

## TITLE IV MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH

### CHAPTER 2 URBAN CHICKENS

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**4-2-1 PURPOSE.** The purpose of this chapter is to permit urban chickens in the City of Coggon.

**4-2-2 DEFINITIONS.** For use in this Chapter the following defined terms shall apply:

1. Chicken – shall mean a member of the subspecies *Gallus domesticus*, a domesticated fowl.
2. Urban Chicken – shall mean a chicken kept on a permitted tract of land pursuant to a permit issued under this Chapter.
3. Permitted Tract of Land – shall mean the tract of land as identified by the application upon which a permit is granted for keeping chickens pursuant to this Chapter.
4. Permittee – shall mean an applicant who has been granted a permit to raise, harbor or keep chickens pursuant to this Chapter.

#### **4-2-3 PERMIT REQUIRED**

1. Permit Required. No person shall raise, harbor or keep chickens within the City of Coggon without a valid permit obtained from the City Council under the provisions of this Chapter.
2. Application. In order to obtain a permit, an applicant must submit a completed application on forms provided by the City Clerk and payment of all fees required by this Chapter.
3. Requirements. The requirements to the receipt of a permit include:
  - a. All requirements of this Chapter are met;
  - b. All fees, as may be provided for from time to time by City Council resolution, for the permit are paid in full;
  - c. All judgments in the City's favor and against the applicant have been paid in full;
  - d. If the applicant is a renter, he/she must obtain written permission from landlord/property owner prior to any permit being issued.

#### **4-2-4 ISSUANCE OF PERMIT**

1. Issuance of Permit If the City Council concludes as a result of the information contained in the application that the requirements for a permit have been met the City Clerk shall issue the permit.
2. Renewal of Permit. A Permittee shall apply to renew his permit every twelve (12) months.
3. Denial, suspension, revocation non-renewal. The City Clerk, may deny, suspend, revoke, or decline to renew any permit issued for any of the following grounds:
  - a. False statements on any application or other information or report required by this section to be given by the applicants;
  - b. Failure to pay any application, penalty, re-inspection or reinstatement fee required by this section or city council resolution;
  - c. Failure to correct deficiencies noted in abatement notices in the time specified in the notice;
  - d. Failure to comply with the provisions of an approved mitigation/remediation plan by the City County;
  - e. Failure to comply with any provision of this Chapter.
4. Notification. A decision to revoke, suspend, deny or not renew a permit shall be in writing, delivered by ordinary mail or in person to the address indicated on the application. The notification shall specify reason for action.
5. Effect of revocation. When an application for a permit is denied, or when a permit is revoked, the applicant may not re-apply for a new permit for a period of one (1) year from the date of the denial or revocation.
  - a. Appeals. No permit may be denied, suspended, revoked, or not renewed without notice and an opportunity to be heard is given the applicant or holder of the permit. In any instance where the City Clerk has denied, revoked, suspended, or not renewed a permit, the applicant or holder of said permit may appeal the decision to the City Council within ten (10) business days of receipt by the applicant or holder of the permit of the notice of the decision. The applicant or holder of the permit will be given an opportunity for a hearing. The decisions of the City Council hearing the appeal, or any decision by the City Clerk which is not appealed in accordance with this Chapter shall be deemed final action.

#### **4-2-5 NUMBER AND TYPE OF CHICKENS ALLOWED**

1. The maximum number of chickens allowed is six (6) per tract of land.
2. Only female chickens (hens) are allowed.
3. In no case shall a permit be granted for greater than six (6) chickens.

**4-2-6 TRACT OF LAND ALLOWED.** Permits will be granted only for tracts of land located in residential and agricultural districts as identified in the Code of Ordinances for the City of Coggon.

**4-2-7 NON-COMMERCIAL USE ONLY.** A Permit shall not allow the Permittee to engage in

chicken breeding or fertilizer production for commercial purposes.

