



CITY OF ANN ARBOR PERMIT TO KEEP BACKYARD CHICKENS

TWO BUSINESS DAYS NOTIFICATION AND \$20 FEE REQUIRED

Please return Permit Application and \$20 Fee to:  
City Clerk's Office  
301 E. Huron St.  
Ann Arbor MI 48104

**Applicant Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Print or Type)

**Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Permit Address (where backyard chickens will be housed):** \_\_\_\_\_

Single-Family Dwelling  Two-Family Dwelling

**Number of backyard chickens to be kept at the permit address (4 maximum):** \_\_\_\_\_

No permit shall be issued to a person, by the City, and no chickens shall be allowed to be kept unless the owners of all residentially zoned adjacent properties (see 9:42(3)(j)) consent in writing to the permit. **Please attach the Adjacent Neighbor Consent Form to this application and check the box that you understand and have complied with the terms of this ordinance requirement.**

If the requirements of Chapter 107 are not complied with, the City may revoke any permit granted and/or initiate prosecution for a civil infraction violation. A person who has been issued a permit shall submit it for examination upon demand by any police officer or code enforcement officer. Fenced enclosures are subject to all provisions of Chapter 104 (Fences). Notwithstanding the issuance of a permit by the City, private restrictions on the use of property shall remain enforceable and take precedence over a permit. Private restrictions include but are not limited to deed restrictions, condominium master deed restrictions, neighborhood association by-laws, and covenant deeds. A permit issued to a person whose property is subject to private restrictions that prohibit the keeping of chickens is void. The interpretation and enforcement of the private restriction is the sole responsibility of the private parties involved.

**I understand the above restrictions on the permit and am submitting this application in compliance with Chapter 107 (Animals) of the Code of the City of Ann Arbor.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Applicant Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

For Office Use Only

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved by City Clerk Office: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Copy: Applicant/Planning and Development/City Clerk Office (retains original)

All Permits Expire Five (5) Years from Date of Issuance.  
Permits are non-transferable and may not be sold or assigned.



CITY OF ANN ARBOR PERMIT TO KEEP BACKYARD CHICKENS

ADJACENT NEIGHBOR CONSENT FORM

Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Permit Address (where backyard chickens will be housed): \_\_\_\_\_

No permit shall be issued to a person, by the City, and no chickens shall be allowed to be kept unless the owners of all residentially zoned adjacent properties (see 9:42(3) (j)) consent in writing to the permit. For purposes of this permit, adjacent property means all parcels of property that the applicant's property comes into contact with at one or more points, except for parcels that are legally adjacent to but in fact are separated from the applicant's property by a public or private street.

A covered enclosure or fenced enclosure shall not be located closer than ten (10) feet from a property line of an adjacent property nor shall it be located closer than forty (40) feet to any residential structure on an adjacent property. The forty (40) foot requirement, only, can be waived with written statements of all occupants of the building (two-family dwelling) and all adjacent landowners. **Please attach a drawing of the property, including the distances to neighboring structures and the proposed location(s) of all enclosures that will be used to keep backyard chickens.**

Are you requesting a waiver of the 40 feet requirement? YES  NO

If Yes: Distance to residential structure on adjacent property: \_\_\_\_\_ feet.

Instruct Property Owners and Occupants (if applicable) to initial their consent to this waiver as well.

Please list all adjacent properties and obtain consent signatures.

Instructions to Adjacent Property Owners and to Occupants of Two-Family Dwellings:

- (1) Your neighbor is applying for a permit to keep backyard chickens. A maximum of four chickens may be kept under this permit. If you are an adjacent property owner, your consent to this permit is required for issuance. If your neighbor occupies a two-family dwelling and you occupy one of the units in that dwelling, your consent to this permit is also required for issuance. Do not sign the form if you are NOT giving consent to the issuance of a permit.
- (2) If your neighbor has checked the box above, your permission is also required to allow enclosures for housing chickens to be kept closer than 40 feet to a residential structure. Do not write your initials below if you are NOT giving your consent to waive this distance requirement. (If you are an occupant of a two-family dwelling and have given your written consent to issuance of the permit you have automatically waived the 40 foot requirement).

