



# BACKYARD CHICKEN GUIDE

If you wish to keep chickens on your property certain requirements must be met:

## General Standards

- Minimum lot size is **two (2) acres**.
- A maximum of 4 chickens on lots between 2 and 3 acres. A maximum of 6 chickens on lots greater than 3 acres.
- A chicken coop is required and **needs approval of a CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT**.
- The raising of chickens is only for private, non-commercial and non-breeding use.
- Chickens must be secured within a chicken coop to prevent their escape and may only be allowed to roam free while under direct supervision.
- Roosters are strictly prohibited

Maintenance: The keeping of chickens is a responsibility and efforts should be made at all times to ensure the health and safety of the chickens, while also preventing a nuisance. The following standards should be followed:

- Any manure or other waste from the chicken hens shall be collected and properly removed from the subject property or tilled into the soil on the subject property promptly and regularly to alleviate offensive smells and prevent the spread of diseases.
- The property owner, tenant or custodian shall promptly comply with orders of the City and/or St. Louis County Department of Health in respect to any unsanitary condition found to exist.
- The presence of numerous flies or the presence of fly larvae in the vicinity of any chicken coop shall be evidence of a lack of sanitary maintenance and shall constitute a public nuisance.
- Any obnoxious odor or allergen arising from any condition existing with the chicken coop shall be evidence of a lack of sanitary maintenance and shall constitute a public nuisance.
- Deceased chicken hens shall be disposed of either through burial or incineration in accordance with federal, state and county regulations.
- All chicken coops, refuse containers and feed containers intended for the use of chicken hens shall be constructed, maintained and kept in such a manner as to be completely rodent-proof.
- Chicken coops shall be kept in good repair and free of peeling paint, untreated or rotted wood and rust.
- The floors of every chicken coop shall be smooth and tight, a minimum of 1 foot off the ground and maintained so as to prevent accumulation of filth or water or harboring of vermin there under.

## Chicken Coops

- Process: Submit a Conditional Use Permit application. The permit application fee is \$500. It requires a minimum of three (3) meetings; 1 Planning and Zoning Commission meeting (recommendation) and two (2) Board of Aldermen meetings (approval). This process typically takes 60-90 days. **Please contact 314 587-2827 if you need further information or wish to submit a conditional use permit application.**

- **Requirements:** Chicken Coops shall meet the following basic requirements.
  - Located on a minimum two (2) acre lot
  - Located to the **rear** of the primary structure
  - Located no closer than ten (10) feet to the primary structure
  - Located a minimum of sixty (60) feet from side and rear property lines
  - Screened from view of neighbors by landscaping
  - Five (5) square feet per hen, maximum of forty-five (45) square feet in area
  - Maximum height of eight (8) feet
  - Minimum floor height of one (1) foot