#### **4-2-8 ENCLOSURES**

1. Chickens must be kept in an enclosure of *sturdy wire fencing* at all times. Chickens shall be secured within a henhouse or chicken tractor during non-daylight hours.
2. Enclosures must be kept in a clean, dry, odor-free, neat & sanitary condition at all times.
3. Henhouses, chicken tractors and chicken pens must provide adequate ventilation and adequate sun and shade and must be impermeable to rodents, wild birds and predators, including dogs and cats.
  - a. Henhouses and chicken tractors shall be designed to provide safe and healthy living conditions for the chickens with a minimum of three (3) square feet per bird while minimizing adverse impacts to other residents in the neighborhood.
  - b. A henhouse or chicken tractor shall be enclosed on all sides and shall have a roof and doors. Access doors must be able to be shut and locked at night. Opening windows and vents must be covered with predator and bird proof wire of less than one (1) inch openings.
  - c. The materials used in making a henhouse or chicken tractor shall be uniform for each element of the structure such that the walls are made of the same material, the roof has the same shingles or other covering, and any windows or openings are constructed using the same materials. The use of scrap, waste board, sheet metal, or similar materials is prohibited. Henhouses and chicken tractors shall be well maintained.
  - d. Henhouses, chicken tractors and chicken pens shall only be located in the rear yard required by Coggon Municipal Code and be a minimum of 15 feet from any property line. No henhouse, chicken tractor, or chicken pen shall be allowed in any front yard.
  - e. Henhouses or chicken tractors shall protect the flock from extreme temperatures and wind, have a roosting area sufficient in number and size for the chickens present, have one nesting box per chicken, have nests that entice hens to lay indoors and provide heat in colder temperatures.
  - f. Henhouses, chicken tractors and chicken pens must conform to existing city code pertaining to structures in the applicable zoned district.

#### **4-2-9 ODOR AND NOISE IMPACTS**

1. Odors from chickens, chicken manure or other chicken related substances shall not be perceptible beyond the boundaries of the permitted tract of land.

2. Noise from chickens shall not be loud enough beyond the boundaries of the permitted tract of land at the property boundaries to disturb persons of reasonable sensitivity.

**4-2-10 PREDATORS, RODENTS, INSECTS AND PARASITES.** The Permittee shall take necessary action to reduce the attraction of predators and rodents and the potential infestation of insects and parasites. Chickens found to be infested with insects and parasites that may result in unhealthy conditions to human habitation may be removed by a person designated by the Council with the assistance of City Policy, if necessary.

**4-2-11 FEED AND WATER.** Chickens shall be provided with access to feed and clean water at all times. The feed and water shall not be available to rodents, wild birds, and predators.

**4-2-12 WASTE STORAGE AND REMOVAL.** The henhouse, chicken tractor, chicken pen and surrounding area must be kept free from trash and accumulated droppings. Feces shall be removed and disposed of in a sealed, enclosed container at a minimum of once weekly to avoid odor. Fecal matter may be used as fertilizer if turned completely into the soil at least once weekly and there is no noxious odor. Uneaten feed shall be removed in a timely manner.

**4-2-13 CHICKENS AT LARGE.** The Permittee shall not allow the Permittee's chickens to roam off the permitted tract of land. Any dog or cat or other domesticated animal which kills a chicken off the permitted tract of land will, for that reason alone, not be considered a dangerous or aggressive animal or the City's responsibility to enforce its animal control provisions.

#### **4-2-14 UNLAWFUL ACTS**

1. It shall be unlawful for any person to keep chickens in violation of any provision of this Chapter or any other provision of the Coggon Municipal Code.
2. It shall be unlawful for any owner, renter or lease holder of property to allow chickens to be kept on the property in violation of the provisions of this article.
3. No person shall keep chickens inside a single-family dwelling unit, multi-family dwelling unit(s) or rental unit.
4. No person shall slaughter any chickens within the City of Coggon.
5. No person shall keep a rooster.
6. No person shall keep chickens on a vacant or uninhabited tract of land.

**4-2-15 NUISANCES.** Any violation of the terms of this Chapter that constitutes a health hazard or that interferes with the use or enjoyment of neighboring property is a nuisance and may be abated under the general nuisance abatement provision of the Coggon Municipal Code.

**4-2-16 FEES.** The fee for the initial permit is \$10.00 per hen renewing yearly. If the City issues the permittee a Notice of Violation and if the permittee has not cured the violation when the property is re-inspected, the permittee shall be assessed a re-inspection fee of \$35.00, which is due in 30 days. If the violation has been cured, no re-inspection fee shall be assessed.

**SECTION 2.** Each section, paragraph, sentence, clause, and provision of this Ordinance is separable, and if any provision is held unconstitutional or invalid for any reason, such decision

shall not affect the remainder of this Ordinance nor any part thereof other than that affected by such decision.

**SECTION 3.** The changes as provided in this Ordinance shall be made a part of the replacement pages of the Municipal Code, City of Coggon, Iowa, and made a part of said Code as provided by law.

**SECTION 4.** All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances in conflict with any provision of this Ordinance are hereby repealed.