

The Darien City Council approved a Chicken Ordinance on October 5, 2020

TITLE 7: HEALTH AND SANITATION

Chapter 5: ANIMALS

7-5-1 Chickens

1. DEFINITIONS;

CHICKEN(S): the common domestic fowl (*Gallus gallus domesticus*) especially when young.

COOP: Shall mean and include a coop, building, pen or other enclosure, with or without an enclosed pen or hen yard that is designed, constructed and maintained to confine fowl within the coop and to prevent access by predators and trespassers.

FOWL: Any domesticated egg laying chicken hen and shall exclude all roosters and chicken hens that have ceased laying eggs.

HEN: a female chicken.

POULTRY: domestic fowl, such as chickens, turkeys, ducks, and geese.

ROOSTER: a male chicken.

2. REQUIREMENTS; PEMITS, FEES & PENALTIES

- a. The raising/keeping of hens shall be permitted on all single-family detached single family residential zoning lots containing a minimum of six thousand (6,000) square feet as an accessory use.
- b. A maximum of six (6) hens shall be permitted.
- c. All hens shall be kept within a coop consisting of a covered enclosure/structure with an attached covered/enclosed outdoor area to prevent hens from encroaching onto neighboring properties.
- d. An outdoor area a minimum of ten (10) square feet per hen will be required and a maximum of one hundred fifty (150) total square feet will be permitted for both the covered enclosure / structure and outdoor area. The total height of a coop may not exceed seven (7) feet.
- e. All enclosures/structures shall be located a minimum of twenty feet (20) from all lot lines.
- f. All hens and enclosures/structures shall be kept/located in the rear yard only.
- g. All areas where hens are kept shall be clean and well maintained on a daily basis, with little to no accumulation of waste. In addition, all areas where hens are kept shall not produce or cause odors that are detectable on adjacent

properties. All feed shall be kept in a sealed metal container. All electrical appurtenances shall be UL Listed and clearly labeled.

- h. Perimeter fencing six foot high, privacy/solid fencing shall be required around the entire rear yard.
- i. Humane conditions are to be maintained year round.
- j. Roosters are prohibited.
- k. Slaughtering is prohibited.
- l. No other poultry, including but not limited to geese, ducks and turkeys shall be kept on the property.
- m. An initial hen permit shall be required for approval of hens, coops, and required fencing. Permit application shall be authorized by owner of property. Permit authorizes City staff to inspect property for compliance when deemed necessary. Permit approval is required prior to obtaining hens. The perimeter fence required by subsection (h) shall be installed prior to construction of the coop.
- n. A hen permit issued by the City with a one-time fee of twenty five dollars (\$25.00) shall be required. A renewal permit/registration shall be required each year thereafter, with an additional fee of \$10.00.
- o. A hen permit issued under this article shall be revoked upon the commission of three (3) violations within a period of twelve (12) months. If the permit is revoked, the property shall not be eligible for a permit for one year after revocation. Any enclosure / structure shall be required to be removed within 15 days of revocation.
- p. Sales of egg(s) or hen(s) or anything related to chicken keeping is not allowed.
- q. On or prior to May 1, 2021 all nonconforming properties must be brought into conformance with the keeping of hens regulations of this article. On or prior to March 1, 2021 residents with chickens and no existing privacy fence, will be required to show proof of contract for privacy fence. This period is for all purposes deemed an appropriate amortization period for each and every nonconforming property presently located within the corporate limits of the City or hereinafter located within the City by reason of annexation into the City of the lot or parcel on which the uses are located.