

**CITY OF LEXINGTON
COUNTY OF ANOKA
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

ORDINANCE NO. 13-03

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE LEXINGTON CITY CODE, CHAPTER 10,
SECTION 10.10 SUBDIVISION 3, RELATING TO FARM ANIMALS**

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LEXINGTON ORDAINS:

SECTION 1. The City Code, Chapter 10, Section 10.10 subd. 3 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Subd. 3. Farm Animals.

A. Farm animals shall only be kept in an agricultural district of the city or on a residential lot of at least ten acres in size, and provided that no animal shelter shall be within 300 feet of an adjoining piece of property. Animal feedlots as defined in MN Rule 7020.03 are prohibited.

B. Backyard Chickens. Notwithstanding other provisions of this chapter, a person may keep up to four (4) female chickens on a parcel that they own that is less than ten acres in size, provided that the owner has a lot with a minimum of 10,000 square feet, and obtains a backyard chicken permit from the City. No permit shall be issued except in compliance with this section.

1) Definitions

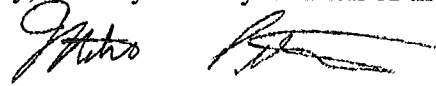
- (a) **“Coop”** means the structure for the keeping or housing of chickens permitted by the ordinance.
- (b) **“Hen”** means a female chicken.
- (c) **“Rooster”** means a male chicken.
- (d) **“Run”** means a fully-enclosed and covered area attached to a coop where the chickens can roam unsupervised.

- 2) Any person desiring to obtain a backyard chicken permit under this subdivision must make a written application to the City Clerk on a form provided by the City and pay an application fee. Fees to be charged for the permit to keep chickens shall be set by City Council on the fee schedule. The application must include a scaled diagram or site plan that shows the location of the chicken coop including the distance of the coop from adjoining structures and property lines and the coop's dimensions. If the applicant's lot is less than 15,000 square feet, the applicant must secure permission from at least 70 percent of the owners of property within 150 feet of the applicants parcel.

- 3) All initial permits will expire on June 30th of the following year after their issuance unless sooner revoked. Renewal permits shall expire on June 30th of the second year following their issuance unless sooner revoked.
- 4) The City may revoke a permit for failure to comply with provisions of this section or any of the permit's conditions.
- 5) The city may inspect the premises for which a permit has been granted in order to ensure compliance with this subdivision. If the city is not able to obtain the occupant's consent to enter the property, it may seek an administrative search warrant or revoke the permit.
- 6) All chickens must be kept in an enclosed coop or enclosed run. The chicken's living area must be maintained in a clean and sanitary condition, devoid of all rodents and vermin and free from objectionable odors. Waste must be disposed of on a weekly basis. Grains and feed must be stored in rodent and raccoon-proof containers inside of a structure. The enclosed coop must be built to protect the chickens from extreme heat or cold. The enclosed coop must be maintained in good condition and be sufficient in strength and size to allow the chickens to move about, but also able to prevent escape. The enclosed coop must have a minimum size of four square feet per animal and must not exceed forty (40) square feet in total, with a maximum height of twelve (12) feet. The enclosed coop must be located in the rear yard and set back at least 25-feet from any residential dwelling and at least 15-feet from all property lines and may not be located in a utility or drainage easement.
- 7) Enclosed runs shall be attached to the coop. Fencing shall be adequate to keep chickens in and predators out. The coop and attached run shall be a maximum of 40 square feet each and set back at least 25 feet from all neighboring residential structures and 15 feet from the property line.
- 8) Chickens must not be raised or kept for the purpose of fighting. No permit will be granted by the city to keep any chickens within a dwelling or garage, nor on a property which contains two or more dwelling units. No outdoor butchering of chickens is allowed. No roosters are allowed.
- 9) No person shall allow any chicken under his or her ownership or control to violate Chapter 11, Nuisances.
- 10) Persons that intend to no longer keep chickens on their premises shall notify the City. The coop must be removed upon expiration of the permit.
- 11) Dead chickens must be disposed of according to the Minnesota Board of Animal Health rules which require chicken carcasses to be disposed of as soon as possible after death, usually within forty-eight (48) to seventy-two (72) hours. Legal forms of chicken carcass disposal include offsite burial, offsite incineration or rendering, or offsite composting.

SECTION 2. **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This ordinance shall be effective immediately upon its passage and publication of the summary, according to law.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 18th day of July, 2013 by the City Council of the City of Lexington.



Michael Pitchford, Mayor

ATTEST: Dot Heifort
Dot Heifort, City Administrator