

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 14.09.138.

Criteria/Rules:

14.09.138.020 Home Chicken Keeping.

- A. Location. Home chicken keeping is permitted as an accessory use to a single-family dwelling in the AG, AH, RR, RE, RL-10, RL-8, and RL-6 districts, or in any other residential district allowing single family dwellings on individual lots with a minimum lot size of 6,000 square feet or larger.
- B. Non-commercial. Home chicken keeping shall be for non-commercial use only.
- C. Number. Up to one adult chicken per 1,000 square feet of lot area may be kept, up to a maximum of nine. The nine bird maximum does not apply to lots one acre or larger in the AG, AH, RR, and RE districts provided no structure housing the chickens is closer than 50 feet to a dwelling on the site or to a property line.
- D. Setbacks and Height. Coops, runs, and other structures containing birds shall meet the setback standards for the applicable zone. No such structure shall be closer than three (3) feet to a property line. The maximum height of any such structure shall be 6 feet plus one foot for every foot setback from the property line, up to a maximum of 12 feet.
- E. Roosters. Keeping of roosters is permitted only in the AG, AH, RR, and RE Districts on lots one acre or larger where the structure housing the rooster is no closer than 50 feet to a dwelling on the site or to a property line.
- F. Exceptions. The Director may allow exceptions to the above standards through issuance of a permit where necessary to accommodate a disability, a 4-H or similar educational project, or other exceptional circumstances. The Director shall determine notice requirements for such a permit, and may add conditions to protect the health, safety, or welfare of the neighborhood. The application and review procedures, as described by Chapter 14.09.072, Development Review Process, of this division, for miscellaneous other projects shall apply.

Beekeeping

Purpose:

“A. No person shall keep, maintain or allow any hive of bees on any lot or parcel of land within any Residential District or any Commercial District within the city where residential uses are allowed or permitted without first obtaining a Beekeeping Permit in accordance with this Chapter.

B. Subject to the requirements set forth in Section 6.24.040 below, beehives may be kept, maintained or allowed without the issuance of a Beekeeping Permit on lots or parcels of land located within an Open Space, Agricultural Hillside, Industrial, or Commercial District where residential uses are not allowed, provided such bee hives are situated more than one hundred fifty feet from any existing dwelling or any proposed dwelling for which a building permit has been issued, excluding dwellings on the lot or parcel of land whereon such hives are situated and not less than one hundred feet from any public highway, street, roadway, or alley” (City Code 6.24.030 A&B).

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.