

Urban Chicken Ordinance

1101.07. Urban Chickens. It is recognized that the ability to cultivate one's own food is a sustainable activity that can also be a rewarding pastime. Therefore, it is the purpose and intent of this ordinance to permit the keeping and maintenance of chicken hens for residential egg production. The chicken **MUST** be kept in a clean and sanitary manner that is not a nuisance to or detrimental to the public health, safety and welfare of the community. The keeping of other poultry is prohibited.

Subd. 1. Investigation & Enforcement. Officers designated by the City Council shall have authority in the investigation and enforcement of this ordinance and no person shall interfere with, hinder or resist any such officer in the exercise of such powers. The officer shall make investigations as necessary and may grant, deny or refuse to renew any application for license or terminate an existing license under this article.

Subd. 2. License Required. A license is required for any person seeking to keep Urban Chickens in the city of Askov as allowed by this Ordinance. An applicant must complete an application form provided by the city. Any amendment to an existing license shall constitute a new application fee. The application shall include, but is not limited to, the following information:

- a) Written, dated and signed consents from 100% of the owners and occupants of all properties within 100 feet of the applicant's property. Such consents may also be required upon any request for renewal of the license.
- b) A scaled drawing (Site Plan) showing the location, size and dimensions of all structures (coops, runs, etc.) and containment area for the urban chicken(s), including the distance of all structures and containment areas from the adjoining structures and neighboring property lines.
- c) The number of chickens to be kept on site. (Six maximum)
- d) Detailed feces and waste management plan.
- e) An agreement by the applicant that the premises may be inspected by the city at any reasonable time to ensure compliance with all applicant conditions.

Subd. 3. Duration of License and Fee.

- a) Each license issued under this ordinance shall expire on December 31 in the year of issuance unless sooner revoked. A license shall be renewed annually to continue the limited keeping of urban chickens.
- b) The annual fee for a license shall be in such amount as set forth in the City Master Fee Schedule which shall be paid at the time of the making of the application.

Subd. 4. License Subject to Terms and Conditions of the Ordinance.

- a) A license is subject to all terms and conditions of this Ordinance and any additional conditions deemed necessary by the City to protect health, safety and welfare.
- b) The City may revoke a license for failure to comply with the provisions of the Ordinance or any of the license's conditions. Prior to revoking the license, the City shall provide the owner with written notice of such violation and provide the owner with 48 hrs. to become compliant with this ordinance.

Subd. 5. Conditions of License for Urban Chickens

- a) No person may keep a rooster or crowing hen.
- b) No person may keep more than six (6) laying hens at one time.
- c) The sale of eggs or chicks is strictly prohibited.
- d) Chicken fighting is prohibited.
- e) The slaughtering of chickens inside the city limits is prohibited.
- f) The raising of chickens for breeding purposes is prohibited.
- g) No person may allow chickens to roam freely.
- h) No person may keep chickens inside a house or attached garage.
- i) Chickens must be provided a secure and well-ventilated roofed structure (“Chicken Coop”).
- j) The roofed structure must be built in such a manner that it is not considered a nuisance to the neighboring properties.
- k) The roofed structure must be built tall enough to ensure proper cleaning of the structure.
- l) The roofed structure must have a minimum of five (5) square feet per bird, including an outdoor fenced run.
- m) The roofed structure must be located in the rear yard.
- n) The roofed structure must be fully enclosed, wind- and weatherproof, and have sufficient windows for natural light.
- o) The roofed structure must have a heat source for the winter months.
- p) The roofed structure must be constructed with materials that will prevent rodent and predator access.
- q) All grain and food for the use of the chickens on premises with permit shall be kept in rodent-proof containers.
- r) Dead chickens must be disposed of within 24 hours of death. Methods of disposal include offsite burial, offsite incineration or offsite composting.
- s) All premises on which the chickens are kept or maintained shall be kept clean from filth, garbage and any substances which will attract rodents. The roofed structure must be cleaned frequently enough to control odor. Manure shall not be allowed to accumulate in a way that causes an unsanitary condition or cause odors detectible on another property.

Subd. 6. Penalty for Non-Compliance. Failure to comply with these conditions may result in the removal of all chickens from the premises to include the revocation of the license.

- a) Any person whose license is revoked shall, within ten (10) days thereafter, humanly dispose of all chickens being owned, kept or harbored by such person.

Any person violating any conditions of this permit shall reimburse the city for all costs borne by the city to enforce the conditions of the license