the main reason.

sensible\_man · 6 years ago

1 0

Comment



I am not being cruel but pigeons are better and you can eat them .

? · 6 years ago

0 1

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### Why can't I have chickens within city limits?



Add your answer



## How to Keep Chickens in a City

User  
Reviewed

Join the "urban chicken movement" and raise your own backyard flock. Chickens are both fun and useful to keep. Don't expect to keep a breeding flock with noisy roosters, but your hens will earn their keep and provide enjoyment by laying eggs for you. Chickens can provide you with healthy, home grown eggs and meat, quality nitrogen-rich fertilizer, pest control and companionship. Perhaps surprisingly, a reasonable number of chickens can adapt very well to the constraints of an urban environment; indeed, it's even possible to keep chickens indoors through the use of diapers. Here's your guide to keeping chickens in the city.

### Steps

**1 Check local laws and regulations.** It may be illegal for you **to own** chickens in your city location, so start out by calling the local **animal control** office or your local municipality **and** asking what the laws are in your area. More and more ordinances are available online as well, so it's worth doing a search.

- Since roosters are perceived as noisy, they usually tend to fall under your city's noise or nuisance ordinances. While hens are normally very quiet, they may still be subject to nuisance ordinances. Check the city code before you get your birds and become attached to them!
- Some cities limit the number of chickens you can have on a given amount of land.
- In areas that were recently rural or have a strong farming culture, no law or license may be required to keep chickens.
- If chickens are illegal in your area all is not lost. Many people have managed to get pro-chicken ordinances passed, such as Madison, WI and Ann Arbor MI. However, you may need to be prepared to practice some activism in order to lobby your local authorities.
- If you really want to breed your own chickens you will need a rooster. One way to keep your rooster is to purchase a **No-crow collar** to keep the noise down. If properly used, your chickens will be happy and safe in your yard. They are flexible and comfortable enough to allow them to breathe and move around, while humanely discouraging them from crowing.

**2 Research the breed and number of chickens you want to keep before you buy them!** There are several ways **to choose the** chicken **breed**, such as for their egg-laying prowess, their meat potential or just because they're pretty (sometimes all three reasons coincide). Be aware that many breeds also come in "bantam" size (like "toy" breeds for dog) that are roughly a quarter of the size of large breeds. The Buff Orpington makes a good choice for beginners and comes in both large and bantam sizes. Some friendly layers like Rhode Island Reds or Barred Plymouth Rocks are always a good choice. They are both meat and laying birds and they tend to be easy birds to keep, since they have a very mild temper. Another popular breed are Cochin bantams. These are good layers, are very sweet and make great pets. For beginners, dual purpose breeds are probably a sound first choice.

- There is a ton of information available on the hundreds of breeds of chickens. Surf online to look for chicken breeds, urban chicken, and city chicken just to start with.
- There are many online forums comprised of your fellow chicken owners, and they are a great resource for advice, chicks, adults birds and supplies. Some hatcheries also have online forums.
- You might not have a big range of choice on your chicken breeds. If you try to find somewhere to get your chickens from they might not sell the type of breed or age you want. There might be more bantams available or more regular hens available. There might be more good egg-layers available whilst there might be more meat chickens which mature quickly. And there might also be more chicks available than pullets, more roosters available than hens, or more fertilised eggs available.
- Again, check your local law and regulations on how many chickens you're allowed to keep. If you don't have much space you should consider only keeping about three or five hens. Each hen will lay about 1 egg every day if you keep them happy.

**3 Visit other urban dwellers who keep chickens in their backyard and see what they're doing.** Ask them for advice and suggestions. If you're the only person you know who is interested in doing this, visit the closest farmer who keeps chickens (especially if you've never had chickens before) and watch and learn. Pay a visit to your local farmers market, see who's selling fresh eggs, and start up a conversation!

- Or, if you're not keen on driving about, try searching online in the comfort of your own home. There are plenty of personal experiences and first-time-chicken-keepers information. Whether you're searching about chicks, pullets, hens, roosters, etc, you're bound to get the information you want. To get you started try searching up 'pros and cons of keeping chickens'.

**4 Build your chickens a good coop out of strong materials.** The coop is a place where the chickens will spend the night, lay eggs, and get out of the bad weather. There are many different types of coops. If you're handy, you can easily build one using a design you find on the Internet, or something you already have lying around. There are many different types of successful chicken coops that imaginative people have created, made from things as strange as an old pickup truck bed cap to a dog house. The key is to make your coop a safe place for the chickens to lay their eggs and sleep.

