

Going Green Never Tasted So Good



Happiness is Knowing Where Your Eggs Come From

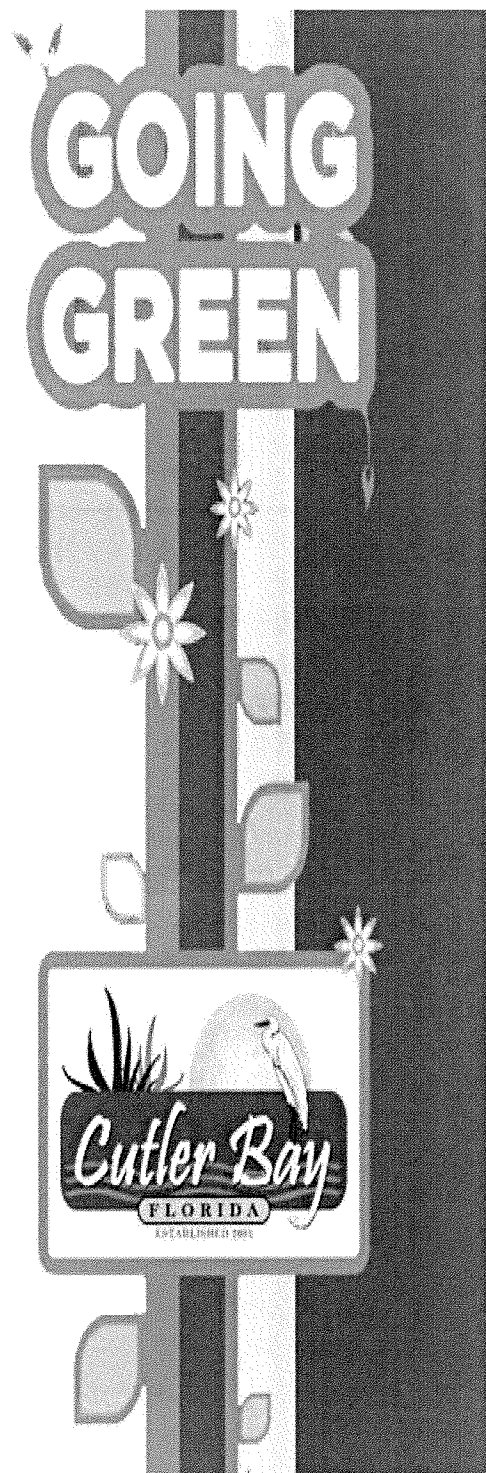
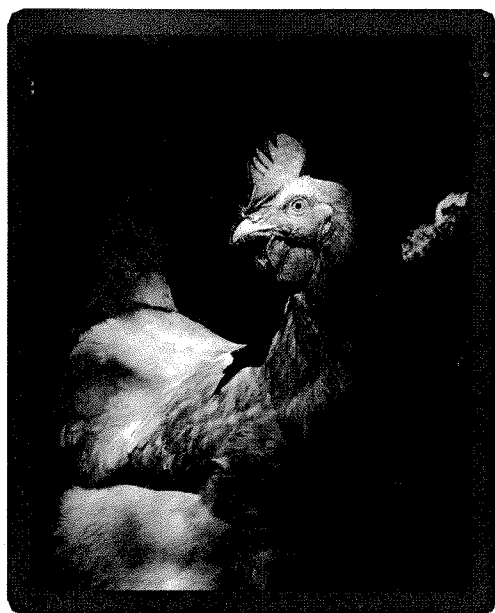


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Introduction

The Town of Cutler Bay's "Go Green Initiative" promotes and encourages environmental responsibility in our community. Many cities and towns are now looking at how they can be more sustainable, and allowing urban chickens is one step towards that goal of increased sustainability. Not only can backyard chickens provide residents with a fresh and important food source, but they also bring about an increased awareness of our relationship to the food cycle. Chicken keeping is very popular among those who are concerned about the environment, among those concerned about food safety and security, and among those interested in self-sufficiency and preparedness. By forming a just and well thought out pro-chicken ordinance, cities can allow citizens the right to keep chickens while also addressing the concerns of other stakeholder groups. With that said, city councils should approach the issue of urban chicken keeping with a "how" rather than a "yes" or "no", as a growing list of pro-chicken cities across the nation shows that it can be done successfully.

There is a growing list of newspaper and magazine accounts of communities which have changed their laws to allow chickens. Cutler Bay should follow suit.

Living Sustainably

Increasing numbers of us are interested in living more sustainably, and many communities, Cutler Bay included, are encouraging citizens to reduce waste and consumption of resources. Backyard chickens allow us to reduce our carbon footprint by producing some of our own food. Every food item we can produce organically and on our own property – just outside our back door – is one less item that must be shipped to us and shopped for. Every item of food we raise ourselves represents a step in living a greener, more sustainable, lifestyle.

People who have backyard chickens are less likely to use chemicals and pesticides in their yards and gardens because it's healthier for their chickens. In return the chickens eat weeds and bugs that normally plague unsprayed yards. Composted chicken manure is one of the most efficient natural fertilizers and is provided for free with no need for transport. Backyard chickens eat grass clippings which might otherwise end up in the landfills and food scraps which might end up in the garbage and sewage.

Backyard Chickens Are Not Farm Animals

For thousands of years, chickens, like dogs and cats, have lived alongside people in backyards large and small in cities and small towns. Unlike a half-ton bull or 400- pound hog, a six-pound hen is not inherently a farm animal.

The typical laying hen starts to produce at four to six months, lays nearly daily until she is about 3years old, and then can live another several years. A crucial point is that for backyard chickens (unlike their counterparts on farms), the end of productivity does not bring on the end of life. Commercial chickens are bred to produce large numbers of eggs very quickly and then to be culled and used for such things as animal food and fertilizer. Suburban hens, however, are treated as individuals. They are typically

named, and when around age 5 they stop producing eggs, they are 'retired' and treated as pets for the remaining year or two of their lives. A rooster is not needed for a hen to lay an egg. Roosters are only needed in order for the egg to be FERTILIZED (to have a baby). Hens lay eggs with or without a rooster around.

Chickens are friendly; social, intelligent, affectionate, entertaining, low-maintenance, small, quiet, and inexpensive to keep. They are quieter and cleaner than most dogs. Hens can be noisy sporadically. Barking dogs can be far more bothersome than cackling hens, which only cackle for short bursts lasting usually under a minute, the max a few times per day, and none at all after sun set, whereas dogs can go on barking jags that last a half an hour or more and often after dark.

They uniquely offer suburban and city-dwelling children the opportunity to understand a little more clearly where their food comes from. And they offer all of us the opportunity to produce a little of our own food.

Chickens Are Educational

Chicken keeping offers suburban children the opportunity to learn where their food really comes from and about healthy, sustainable, nutritious food. They will see firsthand how kitchen scraps become garden fertilizer which in turn produces beautiful vegetables. Instead of simply hearing, "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle," they will actually experience it.

Chickens and the Environment

Water Quality and Runoff

According to the OSU Extension Service (http://ohioline.osu.edu/b804/804_3.html) the average laying hen produces 3-5 ounces of droppings per day, as compared to the average dog which produces 1 pound (according to the National Pet Alliance.)

Unlike dog and cat waste, chicken droppings can be composted for use on gardens and reduce the need for chemical fertilizers. Chickens reduce the need for pesticides and herbicides by eating bugs and weeds. By their very presence, chickens discourage the use of chemical lawn and garden sprays by their owners. Chicken keeping is likely to represent a net improvement in water and runoff issues rather than the opposite.

Issues of manure runoff from egg-producing chickens are associated with huge factory-style egg farms that generate tons of manure each day in a very concentrated area. For those of us who wish to continue to eat eggs in a sustainable fashion, low-density backyard chicken keeping is the solution to runoff issues, not the problem. Gardeners using commercial organic fertilizers are very likely to be using chicken-manure based products, and those keeping chickens will have less need for even these. So keeping chickens won't increase even the net amount of organic fertilizers used; chicken-keeping gardeners will simply be producing it

themselves rather than purchasing it.

Chickens and the Economic Crisis

The cost of food has risen dramatically lately, including the cost of high-quality protein-rich nutrient-dense food such as pastured eggs. Pastured organic eggs cost up to \$7 a dozen and cannot be purchased at your local grocery store; They can only be purchased from local farmers or farmers delivering to this area. In comparison, four backyard hens will require a total of about \$100 in feed each year and can lay up to 121 dozen eggs between them, depending on breed and age. That's a savings of over \$700 a year. In addition, an egg provides about 7 grams of protein, which means those 121 dozen eggs – obtained at a cost of \$100 per year -- will supply the complete protein needs of the average woman. The ability to raise some of your own food can help provide a greater sense of security in insecure times.

Backyard Coops are Attractive and Clean

Unlike large commercial poultry operations or rural farms, people in cities and suburbs who keep chickens in their backyards tend to keep them in attractive, well-maintained enclosures and treat their chickens as pets. Backyard coops are no more of an inherent eyesore than a trampoline, play structure, or hot tub, and in fact many are portable so that the chickens are never in one place long. Examples of backyard coops on suburban and city lots are provided.

Unlike cats and dogs which are prime vectors for rabies, parasites, and tick-borne diseases, backyard chickens actually keep your yard healthier for humans by eating ticks and other insects.

Salmonella, which has been associated with raw eggs, is a problem with factory-farmed eggs, not with backyard chickens.

Lot Size Doesn't Matter

Chickens require very little space. Shelter for four or five hens does not require any more space than that represented by many kitchen tables. A minimum of 3 square feet of coop space for each adult chicken and a run of 4 square feet per hen is sufficient to keep them happy and healthy. Households all over the country are keeping chickens on city and suburban lots. Whether a backyard chicken-keeper has a quarter of an acre or three hundred, he is likely to keep his hens in an enclosure with the same small footprint.

In order to assure the smallest of lots or unusual lot configuration doesn't mean chickens can be near enough to neighboring properties to cause an annoyance, Cutler Bay's Proposed Ordinance requires that chickens and enclosures be 10 feet from property lines, which is a distance at which most normal chicken noises would be barely audible and the distance required for other setbacks.

