

**DRAFT 6/9/2025**

**TOWN OF CORTLAND  
DEKALB COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2025-\_\_**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF CORTLAND, DEKALB COUNTY, ILLINOIS, ALLOWING  
BACKYARD COOPS/ENCLOSURES FOR DOMESTICATED HENS IN CERTAIN  
RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS AS A PERMITTED ACCESSORY STRUCTURE AND SUBJECT  
TO CERTAIN REGULATIONS**

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Cortland (the "Town") is a duly organized and validly existing non home-rule municipality created in accordance with the Constitution of the State of Illinois of 1970 and the laws of the State; and,

**WHEREAS**, domesticated chickens are of benefit to residents by providing fresh eggs, garden fertilizer, and companionship; and,

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Sections 11-5-3, 11-5-6, and 11-20-9 of the Illinois Municipal Code (65 ILCS 5/11-5-3, 5/11-5-6, and 5/11-20-9), the Town has the power to regulate the licensing, treatment, and prevention of nuisances regarding animals; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Town Board deem it necessary to allow and regulate domesticated hens to promote the health, safety, and welfare of Cortland's residents;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the Mayor and Board of Trustees of the Town of Cortland, DeKalb County, Illinois, as follows:

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**Section 1: Addition of Chapter to Municipal Code**

A new Chapter is hereby added to Title 8 of the Cortland Municipal Code:

**CHAPTER – DOMESTICATED HENS**

**8-19-1: Definitions**

- **Coop**: An enclosed structure with a roof for housing hens.
- **Domesticated Hen**: A female chicken (*Gallus domesticus*) kept on residential property as permitted.

- **Rooster:** A male chicken (*Gallus domesticus*); prohibited within town limits.
- **Slaughtering:** Killing of hens for any purpose (except for humane or religious reasons); prohibited.

#### **8-19-2: Keeping of Domesticated Hens**

- A. Hens may only be kept in accordance with this Chapter or on land zoned agricultural.
- B. Keeping hens must avoid nuisances and unhealthy conditions.
- C. No keeping of hens shall unreasonably interfere with the use of neighboring properties.

#### **8-19-3: Restrictions**

- A. Only lots zoned and used for single-family residential purposes that are **11,000 square feet or larger** may have hens.
- B. No more than **six (6)** hens per lot.
- C. Roosters are **prohibited**.
- D. Coops/enclosures must be in rear yards and at least **30 feet from neighboring dwellings**.
- E. Slaughtering is **not allowed** within Town limits.

#### **8-19-4: Coop and Fence Requirements**

- A. A coop up to **144 sq ft** and an outside run of at least **32 sq ft** is required.
- B. No electric via extension cords allowed.
- C. Hens must be confined within the coop/run at all times.
- D. A **privacy or solid fence** must enclose the yard.

#### **8-19-5: Sanitation**

- A. Coops must be **rodent-free, clean, and sanitary**.
- B. Feed must be stored in sealed containers.
- C. Waste must not cause detectable odors on adjacent lots.
- D. Noise from hens must not disturb neighboring residents.

#### **8-19-6: Permit Required**

- A. Apply with the Cortland Planning and Zoning Department include:
  1. Owner's permission (if tenant).
  2. A yearly **\$50 nonrefundable fee permit**.
    - B. Permitted properties are subject to inspection during reasonable hours (8 AM– 8 PM) by Town staff.
  3. Permit is subject to be revoked by Town of Cortland if property does not adhere to the ordinance or there are excessive complaints and revoking permit is recommended by

Cortland Police Department.

### 8-19-7: Enforcement and Compliance

Complaints will be investigated by the Police Department. Violations may result in administrative citations and fines through the adjudication process.

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### Section 2: Definitions Updated

The Town Code's animal definitions shall be updated as follows:

- **Agricultural Animal:** Livestock and poultry **except domesticated hens**.
  - **Domestic Animal:** Includes dogs, cats, and **domesticated hens**.
  - **Domesticated Hen:** Female chicken (*Gallus domesticus*) permitted per Chapter 19.
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### Section 3: Agricultural Animals Regulation

Agricultural animals remain prohibited within Town limits **except for domesticated hens and pigs** as regulated or animals on properly zoned agricultural land.

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### Section 4: Effective Date

This ordinance shall take effect upon passage, approval, and publication as required by law.

**Passed by the Town Board of the Town of Cortland, Illinois, this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.**

#### ROLL CALL VOTE:

Trustee Name	Vote
Trustee A	___
Trustee B	___

Trustee C        \_\_\_\_\_

Trustee D        \_\_\_\_\_

Trustee E        \_\_\_\_\_

Trustee F        \_\_\_\_\_

**APPROVED by me this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor, Town of Cortland

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Town Clerk