



PTA 26-0001

Domestic Fowl Regulations

March 8, 2025 – City Council



Agenda



- Project purpose
- Overview of code amendments
- Approval criteria
- Next steps
- Discussion and recommendation



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Project Purpose



Background

- November 12, 2013: Council approves PTA 13-02 to allow chicken keeping in the RL zone through adoption of Ordinance 1362-13. Ordinance does not include ducks or domestic fowl.
- June 2025: Code complaint regarding “strange animals” being kept in the RL zone. Officer met with the property owner, who explained that his family was keeping ducks.
- July 14, 2025: Property owner requests that Council review the matter and amend City law to allow for the keeping of ducks in RL zone.
- August 11, 2025: Council directs staff to amend chicken regulations to include “domestic fowl”.



Image: Lisa Steele

Project Purpose



Domestic Fowl Regulations

The purpose of this code is to provide minimum standards for keeping domestic fowl humanely in urban backyards while safeguarding the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Tualatin.

- Expands regulations for the keeping of backyard chickens to include domestic fowl
- Public engagement limited to legislative process requirements
- Limited scope:
 - PTA 26-0001 amends TDC Chapters 39 and 40
 - Companion Ordinance to amend TMC Title 6-15 - Keeping of Domestic Fowl

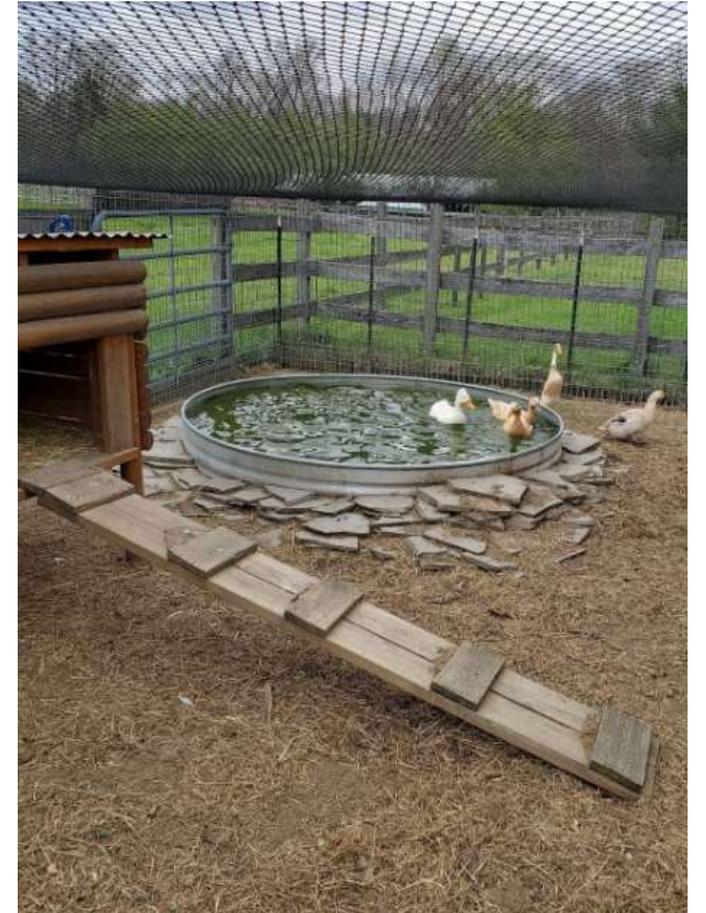


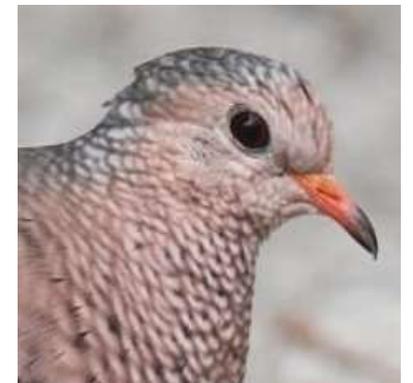
Image: Field and Flock Lavender Farm

Overview



How is Domestic Fowl defined in TMC proposal?

- Includes chickens, ducks, pheasants, pigeons, quail, partridges, doves, and similar birds for personal use
- Shared character traits include:
 - Sustainable source of eggs;
 - Natural pest control;
 - Minimal space needs; and
 - Able to adapt to human activity/ environments.

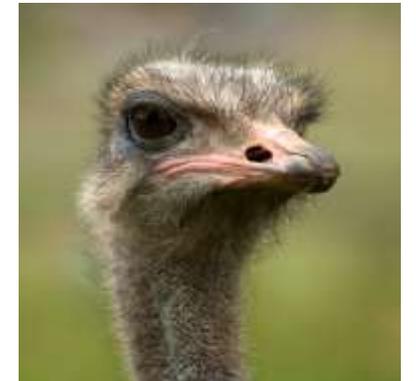


Overview



What fowl are prohibited in TMC proposal?

