



Chicken Permit

Moorhead Police Department
Animal Licensing
PO Box 817
Moorhead, MN 56561
policerecords@moorheadmn.gov

PERMIT IS VALID FOR ONE CALENDAR YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, AND ENDING DECEMBER 31.

Permits purchased after January 1 in any given calendar year will also expire December 31 of that year; and permit fees will not be pro-rated. Chickens are permitted to be kept at single, two-family, and three-family homes only. Chickens not permitted in mixed-use, commercial, industrial, or institutional districts.

APPLICANT/PROPERTY INFORMATION

Applicant Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Phone #: _____ Email: _____

Property Zoning District: _____ Find the information [here](#) by searching for your property or contact Planning and Zoning (218.299.5370 or planning@moorheadmn.gov)

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- Total number of hens to be kept: _____ (a maximum of six chickens are allowed – roosters are not allowed)
- Species of hen to be kept: _____
- Review Keeping of Chicken Standards on pg. 2.
- Chicken coop/run plans – please include dimensions and designs (and pictures if available)
- Site Plan showing location of coop/run with setbacks, 5-foot fencing, property lines, easements, and existing structures
- Fee - \$10.00 (Checks made payable to City of Moorhead)
- Review covenants and obtain approval from the developer/townhouse/condo/homeowner’s association if applicable. (The City of Moorhead does not enforce covenants)

Complete regulations regarding the keeping of chickens within the City of Moorhead can be found on the City of Moorhead website at www.cityofmoorhead.com City Code, Title 3, Chapter 7, Animal Control.

REQUEST AND AFFIDAVIT

The applicant must read the following statement carefully and sign below:

I hereby certify that the information submitted is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. In submitting the permit application, I acknowledge and agree the application is subject to all the regulations found in Title 3, Chapter 7, Animal Control and further agree to fully comply with said regulations. If the requirements of Title 3, Chapter 7, Animal Control are not complied with, the City of Moorhead may revoke the permit.

Applicant Signature

Date

Office Use Only:		
Planning & Zoning Review	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Denied – Please correct noted issues and resubmit application
Animal Control Review	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved – This application is your permit	<input type="checkbox"/> Denied – Please correct noted issues and resubmit application
Please correct the following:		

KEEPING OF CHICKEN STANDARDS

- **Number:** No more than six (6) chickens may be kept by a single applicant. Roosters are prohibited.
- **Containment:** Chickens must be kept in a coop and run. Keeping chickens in a garage is prohibited. Chickens must be contained within the coop and run between sunset and sunrise.
- **Side Yard / Backyard Fencing:** Coop and run must be surrounded by a solid, non-see through fence or wall in addition to the fencing required for the run. Fencing shall be at least five (5) feet in height and not more than four (4) inches raised off the ground.
- **Construction:** Coop must be a minimum of 16 inches off the ground and may not exceed seven (7) feet in height when measured from the ground. Coop floor, footings, and foundation must be constructed using rodent resistant materials.
- **Coop Size:** A minimum of four (4) square feet of space per chicken not to exceed ten (10) square feet per chicken. A commercially purchased coop which substantially conforms to the requirements of the Ordinance may be permitted. Substantially conforms means that it may not differ more than twenty percent (20%) of the noted chicken coop standards.
- **Run:** Must be fully fenced and attached to the coop. A minimum of four (4) square feet of space per chicken not to exceed ten (10) square feet per chicken. A solid roof or wire top is required to keep predators out and prevent chickens from escaping. Run fencing may not exceed six (6) feet in height.
- **Zoning:** Chickens are not permitted in mixed-use, commercial, industrial, or institutional zoning districts or on lots exceeding three (3) dwelling units.
- **Setbacks:** Chicken coop and run must be setback at least ten (10) feet from the property line and three (3) feet from any structure on the property. Chicken coops and runs may not be located in any front yard or within easements.
- **Food Containers:** Food containers must be kept within the coop, run, shed, or garage in an animal proof container.
- **Bedding:** Chicken coops and runs layered with quality bedding is recommended. Bedding must be cleaned and changed frequently so as to prevent odor, pests, or other nuisances.
- **Maintenance and Waste Disposal:** Coop and run must be maintained and kept in good repair. Manure must be removed frequently to prevent issues with odors, pests, or other nuisances. Chicken manure must be disposed of in the trash and may not be composted with yard waste items collected by the City.
- **Covenants:** Restrictive covenants may prohibit the keeping of chickens on your property. The City does not enforce covenants and it is your responsibility to review your property for covenants prior to submitting an application.

**A fully fenced in yard can provide additional space for the birds to exercise. The fence must be able to keep birds contained and you must be outside with the chickens if they are roaming around in the yard.*

**Issues which arise in regards to the Ordinance will be enforced by Animal Control. Chickens that escape your yard are your responsibility to catch and contain. Moorhead police will not respond to calls relating to chickens.*

**Providing false or misleading information, complaints of birds escaping, odors, etc., or failing to adhere to the requirements above can lead to your permit being revoked.*

**If you would like to learn more about keeping chickens, check out the U of M extension page: <https://extension.umn.edu/poultry/small-scale-poultry>*

