

Chapter 6

ANIMALS*

* **State Law References:** Wildlife conservation, MCL 324.40101 et seq.; endangered species protection, MCL 324.36501 et seq.; crimes relating to animals and birds, MCL 750.49 et seq.; local authority to adopt animal control ordinance, MCL 287.290.

Article I. In General

Secs. 6-1--6-17. Reserved.

Article II. Livestock

Sec. 6-18. Backyard Chickens

Sec. 6-19. Livestock prohibited within the city limits.

Sec. 6-20. Riding horses prohibited within city limits; exceptions.

Sec. 6-21. Violation deemed a public nuisance.

ARTICLE I.

IN GENERAL

Secs. 6-1--6-17. Reserved.

ARTICLE II.

LIVESTOCK

Sec 6-18 Backyard Chickens

Backyard Chickens means a specific type of livestock animal (chicken) that is housed and cared for by residents in a nonfarm and non-commercial setting and manner for providing fresh eggs for personal consumption. "Backyard chickens" excludes other poultry and other egg-producing birds or animals. Backyard chickens are subject to the standards contained herein.

Backyard Chickens.

(1) The keeping of backyard chickens is permitted as an accessory use if all the following conditions are met:

- a. The parcel of land is located within a residential zoning district and the principal use of the parcel is a single-family residential dwelling.
- b. No more than 5 chickens shall be permitted.
- c. Chickens that crow and roosters shall not be permitted.
- d. The outdoor slaughtering of chickens is prohibited.

(2) Chickens shall not be allowed to roam the property or any public streets, land, alleys, vacant lots or other open or public places, or upon any third-party premises.

(3) The enclosed area where the chickens are kept shall be located within the rear yard, (for properties with no rear yard, the Zoning Administrator may approve the use of a side yard) not within the main building or any attached accessory buildings and shall be at least 10 feet from any dwelling, 10 feet from any other building located on the same property and at least 10 feet from any property line.

(4) The following materials may not be used to construct the enclosed areas: tarps, scrap lumber,

plywood, woven wire, sheet metal, plastic or fiberglass sheets, old doors, fabric, rubber, paper, cardboard, or other non-traditional building materials.

(5) Chicken coops shall be kept and maintained in a manner so as to minimize to the greatest extent possible any adverse impacts to the property on which they are kept, surrounding properties, and any other areas of the city, including, without limitation, dust, dirt, noise, odor, vermin, the attraction of other birds or animals, the potential spread of infection, disease or contamination or other health or safety hazards or nuisance conditions. All chicken coops shall:

- a. Be constructed and maintained in compliance with all applicable building code regulations;
- b. Be of sufficient size and design, and constructed of such material, so that they can be maintained in a clean, orderly and sanitary condition;
- c. Be kept, at all times, in a clean, orderly and sanitary condition, in good repair, and in compliance with all applicable health and safety laws and regulations;
- d. Provide no less than 6 square feet in area per chicken and no greater than 80 square feet in area and no greater than eight feet in height;
- e. Contain sufficient square footage to allow the chicken(s) housed within to move around freely, and provide an interior height of at least six inches higher than the head of the chicken in the enclosure when the chicken is in the normal standing position. A run for chickens shall be of a length, width, and height to provide adequate space for an animal to exercise.
- f. Be enclosed on all sides and from above.
- g. Be screened from view from the street and neighboring properties with a sight-obscuring fence or wall to sufficiently prevent the sight of the area from the street or neighboring properties during all seasons.

6) All chickens shall be fed only within the confines of the chicken coop. All feed for the animals shall be stored in sealed containers that will prevent intrusion by insects, rodents and other vermin.

(7) Litter must be regularly removed and properly disposed of in compliance with all local, state, and federal regulations.

(8) The keeping of chickens shall follow all other local, state, and federal regulations.

(9) Prior to installation of any backyard chicken enclosure or keeping of any backyard chickens, a registration and application form must be submitted to the City Zoning Administrator which includes a property address, and a signed and dated acknowledgement of the terms of this section.

Sec. 6-19. Livestock prohibited within the city limits.

From and after the effective date of the ordinance from which this article is derived, it shall be unlawful for any person to keep or house any livestock, such as horses, cattle, mules, goats, sheep, pigs or rabbits; or any poultry such as ducks, geese, turkeys, guinea hens within the limits of the city.

(Ord. No. 24, § 1, 5-9-1966)

Sec. 6-20. Riding horses prohibited within city limits; exceptions.

It will be unlawful to ride horses through the city, except on the cross country route. Persons riding horses must stay on the horse trail as designated by the city, except they will be allowed to tether their horses in a designated area and only for such purposes as to gather supplies. It shall be unlawful to keep such horses in this area overnight. Horses being ridden in parades may do so at the owner's responsibility and risk and then only by permit of the parade master or city manager.

(Ord. No. 24, § 2, 5-9-1966)

Sec. 6-21. Violation deemed a public nuisance.

Violation of the aforementioned provisions of this chapter shall be deemed to be a public nuisance and may be abated by the city as such.

(Ord. No. 24, § 3, 9-1-1966)