

# CITY OF WISCONSIN RAPIDS

## CHICKEN REQUIREMENTS

shelter, food, handling, veterinary care, and expert testimony fees necessitated by enforcement of this ordinance.

- (i) Exemptions. The provisions of this ordinance regarding dangerous animals shall not apply to animals owned by law enforcement agencies and used for law enforcement purposes.
- (j) Severability. If any provision of this ordinance is adjudged invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, such judgment shall not affect or impair the validity of the remainder of this ordinance.

### 25.02 BARN, KENNELS, STABLES, AND PIGPENS OR OTHER ENCLOSURES (MC#978)

- (1) No barn, kennel, stable, yard, or pen or other enclosure in which cows, horses, sheep, swine, geese, chickens or other domestic livestock, poultry or fowl or more than two dogs or cats are to be kept shall be hereafter located upon any private premises in the City of Wisconsin Rapids, except subject to 25.05 below in regard to dogs and cats, and except as provided in subsection (3) herein for chickens, and except as specifically allowed in properly zoned agricultural or industrial areas with approval by the common council. (MC#1182)
- (2) Any enclosure of the type referred to in (a) above that currently exists may remain in existence but shall not be replaced or extended, shall be maintained in a clean and sanitary condition so as not to endanger the health, comfort, safety, and welfare of the public, and shall be in conformance with Chapter 11, Zoning.
- (3) Regulating Chickens. (MC#1182)

- (a) Definitions: For the purpose of this section, the following terms have the meaning indicated:
  - (1) Abutting Property. All property that abuts an applicant's property at 1 or more points, except public streets.
  - (2) Backyard. 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 intersected with an imaginary line established by the rear of the single family structure and extending to the 2 side lot lines.
  - (3) Chicken. A female hen of any age, including chicks. This definition does not include other kinds of fowl including but not limited to ducks, quail, pheasant, geese, turkeys, guinea hens, peacocks, emus, or ostriches.
  - (4) Coop. An enclosed structure, building or pen within which chickens roost or are housed.
- (b) Keeping of chickens. Chickens may be kept or maintained upon the following:
  - (1) Up to 4 chickens may be raised within a lot zoned R-1 residential (one-family) or a lot zoned R-2 residential (one- and two-family), provided there is a use as a single-family or two-family; upon notification of all abutting property owners, and upon application and permit.
  - (2) Rental tenants of a single family dwelling or a one-two family dwelling that is zoned R-1 or R-2 shall obtain written approval from the landlord prior to the keeping or maintaining of chickens on the rental premise. The landlord's written approval must accompany the applicant's permit application.
  - (3) Educational facilities may keep chickens for educational purposes only.
  - (4) Chickens may be temporarily allowed for special purposes such as a public picnic and other special events upon approval of the planning and economic development department.
  - (5) Chickens may be allowed in the local veterinarian's office for the purpose of observation or treatment.
  - (6) In addition to 4 adult chickens, new born chickens (chicks) up to the age of 3 weeks may be kept in a residence or outbuilding.

- (c) Chickens are not allowed. Chickens are not allowed to be kept or maintained upon the following:

- (1) Mobile home parks.
- (2) Vacant lots unless the person requesting the permit resides on the abutting property.
- (3) Any property not zoned as provided for in (3)(b)(1) above.
- (4) Condominiums.

- (d) Permit required.

- (1) No owner or tenant shall own, keep or maintain chickens within the corporate limits of the city without first obtaining a permit.
- (2) The applicant for a permit must notify all abutting property owners of their intention to keep or maintain chickens prior to applying for a permit, and the permit application must certify that all such property owners have been notified. A list of all property owners and their addresses must be included with the permit application. Notification of abutting property owners shall not be required for renewal of a permit as long as the permit is kept current and has not lapsed.
- (3) The permit year shall commence on January 1, and shall end on the following December 31, and shall be renewed annually.
- (4) A permit granted shall not transfer to any other property or successor owners of permitted property. A new permit must be applied for.