Chicken Coop and Habitat Basics

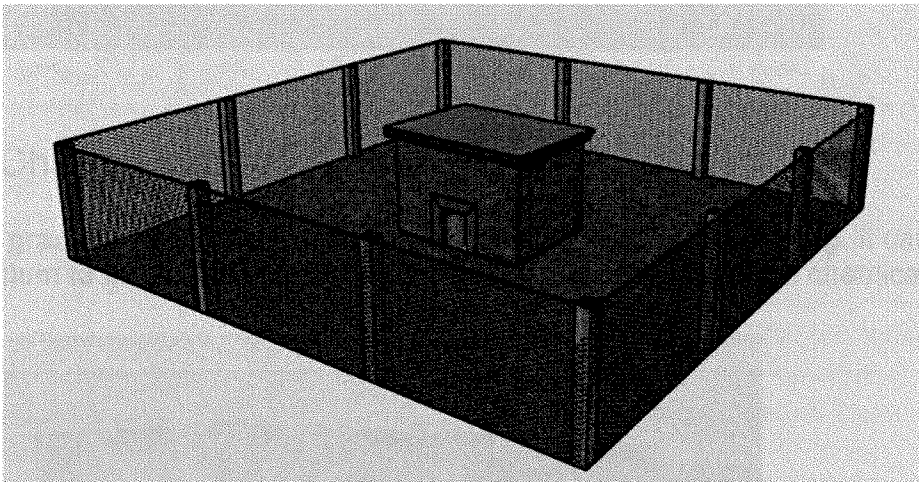
Chickens need a habitat in which to eat, take shelter, lay eggs, take dirt baths, and just be chickens. There are many considerations that need to be evaluated when choosing a coop, and planning ahead makes the process much easier. Below are a few examples of basic coop structures. There are many resources on how to choose the right coop, chicken coop pictures, and chicken coop plans.

Chicken Coop Structure

A good coop consists of a shelter with lay boxes and perches, a minimum of 3 square feet for each adult chicken and an area that provides access to soil for digging and bathing. Chickens need sun and shade, as well as a dry coop in which to escape the elements. This can manifest in a variety of forms, and the basics are shown below.

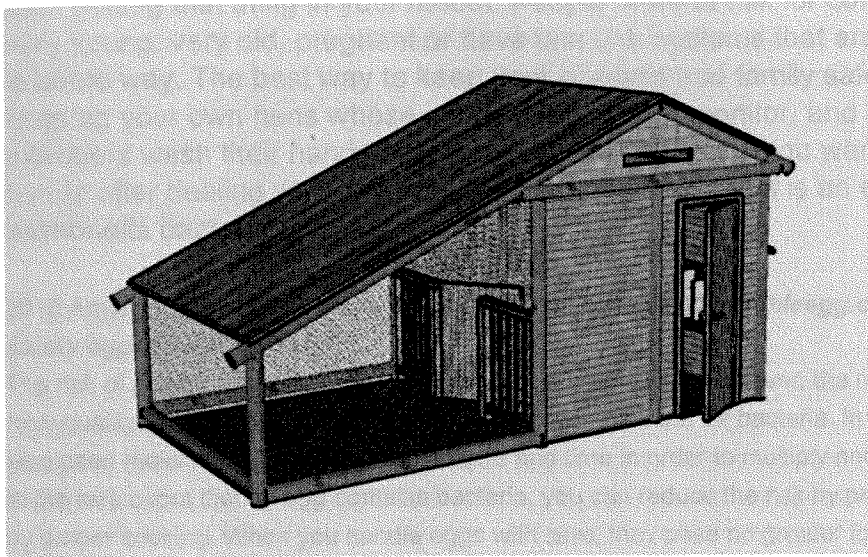
1) Coop and pen design:

This design is similar to a farm style of raising chickens, with a coop that is inside of a large fenced off pen or area. It can be a good design if you have a lot of space.



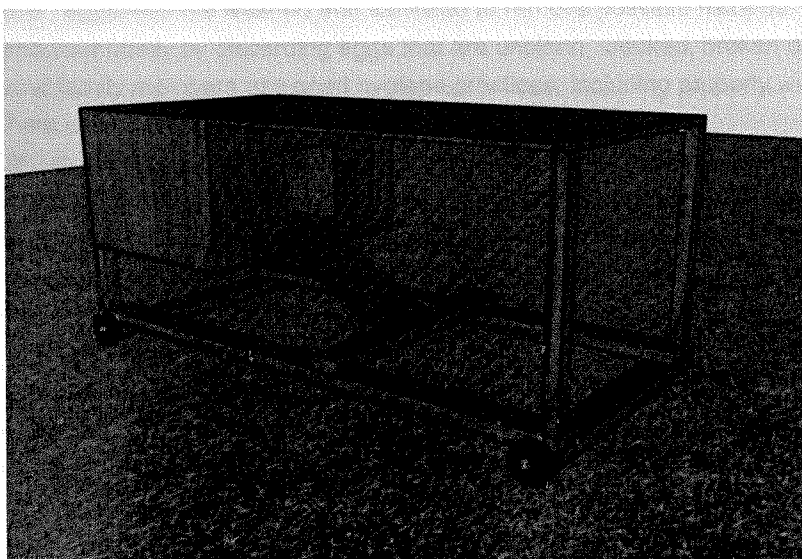
2) Chicken coop with run:

This design is generally fully enclosed, good for keeping out predators and dogs, and can be a good choice for people who are short on space.



3) Chicken tractors:

Got grass? This coop on wheels keeps chickens safe and moving. It can work well in medium to large sized yards (just be sure to skip the lawn care chemicals)



Backyard Chickens and Salmonella

Humans do not catch salmonella from chicks or chickens the way you would catch a cold from your neighbor. In order to get a case of salmonella, the food you have eaten must be improperly prepared, that is, not completely cooked through. Or, you can also get salmonella by getting your hands or something else contaminated with feces and then putting that thing in your mouth. People more at risk for contracting Salmonella are very young, very old, pregnant or have immune systems that are already compromised in some way. The best way to keep your children and family safe from infection is by keeping your own hens whose conditions you can monitor, and by having your family members wash their hands after dealing with chickens. You want to have them wash hands after dealing with any pets, for that matter. Alcohol is an effective sanitizer for salmonella bacteria.

2010 American Egg Board. All rights reserved. <http://www.incredibleegg.org/egg-facts/egg-safety/eggs-and-food-safety>

The risk of getting a food borne illness from eggs is very low. However, the nutrients that make eggs a high-quality food for humans are also a good growth medium for bacteria. In addition to food, bacteria also need moisture, a favorable temperature and time in order to multiply and increase the risk of illness. In the rare event that an egg contains bacteria, you can reduce the risk by proper chilling and eliminate it by proper cooking. When you handle eggs with care, they pose no greater food-safety risk than any other perishable food.

The inside of an egg was once considered almost sterile. But, over recent years, the bacterium *Salmonella enteritidis* (Se) has been found inside a small number of eggs. Scientists estimate that, on average across the U.S., only 1 of every 20,000 eggs might contain the bacteria. So, the likelihood that an egg might contain Se is extremely small – 0.005% (five one-thousandths of one percent). At this rate, if you're an average consumer, you might encounter a contaminated egg once every 84 years.

Other types of microorganisms could be deposited along with dirt on the outside of an egg. So, in the U.S., eggshells are washed and sanitized to remove possible hazards. You can further protect yourself and your family by discarding eggs that are unclean, cracked, broken or leaking and making sure you and your family members use good hygiene practices, including properly washing your hands and keeping them clean.

The majority of reported *salmonellosis* outbreaks involving eggs or egg-containing foods has occurred in foodservice kitchens and was the result of inadequate refrigeration, improper handling and insufficient cooking. But, properly prepared egg recipes served in individual portions and promptly eaten are rarely a problem. You can ensure that your eggs will maintain their high quality and safety by using good hygiene, cooking, refrigeration and handling practices.

<http://www.cdc.gov/healthypets/diseases/salmonellosis.htm>

According to the Center For Disease Control (CDC), many kinds of animals can pass salmonellosis to people, not just chickens. Animals can carry *Salmonella* and pass it in their feces (stool). Reptiles (lizards, snakes, and turtles), baby chicks, and ducklings can all pass salmonellosis to people. Dogs, cats, birds (including pet birds), horses, and farm animals can also pass *Salmonella* in their feces. Therefore, people can get salmonellosis if they do not wash their hands after touching certain animals or their feces.

Backyard Chickens and Avian Influenza H5N1 (Bird Flu)

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avian/gen-info/qa.htm>

As stated by the Center For Disease Control, you cannot get avian influenza from properly handled and cooked poultry and eggs.

There currently is no scientific evidence that people have been infected with bird flu by eating safely handled and properly cooked poultry or eggs.

In the United States there is no need at present to remove a flock of chickens because of concerns regarding avian influenza. The U.S. Department of Agriculture monitors potential infection of poultry and poultry products by avian influenza viruses and other infectious disease agents.

Considerations for Ordinances

Requiring a permit for chickens is no different than requiring one for dogs and cats, which is the case in most cities. From the perspective of affordable egg production however, attaching a large fee to the permit undermines that purpose. If a fee is too steep in price, it can exclude lower income populations from keeping chickens by increasing the costs of egg production. Fees may be necessary however to cover the associated costs for the municipality to regulate chickens.

Requiring a building permit with specific material requirements, is also restrictive to lower income populations and takes away from the sustainability of keeping chickens for eggs. In many cases, chicken coops are built with scrap materials and suit the design needs of the owner. Requiring a specific design or materials takes those choices away from the chicken keeper. Coops should be treated similar to dog houses, which are generally not subject to this type of regulation.

If a city chooses to have distance restrictions, the average lot sizes need to be taken into consideration. A large distance requirement would prevent many people from keeping chickens. A lower distance requirement, such as 10 feet, is more feasible to achieve for those with smaller lot sizes. Distance requirements to neighboring homes (vs. property lines) are also easier to achieve as the distance considers part of the neighbors property in addition to the chicken keepers property.