By signing this form, you are providing written consent for the issuance of the permit. By initialing this form, you are additionally providing your written consent to waive the 40 foot distance requirement.

Street Address                      Owner Name                      Signature (consent to issue permit)    Initial (consent to distance waiver)

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For Two-Family Dwellings (all occupants must sign):

Street Address                      Owner Name                      Signature (consent to issue permit)

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## Chapter 107 (Animals) - 9:42. Keeping of Chickens

- (1) Any person who keeps chickens in the City of Ann Arbor shall obtain a permit from the City prior to acquiring the chickens. No permit shall be issued to a person, by the City, and no chickens shall be allowed to be kept unless the owners of all residentially zoned adjacent properties (as defined below in subsection 3 (j)) consent in writing to the permit and this consent is presented along with an application for a permit. Written statements waiving the distance requirement in subsection (3) below shall also be submitted at the time of application and become a part of the permit if issued. Application shall be made to the City Clerk and the fee for the permit shall be as determined by Council resolution.

Permits expire and become invalid five (5) years after the date of issuance. A person who wishes to continue keeping chickens shall have obtained a new permit on or before the expiration date of the previous permit. Application for a new permit shall be pursuant to the procedures and requirements that are applicable at the time the person applies for a new permit.

- (2) Notwithstanding the issuance of a permit by the City, private restrictions on the use of property shall remain enforceable and take precedence over a permit. Private restrictions include but are not limited to deed restrictions, condominium master deed restrictions, neighborhood association by-laws, and covenant deeds. A permit issued to a person whose property is subject to private restrictions that prohibit the keeping of chickens is void. The interpretation and enforcement of the private restriction is the sole responsibility of the private parties involved.
- (3) A person who keeps or houses chickens on his or her property shall comply with all of the following requirements:
  - a. Have been issued the permit required under subsection (1) of this section.
  - b. Keep no more than four (4) chickens.
  - c. The principal use of the person's property is for a single-family dwelling or two-family dwelling.
  - d. No person shall keep any rooster.
  - e. No person shall slaughter any chickens.
  - f. The chickens shall be provided with a covered enclosure and must be kept in the covered enclosure or a fenced enclosure at all times. Fenced enclosures are subject to all provisions of Chapter 104 (Fences).
  - g. A person shall not keep chickens in any location on the property other than in the backyard. For purposes of this section, "backyard" means that portion of a lot enclosed by the property's rear lot line and the side lot lines to the points where the side lot lines intersect with an imaginary line established by the rear of the single-family or two family structure and extending to the side lot lines.
  - h. No covered enclosure or fenced enclosure shall be located closer than ten (10) feet to any property line of an adjacent property;
  - i. All enclosures for the keeping of chickens shall be so constructed or repaired as to prevent rats, mice, or other rodents from being harbored underneath, within, or within the walls of the enclosure. A covered enclosure or fenced enclosure shall not be located closer than forty (40) feet to any residential structure on an adjacent property provided, however, this requirement can be waived as follows:
    - (i) If the principal use of applicant's property is for a single-family dwelling, to obtain such a waiver the applicant shall present at the time of applying for a permit the written statements of all adjacent landowners that there is no objection to the issuance of the permit.
    - (ii) If the principal use of the applicant's property is for a two-family dwelling, to obtain such a waiver the applicant shall present at the time of applying for a permit the written statements of all adjacent landowners and of the occupants of the other dwelling stating that there is no objection to the issuance of the permit.
  - j. For purposes of this section, adjacent property means all parcels of property that the applicant's property comes into contact with at one or more points, except for parcels that are legally adjacent to but are in fact separated from the applicant's property by a public or private street.
  - k. All enclosures for the keeping of chickens shall be so constructed or repaired as to prevent rats, mice, or other rodents from being harbored underneath, within, or within the walls of the enclosure.
  - l. All feed and other items associated with the keeping of chickens that are likely to attract or to become infested with or infected by rats, mice, or other rodents shall be protected so as to prevent rats, mice, or other rodents from gaining access to or coming into contact with them.
  - m. If the above requirements are not complied with, the City may revoke any permit granted under this section and/or initiate prosecution for a civil infraction violation.
- (4) A person who has been issued a permit shall submit it for examination upon demand by any police officer or code enforcement officer.