

## Ann Arbor, MI - Media

[Neighbor permission no longer required for backyard chickens, ducks in Ann Arbor - mlive.com](#)

- Residents can have up to six ducks and/or *female* chickens (any combo) without neighbor permission
- requires permit approval & \$20 fee
- they can be let outside of covered or fenced enclosures in rear or side yards with human supervision
- only allowed on single-family, two-family and school properties
- enclosures must be at least 10 feet away from adjacent property lines and at least 40 feet away from adjacent residences unless there are no neighbor objections to waiving that requirement

# Ann Arbor, MI City Code

## 9.38. - Domestic animals and fowl.

- 1) No person shall keep or house any animals or domestic fowl within the city except...animals commonly classified as pets which are customarily kept or housed inside dwellings as household pets.
- 2) Subsection (1) shall not apply to the keeping of chickens or ducks in compliance with all requirements of section 9:42.
- 3) Nothing in this chapter shall prohibit the city or a third party from bringing a nuisance action based on the keeping of animals.
- 4) A violation of this section shall be a civil infraction, punishable by a fine of not more than \$500.00.

## 9.42. - Keeping of chickens or ducks.

- 1) Any person who keeps chickens or ducks in the city shall obtain a 6-bird permit from the city prior to acquiring the chickens or ducks. Written statements waiving the distance requirement in subsection (3) below are required for 6-bird permits and shall be submitted at the time of application and become a part of the permit if issued. Application shall be made to the City Clerk and the fee for the permit shall be as determined by Council resolution.

Six-bird permits expire and become invalid 5 years after the date of issuance. A person who wishes to continue keeping birds shall have obtained a new permit on or before the expiration date of the previous permit. Application for a new permit shall be pursuant to the procedures and requirements that are applicable at the time the person applies for a new permit.

Only as used in this section, the term "bird" means only chickens or ducks or a combination of both.

- 2) Notwithstanding the issuance of a permit by the city, private restrictions on the use of property shall remain enforceable and take precedence over a permit. Private restrictions include but are not limited to deed restrictions, condominium master deed restrictions, neighborhood association by-laws, and covenant deeds. A permit issued to a person whose property is subject to private restrictions that prohibit the keeping of birds is void. The interpretation and enforcement of the private restriction is the sole responsibility of the private parties involved.

- 3) A person who keeps or houses birds on a property shall comply with all of the following requirements:
- (a) Have been issued the permit required under subsection (1) of this section.
  - (b) Keep no more than 6 birds.
  - (c) The principal use of the person's property is for a single-family dwelling, 2-family dwelling, or a primary or secondary school.
  - (d) No person shall keep any rooster (male chicken). Both drakes (male ducks) and hen ducks (female ducks) may be kept.
  - (e) No person shall slaughter any chickens or ducks.
  - (f) The birds shall be provided with a covered enclosure and must be kept in the covered enclosure or a fenced enclosure, except as otherwise provided in this section. Fenced enclosures are subject to all provisions of Chapter 55 (Unified Development Code).
  - (g) A person shall not keep birds in any location on the property other than in the rear yard, as defined in Chapter 55, except as otherwise provided in this section. For properties where the principal use is a primary or secondary school, a person shall not keep birds in that property's front required setback area as defined under Chapter 55 of this Code.
  - (h) Notwithstanding other requirements of this section, the birds may be kept outside of the covered enclosure or fenced enclosure subject to the requirements they may only be in the rear yard or side yard, as defined in Chapter 55, and a person shall be present with the birds in the same location.
  - (i) No covered enclosure or fenced enclosure shall be located closer than 10 feet to any property line of an adjacent property.
  - (j) All enclosures for the keeping of birds shall be so constructed or repaired as to prevent rats, mice, or other rodents from being harbored underneath, within, or within the walls of the enclosure. A covered enclosure or fenced enclosure shall not be located closer than 40 feet to any residential structure on an adjacent property provided, however, this requirement can be waived as follows:
    - i. If the principal use of applicant's property is for a single-family dwelling, or a primary or secondary school, to obtain such a waiver the applicant shall present at the time of applying for a permit the written statements of all owners of adjacent property that there is no objection to the issuance of the permit.
    - ii. If the principal use of the applicant's property is for a 2-family dwelling, to obtain such a waiver the applicant shall present at the time of applying for a permit the written statements of the occupants of the other dwelling stating that there is no objection to the issuance of the permit.
  - (k) All enclosures for the keeping of birds shall be so constructed or repaired as to prevent rats, mice, or other rodents from being harbored underneath, within, or within the walls of the enclosure.
  - (l) All feed and other items associated with the keeping of birds that are likely to attract or to become infested with or infected by rats, mice, or other rodents shall be protected so as to prevent rats, mice, or other rodents from gaining access to or coming into contact with them.
  - (m) If the above requirements are not complied with, the city may revoke any permit granted under this section and/or initiate prosecution for a civil infraction violation.
  - (n) For purposes of this section, "adjacent property" means all parcels of property that the applicant's property comes into contact with at 1 or more points, except for parcels that are legally adjacent to but are in fact separated from the applicant's property by a street or private street.
- 4) A person who has been issued a permit shall submit it for examination upon demand by any police officer or code enforcement officer.

- 5) Permits that were issued under this section when only chickens were allowed and before the effective date of the amendment adding ducks to this section shall continue to allow only chickens until the permit expires. A person may keep ducks only by obtaining a new 6-bird permit on or after the effective date of the amendment to this section that added ducks to this section.

