

SUMMARY OF CHICKEN ORDINANCES FROM OTHER CITIES

A Chicago ordinance on chickens could include some of the following elements common to other cities' regulations. Please see below for more examples.

- A limit on total number of chickens allowed per residence and/or Maximum number of chickens allowed without a permit or license
- No roosters allowed
- Coop requirements (for example: gauge of wire mesh, enclosed in pen overnight, fenced yard for daytime foraging, minimum distance from nearest neighboring residence)
- Reference to nuisance, cleanliness, and anti-slaughtering laws that apply.

From the NYC health code and the Madison WI municipal code (the latter directly addresses rats):

- New York City states no number limit or coop requirements but location must be 25 feet from nearest adjacent property's residence, and all property occupants must approve.
- Madison limits total birds to 4, in a coop, also 25 feet from neighbor's residence.
- Both NYC and Madison require a permit. (See www.madcitychickens.com for more information)
- Other cities require a permit over a maximum number of hens (usually 4-6 birds.)

Summaries of other cities' examples:

(From www.sailzora.com/Chicken%20Laws.htm)

- Baltimore, MD: (Title 17 Sub 3 Sec 17.300) Chickens allowed in the city.
- Dallas, TX (Vol 1 ch 7 art 1 sec 7) No roosters. Shelter required. No disturbing noises or nuisance.
- Denver, CO. Chicken permit must be purchased from the city for \$50 & you must show that the enclosure will be clean & pest free.
- Hartford, CT: (Part II, Ch 6, Sec 4-6) Unspecified number allowed; must not be detrimental to public health.
- Indianapolis, IN: (Title III Ch 531 Art 1 Sec 531) Chickens allowed, no prohibitions.
- Los Angeles, CA. (Ch 1, Art 2) No permit required for 5 or less.
- Miami, FL. May have up to 15 hens, no roosters.
- Minneapolis, MN. (Title 4 Ch 70 Sec 70.10) Unlimited. Annual \$10 permit plus consent from 80 percent of neighbors within 100 feet of real estate. Chickens must be penned.
- New York City. Unlimited. Must have permit for chickens. Must be kept clean. No other poultry allowed, no roosters.
- Oakland, CA. Keep chicken enclosed, & 20 ft. from any dwelling, church or school.
- San Antonio, TX. Up to 5 of any kind of fowl, any gender, per household. Must keep in a pen, 20 feet from any other dwelling.
- San Jose, CA. Up to 6 chickens at least 20 ft. from residences. Up to 4 chickens 15 ft. away from residences. 0 less than 15 ft. No roosters.
- St. Louis, MO. You can keep up to four chickens without a permit. If you want to keep more, you must file a permit (cost is \$40) with the Health Commissioner.