Many chicken keepers want to keep their chickens confined in a coop and outdoor run, as this helps to protect them from predators. However, it is very restrictive to require confinement of chickens at all times, as many keepers enjoy watching their chickens free range about the yard. Just as there are regulations for leashing your dog, so too could there be regulation for only allowing chickens to roam in their own yard.

Only allowing for 2 chickens is not an ideal choice, as they are social creatures and if one were to become ill and die, only one chicken would be left. Two chickens also do not produce enough eggs for a larger sized family. On the other hand, allowing for unlimited chickens may mean increased nuisance enforcement, or allowing for that many

chickens may be met with increased public opposition. Often the average allowances found (not the most extremes) are the best choices of an example regulation for other cities to look to when considering the formation of their own chicken ordinance. The most common allowance is 4 to 6 birds, which can provide enough eggs for a family and does not highly increase the potential for nuisances. It also allows for a more sustained population if a bird becomes ill and dies.

A pro-chicken ordinance should be built upon the following considerations:

- It satisfies the needs of most stakeholder groups and acknowledges that some stakeholders on both sides of the issue will be unwilling to compromise
- It does not discriminate against certain populations, such as those of lower incomes who cannot afford high permitting fees, or those with smaller property sizes
- It allows for flexibility and provides choice, such as giving chicken keepers the right to choose their own coop design and building materials
- It allows for citizen input and participation in the ordinance forming process to assure that the ordinance fits the needs of and is supported by the community
- It recognizes the role chickens can play in developing a more sustainable urban environment
- It recognizes the importance of the ordinance being clearly stated and easily accessible to the public, which will help ensure compliance and reduce violations.

Where do your eggs come from?

Florida's Cruel Egg Industry

There are over 10 million female chickens in Florida egg farms, where hens are housed in rows of bare wire cages called "battery cages." As many as 100,000 birds may be crammed into a single windowless building; some farms in Florida confine over 1 million birds. *(photo: chickens at a typical Florida egg farm)*

Four to six hens are crowded into each cage, unable to stretch their wings or even lie down. Hens have strong instincts to build a nest in which to lay her eggs, to dust-bathe and perch. None of these natural behaviors are possible on egg farms. In the cages, hens suffer from foot and leg deformities, and feather loss from constantly rubbing against the wire.

In an attempt to reduce pecking and injuries— problems resulting from overcrowding— part of hens' beaks are sometimes severed at the tip using a hot blade, without the use of anesthesia. "Debeaking" is an extremely painful but standard poultry industry practice.



Although chickens can live to be over 10 years old, in egg farms they rarely see their second birthday. When a hen is no longer producing a sufficient number of eggs, she will be sent to slaughter. Many never make it, and die in the cage from heat stress, disease or injuries.



SUGGESTED EXAMPLE

ARTICLE I. IN GENERAL

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Definitions.

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Chicken Pen shall mean a wire enclosure connected to a henhouse for the purpose of allowing chickens to leave the henhouse while remaining in an enclosed, predator-safe environment.

...

Henhouse shall mean a structure for the sheltering of female chickens. An existing shed or garage can be used for this purpose if it meets the standards contained in Article

II. Domesticated Chickens, including the required distance from property lines.

ARTICLE II. DOMESTICATED CHICKENS

Purpose.

Whereas, the keeping of chickens in the city supports a local, sustainable food system by providing an affordable, nutritious source of protein through fresh eggs. The keeping of chickens also provides free, quality, nitrogen-rich fertilizer; chemical-free pest control; animal companionship and pleasure; weed control; and less noise, mess and expense than dogs and cats. The purpose of this article is to provide standards for the keeping of domesticated chickens. It is intended to enable residents to keep a small number of female chickens on a non-commercial basis while limiting the potential adverse impacts on the surrounding neighborhood. The City recognizes that adverse neighborhood impacts may result from the keeping of domesticated chickens as a result of noise, odor, unsanitary animal living conditions, unsanitary waste storage and removal, the attraction of predators, rodents, insects, or parasites, and non-confined animals leaving the owner's property. This article is intended to create licensing standards and requirements that ensure that domesticated chickens do not adversely impact the neighborhood surrounding the property on which the chickens are kept.

Permit Required.

An annual permit may be required for the keeping of any domesticated chickens in the Town of Cutler Bay.

Fees.

The fee for an annual permit to keep chickens is ten dollars (\$10.00).

Number and Type of Chickens Allowed.

(a) The maximum number of chickens allowed is four (4) per lot.

(b) Only female chickens are allowed. There is no restriction on chicken species.

Enclosures.

- a. Chickens must be kept in an enclosure or fenced area at all times. During daylight hours, chickens may be allowed outside of their chicken pens in a securely fenced yard if supervised. Chickens shall be secured within the henhouse during non-daylight hours.
- b. Enclosures must be clean, dry, and odor-free, kept in a neat and sanitary condition at all times, in a manner that will not disturb the use or enjoyment of neighboring lots due to noise, odor or other adverse impact.
- c. The hen house and chicken pen must provide adequate ventilation and adequate sun and shade and must both be impermeable to rodents, wild birds, and predators, including dogs and cats.
- d. Henhouses.
 1. A henhouse shall be provided and shall be designed to provide safe and healthy living conditions for the chickens while minimizing adverse impacts to other residents in the neighborhood.
 - a. The structures shall be enclosed on all sides and shall have a roof and doors, lay boxes and perches. Access doors must be able to be shut and locked at night. Opening windows and vents must be covered with predator- and bird-proof wire of less than one inch openings.
 - b. The henhouse shall be well-maintained.
 2. Henhouses shall not be placed in the front yard.
- e. Chicken Pens.
 1. An enclosed chicken pen must be provided consisting of sturdy wire fencing. The pen must be covered with wire, aviary netting, or solid roofing.

Odor and Noise Impacts.

- (a) Odors from chickens, chicken manure, or other chicken-related substances shall not be perceptible at the property boundaries.
- (b) Perceptible noise from chickens shall not be loud enough at the property boundaries to disturb persons of reasonable sensitivity.

Lighting.

Only motion-activated lighting may be used to light the exterior of the henhouse.

Predators, Rodents, Insects, and Parasites.

The property owner shall take necessary action to reduce the attraction of predators and rodents and the potential infestation of insects and parasites.

Feed and Water.

Chickens must be provided with access to feed and clean water at all times; such feed and water shall be unavailable to rodents, and predators.

Waste Storage and Removal.

Provision must be made for the storage and removal of chicken manure. All stored manure shall be covered by a fully enclosed structure with a roof or lid over the entire structure. All other manure not used for composting or fertilizing shall be removed. In

addition, the henhouse, chicken pen and surrounding area must be kept free from trash and accumulated droppings. Uneaten feed shall be removed in a timely manner.

Application for permit.

Every applicant for a permit to keep domesticated chickens shall:

- (a) Complete and file an application on a form prescribed by the "Code Enforcement Officer";
- (b) Deposit the prescribed permit fee with the "Code Enforcement" office at the time the application is filed.

Any material misstatement or omission shall be grounds for denial , suspension or revocation of the permit.

Approval of permit.

The "Code Enforcement Officer" shall issue a permit if the applicant has demonstrated compliance with the criteria and standards in this article.

Denial, suspension or revocation of permit.

The "Code Enforcement Officer" shall deny a permit if the applicant has not demonstrated compliance with all provisions of this article. A permit to keep domesticated chickens may be suspended or revoked by the "Code Enforcement Officer" where there is a risk to public health or safety or for any violation of or failure to comply with any of the provisions of this article or with the provisions of any other applicable ordinance or law. Any denial, revocation or suspension of a permit shall be in writing and shall include notification of the right to and procedure for appeal.

Appeal.

A person appealing the issuance, denial, suspension or revocation of a permit by the "Code Enforcement Officer" may appeal to the Board of Appeals within thirty (30) days of the decision being appealed.

Penalty.

In addition to any other enforcement action which the city may take, violation of any provision of this article shall be a civil violation and a fine not exceeding one hundred dollars (\$100.00) may be imposed. Each day that a violation continues will be treated as a separate offense.

Removal of Chickens.

In addition to the penalty, any violation of the provisions of this article or of the permit shall be grounds for an order from the "Code Enforcement Officer" to remove the chickens and the chicken related structures.

The Health Inspector, Health Officer, or Animal Control Officer may also order the removal of the chickens upon a determination that the chickens pose a health risk. If a chicken dies, it must be disposed of promptly in a sanitary manner.

Separability.

In the event that any section, subsection or portion of this article shall be declared by any competent court to be invalid for any reason, such decision shall not be deemed to affect the validity of any other section, subsection or portion of this article.

Some Frequently Asked Questions about Raising Chickens

Q. What is the average life span of a chicken?

A. 6 – 8 years some live a little longer.

Q. Do you need to have a rooster for my chickens to lay eggs?

A. No, hens can lay eggs without a rooster, but they won't be fertile. Meaning those are the eggs to eat not for raising little chicks. You need a rooster for that!

Q. How long does it take for a chick to hatch?

A. Somewhere around 21 days.

Q. What is the difference between white and brown eggs?

A. The color is the only difference. "The color difference is due to the specific breed of hen, according to the Egg Nutrition Center. Hens with white feathers and white earlobes will lay white eggs, whereas hens with red feathers and matching-colored earlobes give us brown eggs." There is no other difference as far as taste or quality.

Q. What's the difference between a chicken and a hen?

A. Chicken is the species in general – a hen is a female over 1 year old, (under 1 year old females are called pullets) and c-o-c-k-s are males over 1 year old, (under a year old males are c-o-c-k-erals).

Q. Will chickens come back to their coop at night?

A. Yes, chickens will always come home to the coop.

Q. Are chickens noisy?

A. Not really, hens are actually pretty quiet, can't say the same for roosters though.

Q. What type of animals pose a danger to chickens?

A. Raccoons, dogs, foxes, coyotes, cats, and hawks. Any of these animals will make a good meal of your chickens if they get the chance. It's always a good idea to lock-up your coop at night to prevent your chickens from being attacked.

