

SPECIAL ANIMAL KEEPING PERMIT

Home Chicken Keeping Exception

Purpose: In the RL-5 and RLM, home chicken keeping is allowed through issuance of a permit and only where necessary to accommodate a disability, when in conjunction with a 4-H or similar educational project, or under other exceptional circumstances. A permit is NOT required in RL-6 and greater zones (zones with a 6,000 sf or larger minimum lot size) unless an exception is requested to number, coop, or run setbacks or height, or other standards in Vacaville Municipal Code Section 14.09.270.270.

14.09.270.070 Animal Keeping.

Animals may be kept in compliance with Title 6, Animals, and the following:

- A. Household Pets and Beekeeping. The keeping of household pets and beekeeping are regulated under Title 6, Animals.
- B. Chickens. Chickens may be kept as an accessory use to a primary residential use in compliance with the following standards. Roosters are subject to the standards of subsection C of this section, Other Animals.
 1. Allowable Districts. Any district which allows detached single-unit dwellings.
 2. Use Limitation. The keeping of chickens shall be for noncommercial use only.
 3. Minimum Lot Size. Six thousand square feet.
 4. Maximum Number.
 - a. Parcels Less Than One Acre in Size. One chicken per 1,000 square feet up to nine chickens per parcel.
 - b. Parcels One Acre or More in Size. One chicken per 1,000 square feet. No maximum number of chickens per parcel where the structure housing the chickens is located a minimum of 50 feet from any dwelling and 50 feet from any property line.
 5. Enclosures. Coops, runs, and other enclosures for the keeping or housing of chickens shall be in compliance with setback requirements of the underlying zoning district. No such enclosure shall be closer than three feet to a property line. The maximum height of any such enclosure shall be six feet plus one foot for every foot setback from the property line, up to a maximum of 12 feet.
- C. Other Animals. Animals other than chickens, household pets, and bees may be kept as an accessory use to a primary residential use in compliance with the following standards:
 1. Allowable Districts. AG, AH, RR, and RE districts.
 2. Use Limitation. Feedlots are prohibited.
 3. Minimum Lot Size. One acre.
 4. Maximum Number.
 - c. Livestock. One animal per parcel plus one animal per acre.
 - d. Other Animals. One animal per 1,000 square feet.
- D. Enclosures. Stables, corrals, and other enclosures for the keeping or housing of animals shall be located a minimum of 50 feet from any dwelling and 100 feet from any property line.
- E. Exceptions. The Director of Community Development may allow exceptions to the above standards through an adjustment or reasonable accommodation where necessary to accommodate a disability, a 4-H or similar educational project, or other exceptional circumstances. The Director of Community Development may add conditions to protect the health, safety, or welfare of the neighborhood.

Criteria/Rules:

6.24.050 Beekeeping permit – Criteria for approval.

An applicant for a Beekeeping Permit shall declare under penalty of perjury that the beehive(s) for which a Beekeeping Permit is sought shall, at all times, comply the requirements of such Permit and this Chapter. The criteria set forth below shall be conditions of approval of any Beekeeping Permit issued hereunder, whether or not such criteria are specified or referred to in such Permit. Failure to adhere to such criteria or other conditions of approval set forth in the Beekeeping Permit or this Chapter shall be a violation of such Permit and this Chapter.

- A. No more than two hives shall be maintained on any property, lot or parcel of land.
- B. No hive shall be kept or maintained on any property, lot or parcel of land of less than 20,000 square feet of total gross area.
- C. The owner's name, address, and location of all such hives shall be registered with the Community Development Department.
- D. No hive shall be kept or maintained within twenty feet of any side property line on the property, lot or parcel of land upon which such hive is situated, or within one hundred feet of any dwelling unit other than that occupied by the person or persons maintaining the hive or hives or other persons residing on such property, lot or parcel of land.
- E. No hive shall be kept or maintained within any required front or side yard.
- F. All hives shall be oriented so that their entrances face a house or building on the premises and shall be surrounded by a solid fence not less than six feet in height or no more than the height specifically approved with the Beekeeping Permit application, located no farther than thirty feet from such hives. Said fence may be open on the side facing a house or building on the premises.
- G. A constant and reliable water supply adequate to serve the needs of the hives located on the premises shall be maintained at all times on such premises.
- H. No hive shall be kept or maintained within two hundred feet of a dwelling occupied by any person systemically allergic to bee stings.
- I. No hive shall be kept or maintained on any property, lot or parcel of land that adjoins or abuts a property, lot or parcel of land that is occupied by a person who is systemically allergic to bee stings.
- J. Prior to considering an application for a Beekeeping Permit, the Community Development Department will provide notice of the application to all owners and tenants of property located within a six-hundred-foot radius of the property, lot or parcel of land where the hive(s) are to be located, measured from the property line of such property, lot, or parcel of land.