- Roosters, geese, guinea fowl, peacocks, turkeys, emus, and ostriches.
- Shared character traits include:
 - Loud;
 - Cause property damage; and
 - Are aggressive toward people and pets.



Overview

What do other cities permit?

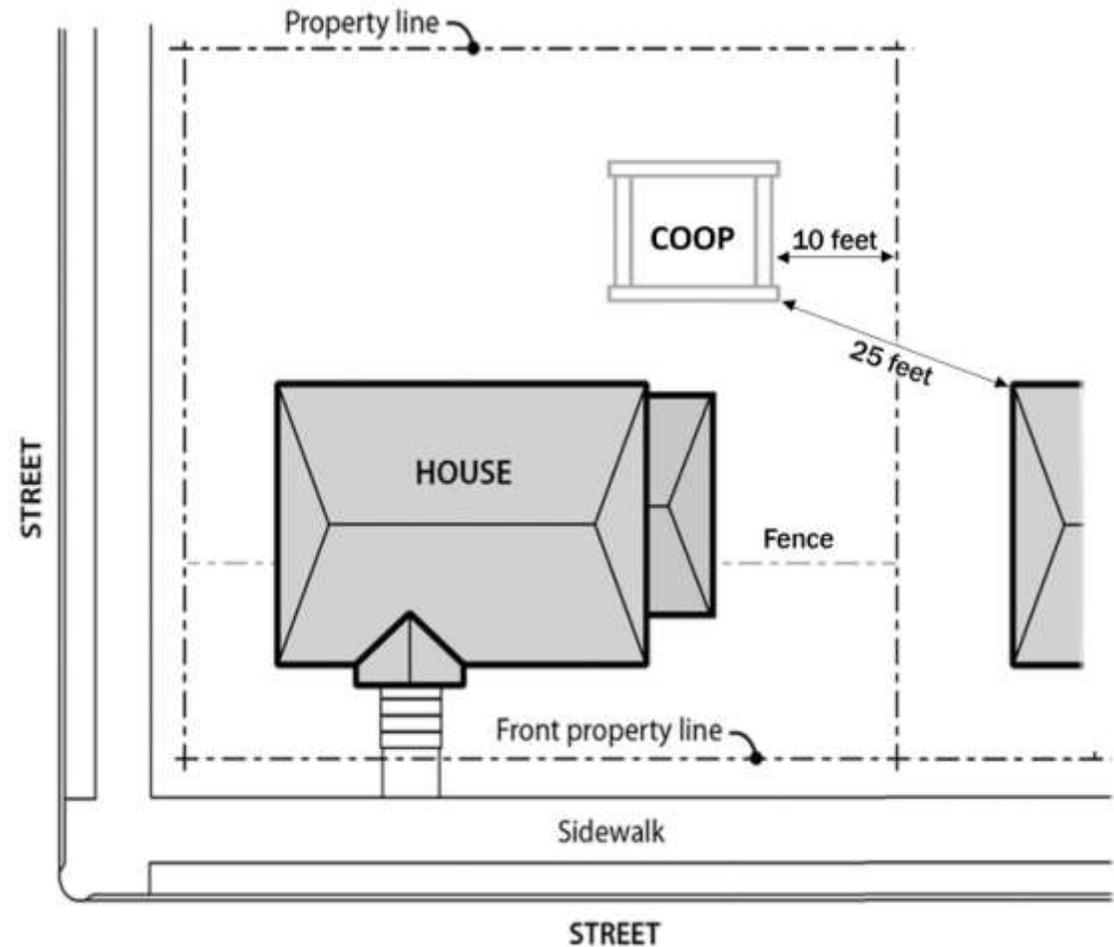
	Chickens	Ducks	Guinea Fowl	Pheasants	Pigeons	Quails	Partridges	Doves	Rooster	Geese	Peacocks	Turkeys	Emus/ Ostriches
Tualatin	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Newberg	●	●	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	●	◆	●	-
Forest Grove	●	●	-	●	-	●	-	-	●	-	-	-	-
Portland	●	●	◆	◆	●	◆	◆	◆	●	●	●	●	●
Salem	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	-	●	●
Eugene	●	●	-	●	●	●	-	●	●	●	●	●	-

- Permitted
- ◆ Code silent on type, but could be considered “fowl raised for meat or eggs” or “similarly sized domestic fowl”
- Not listed in code
- Permitted on lots greater than 20,000 sf that allow agricultural uses
- Not permitted

Overview

Maintains licensing requirements in TMC

- Valid for five years
- A combined maximum of four domestic fowl of any type per lot
- Fowl must be confined to a coop in a fenced backyard or run
- Coop must be:
 - Less than 200 sq ft and 8 ft in height
 - Enclosed on at least three sides
 - Located at least 10 ft from property lines and 25 ft from abutting residences
 - Maintained in good repair and sanitary condition



Engagement Summary

Public engagement activities kept our community informed. Notice was provided to the following:

- DLCD;
- Government agencies partners;
- CIOs;
- Newspaper; and
- City website.

