



Domesticated Chickens Permit

As per Town of Indian Head's (Town) Zoning Ordinance, a property owner must verify each of the following standards for housing domesticated chickens within the Town limits are satisfied:

1. Review and agree with Section 1142 of the Town's Zoning Ordinance; i.e., Standards for Domesticated Chickens.
2. The property must be located within the R-1 or R-2 Zoning Districts.
3. An **annual** permit, signed by the Property Owner, is required.
4. Proof of registration with the Maryland Department of Agriculture is required.
5. A maximum of eight (8) **female** chickens are allowed per lot regardless of how many dwelling units are on the lot.
6. Chickens shall be kept for personal use only (non-commercial); no person shall sell eggs or engage in chicken breeding or fertilizer production for commercial purposes.
7. Chickens must be kept in a maximum of a 32 square foot area, which includes the enclosure and fenced area (chicken pen), at all times during daylight hours.
8. Chickens shall be secured within a henhouse during non-daylight hours.
9. Henhouses, enclosures, and fenced areas shall be kept no less than twenty (20) feet from all property lines and shall only be located in rear yards if a primary residence exists on the property. For a corner lot or other property where no rear yard exists, these facilities shall not be located any closer to a public street than the primary residence. Henhouses are not allowed to be located in any part of a home.
10. Any enclosure or coup that has not been actively used to house chickens for one (1) year must be dismantled and removed from the property.
11. Odors from chickens, chicken manure, or other chicken-related substances shall not be perceptible at the property boundaries.
12. Perceptible noise from chickens shall not be loud enough at the property boundaries to disturb persons of reasonable sensitivity.
13. The slaughtering of chickens is prohibited within Town limits.
14. Only motion-activated lighting may be used to light the exterior of the henhouse.
15. The property owner and/or chicken owner shall take all necessary action to reduce the attraction of predators and rodents and the potential infestation of insects and parasites that may result in unhealthy conditions to human habitation. If unhealthy conditions are found, the chickens may be removed by the Town, through the animal

control officer, or any other designee, and the cost shall be borne by the property owner and/or chicken owner.

16. Chickens must be provided with access to feed and clean water at all times; Zoning Chapter Town of Indian Head, Maryland 191 revised April 2021 such feed and water shall be unavailable to rodents, wild birds and predators.
17. Provision must be made for the storage and removal of chicken manure. All stored manure shall be covered by a fully enclosed container or compost bin. No more than one, twenty (20) gallon container of manure shall be stored on any one property housing chickens. All other manure shall be removed. In addition, the henhouse, chicken pen and surrounding area must be kept free from trash and accumulated droppings. Uneaten feed shall be removed in a timely manner.
18. **Any violation of the provisions above shall be grounds for an order from the Town to remove the chickens and the chicken related structures.** The Code Enforcement officer may order the removal of the chicken upon a determination that the chickens pose a health risk. If a chicken dies, it must be disposed of promptly in a sanitary manner.

I _____ verify that that I've read, understand and will comply with all the of the above requirements.

Applicant's Signature

Date of Application

Applicant's Address

Issuance date: _____. Note – this permit expires 1 year after the issuance date.