



# CITY OF TUALATIN

## Staff Report

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

**THROUGH:** Sherilyn Lombos, City Manager

**FROM:** Aquilla Hurd-Ravich, Community Development Director  
Kevin R. McConnell, City Attorney

**DATE:** August 11, 2025

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**SUBJECT:**  
Conversation regarding duck keeping within single-family residential areas.

**RECOMMENDATION:**  
Staff seeks direction on whether to commence a Plan Text Amendment to allow for duck keeping as a permitted use in the Low-Density Residential Planning District (RL)

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**  
On November 12, 2013, the Council approved Plan Text Amendment (PTA) 13-02, amending the Tualatin Development Code (TDC) to allow chicken keeping as a permitted use the single-family residential area Low Density Residential Planning District (RL). At that same meeting, the Council adopted Ordinance 1362-13, which set forth minimum standards applicable for the keeping of backyard chickens in the RL Planning District (codified at TMC Chapter 6-15). The adoption of PTA 13-02 and Ordinance 1362-13 did not work to permit the keeping of any other types of fowl within the City.

Before the adoption of PTA 13-02, the TDC prohibited the keeping of any animal within the RL Planning District except for the ones specified at TDC 31.060 (defined as “[A] domestic animal, such as a dog, cat, rabbit, or guinea pig, accepted by the American Veterinary Medical Association as a household pet.”). The Council’s clear intent in adopting PTA 13-02 was to provide for chicken keeping- and chicken keeping only- as an additional exception to the prohibition. *See attached 11/12/2013 Staff Report.*

On June 26, 2025, a City code compliance officer received a complaint regarding “strange animals” being kept at a single-family residence in the RL Planning District. On June 30, the officer met with the property owner, who explained that his family was keeping ducks at the residence. After being informed that the keeping of ducks was prohibited in the City, the property owner requested (both at the Public Comment portion of July 14, 2025 meeting and via email) that the Council review the matter and amend City law to allow for the keeping of ducks in single family residential areas.

The civil infraction procedures in Tualatin Municipal Code (TMC) Chapter 7-01 apply to the prosecution of any violation of the TDC and are processed through the Municipal Court. However, the City has paused the code enforcement matter while it seeks Council direction on whether there is interest in allowing for duck keeping as an additional permitted use in the RL Planning District.

The TDC generally identifies what uses are allowed or permitted, conditionally permitted or limited. In the residential chapters, there are not typically sections of prohibited uses (which is by design), as the City cannot anticipate every situation. As such, if a use is not explicitly stated, it is generally not allowed. This is why the property owner did not see a specific prohibition of certain animals.

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**ATTACHMENTS:**

- Staff Report from 11-12-2013