A violation of this section shall be a civil infraction, punishable by a fine of not more than \$500.00.

# Berkley, MI

## City Code

### **22-5. - Keeping of domestic animals and fowl.**

No person shall harbor or house any animals or domestic fowl within the city except dogs, cats, birds, fowl or animals commonly classified as pet, or chickens in accordance with article IV of this chapter.

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## **ARTICLE IV - CHICKENS**

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### **22-90. - Generally.**

- (a) Any person residing in a single-family detached dwelling on residential zoned district property (R-1A, R-1B, R-1C, or R-1D), after obtaining an annual permit from the city, may keep on the property not more than three hen (female) chickens for personal use only and not for any business or commercial use.
- (b) Chickens may be kept as family pets or to lay eggs for personal consumption only.
- (c) Slaughtering of any chickens on the property is prohibited.

### **22-91. - Licensing and inspections.**

- (a) Completed permit applications shall be submitted to the building and code enforcement department along with the fee which shall be established by city council resolution. Approved permit holders shall schedule an inspection within 30 days of permit issuance. Failure to schedule an inspection shall result in an automatic suspension of the permit. If an inspection identifies noncompliance with any of the requirements set forth in this article, the permit holder shall have 14 days after being served with written notice of noncompliance to achieve compliance with the requirements, or the building official may revoke the permit or cite the violation as a municipal civil infraction.
- (b) Permits shall be valid for up to one year, shall be non-transferable, site-specific and shall expire on March 31 of the next calendar year. A person who wants to continue keeping chickens must obtain a new permit prior to expiration of the previous permit.
- (c) After an initial inspection, permitted coops shall be inspected at least one additional time during the permit term.

### **22-92. - Number limit.**

A person who keeps chickens shall comply with the following requirements:

- 1) Keep no more than three hen chickens at any time; and
- 2) Roosters or male chickens or any other type or class of fowl or poultry are prohibited.

## 22-93. - Enclosure.

- (a) Chickens shall be contained and kept in a fully enclosed structure, known as a "coop," or a fenced enclosure, known as a "pen," at all times. Fenced enclosures may be wire mesh with openings no larger than ¼ inch. A chicken coop shall be constructed of durable materials and shall be properly maintained in accordance with the Property Maintenance Code adopted in [section 26-276](#) of the City Code, as amended.
- (b) A chicken "coop" will be considered to be an accessory structure and must meet all requirements of [chapter 138](#), article III, division 1, of the Zoning Code, except that the structure need not have a concrete foundation slab and a chicken coop may be located within ten feet of an existing accessory structure. Prior to construction, an approved accessory structure permit must be obtained from the building and code enforcement department.
- (c) A coop or pen shall be designed to provide safe and humane living conditions for the chickens while minimizing adverse impacts (including, but not limited to, odor, noise, insects and dust) on neighbors, and shall meet all of the following additional requirements:
  - 1) A coop or pen shall be detached from the residential dwelling and shall not be located closer than 30 feet to the nearest point of any residential dwelling on an adjacent parcel;
  - 2) A coop or pen shall not be located within any required side or rear yard setback area;
  - 3) A coop or pen shall not exceed six feet in height and 80 square feet in floor area;
  - 4) The use of corrugated metal/fiberglass, sheet metal, plastic tarps, scrap lumber or similar materials is prohibited; and
  - 5) A coop or pen must be completely enclosed with a top or cover.
- (d) A coop or pen shall be constructed and maintained with a rat wall or similar block foundation or may be raised a minimum height of one foot off the ground to prevent rats, mice, and other rodents or burrowing animals from harboring beneath or entering the coop or pen. Noncompliance with this requirement shall be considered to be a nuisance subject to chapter 78 of the City Code.
- (e) All feed and other items associated with the keeping of chickens likely to attract rats, mice, or other rodents or vermin shall be secured and protected in sealed, rodent-proof containers.

## 22-94. - Care of chickens.

- (a) Chickens shall be kept in compliance with the current Michigan Department of Agriculture Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices for the Care of Farm Animals, as it relates to laying chickens, except as otherwise provided in this section.
- (b) Chickens shall not be kept in any location on the property other than the rear yard. For purposes of this section, "rear yard" means that portion of a lot enclosed by the property's rear lot line and the side lot lines to the points where the side lot lines intersect with an imaginary line established by the rear of the single-family structure and extending to the side lot lines.

## 22-95. - Private restrictions.

The provisions of this article are independent of, and are not intended to supersede or affect any private restriction, covenant or bylaw that may apply to the property.

## 22-96. - Violations.

A violation of any provision of this article shall be deemed a municipal civil infraction subject to the procedures, sanctions, and remedies prescribed in article IX of [chapter 82](#) of the City Code.

## **22-97. - Limitation on permits.**

The city will limit the number of annual permits issued and outstanding to a maximum of five, and permits will be available on a first-come-first-served basis.

