



Chesterfield County, Virginia

Department of Planning

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Keeping of Chickens in Single Family Residential Districts

Zoning Ordinance Section 19.1-53, amended 10/27/2021

Summary

The Code of Chesterfield County permits in single family residential (R) zoning districts the keeping of up to six (6) chickens with certain restrictions. The keeping of chickens must be incidental to the dwelling on the property and comply with the following:

- Roosters are not to be kept and the keeping is limited to chickens, which are domestic egg-laying hens belonging to the subspecies *Gallus gallus domesticus*.
- At all times, chickens are kept within a single building having a single attached fenced outside run as follows:
 - building is a minimum of 10 square feet and a maximum of 20 square feet;
 - fenced outside run area is a maximum of 56 square feet and has a minimum area of eight (8) square feet per chicken; and
 - fenced outside run area is securely enclosed on top and sides with wire mesh or similar material.
- Building and attached outside run area are located in the rear yard and setback a minimum of 25 feet from all property lines;
- Slaughtering of chickens does not occur;
- All areas associated with the keeping of chickens shall be cleaned and made free of waste on a regular basis. Waste associated with the use shall be disposed of in an appropriate waste disposal container that is periodically removed from the site; and
- Property owner employs a means of eliminating odor problems and propagation of insects related to the use.



NOTE: The information summarizes but does not replace ordinance requirements. Should you have any questions, refer to the zoning ordinance or contact the Planning Department at (804) 748-1050.

Neighborhoods may have further restrictions or prohibitions regarding the keeping of chickens; please refer to your restrictive covenants or contact your homeowner's association for information.

Contact Information

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