

## **DOMESTICATED CHICKENS**

### **ZONING CODE: 153.092 (PP)**

The keeping of domesticated chickens, allowed on single-family residentially-zoned properties less than five (5) acres in size, requires an approved Certificate of Compliance. Residents who plan to keep chickens must submit a Certificate of Compliance application, the \$50 application fee, and a site plan showing the location of the chicken coop on the property.

The keeping of domesticated chickens is permitted on single-family residential properties less than 5 acres and within all residential zoning districts subject to the following requirements:

- (1) Any person wishing to keep chickens in the city on a property shall first obtain a certificate of compliance from the city;
- (2) The principal use of the property shall be single-family residential;
- (3) The property shall contain 1 detached single-family structure. Chickens shall not be permitted on vacant properties or those containing multi-family residential buildings including duplexes, townhomes and apartments;
- (4) No more than 5 hen chickens shall be permitted;
- (5) No person shall keep a rooster;
- (6) All chickens shall be of the subspecies *Gallus gallus domesticus* and tolerant of local climate conditions;
- (7) Chickens shall not be kept inside the principal structure;
- (8) No person shall slaughter chickens on-site except when in an area of the property not visible to the public;
- (9) Chicken coops and attached exercise pens shall be provided for all chickens;
- (10) Coops and pens shall be fully enclosed including overhead and constructed of durable materials;
- (11) The floor area of the coop shall be a minimum of 2 square feet in area per chicken;
- (12) The floor area of the attached pen shall be a minimum of 6 square feet in area per chicken;
- (13) Coops and pens shall meet all accessory structure setback requirements;
- (14) Coops and pens shall be located in rear yards only;
- (15) Coops larger than 120 square feet in area shall meet all accessory structure requirements of the City Code including those pertaining to location, size, number, height, use and design;
- (16) Chickens shall be kept in coops and/or pens at all times unless in fully fenced-in back yards while under supervision;
- (17) All food stored for chickens shall be kept in rodent proof containers stored inside coops or other buildings;
- (18) All premises in which chickens are kept or maintained, including coops and pens, shall be kept reasonably clean from filth, garbage and any substances which attract rodents. All feces shall be collected and properly disposed of on a regular basis;
- (19) Chickens shall not be kept in such a manner as to constitute a public nuisance as defined by the City Code of Forest Lake;
- (20) The city may enter and inspect any property, including the coop and back yard, at any reasonable time for the purpose of investigating either an actual or suspected violation or to ascertain compliance or noncompliance with the certificate of compliance and the City Code.

Please contact the Community Development Department by calling 651-209-9731 to inquire about the keeping of chickens in Agriculture and Rural Residential Zoning Districts.