# Chelsea, MI

## City Code

### **4-34. - Obtaining a permit to keep backyard chickens.**

- (a) Any person who keeps chickens within the City of Chelsea shall obtain a permit prior to acquiring the chickens. Applications shall be made to the Chelsea City Clerk.
- (b) The City of Chelsea may revoke a permit if a person's chickens become a nuisance, defined as two determined violations as pertaining to the keeping of chickens within a six-month period:
  - 1) Complaints about noise, specifically frequent, ongoing, or long-continued noise that disturbs the comfort of any persons in the vicinity;
  - 2) Complaints about odor, specifically foul, noisome, or unpleasant odors that are frequent, ongoing, or long-continued and disturb the comfort of any persons in the vicinity;
  - 3) Complaints about vermin, specifically the frequent, ongoing, or long-continued presence of such vermin as (but not limited to) mice, rats, raccoons, and possum;
  - 4) Failure to comply with the provisions listed under keeping of chickens.
- (c) The City of Chelsea may revoke a permit issued to a person convicted of animal cruelty in the State of Michigan.

### **4-35. - Keeping of backyard chickens.**

- (a) Each person holding a permit to keep chickens within the City of Chelsea shall comply with the following:
  - 1) The principle use of the property where the chickens are to be kept is a single family dwelling as defined by the City of Chelsea Zoning Ordinance.
  - 2) Where applicable, a letter from a Homeowner's Association stating that there are no restrictions for keeping of chickens.
  - 3) Not more than four hen chickens per parcel.
  - 4) No individual shall keep a rooster.
  - 5) Chickens shall be provided with a secure, well-ventilated, roofed, and lockable structure (heretofore referred to as a "coop").
  - 6) The floors and walls of the coop shall be kept in a clean and sanitary condition.
  - 7) The floor area of the fenced pen, run, or enclosure shall be no less than ten square feet per chicken.
  - 8) A covered enclosure or fenced enclosure shall not be located closer than ten feet from a property line of an adjacent property nor shall it be located closer than 40 feet to any residential structure on an adjacent property. The 40-foot requirement, only, can be waived with written statements from all adjacent landowners. Permits must include an attached drawing of the property, including the distances to neighboring structures and the proposed location(s) of all enclosures that will be used to keep backyard chickens.

- 9) Both the coop and the fenced pen, run, or enclosure must be located in the back yard of the chicken owner's property.
- 10) All enclosures for the keeping of chickens shall be constructed or repaired to prevent rats, mice or other rodents from being harbored underneath, within, or within the walls of the enclosure.
- 11) Chicken feed must be stored within a tightly lidded container in a shed, garage, or similar storage area.
- 12) No person shall slaughter any chickens.
- 13) Keeping of chickens shall be for personal use only and not for commercial activities.
- 14) Waste materials (feed, manure and litter) should be disposed of in an environmentally responsible manner. The materials can be composted or bagged and disposed of in the trash. It is not acceptable to pile waste materials on the property.

#### **4-36. - Revoking of permit.**

- (a) If the sections above are not complied with, the city may revoke any permit granted under this section and/or initiate prosecution for a civil infraction violation. Each day a violation exists shall constitute a separate offense.

#### **4-37. - Permit required.**

- (a) It is unlawful for any person to keep, possess or maintain any chicken on any lot without first obtaining a permit from the City of Chelsea. Permits are the property of the city and are not transferable.

#### **4-38. - Permit requirements.**

- (a) **Application—Permit fee.** An application for a permit for keeping chickens shall be made on a form provided by the City of Chelsea, shall be accompanied by a payment of a nonrefundable annual permit fee in an amount set by resolution of city council and shall include but not be limited to, the following information: the number of chickens—no more than four; a description of all pens, coops, cages and enclosures constructed for housing and confining chickens; the distance of the location of all pens, coops, cages, and enclosures from all adjacent property lines; and all such other information the City of Chelsea deems necessary to carry out the purpose and intent of this article. The annual nonrefundable permit fee shall recover the costs of activities associated with the administration, regulation and issuance of permits. No additional fee shall be required for an amendment to a permit.
- (b) **Permit issuance term.** Upon submission of a completed application and payment of the nonrefundable annual permit fee specified in subsection (a) above, and the City of Chelsea finds the proposed keeping of chickens complies with the requirements of the article, the city shall issue a permit. The permit shall be valid for one year from the date of issuance.
- (c) **Permit renewal.** Permits for keeping chickens shall be renewable upon annually filing and approval of a new application and payment of the nonrefundable annual permit fee as specified in subsection (a) above.

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## **Zoning Ordinance**

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## 4.11 Keeping of Animals in Residential Districts

- (b) Keeping of backyard chickens shall be permitted on single-family residential lots in accordance with the standards of Section 4-35 of the Chelsea General Code of Ordinances.

# Eastpointe, MI

## City Code

### 2-525. - City fee schedule for public records and city services and programs.

Chicken keeping permit: \$75.00.

