

Fee: \$30  
Paid: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

**CITY OF ROCKFORD  
DOMESTICATED FOWL APPLICATION  
PERMIT TO KEEP BACKYARD CHICKENS**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Home) (Cell)

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

No person shall permit the keeping of domesticated fowl without first securing a permit from the City and without paying a permit fee. Permits shall be obtained on an annual basis and permits obtained following the initial permit shall be accompanied by an inspection by the Zoning Administrator or his/her designee to ensure that all conditions within the ordinance are met.

Please include a site plan showing dimensions and location of hen house and chicken coop in relation to applicant's house and property lines.

I understand the attached restrictions and am submitting this application in compliance with Section 8.5 (C), Domesticated Fowl of the Rockford City Code.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Approval Date:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Manager

The following requirements must be followed:

1. Number and types of chickens allowed. Maximum number of domesticated fowl is five (5) per lot, regardless of how many dwelling units are on the lot. Only female domesticated fowl are allowed.
2. Non commercial use only. Domesticated fowl shall be kept for personal use only; no person shall sell eggs or engage in chicken breeding or fertilizer production for commercial purposes. The slaughtering of domesticated fowl is prohibited.
3. Enclosures. Domesticated fowl must be kept in an enclosed henhouse or fenced in chicken pen at all times. Domesticated fowl must be secured within the henhouse during non-daylight hours. Henhouses must be clean, dry and odor free, kept in a neat and sanitary condition at all times, in a manner that will not disturb the use or enjoyment of neighboring lots due to noise, odor or other adverse impacts. No exterior lighting shall spill onto adjacent properties. The henhouse and chicken pen must provide adequate ventilation and adequate sun and shade and must both be impenetrable to rodents, wild birds, and predators, including dogs and cats.
4. Henhouses. Henhouses shall be provided and shall be designed to provide safe and healthy living conditions for the domesticated fowl while minimizing adverse impacts to other residents and the neighborhood. The structure shall be enclosed and secured on all sides and shall have a roof, floor and doors. Access doors must be able to be shut and locked at night. Opening windows and vents must be covered with predator and bird proof wire of less than one inch openings. The materials used in making the structure shall be uniform for each element of the structure such that the walls are made of the same materials, the roof has the same shingles or other covering, and any windows or openings are constructed using the same materials. The use of scrap, waste board, sheet metal, or similar materials is prohibited. The henhouse shall be well maintained and kept in a clean and sanitary manner at all times.

The structure shall be painted; the color shall be uniform around the structure and shall be in harmony with the surrounding area. The maximum size of the henhouse may not exceed twenty-five (25) square feet or eight (8) feet in height. The henhouse shall only be located in the rear yards. In no case, may a henhouse be placed in the side or front yards. The henhouse must be located no less than twenty (20) feet from the owner's dwelling and no less than thirty-five (35) feet from any neighbors dwelling and ten (10) feet from any property line. Henhouses may be moveable, only if the dimensional restrictions contained in this ordinance are held in compliance. The domestic fowl pen is limited to no more than forty (40) square feet in area.

5. Chicken Pens. An enclosed chicken pen must be provided attached to the henhouse consisting of sturdy wire and fencing buried at least twelve (12) inches in the ground, or may include a floor made of the same material as the pen secured completely to all sides. The chicken pen must be covered with wire, Avery netting, or solid roofing. The use of chicken wire is not permitted. The chicken pen must also include a self-latching door. The first eighteen (18) inches of the chicken pen must be made of sight obscuring material or screened with sight obscuring landscaping around all sides. The chicken pen must meet the same setback requirements as the henhouse.
6. Only single-family residents qualify for the keeping of domestic fowl.
7. Odor and Noise Impacts. Odors from domestic fowl, domestic fowl manure, or other domestic fowl related substances shall not be perceptible at the property boundaries, in conformance with the City's

nuisance ordinance. Perceptible odor shall be abated within 48 hours of notification by the City of violation. Perceptible noise from domestic fowl shall not be loud enough at the property boundaries to disturb neighboring property owners in conformance with the City's nuisance ordinance. Perceptible noise shall be abated within 48 hours of notification by the City of violation.

8. Predators, Rodents, Insects and Parasites. The property owner shall take the necessary action to reduce the attraction of predators and rodents and the potential infestation of insects and parasites. Domestic Fowl found to be infested with insects and parasites that may result in unhealthy conditions to human habitation must be treated immediately.
9. Feed and Water. Domestic Fowl must be provided with access to clean feed and water at all times; such feed and water shall be unavailable to rodents, wild birds, predators.
10. Waste Storage and Removal. Provisions must be made for the storage and removal of domestic fowl manure. All stored manure shall be covered by a fully enclosed structure with a roof or lid over the entire structure. No more than three (3) cubic feet of manure shall be stored on site at any time. All other manure not used for composting or fertilization shall be removed. In addition, the henhouse, domestic fowl pen, and surrounding area must be kept free from trash and accumulated droppings. Uneaten food shall be removed in a timely manner.
11. Violations of this ordinance will result in the revocation of the permit allowing the keeping of domesticated fowl. All hen houses and chicken coops shall be removed within thirty (30) days from revocation of the permit or at such time as chickens are no longer kept.