- A rule of thumb is 4 square feet inside the coop per chicken (2 square feet per bantam) and 10 square feet of outdoor space (8 square feet per bantam).
- The coop should have good air flow and a low roost for your chickens to sleep. Good ventilation is crucial but ensure that there are no drafts. Be aware that hens create a lot of moisture, including high levels of ammonia and carbon dioxide which must be removed regularly, as well as ensuring these elements are vented out.
- Use removable perches; this is so that they can be taken out and disinfected regularly to kill off mites and other parasites.
- Build nest/laying boxes where your chickens can cozy up and lay their eggs. The box should be large enough to hold a hen (around 12 inches/30cm square) and include a small lip at the front to help stop eggs from rolling out once laid. A little bit of straw, sawdust or pine needles (not hay as it's not absorbent enough) to make litter for the nest goes a long way.
  - You only need one nest box per four hens. Keep the boxes dark.
  - If you build laying boxes that can be accessed from outside as well as in, you won't need to go inside every time to collect the eggs.
- The floor should be lined with untreated pine wood chips (cedar can be toxic to chickens), sawdust, straw or pine needles and cleaned once a week. You can use dropping boards to catch droppings under perches; these are easier to remove and clean. Litter collected from the hen house can be turned into great compost for your garden!
- Prepare adequately for your chickens for the whole year. They will need shade in the summer and heat in the winter. If you live where there are cold winters you may need to set up a heat lamp in the coop or a water heater and make sure you have chosen a cold-hardy breed of chicken.
- Protect against burrowing vermin such as rats and mice by burying about 6 inches (15cm) of the fencing wire below ground level and curling it outwards. Then when pests try to dig under the wire to get in your coop, they run into the wire instead. Predators are very patient and have all night to get themselves a good chicken dinner, and chickens sleep very soundly.
- Check the finished coop carefully for dangers such as protruding wires and nails. Chickens are very curious and it's cheaper to prevent accidents than it is to take them to the vet.

**5 Give your chickens room to roam.** If you have a safely fenced yard or an off-street area, let them wander freely during the day. If you give them a good spot to get out of the weather and up off the ground, they usually won't go very far from it. Often chickens prefer not to go anywhere they can't see their coop from. If you can't let them roam free, try making a little run for them out of hardware cloth (strong, welded wire fencing that has small, square openings —most hardware stores have it by the roll), or if you have to, you can keep them in the coop with a small run attached to it. Don't use chicken wire, as it is way too flimsy and is easily torn into by predators such as dogs, and even humans. Spend a little extra money on good fencing materials and save yourself the heartbreak of finding your birds torn to shreds one day.

**6 Make up a small (18 inches by 18 inches and 3 to 4 inches deep) sand pit.** Keep it covered to keep it dry. The chickens will bathe in this and keep themselves free of parasites in their feathers or skin.

- 7 Purchase food for your chickens before they arrive.** Feed supply stores are a good source as well as the Internet. You should have a bag of pelleted poultry feed (for large breeds) or crumble (for bantam breeds). Be aware that the health of the eggs is determined by the health of the feed; for example, protein-rich eggs come from protein-rich feed, while a hen intended for eating will put on weight eating a good balance of protein and carbohydrates. A laying hen needs to eat around 100g of feed each day. Put the feed in a covered feeder and replace it regularly, as it does go stale. Allowed to roam free, chickens are effective weed eaters and insect control—set them loose in your veggie patch.
- There's usually somewhere nearby where you can purchase the right and best feed for your chickens. Hens can be fed layer-pellets to increase the quality of their eggs whilst meat chickens can be fed on a finisher feed which contains more protein.
  - Fresh and cracked corn is a favorite as well as tomatoes, apples and anything baked. You can try growing your own corn, wheat or barley to feed to chickens; all are good sources of protein, although corn is lower in protein than the other crops.
  - Chickens love table scraps. A good rule of thumb: if it's healthy for you, it's usually healthy for your chickens (with the exceptions noted next). However, only feed as many table scraps as the chickens eat within a quarter hour; any more than this and they'll neglect the healthy balanced feed they should be eating.
  - Steer clear of giving your chickens onions and garlic, as it can flavor the eggs. Also, chocolate, raw potatoes, and avocados are toxic to birds and your chickens should never eat any of these food items. Also, never let your chickens eat damp feed; it may have grown molds or toxins which can kill them.
  - Chickens should have access to grit. This is held in their gizzard and helps grind down coarse grain. However, free-range chickens that roam around in the dirt/grass will find something to replace the grit.
  - Laying hens need calcium replenishment. Ground up eggshells, oyster shells, crushed limestone or ground bone meal can provide this source when given regularly.
  - Use common sense and keep pesticides, antifreeze and other chemicals out of your birds' reach.
  - Clean up uneaten food before it spoils and stinks up their home.