### 8-6. - Poultry and game birds.

- (a) No person shall raise or keep game cocks within the city.
- (b) Live poultry and game birds shall not be owned within the city limits.
- (c) No person, firm, or corporation shall sell or offer for sale any baby chicks, ducklings, or other fowl or game as pets or novelties.
- (d) **Exceptions.** This section does not apply to:
  - 1) Any person who is transporting such animal through the city provided that such animal is adequately restrained to avoid injury to persons or damage to property;
  - 2) The keeping of such animals in a bona fide licensed veterinary hospital for treatment; or
  - 3) The keeping of such animals in a bona fide educational or medical institution or other place where they are kept as live specimens for public view or for the purpose of instruction or study.
  - 4) **Keeping of domesticated hens.** A single-family residence shall be allowed to keep up to three domesticated hens pursuant to section 50-70(c)(12). A domesticated hen shall mean a female chicken kept as a pet with the added benefit of the possibility of an egg for consumption but not for sale by the resident or owner. Roosters or male chickens are strictly prohibited. A domesticated hen does not include any other type of fowl.
    - (a) **License required.** A person wishing to keep up to three domesticated hens shall obtain a license from the building department and pay the required fee established by the city council in accordance with the requirements of section 50-70(c)(12)(a).
    - (b) **Adequate shelter, care and control required.** Any person licensed to keep hens under this section and section 50-70(c)(12) shall comply with all of the provisions and definitions of the Eastpointe City Code regarding care, shelter, sanitation, health, rodent control, cruelty, neglect, noise, reasonable control and any other requirements pertaining to the adequate care and control of animals in the city. In addition, it shall be unlawful to slaughter a domestic hen for human consumption or other food source.
    - (c) **No ground feeding.** Ground feeding shall be prohibited. A feeding container shall be used for feeding and all unused or unconsumed food shall be adequately secured and stored after every feeding as to prevent access by other animals or rodents. All feeding shall be conducted in a manner as to prevent unconsumed food to be left open or accessible by other animals or rodents.

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# ZONING ORDINANCE

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## 50-70. - R-1 One-Family Residential District.

(c) Principal uses permitted.

(12) Keeping of chickens, provided the following conditions are met:

- a. Any person residing in the R-1 one-family residential districts, in a single-family detached structure, desiring to keep live chickens shall first obtain a license from the city and that person may keep not more than three hen chickens within the city for personal use only and not for any business or commercial use. Completed license applications shall be submitted to the building department along with the fee which shall be determined by city council resolution. Applications shall set forth the name and residence of the applicant, the purpose and number of hen chickens sought to be kept, and include any drawings or other information required by the building department. Applicants must be in compliance with all city codes and ordinances at the time of application. In addition, the keeping of hen chickens shall not be permitted unless consent, in writing, is obtained by the applicant from all adjoining property owners which consent shall be on a form provided by the building department. The building department shall conduct an inspection of the proposed chicken coop and shall issue a license where the application is in compliance with all requirements, regulations and ordinances of the city. Approved license holders shall also schedule an inspection by the animal control officer within 30 days of license issuance. Failure to schedule an inspection shall result in an automatic revocation of the license. If an inspection identifies noncompliance with any of the requirements set forth in subsection c of this section, the permit holder shall have 15 days to achieve compliance with the requirements or the building department may revoke the license or seek prosecution of the violation under [section 50-30](#). Licenses shall be valid for up to two years, shall be non-transferable, site-specific and shall expire on December 31 of the second year of issuance. A person who wishes to continue keeping chickens shall obtain a new license prior to expiration of the previous license, provided the animal control officer makes an inspection and approves the request for a renewal. Application for a new license shall be pursuant to the procedures and requirements applicable at the time a person applies for a new license.
- b. Notwithstanding this section, private restrictions on the use of property shall remain enforceable. Private restrictions include but are not limited to deed restrictions, neighborhood association by-laws, and covenant deeds.
- c. A person residing in a R-1 one-family residential district, in a single-family detached structure, who keeps hen chickens shall comply with all of the following requirements:
  1. Keep no more than three hen chickens at any time unless an additional amount is otherwise provided for by the ordinances of the city.
  2. Roosters or male chickens and any other type of fowl or poultry are prohibited.
  3. Slaughtering of any chickens at the property is prohibited.
  4. Chickens shall be maintained in a fully enclosed structure or a fenced enclosure and shall be kept in the enclosed structure or fenced enclosure at all times. Fenced enclosures are subject to all fence provisions and restrictions in the City of Eastpointe Zoning Ordinance. An enclosed structure shall be constructed of permanent materials and shall be properly maintained in accordance with the property maintenance code adopted by the city in [section 10-79](#), as amended.
  5. Chickens shall not be kept in any location on the property other than in the backyard. For purposes of this section, "backyard" means that portion of a lot enclosed by the property's rear lot line and the side lot lines to the points where the side lot lines intersect with an

imaginary line established by the rear of the single-family structure and extending to the side lot lines.

6. No enclosed structure shall be located within any side or rear yard setback area. An enclosed structure or fenced enclosure shall not be located closer than ten feet to any residential structure on adjacent property.
7. All structures and enclosures for the keeping of chickens shall be constructed and maintained so as to prevent rats, mice, or other rodents or vermin from being harbored underneath or within the walls of the structure or enclosure.
8. All feed and other items associated with the keeping of chickens likely to attract rats, mice, or other rodents or vermin shall be secured and protected in sealed containers.
9. Chickens shall be kept in compliance with the Michigan Department of Agriculture Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices for the Care of Farm Animals, as it relates to laying chickens, as amended, except as otherwise provided in this section.
10. Any contact of chickens pursuant to this section by children shall be under the supervision of an adult.
11. Any violation of any of these provisions may be prosecuted as provided in [section 50-30](#).

# Ferndale, MI

## City Code

### **Sec 5-1 Keeping Such As To Create Disturbing Noises Prohibited**

The keeping of any animal or fowl which by causing frequent or long continued noise shall disturb the comfort or repose of any persons in the vicinity is prohibited.

### **5-2 Livestock Running At Large Prohibited**

It shall be unlawful for any person to permit any horse, mule, mare or colt, ox, steer, cow, calf, hog, shoat, pig, boar or sheep, or any other such animal, excluding cats and dogs, owned by them, including chickens or other domestic fowl, in their possession, or under their control to run at large or pasture the same, on any of the public streets, highways, public places or commons, within the corporate limits of the city.

