

Backyard Chicken User Guide

The trend of keeping backyard chickens has been on the rise over the past number of years. Whether the interest is for sustainability, comfort, food independence or other reasons, the Town supports this initiative. The following serves as a user guide to answer the more common questions about keeping chickens.

How many chickens can I have?

- ▶ A maximum of five (5) female chickens (hens) are allowed on residential lots within the corporate limits.
- ▶ A maximum of ten (10) female chickens (hens) are allowed on residential lots within the extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ).
- ▶ If applicable, check HOA covenants for additional regulations on keeping chickens.
- ▶ **ROOSTERS ARE PROHIBITED.**

Can my chickens be free range?

- ▶ No - CHICKENS ARE NOT PERMITTED TO RUN FREE AT ANY TIME and must be confined to the chicken coop and pen.

Do I need a permit?

- ▶ A chicken coop & pen permit is required and can be obtained through the Town's Planning Department.
- ▶ The application is available online on the Planning Department's website.
- ▶ Include a plot plan showing the location and dimensions of the coop and pen, showing dimensions from all property lines.
- ▶ There is a \$25 fee for the permit due when the application is approved.

Do I have to use a coop?

- ▶ A coop is required and must be designed to secure the chickens during non-daylight hours.
- ▶ The coop must provide proper ventilation, suitable shelter, protection from weather and security from rodents and wild birds.
- ▶ Inside corporate limits, the chicken coop shall measure no larger than 12 feet by 12 feet.
- ▶ There is no minimum or maximum size restriction for chicken coops in the ETJ.

Do I have to use a pen?

- ▶ A pen is required and must be designed to secure the chickens during daylight hours.
- ▶ The coop shall be located within or be attached to the pen.
- ▶ All four sides of the pen should be fenced with gauged wire at least 6 feet high and have a self-latching gate.

Where can I put the coop and pen?

- ▶ The coop and pen shall be located in the rear yard at least 15 feet away from side and rear property lines.
- ▶ The coop and pen shall be closer to the owner's house than any adjacent homes and may not be in the house or garage.
- ▶ The coop and pen may not be within any type of buffer or easement.

Can I sell the eggs or chickens?

- ▶ Chickens are for personal use only. No eggs, chicks, adult chickens, or processed chickens shall be sold.

For more information, contact the Planning Department at (919) 552-1429 or planning@fuquay-varina.org

This document is not intended to supersede the Land Development Ordinance (LDO). For a full list of Town ordinances related to the keeping of chickens on residential lots, please refer to §9-1255, b. Agricultural and Animal Related Uses, (2) Accessory Use Residential - Chickens of the Town's LDO.