**8 Find your chickens.** There are many ways of finding local chicken farmers. Ask around at farmers markets, health food stores and feed supply stores. Check the classifieds for a livestock section. The other option is to purchase your chickens online. Your county fair, 4H Clubs, county agriculture extension service, etc., all are good starting points.

- You can even buy fertile eggs to incubate and hatch on your own! Hatching your own chicks is an amazing experience, especially for kids. If you decide to do this, be well prepared and do your research—it's fairly easy but you need to be prepared for those little balls of fluff.

**9 Keep everything clean.** Once every week or two (depending on how many chickens you have in how little space), clean out the coop, wipe down the perches, and scrub down their feeders. If the hens are laying, thoroughly clean their nest boxes, especially if an egg cracked at one point. Keeping their environment clean will reduce the risk of disease and parasites and it'll also keep your neighbors from complaining.

**10 Watch your chickens.** Check the feed and water every day. Observe them regularly and look for changes in behavior and habits that will alert you to ways you can improve their habitat:

- Are they eating their food and drinking their water? Always make sure the food and water are fresh, cool, and clean.
- Are they huddling together in a particular spot? It might be too cold for them, or there could be a draft.
- Are they breathing heavily? Check that they have enough shade to find a spot where they can cool off.
- Are they losing feathers? The proverbial "pecking order" may be in effect. If any of the hens are bleeding, consider separating the victim until the hen has healed, as other chickens will continue to peck at the wound.
- Are they all there? Count your chickens every day, especially if you have more than ten.
- Be on the look out for signs of disease. Some possible symptoms to look for indicating injury/illness/disease include: Coughing, wheezing, labored breathing, warts/scabs, swollen joints, loss of feathers, reduced egg production, thin egg shells, fever, abscesses or open wounds, paralysis, twisting of neck/head, discharge from nose/mouth, diarrhea/blood in stool, not eating/drinking, weight loss, retarded growth, lack of coordination, enlarged abdomen.<sup>[1]</sup>

## Community Q&A

### What is the minimum space to keep four chickens?



The rule of thumb is to keep chickens with at least 4 square foot of floor space each in the coop and 8 square foot in the run, so you would be looking at 16 square foot in the coop and 32 square foot in the run for all four chickens. If you have bantam breeds, then you're looking at a different measurement of half of a standard chicken - 2 square foot in the coop and 4 square foot in the run. That would be 8 square foot in the coop and 16 square foot in the run all together.

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### When keeping chickens in my front yard should I have some type of cover over them?



This is your personal choice. You'll need to weigh the pros and the cons. It generally depends on the types of predators you get where you live.

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Where do I place the electrodes after AN L5-S1 back fusion to help with the pain of the surgery

Your answer...

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## Tips

- Buy a book on keeping chickens for reference. You'll find yourself referring to it frequently at the beginning. Over time, you'll find yourself updating it!
- Try to keep your chicken hobby as cute and clean as possible. No one likes living next to an ugly, smelly mess. By ordering plans to build a cute "city friendly" coop or purchasing a ready-made one, you fend off a lot of problems before you begin.
- Roosters are a liability in the city. The noise and trouble they create is usually not worth it. Hens lay lots of wonderful eggs, with or without a rooster.
- Find a "chicken sitter" if you ever plan on being away from your home for more than a day. Chickens need to be tended to at least twice a day (to let them out of the coop or put them in, to check their food and water, etc.). If you're not around to do it, you need to get in touch with someone who's responsible and comfortable with this task.
- Read, read, read! There are many online forums and poultry websites with tons of great info where you can share experiences, find answers to questions and talk to fellow chicken owners.
- Use fly traps and keep your coop really clean. If there is no smell, the neighbors can't complain.