### **Sec 5-3 Sale Of Baby Chicks, Rabbits, Ducklings, Etc., Prohibited; Exceptions; Seizure**

- 1) It shall be unlawful for any person to sell, or offer for sale, barter or give away baby chicks, rabbits, ducklings or other fowl as pets or novelties, whether or not dyed, colored or otherwise artificially treated. This section shall not be construed to prohibit the display or sale of natural chicks or ducklings in proper brooder facilities by hatcheries or stores engaged in the business of selling the same to be raised for commercial purposes. Nor shall this section be construed to prohibit the display or sale of rabbits in a licensed pet store.
- 2) In the case of any violation of this section, it shall be the duty of any fully appointed police officer, or the dog warden, to seize such fowl or pets and provide the necessary care and attention, and such fowl or pets shall not be returned until all expenses for such care and attention shall have been paid.

### **5-8 Keeping Of Chickens**

- 1) Any person residing in R-1 or R-2 residential zoned district property, in a single family detached structure, obtaining a permit from the city, may keep not more than three hen chickens in the city for personal use only and not for any business or commercial use. Completed applications shall be submitted to the community and economic development department along with the fee which shall be determined by city council resolution. Application shall be made to the community and economic development department and shall include any drawings or other information required by the department. The department shall issue a permit where the application is in compliance with all requirements, regulations and ordinances of the city. Approved permit holders shall schedule an inspection within 30 days of permit issuance. Failure to schedule an inspection shall result in an automatic revocation of the permit. If an inspection identifies noncompliance with any of the requirements set forth in subsection (c) of this section, the permit holder shall have 15 days to achieve compliance with the requirements or the department may revoke the permit or seek prosecution of the violation under section 26-19 of the Ferndale Code. Permits shall be valid for up to one year, shall be non-transferable, site-specific and shall expire on March 31st of each year. A person who wishes to continue keeping chickens shall obtain a new permit prior to expiration of the previous permit. Application for a new permit shall be pursuant to the procedures and requirements applicable at the time a person applies for a new permit.

- 2) Notwithstanding this section, private restrictions on the use of property shall remain enforceable. Private restrictions include but are not limited to deed restrictions, neighborhood association by-laws, and covenant deeds.
- 3) A person residing in R-1 or R-2 residential zoned district property, in a single family detached structure who keeps hen chickens shall comply with all of the following requirements:
  - (a) Keep no more than three hen chickens at any time.
  - (b) Roosters or male chickens and any other type of fowl or poultry are prohibited.
  - (c) Slaughtering of any chickens at the property is prohibited.
  - (d) Chickens shall be maintained in a fully enclosed structure or a fenced enclosure and shall be kept in the enclosed structure or fenced enclosure at all times. Fenced enclosures are subject to all fence provisions and restrictions in the Ferndale Code. An enclosed structure shall be constructed of permanent materials and shall be properly maintained in accordance with the property maintenance code adopted by the city in section 6-16 of the Ferndale Code, as amended.
  - (e) Chickens shall not be kept in any location on the property other than in the backyard. For purposes of this section, "backyard" means that portion of a lot enclosed by the property's rear lot line and the side lot lines to the points where the side lot lines intersect with an imaginary line established by the rear of the single-family or two-family structure and extending to the side lot lines.
  - (f) No enclosed structure shall be located within any side or rear yard setback area. An enclosed structure or fenced enclosure shall not be located closer than ten feet to any residential structure on adjacent property.
  - (g) All structures and enclosures for the keeping of chickens shall be constructed and maintained so as to prevent rats, mice, or other rodents or vermin from being harbored underneath or within the walls of the structure or enclosure.
  - (h) All feed and other items associated with the keeping of chickens likely to attract rats, mice, or other rodents or vermin shall be secured and protected in sealed containers.
  - (i) Chickens shall be kept in compliance with the Michigan Department of Agriculture Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices for the Care of Farm Animals, as it relates to laying chickens, as amended, except as otherwise provided in this section.
  - (j) Any violation of any of these provisions may be prosecuted as provided in section 26-19.

## **Sec 12-116 Keeping, Housing Fowl**

It shall be unlawful to keep, house or maintain fowl within a distance of 150 feet of any building or part of a building used by any person or persons for habitation other than that of the person (including members of his household) so keeping, housing or maintaining fowl. It shall also be unlawful to maintain pigeons, seagulls or other wild fowl so as to create an unsanitary condition or odor. Violation of this section constitutes a misdemeanor and is declared a public nuisance subject to abatement as provided in section 12-112.

# Huntington Woods, MI

## City Code

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## Chapter 4 – Animals

### ARTICLE III. - CHICKENS

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#### 4-39. - Generally.

- (a) Any person residing in a single-family detached dwelling on residentially zoned property (R-1A, R-1B, R-1C, or R-1D), after obtaining an annual permit from the city, may keep on the property not more than three hen (female) chickens for personal use only and not for any business or commercial use. No roosters shall be kept on the property for any reason.
- (b) Chickens may be kept as family pets or to lay eggs for personal consumption only.
- (c) Slaughtering of any chickens on the property is prohibited.

