

# ADMINISTRATIVE CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT TO KEEP BACKYARD CHICKENS Information Sheet

Hernando County Code of Ordinances, Appendix A, Article V, Section 4, paragraph B has been amended to permit chickens in any residential districts, excluding multi-family districts, subject to the following restrictions:

1. The number of chickens shall be limited to no more than four (4) birds and no ducks, geese, turkeys, peafowl, male chickens/roosters, or any other poultry or fowl are allowed.
2. Chickens shall be kept in an enclosed area with a coop that provides for the free movement of chickens and are not permitted to be free range. The coop must have a roof, and be completely secured from predators, including all openings, ventilation holes, doors and gates. No more than one coop allowed per permitted parcel.
3. If the coop structure exceeds 100 square feet (10x10 feet), a building permit shall be required pursuant to Florida Building Code.
4. The minimum lot size shall be 10,000 square feet.
5. The chicken coop shall be kept in the rear yard and must not be visible from adjoining properties or the street. Fence construction shall meet standards pursuant to the fence ordinance and shall be permitted separately. The chicken coop shall be situated a minimum of 25 feet from the nearest neighbor's residence and at least 5 feet from all property lines.
6. Persons wishing to have chickens in residential districts shall be subject to a compliance inspection after permit issuance. Accessibility and allowable entry shall be required for such inspection.
7. The coop shall provide a minimum of three-square feet per chicken and be of sufficient size to permit free movement of the chickens. The coop may not be taller than six feet measured from the natural grade. The coop must be easily accessible for cleaning and maintenance.
8. The coops and surrounding area shall be kept clean, sanitary and odor free at all times.
9. Chickens shall not be permitted to create a nuisance consisting of odor, noise or pests, or contribute to any other nuisance condition.
10. All stored feed must be kept in a rodent and predator-proof container.
11. The chickens shall be for personal use only, and there shall be no sales of products from the residence and the breeding of chickens for commercial purposes shall not be allowed.
12. In a public health emergency declared by the County Health Department, including but not limited to an outbreak of Avian Flu or West Nile virus, the county may require immediate corrective action in accordance with applicable public health regulations and procedures.
13. Notwithstanding the issuance of a permit by the County, 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 deed covenants. A permit issued to a person whose property is subject to private restrictions that prohibit the keeping of chickens and large animals is void. The interpretation and enforcement of the private restriction is the sole responsibility of the private parties involved.
14. The permit may be issued for a maximum time period of up to five (5) years by the approving authority.
15. Failure to comply with these standards, or any other standards imposed by the conditional use permit shall result in the permit being revoked by the Administrative Official.

**HERNANDO COUNTY PERMIT APPLICATION TO KEEP BACKYARD CHICKENS**

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ PARCEL KEY \_\_\_\_\_

APPLICANT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

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

The following items are required to be attached:

- o **Picture and/or plans of coop structure for site inspection verification**
- o **Site plan of property showing location of coop and setbacks**
- o **If rental property, notarized letter from property owner consenting to permit**

Please acknowledge the following provisions:

I understand that if the requirements of this ordinance are not complied with, the County may revoke any permit granted and/or initiate prosecution for a civil infraction violation. \_\_\_\_\_ **Initial.**

I understand that private restrictions on the use of property shall remain enforceable and take precedence over this permit. Private restrictions include but are not limited to deed restrictions, neighborhood association by-laws, and deed covenants. \_\_\_\_\_ **Initial.**

I understand that the issuance of this permit is subject to a compliance inspection by the Department of Code Enforcement and by initialing this provision I am allowing accessibility and allowable entry for such inspection. \_\_\_\_\_ **Initial**

I understand that fence construction is subject to all provisions of the current Fence Code and shall be permitted separately. \_\_\_\_\_ **Initial**

I understand that the chicken coop shall be situated a minimum of 25' feet form the nearest neighbor's residence and at least 5' feet from all property lines. \_\_\_\_\_ **Initial**

I understand that this permit shall expire **five (5) years from Date of Issuance.** Permits are non-transferable and may not be sold or assigned. \_\_\_\_\_ **Initial**

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

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

State of \_\_\_\_\_ County of \_\_\_\_\_

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_

by \_\_\_\_\_, who is (\_\_\_\_\_) personally known to me or who (\_\_\_\_\_) has produced \_\_\_\_\_ as identification.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

## INSPECTION QUICK CHECK LIST

A Code Enforcement inspection is required within 30 days of permit issuance. The Officer will utilize these same ordinance guidelines for the inspection.

\_\_\_\_\_ Number of chickens (Cannot exceed 4)

### COOP STANDARDS:

- Must be enclosed and secured
- Must have roof
- Size of coop\_\_\_\_\_ (A building permit is required if over 100sqft)
- Must have minimum of 3 sf per chicken within the enclosed coop
- Height of coop\_\_\_\_\_ (6 ft high maximum)
- In rear yard of home only
- 5 ft from property lines
- 25 ft from nearest neighbor's residence
- Concealed from the road and adjoining properties by  
Fence  Hedge  Other \_\_\_\_\_
- Fence permit is required before installing fence.
- No more than one coop
- Rodent and predator-proof feed container