- Generally, chickens take care of themselves pretty well if they have enough food, water, and space. But it's a very good idea to find an avian (bird) vet **before** you need one--not all vets will accept chickens or birds as patients, and if you are keeping chickens as pets you will naturally want good care for them. 2AM Sunday morning is no time to be stuck running around trying to find someone to treat your chicken, and animal emergency services tend to be expensive. A local livestock veterinarian, if you have one in your area, is great for mass problems.
- Tell your neighbors what you're doing. They're less likely to get upset over a wandering chicken in their yard every once in a while if they know where it came from. Better yet, turn them into allies by giving them free eggs! You will likely end up with more eggs than you will know what to do with.
- Keep YOUR chickens in YOUR yard. Chickens love to dig up gardens and just as you would expect your neighbor to keep their dog out of your yard, you should keep your chickens safe and secure in yours.
- If there is no one in your area to buy chicks from, try mail ordering them. Keep in mind, you may have to order quite a few, but this will allow you to order just hens and you don't need a rooster for good eggs!

### Warnings

- Always manage any rodent problem quickly to avoid problems. Keep feed in sealed containers.
- Roosters are loud! All male chickens love to crow and they do it in the morning, noon, night and every chance they get in-between. Keep that in mind if you have close neighbors. Hens, on the other hand, are not as noisy, but they *do* cackle loudly here and there.
- Chickens can carry diseases just like any other outdoor animal, so if you have very small children, make sure you monitor their contact. Tell them to wash their hands after petting them, and never kiss a chicken. Educate yourself on chicken health, including common diseases and parasites, many of which can be carried in by wild birds.
- Consider what you will do with unwanted birds. If you're hatching your own chickens, about half of them will be roosters. They can't be kept together because they'll kill each other and harm the hens as well. Likewise, if your main reason for keeping chickens is for the eggs, remember that chickens can live 8-10 years but only have a productive life (one egg every 1.5 days) of about 2-3 years. It's not easy to find homes for roosters and unproductive chickens, and usually your only option is to sell them for meat. However, keeping older chickens is often an option. They don't eat quite as much, but still produce delicious eggs. The roosters make good chicken jerky if you're ambitious. Be aware that rooster meat is pretty tough and would rarely make something like fried chicken taste good.
- Check online for plants in your yard that may be toxic, as chickens love to eat greenery and your garden is 'on the menu'. It follows that you should never use pesticide spray on or around plants that chickens may eat, and never use slug and snail killer pellets as they will kill your birds. Chickens naturally scratch and dig in the dirt with much gusto, so don't expect them to steer clear of your prize-winning petunia patch. If you don't want them to eat it and/or dig it up, fence it off.
- Be careful what you use to clean the chicken coop with; ensure that it is non-toxic. Also, when cleaning, consider wearing a respiratory mask to protect you from any airborne parasites, especially if you are sickly or liable to respiratory illnesses. Always wear gloves when cleaning out bird droppings.

### Things You'll Need

- Chicken coop or house
- Litter (pine chips, pine needles, straw, sawdust, etc.)
- Appropriate feed
- Removable perches
- Laying/nest boxes
- Items for cleaning out the coop regularly
- Book on caring for chickens
- Basket for egg collecting

### Sources and Citations

- Try surfing for "urban chicken"; "city chicken"; "keeping chickens"; "chicken breeds"; "backyard chickens"; "hen house plans"
- Trisha Fisk, *Practical Smallfarming*, (2009), ISBN 978-0-14-301089-0 – research source

# Urban chicken

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

An **Urban chicken** or **backyard chicken** is a chicken kept on a residential lot.

The primary reasons for keeping chickens are the food and income made by selling the eggs and meat. Other reasons include use in ceremonies and as gifts.<sup>[1]</sup>

Keeping chickens in an urban environment is associated with the “Urban Agriculture Movement”, which is the growing practice of cultivating, processing and distributing food in, or around (peri-urban), a village, town or city.<sup>[2]</sup> According to National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service<sup>[3]</sup> and experts in backyard agriculture,<sup>[4]</sup> there are a host of personal benefits associated with Urban Agriculture and keeping chickens in one’s own backyard.