#### 4-40. - Licensing and inspections.

- (a) Completed permit applications shall be submitted to the building and code enforcement department along with the fee which shall be established by city commission resolution. Along with the completed application, the applicant shall be required to obtain and submit the signature of all property owners abutting the applicant's property, both on the back and on any sides where properties abut, giving their authorized approval for the applicant to keep chickens on applicant's property.
- (b) Approved permit holders shall schedule an inspection within 30 days of permit issuance. Failure to schedule an inspection shall result in an automatic suspension of the permit. If an inspection identifies noncompliance with any of the requirements set forth in this article, the permit holder shall have 14 days after being served with written notice of noncompliance to achieve compliance with the requirements, or the building official or code enforcement department may revoke the permit and/or cite the violation as a municipal civil infraction.
- (c) After an initial inspection, permitted coops shall be inspected at least one additional time during the permit term for the first year. For each subsequent year on a request for permit renewal, only one inspection will be required. However, the city reserves the right to require additional inspections for permit renewals where circumstances are found during the first inspection or during the permit term that require correction.
- (d) Permits shall be valid for up to one year, shall be non-transferable, site-specific and shall expire on January 1 of the next calendar year. A person who wants to continue keeping chickens must obtain a renewal permit prior to expiration of the previous permit.

#### 4-41. - Number limit.

A person who keeps chickens shall comply with the following requirements:

- 1) Keep no more than three hen chickens at any time; and
- 2) Roosters or male chickens or any other type or class of fowl or poultry are prohibited.

#### **4-42. - Enclosure.**

- (a) Chickens shall be contained and kept in an enclosure that includes both a coop and connected fence run at all times known as a "coop". The wire mesh for the fence run shall have openings no larger than one-fourth inch. The coop shall be constructed of durable materials and shall be properly maintained in accordance with the property maintenance code adopted in [section 6-146](#) of the City Code, as amended.
- (b) A coop need not have a concrete foundation slab and a coop must be a minimum of ten feet from an existing accessory structure. Prior to construction, an approved permit must be obtained from the building and code enforcement department.
- (c) A coop shall be designed to provide safe and humane living conditions for the chickens while minimizing adverse impacts (including, but not limited to, odor, noise, insects, rodents and dust) on neighboring properties, and shall meet all of the following additional requirements:
  - 1) A coop shall be detached from the residential dwelling and shall not be located closer than 30 feet to the nearest point of any residential dwelling on an adjacent parcel;
  - 2) A coop shall not be located within any required side or rear yard setback area;
  - 3) A coop shall not exceed six feet in height and 80 square feet in floor area;
  - 4) The use of corrugated metal/fiberglass, sheet metal, plastic tarps, scrap lumber or similar materials is prohibited; and
  - 5) A coop must be completely enclosed with a top or cover.
- (d) A coop shall be constructed and maintained with a rat wall or similar block foundation or may be raised a minimum height of 18 inches off the ground to prevent rats, mice, and other rodents or burrowing animals from harboring beneath or entering the coop. Noncompliance with this requirement shall be considered to be a nuisance per se.
- (e) All feed and other items associated with the keeping of chickens likely to attract rats, mice, or other rodents or vermin shall be secured and protected in sealed, rodent-proof containers.

#### **4-43. - Care of chickens.**

- (a) Chickens shall be kept in compliance with the current Michigan Department of Agriculture Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices for the Care of Farm Animals (GAMPS), as it relates to laying chickens, except as otherwise provided in this section.
- (b) Chickens shall not be kept in any location on the property other than the rear yard. For purposes of this section, "rear yard" means that portion of a lot enclosed by the property's rear lot line and the side lot lines to the points where the side lot lines intersect with an imaginary line established by the rear of the single-family structure and extending to the side lot lines.

#### **4-44. - Violations.**

A violation of any provision of this article shall be deemed a municipal civil infraction subject to the procedures, sanctions, and remedies prescribed in article VI of [chapter 2](#) of the City Code.

#### **4-45. - Limitation on permits.**

The city will limit the number of annual permits issued and outstanding to a maximum of six and permits will be available on a first-come-first-served basis.



# Lathrup Village, MI

## City Code

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## Chapter 10 – Animals

### ARTICLE IV. CHICKENS

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#### 10-129. - Generally.

- (a) Any person residing in R-1 or R-3 residential zoned district property, in a single-family detached structure, after obtaining a permit from the city, may keep not more than three hen (female) chickens for personal use only and not for any business or commercial use.
- (b) Notwithstanding this section, private restrictions on the use of property shall remain enforceable. Private restrictions include but are not limited to, deed restrictions, neighborhood association by-laws, and covenant deeds.
- (c) Chickens may be kept as family pets or to lay eggs for personal consumption only.
- (d) Slaughtering of any chickens on the property is prohibited.

#### 10-130. - Licensing and inspections.

- (b) Permits shall be valid for up to one year, shall be non-transferable, site-specific and shall expire on March 31st of each year. A person who wishes to continue keeping chickens shall obtain a new permit prior to expiration of the previous permit. Application for a new permit shall be pursuant to the procedures and requirements applicable at the time a person applies for a new permit.

#### 10-131. - Number limits.

A person residing in R-1 or R-3 residential zoned district property, in a single-family detached structure who keeps hen chickens shall comply with all of the following requirements:

- 1) Keep no more than three hen chickens at any time.
- 2) Roosters or male chickens and any other type of fowl or poultry are prohibited.

