



Permit No.: ZON _____

Zoning Permit Application Keeping of Chickens

Town of Blacksburg
Blacksburg Motor Company Building, 400 South Main Street, Phone (540) 443-1300

Note: All applications must be accompanied by:

1. **A sketch of the property (and adjoining properties, as necessary) showing:**
 - a. **A fully enclosed, secure area (pen) not to exceed a total of 128 square feet.**
 - b. **Location and dimensions of both the pen and coop. An enclosed coop with a minimum of four square feet per hen and an enclosed pen containing a minimum of eight square feet per hen is required. It should be noted if the pen/coop is portable.**
 - c. **Setbacks, Pen must be a minimum of 15 feet from all property lines and 50 feet from dwellings on adjacent properties and located in the rear yard of the house.**
2. **Management plan addressing protection of predators, use of feeding and bedding materials, management and disposal of wastes, and other factors deemed relevant for the protection of the public health.**
3. **One-time application fee of \$30.00.**

*Annual renewal applications are due by April 15 of the following year, are not charged a renewal fee, and do not need to resubmit sketch and management plan if no changes are to be made.

Applicant Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____
Site Address: _____ Zoning District: RR-1 ___ RR-2 ___ R-4 ___
*R-5 within Bennett Hill/Progress Street Pilot Project Area ___

Property Owner Information:
Name: _____ Email _____
Address (if different) _____ Phone: _____

Check the appropriate boxes for which you are applying:
 New Permit
 Renewal Permit: Same management plan? Yes ___ No ___ Same pen location? Yes ___ No ___
 Number of female chickens: _____ (no more than 6)
 Dimensions of pen: ___ feet x ___ Feet. Area ___ (square feet)
 Dimension of coop: ___ feet x ___ feet. Area ___ (square feet)
 Height: _____ feet. Will the pen/coop be portable? Yes ___ No ___
 Will this pen or coop be connected to electricity? ___ Yes ___ No

If yes, an electrical permit is required. Please contact the Building Department at 540-443-1325 to obtain an application for an electrical permit.

Owner/Tenant/Agent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Reviewed by: _____ Date: _____ Approved? Yes ___ No ___

Reason for denial: _____

Additional Information:

The limited keeping of urban chickens may be permitted in association with one single family residence, subject to the following conditions:

1. No more than six (6) hens shall be allowed for each single-family dwelling.
2. No roosters shall be permitted at any time.
3. Chickens shall be kept in an enclosed area not to exceed a total of 128 square feet, hereinafter know as a “pen”. Pens shall include a coop, an enclosed structure containing a minimum of four square foot per hen and an open run area containing a minimum of eight square feet per hen.
4. Pens must be located in the rear yard and shall be situated at least fifteen (15) feet from all property lines and fifty (50) feet from dwellings on adjacent properties. In addition, all pens shall be located at least twenty (20) feet from streams, tributaries, ditches, swales, stormwater management facilities, drop-inlets, or other storm drainage areas that would allow fecal matter to enter any storm drainage system or stream.
5. All pens must be kept in a neat and sanitary condition at all times, and must be cleaned on a regular basis so as to prevent offensive odors.
6. All feed for the hens must be kept in a secure container in a garage, shed or the residence to prevent the attraction of rodents and other animals.
7. Adequate shelter, care and control of the hens is required. Any person permitted to keep urban chickens shall comply with all the provisions and requirements of the town and state code regarding care, shelter, sanitation, health, rodent control, cruelty, neglect, noise, and any other requirements pertaining to, but not limited to, the adequate care and control of animals.
8. The application will be valid until April 15th of the following year. An annual renewal registration would then be required prior to April 15 every year.
9. It is your responsibility to keep the chickens within an enclosed and adequately secured pen. No dog or cat will be considered to be a vicious or dangerous animal based solely on harming or killing chickens pursuant to Town Code Section 5-118.
10. As a pilot program, urban chickens may also be kept on properties containing single-family detached dwelling, in the R-5 zoning district portion of the Bennett Hill/Progress Street area. This R-5 Bennett Hill/Progress Street pilot program area shall be re-evaluated one year after the adoption of Ordinance 1888 (Adopted April 9, 2019).
11. If you have any questions, please contact:

Lisa Browning - Zoning Inspector at lbrowning@blacksburg.gov 540-443-1302, or
Paul Patterson – Zoning Administrator at ppatterson@blacksburg.gov 540-443-1300.