Sebright bantams kept in a backyard

## Contents

- 1 History
- 2 Revival
- 3 Commercial vs. backyard egg production
- 4 Concerns
  - 4.1 Health
  - 4.2 Noise
  - 4.3 Odor
  - 4.4 Unwanted predators, pests, and rodents
  - 4.5 Property values
- 5 See also
- 6 References
- 7 External links

## History

Keeping livestock in cities has been common throughout history and is still practiced in many parts of the world. For example, 50,000 pigs were being kept in Manhattan in 1859. But local ordinances were created to limit this, owing to the noise and smell nuisance, and these were relaxed only in times of war when the urban populace was encouraged to provide food for itself.<sup>[5]</sup>

Urban relief gardens played an important role in sustaining large populations of Americans during economic depressions.<sup>[6]</sup> War gardens played an important role in the nationwide effort to help win both World War I and World War II.<sup>[6]</sup> These victory gardens made gardening a patriotic activity and introduced gardening as an activity for everyone, not just those too poor to buy their own food.<sup>[7]</sup> Later, in the late 1960s and 1970s, community gardening started to make a comeback as a hobby. Organic gardening, urban animal husbandry, and community farms became popular and many cities around the country started community gardening programs for their residents.<sup>[7]</sup>

## Revival

In Canada and the United States, the raising of chickens on urban, suburban, and small town residential lots has become increasingly popular. For example, in Madison, Wisconsin, citizens formed a group called the *Chicken Underground*, overturned a ban upon domestic chickens and there are now 81 registered owners.<sup>[5]</sup> A film titled *Mad City Chickens* was made about their campaign.<sup>[8]</sup> More and more cities that had previously banned urban chickens are removing old regulations or making permits easier to obtain.<sup>[9]</sup>

Policies toward keeping chickens vary by country, county, or city.<sup>[10]</sup> Other cities with urban chicken programs and activists include Halifax, New York, Portland, Oregon, Seattle and Vancouver.<sup>[8]</sup>

In the UK, the keeping of chickens has also grown in popularity with as many as 200,000 households involved.<sup>[11]</sup> Sales of the fashionable *Eglu* hen house increased ten-fold between 2004 and 2009.<sup>[12]</sup>

## Commercial vs. backyard egg production

Commercial egg production has been associated with salmonella and other disease outbreaks in the United States.<sup>[13]</sup> Poor sanitation and crowded hen houses have contributed to these problems.

Expansion of the poultry industry, fueled by an increased demand for poultry products,<sup>[14]</sup> has created a demand for high throughput poultry and egg production.<sup>[13]</sup> The resulting increased poultry population density and the rearing of incompatible poultry species in close proximity have presented major disease challenges.<sup>[14]</sup> Studies have shown that small scale, backyard chicken keeping/egg production reduces these potential disease risks.<sup>[15]</sup>

According to Mench *et al.*,<sup>[16]</sup> although changes in commercial egg production systems are being driven largely by animal welfare concerns, it is clear that other aspects of such changes must be considered to ensure sustainable egg production. Sustainability is a complex topic. Elements of sustainability include economics, environmental effects, human health and safety, and social values in addition to animal welfare. Backyard egg production has been suggested as a solution to sustainable, healthy food supply for families.<sup>[17]</sup>

## Concerns

There are some common concerns associated with the practice of raising chickens in residential areas, specifically noise, odor, attraction of predators/pests, property values, and health. Most chicken owners say that these myths and misconceptions about chickens and their behavior are central to issues surrounding passage of city ordinances and regulations necessary for the keeping of urban chickens.<sup>[18]</sup>

### Health

Bird flu and salmonella are the two biggest concerns to human health. The risk for catching bird flu is low, according to Mark Slifka, Ph. D. Infectious Disease Expert with Oregon Health & Science University in Portland, OR. He states this is especially true if the hens are kept in a closed environment, since they wouldn't be exposed to other birds.

Salmonella is mostly associated with under-cooked chicken meat. People who have weak immune systems, such as the elderly, young children, and those with various medical conditions, are most at risk. Proper sanitation and cooking practices lessen the threat of contracting salmonellosis.

Avian influenza, commonly referred to as "bird flu" is spread through contact with the feces of contaminated migratory birds. Since these infected wild birds are currently only in Asia, Africa, and Eastern Europe, there is no possible chance of it spreading to chickens elsewhere.<sup>[19]</sup>

### Noise

In some areas, roosters are banned, and only hens are allowed, and in limited numbers, to prevent problems with noise. Hens are relatively quiet as compared to pet dogs, though hens often vocalize after an egg is laid for a few minutes. The noise level during this squawking period has been measured at around 63 decibels, or about the level of two people talking. Other than post-laying squawking, normal hen sounds are not audible at 25 feet (7.6 m).