#### 10-132. - Structure.

- (a) Chickens shall be maintained in a fully enclosed structure or a fenced enclosure and shall be kept in the enclosed structure or fenced enclosure at all times. Fenced enclosures are subject to all fence provisions of [section 5.1](#) of the Lathrup Village Zoning Code with the exception that the material used may be chicken wire. An enclosed structure shall be constructed of permanent materials and shall be properly maintained in accordance with the property maintenance code adopted by the city in [section 14-152](#) of the Lathrup Village Code, as amended.

- (b) Chicken "coop" will be considered an accessory structure and must meet all requirements of Lathrup Village Zoning Ordinance [section 3.7](#), except that the structure need not be on a concrete foundation slab. Prior to construction an approved accessory structure permit must be on file with the building and code enforcement department. Permit application shall include any structural or plat drawings or other information required by the department. The department shall issue a permit where the application is in compliance with all requirements, regulations and ordinances of the city.
- (c) The accessory use, coop and pen shall be designed to provide safe and healthy living conditions for chickens while minimizing adverse impacts on other residents and the neighborhood. The coop and pen shall meet the following additional requirements:
  - 1) The coop and pen shall be setback a minimum of ten feet from all property lines of adjacent property and be located a minimum of 30 feet from the nearest wall of any adjacent dwelling. No enclosed structure shall be located within any side or rear yard setback area. An enclosed structure or fenced enclosure shall not be located closer than ten feet to any residential structure on an adjacent parcel.
  - 2) The coop and pen shall be a maximum of six feet in height and shall not exceed a total of 80 square feet.
  - 3) The use of corrugated metal/fiberglass, sheet metal, plastic tarps, scrap lumber or similar materials is prohibited. The coop and pen must be completely enclosed with a top and/or cover.
  - 4) The coop and pen shall have a rat wall or similar block foundation to prevent burrowing animals from gaining access.
- (d) All structures and enclosures for the keeping of chickens shall be constructed and maintained so as to prevent rats, mice, or other rodents or vermin from being harbored underneath or within the walls of the structure or enclosure in compliance with sections [10-6](#) and [10-7](#) of the Lathrup Village Code.
- (e) All feed and other items associated with the keeping of chickens likely to attract rats, mice, or other rodents or vermin shall be secured and protected in sealed containers.

### **10-133. - Care of animals.**

- (a) Chickens shall be kept in compliance with the Michigan Department of Agriculture, Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices for the Care of Farm Animals, as it relates to laying chickens, as amended, except as otherwise provided in this section.
- (b) Chickens shall not be kept in any location on the property other than in the backyard. For purposes of this section, "backyard" means that portion of a lot enclosed by the property's rear lot line and the side lot lines to the points where the side lot lines intersect with an imaginary line established by the rear of the single-family structure and extending to the side lot lines.

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# Chapter 46 – Miscellaneous Offenses.

## ARTICLE V. PUBLIC NUISANCES GENERALLY

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### **46-107. - Keeping, housing fowl.**

It shall be unlawful to keep, house or maintain fowl, except as provided in sections [10-129](#) through [10-134](#), within a distance of 150 feet of any building or part of a building used by any person or persons for habitation other than that of the person (including members of his household) so keeping, housing or maintaining fowl. It shall also be unlawful to maintain pigeons, seagulls or other wild fowl so as to create an unsanitary condition or odor. Violation of this section constitutes a misdemeanor and is declared a public nuisance subject to abatement as provided in section 26-146.

# Northville, MI

## City Code

### **10-10. - Rabbits and poultry.**

It shall be unlawful for any person to own, possess or harbor any rabbits, chickens, ducks, geese or other poultry, unless the same are kept in a sanitary condition, free of offensive odors, and in an enclosed yard or coop which shall be located not less than 30 feet from the street line or any adjacent property line.

### **10-11. - Horses and other farm animals.**

- (a) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, it shall be unlawful for any person to own, possess or harbor any horse, mule, ass, sheep, goat, cow or other farm animal not subject to the provisions of sections 10-8 and 10-9, unless the same is kept in a lot at least five acres in size; unless the same is kept in a sanitary condition, free of offensive odors; and unless such animal is kept in an area which is totally enclosed with a suitable fence or enclosure to prevent the animal from running at large. No person shall keep, possess or harbor within the city more than two animals described in this subsection.
- (b) No horse, mule, ass, swine or other farm animal, including poultry, shall be permitted to run at large anywhere within the city limits. The owner or harbinger of any animal or fowl running at large in violation of this section shall be deemed guilty of violating this section.
- (c) This section does not apply to horses owned, possessed or harbored within the race track and related uses district, as defined in the zoning ordinance.

## Chapter 90 – Animals

### General Regulations

#### 90.10.10 Definitions

The following terms when used in this Chapter shall have the meanings set forth in this Section:

#### 90.10.11 “Animal”

Any living creature, except humans and plants. “Animal” includes any mammal, bird, reptile, snake, turtle, crustacean or any other vertebrate or invertebrate.

#### 90.10.30 “Domestic Animal”

An animal, other than a dog, that is not feral in nature, including, but not limited to horses, cows, chickens, geese, pigeons, ducks, steers, ponies, mules, donkeys, sheep, swine, pigs and goats.