Q. Are chickens dirty smelly animals?

A. That depends on the caretaker, just like any animal you need to clean up after them ever once and a while. Cleaning out the dirty bedding in their coop, keeping everything dry and having a clean/dry area of sand or dirt for your birds to take dust baths in.

Q. How does the laying eggs things work?

A. A typical hen will start to lay eggs within six months of age. The eggs will start out small, and then slowly get bigger. During the first years of laying, the hen will lay one egg , almost every day. The birds will go through a "molt" in the late fall and winter months and stop laying. Then they will start again in the early spring. You can encourage egg laying through the colder months by keeping a light on, inside the chicken coop. As the birds get older, they will start to lay fewer and fewer eggs.

Q. Do I need a lot of space for chickens?

A. A minimum of 3 square feet of coop space and a run of 4 square feet per adult hen is sufficient to keep them happy and healthy. If you want chickens for eggs, you will need to include nesting boxes in your hen house design.

Q. Can I use the chicken manure in my garden?

A. Chicken manure is high in nitrogen, so yes. It will need to be composted before putting it directly onto your garden. Once it has broken down, it then becomes perfect food for those perfect gardens.

Q. What do you do with them in the winter time?

A. Chickens can live through the coldest weather so I would not worry. If you have properly insulated your coop or added a light inside they will be fine. The smaller the coop, the easier it is for them to keep it warm. Birds can get frostbite!

Q. Will having chickens in my backyard attract rodents?

A. It is food that attracts the rodents, not the birds. If you have wild bird feeders in your backyard, you run the same risk. Feed your chickens in small doses, so as not to have a large amounts of food left over. If you feed your bird's scraps, make sure it is all eaten and not left in the bedding.

Q. What do chickens eat?

A. Chickens will eat just about anything! There are commercial poultry foods available at local feed stores, or you can make your own mix. People feed chickens corn, oats, wheat, rye, soy, fresh greens from the garden (weeds as well) and table scraps.

A Few Online Resources For Raising Urban Chickens

www.backyardchickens.com/

urbanchickens.org/

www.mypetchicken.com

<http://home.centurytel.net/thecitychicken/>

<http://www.mypetchicken.com/>

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/an239>



Where To Get Chickens

Chickens can be obtained by buying fertilized eggs, day old chicks, growers (6 weeks or older), point of lay pullets (16-18 weeks or older birds) or by taking rescue or ex-battery hens.

Chickens at any of these stages can be obtained from local breeding agents or farms or can be ordered for delivery.

What If My Chicken Gets Sick

Take it to a veterinarian that specializes in avian medicine or farm animals. You can also contact your local feed store for over the counter treatments.

Avian Veterinarian	Local Feed Store	Local Farmers Selling Chickens
<p><u>Jeffrey Davidson, DVM</u> Address: 14732 N. Kendall Drive City/State: Miami, FL 33196 Map: Google Map P: 305-385-0404 F: 305-385-0329 Email: wkah1@aol.com</p>	<p><u>Sunset Country & Western Wear</u> 16300 SW 296th St, Homestead, FL - (305) 245-2935</p>	<p>Bunny Farm Corp 18525 S.W 177 Ave Homestead, FL 33187 Loretta Rodriguez 7862875388</p>
<p><u>Thomas L. Goldsmith, DVM</u> Clinic Name: Dadeland Animal Hospital Address: 9495 Old South.. Dixie Hwy City/State: Miami, FL 33156 P: 305-670-4401 Email: Dr.tgoldsmith@gmail.com</p>	<p><u>Ok Feed Store-</u> 22801 SW 177th Ave, Miami, FL (305) 246-3333</p> <p><u>Silver Palm Feed</u> - 15585 S w 232 St, Homestead, FL - (305) 245-0048</p>	<p>Siboney Farms 29225 SW 189 AVE Homestead, FL 33030 Jorge Fragela 305-726-7716</p>
<p><u>Don J. Harris, DVM</u> Clinic Name: Avian & Exotic Animal Medical Center Address: 12125 So Dixie Highway City/State: Miami, FL 33156 P: 305-234-2473 F: 305-234-2827 Email: djh@avianexotic.com</p>	<p><u>Robbie's Feed & Supply</u> - 22390 SW 177th Ave, Miami, FL - (305) 247-1256</p> <p>7650 SW 117 Ave, Miami, FL - (305) 271-0341</p>	<p>G.G. Ranch 21745 SW 157 Avenue Miami, FI 33170 786-251-2038</p>

What Can You Feed Chickens

Treat	Type	General Opinions
Apples	Raw and applesauce	Apple seeds contain cyanide, but not in sufficient quantities to kill.
Asparagus	Raw or cooked	Okay to feed, but not a favorite.
Bananas	Without the peel	High in potassium, a good treat.
Beans	Well-cooked only, <u>never dry</u>	Also, greenbeans.
Beets	Greens also.	
Berries	All kinds	A treat, especially strawberries.
Breads	All kinds - good use for stale bread or rolls	Feed starches in moderation.
Broccoli & Cauliflower		Tuck into a suet cage and they will pick at it all day.
Cabbage & Brussels Sprouts	Whole head -	Hang a whole cabbage from their coop ceiling in winter so they have something to play with and greens to eat.
Carrots	Raw and cooked	They like carrot foliage too.
Cereal	Cheerios, etc.	Avoid highly sugared cereal such as Cocopuffs, etc.
Cheese	Including cottage cheese	Feed in moderation, fatty but a good source of protein and calcium
Cooked Chicken		They may like it and it won't kill them, but it just seems so..... ummm..... wrong.
Corn	On cob and canned, raw and cooked	
Crickets (alive)	Can be bought at bait or pet-supply stores.	Great treat - provides protein and it's fun to watch the chickens catch them.
Cucumbers		Let mature for yummy seeds and flesh.
Eggs	Hardcooked and scrambled are a good source of protein, and a favorite treat.	Feed cooked eggs only because you don't want your chickens to start eating their own raw eggs.
Eggplant		
Fish / Seafood	Cooked only.	
Flowers	Make sure they haven't been treated with pesticides, such as florist flowers might be.	Marigolds, nasturtiums, pansies, etc.
Fruit	Pears, peaches, cherries, apples	
Grains	Bulgar, flax, niger, wheatberries, etc.	
Grapes	Seedless only. For chicks, cutting them in half makes it easier for them to swallow.	Great fun - the cause of many entertaining "chicken keepaway" games.
Grits	Cooked	
"Leftovers"	Only feed your chickens that which is still considered edible by humans, don't feed anything spoiled, moldy, oily, salty or unidentifiable.	
Lettuce / Kale	Any leafy greens, spinach collards, chickweed included.	A big treat, depending on how much other greenery they have access to.
Mealworms	Available at pet supply stores or on the internet, although shipping is expensive!	A huge(!) favorite treat, probably the most foolproof treat on the books.
(see photo after		

the chart)		
Meat scraps of any kind.	Not too fatty.	In moderation, a good source of protein
Melon	Cantelope, etc.	Both seeds and flesh are good chicken treats.
Oatmeal	Raw or cooked	Cooked is nutritionally better.
Pasta / Macaroni	Cooked spaghetti, etc.	A favorite treat, fun to watch them eat it, but not much nutrition.
Peas	Peas and pea tendrils and flowers (thanks to YayChick for the advice)	
Peppers (bell)		
Pomegranates	Raw	Seeds are a big treat.
Popcorn	Popped, no butter, no salt.	
Potatos / Sweet Potatos/Yams	Cooked only - avoid green parts of peels!	Starchy, not much nutrition
Pumpkins / Winter Squash	Raw or cooked	Both seeds and flesh are a nutritious treat.
Raisins		
Rice	Cooked only	Pilaf mixes are okay too, plain white rice has little nutrition.
Scratch	Scratch is cracked corn with grains (such as wheat, oats and rye) mixed in.	Scratch is a treat for cold weather, not a complete feed. Toss it on the ground and let them scratch for it for something to do. Never feed scratch during hot weather because it raises the chickens' body temperature.
Sprouts	Wheat and oat sprouts are great!	Good for greens in mid-winter.
Summer Squash	Yellow squash and zucchini	Yellow squash not a huge favorite, but okay to feed.
Sunflower Seeds	Sunflower seeds with the shell still on is fine to feed, as well as with the shell off.	A good treat, helps hens lay eggs and grow healthy feathers.
Tomatos	Raw and cooked.	
Turnips	Cooked.	Not a huge favorite
Watermelon	Served cold, it can keep chickens cool and hydrated during hot summers.	Seeds and flesh are both okay to feed.
Yogurt	Plain or flavored	A big favorite and good for their digestive systems. Plain is better.

Don't feed the following things to your chickens:

Do Not Feed:	Here's why:
Raw green potato peels	Toxic substance called Solanine.
Anything real salty	Can cause salt poisoning in small bodies such as chickens.
Citrus	
Dried or undercooked Beans	Raw, or dry beans, contain a poison called hemagglutin which is toxic to birds.
Avocado Skin and Pit	Skin and pit have low levels of toxicity.

Raw eggs	<i>You don't want to introduce your chickens to the tastiness of eggs which may be waiting to be collected in the nest boxes.</i>
Candy, Chocolate, Sugar	<i>It's just bad for their systems, and chocolate can be poisonous to most pets.</i>
Cat Food (Wet or Dry)	<i>Can potentially be detrimental to your birds health and even deadly in the right circumstances</i>

Regarding toxicity, the following is copied from a post by DLhunicorn on May 14, 2007 in a thread titled "Potato Peels".

"Do not count on your chickens "knowing" what is bad for them...also do not count on these "toxic" plants immediately being identifiable by finding a dead bird the next morning...usually it is a slow process damaging organs, inhibiting the ability of your bird to utilize the nutrients in their feed, etc."

