

City of Independence, Iowa Ordinance

Title: Urban Chicken Keeping Ordinance

Section 1. Purpose

The purpose of this ordinance is to permit and regulate the keeping of chickens within the city limits of Independence, Iowa, in a manner that ensures public health and safety, prevents nuisances to neighbors, and maintains the quality of life for all residents.

Section 2. Definitions

1. Chicken: A domesticated fowl of the species *Gallus gallus domesticus*. Roosters are excluded from this ordinance.
2. Coop: A structure designed for the housing and sheltering of chickens.
3. Permit: A document issued by the City of Independence granting permission for the keeping of chickens in accordance with this ordinance.

Section 3. Permit Requirements

1. Application Process:
 - a. Any resident wishing to keep chickens must submit an Urban Chicken Permit Application to the City Building Inspector's office.
 - b. The application must include:
 - i. Name and address of the applicant.
 - ii. Number of chickens to be kept (maximum of 6 unless otherwise stated in Section 4).
 - iii. A site plan showing the location and dimensions of the coop and its distance from property lines and neighboring structures.
 - iv. A description of the coop design, including materials and maintenance plan.
 - v. Payment of a non-refundable permit fee of \$25.
2. Approval Process:
 - a. Applications will be reviewed by the City Building Inspector to ensure compliance with this ordinance.

b. Approved applications will be presented to the City Council for final approval at a public meeting.

3. Permit Validity:

a. Permits are valid for one year and must be renewed annually.

b. The renewal fee is \$15.

Section 4. Regulations for Chicken Keeping

1. Number of Chickens:

a. No more than six (6) chickens may be kept on properties under 0.50 acres.

b. Properties between 0.50 and 1 acre may keep up to ten (10) chickens.

c. Properties 1 acre or larger may keep up to fifteen (15) chickens.

2. Coop Requirements:

a. General Requirements for All Properties:

i. Coops must be fully enclosed, weatherproof, and predator-proof.

ii. Coops must be kept clean, dry, and free from odors or waste buildup that could pose a health hazard or nuisance.

iii. Chicken feed must be stored in a secure, rodent-proof container.

iv. Waste must be managed to prevent odor, pests, or unsanitary conditions.

b. Setback Requirements for All Properties:

i. Coops must be located at least 15 feet from all property lines and 25 feet from neighboring residences.

c. Size Requirements:

i. For properties under 0.50 acres, the coop must not exceed a height of 8 feet or occupy more than 100 square feet.

ii. For properties between 0.50 acres and 1 acre, the coop may not exceed a height of 10 feet or occupy more than 150 square feet.

iii. For properties of 1 acre or larger, the coop may not exceed a height of 12 feet or occupy more than 200 square feet.

3. Run Requirements:

If an outdoor run is used, it must be securely enclosed and attached to the coop. The size of the run must be proportional to the number of chickens and meet the same maintenance standards as the coop.

4. Health and Maintenance:

- a. Sick or deceased chickens must be promptly removed and disposed of properly.
- b. Chickens may not roam freely outside the confines of the coop or run.

5. Prohibited Acts:

The keeping of chickens shall not cause a public nuisance, including excessive noise or odors.

Section 5. Enforcement

1. The City Building Inspector, or a designated representative, shall have the authority to inspect chicken-keeping properties for compliance with this ordinance.

2. Any violations must be corrected within 14 days of notice. Failure to comply may result in permit revocation.

Section 6. Penalties

1. Any person found in violation of this ordinance may be subject to a fine of \$50 per offense.

2. Each day a violation continues constitutes a separate offense.

Section 7. Severability

If any section or provision of this ordinance is found to be unconstitutional or invalid, the remainder of the ordinance shall remain in effect.

Section 8. Effective Date

This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its passage and publication as required by law.

Adopted by the City Council of Independence, Iowa, on [Date].

Signed:

[Mayor's Name], Mayor

[City Building Inspector's Name], City Building Inspector