### Permits

#### 90.70.10 Permit Required for Domestic, Dangerous and Wild Animals.

No person shall own or control a domestic animal or a dangerous animal or a wild animal, other than a dog, cat or house pet, within the City of Troy, without having obtained an animal permit from the Clerk for the City of Troy. A person who violates this section is responsible for a Municipal Civil Infraction subject to the provision of Chapter 100 of the Code of the City of Troy. Each day that the violation continues is a separate Municipal Civil Infraction. Sanctions for each violation shall include a fine of not more than \$500, costs, damages, and injunctive orders as authorized by Chapter 100.

#### 90.70.20 Permit Application Process:

An applicant for a domestic, dangerous or wild animal permit shall:

- a) furnish the Housing and Zoning Inspector a list of the species of animals to be kept and the maximum number of each species to be kept at any one time, and
- b) demonstrate that the animals will be treated humanely and will not be neglected or treated with cruelty, and
- c) demonstrate that the animals will be maintained in quarters constructed to prevent their escape, and
- d) demonstrate that reasonable precautions shall be taken to protect the public from the animals and the animals from the public, and
- e) demonstrate that he or she can comply with the ordinance and any regulations promulgated by the Animal Control Appeal Board, and
- f) in the case of domestic animals, demonstrate to the Housing and Zoning Inspector that the lot or parcel that animals will be kept on is three-quarters ( $\frac{3}{4}$ ) of one (1) acre or larger. This requirement may be waived by the Animal Control Appeal Board if the applicant can demonstrate circumstances that allow for waiver pursuant to regulations promulgated by the Animal Control Appeal Board. Waivers will not be granted for animals that are loud or likely to be detrimental to the neighborhood.

#### 90.70.30 Issuance of Permit for Domestic, Dangerous or Wild Animal. The Housing and Zoning Inspector shall issue a domestic, dangerous or wild animal permit upon showing by the applicant that he or she has obtained the approval of the Housing and Zoning Inspector and has paid the applicable fee. The permit shall list with specificity the animals subject to the permit, the location of the animals in the City of Troy and may contain limitations and conditions required by the Housing and Zoning Inspector or the Animal Control Appeal Board.

- 90.70.40 Duties of Permit Holder. The holder of a domestic, dangerous or wild animal permit shall:
- (a) comply with all present and future ordinances in this Chapter and comply with the regulations promulgated by the Animal Control Appeal Board, and
  - (b) apply for a new permit prior to changing their address or changing the location of the animals, and
  - (c) indemnify and hold the City of Troy harmless from any personal injury or property damage caused by the animal for which the permit is issued as a result of the negligence of the permittee or any other person placed in control of the animal by the permittee.
  - (d) consent to inspection of the applicant's facilities by a Housing and Zoning Inspector before and after the granting of the permit.
- 90.70.50 Expiration of Permit. A permit shall expire:
- a) 5 years from the date of issuance, or
  - b) when ownership or control of the animal or animals is transferred to another person, or
  - c) when the animal or animals are moved to another location, or
  - d) upon death of the animal for which the permit is issued, unless the permit specifically provides for replacement of the animal, or
  - e) when the terms of the permit require that the permit expires.
- 90.70.60 Revocation of Permit. A Housing and Zoning Inspector may revoke a permit:
- a) if the permit holder fails to comply with the requirements of this Chapter, or
  - b) if the permit holder fails to comply with regulations promulgated by the Animal Control Appeal Board, or
  - c) if a permit holder fails to comply with federal, state or local laws governing cruelty to animals or the keeping of animals, or
  - d) if a species of animal not listed in the permit application is acquired, or
  - e) the maximum number of animals allowed pursuant to the permit is exceeded.
- 90.70.70 Removal of Animals.
- A person whose permit is revoked or has expired, shall immediately remove all animals subject to the permit, from the City of Troy, unless the permit holder has filed a timely appeal with the Animal Control Appeal Board in which case the revocation shall be postponed pending the outcome of the appeal.

## PRO

- Grow one's own food
- Price of eggs
- Fresh, locally-grown, eggs tend to be healthier
- Chickens keep down flea, tick and other insect populations
- Some human food waste can feed chickens
- Chicken waste can be used as fertilizer

## CON

- Improper food handling can cause food-borne illnesses
- Animal noise (Ann Arbor has received complaints from duck keepers)
- Potential odor
- Unkept yards attract vermin (keep food for chickens in proper containers, not strewn on ground)
- Wildlife predators can kill fowl

## TO CONSIDER

- Complaint process if necessary for poor execution
- Minimum lot size to keep coops
- Annual permits rather than blanket OK
- Ordinance language about animals running at large or being abandoned in public places; seizure if it happens
- Issues of dogs attacking fowl (in Ann Arbor, dogs have jumped fences and killed neighbors' fowl, but Ann Arbor says that's between neighbors, not a city liability)
- No slaughtering allowed

## HEALTH

- Need strict health protocols, including washing hands, caging animals, cleaning waste, collecting eggs quickly, washing eggs, refrigeration, kid access, keeping everything outside the house
- CDC re: Salmonella: [Salmonella Outbreaks Linked to Backyard Poultry | CDC](#)
- CDC re: Avian flu: [How Infected Backyard Poultry Could Spread Bird Flu to People \(cdc.gov\)](#)

## OUTSIDE RESOURCES

'How-to': [Raising Chickens 101 - Chicks, Breeds, Coops, Tips | BackYard Chickens - Learn How to Raise Chickens](#)

Chicken advocacy site: <https://ferndalechickens.com/>

MSU Extension suggestions: [suggestions\\_for\\_ordinances\\_\(e3136\).pdf \(msu.edu\)](#)