<http://www.poultryhelp.com/toxicplants.html>
Toxic Plants

Sources for toxicity:
[http://dlhunicorn.conforums.com/index.c ... 1165263379](http://dlhunicorn.conforums.com/index.c...1165263379)

<http://msucares.com/pubs/infosheets/is1214.htm>
(Feed Chickens Properly)

Articles on nutrition :
[http://dlhunicorn.conforums.com/index.c ... 1157992073](http://dlhunicorn.conforums.com/index.c...1157992073)

Local and Florida Farmers Selling Eggs

1. PNS Farms

14390 SW 199 Ave, Miami, FL 33196

Contact Information

Alice Pena

www.pnsfarms.com

305-232-4042

Small family owned, sustainable farming operation located in a rural community in South Miami, Florida. Production of tropical fruits - lychees, longans, avocados, mangos, papaya, guava, plantains. Certified Organic Eggs, free range.

- Certified Organic free range eggs - \$7 per dozen

2. From Lake Meadow Naturals

10000 Mark Adam Road, Ocoee, FL 34761

<http://www.lakemeadownaturals.net/products.html>

- Soy-free Free-range Eggs - (1 Dozen) \$7
Not organic
- Organic Free-range Eggs - (1 Dozen) \$5
Not soy free

Basic Guide for the Backyard Chicken Flock¹

Derek L. Barber²

Raising a small, backyard chicken flock has gained interest in recent years as many small-farm owners desire to produce their own high-quality food. In addition, youngsters can learn to care for animals and experience the enjoyment of keeping animals as a 4-H project.

Brooding

Newly hatched chicks need a heat source the first few weeks of life. The most common way to brood a small flock (25–50 chicks) is with a heat lamp. The 250 watt heat lamp should be placed 12–18 inches above the chicks. Day-old chicks need a temperature of 90°F–95°F. The behavior of the chicks is a good indicator of their comfort. If the chicks are huddled close to the heat source, they are cold; if they stay away from the heat source, they are too hot. Quiet, evenly distributed chicks are a sign of optimum temperature. A thermometer is the most accurate way to keep track of the temperature. Be sure the height of the thermometer is at the same height as the chicks for an accurate temperature reading at "chick level." The temperature should be lowered by five degrees per week until the chicks are four-weeks-old or have feathered. Adjust the height of the lamp to adjust the temperature. Raising the lamp a few inches each week should drop the

temperature by five degrees. More information on the care of baby chicks can be found at (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/an182>).

Housing

A flock house in Florida does not need to be expensive or elaborate. An area that is covered by a roof and enclosed with a minimum of two sides for protection from prevailing rain and wind is sufficient. The size of the house should be based on a minimum of three square feet of floor space per bird. Twenty-five birds with three square feet of floor space will require about 75 square feet of floor space; a house 8 feet by 10 feet will be sufficient for this example. The use of fencing (chicken wire) helps in confining the birds and provides protection from predators. The top of the enclosure also needs to be covered to prevent flying and climbing predators from entering. Using an enclosed run or free range during the day provides an open area that reduces stress, pecking, and will allow the birds to supplement their diets with a variety of greens and insects.

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1. This document is AN239, one of a series of the Animal Science Department, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida. Original publication date April 2010. Visit the EDIS Web Site at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>.
 2. Livestock & Natural Resources Extension agent II, Columbia County Extension

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Feed and Water

The type of feed recommended varies with the age and intended use of the bird. Good nutrition is very important in maintaining a healthy flock.

If the chicks are female, the following feeding schedule can be used to grow the birds until and during egg production:

- Newly hatched chicks will require a commercial starter feed (20–24% protein) that is usually fed until six weeks of age.
- Expect to use at least four pounds of starter feed per bird.
- After six weeks, switch to a grower feed (16–20% protein), and feed this up to 18 weeks of age. Many feed stores carry a combination starter/grower feed that will work well for both stages of growth.
- At 18 weeks, switch to a layer feed (14–16% protein) to prepare the birds for egg production.
- Do not feed layer feed to birds less than 18-weeks-old or starter/grower feed to birds producing eggs.
- To support rapid growth, the starter diet for chicks has the highest level of protein a chicken will receive during its lifetime.
- If layer feed is fed to male or female chicks, a reduction in growth can be expected and an unnecessary stress will be placed on the young birds.
- Chicks fed layer feed will develop kidney problems and rickets since the calcium to phosphorus ratio is out of balance.
- Layer feed normally contains approximately 3.5–4.0% calcium; however, birds less than 18-weeks-old require only about 1% calcium in their diet.
- Layer-age birds need a diet lower in protein and higher in calcium for eggshell formation.

If the chicks are male, then they can be fed the same starter or starter/grower feed as the females until six weeks of age and then switched to the grower feed indefinitely.

- Do not feed layer feed to males.

Many commercial starter feeds are medicated to control coccidiosis. This disease is caused by a microscopic parasite that infects the intestinal tract. The mild strength of the drug used in the feed will kill most, but not all, of the parasites. This will allow gradual immunity to develop so the birds usually will not have problems with coccidiosis as adults. Grower and layer feed usually do not contain medication.

It is important that chicks have easy access to clean, fresh water. Manufactured chick waterers usually consist of a quart or gallon jar with screw-on base that allows for water level adjustment. If water spills occur in the location of the waterer, then these should be cleaned as soon as possible to prevent bacterial growth that leads to odors and possibly disease. An automatic waterer placed six inches off the ground is the most adequate way to ensure the birds have clean, fresh water daily. A constant supply of clean, fresh water is essential for healthy birds. Twenty-five hens can drink a gallon of water each day. Water consumption will increase dramatically during hot weather.

Nesting

As the birds reach the age of 18–20 weeks, nesting boxes should be in place. Boxes measuring 12 x 12 x 12 inches, half filled with straw are ideal. Provide one nest box for each five hens in the flock, and place them about two feet above the ground. A perch may be placed in front of each box allowing a spot for hens to land before entering the box. Nesting boxes should be checked twice a day for eggs. Eggs should not be allowed to accumulate in the nests. Otherwise the hens will go out of egg production and want to sit on the eggs to incubate them. This type of hen is commonly referred to as a "broody" hen.

Day length influences egg production. If day length decreases during the laying period, the number of eggs may decrease. The use of artificial light can add extra time at the beginning or end of the true

daylight. A combination of natural and artificial light resulting in 14–16 hours of light per day is effective to maintain egg production throughout the year.

Egg production for a small backyard flock should be about 200–240 eggs, or 17–20 dozen, per hen a year.

Breed Description

You have two basic choices when deciding what type of poultry to keep. You may choose a breed that excels in egg production or a breed noted for meat production; a few breeds produce both fairly well. Chickens bred to produce eggs fall into two classifications—the leghorn type that produces white eggs and the sex-linked type that produces brown eggs.

While the leghorn strain of chicken will produce the most eggs, these birds are quite small and are not a good choice for meat. The Rock-Cornish, a commercial broiler-type bird, has been bred for rapid meat production. Breeds that may work well for dual purpose include the Rhode Island Red, Plymouth Rock, New Hampshire, Wyandotte, and Orpington.

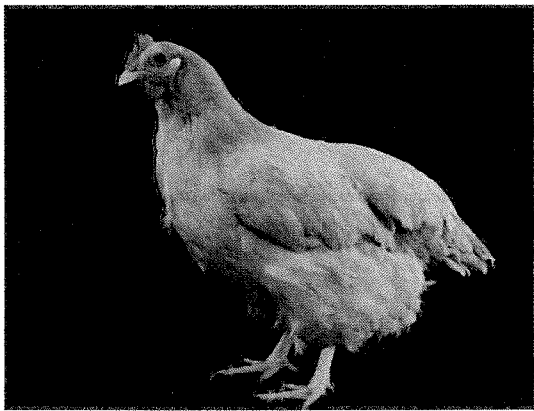


Figure 1. Buff Orpington hen. (Photograph by Tom Wright, UF/IFAS.)

Hatcheries

Murray McMurray

P.O. Box 458, 191 Cloz Drive
Webster City, Iowa 50595
(800) 456-3280

<http://www.mcmurrayhatchery.com/index.html>

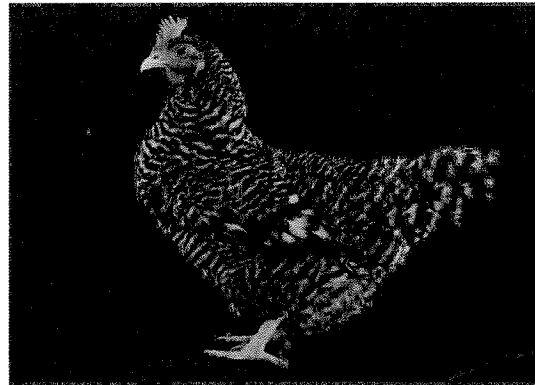


Figure 2. Barred Rock hen. (Photograph by Tom Wright, UF/IFAS.)



Figure 3. Rhode Island Red hen. (Photograph by Tom Wright, UF/IFAS.)

Ideal Poultry Breeding Farms Inc.

P.O. Box 591
Cameron, Texas 76520-0591
(254) 697-6677
<http://www.idealpoultry.com/>

Mt. Healthy Hatcheries Inc.