- (5) Proof of livestock premises registration with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection must be provided prior to the permit being issued.
- (6) The annual fee for keeping and maintaining up to 4 chickens shall be as set by the common council by resolution, and must be paid to the planning and economic development department at the time of application. This fee shall not be prorated.
- (7) All renewal permits are due and payable to the city no later than January 31 of the permit year. Any lapse in permitting shall require the applicant to meet all of the initial permit requirements as set forth above.
- (8) Initial permits are due and payable within 15 days of acquiring the chickens.
- (e) **Property and Coop Requirements.**
  - (1) A coop and any attached enclosure shall be located in the backyard of the permit holder's residence and shall meet all applicable setback requirements for accessory buildings as set forth in the Municipal Code. A drawing of the coop and any attached enclosure and their locations shall be submitted with the permit application. A separate building permit shall be required for any new coop and enclosures.
  - (2) A coop and any attached enclosure shall not be closer than 25 feet to a residential dwelling on adjacent lot.
  - (3) All chickens shall be kept and maintained within a ventilated and roofed coop in compliance with any applicable state and local requirements.
  - (4) All coops, including an attached coop enclosure, shall be enclosed with wire netting or equivalent material that will prevent chickens from escaping the coop or the attached enclosure. The ability to utilize wire netting or equivalent materials shall only be for the limited purpose of the coop and coop enclosure; wire netting is not to be used as a boundary fence. All other fencing must adhere to the fencing regulations found elsewhere within the Municipal Code.
  - (5) The coop structural floor shall allow at least 4 square feet per chicken, and the height of the coop shall not exceed 6 feet above ground level.
  - (6) The coop shall have a clear open space to allow the chickens to walk on the ground or a concrete slab.
- (f) **Further Chicken Regulations. Any person keeping chickens:**
  - (1) Shall keep or maintain chickens within a coop or attached coop enclosure at all times.
  - (2) Shall not keep or maintain any roosters.
  - (3) Shall not sell any eggs.
  - (4) Shall not slaughter any chickens on the premises.
  - (5) Shall ensure that chickens are provided with access to feed and clean water at all times.
  - (6) Shall consult with a veterinarian regarding chickens that appear ill, or on the occasion of a sudden death. If a disease that would be contagious to humans is diagnosed, recommendations to insure prevention or transmission of a disease must be followed as recommended by the veterinarian.
- (g) **Sanitation.**
  - (1) Chickens and their coops shall be kept and maintained at all times in outdoor areas and shall not be permitted inside a residential premise or dwelling, except as provided in subsection (3)(b)(6) above.
  - (2) Chicken feed shall be stored and kept in containers, which make the feed inaccessible to rodents, vermin, wild birds, and other predators.
  - (3) All coops and backyards where chickens are kept or maintained shall be reasonably free from chicken manure and other substances, such that the air or environment around the chickens does not become noxious or offensive or create a condition that would reasonably promote the breeding of flies, mosquitoes, or other insects, or provide a habitat, breeding or feeding place for rodents or other animals, or otherwise be injurious to public health.
  - (4) **Inspection.** The city shall have the power, whenever it may deem reasonably necessary, to enter a building, structure, or property where chickens are kept to ascertain whether the keeper is in compliance with this ordinance. The police department and the planning and economic development department may issue compliance orders and citations pursuant to the provisions of this section, and state law.
  - (5) **Enforcement.** The city may revoke a permit in the event that there have been 3 or more violations of this ordinance within any 6-month period, or 4 or more in any 12-month period.
  - (6) **Restricted covenants.** This section is not intended to interfere with any restrictive covenants otherwise applicable to certain properties in the city.



## Community Development Department

444 West Grand Avenue  
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495-2780  
Ph: (715) 421-8228 • Fax: (715) 421-8291

### Chicken Permit Application

#### FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Date Received:	Date Paid:	Property Zoning:	Permit #:
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#### PROPERTY INFORMATION

Site Address:		Parcel #:
Owner Name:	Owner Address, City, State, and Zip:	
Owner Phone Number:	Owner Fax Number:	Owner Email Address:

#### ABUTTING PROPERTIES INFORMATION (ONLY NECESSARY FOR INITIAL APPLICATIONS)

Name:	Address:	Date of Contact:
Name:	Address:	Date of Contact:
Name:	Address:	Date of Contact:
Name:	Address:	Date of Contact:
Name:	Address:	Date of Contact:
Name:	Address:	Date of Contact:

#### SUPPORTING INFORMATION

The following materials are required with your application:

- ☐ Plot Plan Showing the Location of the Coop and Attached Enclosure
- ☐ Plans and Specifications for the Coop and Attached Enclosure (a separate building permit is required for the initial construction)
- ☐ Proof of Livestock Registration with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture
- ☐ Permit application fee of \$15

I understand that I am subject to all applicable codes, statutes and ordinances and with the conditions of this permit; understand that the issuance of the permit creates no legal liability, express or implied, on the state or municipality; and certify that all the above information is accurate. I expressly grant the City, or the City's authorized agent, permission to enter the premises for which this permit is sought at all reasonable hours and for any proper purpose to inspect the premises for compliance with the applicable ordinances. **I further certify that all abutting owners have been notified of my intent to keep and maintain chickens on my property.**

Applicant (Sign): \_\_\_\_\_ Print: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_