



CITY OF FORSYTH

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RULES FOR KEEPING RESIDENTIAL CHICKENS WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS

Definitions. The following terms, when used in the Forsyth Code of Ordinance as applied to the keeping of fowl within the City Forsyth shall have the meaning set forth below:

Chicken. A domestic chicken of the subspecies *Gallus gallus domesticus*.

Keep. To own, possess, or harbor a chicken.

Rooster. A male chicken of any age, including a capon or otherwise neutered male chicken.

Coop. A new or existing enclosed accessory structure designed or modified for the keeping of chickens and meeting the requirements and conditions of this section.

Chicken run. A fenced cage attached to a coop which shall not exceed 100 square feet in area or 1 percent of the rear yard area, whichever is greater.

Rear yard area. The area extending across the full width of a lot between the rear property line and the rear line of the residence, excluding any existing corner side yard(s).

Number, type, and location of chickens.

(a) Any person may keep up to five female chickens on any residential zoning lot in the city which contains one single-family residential dwelling unit. No person shall otherwise keep any chickens within the City of Forsyth.

(b) No roosters shall be allowed to be kept in the city.

(c) Chickens may only be kept in a coop and chicken run located in the rear yard area as defined in this section. The chicken coop and chicken run shall not be located in the front interior side or corner side yard of the residential zoning lot. Between sunrise and sunset chickens may be allowed outside of the coop within the run. Chickens must be secured within the coop between sunset and sunrise.

Slaughtering of chickens. No person shall slaughter any chicken within the City of Forsyth.

Applicability. Fowl may be kept on all city lots within the City of Forsyth that comply with all provisions of this article. However, owners of single-family residential parcels of four acres or more in size in a single parcel shall be exempt from the application process and restrictive provisions of this section. Nothing in this provision shall create an exemption from other sections of the Forsyth Code of Ordinances, including but not limited to, nuisances and the humane treatment or slaughtering of animals.

Construction and maintenance of coop and run.

(a) A coop shall be constructed from conventional building materials in a workmanlike manner or be a pre-manufactured enclosed structure designed specifically for the keeping of urban chickens. Such coop must be secure and impermeable to rodents, wild birds and predators, including dogs and cats. A coop must be constructed or modified in a manner to provide a humane environment for the chickens, including adequate ventilation, adequate sunlight, and protection from adverse weather. A newly built or installed coop shall provide not less than two square feet per chicken but shall not exceed 25 square feet in size.

(b) A coop shall have a chicken run attached and contiguous to the coop with the run constructed in a manner to confine the chickens in compliance with the provisions of this article. A chicken run shall provide not less than five square feet per chicken but shall not exceed 100 square feet in area or 1 percent of the rear yard area, whichever is greater.

(c) Chicken coops and chicken runs must be kept clean, dry, odor free, and in a sanitary condition at all times. The condition of chicken coops and chicken runs shall be maintained in such a manner that does not disturb the use or enjoyment of adjoining properties due to noise, odor, or any other adverse impact.

Location of coop and run. A coop must be located no closer than 10 feet to the rear wall of the residential dwelling unit located on the residential zoning lot. No portion of the coop or run shall be located within 10 feet of any lot line of the property upon which the coop and run are located. No portion of the coop or run shall be located within 20 feet of any principal structure located upon any adjacent property.

Annual residential chicken permit required. No person shall keep any chickens, nor construct any coop or run, as defined by this section without first obtaining an annual residential chicken permit hereunder. One permit shall allow a person to keep up to five chickens per residence.

(a) *Fee.* An application fee of \$50.00 shall be paid to the city at the time the application is filed.

(b) *Application.* The application for the initial annual residential chicken permit shall be made on ANIMALS AND FOWL 12 forms required by the City Clerk's office and must contain an accurately scaled drawing showing the location of the proposed coop and run, distances to plot lines and distances to the nearest adjoining principal structure, together with dimensions of the coop and run. Once the coop and run have been constructed, the Code Enforcement Officer shall inspect the coop and run to verify compliance with this section and with the drawings submitted with the initial application. The applicant shall furnish the Code Enforcement Officers pictures of the completed coop and run. The Code Enforcement Officer must issue a final, written approval of the completed coop and run and submit pictures of the same to the City Clerk's office before chickens are allowed on the applicant's property. Chicken runs shall be exempt from any provisions of the Forsyth Code of Ordinances related to fencing. However, all chicken runs shall be constructed of wire normally used for the containment of chickens.

(c) *Property ownership.* If the applicant is not the owner of the parcel in question, the property owner must sign the application certifying approval for the use of the premises for this purpose. The property owner's signature must be notarized.

(d) *Application approved annually.* The permit shall be obtained each year during the month of June; provided, however, that any person keeping, harboring or maintaining chickens in the city for the first time after July 1 or any year shall obtain a license within seven calendar days of such time. Applications that show no changes from the initial approval and have no history of violations of this article shall be approved for the new calendar year. Any changes to the chicken coop and run shall be shown on the renewal application and shall be subject to inspection prior to approval of the renewal application. Any convictions of a violation of this section may result in revocation of a current approved application or non-renewal of a subsequent application. The annual renewal fee shall be \$50.00.

Miscellaneous.

(a) All food supplies maintained for the coop shall be kept in a secure and rodent-proof container.

(b) Should any person feed chickens kept under this section with food meant for human consumption or scraps of such food, it shall only be fed within the coop and shall be prohibited within the chicken run.

(c) All waste generated by the operation of the coop and chicken run, including but not limited to, chicken carcasses, manure, droppings and spoiled feed, shall be disposed of pursuant to the requirements of this Code of Ordinances related to solid waste disposal.

Penalty.

(a) Upon conviction for any violation of this article, any person shall be punished by a fine or imprisonment in accordance with Section 4.13 of the City Charter.

(b) Any person convicted of any violation hereunder on more than two occasions relating to incidents occurring within a 365-day time period shall be ineligible to receive a renewal permit for a period of one year after the date of the last such conviction. In addition, no person may apply for a permit under this article on the zoning lot subject to such prior permit during the period of renewal ineligibility. In the event of ineligibility, the person convicted shall immediately surrender all chickens on the zoning lot to the City of Forsyth for re-homing.