9839 Winton Road
Mt. Healthy, Ohio 45231
(800) 451-5603
<http://www.mthealthy.com/>

Cackle Hatchery

P.O. Box 529
Lebanon, Missouri 65536
(417) 532-4581
<http://www.cacklehatchery.com>

Table 1. Breed Description

Breed	Plumage Color	Eggshell Color	Rate of Lay	Breed Information
Barred Plymouth Rock	Black and white barring	Brown	Excellent	Oldest breed; excellent dual-purpose breed
Black Sex-Links	Black with gold hackle and breast	Brown	Excellent	Cross of Rhode Island Red and Barred Plymouth Rock
Brown Sex-Links	Dark red with black tails and wings	Brown	Excellent	Cross of Rhode Island Red and White Plymouth Rock
Gold Sex-Links	Light red with white tails and wings	Brown	Excellent	Cross of Rhode Island Red and Rhode Island Whites
Red Sex-Links	Dark red with black tails and wings	Brown	Excellent	Cross of Rhode Island Red and Delaware
Rhode Island Red	Very dark red	Brown	Excellent	Old Breed; popular dual-purpose
Black Australorps	Black with greenish sheen	Brown	Excellent	Excellent, small-flock producer; hardy
Ameraucanas	Multicolored (white, brown, red, black)	Green, blue, light brown	Excellent	From South America; nicknamed "Easter Egg Chicken" due to color of eggshell
White Leghorn	White	White	Excellent	Excellent layer
New Hampshire Reds	Chestnut red	Brown	Very good	Popular, dual-purpose breed; grows fast
Silver Laced Wyandottes	Silvery white; edged with black	Brown	Very good	Beautiful old breed; popular for cold areas
White Plymouth Rock	White	Brown	Very good	Medium-sized, dual-purpose breed
Golden Laced Wyandottes	Golden; edged with greenish black	Brown	Good	Same as Silver Laced
Buff Orpingtons	Rich golden buff	Brown	Good	Large breed with quiet disposition; popular backyard flock



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In an effort to promote sustainable agriculture, Bunny Farm Corp. will participate in this Cuttler Bay laying hen project. Any individual, whom is interested in participating in this project, may return their laying hen(s) to our farm at approximately a year and a half of age, at which time the hen(s)'s egg production drastically decreases. Bunny Farm Corp. will willingly accept all hens given that they are returned with valid proof of purchase (an invoice given at the time of sale), at which point as an additional incentive to those participating in this program they will receive a 25% refund on their purchase price.

To purchase hen(s):

It is up to the interested individual(s) to notify the employee that sells them said hen(s) that they require an invoice in order to return the hen at a later time.

To return hen(s):

- Hen(s) must not be older than 3 years of age.
- Hen(s) must be returned with a valid sales invoice.
- A 25% refund on hen purchase price will be given.

It is up to each individual to safely store their invoice and return it with the hen at a later time, only hens that where purchased from the Bunny Farm Corp. may be returned to the Bunny Farm Corp. in order to qualify for the 25% refund incentive.

If you have any questions or concerns feel free to contact:

Loretta Rodriguez (Lorie)
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Loretta Rodriguez
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Website: www.callmike.com

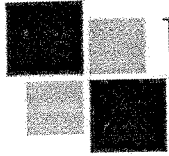
This letter is in response to the question as to whether or not a few chickens and a small chicken coop will affect the value of a property or neighboring properties. It is my professional opinion that the structure of a small chicken coop, properly maintained, will not pose a problem of decreased home values. Any structure, be it a dog house, shed, or even a wooden fence can be an eyesore if the appearance is not kept up. It is the overall character of a neighborhood, including appearance and upkeep of the homes that affects property values.

Any pet, dog, cat or chicken, can create a nuisance for neighbors if not properly maintained. Chickens present no more issue than a dog and dog house. The issue is the view from the neighbor's yard, noise, and odor. Assuming that the future proposal is not to include roosters, noise should not be an issue. Should the coop remain clean and well kept, just as a wooden fence or garden shed, the situation should not negatively affect neighboring properties.

Sincerely,

Mike Schuler

Mike Schuler 10/15/2010



United Residential
Appraisers, Inc.

October 12, 2010

To whom it may concern,

This letter is in response to the question that I was asked concerning property owner's having chicken and/or chicken coop's in their yard. The overall condition of residential properties in residential neighborhoods including upkeep and appearance have effect on property values.

Chicken or chicken coop's do not necessarily present any problems than a dog or dog house. The main issue is the view of neighboring properties, odor and noise. If we assume that the chicken coop's are properly maintained and kept free of odor and there is not excessive noise. The situation should not negatively effect the neighboring properties.

Alan Hosmer

The Miami Herald

Posted on Mon, Sep. 13, 2010

Urban farmer wants city to OK chickens

By SCOTT WYMAN
Sun Sentinel

Big dogs are OK. So are turtles, rabbits and tropical fish. But don't try to keep a chicken coop in your backyard.

Renee Rung has launched a campaign to persuade Fort Lauderdale City Hall to change that. She wants the right to have a couple of hens so her family can eat fresh eggs for breakfast just like a farmer in Iowa.

She's not alone. An urban farming movement has sprung up across the country in recent years. City dwellers have been questioning the logic of ordinances that ban them from keeping poultry on their property.

A Hollywood family has been fighting the city in court to keep pet chickens, arguing they are part of their cultural heritage. A Delray Beach man pitched the case in favor of chickens in May to officials and neighborhood groups in that city.

Rung now has a vegetable garden where she and her three sons grow green beans, tomatoes, herbs and cucumbers. They pick mangoes, blueberries and bananas from trees in their yard. She believes pet chickens would be the natural next step in an effort to go green.

"This is Fort Lauderdale, and no one wants to become a full-out farmer," she said. "That's not what we're talking about. I like the idea of the chickens laying fresh eggs. It would be an extension of our vegetable garden. It would give our family a better connection to the food that we're consuming and putting in our bodies."

Chickens fall in a fine line between pets and livestock in the world of law and order. Cities created ordinances against livestock to avoid having a quasi-farm in the middle of neighborhoods, but a number of major metropolitan communities consider chickens to be pets, including New York City, Chicago and San Francisco.

The movement is so widespread that it has inspired magazines and websites that offer advice on raising chickens in an urban environment.

Fort Lauderdale's law dates back decades.

The ordinance makes it unlawful for a person to keep any animal in a residential area unless they are "animals capable of being kept as pets within a home" and are species that "generally are kept as pets and live in or about the habitation of humans." The city's list takes into account "dogs, cats, birds (excluding chickens, roosters and geese), rabbits, turtles and tropical fish."

City zoning administrators said the ordinance was crafted to limit nuisances such as sanitation problems and animal noise. They get five to six complaints a year about chickens running loose.

After hearing Rung's pitch last week, city commissioners promised to research the issue further. "I'm not ruling anything out, but I'm not making any promises, either," Mayor Jack Seiler said.

Genia Ellis, a longtime neighborhood activist and former president of the city's Council of Civic Associations, takes a similar stance. She said the city must be mindful of a more ecologically oriented populace and consider such ideas as pet chickens and community gardens.

"As the community changes and people's interests change, city ordinances need to keep pace," Ellis said.

Rung is not some Midwest farmer's daughter, but grew up in Broward County. She said her family's interest was piqued during a trip to Long Island where neighbors of some relatives had pet chickens.

Like others around the country championing urban chickens, Rung believes the eggs would be fresher and healthier to eat than their store-bought counterparts. She balks at arguments about noise and sanitation.

She said a couple of hens would be no more noisy nor create any more manure than a big dog. She had to educate city commissioners about the birds-and-the-bees when it comes to poultry. She noted a rooster is not necessary for a hen to lay an egg and thus city officials shouldn't be concerned about the loud crowing of a rooster.

"I would think most people would prefer to hear a few clucking hens than a jackhammer," Rung said.

One of the state's leading poultry experts -- Gary Butcher at the University of Florida -- said he is constantly fielding inquiries about whether cities should allow chickens as pets. He urges communities to keep an open mind to the idea.

Butcher, a professor of veterinary medicine, said pet chicken advocates are wrong in their belief that the eggs are more healthy, but he said cities should not blow concern about noise and waste out of proportion. He suggests allowing chickens with some restrictions -- such as no roosters and a limit on the number of hens based on the size of the property.

"We are so urbanized now and there is a desire by some people to get back to nature," Butcher said. "No one can give a really good, sound reason not to allow chickens if they are handled properly. You might as well not allow dogs and cats."

Cheep Chic

In suburban backyards across America, chickens are coming home to roost

by Joanne Kaufman

LIZABETH LAMPERT'S daughter, Siena, wanted a horse. "But that would have been expensive," says Lampert, the owner of a public-relations agency just outside San Francisco. Instead she went to a local hay-and-feed store and bought the 10-year-old pair of chickens. "Then Siena thought they were getting lonely, so we got three more." Lampert pays her daughter \$2 a day to feed them, herd them back into their coop every night, and collect their eggs, generally two or three a day.

"The eggs are amazing," Lampert says. "They taste rich and creamy. The yolk—it's very orange. Siena used to ask for cereal for breakfast. Now she wants a veggie omelet."

'My daughter used to ask for cereal for breakfast. Now she wants a veggie omelet.'

Lampert is among the thousands who have muddled the line of demarcation between urban and rural America over the last few years, who've brought the

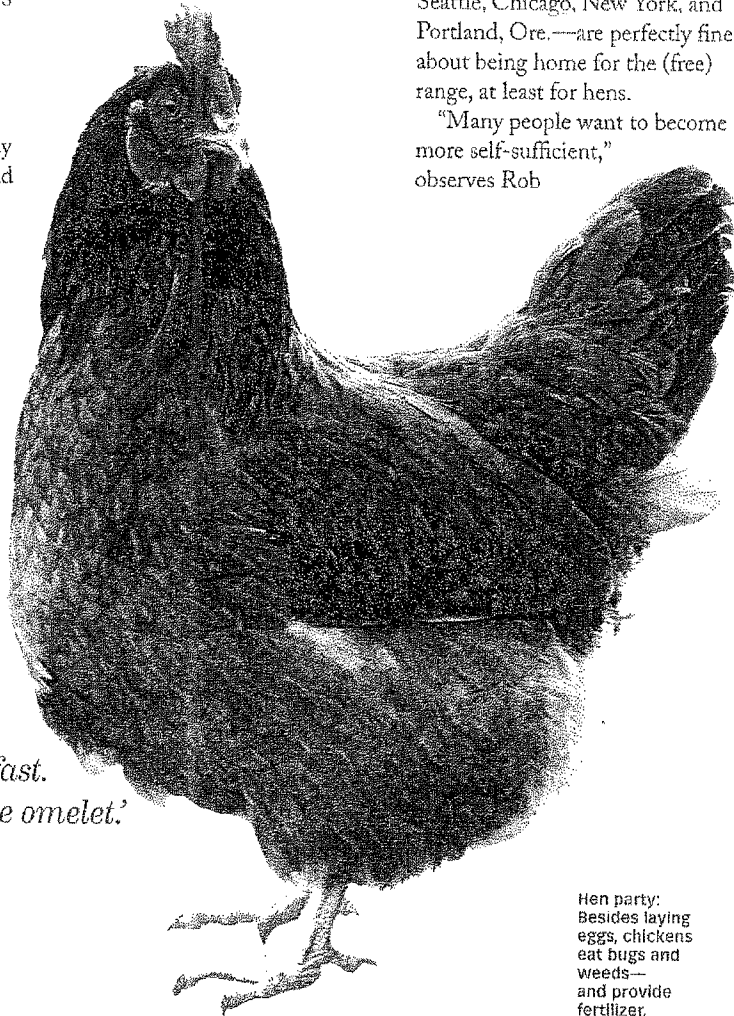
cluck, cluck here and the cluck, cluck there of Old MacDonald's farm to their urban and suburban backyards. Municipalities like Detroit, perhaps concerned about the possibility of noise, fowl odors, and abandoned chickens, prohibit them. Others, including Spokane, have significant restrictions on coop construction. But a long list of cities—including Seattle, Chicago, New York, and Portland, Ore.—are perfectly fine about being home for the (free) range, at least for hens.