In Columbia, South Carolina it was argued that a leaf blowers were far louder than chickens, that dogs produce more waste than chickens do, so neither of those concerns were a valid reason to keep a ban on them. In actuality, however, the average chicken defecates upwards of seventy times a day, compared with a dog's 2-3 times a day, calling into question the veracity of that argument. In 1926 in Oakland California, the department of public health and safety issued an order to, "put your roosters in a light proof coop, or devise apparatus that will hold the rooster's head down so he can't crow" in response to complaints about the noise they were making. If they couldn't see any light, it was believed that they wouldn't know it was morning and wouldn't crow.<sup>[20]</sup>

### Odor

Odor concerns can be mitigated somewhat by limiting the number of chickens that a household can own. Unlike large commercial operations, where thousands of chickens are kept in close quarters and thus build up enough ammonia to create a powerful odor, small backyard operations produce proportionately less odor. Although in urban spaces where homes are situated right beside one another, steps must be taken to control odors. These range from regular cleaning to changing out the chicken's bedding. If not

properly cared for, odors can become quite strong given close proximity to neighboring homes. The average chicken eliminates waste, on average, every fifteen to twenty minutes; a coop of nine chickens will produce approximately seven hundred (700) defecations per day.

## Unwanted predators, pests, and rodents

Predators and rodents are already living in urban areas. Wild bird feeders, pet food, gardens, fish ponds, bird baths, trash waiting to be collected all attract raccoons, foxes, rodents and flies. Most modern chicken pens are designed to keep predators away. Rats, however, may be attracted to a yard in which excess chicken food remains on the ground on a regular basis.<sup>[18]</sup> Chicken owners have found many different ways of protecting chickens from predators without significant impact on the area.<sup>[21]</sup>

## Property values

One of the arguments against allowing backyard hens is that chickens kept within city limits will cause a reduction in property values. There are numerous cities across the country that allow backyard hens. Real estate figures show that property values have been unaffected by the passing of ordinances related to the keeping of urban hens.<sup>[22]</sup>

## See also

- Urban agriculture

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## External links

- Backyard Chickens site (<http://www.backyardchickens.com/>)
- Chicken Forum (<http://www.chickenforum.com/>)
- Urban Chickens (<http://urbanchickens.org/>)
- Keeping Chickens Newsletter (<http://www.keepingchickensnewsletter.com/>)
- Keeping Chickens: A Beginners Guide (<http://keeping-chickens.me.uk>) Lots of practical advice for beginners.
- Keeping Poultry (<http://poultrykeeper.com>) Poultrykeeper has over 500 articles on keeping chickens and other poultry.
- <http://www.eatwhereulive.com/sfd.htm> (<http://www.eatwhereulive.com/sfd.htm%20>)
- Video: Chick hatching from egg (<http://www.huehnerstallkaufen.net/kueken-schluepft-aus-dem-ei>)
- <http://www.cdc.gov/Features/SalmonellaPoultry/>

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## Kansas, Alma - City Chicken Ordinance



By vonymae

Posted 4/3/16 • Last updated 4/3/16 • 383 views • 0 comments

*Population 824*

### <ALMA, KS> Chicken Ordinance

Are Chickens Allowed in this location	Yes
Max Chickens Allowed	6
Roosters Allowed	No
Permit Required	Yes
Coop Restrictions	Henhouses shall be provided for all chickens kept within the city and shall be designed to provide safe and healthy living conditions for the chickens while minimizing the adverse impacts to city residents. All henhouses shall be well maintained. All henhouse structures shall be enclosed on all sides and have a roof and doors. All henhouse access doors must be able to be shut and locked at night. Windows and vents must be covered with predator-proof and bird-proof wire containing less than 1/2 inch openings. No henhouse or chicken pen shall be located closer than 10 feet to property line of any adjacent property. All henhouses and chicken pens must be located at least 25 feet from the nearest neighbor's residence. All henhouses and chicken pens shall be located in the backyard of the residence at issue. "Backyard" used in this section, shall mean that area of a lot that is located between the back of house and the rear property line.
City/Organization Contact name	City Of Alma, KS
Additional Information	No Slaughtering w/in City Limits Allowed. Provision must be made for the storage and removal of chicken manure. Permit Fee \$100.00
Link for more Information	http://library.amlegal.com/nxt/gateway.dll/Kansas/alma_ks/codeofthecityofalmakans?f=templates\$fn=default.htm\$3.0\$vid=amlegal:alma_ks
Information Last Updated	March 2016

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