

Sec. 14-19. - Limitation on number of chickens.

(a) *Purpose.* The keeping of chickens within the City of Columbus may detract from and may be detrimental to healthful and comfortable life in the city. The keeping of more than four chickens is declared a public nuisance.

(b) *Number limited.*

- (1) An owner or occupant may own, harbor, or keep in its possession up to a total of four chickens upon any lot within the city upon issuance of a license by the common council as set forth in subsection (c) below.
- (2) The keeping of up to four chickens is conditioned upon the following:
 - a. No owner or occupant shall keep any rooster.
 - b. No owner or occupant shall slaughter any chickens on the lot.
 - c. The chickens shall be provided with a covered and fenced enclosure and must be kept in the covered and fenced enclosure at all times.
 - d. All enclosures shall be at least 25 feet from any neighboring residential structure.
 - e. All stored feed must be kept in airtight containers impenetrable to rodents.
- (3) In addition to the requirements of paragraph d. above, the covered and fenced enclosure area for any chickens shall conform to any and all regulations regarding accessory buildings for the zoning district in which the covered and fenced enclosure is situated.

(c) *License required.*

- (1) Any person who keeps chickens in the city shall obtain an annual license prior to January 1 of each year or within 30 days of first acquiring the chickens.
- (2) Any person requesting a license shall file an application for a license with the city clerk and pay an application fee that shall be established by resolution of the common council. The application fee shall be nonrefundable and shall be established to defray the cost of inspecting the applicant's premises for compliance with the terms and conditions of this section. At the time of filing the application, the person requesting the license shall also post with the city clerk the fee required for the license. If the license is not granted to the applicant, this fee shall be returned to the applicant.
- (3) Upon receipt of an application for a license to house chickens (or a subsequent renewal), the city clerk shall notify all residents and landowners within 200 feet of the applicant's address of the application being filed. The application for the license shall be heard by the common council at the first regularly scheduled meeting of the council following a minimum 14-day notification period to the neighboring residents and landowners.
- (4)

The fee for the license shall be established by resolution of the common council, and shall be in addition to the application fee. All inspections pursuant to this section shall be conducted by the city administrator, or his designee.

- (d) *License revocation.* If a complaint is made by anyone to a city clerk that the terms of the license issued to the owner or the applicant are being violated in any way, in addition to any other penalties set forth in this Code of Ordinances, the city, on its own motion, may seek to revoke the license of the owner or occupant. To revoke the license, the common council shall hold a hearing. At the hearing, the city and the owner/occupant will be allowed to present testimony as to why the license should be or should not be revoked. Following testimony, the common council shall make its decision. The city shall give at least 14 days written notice of the hearing to the owner or occupant, at the owner's or occupant's last known address.

(Ord. No. 719-15, § 1, 7-7-15)