"Many people want to become more self-sufficient," observes Rob

Ludlow, founder of the community website BackYardChickens.com. "Having a handful of egg-laying hens in a relatively small yard allows people to participate in the grow-local movement without having to move." Ludlow has no precise figures on the number of backyard-chicken owners in the U.S., but when he created his website three years ago it had only 50 members; now, he says, there are more than 70,000.

According to Ludlow, "There's a growing awareness of how fun and easy it is to raise backyard chickens, plus a growing realization that chickens are a multi-purpose pet. They eat the bugs and weeds in your yard, and they generate fantastic fertilizer." Of course, they also provide your breakfast. But generally not your dinner. "I would never eat one of my chickens," Lampert says.

Tonya Langford Moyle and her husband, Thatcher, of Portland, Ore., have half a dozen chickens, including a Rhode Island Red, a Dominique, and a Brahma, whose peak egg-laying capacity is six a day. "It makes us feel closer to the earth. And we thought it would be nice for our daughter," says Tonya, the vice president of a Web-design company, referring to 5-year-old Una. Thatcher, a financial planner, went so far as to buy some architectural plans off the Internet and build a contemporary-looking coop with a clear roof. And his is hardly the only high-style henhouse in town; Portland even holds an annual "Tour de Coops."



Hen party: Besides laying eggs, chickens eat bugs and weeds—and provide fertilizer.

For many backyard-chicken keepers, the desire to know where their food is coming from is a big motivator. Kate Sharp, a preschool teacher and mother of two, has three chickens in her Fanningdale, N.J., backyard. When she read about the recent salmonella outbreak, she didn't have one minute of concern. "I thought, Not our eggs."

Chickens also teach children a sense of responsibility and give them a delightful—if slightly unconventional—pet. "It's easy to anthropomorphize chickens because they have such different personalities," Tonya Moyle explains. "They're really great to watch because they move in a funny way."

The chickens' interactions are a source of endless entertainment for friends when Elizabeth Lampert has a party. "We'll hang out on the deck and watch them. They are way more fun than any animal I've ever had," she says. And gifts of fresh eggs have proven effective in swaying those who were, perhaps, a bit skeptical about the whole livestock-in-the-neighborhood thing.

"We've only had one comment, from the woman next door," recalls Linda Wrinn, a speech pathologist in Gloucester, Mass., whose brood includes four children and seven chickens. "She quipped, 'Now, you're not going to get a rooster, are you?'"



Visit us at PARADE.COM

Below is a list of *some* of the cities and towns throughout the US that allow chickens and their laws on keeping chickens

AR

Fayetteville, AR. Just passed a chicken ordinance in 2008. No more than four hens, no roosters, not closer than 25 feet to adjacent dwellings, 4 square feet per bird in a coop and 100 square feet of run required.

Little Rock, AR. The chickens must be at least 5 feet from the owner's residence and at least 25 feet away from any other residence. Their housing must have three square feet of floor space per chicken over 4 months of age. There appears to be a four-hen limit.

AZ

Gilbert, AZ. On each lot up to 12,000 square feet, any combination of up to 25 fowl and pet rodents are permitted.

CA

Albany, CA. Allows residents to keep up to 6 hens (no roosters) in their backyard with a permit.

American Canyon, CA. Must keep your chicken coop in the back yard, and 50 ft. away from other houses or dwellings where people reside.

Anaheim, CA. Can keep 3 chickens on a 5,000 sq.ft. lot, 6 chickens on a 10,000 sq.ft. lot.

Bakersfield, CA. Municipal code 6.08.010: Any chickens must be "kept securely enclosed in a yard or pen at all times."

Berkely, CA. Chickens must be kept penned and 30 ft. away from any bedrooms.

Campbell, CA. Not more than six animals in all, including hares, rabbits, guinea pigs, feline, bovine, sheep, goat, chickens, turkeys, geese, ducks, doves, pigeons, game birds, or other fowl or any combination thereof.

Davis, CA. A total of not more than six chicken hens and you have to keep them penned no less than 40 ft. from neighboring houses.

Downey, CA. Up to five chickens allowed per lot.

Irvine, CA. Two chickens max. allowed, kept in a sanitary, odor free enclosure. No roosters are allowed.

Lakewood, CA. It appears Lakewood says residents can have up to 5 female fowl.

Lafayette, CA. Residents can keep approximately 4 chickens.

Long Beach CA. The law is 1 chicken with a 20 feet setback restriction. Twenty chickens are allowed with a 50 feet setback restriction from single and two-family dwellings, and a 100 feet setback restriction from hotels or multiple (3+) family dwellings. This is virtually impossible in a city like Long Beach.

Los Angeles, CA. Number of chickens you can keep is unlimited. Chickens may not be within 20 feet of owner's residence, and must be at least 35 feet from any other dwelling.

Los Altos, CA. 1 hen per 1,000 square feet of lot space. No restrictions on coop location. No roosters.

Mountain View, CA. Up to 4 hens without a permit. Keep 25 ft. from residences. Within 25 ft. is o.k. with written consent from residences. No roosters.

Oakland, CA. Keep chicken enclosed, & 20 ft. from any dwelling, church or school.

Petaluma, CA. Up to twenty animals of mixed combination. Chickens must be kept five feet from a neighbor's fence or property line, and they must be kept 20 ft. from neighboring dwellings.

Poway, CA. If your property is at least a 6,000 sq.ft. lot, you can keep up to six hens. Must keep chickens 35 feet from neighbors. Don't have your chicken house in any of the set-backs.

Redwood City, CA. Maximum of 3 chickens permitted; roosters were recently outlawed.

Roseville, CA. Maximum 10 chickens kept 20 ft. from any property line &/or building. They don't delineate hens or roosters.

San Carlos, CA. Can keep a total number of four (4) poultry.

San Jose, CA. 1-4 chickens must be kept 15 feet from neighboring structures. 4-6 chickens must be kept 20 feet away. A permit is required if you keep more than 6 chickens. In any area zoned 'residential,' only hens are permitted; no roosters.

San Diego, CA. Currently undergoing debates in the city council, trying to get chickens to be legal in this city.

San Francisco, CA. Up to four chickens allowed. Up to four small animals total. Keep 20 feet from doors

or windows in a coop or enclosure of approved type.

San Mateo, CA. Keeping chickens requires a permit here. Up to 10 hens per household. Chickens must be kept in an appropriate pen/coop.

Temple City, CA. Basically it allows two hens per property, but no roosters.

Vallejo, CA. You are allowed to keep up to 25 chickens if they are kept 15 ft. from neighboring dwellings. Roosters are allowed but subject to noise nuisance violations.

CO

Arvada, CO. No person or household shall own or have custody of more than two female chickens or turkeys.

Colorado Springs, CO. A property may have a maximum of 10 fowl (chickens, ducks, etc.) requiring at least four square feet of coop area and adequate outdoor space. No roosters permitted within the city limits.

D.C.

Washington D.C. Section 902 of the Animal Control Code requires hens to be 50 ft. from any residence. Citizens are currently working to eliminate the 50 ft. rule, and to modify the requirement that you have to get written consent from all your neighbors before you keep chickens. Currently, chickens are neither legal nor expressly illegal in D.C.

FL

Levy County, FL. 10 is the max. number poultry and fowl it appears you can keep in this city.

GA

Atlanta, GA. Chickens are allowed here.

IA

Des Moines, IA. Lots smaller than 1 acre, up to 30 birds; lots 1 acre or larger, up to 50 birds. Not allowed in the front yard, and must be at least 25' from neighbors.

Sioux City, IA. Permit required. No roosters over 4 months old. No more than 50 birds total. Must be at least 25' from the home and at least 150' from neighboring homes.

Windsor Heights, IA. No more than 2 chickens allowed; must be kept in a coop at all times. Must be at least 25' from neighboring residences, and may not be in front yard.

ID

Nampa, ID. Keep 50 ft. from neighbors. Pay \$50 for a permit. Only 3 chickens allowed and no roosters.

Boise, ID. Up to three "pet" hens allowed. No roosters.

IL

Chicago, IL. Can have unlimited number of chickens if use is only for pets or eggs; cannot have if use is to slaughter. Must be penned.

IN

Evansville, IN. No more than 6 chickens allowed, coop must be at least 50 feet from any neighbor dwelling, and you have to pay a \$5 license per premise annually.

KS

Lawrence, KS. Put a law on the books April 2, 2009 that says a homeowner can have up to 20 chickens, no roosters.

Topeka, KS. Unlimited chickens allowed. Chickens must be penned 50 feet from any neighbor's house.

Wichita, KS. Will allow up to 5 chickens (no roosters or guineas) without any fees.

KY

Louisville, KY. If your lot is less than a half of an acre, then you can only have five hens, or "non-crowing" poultry. I.e., if you have non-crowing poultry, you can have up to five birds. Must be penned

and not allowed to roam on the owner's land. You can have up to 1 crowing and 5 non-crowing poultry on less than a half-acre tract, but must have at least a half-acre to have more than that.