PTA 26-0001 Domestic Fowl Regulations

Project ID: PTA 25-0002

Reviewing Staff:
planning@tualatin.gov

Project Staff Contact:
planning@tualatin.gov

Project Type:
Land Use
Plan Text Amendment (PTA)
Planning

Project Status: Under Review

Hearing Date:
Monday, March 9, 2026

Reviewing Body:
City Council

Location:
10699 SW Herman Road
Tualatin, OR 97062
See map: [Google Maps](#)

The City of Tualatin is proposing a Plan Text Amendment that would amend the Tualatin Municipal Code (TMC) and Tualatin Development Code (TDC) to expand "backyard chicken" regulations to include "domestic fowl".

Files:

[Exhibit 1 - PTA 26-0001 Findings and Analysis \(290 KB\)](#)

[Exhibit 2 - PTA 26-0001 Text Amendment \(Clean\) \(140 KB\)](#)

[Exhibit 3 - PTA 26-0001 Text Amendment \(Formatted\) \(179 KB\)](#)



[Return to Projects](#)

Proposed Amendments



CHAPTER	TITLE	PROPOSED AMENDMENT
TDC 39.300	Agriculture Use Category	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Updates agricultural uses characteristics to include domestic fowl
TDC 40	Low Density Residential (RL)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Updates permitted uses to include domestic fowl

*** Companion Ordinance will expand TMC regulations for the keeping of backyard chickens to include domestic fowl ***

Approval Criteria



- Tualatin Development Code:
 - Chapter 33.250 Type IV-B
 - Chapter 33.070 Plan Amendments
- Findings and Analysis included as Exhibit 1



Planning Commission



February 18 - Planning Commission review of the proposal

- Robust discussion on potential mitigative measures to address noise, odor, and vermin complaints that sometimes arise with domestic fowl use.
- Commission requested clarifications to companion regulations included under TMC 6-15-030
- Commission directed staff to:
 - Consult with the code enforcement officer to determine if additional enforcement tools or training are needed to address vermin (rat) complaints related to domestic fowl, to provide more effective means to address such complaints; and
 - Research best practices and guidelines for minimum coop and run standards for various domestic fowl from accredited sources like USDA or OSU to inform future domestic fowl licensee.
- One member of the public testified in support of the amendments

Planning Commission

TMC 6-15-030 Conditions of License.

Every licensee must comply with the following conditions at all times:

- (1) The place where the domestic fowl chickens are to be kept must be within a planning district that allows the keeping of domestic fowl chickens as a use;
- (2) A combined maximum of four domestic fowl of any type hens are permitted on any one lot;
- (3) Roosters, geese, guinea fowl, peacocks, turkeys, emus, and ostriches are prohibited;
- (4) Harvesting On site slaughtering or butchering of a domestic fowl chicken is prohibited;
- (5) Domestic fowl Chickens must be confined at all times within a domestic fowl chicken facility; unless, the domestic fowl are roaming under the direct supervision of the licensee and within a fenced yard ~~and under the direct supervision of the licensee;~~
- (6) The domestic fowl chicken facility must be located in the rear yard of a lot and be at least ten feet from all property lines and 25 feet from all abutting residences;
- (7) The domestic fowl chicken facility must not exceed 200 square feet in floor space;
- (8) The domestic fowl chicken facility must not exceed a height of eight feet measured from the tallest part of the roof surface to the ground;
- (9) The coop must have at least three enclosed sides. The fourth side may be open with the open side facing away from all neighboring property lines;
- (10) The domestic fowl chicken facility ~~and the place where the chickens are located~~ must be maintained in good repair, in a clean and sanitary condition, and free of vermin, and obnoxious smells and substances that create a nuisance for adjoining property; and
- (11) Domestic fowl chicken feed must be properly stored in a metal or other vermin-proof containers ~~or receptacle.~~

Recommendation



The Planning Commission forwards a unanimous recommendation for City Council to adopt amendments proposed under PTA 26-0001.

Proposed Motion for Council Consideration:

I motion to adopt Ordinance 1454-26 amending the Tualatin Development Code Chapters 39 and 40 related to Domestic Fowl Regulations; PTA 26-0001.



Image: Marilyn Barbone

Conclusion



Any other questions or discussion?





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