LA

Baton Rouge, LA. The keeping of more than three chickens within a recognized residential subdivision on a lot of less than one acre is prohibited. If you live on less than one acre, your max. number of hens allowed is three.

New Orleans, LA. Sale or donation of chicks younger than 4 weeks of age is prohibited except in quantities of 12 to an individual. Giving fowl away as prize or advertising device is also prohibited. Chickens are to be treated humanely and kept in clean, sturdy housing.

MA

Belmont, MA. Allows up to 5 hens in an inspected coop. Contact the animal control division or public health department and they will inspect the coop for adequate size and placement.

Brockton, MA. Hens are allowed, but roosters are not.

Cambridge, MA. Nowhere are chickens mentioned in the city codes. The city itself comments that as long as the chickens are "pets", there is nothing to enforce or not enforce.

Northampton, MA. A maximum of three hens allowed; no roosters.

Wenham, MA. Poultry allowed, but the town may restrict your operation if it causes a public nuisance (noise) or public health issues (disease).

Westwood, MA. Up to 10 fowl allowed on lots less than 40,000 sq. feet. Coop must be 15 feet from property lines. Permit application must include site plan. \$10 annual permit fee and BOH inspection prior to issuance of the permit. Cockerels must be kept 1,000 feet from property lines.

MD

Baltimore City, MD. Up to four chickens can be kept (no roosters) as long as they are confined to a moveable pen that is kept 25 feet away from all residences.

Baltimore City, MD. You can have up to four hens, no roosters, must have a permit

ME

Camden, ME. As of July 2009, this town now allows up to 9 hens or other small animals like rabbits even if your lot is smaller than 2.5 acres.

Falmouth, ME. An unspecified number of hens are allowed.

Portland, ME. Chickens not legal, but currently voting to hopefully pass an ordinance allowing 6 hens.

South Portland, ME. Voted in 2007 to allow 6 hens per household, with restrictions (see full ordinance at www.SoPoChickens.org)

MI

Ann Arbor, MI. An ordinance was approved on June 2, 2008. Up to 4 hens are now allowed, and you must pay \$20 for a permit.

Benton Harbor, MI. No person shall keep or maintain more than five animals or fowls or a combination of more than five animals and fowls.

East Lansing, MI. Recently approved the keeping of city chickens. A permit may be required.

Traverse City, MI. Chickens are now legal in Traverse City.

MN

Minneapolis, MN. Unlimited. Applicant needs consent from 80 percent of neighbors within 100 feet of real estate. Chickens must be penned.

Rosemount, MN. You can have up to 3 hens, no roosters. You must get written permission from all the neighbors whose yards border yours. You must keep them in a coop between 12 and 24 inches above ground and the legs of the coop must be sunk in cement footers. And there is a \$25 annual fee to keep chickens.

St. Paul, MN. Can have one chicken without a permit, but more than one you have to get permission from 75% of neighbors 150 ft. around, or proof you have no neighbors for 150 feet. No roosters, and no selling eggs without a permit.

MT

Missoula, MT. Now allows urban chickens with a \$15 a year permit.

MO

Kirkville, MO. Maximum of five hens are allowed. Must be kept in sanitary conditions, and may not present a public nuisance. Cockfighting is prohibited.
St. Louis, MO. You can keep up to four chickens without a permit. If you want to keep more, you must file a permit (cost is \$40) with the Health Commissioner.

NC

Chapel Hill, NC. 20 chickens allowed.
Durham, NC. Up to 10 female chickens allowed in city backyards. Birds can be no closer than 15 ft. from your property line and you must get permits which regulate your coop location and construction.
Raleigh, NC. No limit on number of chickens kept.

NE

Lincoln, NE. Can have two chickens without a permit.
Omaha, NE. May have chickens in city limits as long as they are hens, no roosters, for egg production. Must have enclosure, subject to The Humane Society inspection, to apply for permit.

NM

Albuquerque, NM. Zoning allows the raising of unlimited poultry if penned at least 20 feet from neighboring dwellings.
Santa Fe, NM. Unlimited chickens allowed.

NV

Las Vegas, NV. Roosters not allowed. Hens allowed if kept in a coop, but must notify Animal Control first. Chickens can't be kept in a basement, house or cellar.

NY

Binghamton, NY. In the city, you can not have more than 4 chickens OR rabbits. And can only keep them as long as the noise/smell doesn't bother your neighbors.
Huntington, NY. Residents are now allowed (as of July 2009) to keep up to 8 hens but no roosters. Per Chapter 78 article 3 of the town code.
New Hempstead, NY. The maintenance of 4 or fewer fowl (chickens, ducks, etc.) is permitted. No roosters. All fowl shall be kept in an enclosure area at least 75 feet from any lot line.
New York City, NY. Chickens are considered pets under the Health Code. Unlimited number of hens allowed; no roosters or other types of poultry. Code mentions cleanliness of chicken area must be kept clean.
Smithtown, NY. The only animal ordinance they appear to have is for horses. No rules on chickens, other than the eggs cannot be sold.

OH

Toledo, OH. Chickens are permitted with a written variance from the city health inspector.

OK

Tulsa, OK. Chickens must be in pens or buildings located at least 50 feet from your property line. Do not exceed 6 adult birds and 14 chicks. You have to put screens on your coop so as to discourage flies.

OR

Albany, OR. Not more than two chickens on any lot less than 7,000 square feet in area. Keep chickens 10 feet from adjoining property lines and 20 feet from any public right-of-way.
Coos Bay, OR. Chickens appear to be allowed; you have to purchase a one year permit and renew it every year, though.
Corvallis, OR. Unlimited chickens allowed. No roosters. Chickens must be penned.

Eugene, OR. A maximum of 2 hens, no roosters, kept 20 feet from dwellings.

Lake Oswego, OR. The town Clerk here says there is no limit on the number of chickens. Roosters are not prohibited, but if they crow they might be out of compliance with the noise ordinance.

Milwaukie, OR. Up to 50 chickens, including roosters, except if neighbors complain, then noise violations will apply.

Oregon City, OR. You may keep 5 or fewer hens on a lot of 10,000 square feet if the chicken's housing is kept 40 feet from the front property line, 20 feet from all other property lines, and 25 feet from the dwelling. Roosters prohibited.

Portland, OR. Three hens allowed without a permit. No roosters. Permit for more costs \$31. Keep 25ft. from residences.

Stayton, OR. Unlimited chickens allowed for personal use only, not commercial selling of eggs. No laws concerning roosters, but if neighbors complain, the City will ask you to get rid of them. Chickens must be kept 10 feet from property lines.

PA

Catawissa, PA. Chickens must be confined, no closer than 10 feet from neighboring properties, kept clean with no odors emanating across property lines.

Pittsburgh, PA. "Fowl at large" are not permitted in unenclosed areas, other peoples' property, or public lands. Also, "no more than 5 pets per household" city limit and animal nuisance prohibitions as well.

Shaler, PA. You can't keep game cocks. It appears keeping hens is allowed.

SC

Aiken, SC. Chickens must be penned, and the pen kept 40 ft. from neighboring residences.

TN

Nashville, TN. Has an unlimited chicken law assuming "No person shall keep chickens within the metropolitan government area in such a manner that a nuisance is created" and are kept penned, no "fowl at large."

TX

Austin, TX. Up to 10 fowl per household, but keep in enclosure that's 50 ft. away from neighbors. Other sources say there is currently no limit on the number of chickens you can keep here. The city is considering banning roosters.

Garland, TX. Limit 2 hens.

Laredo, TX. If you keep 6 or fewer chickens, set-backs are not restricted. If you keep more than 6 chickens, you must keep the pen 100 ft. from any occupied building, besides your own.

Murphy, TX. Limit 2 hens.

Richardson, TX. Chickens are allowed, barring offensive noises or smells.

Round Rock, TX. Up to 5 fowl if your chicken pen is 25 ft. away from neighbor's residences. If the pen is 50 ft. away, you can have 10 fowl.

San Antonio, TX. Up to 5 of any kind of fowl, any gender, per household. Must keep in a pen, 20 feet from any other dwelling.

UT

Brigham City, UT. Definition of domesticated animal includes 'fowls' Section 4:01.16 defines that the pets can be kept in humane enclosure not larger than 50 cubic feet. It also states that 'household pets' will be no more than 6 birds.

VT

Burlington, VT. Up to 3 fowl per household.

WA

Battle Ground, WA. No restrictions on poultry or game birds, and roosters are allowed.

Bothell, WA. You may own 3 or less fowl. Must keep coop 20 ft. from your own property line. If your neighbors say it's okay, you may place chickens closer to your shared property line.

Camas, WA. The city code doesn't appear to explicitly outlaw chickens, but it just says you can't keep

any animal that becomes a "public nuisance." And nuisance is defined there as "...annoying noise or odor, causing detriment to the health, safety and welfare of neighboring persons and properties... kept in such manner as to be nauseous, foul or offensive."

Everett, WA. No roosters. Five hens allowed without a permit. If you want more than five, you must get a facility license permit from Animal Services. This requires inspection of your facilities/property. Chickens must be kept enclosed.

Lynnwood, WA. An accessory building for the housing of small animals or fowl shall not exceed 36 square feet in floor area when located on a residential lot and neither the building nor the fenced area for roaming shall be closer than 25 feet to a property line.

Olympia, WA. Up to 3 birds, hens are considered, roosters prohibited.

Seattle, WA. Can have a total of three small animals; more if the lot is large. Municipal Code 23.44.048 says up to 3 domestic fowl may be kept on any lot.

Spokane, WA. Up to three chickens allowed.. Can have up to three animals total.

Tacoma, WA. Livestock allowed in the city

Vancouver, WA. Chickens are allowed, however roosters and peacocks are not.

WI

Madison, WI. Up to four chickens per household. Not allowed to roam free. Keep pen 25 ft. from neighbors. \$10 annual permit required. Hens only; no roosters allowed.

Shorewood Hills, WI. It is said that the village Clerk keeps six hens. Noise and smell are regulated, but not the number of chickens.

WY

Laramie, Wyoming. Hen chickens allowed in city for education and personal consumption. 20' from neighboring residences.